



## Agreement for Using a Sponsored (Leased) Animal for 4-H Activities

Please read the attached details thoroughly and consider all aspects before signing this agreement. This form is intended to clarify the responsibilities and commitments of the animal owner (sponsor) and the youth (sponsored youth or lessee), and the parents/guardians. It is not a legal document.

- Complete one sponsorship agreement form for each youth per species and per owner if different.
- **Note:** you will need to submit an animal registration form (see specific species regulations) describing each animal, providing identification numbers where relevant, and including one or more photos.

Name of 4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Check relevant species being sponsored:

Hog		Llama/alpaca		Poultry		Horse		Sheep	
Beef		Dairy Goat		Dog		Rabbit		Cavy	
Dairy Cow		Meat Goat							
Other (explain)									

The owner of the above-named animal(s) authorizes the 4-H member to use the animal(s) as their 4-H project animal for the period beginning (date): \_\_\_\_\_ and ending (date): \_\_\_\_\_.

Address the animal(s) will be kept at: \_\_\_\_\_

Will the sponsored youth be required to contribute to costs related to keeping the animal(s)?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide details below (costs involved related to owner expenses):

Will the sponsored youth be required to help with care/chores related to keeping the animal(s)?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide details below (frequency/hours/making up missed duties, etc.):

Will animal(s) be available to exhibit at the Dutchess County Fair?  Yes  No

Please use the space below to note any additional items covered by this agreement

**I have read, understand, and agree to the guidelines below.**

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner email: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner cell: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4-H Animal Sponsorship Program Description and Rules (adapted from [Penn State](#))

Note that 'sponsored animal' is the term generally used by CCEDC but may also be referred to as 'leased'.

The intent of 4-H animal sponsorship is to provide opportunities for 4-H youth to gain experience with projects in livestock, dairy or working animals. This project is aimed at youth who:

- lack financial resources needed to purchase and care for an animal,
- lack facilities and equipment necessary to provide proper daily care for a large animal, or
- are prevented from participating in project experiences requiring ownership and daily care of a large animal due to circumstances beyond their control.

Animals owned and housed by a sponsor are leased by 4-H members for the project year. With the owner, a schedule for sharing the care, training, and possibly the costs, for each animal is agreed on.

- 4-H members do scheduled tasks and participate in 4-H activities with the sponsored animal(s).
- 4-H members may be asked to commit to contributing partly or fully to cover the costs associated with keeping the animal(s) healthy and conditioned according to their purpose.
- 4-H members may exhibit animals sponsored under the 4-H agreement only at 4-H shows permitting showing of sponsored animals.

### Objectives

- Youth unable to participate in 4-H animal projects requiring animal ownership, and experience responsibility for animal care, will have the opportunity to participate.
- Youth will develop an appreciation for animal agriculture.
- 4-H members will be provided with the opportunity to develop life skills in areas including leadership, citizenship, communications, careers, personal and value development, and relating to people.
- 4-H members will be provided with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge related to animal sciences and the care, management, marketing, and use of animals and their products.

### Eligibility

Youth must meet requirements for 4-H membership through CCEDC. For a youth to be considered a 4-H member they must:

- be at least 5 years of age and must not have turned 19 years of age prior to January 1 of the current year.
- be enrolled in one or more 4-H clubs
- be fully enrolled in the Dutchess County Wild Apricot membership database
- not enroll in the same project in two or more counties or states
- be in good standing and comply with club bylaws, advisory policies and all 4-H requirements

Sponsors who are not volunteer leaders and owners' employees and family members do not need to complete the CCEDC 4-H volunteer screening process. Sponsors who will be advising 4-H members **as volunteer 4-H leaders** should be screened volunteers approved by CCEDC.

Animals to be leased must be suitable for the youth, for the project activities, and for any classes the youth might exhibit in. Sponsor animals must be available for exhibition in 4-H classes by the youth at the Dutchess County Fair unless stated otherwise in the agreement, and may be available for other related 4-H activities by mutual agreement.

- Title of ownership as stated on the registration certificate of the sponsored animal (if applicable) will remain in the possession of the sponsor (owner).
- If an injury or illness occurs to prevent the sponsor animal being used, a suitable replacement can be substituted if available.

### **General Rules**

A written sponsorship agreement is not required but is strongly recommended. If the parent or sponsor agree to a written agreement, it must be submitted to the county extension office. The sponsorship agreement:

- will remain in effect until the end of the project year or until terminated by either party.
- may be terminated prior to the end of the project year for reasons such as: A. failure of either party to carry out responsibilities as outlined in the lease agreement, or B. changes in the farming operation of the sponsor.

The animal owner, the 4-H member and the 4-H office should each have a copy of the completed and signed form. This form must have an effective date on or prior to the 4-H Animal Registration deadline for that species and must be in the name of the 4-H member.

Responsibilities of all parties are to comply with all CCEDC, NYS and National 4-H policies, and those specific to the sponsorship as stated in the agreement. By signing the agreement, parents/guardians of the 4-H member are duty bound to provide the support needed to fulfill the agreement, such as paying any fees/costs, and transporting youth to do agreed chores, attend events, and so on.

### **Insurance**

4-H members that sponsor an animal for 4-H activities are in the same position from a liability standpoint as if they owned the animal. The parents of the 4-H member and the owners of the animal should have their own liability insurance to provide coverage as if it was an owned animal. The 4-H liability insurance is not 24-hour coverage. It is only intended to cover official 4-H activities, such as club meetings, project activities, shows and exhibitions. By signing any agreement, parents/guardians and sponsor/owners agree they understand and accept this risk.