

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Program Guidebook

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General 4-H Animal Science Opportunities

There are a variety of educational programs for animal science project members related to production and competition or the practice of showing animals. Exact programs vary by county.

Beef, Meat Goat, Sheep, and Swine

- **4-H Livestock Shows:** Exhibiting animal projects at the county fair, regional spring show and state fair in areas of showmanship and breeding and market animals (Sheep area also offers a sheep lead contest at the state fair). Breeding livestock can be owned or leased. All market steers must be tagged and registrations on file in the county office by January 1st, meat goats, swine, and lambs are due by June 1st of each year. Counties may establish earlier deadlines.
- **Livestock Judging:** Quality judging of beef, meat goat, swine and sheep classes are based on conformation and oral reasons given to support placing. The state contest is held during the State Fair in Timonium. Junior, intermediate and senior teams are determined by county/city procedures. Four individuals make up a team and four additional individuals can compete in each age division at the state contest. High scoring individuals in the state senior division contest may be selected for a team that competes at the national contest.
- **Livestock Skill-A-Thon:** Includes written exam; identification of tack, tools, equipment, feeds, parasites; conformation and performance classes; problem solving. Junior, intermediate and senior divisions compete. State contest is held in early March. High scoring senior individuals in the state contest may be selected to compete in national contest.
- **Livestock Roundup:** This three day, two night program held in July each year features workshops, tours, and fun activities in livestock project area. A registration fee is charged to cover meals, lodging, and workshop expenses. Any junior, intermediate and senior aged 4-H member may participate.

Dairy Cattle

- **4-H Dairy Cattle Shows:** Exhibiting dairy cattle projects at the county fair, regional spring show and state fair in areas of fitting and showmanship, breed classes, and dairy steers. Cattle can be owned or leased. Dairy steers must be tagged and registrations on file in county office by January 1st. Dairy cattle leases must be on file at the county office by June 1st. If a 4-Her exhibits a leased animal at a Spring Show, the registration form must be completed and turned in to the County/City 4-H Office by May 1st.

- **Dairy Judging:** Judging of not less than ten classes of common dairy cattle breeds based on conformation and presentation of oral reasons. Junior, intermediate and senior teams are determined by county/city procedures. Four individuals make up a team and two additional individuals can compete in each age division at the state contest. Regional contest is held in early August during the Queen Anne's County Fair. The State contest is held during the State Fair in Timonium. High scoring senior individuals in state contest may be selected to compete in the national competition.
- **Dairy Bowl:** Is similar to "It's Academic", except all of the questions relate to dairy cattle or dairy goats. Points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Junior, intermediate and senior teams of four individuals and one alternate determined by county/city selection process. State contest held in the spring at the University of Maryland, College Park. High scoring senior individuals in state contest may be selected to compete in the national competition.
- **Livestock Roundup:** This three day, two night program held in July each year features workshops, tours, and fun activities in livestock project area. A registration fee is charged to cover meals, lodging, and workshop expenses. Any junior, intermediate and senior aged 4-H member may participate.

Dairy Goats

- **4-H Dairy Goat Shows:** Exhibiting goat projects at county fair, regional spring show and the state fair in areas of fitting and showmanship and breed classes. Breeding goats can be owned or leased.
- **Dairy Goat Judging:** Judging of classes of common dairy breeds is based on conformation and presentation of oral reasons. Currently, this is contest for individuals. The State contest is held during State Fair in Timonium.
- **Dairy Bowl:** Is similar to "It's Academic", except all of these questions relate to dairy cattle or dairy goats. Points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Junior, intermediate and senior teams of four individuals and one alternate determined by the county/city selection process. The State contest is held in the spring at the University of Maryland, College Park. High scoring individuals from the state contest may be selected to compete in the national competition.
- **Livestock Roundup:** This three day, two night program held in July each year features workshops, tours, and fun activities in livestock project area. A registration fee is charged to cover meals, lodging, and workshop expenses. Any junior, intermediate and senior aged 4-H member may participate. Held in July.

