Beef
4-H Project Newsletter

CANADA
4-H Nova Scotia

This Beef Project Newsletter contains information specific to the Beef Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Leadership Forum.

Welcome to the 4-H Beef Project! This newsletter is designed to include rules you need to know as well as ideas and opportunities for your project. Good luck and have a fun-filled year! Remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Program Coordinator (RPC).

CCIA Tags

4-H beef members are reminded that **all 4-H beef calves must be identified in accordance with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA)**. All beef cattle moving beyond their herd of origin must be tagged with a CCIA-approved tag. All cattle leaving the herd of origin must be tagged even if it is returning to the same herd of origin. For more information, research the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency's website at: http://www.canadaid.com. **Cattle will be checked in with a Livestock Traceability Form (available on the 4-H Nova Scotia website) and CCIA Tag number (as provided on the 4-H Nova Scotia Livestock Registration) at every 4-H show. If the CCIA Tag in the animal's ear does not match the CCIA Tag Number provided on the Livestock Registration form, the animal will not be eligible to compete in the 4-H event and may be asked to leave the premises. Should the animal lose their CCIA Tag during the year, it is the member's responsibility to notify the 4-H Nova Scotia office immediately.**

Project Work Requirements

Showmanship is the project work requirement for the Beef Project. On Achievement Day, Beef members must complete showmanship with their own 4-H registered animal to complete the project work requirement. Members may not share an animal. Members must also submit a record sheet to complete the project on achievement day. No project completion without record sheet. The dress code for all beef showmanship and conformation classes is **black pants and a white shirt**, hard-soled boots are encouraged for member's safety. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor ring. **Members must show their registered 4-H animal at Achievement Day in their showmanship class to qualify for county shows and 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show in the current 4-H year.**

Livestock Registration

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by **May 1st** of the current 4-H year and must submit livestock registration information to 4-H Nova Scotia by **May 15th** of the current 4-H year. **Livestock Registration will only be accepted through the online Livestock Registration Form; if you need assistance with this form, please contact your RPC directly.** Information in this form is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. **The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of**

member, junior member/senior member, CCIA Tag Number, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, class section, name of animal, and date of birth of animal. Members in the beef project are also required to submit photos of their animal, and registered animals are required to submit registration numbers, tattoo numbers, and a copy of the animal's registration papers.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease, or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted before Achievement Day, pre-approval from the RPC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. **After Achievement Day, no substitutions are permitted.** 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

Conformation Classes

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, classes will be held at County Days, Exhibitions, and 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Beef calves are divided into classes according to breed and age.

The breed classes are:

Class #43	Angus
Class #44	Shorthorn
Class #45	Hereford
Class #46	Simmental
Class #47	Limousin
Class #48	Charolais
Class #49	Other Purebred Beef Breeds
Class #50	Commercial Calf
Class #51	Feeder Steers

Classes #43, #44, #45, #46, #47, #48, #49 have these three (3) age categories:

Senior Heifer	January 1 of last calendar year to March 31 of last calendar year
Intermediate Heifer	April 1 of last calendar year to December 31 of last calendar year
Junior Calf	January 1 of current calendar year to March 31 of current calendar year

Class #50 has these four (4) age categories:

Senior Heifer	January 1 of last calendar year to March 31 of last calendar year
Intermediate Heifer	April 1 of last calendar year to August 14 of last calendar year
Fall Intermediate Heifer	August 15 of last calendar year to December 31 of last calendar year
Junior Calf	January 1 of current calendar year to March 31 of current calendar year

Class #51 has one (1) age category:

Junior Calf	January 1 of current calendar year to March 31 of current calendar year

Other Rules to Keep in Mind

A member is only allowed to show one (1) animal in the beef project.

The Beef Project, Market Beef Project, and Second-Year Beef Project are all considered separate projects and members should enrol in these projects separately during registration at the beginning of the 4-H year.

To show in the breed classes, your calf must be sired by a purebred sire, and the dam must be at least 50% purebred. If your calf does not meet these requirements, it MUST be SHOWN in the commercial calf class. IF YOUR CALF DOES MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS, THEN IT MUST BE SHOWN IN THE CORRESPONDING PUREBRED BREED CLASS AT COUNTY SHOW/EXHIBITION AND AT 4-H NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL SHOW.

Feeder Steers fall into the Junior age category only (4-H NS AGM, 2018). Steers older than this may be exhibited in the Market Beef Project. This is a separate project that must be enrolled in.

