BARNYARD SCOOP

Lafayette Parish 4-H

Enroll in 4-H at School

4-H club meetings are coming in September. Even if you were a member last school year, you must re-enroll this school year. Open enrollment will begin **September 1st**. Once open enrollment begins, please confirm your address, phone number, email address, select your club and your project, and pay your dues in 4-H Online to become an official member. All members participating in a livestock project will need to add enrollment in the **Lafayette 4-H Livestock club** to enroll in their species project. This will be the only place where the project list of all species is available to select. Members who will be showing animals as part of their school's FFA program will need to add the FFA club for their school to their member profile in 4-H Online.

Any animal planned to be shown at the LSU AgCenter Livestock Shows in January-February 2027 must be in the exhibitor's possession and transferred into the exhibitor's name by the designated possession date for that species. *Each animal must also be added in 4-H Online by the possession/validation deadline.* Please contact us with any questions about this.

State Fair of Louisiana Livestock Show

If you are submitting entries online for the State Fair of Louisiana Livestock Show, please inform us. Without notification, we will not be aware of your participation and therefore can't provide a school excuse. To request a school excuse, email Mr. Camden Oglesby at coglesby@agcenter.lsu.edu with details of the species you are showing by **October 1st.** Please note that school excuses will be issued only for the days your species is needed at the show.

All deadlines to order DNA kits online and all possession dates have passed. If you intended to show market or commercials animals, you must have already requested validation kits in advance.

For information on the schedule, please visit the link provided: Livestock Show (statefairoflouisiana.com). Remember, the schedule is subject to change.

Louisiana Cattle Festival Cattle Show

This year, the Louisiana Cattle Festival Cattle Show will be held September 25th – 26th, 2026. For the schedule and more details please visit: louisianacattlefestival.org.

August 2026

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Lafayette, LA 70501
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Lafayette 4-H Agents:

Nicole Gerard
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Camden Oglesby

Dates to Remember:

October 31 @ 8 AM – Validation Event for Beef & Dairy Commercial Heifers, Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, Market Goats, & Commercial Does
November 3 @ 5 PM - Validation Event for Beef & Dairy Commercial Heifers, Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, Market Goats, & Commercial Does
November 9 – Validations Due to Lafayette Office for Beef & Dairy Commercial Heifers, Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, Market Goats, & Commercial Does
November 21 @ 8 AM – Validation Event for Market & Commercial Hogs
November 23 @ 5 PM - Validation Event for Market & Commercial Hogs
December 1 – Validations Due to Lafayette Office for Market & Commercial Hogs
January 7-10 - Mid-Winter Fair Rodeo
January 21-23 - Parish Livestock Show & Sale
January 26-30 - Acadiana District Livestock Show
February 13-20 - State Livestock Show

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Validation Change & Procedure!

Beginning with this livestock show season, a 4-H agent or FFA advisor must be present when DNA samples are collected during the validation process. To ensure this requirement is met, Parish-wide validation events will be held at Blackham Coliseum on the following dates:

- **October 31st, 2026, 8 – 9:30 AM** – Beef & Dairy Commercial Heifers, Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, Market Goats, & Commercial Does
- **November 3rd, 2026, 5 – 6:30 PM** – Beef & Dairy Commercial Heifers, Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, Market Goats, & Commercial Does
- **November 21st, 2026, 8 – 9:30 AM** – Market & Commercial Hogs
- **November 23rd, 2026, 5 – 6:30 PM** - Market & Commercial Hogs

The 2026-27 validation fee is **$7 per validation**. Payment will be provided by exhibitors during validation. All submitted checks must be made out to **"Livestock Show Office."**

2027 AgCenter Livestock Shows Possession/Validation Deadlines

Beef & Dairy Commercial Heifers, Market Lambs & Commercial Ewes, Market Goats & Commercial Does:
November 9, 2026
Must be validated by exhibitor and submitted to Parish LSU AgCenter Office on or by November 9th, 2026.

Market & Commercial Hogs:
December 1, 2026
Must be validated by exhibitor and submitted to Parish LSU AgCenter Office on or by December 1st, 2026.

Rabbit Meat Pens:
January 19, 2027
Must be validated by the exhibitor in 4-H Online on or by January 19, 2027.

Electronic Newsletters/Check Junk/Email address

We use the 4-H Online system for electronic communication. The system will send emails to the email addresses listed in your account. *If you are not receiving these emails, please check your junk or spam folder.* Only email addresses listed in the child's profile will receive these messages, so please share this information with others if needed.

New Livestock Exhibitors

If you know anyone that is interested in showing livestock, please have them email Camden Oglesby at coglesby@agcenter.lsu.edu. They should include their contact information, school, grade, and the species they are interested in to receive important livestock information.

Beef & Dairy Commercial Heifers

Now is an ideal time to start shopping for beef breeding project animals. Spring-born beef calves are approaching weaning age, making it easier to visually assess their quality. Look for a calf that is heavily muscled, structurally sound, and moderately sized. Seek assistance from someone experienced in selecting show calves.

