

Chenango County 4-H Animal Lease Policy

Background

The Animal Science Lease Program is a state wide program that allows youth enrolled in 4-H the opportunity to lease/adopt an animal of certain species to exhibit at their county and state show. This program allows more youth the chance to get involved with animal husbandry who might not have the means to do so because they do not have the monetary funds or housing facilities. Each county is governed by the state rules but is also allowed to add additional requirements to their program as they see fit.

Chenango County Policy

- This program is for enrolled 4-H members who wish to work with and exhibit an animal but do not have the means of owning an animal.
- Youth are only allowed to lease a species of animal that they **DO NOT OWN**. Proof of ownership may be asked for by the 4-H Educator.
- Lease agreements are made between the farms and the youth's family. Every lease policy is different and there is no set standard on how leases are handled. It is highly recommended that there is a written agreement between both parties.
- A lease agreement **DOES NOT** mean the youth owns this animal. Ownership still remains with the farm that the animal has come from and at the end of the lease agreement the animal **MUST** return to the farm that it came from.
- Youth are allowed to lease **2 animals in each species** they are leasing as per the NYS rule.
- Enrolled 4-H members will be allowed lease throughout their entire 4-H career, without time limits, providing that they lease the same animal and it's offspring year after year unless extenuating circumstances arise. Circumstances must be brought to the Educator's attention by April 1st of current 4-H year or within 24hrs of arising issue. Issues then brought to the 4-H Livestock Committee for discussion.
- Market Animal Exemption on leasing the same animal or offspring as this is a terminal project.
- In order to receive credit for end of the year awards and to be allowed to participate in the lease program the following year youth must do the following:
 - **Exhibit animals at the Chenango County 4-H Shows at the Chenango County Fair or the Farmers Museum Junior Livestock Show**
 - **Complete 4-H Project Records associated with each species leased**
- Youth must submit their Non-Ownership Project ID forms for each animal to the 4-H Office by **June 1 of the current year**. Failure to do this will result in the youth's participation in this program to be terminated immediately as per the NYS rule.

Education and learning are a valuable part of the 4-H animal science experience. Caring for and learning about a particular animal species takes time and dedication. Experience has shown that both are critical elements to educational success. Youth must be fully committed to the animal as a project while also being able to manage the time commitment responsibly. The Chenango County 4-H Program has set these standards so that the youth involved in the program can succeed and have the best possible learning experience. The parameters that are established will provide youth with the best means of balancing their commitment of time and dedication to achieve that success.

Updated 11/20/19, 4-H Livestock Committee