Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA Dairy Cattle Leasing Program

(Updated 7/15/2026)

Goals and Objectives:

To provide an educational experience that will create an opportunity for youth to develop the following through traditional 4-H/FFA/YLPA dairy education programs.

- To develop character, knowledge, and a sense of responsibility in 4-H/FFA/YLPA members
- To provide 4-H/FFA/YLPA youth an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with dairy animals through a 4-H/FFA/YLPA project
- To maintain or increase the number of youth working with dairy animals
- Concentrate on the management components of raising dairy heifers
- To provide the opportunity for 4-H/FFA/YLPA youth to become more familiar with contracts and lease agreements.

Rules:

1. The Leasing Program pertains to the registered and non-registered female breeding stock of the following breeds: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, or Jersey.

2. The program is available to 4-H/FFA/YLPA youth hereafter referred to as lessee, in good standing (as defined by the local county program) as a member in a local club. The lessee must remain in good standing as a member in a county 4-H, chapter FFA, YLPA club, or dairy club during the period of this lease contract. It is suggested that the lessee attend regular club meetings during the calendar year and keep a project record on each dairy animal, submitting this record each year to their club leader.

3. All leased animals must be a bona fide 4-H/FFA/YLPA project. A 4-/FFA/YLPA member may lease a maximum of three animals during the project year.

4. The owner hereafter referred to as the sponsor, will jointly determine with the lessee specific responsibilities to be carried out by the lessee. The responsibilities will be recorded in the Lease Agreement and will include such things as:
   a. Duties and Responsibilities while working with the animal(s)
   b. Working schedule for carrying out the specified duties
   c. Assistance provided to the lessee by sponsor
   d. Where will animal(s) be cared for (sponsor's or lessee's farm)
   e. Who will provide feed and medical supplies
   f. What monetary compensation will be provided and when it will be paid

5. Leased animals may be exhibited in the appropriate calf classes at any show with approval from the show management where you wish to exhibit. Animals may be shown in the cow classes only if a Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA youth leased the animal as a calf or yearling. All animals must be leased or owned by a Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA youth for the first time before the heifer is 21 months of age.
   If the original lessee no longer wants to exhibit the animal, an animal over 21 months of age may be leased by a different 4-H/FFA/YLPA youth and exhibited in cow classes ONLY if:
   a. that animal has been previously leased before 21 months of age by another Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA youth.
   b. the previous (expired) lease is on file with the Dairy/Animal Science SSA proving the animal has previously been in the lease program (or for animals leased before 2024-25 proof of a local county lease will suffice);
   c. the new youth lessee has leased a heifer under 21 months of age in the past; or the youth is also leasing a heifer under 21 months of age during the same time frame.

6. Animals enrolled in the leasing program will be exhibited only by the lessee in Florida youth shows during the contract year. The owner/sponsor relinquishes rights to show the leased animal(s) during the contract year in any youth shows. This applies to the North Florida Fair, South Florida Fair, State 4-H Dairy Show, and Florida State Fair for both youth and open shows. County Fairs are encouraged to use this lease.

7. Leased animals may be housed and maintained at the farm facilities of either party.

8. The title of ownership as stated on the registration or grade identity certificate of the leased animal will remain in the possession of the sponsor. Lessee must have a copy attached to the lease agreement. Some shows may require original papers.

9. The sponsor of the leased animal agrees not to hold the lessee liable for any financial loss from accidental injury or death to the leased animal. The lessee can be held responsible for loss or injury due to neglect or poor management. It is strongly suggested that insurance be purchased by one or both of the parties to cover the value of the animal.

10. The sponsor is not responsible for financial liability from any injury that may be incurred to the lessee while involved in working with leased animals.

11. The lessee is responsible for all expenses incurred in exhibiting the animals, such as veterinarian fees, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenditures. The lessee may keep any premiums or awards while exhibiting the animal during the duration of the contract.



12. **The Lease Agreement must be signed and postmarked by December 11th** and sent to Chris DeCubellis, 2142 Shealy Drive, P.O. Box 110230, Gainesville, FL 32611, and will be in effect for a 12-month period. A copy may be kept on file in the extension office.

13. The signed Lease Agreement must be postmarked or in Chris DeCubellis' Office by December 11th of the show year. When approved, you will receive a certificate verifying the lease information and allowing you to show the animal. The Official Lease Certificate must be emailed to Shayla.Ashmore@FloridaStateFair.com or uploaded through the Florida State Fair website.

14. The sponsor will make the animal(s) available to the lessee during the period of the Lease Agreement.

15. The Lease Agreement will remain in force until terminated by either party or the 12 months have expired. The date and reason for termination prior to the end of the year must be given in writing and be placed on file in Chris DeCubellis' Office. The Lease Agreement may be terminated prior to the end of the year for reasons such as:
    a. Failure for Lessee to carry out responsibilities as outlined in the Lease Agreement
    b. Changes in the Farming operation for the sponsor.

16. The Lease Agreement will be reviewed by the sponsor and lessee prior to entering animals at any dairy show to ensure that responsibilities are being carried out by the lessee. A copy of the signed Lease Agreement Certificate should be attached to all entry forms.

Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA Dairy Cattle Lease Agreement

This **LEASE AGREEMENT** is entered into on _____
between the owner (sponsor) _____

_____ _____
(address) (telephone #)
and 4-H/FFA/YLPA youth (lessee) _____
(name)

_____ _____
(address) (telephone #)

The Sponsor hereby agrees to lease to the 4-H/FFA/YLPA member listed above the following animal(s): (Maximum of three animals)

Please attach appropriate registration or grade ID papers to this form

(Name)	(Reg or Grade ID Number)	(Date of Birth)
(Name)	(Reg or Grade ID Number)	(Date of Birth)
(Name)	(Reg or Grade ID Number)	(Date of Birth)

I have read and understand the rules and responsibilities of the Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA Dairy Cattle Leasing Program and agree to abide by the requirements of the program.

_____ _____
(owner/sponsor) (date)

I have read and understand the rules and responsibilities of the Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA Dairy Cattle Leasing Program and agree to abide by the requirements of the program.

_____ _____
(4-H/FFA/YLPA youth/lessee) (date)

I have read and understand the contractual agreement entered into by the lessee and sponsor and agree not to hold the sponsor liable for any injury or financial liability that may incur to the lessee during this contractual agreement.

_____ _____
(Parent or Legal Guardian) (date)

The lessee is a member in good standing of the 4-H/FFA/YLPA Program and has a Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA Dairy Cattle Lease Agreement on file.

_____ _____
(4-H Leader/Agent or FFA Advisor/YLPA Representative) (date)

The leased animal must be a bona fide 4-H/FFA/YLPA project, and the lessee assumes responsibility for the care and management of the project animal mutually agreed upon with the sponsor as stated below: For guidelines see number 5.

The Lease Agreement will remain in force until terminated by either party as stated in the Rules of the Florida 4-H/FFA/YLPA Dairy Cattle Leasing Program or until the end of the year. Failure to have a lease agreement on file by **December 11th** with Chris DeCubellis' office will result in the animal not being eligible for shows within the state. Once the Lease has been approved, you will get a certificate to present at the shows. A copy of the Official Certificate (not the Lease Agreement) must be emailed to Shayla.Ashmore@FloridaStateFair.com or uploaded through the Florida State Fair website.

Mail To: Chris DeCubellis, 2142 Shealy Drive, P.O. Box 110230, Gainesville, FL 32611-0225.