
4HOnline Animal ID Integration with FairEntry

Before You Start

One of the most valuable features of 4HOnline and FairEntry integration is the ability to enter animal information into 4HOnline, and then create an entry in FairEntry using that previously-entered information. Being mindful of the end result (using the data in FairEntry) should guide the animal identification setup in 4HOnline, resulting in a seamless and trouble-free transfer of information.

If you have animals that “persist” in 4HOnline, changing the fields from one year to the next can be problematic, with data existing in places it didn’t before. Consider making your animals types “non-persisting” for the year when you have major field changes to make in 4HOnline.

Setup: Animal Types

- **When setting up animal types, consider that animal types are linked to divisions in FairEntry.** If you have one animal type for all Beef, you would not be able to split up which animals are eligible for breeding beef and which are eligible as market beef.
 1. You can attach more than one animal type to each division in FairEntry, but you cannot “filter” for a sub-set of one animal type.

Setup: Options

- **Only ACTIVE animals are transferred from 4HOnline to FairEntry.** If your setup options require verification (either family or county) before an animal record is Active, you will need to make sure that you have processes in place to ensure that all animals are verified and Active before opening registration in FairEntry.

Setup: Fields

- **The identifier field in 4HOnline must be a required field.** This is the field that will print on the entry cards, be visible for exhibitors to select, etc.
 1. If the identifier is “either/or” like tag OR tattoo, and neither is required, some animals will have a blank field for animal identifier.
 2. In those cases, in order to have the identifier appear appropriately on entry cards, etc. the data will have to be copied from the non-identifier field into the identifier field, one entry at a time.



How-to Suggestions:

1. If the animal identifier has the potential to be either of two choices, use on-screen labeling to identify and make one of them required:
 - a. “First tattoo” (identifier, required) and “Second tattoo”, instead of right ear/left ear.
 - b. “Animal Name – Use Registry Name if Registered” (identifier, required) instead of Registered Name and Barn Name for horses and dogs.
 - c. “Primary tag/tattoo” (identifier, required) and “Other tag/tattoo” instead of state fair tag and county tag
 - d. “Tag OR Tattoo” (identifier, required) instead of 2 separate fields.
2. Think about the most important piece of information that will be used in FairEntry, and make sure that is the identifier, and required.
 - a. Cow/Calf pairs—although there is a “Dam Tag” field available in 4HOnline, it’s not an identifier field. Use one of the identifier fields (tag, tattoo, animal name) and alias it on screen as “Cow Tag or Tattoo” (required), using another field for the “Calf Tag or Tattoo”.
 - b. Rabbits & Chickens: “Primary Identifier” (identifier, required) instead of a list of all optional fields to pick from. Other optional fields can be filled in, but the primary identifier should be required, whether it’s the same thing for each animal of that species or not.

- **Breeds**—You have two choices—either the breed field is a drop-down (because you created a breed list) or it’s a text field (because you didn’t). There isn’t an option to add a field for “Other Breed” if the member’s animal is one that is not listed in your breed list.

How-to Suggestion:

1. Add the Crossbred option to all of your breed lists, or “Not Registered”, “Commercial”, or whatever the correct term is for the appropriate animal type. Also add “All Other Breeds” as an option to catch those less-common (and not listed) breeds.

- **Do not use any (deprecated) fields in 4HOnline.** The information in those fields will not transfer over to FairEntry.

How-to Suggestion:

1. Use existing standard fields, and use a field description to add additional information for members, to help them put the correct information into that field.

Tips

Using standard fields and making use of field descriptions can be the best way to get reliable, useful animal information to transfer from 4HOnline records to FairEntry.

