

# NATIONAL SHOW CONSIDERATIONS

National or regional shows can be a great opportunity for youth and families to broaden their involvement in the show or breeding arenas. These events showcase a larger display of breeders and selection of livestock from across the region or the United States. As such showing at these shows should be approached differently than your local county fair or jackpots.

Plan Ahead->Animal selection and entry requirements will require the process to start almost a year in advance.

What's Your Goals-> Before filling out entries and buying animals; determine what you will be showing and what classes you are interested in (i.e. market or breeding, youth or open); what are your goals for the show; do you intend to use the animals for more than one show; are you intending to showcase your breeding animals for additional advertising, etc.

What Can You Afford-> Entry fees, health inspections, travel, animals, feed, etc. can all add up very quickly. Multiply that by the level of animals needed to compete and additional time and distance and it's important to do a budget assessment before jumping all in. Can you afford to be gone from school or work during the show period?

Meat Quality Assurance Programs->Many of the shows require youth exhibitors to take a Meat Quality Assurance Program. Some may accept any type of program or certification, while others have a specific program that is required each year (i.e. Aksarben will begin requiring YQCA certification).

DNA or Specific ID Tags->Many shows require DNA sampling and specific tags. It's important to understand the deadlines and tag requirements especially if they are federal ID tags vs. what tags you already have in the animal.

Nomination vs. Entry-> Many shows require an initial nomination process and then an actual class(s) entry as well. Check out deadline requirements to understand what is due when and who may need to sign your paperwork (i.e. local 4-H office or FFA advisor).

Health Paperwork-> Each show has different health requirements including the timeframe for health certificates. Understand show requirements and work with your veterinarian well in advance to secure appropriate paperwork. Be aware of disease outbreaks and changes.

Potential Shows to Learn More-

Aksarben- [aksarbenstockshow.com/](http://aksarbenstockshow.com/)

American Royal- [americanroyal.com/livestock/](http://americanroyal.com/livestock/)

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo- [rodeohouston.com/](http://rodeohouston.com/)

National Western Stock Show- [nationalwestern.com/](http://nationalwestern.com/)

NILE- [thenile.org/](http://thenile.org/)

North American International Livestock Expo- [livestockexpo.org/](http://livestockexpo.org/)