

2025-26 Waushara County

Market Animal Project Rules and Requirements

Project Purpose and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project provides 4-H and FFA youth the opportunity to experience all aspects of raising a meat animal including selection, husbandry, promoting and selling. • To teach members to do work in breeding, selecting, feeding, and showing market animals. • To provide Junior Fair market animal exhibitors an opportunity to sell quality animals at the Waushara County Fair. • To provide incentives and encourage a stronger development of meat animal projects. To recognize members who do quality work in breeding, feeding, selecting and showing their market animals. • To increase interest in the dairy project and reward exceptional efforts.
Member Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any active member of a Waushara County 4-H club or FFA Chapter, who is enrolled in a livestock or dairy project, is eligible to sell two (2) lots, one (1) per species in the Youth Livestock Sale. • FFA members must show proof of active membership. • 4-H members must be in the third grade or above during the current enrollment year. • Youth will continue to be eligible to participate in the project one year following their year of high school graduation. • 4-H members must be enrolled in the respective market project (beef, sheep, swine, rabbit, poultry, dairy) for which they wish to raise, promote, exhibit and sell animal/dairy sponsorship. • Anyone selling an animal/dairy sponsorship in any other County Fair Livestock Sale will not be eligible to sell in the Waushara County Fair Livestock Sale.
Enrollment Deadline	During the 4-H enrollment process, members enroll in the project of the species they wish to sell. Final project enrollments are due March 1.
Animal Selection	<p>Large Animal Species and Maximum Number that can be identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef: - 2 • Swine: Barrows/Gilts – 6 • Sheep: Wethers preferred, ewes accepted – 6 <p>Age Guidelines for Selecting Meat Animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef – Animal must be born after January 1 of preceding year (junior or summer yearling classes) 11-19 months at fair time. • Barrows/Gilts – Animal born year of fair; 5 -5 1/2 months old at fair time. • Sheep – Animal born year of fair; 5-6 months at fair time. <p>Suggested Weight Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steers: Approximate weight at initial weigh-in British breeds: 500-600 lbs. Holstein, other large crossbreeds and Exotics: 600-700 lbs. • Barrows: Approximate weight at an initial weigh-in 45 lbs. • Lamb: Approximate weight at initial weigh-in 25-65 lbs. <p>All animals must be dehorned and castrated.</p> <p>There are no pre-identification requirements for dairy sponsorship, rabbits, or poultry.</p>
Ear Tag Identification Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No initial weigh-ins for all species. • Ear tags for beef, swine and sheep will be picked up at the Extension Office beginning February 1. • Saturday, March 28 at 11:59 PM – Deadline for beef email photo and required information. • Saturday, April 26 at 11:59 PM – Deadline for swine to email photos and required information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, May 16 at 11:59 PM – Deadline for sheep to email photos and required information. • COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) forms are due on Saturday, May 17 to the Extension Office for sheep.
Record Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants must keep records for each project animal. These records should include medications administered and project costs. A biography/resume of the dairy animal/sponsorship is to be submitted by the members to the dairy superintendents on Thursday by 5 pm.
Educational Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning Members: Must obtain (3) educational points during the project year on or before August 1. • Members enrolling for the first year must attend a Market Animal Project Orientation in addition to (3) educational points on or before August 1. • Exhibitors' points must come from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 point – Market Animal Project Orientation (First Year Members Only) • 1 point – YQCA certification • 1 point – 1 Hands On/In-Person clinic, meeting, show • 1 point – 1 Hands On/In-Person clinic, meeting, show or Virtual Webinar or Video <p>First year enrolling in the project – 4 points Returning members in project – 3 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following are examples – two educational points must come from virtual or hands on events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program Virtual Workshops – 1 Point Per Workshop • Beef Workshop – 1 Point • Sheep Workshop – 1 Point • Rabbit & Poultry Association Workshops – 1 Point • Waushara County Livestock Committee Meeting – 1 Point – only 1 meeting per year can be applied to points • Rabbit & Poultry Association Meeting – 1 Point – only 1 meeting per year can be applied to points • Livestock/Dairy Judging Practice – 1 Point • Livestock, Dairy or Breed Shows (must participate in the show by showing an animal or working the show) – 1 Point • Livestock Breeders Association Show Camp – 1 Point • 4-H Meats Judging Contest – 1 Point • Area Animal Science Days (must be a member of a participant) – 1 Point • Livestock/Dairy Quiz Bowl – 1 Point <p>Timeframe for completion: Monday After Fair – August 1st Youth must complete the Education Requirements Worksheet and YQCA Certificate and turn into the Extension Office on or before August 1 or postmarked on or before August 1st to sell at the Waushara County Fair Market Animal Sale.</p>
Buyer Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each exhibitor must send a letter to a minimum of five (5) potential buyers. If a family has more than one member marketing animals/dairy sponsorship, each member must contact a minimum of five (5) different potential buyers. It is recommended that three of the buyers not be buyers at the previous year's sale. A copy of the letter with a list of names of the buyers must be submitted to the Extension office on or before Thursday, before the fair. If copies of your letters are not received, you will not be able to sell your animal(s)/dairy sponsorship. • A personal visit to all potential buyers is an excellent practice and highly recommended. To continue to have a quality sale, our buyers need to know their support is wanted and appreciated.