Rabbits

- **4-H Rabbit Shows:** Exhibiting rabbits at county, regional and state competitions in areas of showmanship, breed classes, and market rabbits. Ownership deadline is June 1st of each year.
- **Rabbit Judging:** Open to any interested rabbit project members. Judge breed, meat or fur classes and complete a written exam. State contest is held during the State Fair in Timonium.

Poultry

- **4-H Poultry Shows:** Exhibiting fowl at the county and the state fair in areas of meat birds, egg production fowl, purebred large fowl, and bantam purebreds. Ownership deadline is June 1st of each year.
- **Poultry Judging:** Judging quality of production, egg quality, dressed market poultry and presenting oral reasons. Junior, intermediate and senior teams are determined by county/city procedures. The State contest is held during the State Fair in Timonium. High scoring senior individuals from the state contest may be selected to compete in the national contest.
- **Egg Preparation:** 4-H members can choose to present a demonstration on the preparation of an egg dish during the Maryland State Fair. The State Winner will be eligible to represent Maryland in the National Egg Demonstration Contest in Louisville, Kentucky in November.

Horse and Pony

- **4-H Horse and Pony Shows:** Exhibiting animal projects at the county fair and the state fair in English and Western divisions in classes of grooming and showmanship, conformation, equitation, and performance. The state 4-H Horse Shows are held during State Fair in Timonium. Horse project animals must have an ID card on file with the county 4-H Office by June 1st of each year. Participants must have successfully passed Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Knowledge and Riding Levels 1 & 2 and English or Western Riding -Level 3. 4-Hers entering a jumping class must specifically pass English Riding Jumping Level 3. 4-Hers showing in halter or showmanship classes ONLY are required to have Knowledge Levels 1 & 2 and must have prior approval by their club leader and/or county extension educator. All rankings must be on file at the county 4-H office prior to the State Fair.
- **Dressage and Combined Test:** State 4-H Dressage and Combined Test held in the fall offers 4-H project members a great opportunity to compete on a statewide level in dressage and jumping.
- **Horse Judging:** Judging of 4-6 conformation classes and 3-4 performance classes and presentation of oral reasons. Junior, intermediate and senior teams are determined by county/city selection process. The state contest is held in late spring. High scoring senior individuals may be selected to compete in the national contest.
- **Horse Hippology:** Includes written exam; stations phase including identification of tack, tools, equipment, feeds, parasites, etc...; judging of conformation and performance classes. Junior, intermediate and senior teams are determined by county/city selection process. State contest held in late spring High scoring senior individuals in the state contest may be selected to compete in national contest.
- **Horse Bowl:** Is similar to "It's Academic", except all questions are about horses and the horse industry. Points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Junior, intermediate and senior teams of up to five individuals determined by the county/city selection process. State contest is held in early spring at the University of Maryland, College Park. High scoring senior individuals in the state contest may be selected to compete in national contest.

- **State Horse Jamboree:** This three day, two night program features workshops, tours, and competitive events in the horse project area. A registration fee is charged to cover meals, lodging, and workshop expenses. Any 4-H member 8 years of age or older or adult volunteer may participate. It is usually held in June/July.

Dog

- **4-H Dog Shows:** Exhibit animals at the county, regional spring show, and state competition in areas of obedience, fitting and showmanship, rally, and educational exhibits. Dog project animals must have an ID card on file with the county 4-H Office by June 1st each year. In order to compete at the state level you must first qualify at the county level.
- **Dog Bowl:** Is similar to "It's Academic", except all of the questions relate to dogs. Points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Junior, intermediate and senior teams of four individuals and one alternate determined by county/city selection process. The State contest is held in March.

Alpacas

- **4-H Alpaca Shows:** Exhibit animals at county and state competitions in areas such as public relations, showmanship and obstacles. Alpaca project animals must have an ID card on file with the county 4-H Office by June 1st of each year in order to compete.

Cat

- **Pets Display:** Complete a cat display about your cat and entering it in the County or State Fair.

Small Pets and Cavies

- **4-H Cavies Shows:** Exhibit cavies at county and state competitions in areas of showmanship and breed classes. Ownership deadline in June 1st.
- **Pets Display:** Complete a pet display about your pet and entering it in the County or State Fair.

Veterinary Science

- **Veterinary Science Display:** Completing a veterinary science display about your animal and entering it in the County or State Fair.