



Suggestions for Setting up 4-H Leases

If you are a 4-H member interested in leasing an animal for your 4-H project, there are some important considerations to make. UNH Cooperative Extension doesn't have rigid rules on what terms of a lease should include, however there are a few rules that are set up for 4-H members leasing animals. For further information contact your 4-H leader or County 4-H Staff Member.

New Hampshire 4-H Lease Policy: (rules that must be adhered to)

- The number of animals of a particular species that a member may lease is not limited. However, it is expected that the 4-H member must have significant access to the project animal(s) and be responsible for significant care of the leased animal(s), equivalent to a minimum of 50% the work involved in caring for a single animal of that species. Lease agreements **MUST** be in the name of the member who will be exhibiting the leased animal. For performance animals such as dogs, horses, and working steers, the 4-H member must regularly work with that animal and be proficient with that specific animal and the performance activity prior to bringing the animal to any 4-H activity or event. For production animals, the 4-H member must regularly work with the animal and be proficient in handling the animal prior to bringing the animal to any 4-H activity or event.
- Note 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 can't be show in a 4-H show and 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.
- 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 should have significant access to the project animal(s) and be responsible for care equivalent to a minimum of 50% the work involved in caring for a single animal of that species

Guidelines (not requirements) for 4-H Lease Agreements:

Lease agreements are based upon the honesty, integrity, and responsibility of the parties involved. Successful lease situations occur most frequently when the lessee and the lessor take the time to get to know one another; look for compatible philosophies including the value of animal projects in a youth development program and compatible animal management philosophies, etc.

For the protection of all involved, lease specifics should be carefully developed, put in writing, and signed off on by all parties involved. When a minor is leasing an animal they own to another person their parent/guardian must sign as well as the minor.

Every lease should clearly indicate the animal(s) to be leased, a specific starting and ending date, and all signatures and signature dates.

While UNH Cooperative Extension and the 4-H program does not have rigid rules on what terms a lease should include, the following are items that should be discussed and included in a lease agreement if both parties feel they are important:

- **Trucking** - Who will transport the animal to and from shows and/or fairs?
- **Veterinary Expenses** - might be separated into 1) basic expenses for health and well-being of animal; expenses the owner would have to incur whether the animal was being show nor not (i.e. worming, vaccinations, etc.), and 2) show-related veterinary expenses, additional veterinary procedures that need to be done for showing or transporting animals (i.e. additional vaccinations for moving animals in- or out-of state, health certificates, etc.).
- **Show Expenses** - tack, equipment, clippers, entry fees
- **Dispersment of Premiums** - Who will the premium dollars be paid to if applicable?
- **Animal Identification** - ear tags, tattooing
- **Housing** - The animal may be housed at the owner's facilities OR the 4-H member's facility, however the 4-H member must have significant access to the project animal(s) and must assume responsibility for the care of the animal(s).
- **Feeding** - Who will be responsible for purchasing feed and feeding the animal?
- **Unanticipated injury or death** - Who will be responsible for emergency veterinary care; who is liable for the loss of an animal?
- **Management** - What are appropriate training techniques, what type of feed or housing facility is acceptable, etc.?
- **Insurance** - Many fairs/shows require entrants to show a certificate of liability insurance to protect themselves from any damage or injury the animal might cause while at an event. Both parties should check with their personal or farm insurance agent to ensure appropriate coverage.
- **Farrier Expenses/Hoof Trimming** - Who will pay for this? It might depend on whether extra expenses are incurred as a result of showing an animal.
- **Shearing** - Who will pay for shearer; who keeps the fleece?
- **Implants** - Some 4-H members might use growth implants for their animals. Owners and 4-H members should agree upon what is appropriate and who will pay for the implants.
- **Breeding fees** - If an animal is to be bred as part of the 4-H member's project (or needs to be bred during the term of the lease), who will pay for the breeding fees and who makes the decision as to which sire an animal might be bred to? Is there an agreement to who keeps the progeny?

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