



MINNESOTA 4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE

Lease Program Fact Sheet

The Minnesota 4-H program recognizes the educational value of participating in animal science projects. Minnesota 4-H allows the leasing of animal science projects to encourage a greater number of members to have the opportunity to experience livestock projects. This program is designed to make it possible for a 4-H member to have a non-owned 4-H project which can be exhibited at county fairs, Minnesota State Fair 4-H show, and other youth or open exhibitions. The 4-H member will gain hands on experience in managing and showing the 4-H animal science projects through the cooperation and mentorship of local animal owners.

ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

Things to consider with a lease:

- **Who may lease an animal:** Animals may only be leased by **one** person (or, in the case of a “family lease,” 4-H members in an immediate family) during the time of the lease. Individual “lease ownership” of an animal is determined at the county fair 4-H ID check-in process. After that point, only the 4-H member who identified a given animal at the fair checkpoint is eligible to show that animal for further 4-H exhibition (State Fair).
- **Managing the project:** The 4-H member must participate in learning about the care, training, feeding and other management practices associated with the species of animal they are leasing. The lease program is designed to have 4-H members actively involved in the learning process throughout the entire length of the lease.
- **Showing of the animal:** Once a lease contract is signed, the 4-H member is the only one eligible to show the animal for the duration of the lease. If the lease is a “family lease” only the 4-H members in that immediate family are eligible to show the animal for the duration of the lease. Showing the animal encompasses any exhibition including but not exclusive to: 4-H shows, Open shows, FFA shows, Jr. Breed shows, Jackpot shows, Expositions, etc. If, during the time of the lease, the leased animal is shown by anyone other than the leasing 4-H member (or 4-H members in the immediate family in the case of a family lease), the lease will be considered invalid and the animal is no longer considered a 4-H project animal. **Exception:** Horse - showing of horses being limited to the *lessee only* is under study pending review of current horse rules.
- **Eligible animals:** The following animals may be leased:
 - Breeding animals - Including beef, dairy, goats, sheep and swine.
 - Prospect beef calves (heifers and steers)
 - Breeding poultry
 - Breeding rabbits
 - Horse - see exceptions to the “one animal: one 4-H member” leasing rule*
 - Dog - see exceptions to the “one animal: one 4-H member” leasing rule*
 - Lama - see exceptions to the “one animal: one 4-H member” leasing rule*
- Market animals are **NOT** eligible for the lease program because they are a terminal project.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE “ONE ANIMAL: ONE 4-H MEMBER” LEASING RULE*

- *Horse – A horse may be leased by more than one 4-H member, but the shared horse may be used only once in any event per show. Age, grade or type divisions are considered class divisions and not separate events. The horse may be used in an additional non-qualifying (State 4-H Horse Show) class in the same event. For example:
 1. If a member shows in Western Pleasure another member may not use the same horse for Western Pleasure. The second member may use the horse in other events, such as Western Horsemanship or English Pleasure.
 2. If a member shows a horse in barrels another member may not also use the same horse for a barrel class. The second member may use the horse for other games events, such as key race.
 3. If a member shows in English Pleasure another member that is too young to qualify for the State 4-H Horse Show may also show in English Pleasure.
- *Dog – Only for use in brace class can a dog be identified by more than one 4-H member.
- *Lama – may be leased by more than one 4-H member for county use (the same lama may be leased by 4-H members from different counties); but only one 4-H member may show that lama at the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Lama Show.

DISCUSSION WITH THE OWNER OF THE ANIMAL

Here are some questions and discussion points to consider with the owner of the animal as you enter into the 4-H lease program:

- **Housing** - The animal may be housed at the owner's facility OR the 4-H member's facility, however the 4-H member must have significant access to the project animal(s) and must assume a leadership/learning role for the care, training and feeding of the animal(s).
- **Feeding** - Who will be responsible for purchasing feed and feeding the animal?
- **Animal Identification** - The 4-H member is responsible for completing the appropriate 4-H identification and affidavit materials, including getting the signature of the animal owner on the lease agreement. The 4-H member must ensure the animal meets all 4-H identification requirements, including the appropriate ear tag, tattoo, ear notch, or photographs as well as submitting the completed Animal Identification and Affidavit papers to the Extension office by the May 15th and other published deadlines. *This means the member has to have the animal id to the Extension office by May 15th.*
- **Management** - What are appropriate training techniques? What type of feed or housing facility is acceptable, etc.? How often do you expect to exercise, run, walk, tie, wash/rinse the animal? How often do you expect to meet to work together on project care and learning (i.e. clipping, showmanship training, animal husbandry experiences such as help vaccinate or tag/tattoo)? What other expectations do you have of each other?
- **Veterinary Expenses** - Who will pay for:
 - Basic expenses for health and well-being of animal such as worming, vaccinations, etc.?
 - Show-related veterinary expenses that must be done for showing or transporting animals?
 - Additional vaccinations for moving animals in-or out-of state, health certificates, etc.?

- **Hoof Trimming/Farrier Expenses** - Who will pay for this? It might depend on whether extra expenses are incurred as a result of showing an animal.
- **Clipping**- If your animal needs to be clipped/fitted prior to a show and you need someone to help you as you are learning, who pays for this service?
- **Shearing** - Who will pay the shearer? Who keeps the fleece?
- **Breeding fees** - If the animal is to be bred as part of the 4-H member's project (or needs to be bred during the term of the lease), who will pay for the breeding fees? Who makes the decision as to which sire the animal will be bred to? Who keeps the offspring?
- **Show Expenses** - What show equipment (i.e. saddles, halters, blankets, cages, etc.) may be borrowed or used during the length of the lease? What if an item gets lost, stolen or broken? What supplies are you responsible for purchasing in order to show the animal? (i.e. clipper blades, sprays, foams, soap, fly sprays, show halters, leads, brushes/combs, feed pans/pails, show stick, etc.)
- **Insurance** - Many fairs/shows require entrants to show a certificate of liability insurance to protect themselves from any damage or injury the animal might cause while at an event. Both parties should check with their personal or farm insurance agent to ensure appropriate coverage.
- **Trucking** - Who will transport the animal to and from trainings, shows and/or fairs? Will you be required to pay for fuel or to help with trucking expenses?
- **Entry Fees, Premiums, and Awards** - Who pays for entry fees to open shows entered? Who receives premiums and cash awards earned? Who keeps the awards, ribbons, plaques, trophies, winning banners?
- **Unanticipated injury or death** - Who will be responsible for emergency veterinary care? Who is liable for the loss of an animal?

AUTHORS

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