



Wyoming 4-H Livestock Mastery Pathway Program

University of Wyoming
College of Agriculture, Life Sciences & Natural
Resources

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About the Wyoming 4-H Livestock Mastery Program

Purpose

The Wyoming 4-H Livestock Mastery Pathways program was developed to align with the 4-H THRIVE and Beyond Ready models, empowering youth to develop essential skills, build confidence, and prepare for future success. It focuses on a holistic approach to personal and professional growth, leveraging the concepts of growth mindset, goal setting, and intentional learning. It is designed to guide youth in developing a comprehensive understanding of both market and breeding animal projects, as well as pet ownership. Youth will foster their skills in education, citizenship, and personal growth. By engaging in progressively challenging tasks and activities, participants will gain expertise in livestock management, leadership and community service, preparing them for future endeavors in agriculture and beyond.

This program is structured to be fully accessible, with all tasks and requirements designed to be completed within the participant's home county. This ensures that youth have the opportunity to grow and succeed without the need for extensive travel or access to resources outside of their local community.

Goals

1. Growth Mindset:
 - Encourage youth to gain foundational knowledge, and teach youth to see challenges as opportunities to learn. Participants will find their spark and build their confidence through hands-on experiences.
2. Build Advanced Competence:
 - Support youth in setting ambitious but achievable goals, and fostering self-efficacy as they master complex livestock management practices and entrepreneurial skills.
3. Develop Leadership & Citizenship:
 - Encourage youth to become engaged community members, aligning with the concept of purpose by contributing through service and mentorship. Cultivate collaborative leadership and civic engagement, equipping participants to work effectively in teams, to positively impact their communities.
4. Achieve Personal Growth:
 - Promote intentional self-reflection to help youth articulate the impact of their experiences and align their action with long-term aspirations. Strengthen emotional intelligence and personal accountability for personal and professional success.
5. Career Readiness:
 - Guide youth to envision their future by setting career-focused goals, enhancing their ability to navigate pathways toward fulfilling vocations. Building skills such as adaptability, communication, and critical thinking, ensuring they are well equipped for professional opportunities.





About the Wyoming 4-H Livestock Mastery Program

Who can participate?

This program is open to all youth ages 8-18 who are active and in good standing with their local 4-H program. Participants must meet the eligibility requirements of their county 4-H, including enrollment and adherence to program guidelines, to engage fully in this progression-based livestock project. In addition, during the years of participation in the Livestock Mastery Program, submitting a completed record book is required.

Why are there different stages?

These stages serve as milestones for youth participants throughout their 4-H journey. Each individual's experience will be unique, with advancement influenced by age, personal growth, and past achievements. The tasks become progressively more challenging, so youth should be encouraged to advance at a pace that matches their development. Each stage builds upon the previous one, with similar skills and requirements carried through each level. To successfully pass off a skill, it must be demonstrated in a new context or to a different audience, rather than being repeated from a previous level. This approach ensures youth gain a deeper understanding and mastery of the skill. For those with multiple livestock projects, youth have the option to complete separate stage advancement books for each species.

Important Stage Guidelines:

- Stages must be completed in order; skipping stages is not allowed, regardless of age or years in the project.
- Junior members: Should complete only one stage per year.
- Intermediate members: Can complete both the Learner and Grower stages in the same year, but no higher stages can be completed in the same year.
- Senior members: May complete multiple stages within the same year.

If a unique or extenuating circumstance arises, the State Office Livestock Specialist or Program Leader should be contacted by the 4-H Educator.

Where do we send completed & signed Mastery Pathway sheets?

All completed stages should be turned into the county Extension Office. They will then email them to the State 4-H Office to be added to a file for that county.



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About the Wyoming 4-H Livestock Mastery Program

Task Completion Steps

Once a youth has met the standard outlined in the Mastery Pathways stage, a date and name of evaluator is identified for that task. A youth can have a different evaluator for each task, all by one evaluator, or a combination of evaluators. Each stage identifies who can sign the stage as complete, the same criteria should be used for each task.

Learner, Grower, & Stockman: 4-H Educator, Extension Educator, Support Staff, Program Staff, County 4-H Volunteer, County or State AmeriCorps member, or Senior 4-H mentor.

Herdsman: 4-H Educator, Extension Educator, Support Staff, Program Staff, or County 4-H Volunteer

Producer: 4-H Educator, Extension Educator, Support Staff, or Program Staff

Master Producer: State or County 4-H Educator, State Administrator or Staff.

