

Requirements for the New England 4-H Horse, Dog and Livestock Programs at Eastern States Exposition for Connecticut 4-H Members

Dates for ownership, application process and requirements differ with each species. This includes dates of ownership, the application process and requirements. All youth participating in 4-H animal programs at the Big E must be 12 years of age and older.

- * **BEEF CATTLE:** owned by February 1 for steers and owned or leased by May 1 for heifers. Steers must be ear tagged and entered by **March 1**. ESE application forms are due at this time. Steers entered into the New England 4-H Program at ESE must be owned. They cannot be leased. 4-H member must exhibit animal at a 4-H Fair. Remember CT requires lease or ownership by May 1 of the current year for 4-H fair showing. Entry for ESE for heifers are due by May 1.
- * **WORKING STEER:** The youth working steer program at ESE is not a 4-H show. Please visit the ESE web site <https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/youth-working-steer> for guidelines on this show.
- * **DAIRY CATTLE:** For ESE eligibility, animal must be owned or leased and Animal Project Verification forms and leases be into your local 4-H Office with proper information by **May 1**. Check appropriate area for intent to enter the New England 4-H Dairy Program. Members wishing to participate must complete the application for participation in the New England 4-H Dairy Program at E.S.E. available from the 4-H Office which is also due May 1 and show at a 4-H Fair. The State 4-H Dairy Committee visits 4-H Fairs to check animals and interview 4-H applicants. In all milking age classes, 2 year olds and up, the cow must have been owned or leased on May 1st before the animal reached her second birthdate.
- * **DAIRY GOATS:** For ESE eligibility must be owned or leased by **June 1**. Participants must be 12 years old as of January 1st of the current 4-H year and must have exhibited in the 4-H goat show at a county 4-H fair. Application is due in August.
- * **SHEEP:** For ESE eligibility must be owned or leased by **June 1**. To qualify, project must receive a blue Danish ribbon in both conformation and fitting & showmanship at a 4-H Fair. Participants will be allowed to show one additional sheep purchased between June 1 and July 31st. Remember that sheep purchased after June 1st (of the current year) are not eligible to be shown at Connecticut 4-H Fairs.
- * **DOG:** For ESE eligibility must be owned or leased by **June 1**. Application is due mid-August. Applicants must show at a 4-H Fair.
- * **HORSE:** For ESE eligibility, must be owned/leased by **May 1**. **4-Hers interested in applying to the ESE 4-H Horse Program need to fill out a 4-H Animal Project Verification Form by May 1.** The New England 4-H Horse Program selection is a three-tiered process. The first tier of the selection consists of an application and review of the applicant's record book at the county level. The second tier is a state level selection based on the applications. Those who pass the second tier, as determined by their scores on their applications, will be asked to attend the third tier final selection meeting. The committee reserves the right to make final selections using a personal interview and/or a written test if needed at this final selection meeting.

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