A revised 4-H livestock ownership deadline in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

The North Dakota 4-H Animal Science Committee met on March 24, 2020 and approved a revised 4-H livestock ownership deadline of **May 15th** for participation in the 4-H livestock shows at the North Dakota State Fair scheduled for July. The committee recognizes that many county fairs and 4-H achievement day events also follow the ND 4-H rules regarding 4-H animal ownership.

This change accommodates youth by giving them additional time to select and purchase 4-H animals given the current COVID-19 situation. It also maintains a reasonable amount of time between the ownership deadline and the beginning of the county fair and 4-H achievement day season. The newly revised date of May 15 replaces the previously established date of May 1. It also accommodates the animal industry who provides animals through project sales and other means. This revised date may be re-evaluated by the committee if sales are prevented due to the current COVID-19 situation.

**North Dakota 4-H program requires that animals shown at the North Dakota State Fair be owned or leased, with daily management by the 4-H member who enters the animal, by May 15.**

**UPDATE FOR CLARIFICATION:**

The current extension does not include the market beef deadline of March 1. All market beef must have met the March 1 deadline stated in the ND State Fair 4-H rule book (page 5) prior to the established COVID-19 directive. The extension does, however, include all breeding animals and all other market animals.

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