



4-H Youth Livestock Literacy

Introduction

From clinics to competitions, the South Dakota 4-H program has a long history of promoting livestock education. Though youth are encouraged to maximize their livestock education by taking advantage of *many* learning opportunities, one Youth Livestock Literacy (YLL) certified event is required each program year for youth interested in exhibiting livestock in a county fair/achievement day or state fair. This YLL safety requirement mirrors South Dakota 4-H standards in other higher risk project areas. In the livestock project area, the primary safety concern is that youth understand the role they play in producing safe food for others to eat.

Procedure [effective 2023-24 4-H program year]

Here is a handy checklist SD4-H livestock exhibitors will complete before the annual July 1 deadline:

- Enroll** youth and projects in 4hOnline.
 - If applicable to your species, get animals tagged with 4-H **ear tags** and **DNA** pulled and submitted.
- Complete at least one **YLL** certified event. See menu of options on the next page.
 - If attending the event in your own 4-H county, be sure to sign in at registration.
 - If attending a YLL event out-of-county, you will provide attendance certificate to your home 4-H county's Extension Office.
 - If using YQCA Online as your YLL event, you will convey completion certificate to your home 4-H county's Extension Office.
- Complete the **Livestock Integrity Pledge**.
 - This usually occurs during in-person YLL events, so if you used an alternative option, you will need to provide this to your home 4-H county's Extension Office.

Special Note for 4-H State Fair Exhibitors

Additional requirements apply to participate in the 4-H Division of State Fair. Some are species dependent. Look to the 4-H State Fair Book (usually available around April 1) for these additional guidelines.





YLL Menu of Options

Choose one of these four educational options to meet the annual YLL requirement

1. Attend a 4-H YLL certified event in county[#]; common examples include:

- In-person instructor-led YQCA[^] (\$3)
 - Recommended for each exhibitor's first four years
- Species-specific clinic on vaccination, insemination, etc.
- Veterinarian clinic on animal health and nutrition
- Livestock judging or skill-a-thon school/clinic

[#]The counties without a 4-H Youth Program Advisor have fewer YLL options.

[^]To make efficient use of one's time, youth who participate in certain national livestock shows (e.g., Ak-sar-ben) should choose a YQCA option.

2. Attend a 4-H YLL event in another county

3. Complete YQCA[^] Online training

- Cost is \$12 for this web-based training; available at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

4. Beef project youth may complete BQA and convey a current certificate to home 4-H county's Extension Office

- Certificate must be in the youth's name, not the family's name

To learn about Youth Livestock Literacy opportunities in your county and beyond, contact your local Extension Office. You may also have interest in learning about out-of-county YLL events by opting into the **SD4-H Livestock Email Listserv**; indicate interest to sdsu.4h@sdsu.edu

