4-H Livestock Record Book Tips

All livestock and horse record books are available on the Morgan County website: https://morgan.extension.colostate.edu/. ***Do not use the State e-records or you will lose many points or be disqualified when your record book is judged.***

Doing record books is probably not on most members top ten list of "things I like most about 4-H". However, record keeping is an integral part of the educational phases of 4-H and an important life skill that will benefit members in many ways during their lifetime. Among other things, good record keeping skills will help 4-Hers learn how to:

• Collect and organize information

• Accept and complete responsibility and

• Make decisions

This hand-out has tips for completing the 4-H Livestock & Horse record books to increase understanding of the record book and make it easier for members to fill out.

Overview

- Market Livestock Record (All Large Species)
- Breeding Record (All Large Species)
- Dairy Record
- Horse Record
- Rabbit, Breeding and Market
- Poultry, Breeding and Market

Getting started: where to get your record book

The record books are available to you in two ways: paper or on online. Whatever method you use to obtain your record book, it is acceptable to do them by hand (write, pencil preferred) or on your computer (type). Pick up a printed record book at the Extension Office or print one yourself.

Updated record books are available to be downloaded from the Morgan County website at   Hover on the "4-H Area", then click on "4-H Records" from the drop down menu and then scroll down and click on the appropriate record book for download (all of the record books are a fillable PDF):

- Market Livestock (Beef, Goat, Sheep & Swine)
- Breeding records (for those with breeding projects)
- Horse
- Rabbit, Breeding and Market
- Poultry, Breeding and Market

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Goal

■ Take the confusion out of 4-H record books!!

Each market species must have its own record book. However you may include all beef in one book, all goats in one book, all sheep in one book and all swine in one book, with exception of Catch-It's.

Since we have a separate horse record book it cannot be used with other livestock, so a separate livestock record book will need to be completed.

RECORD BOOKS START DATES

➢ Catch-It Record Books start when you receive your animal (usually Beef-December; Dairy-March; Goats, Sheep & Swine-1st Saturday of May; Rabbits-June; Chickens-June).

➢ Market Beef Record Books start at least on the 1st Saturday of March.

➢ All Breeding (Beef, Goat, Lamb & Swine) Projects and Horse Record Books start at least by the ID or Primary Care date of May 1st.

➢ Market Goat, Lamb & Swine Record Books start at least on the 1st Saturday of May.

➢ Breeding Rabbits and Poultry start at least on June 1st.

➢ Market Rabbits and Poultry start at least on June 25th.
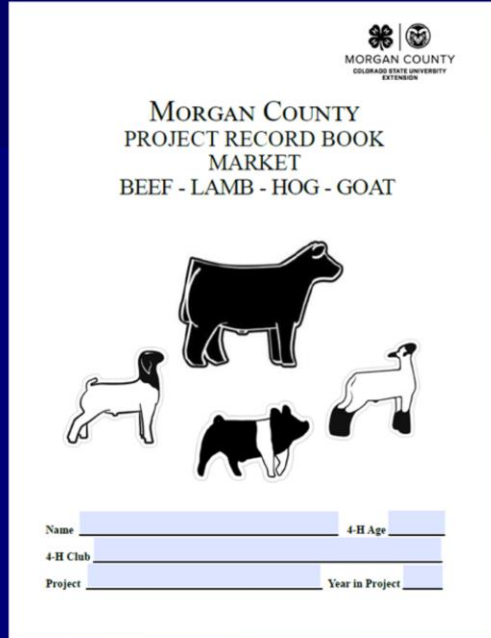
This page of the record book, can be completed at any time. Enter your First and Last Name. Enter your 4-H age (this is your age as of December 31st of previous year). Enter the 4-H club you belong to. Enter the species the book is for (ie. Market Beef, Market Goat, Market Sheep or Market Swine). Enter the number of years you have taken this project. You will have one record book for each species. Catch-its have their own book. All other market animals will use these books. Do Not combine goats and lambs in one book. Instead you will have one record book for your goat(s) and one record books for your lamb(s). (Same for Beef and Swine)

Feed Record

Date	Kind of Feed	Amount	Value	Date	Kind of Feed	Amount	Value
5/7/23	Rolled Corn	500 lbs	$25.00				

Subtotal — Totals

* Transfer this figure to Item Number 1 amount on page 3.

