

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

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You've enrolled in a livestock meat animal project, so now what?

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.

Dodge County Livestock Project Year

A livestock "project year," for record-book purposes, starts the week after Dodge 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.



Info Sources for Dodge County Livestock Project

"Focus on 4-H" Newsletter

Monthly newsletter and your primary source for project information.

Dodge Co. UWEX Youth Dairy & Livestock webpage

<http://dodge.uwex.edu/agriculture/youth-dairy-livestock/>

Dodge Co. Junior Fair Book

Contains fair-related and meat animal sale info:

- Junior Fair Schedule, check-in/ check-out times & show schedules
- Specie Rules
- Animal Health Requirements
- Meat Animal Sale Rules
- Market & Carcass Show Guidelines for Beef, Swine, & Sheep
- WI-DATCP County/District Rules
- Score Examples & Danish Judging Sheet

Project Requirements

- Educational Points
- Market Animal ID
- Fair Requirements
- Sale Promotion & Buyer Cards
- Thank You Cards
- Record Books
(details on next page)



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Project Requirements for Livestock Members



1. Educational Requirements - Meat Animal Livestock members must complete a **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 Dodge County UW-Extension or the Meat Animal Sale Committee, you must contact the UW-Extension Youth Dairy Livestock Educator 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 OR mid-summer Pre-Sale Meeting)
- Livestock Project Meetings, 7 are held - October, November, & January through 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), taught twice - at Family Learning Day and 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
- State educational programs - i.e. "Badger Livestock Judging Camp" and "WLBA Spring Preview Show." See 4-H Newsletter (also available at: <http://dodge.uwex.edu>).

2. **Market Animal Identification** - Watch the 4-H newsletter for details. Beef ID - February; Sheep & Hog ID - early May.
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 (for SHEEP).
 - Premise ID - see Youth Dairy & Livestock webpage for instructions on obtaining a premise ID.
 - Beef, Sheep & Swine Health Requirements must be met. Refer to fair book "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 program and 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 Dodge County UW-Extension 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 on the Dodge County UW-Extension website.



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