



Contract for lease of 4-H Project Animals

This contract is entered into this _____ day of _____, 20____, between _____, the 4-H'er, of _____ (town), County of _____, State of Connecticut, and _____, the Owner of _____ (town), County of _____, State of Connecticut.

The term of this contract shall be from the _____ day of _____, 20____, to the _____ day of _____, 20____. This contract may be terminated at any time by mutual agreement in writing; or by at least _____ month(s) written notice from either party the 4-H'er hereby agrees to accept possession of the animal(s) listed below:

REGISTERED NAME	BREED/COLOR	TATTOO NO	REGISTRATION NO.	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH

It is agreed that the title of said animal shall at all times remain in the possession of the Owner. The owner agrees to assume all legal responsibility as owner of the animal described in this agreement and will not hold the 4-H'er liable for any injury or death loss to the animal, except those due to negligence on the part of the 4-H member. Both owner (Lessor) and 4-H member (lessee) are responsible for any damages caused by said animal.

OTHER CONDITIONS: 4-H Member leasing the animal described above agrees to: (Cross out or add negotiated conditions, list additions on back of page)

1. Bear all livestock expenses incurred in transporting and/or exhibiting the animal. The 4-H'er may keep any premiums or awards earned while exhibiting animals during the duration of this contract.
2. Breed the animal at the direction and expense of the Owner. The resulting offspring shall be the property of the Owner.

OTHER CONDITIONS Owner agrees to: (Cross out or add negotiated conditions, list additions on back of page)

1. Bear all livestock expenses normally incurred in raising such an animal.
2. Not exhibit this animal(s) during the time of the contract.
3. Allow the 4-H'er to exhibit this animal(s) at the 4-H Fair, the New England 4-H Horse/Livestock Programs (if selected) and other shows both Owner and 4-H'er agree to.
4. By signing below, the 4-H member, parent/guardian, and owner of the animal understand that this is an agreement between the parties signing below. This agreement does not include the 4-H organization or its volunteers.
5. Lease an animal to a 4-H member as the owner of the animal and not as a 4-H volunteer. Being a 4-H volunteer involves actions independent of leasing an animal.

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT: The 4-H member agrees to pay rental of \$ _____ for the animal(s) described in this contract in their care.

Signature of Owner _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____

Signature of 4-H Member _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____

To be returned to the 4-H Office with UConn 4-H Animal Project Verification Form by the required dates.



Guidelines for Lease Agreements for Non-Owned 4-H Projects

The 4-H program recognizes the educational value of animal projects. We allow leased projects so that a greater number of members will be able to participate. This project is designed to make it possible for 4-H members to be able to have a non-owned 4-H project which can be shown at 4-H shows. Requirements include:

1. A lease agreement must be signed by the parties involved and must include the animal's identification (photo and description or registration papers if applicable). **An individual who leases an animal to a 4-H member to be used as a 4-H project does so as the owner of the animal and not as a 4-H volunteer. Being a 4-H volunteer involves actions independent of leasing an animal.**
2. The animal must be leased prior to April 1st to participate in the New England 4-H Horse Program and May 1st for New England 4-H Dairy and Beef Heifer Programs. Members wishing to participate in the New England 4-H Dog and other Livestock Programs must lease their animals by June 1st. For participation in 4-H Fairs, all animals must be leased by June 1st (May 1st for Dairy and Beef Cattle and Horse). The 4-H Animal Verification Form must be completed for all leased animals. For Dairy Cattle: 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. Proof of lease or ownership is required.
3. Pilot for 2025, a 4-H member may lease up to four animals in a single project area during the 4-H project year except for rabbits, poultry covies, reptiles, crustaceans and small animals which is limited to 10 per project area. This increased limit is not intended to limit the number of 4-H members who have the opportunity to lease a project animal. Offspring of leased project animals can be considered part of the 4-H project if stated in the lease and if it does not violate the "maximum of animals leased in a single project" rule.
4. The leased animal may be exhibited only by the 4-H member leasing the animal during the time the contract is in effect.
5. All leased animals must be bona fide 4-H projects. The member must assume responsibility for care and management of all project animals as specified in the lease agreement.
6. **Both owner (Leasor) and 4-H member (lessee) are responsible for any damages caused by said animal.**

The lease form provided is a sample draft agreement. It can be used as is or additions or corrections can be made. The 4-H member and owner should put all conditions into the lease agreement which would affect this agreement. It is important that discussions be held between the 4-H Member and owner so that both parties understand each other's responsibilities. Decisions made should be included in writing on the final lease agreement. Examples of topics needing agreement include transportation arrangements to fairs (who will hire the trucking?); who will pay for special vaccinations/testing needed for participation in fairs (i.e. rabies); what fees, if any, will be charged the 4-H member for use of animal during the lease period; who will provide the necessary equipment to be used (halters, fitting and grooming aides, etc) and where animal will be housed during the lease period. If kept at the owner's home or farm, arrangements should be made for care of animal by the 4-H member.

All 4-H project animals are shown and otherwise used at the risk of the 4-H member. Any damage to persons or property is the legal and financial responsibility of the 4-H member and parent/guardian who owns/leases the animal. Any 4-H member with an animal project (owned or leased) is advised to check that their parent/guardian's personal property insurance covers the animal.

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