^Total Value of Feed $ _____ *

* Total Amount of Feed Fed in Pounds _____ ^

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Market, Breeding, Dairy

FEED RECORD- Market, Breeding and Dairy Record Books

The first line is an example of how you should record your feed. Feed Record is when you purchase feed not amount fed per day. Home grown feed has a value also. The date you purchase feed, the kind of feed purchased, the amount of feed in pounds, and the cost/value of that feed. Record feed each time you purchase feed. Make sure to subtotal and total each column and then at the bottom for both pounds and cost/value.

Record all feed for your horse project. Home grown feed has a value also.

ANIMAL INVENTORY

As your project begins, record the animals that you have at the START of your project. All animals have a value even if your parents give you an animal. Date: this is the day your animal was purchased or the animal ID date if home raised. Animal: this is where you identify which species was purchased. Quantity: the number of species purchased. Total Cost: this is the purchase price or current market value. Be certain to write the animal value down in the last column. Transfer total cost to number 2, page 3.

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

This is an inventory of items you have acquired for this project. This section is for items such as equipment, tools, trailers, and facilities used for your project. Equipment is the purchase price divided by years it will last to give you the cost for the year. Example a set of clippers cost $100 will last 10 years the cost for the year is $10. The same for buckets, feeders etc. This should be completed at the start of the project year. The inventory is a record of any items (related to your project) or animals that you have on hand or others purchased during the project year. For example, if you already have one brush, two halters, and one feed pan at the start of the year, you should list those items as follows:

Item Quantity Value

Brush, 1, $ 8.00, how many years should this last (ie. 5 yrs), $ 1.60 per year

Halters, 2, $25.00, (5 yrs), $ 5.00 per year

Feed Pan, 1, $10.00, (5 yrs), $ 2.00 per year

Be sure to list the date your project year started. Also, make sure you total the value of your Beginning Inventory. In the above example, the total value would be $ 8.60, (which is the cost of your inventory for one year or "depreciation".) Transfer total cost to number 3, page 3.

HEALTH CARE

In the event you have health care related items, record them in this section. Health care is when you purchase anything for the health of the animals. Date purchased, item/description, quantity and cost. Also record this information on the Animal Health Record section on page 5. Transfer total cost to number 4, page 3. If not, enter N/A.

MISCELLANEOUS

Record the date, item/description, quantity, and cost. (ie. straw, wood shavings, insurance, entry fees) Transfer total cost to number 5, page 3. If none, enter N/A.
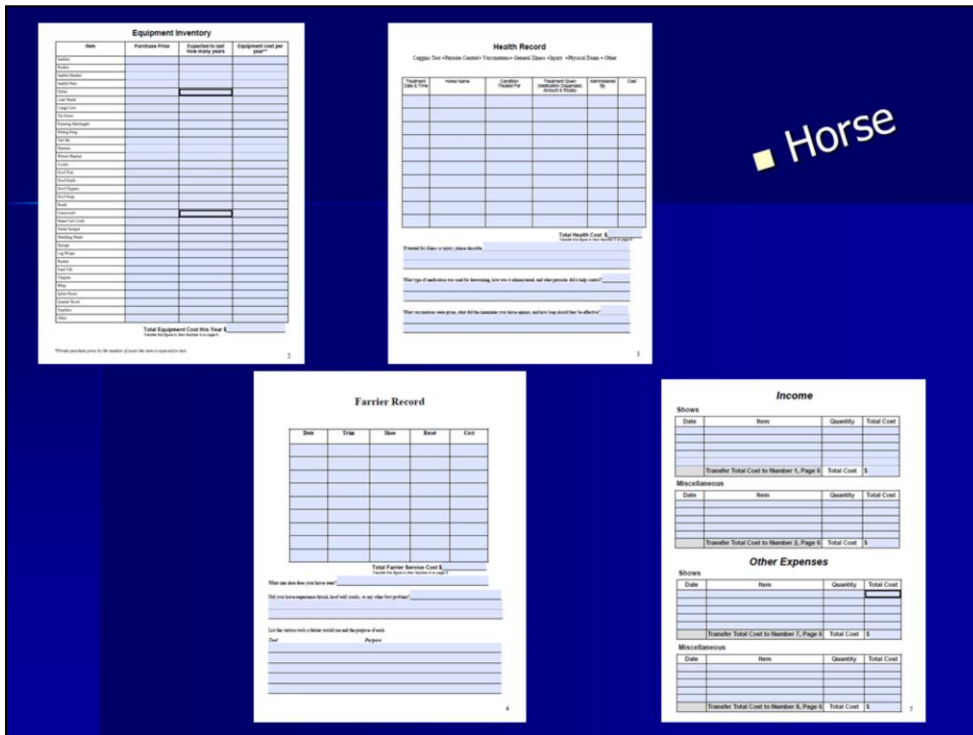
EQUIPMENT INVENTORY – Horses only

Record all equipment owned and borrowed. Use the actual purchase price or estimated value if borrowed. How many years it is expected to last. Take the value/purchase price and divide that by the number of years it is expected to last. Complete the table and total the cost.

