



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



## **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

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# **2024-2025 – Livestock Birth, Ownership and Tattoo Dates for Illinois State Fair Junior Show**

### **STEERS:**

- Calved on or after January 1, 2024
- Owned & personally cared for by exhibitor since – February 1, 2025
- Weighed, Tattooed, and EID tagged on or between the last Saturday in January (January 25, 2025) and February 28, 2025.

Send Nomination form to Jessica Hays by email at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to Coles County Extension c/o Jessica Hays, 809 Broadway Ave, Mattoon, IL 61938 by **Friday, January 24, 2025**, to allow proper time for documentation and reporting.

- **Coles County Beef Weigh-in is February 1, 2025. (Weather permitting)**

### **BARROWS: Regular Barrows**

- Farrowed on or after January 1, 2025 and must be the property of the exhibitor by June 1, 2025.
- No weighing and tattooing required but must submit ear notches and EID 840 tag number when making entry for ISF.

### **BARROWS: Premiere Barrows (carcass class)**

- Farrowed on or after February 10, 2025 and must have been the property of the exhibitor by June 1, 2025
- Weighed and Tattooed with Box A tattoo from February 10 to April 15, 2025
- Tattooed within 35 days of birth and not weigh more than 1.0 lbs/day of age
- Junior exhibitors can purchase pre-nominated barrows

### **SHEEP Market Wethers & Market Ewe Lambs: Live Show Wethers.**

- Lambled on or after January 1, 2025
- Ownership Date – May 15, 2025
- Self-nomination as follows: Nominations must be signed by local Extension Office.
- Exhibitors fill out and send in nomination form with photo of lamb's ear with scrapie tag installed in ear (close up photo of ear so scrapie tag can be read). This must be completed between March 15 and May 15, 2025. Send Nomination form and Photos to Jessica Hays by email at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to Coles

County Extension c/o Jessica Hays, 809 Broadway Ave, Mattoon, IL 61938 by **Monday, April 21, 2025**, to allow proper time for documentation and reporting.

- **Coles County Sheep Weigh-in is May 3, 2025**

**Jr. and Open Premiere Wether & Ewe lambs:** - Weigh-in, tattoo, and nomination procedures:

- Junior and open premiere lambs will be nominated, tattooed, and weighed at the county level.
- Premiere lambs must be weighed and tattooed with the Box A tattoo followed by a number starting with 1 - This must be witnessed by a local Extension employee or a person they designate, such as a volunteer or local sheep superintendent.
- Completed nomination forms must be signed by the local Extension Office.
- Send nomination forms to Jessica Hays by email at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to Coles County Extension c/o Jessica Hays, 809 Broadway Ave, Mattoon, IL 61938 by **Monday, April 21, 2025**, to allow proper time for documentation and reporting.
- Ownership dates: March 15 to May 15, 2025.
- Lambed on or after January 1, 2025.

**Meat Goat Wethers: Live Show Wethers.**

- Wethers – Born on or after October 1, 2024
- Ownership dates for Kids & Yearlings not in milk – May 15, 2025
- Self-nomination as follows: Nominations must be signed by local Extension office.
- Exhibitors fill out and send in nomination form with photo of goat's ear with scrapie tag installed in ear close up photo of ear so scrapie tag can be read). This must be completed between March 15 and May 15, 2025. Send to Jessica Hays by email at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to Coles County Extension c/o Jessica Hays, 809 Broadway Ave, Mattoon, IL 61938 by **Monday, April 21, 2025**, to allow proper time for documentation and reporting.

**2025 Breeding Animals**

Birth & Ownership Dates for Illinois State Fair Junior Show

BEEF – HEIFERS AND COWS:

**Heifers**

- Age requirement is from September 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025 (w/ addition of Senior Yearling class)
- Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since June 1, 2025

**Performance Cows**

- Cows must be born before September 1, 2023 (Cow-Calf Class only)
- Owned and personally cared by exhibitor since January 1, 2025

**SWINE – GILTS:**

- Age requirement is farrowed on or after January 1, 2025

- Owned by exhibitor since June 1, 2025

#### **SHEEP – EWES & RAMS:**

- Age requirement for yearling ewes is from January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024
- Age requirement for ewe lambs is after September 1, 2024
- Age requirement for ram lambs is after January 1, 2025
- Owned and personally cared for by exhibitor since June 25, 2025

#### **DAIRY – COWS AND HEIFERS:**

- No age requirements
- Calves and Heifers – Owned since June 1, 2025
- Cows – Owned since January 1, 2025

#### **HORSE & PONY:**

- On or before May 1 – Copies of the ownership and/or lease papers, and one set of photos sent to Jessica Hays by email at [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu) or by mail to Coles County Extension c/o Jessica Hays, 809 Broadway Ave, Mattoon, IL 61938 by **Wednesday, May 1, 2025**, to allow proper time for documentation and reporting.

#### **DOGS:**

- Dogs must be owned or leased by June 1, 2025
- At this time, no paperwork is required to be on file. Make entries via 4-H Fair Entry Program.

#### **DAIRY GOATS:**

- Kids and Yearlings not in milk must be owned by exhibitor only by June 1, 2025.
- Milking Does must be owned by exhibitor only by January 1, 2025.

#### **MEAT GOATS:**

- All meat goats (wethers and all breeding animals) are to be owned by exhibitor only by May 15, 2025.

#### **RABBITS, PYGMY GOATS & POULTRY:**

- Animals in these species that are to be exhibited at the ISF Jr. Show must be owned by the exhibitor as indicated: Does -- By June 1 of the year exhibiting; All others -- Out of stock owned by the exhibitor prior to June 1.

**Note:** Local Extension staff, Vocational Agriculture instructors, and exhibitors and their families should read complete rules and regulations included in the 2025 ISF Jr. Department Premium book online. The Premium book will be posted on the ISF website: <https://statefair.illinois.gov/competitions.html> as part of the show works online entry system.

Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (QAEC) is mandatory for all youth exhibiting in **horse, rabbit, poultry, dog, and cats**. Those that have completed it in the past do not have to complete it again. Find QAEC training under the Clover Academy tab on [ZSuite](#).

The YQCA program is mandatory for all **dairy, beef, swine, sheep, and goat** exhibitors in 4-H. Details on this program are available at your county Extension Office.

**State:** All junior exhibitors will need to pay entry fees for any/all animals entered. Fees will be due with class entries – June 1 for Horses, July 15 for all other livestock. Fees will be updated in the State Fair Premium Book.

**If you have questions, please contact:**

Jessica Hays

4-H Program Coordinator – Serving Coles County

Email: [JNHays@illinois.edu](mailto:JNHays@illinois.edu)

Office Phone: 217-345-7034