



Codington County Extension Service
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April 14, 2026

NEW INFORMATION & IMPORTANT CHANGES – PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY!

Dear Codington County 4-H Families and 4-H Leaders:

It's that time of year again where you will identify your livestock for the 4-H year. Please be sure to read carefully as there are several changes and each member is responsible for uploading the animal project information to 4-H Online by the deadline of **June 1 at 11:59 p.m.**

County Qualification

You *must* exhibit the same animal species at county 4-H Achievement Days if you also plan to exhibit at State Fair. The same exact animals are not required and there is no "ribbon" qualifier.

Ownership Verification Affidavit (OVA) Forms are enclosed for your own personal use. You should use these forms to gather animal identification information so when you sit down at your computer to input the required information, you will be prepared. **DO NOT** turn these forms into the office.

Breed registration papers for all purebred or registered animals **must** be uploaded into Fair Entry at the time of Achievement Day registration. If the animal was purchased, your registration paper must reflect ownership as of June 1. Failure to upload the registration paper will result in the animal being exhibited in the commercial or crossbred class.

Livestock Leasing agreements for beef, dairy, goat, swine, and sheep are acceptable. Lease forms must be uploaded into 4-H Online by the exhibitor no later than June 1. Lease forms can be obtained from our office or found online at <https://extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-4-h-animal-lease-form>.

Youth Livestock Literacy (YLL) & Youth Horse Literacy (YHL)

- YLL - All youth exhibiting livestock will be required to attend a YLL event. You will NOT receive a certificate of completion to upload into 4-H Online. This will be done by our office. Due date for completion of YLL is **July 1**. Watch your monthly newsletter for YLL event dates.
- YHL - All youth exhibiting horse will be required to attend a YHL event. You will NOT receive a certificate of completion to upload into 4-H Online. This will be done by our office. Due date for completion of YHL is **June 1**. Watch your monthly newsletter for YHL event dates.

Companion Animal

You will enter Companion Animal information into Fair Entry at Achievement Day registration time.

Livestock Ear Tags

There are **NEW** requirements for livestock ear tags. ALL market animals will be required to have an RFID tag. These tags are tamper-proof and can be scanned quickly. Specific brands or colors are not required, allowing you flexibility in finding the RFID tag that works for you.

Species	Identification Method For State Fair Exhibition	Deadline for Ownership and 4-H Online Registration (Date as of the current year)
All Market Animals must have RFID Tags and DNA Samples.		
Breeding Beef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered heifers must have an ear tattoo corresponding to her registration paper as a primary identifier, plus a secondary identifier such as a USDA "840" (Bangs) RFID tag, RFID tag or herd tag. Commercial heifers must have either a USDA "840" (Bangs) RFID tag, or general RFID tag as a primary identifier, plus a secondary identifier such as a tattoo, herd tag or freeze brand. 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Registered Breeding Meat Goats, Commercial Does, and Wether Does	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tattoo and Registration Paper (Registered Does ONLY) USDA Official Scrapie ID 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Registered Breeding Sheep, Commercial Ewes, and Wether Dams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Official Scrapie ID Registration Paper (Registered Sheep ONLY) 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Breeding Swine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear notched and RFID Tag 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Dairy Cattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear Tattoo and Registration Paper for registered cattle or Official USDA "840" Tag and Registration Paper. Grade and Crossbred cattle must have a USDA "840" or other RFID Tag. 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Dairy Goat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Official Scrapie ID OR Tattoo and Registration Paper for registered goats 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbered Leg Band 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Rabbit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear tattoo in left ear 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Market Beef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFID tag as a primary identifier, plus a secondary identifier such as a tattoo or herd tag. DNA Sample 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Market Wether Meat Goats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Official Scrapie RFID tag OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFID tag (not scrapie) PLUS USDA Official Scrapie tag DNA Sample 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Market Wether Lambs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Official Scrapie RFID tag OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFID tag (not scrapie) PLUS USDA Official Scrapie tag DNA Sample 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT
Market Swine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ear notched and RFID Tag DNA Sample 	June 1 by 11:59 PM CDT

RFID Tags can be picked up at the Extension Office during regular business hours. ALL animals must be tagged prior to arrival at Achievement Days. You may refer to the *South Dakota 4-H Animal Ownership and Identification Guide* for animal identification requirements: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-4-h-animal-ownership-and-identification-guide>. At this time, our office does have USDA RFID tags for SWINE only. Other tags have been ordered but have not yet arrived. Be sure to call before stopping in to be sure we have the tags in our office.