A member may use a heifer that they showed as a junior calf the following year as a senior yearling for their project (that is a member may show the same heifer as a calf and a yearling without it being considered a Second-Year Project).

A member may show last year's 4-H intermediate or senior calf as a Second-Year Project. The member must be enrolled in the Beef Project to take the Second-Year Project. Members must also complete a separate record sheet for the Second-Year Project animal. Second-Year Project animals are only exhibited at the county level; there is no class at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show for the Second-Year Beef Project.

4-H calves are to be dehorned.

All animals in the feeder class must be castrated.

The hiring or use of professionals to prepare livestock for show is strictly forbidden. However, feel free to use such persons as resource people throughout the year. They have information to offer and you could learn a lot.

Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events.

These standards can be found at: http://www.nfacc.ca/

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Nova Scotia is permitted to send up to ten (10) beef members and their calves to the Royal Classic Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Show, at the Royal Winter Fair, in November. Selections are made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, but members must first qualify to attend the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show through county competitions. Pre-registration for the Royal Classic Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Show, is done as part of the online Livestock Registration form by May 15th. This opportunity is available to members that have completed at least one (1) year in the 4-H Beef project (prior to the current 4-H year) and are at least 14 years of age as of January 1st of the current 4-H year. If an animal is switched between pre-registration and Achievement Day, the member is no longer eligible for the Royal Winter Fair classes, or for Royal Winter Fair Selection Classes at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, as only the pre-registered calf is eligible.

More details on the 2026 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair will be distributed to beef members when available.

Beef Clipping Competition

The Beef Clipping Competition is open to junior and senior beef members, with each county eligible to send one team of two members to this competition at 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Team members for the provincial competition will be selected through county competition or using its own method. Members will draw for a calf and evaluate the calf in a written report. Members must wash, train, and clip the calf. Each member will show the calf in a showmanship class. For additional details, scoresheets, rules, and guidelines, please see the Beef Clipping Competition page on the 4-H Nova Scotia website.

Murray Parker Memorial Award

This award will be given each year at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show to the top 4-H Beef Calf **bred, born, and raised on the home beef farm**. The 4-H member showing the animal must live on the family's home beef farm. All animals **that have been pre-registered for the class** and that qualify for Pro Show through either showmanship or conformation will be eligible for this class if the calf was bred, born, and raised on the home beef farm. Members who buy or borrow calves from another farm are not eligible.

The purpose of this award is to demonstrate the importance of good breeding stock to produce good calves, to help develop good selection skills and how to build a quality beef herd through effective breeding practices.

The top member in this class will be selected as a member of the NS Royal Beef Team, assuming they meet all the NS Royal Beef eligibility requirements.

EastGen 4-H Showcase

EastGen Inc. hosts a showcase for beef and dairy 4-H members in the Atlantic Provinces. It is open to dairy and beef members who are 13 years of age and older as of January 1st of the current 4-H year. The program includes training and education on showing, judging, preparation, and management, as well as a competitive show. This is an extremely good program to advance your skills. More details on the 2026 Atlantic EastGen Showcase will be distributed through EastGen Inc.'s communications.

Market Beef Project

This project is for those members who have completed at least two (2) years in the beef project. Members who wish to take this project are responsible for raising an animal to market weight, finding potential buyers for their animal, and selling it at the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. This project is directed towards experienced beef members. The deadline for applications to be in the 4-H Nova Scotia Market project is **May 15th** of the current calendar year. These forms are attached to your Market Project newsletter.

Contagious/Infectious Disease & Quarantine

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H Achievement Days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local veterinarian immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

Brochures, "Skin Infections of Particular Concern to 4-H Calves: Ringworm, Warts and Lice" and "Fact Sheet: Animal Health and Safety Best Practices" are available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your Regional Program Coordinator. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.

Animal Movement Reporting

Regulations around moving animals to and from Fairs, Exhibitions, Achievement Days, 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show, and other events are in place or are coming into place for some species. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for these regulations regarding the identification of animals and how livestock owners report moving animals on and off the farm. This includes individual animal ID tags and reporting the movements of animals. Tag numbers are to be reported by the owner/operator of a premise when the animals enter, and then by the farmer/owner when the animals are brought back to the farm or where they are housed for the species affected.

Movement Document – A Movement Document is to travel with the animals. This document will record the departure premise and destination premise, as well as the quantity of livestock being transported. These documents will be made available by CFIA once the regulation changes come into effect.

