**Michigan State University Extension (MSUE)**

**Michigan 4-H Dairy Cattle Lease/Borrow Program**

***OBJECTIVES:***

The objective of this program is to allow youth who might not otherwise have the means to raise/own a dairy heifer or cow to participate in the 4-H Dairy Project by leasing or borrowing an animal. The youth will develop character, knowledge, life skills, and a sense of responsibility with this project, while at the same time gain an increased appreciation for animal agriculture and food production.

***GUIDELINES***

1. The program is open to any 4-H member in good standing with their county and club. Youth must attend regular meetings and are encouraged to attend dairy educational meetings.
2. 4-H members may not have both owned and leased animals within the same project area during the same 4-H year (January 1 through December 31). However, due to the uniqueness of the Dairy project, a youth who owns a Dairy Steer or Dairy Feeder may also lease a Dairy Heifer during the same 4-H year.
3. The 4-H member is required to keep the appropriate 4-H project record(s) on each animal. Project record(s) must be submitted at the local level if required.
4. In order to exhibit a leased animal(s), it must be a bona fide 4-H project. Leased animal(s) may be exhibited in the appropriate classes at 4-H shows. 4-H youth with leased animals will be required to follow the same requirements for exhibition as 4-H members who own dairy cattle.
5. The owner of the animal(s), hereafter referred to as the sponsor, will determine the specific responsibilities to be carried out by each party – sponsor and 4-H member – jointly with the 4-H member. The responsibilities should be attached to the Lease/Borrow Form and include, but not be limited to the following:
   1. The 4-H member’s duties and responsibilities while caring for and working with the animal and during any exhibition or project-related activities
   2. The 4-H member’s access to the animal
   3. Who is responsible for paying expenses associated with housing, feeding, veterinary care, breeding, entry or activity fees, transportation of the animal, and any other related expenses during the contract/lease period
   4. A working schedule for carrying out specified duties
   5. A list of any assistance the sponsor will provide the 4-H member during the contract/lease period
   6. Any insurance requirements, information, or provisions as determined necessary or appropriate by either or both parties and who will arrange and pay for these items
   7. What type and how much monetary compensation, if any, is to be provided to the sponsor and when it will be paid

The above are only suggestions. For the protection of all involved, the parties may want to consider entering into a written Lease Agreement setting forth their respective rights and responsibilities. MSU

Extension cannot advise parties as to what should be included in such an agreement, and parties may want to consult with an attorney.

1. The 4-H member will keep any 4-H premiums or awards received while exhibiting the leased animal(s) during the duration of the agreement – NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. During the 4-H year, the 4-H member will be the only person eligible to exhibit the leased animal(s) in Michigan 4-H shows. (The two exceptions are in championship drives and when the animal(s) are part of a group class or club herd.) The sponsor may enter and exhibit the leased animal(s) in non-4-H shows.
3. Leased animal(s) may be housed and maintained at the farm facilities of the sponsor, 4-H member, or another mutually agreed upon location.
4. Ownership of the leased animal(s) remains with the sponsor. The title of ownership as stated on the registration certificate of the leased animal will remain in the possession of the sponsor.
5. A copy of the signed Lease Agreement must be kept by both the 4-H member and sponsor. Check the rules for show(s) the 4-H member will be entering if further documentation of the lease is necessary.
6. The sponsor will make the leased animal(s) available to the 4-H member during the period of the Lease Agreement.
7. The Lease Agreement will remain in force until terminated by either party or the end of the project year. The Lease Agreement may be terminated prior to the end of the project year for reasons such as:
   1. Failure of the 4-H member or sponsor to carry out responsibilities as agreed by the parties
   2. Changes in the farming operation of the sponsor
   3. Changes in the circumstances of the 4-H member
   4. Mutual agreement of both parties
   5. On thirty (30) days written notice

The date and reason for the termination prior to the end of the 4-H year must be given in writing and copies kept by the 4-H member, parents/guardians of the 4-H member, and sponsor.

1. The Lease Agreement will be reviewed by the sponsor, 4-H member, and parent/guardian prior to entering animal(s) at any dairy show to insure the responsibilities are being carried out by 4-H member.
2. The 4-H member, parent/guardian, and sponsor must sign the Michigan 4-H Dairy Cattle Lease/Borrow Program Statement of Understanding and Release Form.

**Michigan 4-H Dairy Cattle Lease/Borrow Program Statement of Understanding and Release Form** (page 1 of 2)

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

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Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade (as of January 1):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club and Leader: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read all the Michigan 4-H Dairy Cattle Lease/Borrow Program Agreement and will abide by all requirements.

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4-H Member Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**LEGAL OWNER OF ANIMAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dairy/Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read all the Michigan 4-H Dairy Cattle Lease/Borrow Program Agreement. I will abide by it and loan the following animal(s) to the 4-H Member notes above.

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Legal Owner Signature Date

**Michigan 4-H Dairy Cattle Lease/Borrow Program Lease Agreement** (page 2 of 2)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Animal’s Name** | **ID/Registration #** | **Ear Tag/Tattoo #** | **Breed** | **Date of Birth** |
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* I verify that the 4-H Member is a Member in Good Standing

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Club Leader’s Signature Date

* I verify that the 4-H Member is a Member in Good Standing

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Club Coordinator’s Signature Date