DNA Sample Collection

IMPORTANT – YOU MUST USE **BLUE INK WHEN COMPLETING THESE ENVELOPES. Any other color ink, or pencil, will NOT be accepted.* Be sure to include ALL digits from the RFID or Scrapie Tag.

The State 4-H Office has implemented fees for DNA samples/envelopes. Market Beef DNA is \$15.00 each and Market Swine, Market Sheep, and Market Meat Goat DNA are \$12.00 each. Payment is due when you return the sample envelopes to the Extension Office. In addition, all incomplete, unused, or incorrect envelopes will also need to be returned. DNA collection for market beef, market goat, market sheep, and market swine is required if you plan to exhibit at State Fair. DNA envelopes are due to the Extension Office by June 1. Envelopes are available at the Extension Office.

Poultry Leg Bands

Poultry must have a leg band. Leg bands can be picked up at the Extension Office during regular business hours. Refer to the State Fair Book for animal identification requirements. ALL poultry must have leg bands attached prior to arrival at the Extension Complex and remain on throughout Achievement Days.

NOTE: Only purebred poultry may be shown individually. If you have commercial/crossbred poultry, they must be shown under *Commercial Poultry* whereas two to three birds will need to be exhibited together. Refer to your State Fair book for clarification.

Baby Beef

The Baby Beef Show is county only. This is for calves born between January 1 and June 30. If born before the June 1 deadline, please enter it into 4-H Online. If born after June 1, you will add it to Fair Entry at Achievement Day registration time. Only 2 calves per exhibitor may be shown. Because this is county only, an RFID tag is not required; however, the animal must have an identifying ear tag. It would be recommended to insert an RFID tag if you intend to exhibit this animal in future years.

Deadlines

Deadlines are firm! **ALL** required information must be completed and submitted by the specified deadline. There will be no late entries accepted for June 1 4-H Online entries of animals and August 1 State Fair FairEntry entries. This has been determined by the State 4-H Office and there are no exceptions. Missed Deadline Forms will no longer be accepted for missing these crucial deadline dates.

DO NOT DELAY entering this information. We ask that you enter your animal projects earlier than the deadline in case you encounter computer problems, internet problems, password problems, or missing required animal identification information. If this happens and you miss the deadline, the animal cannot be exhibited. Our office has an extra computer you may use should you encounter computer or internet issues. *(4-H Online is not compatible with Internet Explorer and works best if you use a laptop or desktop computer.)*

If you are unsure which 4-H youth in your family will be showing a specific livestock project, you still only need to enter the animal one time, under any one child's name into 4-H Online by the June 1 deadline. At the time of Achievement Days registration in FairEntry, you will need to specifically assign the animal to the child that will be exhibiting it. **DO NOT** enter the animal for more than one child.

Finally, the State Fair Office has implemented a "Read the Book" campaign. They are expecting each and every 4-H family to take responsibility for their 4-H experience and to read the State Fair Book and know the rules. Everything we need to know is in the State Fair Book. It's available online as well as on our county website and is easily accessible. The State Fair book is estimated to be available online on April 15.

All links and documents referred to in this letter can be found on our website at codington.org/extension-service. Scroll down to the 4-H section and you will find the links. A copy of this letter will also be included in the 4-H section.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation with these processes and changes. Please give our office a call or talk to your leader if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jodi Loehrer, 4-H Extension Educator
Codington County Extension Service

blg/enc.

NOTE: Uploading animal identification information in 4-H Online IS NOT Achievement Day registration.

Achievement Day registration is a separate event and will be done through Fair Entry at a later date.