There are three things 4-H members can do to prepare.

1. Identify your livestock premises by applying for or confirming a premises identification (PID) number with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid.
2. Confirm or set up a Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) database account at https://www.canadaid.ca/ with Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) by toll-free telephone at 1-877-909-2333 or email: info@canadaid.ca CLTS MOBO - a free app to submit animal movement events quickly and easily to your CLTS database account using a mobile device
3. Voluntarily report receipt (move in) event data to your CLTS database account for livestock arriving at your livestock premises using the individual animal identification, within seven days of receipt.

For more information please contact the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Premises Identification Office at 902-956-2707 or NSPID@novascotia.ca.

Livestock Insurance

4-H Insurance does not cover project animals. Insurance coverage for animal liability, injury, or death is the animal owner's responsibility.

Activity Involving Animals	
Involving Animals refers to activities in which members are working directly with animals or in a location with animals. (Examples: Livestock members training, fitting and showing, clubs hosting livestock shows or petting farms, groups visiting fairs, farm tours.)	**High-risk Activity** The nature of the activity or the presence of hazards pose a foreseeable risk of harm, illness, or injury to participants.
Risk Management Strategies Safety information and recommendations contained in this safety checklist are believed to reflect best practice to reduce risk. The suggested risk management strategies are considered minimum standards for livestock handling.	
Training and Preparation ☐ All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of potential risks involved in the activity, as well as the safety rules and procedures. ☐ Instruction on safety precautions is received from a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of demonstrating the skills and safety precautions.	

- ☐ Animal behavior and handling techniques are reviewed by a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of explaining animal behavior and handling techniques.
- ☐ All sessions are conducted in a safe environment.
- ☐ Safety rules and procedures are learned prior to participation.
- ☐ Skills/movements are learned in proper progression.
- ☐ All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of the equipment/clothing required for the activity.
- ☐ Emergency contact and medical information for all participants will be on hand throughout the event, as well as dedicated phones for emergencies.
- ☐ A first aid kit will be available.

Supervision

- ☐ Adheres to Youth Safety Supervision Policy, Rule of Two and Supervision Ratios.
- ☐ Safety rules and procedures are enforced throughout the activity.
- ☐ Emergency action plan is in place to deal with accidents/injuries.

Facility

- ☐ Respect biosecurity protocols of the facility.
- ☐ Ensure activity area is free of hazards/debris.
- ☐ Proper lighting and ventilation, when applicable.
- ☐ Safety rules/regulations are posted/reviewed prior to the activity.
- ☐ Indoor facility has a clearly marked emergency exit.
- ☐ Animals should be worked with in an enclosed space, with proper safety exits, such as an arena or pen to prevent animals from getting loose.
- ☐ When in a public venue, use gates and signage to separate the public traffic flow from animal movement.
- ☐ When in a public venue have signage regarding handwashing and touching animals.
- ☐ Animals should be safely and securely tied or caged when not being handled according to animal welfare standards to keep animals and people safe.
- ☐ Animals should have access to food and water according to animal welfare standards.
- ☐ Handwashing stations to be available for members and the public after handling animals.

Animals

- ❑ Ensure animals are healthy and suitable for use in the activity.
- ❑ Where applicable, follow all animal transportation regulations.
- ❑ Where applicable, ensure animals are tagged properly.
- ❑ Where applicable follow quarantine recommendations after an event.
- ❑ Ensure animal owners are aware of their responsibility to have insurance coverage for their animals, 4-H Canada holds no insurance coverage for animals.

Equipment

- ☐ Equipment to be used is suitable and in good condition.
- ☐ Equipment should be cleaned and sanitized following best practices.
- ☐ Equipment is checked by a qualified person before every session.
- ☐ Halters and collars to be properly fitted to ensure good control and animal comfort.
- ☐ Instructions are given regarding the proper use and maintenance of equipment.
- ☐ Leaders check to ensure that each youth has the required materials prior to participation.
- ☐ Leaders ensure that there is a First aid kit and a designated emergency phone are available

Clothing/Footwear

- ☐ Appropriate and properly fitted footwear is worn. For example, steel toed boots are recommended for large livestock.
- ☐ Appropriate clothing is worn. For example: Helmets are recommended for horseback riding.

Inclusion

- ☐ The activity is suitable to all participating youth member's age, ability, mental condition, and physical condition.