



University of Maryland Extension (UME): Maryland 4-H Breeding Animal Lease Program Guidelines

Program Objectives

1. To help youth develop character, knowledge, sense of responsibility, and life skills.
2. To expand the opportunities for youth who may not have access to facilities and/or performance animals to participate in an animal project.
3. To maintain/increase the number of youth carrying breeding animals as a 4-H project.
4. To maintain/increase the number of breeding animals carried as a 4-H Project.

Program Rules

1. The Maryland 4-H Breeding Animal Lease Program is applicable to registered breeding animals of the 4-H project areas listed below:
 - a. Beef
 - b. Dairy
 - c. Sheep
 - d. Swine
 - e. Goats (Dairy and Meat)
2. The program is available to any 4-H member, hereafter also referred to as **4-H'ers**, in good standing in a County/City 4-H program.
3. **4-H Members** may not have both owned and leased animals within the same project area during the same 4-H year (which runs January 1 through December 31). However, due to the uniqueness of Dairy projects, a member in the project who owns a Dairy Steer may also lease a Dairy Heifer during the same 4-H year.
4. The **4-H Member** will be required to keep the appropriate 4-H project record(s) on each animal. The project record(s) must be submitted to his or her local County/City 4-H Extension Office as required by the County/City 4-H Extension Office.
5. In order to exhibit a leased animal(s), it must be a bona fide 4-H project and registered with the appropriate breed association. The leased animal(s) may be exhibited in the appropriate classes at 4-H shows in Maryland. 4-H'ers with leased animals will be required to follow the same requirements for exhibition as 4-H'ers with owned animals. Cows and does in the program may be exhibited as project animals in appropriate classes only if they were leased by the 4-H member before first freshening or before 2 years of age, whichever comes first.
6. A 4-H member may have up to six (6) total breeding animals in the Breeding Animal Lease Program per 4-H year. However, 4-H shows or fairs may limit the number of animals 4-H members may exhibit or have other rules pertaining to classes for breeding animals.
7. The owner of the leased animal(s), hereafter referred to as the **Sponsor**, and the 4-H 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 Member's** duties and responsibilities while caring for and working with the animal,
 - b. the 4-H 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 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 items 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. UME cannot advise parties as to what should be included in such an agreement, and parties may want to consult with an attorney in this regard.

8. The **4-H Member** will keep any 4-H premiums or awards received while exhibiting the leased animal(s) during the duration of the agreement – NO EXCEPTIONS.
9. During the 4-H year, the **4-H Member** will be the only person eligible to exhibit the leased animal(s) in Maryland 4-H shows. The **Sponsor** may enter and exhibit the leased animal(s) in non-4-H shows.
10. The **Sponsor** and the **4-H Member** must adhere to the Maryland 4-H Breeding Animal Lease Program Guidelines, the Maryland 4-H Youth Code of Conduct, the Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics, and other applicable County/City and/or State 4-H/UME requirements.
11. The leased animal(s) must be housed and maintained at either the farm facilities of the **Sponsor, 4-H Member, or mutually agreed upon location as approved by the County/City 4-H faculty/staff.**
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 Breeding Animal Lease Program Form must be signed and filed in the County/City 4-H office by June 1st of the 4-H year and will be in effect through the end of the 4-H year (December 31).** The Sponsor is expected to and will make the animal available to the 4-H Member during the period of the 4-H year.
14. Participation in the Maryland 4-H Breeding Animal Lease Program may be terminated by either party or by 4-H/UME prior to the end of the project year for reasons such as, but not limited to:
 - a. failure of the **4-H Member** or **Sponsor** to fulfill responsibilities as agreed by the parties,
 - b. changes in the farming operation for the **Sponsor**,
 - c. changes in the circumstances of the **4-H Member**,
 - d. mutual agreement of both parties,
 - e. on thirty (30) days written notice, or
 - f. failure to abide by and follow the Maryland 4-H Breeding Animal Lease Program Guidelines and all other 4-H and/or UME policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and other requirements or expectations, as applicable. Such failure may also result in the **Sponsor** and/or **4-H Member** being declared ineligible to participate in Maryland 4-H Animal Lease Program(s) by UME/4-H and/or other disciplinary action or sanctions as appropriate.

The date and reason for termination prior to the end of the 4-H year must be given in writing and be placed on file in the County/City 4-H office.

15. The 4-H Member, Parent/Guardian and Sponsor must sign the Maryland 4-H Animal Lease Program Statement of Understanding and Release Form.

Adopted from 4-H 430 – JWL 2002. Reviewed by DA 10/02., CWA 2009. Reviewed by DA 4/2009. Updated for name and logo change CWA 4/2011 Reviewed by DA 4/2011, CWA 2013. Updated for logo change CWA 2021.

MARYLAND 4-H BREEDING ANIMAL LEASE PROGRAM

This LEASE ARRANGEMENT is entered into on _____ Date
 between owner (**Sponsor**) _____ Name
 _____ Address _____ Telephone

and 4-H youth (**4-H Member**) _____ Name
 _____ Address _____ Telephone

The sponsor agrees to allow the 4-H member listed above use of the following animal(s) during the 4-H year:

Animal Name	Registration Number	Description	Breed	Animal Birth Date

If the Sponsor is a 4-H member, the Sponsor will show in the following classes: _____

The 4-H member leasing the animal may show in any other classes in which they are eligible.

This Lease Arrangement will remain in force until the end of the project year or until terminated by either party as stated in the Rules of the Maryland 4-H Breeding Animal Lease Program.

I have read and understand the rules and responsibilities of the Maryland 4-H Breeding Animal Lease Program and agree to abide by the requirements of the program.

 Owner (**Sponsor**) _____ Date

 Parent or Legal Guardian, if Owner is a minor _____ Date

I have read and understand the rules and responsibilities of the Maryland 4-H Performance Animal Lease Program and agree to abide by the requirements of the program.

 4-H Youth (**4-H Member**) _____ Date

 Parent or Legal Guardian _____ Date

The **4-H Member** is a member in good standing of the 4-H program and is eligible to participate in the Maryland 4-H Breeding Animal Lease Program. A copy of this Form will be placed on file in the county/city 4-H office.

 4-H County/City Extension Educator _____ Date