Volunteers, Educators, or Extension affiliated employees will not be able to sign off tasks completed by household members, their child, relative, or a youth they have guardianship of.

What is a Senior 4-H Mentor?

If you have completed the Herdsman stage and are a Senior 4-H member in good standing, you can be a Senior 4-H Mentor for the purposes of this program, enabling you to sign off younger members completing the Learner, Grower, and Stockman stages.

This is an additional level of leadership and responsibility that has been entrusted to you. This gives you a chance for you to practice leadership and teach what you learned, developing your communication and mentoring skills.

How do I complete my stage?

The tasks in each stage can be completed in any order. You can work on tasks for multiple species at the same time, so it's possible to have more than one stage in progress, but for different species. However, each event or activity can only be counted once for a stage sign-off. You cannot use the same task to count for sign-offs in different species. Additionally, past activities cannot be counted towards the completion of a stage that is currently in progress if those activities were completed during a previous stage.

Stages are designed to be completed over multiple years, not within a single 4-H year.





About the Wyoming 4-H Livestock Mastery Program

As an Educator, how do I recognize advancements and achievements?

A signed award will be sent to your county after the State 4-H office receives the completed stage form.

After you receive the award, you are able to choose when and where the award is presented. There are several options for what would work best for your county, such as: Achievement Night, County Fair, Club Meeting or a Project Area Meeting.

It is recommended to hold an event to recognize the youth, however, individual circumstances may dictate otherwise.

Is there a benefit to the county?

Yes! Each county will have the opportunity to showcase the collective accomplishments of their youth in each species:

- Horse
- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Sheep
- Goat
- Dairy Goat
- Swine
- Rabbit
- Poultry
- Llama
- Alpaca
- Dog
- Cat
- Pocket Pet

At the conclusion of the 4-H year, the percentage of stage completions in each species will be calculated and the county with the most completions in each stage will be recognized with an award.

Who do we contact with questions?

If questions arise, please contact:

Local County 4-H Educator

Livestock Specialist:

Ellie Riske, eriske@uwyo.edu

Program Leader:

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Office Associate

Vacant, 4h@uwyo.edu

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Mastery Pathway

LEARNER



In the Learner stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathway, focus on finding what interests you, and being open to learning new things.

Skills - Complete All Skills

	DATE	NAME
Provide adequate shelter from weather elements with suitable and safe fencing. Shelter and fencing should be free of nails, loose boards, or sharp edges where you or the animal could be injured.		
Provide fresh, clean water at all times for your animal.		
Create a plan for feeding and daily care of your animal.		
Demonstrate proper grooming of your animal.		
Demonstrate basic showmanship skills such as leading, driving, or holding, as well as setting up or posing your animal.		

Educational - Complete 4 of the following

Identify and describe important characteristics of your animal's breed that sets it apart from other breeds.		
Complete your animal record for your record book.		
Make a presentation for your club, fair, or other group on a topic of your choice about your animal project.		
Find an article in a magazine or online about a topic related to your project, read it and summarize it to an adult or senior mentor.		
Make an item that your animal can use or you can use with your animal such as a rope halter or feeder.		
Learn at least 15 anatomical terms for your animal, where they are, how to say and how to spell them.		

Life Skills & Citizenship - Complete 2 of the following

Arrange for a professional to present at your club or project meeting.		
Work with an adult or senior mentor to set goals for your animal project and make a plan to achieve those goals.		
Participate in or find a way to help with a community service project.		
Lead your club or a project area in a leadership position for a special event.		

_____, has successfully completed all tasks required for Mastery of the
 4-H Member Name _____ Learner stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathways and is ready to
 move to the Grower stage. Congratulations!

 County

 Club

 Species or Project

 4-H Volunteer, Staff, or
 Senior 4-H Mentor Signature

 Date





Mastery Pathway GROWER



In the Grower stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathway, focus on learning new things and growing in your skills, knowledge, and being resilient to life's challenges.

