

New Hampshire 4-H Lease Policy

4-H members in New Hampshire who, for various reasons, may not have the opportunity to own a project animal or additional project animals may lease an animal(s) from a second party. Sometimes 4-H animal project members do not have proper facilities, equipment, resources or enough experience to own an animal. Advanced members who are exhibiting herds or flocks of animals as a project may be unable to own the required number of animals for their project and wish to lease additional animals. The New Hampshire 4-H Youth Development Program has set up specific rules and guidelines for 4-H members who wish to lease project animals.

It should be understood that the lease allows the 4-H member to use the specified animal(s) as a 4-H project. It is not necessary that the leased animal be housed at the home of the 4-H member; however, the 4-H member must have significant access to the project animal(s) and be responsible for at least 50% of the care of the animal(s). If a lease agreement is signed it **MUST** be in the name of the member who will be exhibiting the leased animal.

A 4-H novice or junior member, 8-13 years old on 1/1 of the current year, may lease up to two animals of a species. If the member owns no animals of a species they may lease up to two animals of that species. If a member owns one animal of a species, they may lease one additional animal of that species. **If a member owns two animals they may not lease any other animal of that species.**

A 4-H senior member, 14-18 on 1/1 of the current year, may lease up to three animals of a species. If they own no animals of a species, they may lease up to three animals of that species. If they own one animal of a species they may lease up to two animals of that species. If they own two animals of a species they may lease up to one animal of that species. **If they own three animals of a species they may not lease any other animal of that species. Note: Senior Horse members may lease up to two horses if they own none, one additional horse if they own one.**

There are some animal species which have age restrictions on the animals that may be shown in 4-H shows. If you are interested in showing you will want to be aware of the age restrictions for your species prior to leasing. For example, sheep over the age of two cannot be shown in a 4-H show. For leased dairy cattle over the age of two, to be eligible for the Eastern States Exposition 4-H Dairy Show, the lease agreement must have been in effect before the animal was a senior yearling.

Additional information on 4-H leases can be obtained by visiting the webpage on "What is a 4-H Lease and How do I Set One Up?": <http://extension.unh.edu/New-Hampshire-4-H-Animal-Leases>

Visit our website: extension.unh.edu

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