



ANIMAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Note to All Exhibitors: It is the **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE 4-HER AND HIS OR HER PARENT OR GUARDIAN** to complete all 4HOnline Animal ID and submit any paperwork required for their project **by May 15th**. Late and/or incomplete information will eliminate the member from exhibition!

Companion Animals/Small Animals:

- A. **Cats** – Please complete the enclosed “Porter County 4-H Cat ID Form”. It is important to be accurate and to complete all information. **Animals not listed on this form by May 15th will not be eligible to be shown at this year’s Porter County Fair.** Please list any cats/kittens you wish to have eligible for the fair.
- B. **Dogs** – Complete the enclosed “Porter County 4-H Dog ID Form”. It is important to be accurate and to complete all information. **Animals not listed on this form by May 15th will not be eligible to be shown at this year’s county fair.** In addition to this form, Dog project members are encouraged to attend at least one of their five suggested workshops no later than the first workshop following May 15th. Please list any dogs you wish to have eligible for the fair. (4-Hers may show and train a maximum of two dogs at different levels, which must be declared during the online FairEntry process, announced in early June and due July 1st.)
- C. **Pigeons** – Please complete the enclosed “Porter County 4-H Pigeon ID Form”. It is important to be accurate and to complete all information. **Animals not listed on this form by May 15th will not be eligible to be shown at this year’s Porter County Fair.** Please list any pigeons you wish to have eligible for the fair. (Final declaration of animals/classes to be exhibited at the fair must be declared via the FairEntry process by July 1st. More information on this process will be announced in June.)

Livestock Animals/Large Animals:

- A. **Beef*** – Registered Heifers not previously entered into 4HOnline must be in the system by May 15th. For the county fair, registered heifers must be identified by a 15-digit 840-RFID tag **AND** tattoo. Additionally, to be eligible for State Fair they must submit a DNA hair sample to the Extension Office by May 15th. For instructions on completing 4HOnline Animal ID, go to [2026 Animal ID](#). DNA hair sample collection envelopes are available from the Extension Office.
- B. **Dairy*** – To be eligible for exhibition, dairy cattle must be entered into 4HOnline by May 15th. To be eligible for county and state fairs, registered cattle must be identified by 840-RFID tag **AND** registered name **AND** registration number or dam’s registration number. Additionally, to be eligible for State Fair they must submit a DNA hair sample to the Extension Office by May 15th. Unregistered dairy cattle must be identified by ear tag. For instructions on completing the 4HOnline Animal ID, go to [2026 Animal ID](#). DNA hair sample collection envelopes are available from the Extension Office.
- C. **Dairy Feeder Steers*** – To be eligible for exhibition, dairy feeder steers must be entered into 4HOnline by May 15th. Dairy feeder steers must be identified by a 15-digit 840-RFID tag **AND** 5-digit county ear tag number. Please complete the top of the enclosed worksheet and bring it with you on ID Day, which is May 2nd at 10:00 -11:00 a.m. at the Cattle Barn. Your project volunteers will record the information gathered at ID Day so that you can take the information home with you and enter the information into 4HOnline. For instructions on completing 4HOnline Animal ID, go to [2026 Animal ID](#).

*** Official Cattle ID in Indiana – Board of Animal Health (BOAH):** Cattle must have an “official ID” to adhere to BOAH regulations. The “official ID” does not include our yellow 5-digit 4-H tag (which is required for 4-H), but it does include an 840/USDA tag. So those who have both their yellow 5-digit tag and an “official” 840/USDA tag are compliant with both 4-H and BOAH.

If your cattle have NOT been tagged with an 840/USDA tag and will be attending an open show prior to the Porter County Fair, you will need to be compliant with these BOAH guidelines on “official ID” for exhibition. More information on acceptable tags and where to obtain them can be found at <https://www.in.gov/boah/2328.htm>.

