

Ohio 4-H Livestock Lease Program

Introduction – One purpose of 4-H livestock is to teach young people how to feed, fit, show and care for their animal(s). The more important purpose is to provide an opportunity for personal growth and development of the young person. Ohio 4-H realizes that some youth are unable to own an actual animal for their project. An option available to these individuals is leasing an animal from another individual.

What is the purpose of leasing a livestock project animal?

A lease program is appropriate in the 4-H program when one or more of the following conditions exist.

- * Youth does not have the financial ability to purchase an animal.
- * Youth has an animal, but it is unable to be used (i.e., lameness, pregnancy, too young, etc.)
- * Youth has an animal, but it is of the wrong type for the educational experience the youth wishes to obtain.

What are expectations of the animal's owner?

An individual (lessor) who leases an animal must be willing to:

- * Relinquish all rights to train, handle, and care for the animal in order for the youth to complete the requirements of a 4-H livestock project. Potential owners should not lease animals they want to show on a regular basis during the term of a lease.
- * Not take the animal back prior to the end of the lease unless the youth agrees to return the animal.
- * Have the youth (or parent/legal guardian) sign whatever agreements they decide upon in regards to care of the animal.
- * Allow the youth to transport and show the animal in 4-H, open or breed shows.

What are expectations of the 4-H participant?

An individual (youth) who leases the animal as a 4-H project:

- * To be responsible for the care of the animal in whatever manner that is mutually agreeable to both the owner (lessor) and youth (lessee).
- * To complete an animal identification form to identify the animal as a 4-H project.
- * As part of the educational experience of leasing an animal, to work in consultation with the owner (lessor) to develop a lease agreement for the animal selected for the Ohio 4-H program (see the suggestions for developing a lease agreement).
- * Prior to any deadline date established by your local County Extension Office, to submit lease agreement for verification purposed ONLY.



What should be included in a Lease?

Every lease is unique in the items that must be covered to protect both the (lessor) and the youth (lessee). A lease should be drawn and signed by the owner and the youth to insure adequate care of the animal, protect the investment of the lessor and to detail the responsibility of the youth in regards to the caring for the animal. It is wise to have a written lease agreement any time you are using someone else's animal even if the owner is a family member. A lease can assist in preventing misunderstandings and unhappiness between the animal's owner and the youth leasing the animal.

We suggest the following issues, but not limited to, be addressed in a lease:

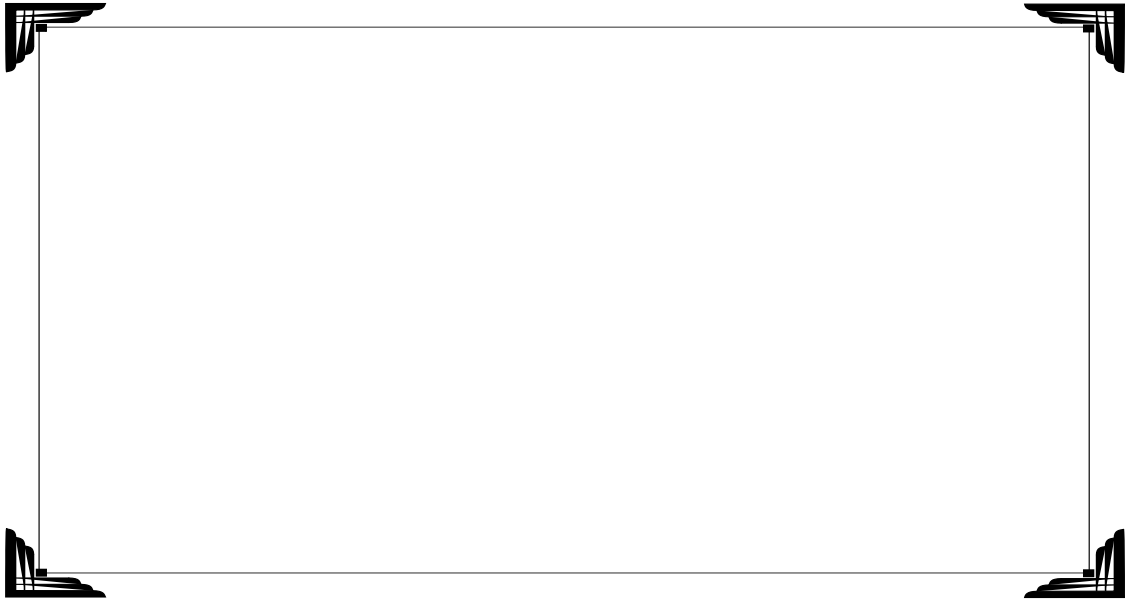
1. Identification of the animal (name, registration number if registered); the name, address and phone number of the youth leasing the animal, the name of parent or guardian if the youth is less than 18 years of age; and the name, address, and phone number of the owner (lessor).
2. Who is responsible in case of injury or death of the animal? Who pays veterinarian bills and what would be the maximum amount you are expected to pay in veterinarian costs if injury costs are your (lessee's) responsibility. In addition, if the animal is injured and unusable, who has to nurse the animal back to health. An owner (lessor) may require you to take out an insurance policy on the animal with the owner as the beneficiary to cover possible loss due to the death of the animal.
3. Where will the animal be housed and who is responsible for the daily care for the animal; any feeds, health care (i.e., deworming, vaccinations, etc.), foot care, and/or special stabling requirements made by the owner.
4. The purpose(s) for which the animal will be used and that it can be transported at the youth's discretion to livestock shows.
5. Any limitations that would be placed on the owner's use of the animal. For leasing a horse please refer to the current Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows for limitations caused by the animal being a 4-H project and include them in the lease or reference them in a statement and make a copy of the rules available to the owner of the horse.
6. A statement on the time period covered by the lease and under what conditions and time frame the lease can be discontinued.
7. The owner should have a statement included relieving them of liability in cases of property damage, injury to the youth or injury to a third party while the animal is under the lessee's supervision.
8. A place for signatures for the owner (lessor) and the youth (lessee) with a line for a parent or guardian to sign for youth less than 18 years of age.

The above-mentioned issues are only suggestions and we cannot advise you as to specific terms or wording for a lease agreement. You may even want to consult an attorney.



Animal Identification

Due in OSU Extension by June 1st



4-H Member's Name _____

Club _____

Animal's Name _____

Breed _____

Animal's Age _____ Date Born _____

Color and Markings _____

Ear Tag No or Tattoo _____ If registered, registration No. _____

Sire's Name _____ Registration No. _____

Dam's Name _____ Registration No. _____