	DATE	NAME
Skills - Complete All Skills		
Learn how to do the following items for your animal: trim hooves or nails, recognize signs of illness or disease, how to read a feed label and identify if it's medicated, and how to properly store feed.		
Fit your animal for show (assistance may be required).		
Learn the vaccinations your animal needs and how to keep records of them.		
Regularly care for and feed your animal, ensuring fresh, clean water.		
Go with an adult or senior mentor and complete a purchase of feed or supplies for your animal, to include making payment.		
Educational - Complete 4 of the following		
Describe the purpose of your breed and/or species and how your animals traits support that purpose.		
Create an educational display for your club or for fair about your species.		
Attend a workshop or presentation (club meeting, project meeting or workshop, county led activity, etc) related to your species.		
Write or tell someone the things you like best about your animal and the things you wish you could improve on.		
Name 3 common diseases in your species and then research and learn the best ways to prevent and treat them.		
Work with an adult or a senior 4-H mentor to come up with an educational opportunity for you to learn about your species and do it!		
Life Skills & Citizenship - Complete 2 of the following		
Arrange for a club tour of a local business (ie vet office, feed store, etc.)		
Interview an older member about their project (even if it's a different species) and learn about their challenges and how they worked through them.		
Participate in or find a way to help with a community service project.		
Identify an event at your club or county level that you can help plan.		

_____, has successfully completed all tasks required for Mastery of the 4-H Member Name Grower stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathways and is ready to move to the Stockman stage. Congratulations!

County _____

Club _____

Species or Project _____

4-H Volunteer, Staff, or Senior 4-H Mentor Signature

March, 2025

Date





Mastery Pathway

STOCKMAN



In the Stockman stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathway, in addition to learning new things, focus on expanding on what you've learned so far. Reflect on your successes and identify areas where you could learn more!

Skills - Complete All Skills

	DATE	NAME
Provide regular, daily care for your animal.		
Demonstrate safe and proper handling at all times with your animal.		
Demonstrate and/or explain how to permanently identify your animal.		
Complete or assist with paperwork for the purchasing, care, recordkeeping and any sale of your animal.		

Educational - Complete 5 of the following

Present to your club, or at a county event or fair a topic on your animal project, including answering questions and receiving feedback.		
Name and locate 30 differing anatomical parts on your animal.		
Attend a workshop or presentation (club meeting, project meeting or workshop, county led activity, etc) related to your species.		
Talk with an animal health professional in your area about your animal, make sure that you have questions ready to ask.		
Pick a system of your animal (ex. digestive, respiratory, reproductive, etc.) and create a diagram labeling the parts and explaining their function.		
Work with an adult or a senior 4-H member to come up with an educational opportunity for you to learn about your species and do it!		
Create a list of items needed for a show, then work with your club or peers to explain why the item is needed and distribute the list to others.		

Life Skills & Citizenship - Complete 3 of the following

Organize a project introduction night to showcase the project area.		
Ask an older member to teach you a new skill. Learn from them, ask questions and then have them help you do that skill.		
Participate in or find a way to help with a community service project.		
Identify an event at your club or county level that you can help plan.		
Hold a 4-H club or county leadership position.		

_____, has successfully completed all tasks required for Mastery of the Stockman stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathways and is ready to move to the Herdsman stage. Congratulations!

4-H Member Name

County

Club

Species or Project

4-H Volunteer, Staff, or Senior 4-H Mentor Signature

Date





Mastery Pathway

HERDSMAN



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In the Herdsman stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathway, use what you’ve learned to develop purpose-driven goals that help you understand yourself, your skills, values. Open yourself up to the possibilities you’ve created for yourself!

Skills - Complete All Skills

	DATE	NAME
Learn to do 3 management practices for your animal such as vaccination, tagging or tattooing, medicating, deworming, fixing or building equipment, castrating, bottle feeding, or assisting in birthing.		
Demonstrate safe and proper fitting of your animal.		
Learn which medications your animals shouldn't be given.		
Keep records of important events and dates for your animal for the duration of the project such as vaccinations, illness, and milestones.		

Educational - Complete 5 of the following

Find a younger member to interview you about your project.		
Present to your club or similar event about a topic of your choice about your species. Presentation should be around 20-30 minutes long.		
Create a brief outline of a business plan for your project or species. Consider things such as equipment cost, feed, and sale of animals.		
Assist in the planning of a club or county-wide workshop for your species.		
Raise your own animal from breeding stock you own.		
Write or create a video explaining your project and what you have learned from participating in this project & send it to a local business owner or leader		

Leadership & Engagement - Complete 3 of the following

Hold a 4-H club or county leadership position.		
With a few peers, organize a community service project and invite other members (especially younger members) to participate.		
Pick one larger event and volunteer to help set up as well as clean up after.		
Volunteer at a shelter, vet clinic, or similar for a total of 20 hours or more.		
Create a lesson plan & teach it to your club to include introductions, hand's on activity, discussion reflection.		
Teach a skill to a younger member related to your project or to theirs.		