Fair Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each project member is responsible for entering their market/dairy animal(s) in the fair by the deadline listed in the fair premium book. Each exhibitor is responsible for complying with the Animal Health Requirements stated in the fair premium book for the species they are exhibiting. All entries must meet the eligibility requirements of the appropriate Junior Fair Class described in the fair premium book. Animals that do not make weight, can be shown but not sold. 																																																			
Fair Weigh-in Dates and Times	All market animals must be weighed in between 1-7 pm on Wednesday of the county fair. Not applicable to dairy.																																																			
Family Weigh-In	At fair weigh-in exhibitors can choose from one of their immediate family animals (brother or sister) that were identified by the species due date. Not applicable to dairy.																																																			
Exhibitor's Meeting	There will be a mandatory exhibitor meeting on Sunday of the fair at 3:30 pm in the Livestock Pavilion to vote on the Sportsmanship award.																																																			
Wholesomeness of Meat Product	All exhibitors and their parent/legal guardian must sign a form attesting to proper withdrawal of all additions and injections administered to the animal being shown. All animals going to slaughter may have tissue samples collected at the discretion of the state meat inspector. The exhibitor will be responsible for the sample analysis. Exhibitors will be responsible for reimbursing buyers for carcasses not meeting state inspection standards. Not applicable to dairy.																																																			
Sale Eligibility Standards	<p>Animals not meeting the following eligibility standards for the species and breed indicated will not be eligible for the sale.</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="543 861 816 893">Species/Age</th> <th data-bbox="816 861 1044 914">Minimum Weight</th> <th data-bbox="1044 861 1191 893">Grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 914 1077 977">Beef: (born after January 1 of preceding year, 11-19 months at fair)</td> <td data-bbox="913 946 1011 977">1000 lbs.</td> <td data-bbox="1093 946 1289 977">Select+ or Better</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1009 718 1041">Miniature Beef</td> <td data-bbox="913 1009 1044 1041">650 lbs. Min</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1009 1419 1041">Registration Papers Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1072 897 1136">Barrows/Gilts (born year of fair) (Maximum payable weight is 320 lbs.)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1072 1011 1104">220 lbs.</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1072 1256 1104">USDA 1 & 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1167 816 1199">Sheep (born year of fair)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1167 1011 1199">90 lbs.</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1167 1289 1199">Choice or Better</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1199 620 1231">Rabbit:</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1231 750 1294">Single Fryer (not over 69 days)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1231 1011 1262">3 to 5 lbs.</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1231 1370 1262">Market quality per judge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1326 816 1389">Roaster (either sex; 70-180 days)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1326 1077 1358">>5 lbs. to 9 lbs.</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1326 1370 1358">Market quality per judge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1389 783 1484">Meat Pen of 3 (Same breed/variety; None over 69 days)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1389 1044 1421">3 to 5 lbs. each</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1389 1370 1421">Market quality per judge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1516 652 1548">Poultry:</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1548 832 1579">Roaster (2 birds, same sex)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1548 1044 1579">+5 lbs. each</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1548 1370 1579">Market quality per judge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1579 734 1611">Broilers (2 birds)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1579 1044 1611">2.5 to 5 lbs. each</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1579 1370 1611">Market quality per judge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1611 799 1643">Young duck (either sex)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1611 1011 1643">+5lbs.</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1611 1370 1643">Market quality per judge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1643 816 1674">Young goose (either sex)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1643 1011 1674">+7 lbs.</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1643 1370 1674">Market quality per judge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1674 832 1727">Turkey (either sex, over 15 weeks old)</td> <td data-bbox="913 1674 1011 1706">+15 lbs.