Upon arrival at the Porter County Fair, any non-terminal cattle that do not yet have an 840/USDA tag will be tagged during the fair check-in process. Additionally, all feeder steers will be tagged with both the 5-digit 4-H tag and the 840/USDA tag on ID day.

- D. **Equine (Including Horse & Pony, Miniature Equine, and Draft Horse)** – To be eligible for exhibition, animals must be entered into 4HOnline by May 15th. Before you go onto 4HOnline, be sure you have color photos ready to upload that clearly show facial and leg markings. For instructions on completing 4HOnline Animal ID, go to [2026 Animal ID](#). If you lease your horse, you and the owner may draw up a lease on your own, or for your convenience 4-H Animal Lease Agreement Forms are available at: [2026 Animal ID](#). **Please sign up all horses available to be exhibited at the fair, including backup horses.**
- E. **Goats** – **See table below for required identification.** All unregistered females and all wethers will be weighed and ear-tagged at ID Day on May 8th (6:00-8:00 pm) at the Goat Barn. To be eligible for exhibition, goats must then be entered into



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4HOnline by May 15th. For instructions on completing 4HOnline Animal ID, go to [2026 Animal ID](#). Please complete the top of the enclosed worksheet and bring it with you to ID Day. Your project volunteers will record the information gathered at ID day so that you can take the information home and enter the information into 4HOnline. If you lease your 4-H project goats, you must have a signed lease agreement on file in the Extension Office by May 15th. (We encourage you to bring it with you and turn it in at ID day.) You and the owner may draw up a lease on your own, or for your convenience, 4-H Animal Lease Agreement Forms are available at: [2026 Animal ID](#)

Animal Type	Required Identification
Dairy Goat – Registered Females	Breed registry tattoo
Dairy Goat – Unregistered Females	5-digit county tag <i>(LaMancha: official Scrapie flock tattoo in the tail web along with a number unique to the animal (usually on the opposite side). Obtain number from the Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH). BOAH can provide a shorter format for the Scrapie flock ID to fit in the small tail web.)</i> Tattoo must be done before you come to Tag day
Dairy Goat – Wethers	5-digit county tag <i>(LaMancha: official Scrapie flock tattoo in the tail web along with a number unique to the animal (usually on the opposite side). Obtain number from the Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH). BOAH can provide a shorter format for the Scrapie flock ID to fit in the small tail web.)</i> Tattoo must be done before you come to Tag day
*Meat Goat – Wethers & Unregistered Females	840-RFID tag *AND* 5-digit county tag
*Meat Goat – Registered Boer Females	Breed registry tattoo
Pygmy Goat – Registered	Breed registry tattoo *OR* 5-digit county tag
Pygmy Goat – Unregistered	Official USDA Scrapie tag *OR* official Scrapie tattoo
Pygmy/Specialty Goat - Wether	5-digit county tag

***NOTE:** For Meat Goat – Wethers and Meat Goat – Registered Boer Females a DNA hair sample is required for State Fair eligibility. No DNA hair sample required for County Fair eligibility.)

Scrapie Eradication Program: Though Scrapie tags are not considered required identification for 4-H animals (with the exception of Pygmy goats), Scrapie tags are a requirement of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Indiana Board of Animal Health. For more information, visit the Indiana State Board of Animal Health website at <https://www.in.gov/boah/2424.htm> or call them at 317-544-2400.

- F. **Poultry – The Poultry Project does not have paperwork to submit prior to their FairEntry submission.** Final declaration of animals/classes to be exhibited at the fair must be declared via the FairEntry process by July 1st. More information on this process will be mailed in June.
- G. **Rabbits –**To be eligible for exhibition, animals must be entered into 4-H Online by May 15th. If you are signed up for rabbits, a step-by-step guide is provided in this mailing on how to input your rabbits into 4-H Online. Rabbit Identification Instructions can be found by going to [2026 Animal ID](#)
- H. **Sheep – See table below for required identification.** To be eligible for exhibition, animals must be entered into 4HOnline by May 15th. For instructions on completing 4HOnline Animal ID, go to [2026 Animal ID](#). Please complete the top of the enclosed worksheet and bring it with you to ID Day on Saturday, May 2nd from 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Sheep Barn. Your project volunteers will record the information gathered at ID Day so that you can take the information home and enter the information into 4HOnline.