If you need help choosing a beef project, please contact us. Keep in mind that the possession date for the LSU AgCenter Shows is **November 9th, 2026.**

Brahman Steer Show

For the 2027 LSU AgCenter State Livestock Show, we are continuing the Brahman/Bos indicus-influenced market steer show.

Steers will be classified using DNA. To qualify for the Brahman/Bos indicus Influence show, steers must have at least 20% Bos indicus. Validation required submission of DNA samples (hair and blood) using provided envelopes and blood card. Samples will be analyzed by NEOGEN, with results expected in three to four weeks. This show is separate from our traditional market steer show.

Steers that do not meet the Bos indicus requirement can still compete in the traditional market steer show.

A $25 fee per steer validation covered testing and comparison costs, payable by check or money order. Submissions must have been sent to the Livestock Show Office by **August 14th, 2026,** for eligibility. Results will be communicated to exhibitors once received from NEOGEN labs.

Goat and Sheep News

If you haven't purchased your goat or lamb project animals, please be aware that it is getting late. While the possession date is **November 9th, 2026**, most goats and lambs are bought during the summer. The longer you wait, the fewer animals that will be available. If you need assistance, call us and we can connect you with a local breeder. For those planning to show Louisiana Bred goats and compete for LA Bred awards, remember that you must validate your goats.

Swine News

While it's too early to select your hog project animals, now is the perfect time to start preparing your pens at home for their arrival. The pigs are being born now, and you should be able to start shopping for them in 4-6 weeks. Keep in mind that the possession date is **December 1st, 2026.**

Rabbit News

The 2027 AgCenter State Rabbit Show will be held in conjunction with the State Livestock Show. The possession date for rabbit meat pens is **January 19th, 2027**. Specific details and a complete schedule for the State Rabbit Show will be sent out in the future. Last year's District Rabbit Show was a success. Be on the lookout for more information.

Student Farmers Certification Form

The annual ***R-1098 Student Farmers Certification Form*** allows youth to receive tax-exemption status for agricultural projects. A copy of this form is attached to this broadcast. The form can also be found on the Louisiana Department of Revenue website.

Exhibitor Responsibility

1. Animals must be in continuous possession of exhibitors from time of validation until the LSU AgCenter State Livestock Show. See the rules in 2026-27 LSU AgCenter State Livestock Show catalog or consult the livestock show manager for specific possession rules.

2. Exhibitors should request validation kits from agents and FFA advisors as per parish guidelines. Each parish LSU AgCenter 4-H office will supply validation kits to exhibitors upon request.

3. Validation will consist of:
   a. Ear tagging animal.
   b. Collecting hair sample and/or DNA sample; hair sample should be placed in a properly identified validation envelope for each animal validated. Validation envelopes must be returned to the local LSU AgCenter office with a validation fee by the specified deadline.
   c. **Exhibitors enter animal information into the 4-H Online system on or before possession deadlines**.

*The responsibility of entering animal info into 4-H Online, ear tagging animals, and collection DNA and/or hair samples will be that of the exhibitor and/or parent. Agents/FFA advisor **MUST** be present and can assist.*

4. Animals previously tagged for the 2026 Louisiana State Fair may utilize the State Fair TAG to complete LSU AgCenter State Show validations. New DNA samples must be submitted to LSU AgCenter for all animals previously validated for the State Fair.

5. Animals must be validated in either the exhibitor's name or in the family name (Family consists of parents, legal guardians, brothers, and sisters). When official entries are completed, animals validated in family name must be entered in the name of the exhibitor that will show the animal at the District and State Livestock Shows.

6. Validation kits and fees are due to the Lafayette LSU AgCenter Office by 4:00 PM on the validation/possession date that is listed.

Call for Livestock Shirt Designs

This year we will have a new parish livestock shirt design. We are requesting design concepts for the shirt color and art. The shirt color should be either red, maroon, royal blue, navy blue, light blue, Kelly green, Hunter green, dark gray, or light gray. The art should be made using four ink colors or less. Design ideas can be submitted to Camden Oglesby at coglesby@agcenter.lsu.edu. The deadline to submit entries is **September 14th, 2026**.

Call for Swine Parish Group Ideas

Lafayette Parish will have a Swine Parish Group at the 2027 State Livestock Show. Each year a theme is chosen for this activity. Please email Swine Parish Group theme ideas to Camden Oglesby at coglesby@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Southwest Regional Showmanship Clinic

On **Monday, November 30th, 2026**, Acadia Parish will host a Showmanship Clinic that is open to 4-H and FFA members in grades 4-12 across the Southwest Region. The goal of this event is to provide youth with hands-on learning opportunities that will help them improve their showmanship skills, increase confidence in the show ring, and gain valuable knowledge related to livestock project ownership and exhibition. *Registration will be conducted through 4-H Online.* The registration fee will be $10.00 per participant. Registration will open September 1, 2026, and close September 30, 2026.

Following the clinic, an in-person YQCA certification course in the Acadia Parish 4-H Office Auditorium will be offered. Youth interested in participating will need to register separately through their YQCA account. The YQCA course fee is $3.00.

2026-2027 Junior Beef Grazing Project

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. To be eligible, an individual must be regularly enrolled in a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter.