HEALTH RECORD – Horses only

Record all health related events in this table. Treatment Date and Time, Horse Name, Condition Treated for, Administered By, and Cost. Total costs and complete all questions at the bottom of the page.

FARRIER RECORD - Horses only

Record each time you have your horse trimmed, shoed or reset. Date, type of service and the cost. Total at the bottom of the chart.

Record the answers to the questions at the bottom of the page.

INCOME - Horses only

Record shows attended – Date, Item, Quantity, Total Earned.

Record miscellaneous horse work – (ie. Driving cattle for a neighbor, selling a saddle, etc.) Date, Item, Quantity and Total Earned.

OTHER EXPENSES – Horses only

Record show expenses/fees – Date, Item, Quantity, Total Cost.

Record miscellaneous expenses – (ie. Clinics, lessons, transportation, etc.) Date, Item, Quantity, Total Cost.

RECEPITS/INCOME

Do Not leave this section blank! When you close the book out, put down the value of the animal that day or if you sold it at market value. example a pig weighs 250 lbs @ $50.00 cwt. value is $125.00. In the July/August 4-H Newsletter, on the Livestock page there will be a current market value. Take the weight of each animal on July 10th and multiply the pounds by the current market value provided. This will give you the "Value" of your animal if you sold it on July 10th.

EXPENSES

Carry over all the expense totals from the Operating Expenses page.

On the bottom of the page you will carry down the "Value" or Income. Minus the Total Expenses. This will give you the Net Profit/Loss for your project. Don't be alarmed if it is a negative figure.

RECEPITS/INCOME

Follow directions. Obtain from Income Page 5.

EXPENSES

Obtain from Expenses Pages 1-5.

Follow the directions. This was covered at the Meat Quality Insurance Program.
It is very important to fill this page out correctly.

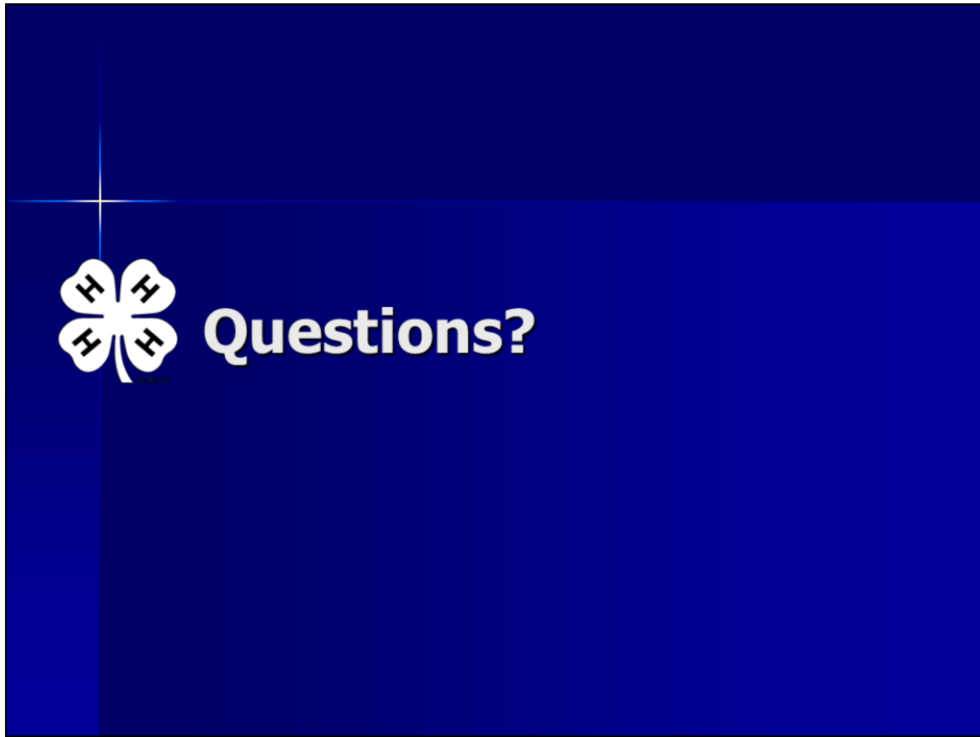A complete record book has pictures. Follow directions.

Call the Extension Office 970-542-3540.