Animal Type	Required Identification
Market Lambs	840-RFID tag *AND* 5-digit county tag
Commercial Ewes	840-RFID tag *AND* 5-digit county tag or Official USDA scrapies tag
Registered Ewes	840-RFID tag *AND* ID that matches registration papers

NOTE: For market lambs, commercial ewes, and registered ewes, a DNA hair sample is required for State Fair eligibility. No DNA hair sample required for County Fair eligibility.)

- I. **Swine –** To be eligible for exhibition, animals must be entered into 4HOnline by May 15th. All swine must be identified by ear notch numbers in the online system. Additionally, to be eligible for State Fair they must have a 15-digit 840-RFID tag and a DNA hair sample must be submitted to the Extension Office by May 15th. For instructions on completing 4HOnline Animal ID, go to [2026 Animal ID](#). Also available at this website is a Swine ID Worksheet you can download to help you get the needed information from the barn to the computer. It is for your records only and does not get turned in. (NOTE: In 4HOnline, the 840-RFID tag may be a required field. For county only animals without an RFID tag, put all “0’s” in the 840-RFID field.) (Note for State Fair exhibitors: All animals that you wish to be eligible for State Fair must be tagged with an 840-RFID tag by May



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15th. If the animal already has an 840-series RFID tag, do NOT remove it. More information on acceptable tags and where to obtain them can be found at <https://www.in.gov/boah/2328.htm>. DNA hair sample collection envelopes are also available by request from the Extension Office and must be turned back into the office by May 15.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR EXHIBITION, ANIMALS MUST BE ENTERED INTO 4HONLINE BY MAY 15TH.
Species included in 4HOnline Animal ID: Beef (Including Dairy Feeder Steers), Dairy Cattle, Goat, Horse (Including Draft & Miniature Equine), Rabbit, Sheep, & Swine.

Dairy Feeder Steers, Goats, and Sheep will need to be present at ID Day as indicated, and will have until May 15th to enter the information into the online system.

ALL PAPER ANIMAL ID FORMS ARE DUE IN OUR OFFICE NO LATER THAN MAY 15TH!
Species with paper Animal ID Forms: Cats, Dogs, and Pigeons

No paperwork or 4HONLINE entry due by May 15 from: Poultry-Chickens, Game Bird, Turkey, Waterfowl

If you have any questions, contact your livestock project superintendent, or contact the Extension Office at 219-465-3555.

Beef: Noah Case, 219-252-6080, njemcase@gmail.com
Cat: Jeannine Hornback, 219-840-5458, jeanninehornback@gmail.com
Dairy: Dean Morrow, 246-6367, alathome@netnitco.net
Dog: Miranda Saldana, 405-0504, mirandalsaldana@gmail.com
Draft Horse: Beth Wilcox, 708-212-7003, dbjwvet@aol.com
Goat: Cindy Boo, 263-8938, goatkeeper2000@hotmail.com
Horse & Pony: Paula Smith, 628-0626, smithstable@yahoo.com

Mini Equine: Cinda Hough, 465-9313, houghhum1@frontier.com
Pigeons: Evyenia Butterfield, 219-241-8125, elawley@gmail.com
Poultry: Tyler Gluth, 263-9633, tgluth@martzandlucas.com
Rabbits: Levi Oman, 219-286-4007, oman2113@yahoo.com
Sheep: Ashley (Haman) Rugg, 405-1621, hamanash@gmail.com
Swine: Craig VanDyke, 219-508-2008, craig.vandyke@keystonecoop.com

Previously Identified Animals:

It is a FELONY to remove official USDA Identification tags. Do NOT remove any tag imprinted with the US shield!