2. **Cattle Requirements:**

   a. Four calves will constitute a pen. It is recommended that the total weight of the four calves (weigh-on) not exceed **1,800 to 2,200 pounds**.

   Note: Contest superintendent has the authority to mouth the pen of calves weighed on the project that exceed the recommended total weight. Calves determined to be long yearlings or older will not be allowed to compete for awards in the Jr. Beef Grazing Projects.

   b. Three divisions will be offered:
      Division 1 – Steers
      Division 2 – Heifers
      Division 3 – Bulls

   (Only one sex can be used in one pen. Example – Four steers, four heifers or four bulls)

   c) Contestants may (at their option) place one alternate calf in each pen. *Alternate must be designated at the beginning of the project.* Alternate calf score will be used only if a calf on the project dies.

   d) Each contestant's calves must be identified at the beginning of the project with no trading allowed.

   e) Calves can be from commercial or registered cows and should be born after **December 1, 2025**. Calves should be weaned at least 30 days prior to weigh-on.

   f) Contestants may (at their option) have their calves implanted with a growth stimulant at weigh-on.

   g) Each calf will be tagged for identification. **Contestant must furnish the ear tags for each pen of calves.**

   h) Heifers in the Junior Beef Grazing Project that have calves at the time of termination will be allowed to complete the project and only animals placed on the project will be weighed off.

3. **Pastures Requirements:**

    a) Winter grazing may consist of any recommended variety of cool-season forage or combinations of cool-seasons forages.

    b) Calves must be finished out on pasture only. (Calves may be fed silage or hay during bad weather or short grass.) **No supplemental feed or ration** (solid or liquid ration) may be fed to the cattle during the grazing period. **Minerals** only may be provided to the cattle on the grazing project.

    c) Follow recommendations prepared by the LSU AgCenter for a winter grazing program for beef cattle in the following publications:

        #2334 – 2006 Cool Season Pasture and Forage Varieties
        #2674 – Pasture Fertilization in Louisiana

4. **Official Weigh Stations:** After all entries are in, the weigh stations will be selected in the area to best serve the interest of the projects entered.

5. **Official Grazing Period:** Approximately 130 grazing days, with the project starting around December 1st and terminating in April. Calves may be placed on pasture prior to weigh-on day, but gains made prior to the official weigh-on will not count in contest.

6. Contestants will be allowed to enter as many pens in each Division (Steer, Heifer, and Bull) of the Junior Beef Grazing Contest as they desire. The contestant's highest placing pen (total points) in each Division (Steer, Heifer, and Bull) will compete for awards within that Division. **HOWEVER, EACH CONTESTANT IS ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONLY ONE DIVISION IN THE CONTEST FOR THE YEAR.** The contestant's highest scoring pen (total points) will be recognized as their Division winning pen if the contestant has the highest points in more than one Division.

7. A minimum of 130 grazing days must be completed in order to be eligible to compete for premiums and awards in the state contest.

8. A Project Score Sheet (Form I) must be kept and submitted at the termination of the project. All Project Cost Records (Form II) must be recorded and submitted at the end of the project. A Minimum Project Cost will be developed by the Division of Economics and Resource Development of Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. Contestants must also submit a Junior Beef Grazing Project Summary (Form III) detailing the methods used in establishing forages, selection of cattle, and management techniques utilized during the project. The Summary should also include any new skills or knowledge gained by the contestant. (Forms I, II, and III are attached.)

NOTE: The Project Score Sheet (Form I), Project Cost Records (Form II), and Junior Beef Grazing Project Summary (Form III) must be submitted at the termination of the project in order to be eligible for awards in the state contest.

Awards for 2026-2027

9. State Awards will not be given out at this time.

a) **500 Club** – Certificate (Contestants producing 500 pounds of beef per acre)
b) **Parish Winner** – Certificate (Contestant with the greatest number of points in that Parish)
c) **Top Pen of Steers** – Certificate
d) **Top Pen of Heifers** – Certificate
e) **Top Pen of Bulls** – Certificate

10. Entry forms must be submitted by November 1st, 2026. Entry forms should be mailed to:

Bradley Pousson
bpousson@agcenter.lsu.edu
Area Livestock Agent
10098 Gulf Hwy
Lake Charles, La 70607

ENTRY FORM JUNIOR BEEF GRAZING PROJECT

NOTE: Entry form must be submitted by November 1st, 2026

Entry form should be mailed to: Bradley Pousson
LSU AgCenter
10098 Gulf Hwy
Lake Charles, La 70607

Scanned and emailed to: bpousson@agcenter.lsu.edu

Contestant's Name _____

Contestant's Address _____

_____

_____

Parish/Chapter _____ 4-H ___ FFA ___

Please indicate the number of pens entered for the contestant. Also indicate the breed and sex of each pen entered if known at this time.

Pen Description

PEN NUMBER	BREED	SEX

Participate in Sale of pens Yes_____ No_____

Parent Signature agreeing to participate in Sale of pens_____

Agent or Instructor _____

Mailing Address _____

_____

The LSU AgCenter is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Should you need ADA Accommodations, please contact the Lafayette 4-H Office at (337) 291-7090 no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled event.