



## UCONN 4-H ANIMAL PROJECT VERIFICATION

**UCONN**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES

EXTENSION

In order to exhibit an animal (dog, dairy, beef, working steer, sheep, swine, llama, alpaca, goat, horse, rabbit, small animal and poultry) at the 4-H Fair for that project year, the project must be owned or leased by **June 1**, (**May 1** for dairy and beef cattle and horse). Connecticut 4-H Animal Project Verification Forms and lease agreements are due at the local 4-H office on those dates.

Youth must be enrolled as 4-H members in any project area no later than May 1 of the current 4-H year. **All Animal Project Verification forms must be turned in by the stated deadline in order to participate in the 4-H Fair.** Forms may be obtained by calling the 4-H Office. State which animal projects you have and number of animals for each species. Be sure that you have all the required signatures, complete information and any photos requested and return completed forms by or before June 1 (May 1 for dairy and beef cattle, working steer and horse). For Dairy Cattle - heifers must be owned or leased by May 1st of the year of the show. In all milking age classes, 2 year olds and up, the cow must have been owned or leased on May 1<sup>st</sup>, before the animal reached her second birth date. Proof of lease or ownership is required.

### LEASED ANIMALS

The 4-H program recognizes the educational value of animal projects. We allow leased projects so that a greater number of members will be able to participate. A 4-H member may lease a maximum of two (2) animals in a single project area during the 4-H year. In a leased (or owned) project, the animal **does not** have to be housed at the 4-H member's home. During the time stated in the contract, the **owner** agrees that the 4-H'er has access to the animal for 4-H Fair and other shows agreed upon by the owner and 4-H'er. **An individual who leases (lessor) to a 4-H member an animal to be used as a 4-H project does so as the owner of the animal and not as a 4-H volunteer. The lessor of an animal is not automatically considered to be a 4-H volunteer. Being a 4-H volunteer involves actions independent of leasing an animal. It is assumed that the owner of the leased animal has insurance coverage on the animal. The leasee of the animal is advised to check to see if the family's personal property insurance policies cover the animal during the duration of the lease. The 4-H organization, including its volunteers, assumes no financial or legal liability for an animal involved in the 4-H program and is not legally involved in the writing, implementation or termination of the lease.**

A sample lease form is available from the 4-H Office. Please revise the lease to state the conditions of your particular agreement. For Dairy Cattle: Lease forms must be filled out by the 4-H'er for animals that are co-owned with another person.

For pregnant animals leased to a 4-H'er: the offspring of the animal are not automatically part of the dam's lease. Offspring of leased project animals can be considered part of the 4-H project if stated in the lease and if it does not violate the "maximum of two animals leased in a single project" rule.

There are times that more than one 4-H'er may be leasing the same animal. For example a 4-H'er may lease one heifer and a second heifer might be leased as a back-up if the 1<sup>st</sup> heifer becomes ill. That back-up animal might appear as the second animal on more than one lease, for the same reason.

With horse, llama, alpaca or dog projects multiple 4-H members may be listing the same animal on verification and lease forms. This is acceptable as long as the animal is used by each 4-H'er in a different division or category.

All 4-H project animals are shown and otherwise used at the risk of the 4-H member. Any damages to persons or property are the legal and financial responsibility of the 4-H member and parent/guardian who owns/leases the animal. Any 4-H member with an animal project (owned or leased) is advised to check that their parent/guardian's personal property insurance covers the animal.
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