

Ownership

For market animals, dairy animals, and owned (not leased) breeding livestock:

1. An animal cannot be used by more than one youth member per project year.
2. The same animal cannot be used for more than one project per project year (i.e., a single heifer cannot be shown as both a market and a breeding project).
3. An animal may only be exhibited by the project member in any junior livestock exhibition, including at the Ohio State Fair.
 - a. Excludes show/class conflicts at the exhibition, “showman of showmen” type classes, or extenuating circumstances. Check with local exhibition sponsor to determine what circumstances may qualify.
 - b. For junior fair classes where education or charity is the purpose (e.g., pee wee, special needs, Dean’s Charity Steer Show, etc.), ensure that the exhibitor is involved in the mentoring of the individual showing the animal in that class.
 - c. Refer to “junior livestock show/exhibition” definition above.
4. In shows outside of “junior livestock show/exhibitions,” a project animal may only be shown by the youth exhibitor or family members. If shown by a youth outside of the immediate family, this constitutes a change in ownership.
 - a. "Family" means the immediate family of an exhibitor, including but not limited to the exhibitor's parent, step-parent, foster parent, grandparent, step-grandparent, foster grandparent, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, or legal guardian.
5. All market, dairy, and breeding animals exhibited at a junior livestock exhibition must be fully owned by the exhibitor or household as defined in OAC 901-19-39 as evidenced by a bill of sale or registration, including all showing rights, and in the complete custody and care of the exhibitor on or before possession deadlines.
6. Ownership of an animal shall be considered lost if the animal has been:
 - a. Leased to a different individual (not the project member) after the applicable possession date,
 - b. Consigned to or sold through an auction or any other type of transaction that takes place prior to the junior livestock exhibition, after the applicable possession date even if the animal is bought back by the exhibitor.
7. The exhibitor is expected to fully provide daily care for their animal(s) from the possession deadline to the conclusion of the exhibition/sale. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring adequate access to clean, fresh water, feed, and shelter while ensuring good health and welfare of the animal. If not possible, in extenuating circumstances, the exhibitor is responsible for contacting the local Extension office and/or FFA advisor to ensure transparency. Additional paperwork may be necessary, as determined at the local level (i.e., Ohio 4-H Livestock Care Agreement).

Leasing of Breeding/Dairy Animals

Leasing MARKET animals for youth exhibition projects is NOT permitted under any circumstances.

To be eligible to exhibit a leased dairy/breeding livestock project, the following requirement must be met:

1. Counties will determine if leasing of breeding/dairy animals is permitted for their local exhibitions. If permitted at the junior exhibition, at a minimum, the 4-H/FFA Breeding Animal Lease or 4-H/FFA Dairy Animal Lease must be on file. Please contact your local Extension office for that leasing agreement.
2. The lease is to be in place at least 60 days prior to exhibition (ORC 901-19-39) and be in effect until the end of the project. However, the county may require it be submitted at an earlier date (i.e., project enrollment deadline).
 - a. The lessee (the member and their parent/guardian) is responsible to take the completed contract to the County 4-H Educator/FFA Advisor by the established deadline.
3. The lessor (owner) of the animal relinquishes all rights to train the animal, and the lessee has priority right to show the animal during the term of the lease. Potential lessors should not lease animals they want to show on a regular basis during the term of the lease.
4. An animal cannot be leased to more than one youth per project year and may only be exhibited by the lessee in any junior exhibition, including at the Ohio State Fair.
5. The lessor may not take the animal back prior to the end of the lease unless the youth is neglecting or abusing the animal, or the youth agrees to return the animal.
6. The lessor should have the youth sign whatever agreements they decide upon in regard to care of the animal (see #7 below), but no agreement will supersede the terms of this lease.
7. The lessor will allow the lessee to transport and show the animal in 4-H/FFA, open, or breed shows.
8. The leased animal cannot be consigned or sold through an auction or any other type of transaction during the effective dates of the lease agreement, even if the owner or exhibitor “buys back” the animal.
8. The lessee is expected to fully provide daily care for their animal(s) during the dates specified in the lease agreement. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring adequate access to clean, fresh water, feed, and shelter while ensuring good health and welfare of the animal. If not possible, in extenuating circumstances, the exhibitor is responsible for contacting the local Extension office and/or FFA advisor to ensure transparency. Additional paperwork may be necessary, determined at the local level (i.e., Ohio 4-H Livestock Care Agreement).
9. The lessee is responsible for creating an agreement in consultation with the lessor to cover who is responsible for expenses related to providing care for the animal, showing expenses, as well as who is liable in case of injury or death of the animal. Both the lessor and lessee must sign it, and a copy of that agreement be attached to the lease.