

RI Participation in The Big E

Must read additional guidelines and rules in the Big E 4-H species specific packets!

Eligibility: Youth who are at least 12 but not 19 years of age before January 1 eligible. If RI reaches the maximum number of delegates allowed the State 4-H Office will determine who will represent RI based on scoresheets, placings and/or recommendations.

Registration: 4-Hers must register completely (all forms) on time, no late entries accepted. This includes management forms, Big E paper signed forms and Big E online entries.

Teen Leaders and Alternates: Must apply and be selected by the State 4-H office and Head Chaperone, based upon points earned on a rubric. Application due dates: Dog, Sheep, Goat Augusts 1st, Horse August 1st and Beef Steers -Feb 1st, Beef Heifers May 10th.

ESE Chaperones: The State 4-H office will appoint all head chaperones, chaperones, coaches and barn managers for ESE animal programs. Notification will occur by August.

Budgets for Animal programs at the Big E: Generously donated by the RI 4-H Club Foundation. Budget will be based on estimated youth participation and be based on a formula. \$150/ youth exhibiting an animal + \$50/youth teen leader = Total budget. Buying long term equipment for our teams will be considered on a separate case by case basis.

Health: All RI animals entering the Big E will need Certificates of veterinary inspection. Consult the MA State Veterinarian's website to see if your species has other requirements.

Beef (Register steers by 3 /1 , heifers by 5/10)

- Beef Show steers must be owned, and ear tagged with a special Big E RFID tag by a beef committee member and register online and with paper by March 1st.
- Heifers must be owned or managed by May 10th and have all signed paper forms, management papers (if applicable) filed in the State 4-H Office by May 10th.
- The animal must be shown in the 4-H beef show at one of the following: the ERI 4-H Fair, the Foster Old Home Days, the SRI 4-H Leaders Fair or the Washington County.
- All cattle shown at the Eastern States Expo MUST be identified with a 15 digit RFID tag.
- ESE applicants are strongly encouraged to attend RI 4-H Beef Education Programs. Junior Leaders for the ESE 4-H Beef Program will be chosen by the RI ESE 4-H Beef Committee based on participation and enthusiasm during the current 4-H year.

Dairy (Register by 8/20)

- Selection of animals for the ESE 4-H Dairy Show requires participation in a district 4-H Dairy Show or Washington County Fair Youth Show during this 4-H year, and other requirements as listed on the 4-H Dairy Activities score sheet.
- Dairy members on the Quiz Bowl Team or Judging Team do not need to show an animal.
- All cattle shown at the Eastern States Expo MUST be identified with a 15 digit RFID tag.

- Dairy heifers must be over 4 months old to participate in ESE.

Goat (Register by 8/20)

- To participate in the ESE 4-H Dairy Goat Show, it is necessary that the 4-Her show in showmanship and be judged in 2 RI 4-H goat shows that summer to qualify in the fall.
- 0-4 month kids may show as long as the 4-Hers owned or managed the Dam by June 1st.
- Goat team knowledge topics are assigned and online on the Big E website.

Dog (Register by 8/20)

- ESE Dog Knowledge test questions change each year, consult the Big E 4-H packets.
- Vaccinations are **required** for distemper, rabies and parvo.
- Recommended Vaccinations: Corona, Bordetella, and Leptospirosis.
- The 4-H member must take a Dog Knowledge Quiz, show obedience and showmanship in at least one RI 4-H dog show in the current year.
- Member must own or manage their project dog and substitute dog by June 1.
- Applications to ESE are due to the state 4-H office by August 20th.

Horse (Register by 8/20)

- Eligibility: Riders must be 13 as of Jan 1st and Teen leaders must be 12 as of Jan 1st.
- To qualify as a rider/driver/in-hand, a 4-Her must participate in 2 of the district 4-H shows as rider/driver/in hand and pass the ESE qualifying pattern at a district 4-H show.
- In order to qualify as a teen leader, a 4-H member must participate in 2 of the District 4-H Shows as either as a rider, driver, in-hand or volunteer.
- All participants must complete a URI 4-H application form.
- Verification forms and substitutions are due by April 1st.

Sheep (Register by 8/20)

- If any 4-H'er wishes to attend the Eastern States Sheep Show, it is necessary that he or she participate and be judged in one 4-H sheep shows in Rhode Island during the summer of the year they would like to participate in the Big E and have completed at least one year of 4-H Sheep project work.
- All sheep exhibited at Big E, except market lambs, must be registered.
- Applications for Big E 4-H Sheep Show are due in the State 4-H office by August 20th.

Working Steer (Register by 8/20)

- Any Rhode Island 4-H Fair may serve as a qualifying competition for the Big E and teamster must use the pair, they qualified with at the Big E competition.
- Teamsters must be at least 10 years or older as of January 1st.
- Applications for ESE are due in the state 4-H office by August 20th.