

West Virginia University Extension Service
West Virginia 4-H & FFA Dairy Animal Lease Program Guidelines

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To develop character, knowledge, sense of responsibility and life skills in 4-H and FFA youth.
- 2) To expand the opportunities for youth to participate in a 4-H or FFA dairy project who may not have access to facilities and/or dairy breeding stock.
- 3) To maintain or increase the number of youth carrying dairy breeding stock as a 4-H project or FFA enterprise.

RULES:

- 1) The West Virginia 4-H & FFA Dairy Animal Lease Program is applicable to registered dairy breeding stock only.
- 2) The program is available to any 4-H or FFA member, hereafter also referred to as **4-H/FFA members**, in good standing in a County 4-H program or an FFA Enterprise.
- 3) **4-H/FFA members** may not have both owned and leased animals within the same project area during the current year.
- 4) The **4-H/FFA member** will be required to keep the appropriate project/enterprise record(s) on each animal. The project/enterprise record(s) must be submitted to his or her local County 4-H Extension Office or FFA Advisor as required by the County 4-H Extension Office or local FFA program.
- 5) In order to exhibit a leased animal(s), it must be a bona fide 4-H project or FFA enterprise and registered with the appropriate breed association. The leased animal(s) may be exhibited in the appropriate classes at 4-H or FFA shows at the West Virginia State Dairy Show and the West Virginia State Fair. It is the responsibility of the **4-H/FFA member** to find out if leased animals may be exhibited at their local 4-H or FFA show. In addition, **4-H/FFA members** with leased animals will be required to follow the same requirements for exhibition as **4-H/FFA members** with owned animals.
- 6) Cows in the program may be exhibited as project animals in appropriate classes only if they were part of the lease program for the **4-H/FFA member** during the 4-H/FFA years when the animals were calves or yearlings.
- 7) A **4-H/FFA member** may have up to six (6) total breeding animals in the Dairy Animal Lease Program per year.
- 8) The owner of the leased animal(s), hereafter referred to as the **sponsor**, and the **4-H/FFA Member** should jointly determine the specific responsibilities to be carried out by **each party**. The responsibilities should be attached to the Lease Program Form and should include such items as, but not limited to:
 - a. the **4-H/FFA member's** duties and responsibilities while caring for and working with the animal,
 - b. the **4-H/FFA Member's** access to the animal,
 - c. housing and transportation of the animal,
 - d. a working schedule for carrying out the specified duties,
 - e. any assistance the **sponsor** will provide to the **4-H/FFA Member**,
 - f. any insurance requirements, information or provisions

- g. responsibility for expenses incurred with the lease animal such as, but not limited to, feed, veterinary care, transportation, entry fees, etc.

The above are only suggestions. For the protection of all involved, the parties may want to consider entering into a written Lease Agreement setting forth their respective rights and responsibilities. WVU-ES can not advise parties as to what should be included in such an agreement, and parties may want to consult with an attorney in this regard.

- 9) The **4-H/FFA member** will keep any 4-H/FFA premiums or awards received while exhibiting the leased animal(s) during the duration of the agreement – NO EXCEPTIONS.
- 10) During the current year, the **4-H/FFA member** will be the only person eligible to exhibit the leased animal(s) in any class (4-H, FFA, Open) at the West Virginia State Dairy Show or West Virginia State Fair.
- 11) The **sponsor** and the **4-H/FFA member** must adhere to the West Virginia 4-H Dairy Animal Lease Program Guidelines, as applicable.
- 12) The leased animal(s) must be housed and maintained at either the farm facilities of the **sponsor, 4-H/FFA member**, or mutually agreed upon location as approved by the County Extension Agent or FFA advisor.
- 12) Ownership of the leased animal(s) remains with the sponsor. The title of ownership as stated on the registration certificate of the leased animal will remain **in the possession of the sponsor**.
- 13) The Dairy Animal Lease Program Form must be signed and filed in the office of the WVU Extension Youth Livestock Specialist by **April 1** (June 1 for Junior Calves – those born in March–April of the current year) of the current year and will be in effect through the end of the project year. The sponsor is expected to and will make the animal available to the **4-H/FFA member** during the period of the 4-H/FFA year.
- 14) Participation in the West Virginia 4-H & FFA Dairy Animal Lease Program may be terminated by either party or by 4-H/WVU-ES/FFA prior to the end of the project year for reasons such as, but not limited to:
 - a. failure of the **4-H/FFA member** or **sponsor** to carry out responsibilities as agreed by the parties,
 - b. changes in the farming operation for the **sponsor**,
 - c. changes in the circumstances of the **4-H/FFA member**,
 - d. mutual agreement of both parties,
 - e. on thirty (30) days written notice, or
 - f. failure to abide by and follow the West Virginia 4-H & FFA Dairy Animal Lease Program Guidelines and all other 4H/FFA and/or WVU-ES/FFA program policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and other requirements or expectations, as applicable. Such failure may also result in the **sponsor** and/or **4-H/FFA member** being declared ineligible to participate in West Virginia 4-H & FFA Dairy Lease Program(s) by WVU-ES/4-H/FFA and/or other disciplinary action or sanctions as appropriate. The date and reason for termination prior to the end of the year must be given in writing and be placed on file in the office of the WVU Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Agriculture. Completed forms should be sent to:
Emily Perdue, G210 New Ag Science Bldg., PO Box 6108, Morgantown, WV 26506-6108.
- 15) The 4-H/FFA Member, Parent/Guardian and Sponsor must sign the WV 4-H Dairy Lease program form.