_____, has successfully completed all tasks required for Mastery of the Herdsman stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathways and is ready to move to the Producer stage. Congratulations!

4-H Member Name

County

Club

4-H Volunteer or Staff

Species or Project

Date





Mastery Pathway

PRODUCER



In the Producer stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathway, be proud of how much you have achieved and use the experiences that helped you to drive yourself further. Build relationships that will help you for the rest of your life.

Mastery of Tasks - Complete 3 of the following

	DATE	NAME
Demonstrate general management proficiency of your species.		
Prepare and give a presentation on feeds and feeding		
Prepare and give a presentation on reproduction, breeding and genetics		
Prepare and give a presentation on biosecurity and disease		
Prepare and give a presentation on careers in a field related to the species		

Personal Development & Leadership - Complete 10 of the following

Develop and organize (with assistance if needed) a full day workshop or workshop series related to your species.		
Mentor a younger 4-H member in a task for their Mastery Pathway stage.		
Attend a event (in-person or virtual) with working professions in a field of your choice. (ex. Stockgrowers meeting, Breed Association, etc.)		
Plan an event for your club or project area to socialize and learn a skill.		
Serve in a leadership position in your club or county.		
Assist your county educator with an event they are planning.		
Write a story for your local newspaper or outlet about 4-H and your animal.		
Compete a business plan that includes financing, marketing plan, and goals for the enterprise. Include a breakdown of revenue and expenses.		
Assist with a show by clerking, running the gate, lining up classes, etc.		
Compile a list of people who helped you in 4-H write them a Thank You card.		
Tour a local producers operation and brainstorm with them how you can improve your facilities or cost of operation.		
Pick one larger event and volunteer to help set up as well as clean up after.		
Volunteer at a shelter, vet clinic, or similar for a total of 40 hours or more.		
With a few peers, organize a community service project and invite other members (especially younger members) to participate.		
Teach a skill to a younger member related to your project or to theirs.		

_____, has successfully completed all tasks required for Mastery of the 4-H Member Name _____ Producer stage of the Livestock Mastery Pathways and is ready to move to the Master Producer stage. Congratulations!

County _____

Club _____

Species or Project _____

4-H Educator or other Extension/
County Staff

Date





Mastery Pathway

MASTER PRODUCER



As a Master Producer in the Livestock Mastery Pathway, your dedication, hard-work, leadership, and grit is worth celebrating. You have demonstrated that you are an outstanding individual, deserving recognition. You have developed life long skills that will take you far in leadership and has prepared you for your career, whatever that is.

Mastery of Species - Complete 3 of the following

	DATE	NAME
Complete and show an animal project in 4 different species.		
Complete the Mastery Pathway to the Producer stage in 4 different species.		
Create a portfolio of any materials, documents, and pictures of each of the four Mastery Pathways, organized by species in a binder or online journal.		

Competitive Application - Must complete

Identify two people who can provide you with a letter of recommendation.		
Please submit a brief statement explaining how you would use a \$500 award or scholarship to support an opportunity that enhances your leadership skills or agricultural learning		
Write a letter detailing how 4-H and the Livestock Mastery Pathway has impacted you and your livestock knowledge and leadership skills. Feel free to write as much as you would like. Please mail a signed copy of this sheet, your impact letter, the two letters of recommendation, and a copy of your portfolio to the following address: Attention: Livestock Mastery Pathway Wyoming 4-H 1000 E. University Ave. Laramie, WY 82071		

_____, has successfully completed all tasks required for Master 4-H Member Name Producer. Congratulations, this is a significant accomplishment.

County _____ Club _____ State or County 4-H Educator _____ Date _____

Please list all species completed for Master Producer:

Species or Project _____ Species or Project _____ Species or Project _____ Species or Project _____





Wyoming 4-H Livestock Mastery Program

Resources:

Rank advancements - USU Extension. Utah State University Extension. (2020, October). <https://extension.usu.edu/utah4h/files/livestock-rank-advancements.pdf>

Landers, J., Frischknecht, D., Johnson, D., & Arnold, M. (2005, May). Meat Animal Advancement Program. Oregon State University Extension Service. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/4-h1020r.pdf>

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