Dodge County UW-Extension

Tips for a Successful Year for 4-H & FFA
Meat Animal Livestock Project Members

So you’ve enrolled in a livestock meat animal project, and now you want to make sure you meet all your project requirements so you can excel at successfully raising a healthy project animal. To help you with your project, we’ve compiled this “Tip Sheet” to answer some of your questions and help you stay on track with your project requirements.

Bonnie Borden is Dodge County’s Dairy and Livestock Youth Educator. If you have questions or concerns, please contact her via phone at 920-386-3790, Monday - Wednesday from about 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., or email: bborden@co.dodge.wi.us

Sources of Dodge County Livestock Project Information

1. **“Focus on 4-H”**, the Dodge County 4-H Newsletter, is your primary source for project information. The newsletter is published ten times per year. August/September and November/December are joint issues. Newsletters are available via internet at the Dodge County UWEX Web site at: [http://dodge.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/calendar-newsletter/](http://dodge.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/calendar-newsletter/)


3. The Dodge County Junior Fairbook is another source for fair-related and meat animal sale information. Because the fairbook is a 3-year book, any rule changes made before the next fairbook are always published in the 4-H newsletter. The following information can be found in your fairbook:
   - Dodge County Junior Fair Schedule, including check-in/check-out times and show schedules
   - Specie rules, found in the specie departments
   - Animal health requirements
   - Meat Animal Sale rules
   - Market Show Guidelines for beef, hogs and sheep
   - Carcass Show Guidelines for beef, hog and sheep
   - Score sheet examples and Danish Judging placing sheet
   - WDATCP County/District Fair Rules

Dodge County Livestock Project Year

A livestock “project year”, for record-book purposes, starts the week after County Fair, and goes through the next year’s County Fair. For example, Carcass show educational points earned one week after the fair, go toward your educational requirements for the next year’s fair.

Throughout your project year, make notes, keep good records and take pictures of your project animal(s) and project-related activities. Document your progress in your 4-H record book.
Project Requirements for Livestock Members

1. **Educational Requirements** - Meat Animal Livestock Members must complete their “Dodge County Livestock Project Member Activity Card”. To successfully complete your card:
   - Youth (or their parents) must attend either the Post-Sale meeting from the previous fair, or the Pre-Sale meeting for the upcoming fair.
   - Youth must attend a minimum of four educational meetings. Two of these meetings may be club-level livestock project meetings. **At least two meetings must be state, district or county meetings.** To earn credit from a meeting/event not organized by Bonnie, you must contact her for pre-approval. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings, but will not earn credit for their child like they can for the Post-Sale or Pre-Sale meetings.
   - Swine youth must complete a Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) class annually, or complete the test-out option to participate in the fair.
   - **Qualifying Educational Opportunities:**
     - Swine, Lamb and Beef Carcass Shows; held the week following county fair (1 point each)
     - Mandatory Post-Sale Meeting, held shortly after fair (must attend this OR mid-summer Pre-Sale Meeting)
     - Livestock Project Meetings, 6 are held starting in November, and January - May (1 point each)
     - Livestock Project Presentation(s) at Family Learning Day(s), usually Feb/Mar/Apr (1 point each)
     - Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) Class, usually taught twice - once at Family Learning Day and once in June (1 point)
     - Showing & Fitting Clinic, usually in June at Fairgrounds (1 point)
     - Mandatory Pre-Sale Meeting, held mid-summer (must attend this OR Post-Sale Meeting after fair)
     - Ag Day Escape (Career Field Trip), usually held in July (1 point)
     - Meats judging workouts, throughout year, see 4-H newsletter for dates (1 point each)
     - Livestock judging workouts, throughout year, see 4-H newsletter for dates (1 point each)
     - Livestock Quiz Bowl workouts and Livestock Skillathon workouts (1 point each)
     - NASCO's fitting and showing clinic, usually in May at Nasco (1 point)
     - Other appropriate educational meetings/activities pre-approved by Bonnie Borden
     - Watch 4-H Newsletter (also available at: [http://dodge.uwex.edu](http://dodge.uwex.edu)) for state educational programs - i.e. “Truths not Tails” Conference, “Badger Livestock Judging Camp” and “WLBA Spring Preview Show”.

2. **Weigh-In’s** - Youth must bring project animal to spring weigh-in(s). Watch the newsletter for exact dates. The Beef weigh-in is in February at the Milwaukee Stockyards near Reeseville, and Sheep and Hog Weigh-In’s are in early May at the Dodge County Fairgrounds.

3. **Fair Requirements** - The following forms are required to show your animal(s) at the fair:
   - Dodge County Livestock Project Member Activity Card (see #1 above)
   - County of Origin Labeling (COOL) Form - signed by the person your animal was purchased from
   - Premise ID - see Bonnie’s Web page for instructions on obtaining one
   - Beef, Sheep and Swine Health Requirements must be met. Refer to fairbook “Animal Health Rules”.

4. **Sale Promotion and Buyer Cards** - Each member is responsible to talk with prospective buyers, invite them to attend the sale, thank them for their support of the whole program and help promote the sale by displaying posters at area businesses. Posters are handed out at the Pre-Sale meeting. Each member can turn in buyer postcards to the UW-Extension Office by August 1 to send buyers complimentary tickets. **Tickets will not be mailed after August 10th. After that day, you are responsible to pick up tickets at the UWEX office and deliver them.**

5. **Thank You Cards** - Write thank-you’s to your buyer, contending bidders, award sponsors and any other businesses/people who helped you. Cards must be completed, addressed, pre-stamped and turned in to a Meat Animal Sale Committee Member or Bonnie before you receive your meat animal sale check and fair premiums.

6. **Record Books** - 4-H members must complete a record book in order to re-enroll in 4-H for the next year. All record book forms, including project-specific ones, are available online. Refer to “Sources of Information” on reverse side of this sheet.