</td> <td data-bbox="1093 1674 1370 1706">Market quality per judge</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="543 1759 783 1790">Dairy Sponsorships:</td> <td data-bbox="543 1790 1462 1915"></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td data-bbox="543 1790 1462 1915">Top two exhibitors placing in junior, intermediate and senior showmanship are eligible to sell a dairy sponsorship. If an exhibitor has not met the project requirements or decides not to sell their dairy sponsorship, the replacement shall be designated by the dairy judge.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species/Age	Minimum Weight	Grade	Beef: (born after January 1 of preceding year, 11-19 months at fair)	1000 lbs.	Select+ or Better	Miniature Beef	650 lbs. Min	Registration Papers Required	Barrows/Gilts (born year of fair) (Maximum payable weight is 320 lbs.)	220 lbs.	USDA 1 & 2	Sheep (born year of fair)	90 lbs.	Choice or Better	Rabbit:			Single Fryer (not over 69 days)	3 to 5 lbs.	Market quality per judge	Roaster (either sex; 70-180 days)	>5 lbs. to 9 lbs.	Market quality per judge	Meat Pen of 3 (Same breed/variety; None over 69 days)	3 to 5 lbs. each	Market quality per judge	Poultry:			Roaster (2 birds, same sex)	+5 lbs. each	Market quality per judge	Broilers (2 birds)	2.5 to 5 lbs. each	Market quality per judge	Young duck (either sex)	+5lbs.	Market quality per judge	Young goose (either sex)	+7 lbs.	Market quality per judge	Turkey (either sex, over 15 weeks old)	+15 lbs.	Market quality per judge	Dairy Sponsorships:				Top two exhibitors placing in junior, intermediate and senior showmanship are eligible to sell a dairy sponsorship. If an exhibitor has not met the project requirements or decides not to sell their dairy sponsorship, the replacement shall be designated by the dairy judge.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Livestock Committee has the right to accept or reject any animal/dairy sponsorships. Quality grading standards will be strictly adhered to at the fair. Animals not making acceptable grade will not be sold in the sale. Does not apply to dairy. Each animal will only have one chance to weigh-in. If the animal does not make weight, it will not be sold in the sale. Only animals being shown at the fair can be weighed in. All animals entered for the Livestock Sale meeting the eligibility requirements must be sold unless the exhibitor has more than two animals (small and large species) eligible for sale or requests permission from the Livestock Committee to withhold the animal for future showing or sale at a District show. Large animals selected as Champion and Reserve Champion are not eligible for these two non-sale options. If one exhibitor in a species receives grand and reserve will have the option to sell both animals of the same species. No additional animals may be sold as they may only sell two (2) lots in the sale.
Champion and Reserve Champion	<p>A Champion and Reserve Champion in the market classes will be selected for beef, sheep, swine, poultry and rabbit. Selection of the Champion shall be made from the first-place blues of each market class. Reserve champion shall be selected from the balance of the first-place blues and the second-place blue of the class from which the grand champion was selected. If for any reason a champion or reserve champion that has been selected is not eligible for sale, a champion or reserve champion will be selected from those animals eligible for sale, for sale purposes only.</p> <p>In the instance an exhibitor has animals chosen as both the grand and reserve grand market animal within one species, the individual can sell both the grand champion and the reserve champion animal. They will not be eligible to sell any other animals or a dairy sponsorship if they choose to sell both champion animals.</p>
Exhibitor Presence	The Waushara County Fair Association requires that “animals must be shown by the exhibitor in order to receive a premium and placing.” Market animal and dairy sponsorship project members are also required to present their animal in the sale ring during the auction. If an extreme circumstance arises (i.e.- funeral), the executive committee can make a determination if the individual’s animal can be sold without the member being present during the auction.
Animal Management & Care/Exhibitor Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals must be easily managed by the exhibitor otherwise they will be disqualified from the show and sale. After the sale, care of the animal continues to be the responsibility of the exhibitor until release time on Sunday. This includes full responsibility for cleaning stalls or cages and feeding animals. Project members and animals must respect proper show attire during both the show and sale. Animals must be presented show ready during both the show and sale. Stall/neck straps must be used on all beef animals when penned.
Terminal Show and Processors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All beef, sheep and swine going through the auction must be shipped to one of the processors approved by the livestock committee prior to the fair.
Shipping of Non-sale Animals	<p>Only approved processors can be used for non-sale animals. Not applicable to dairy.</p> <p>The processing of small animals is coordinated between the seller and the buyer.</p>
Resale of Animals Shipped for Resale	If an individual is interested in purchasing an animal that is being shipped for resale, the auction buyer’s consent must be given for the resale prior to the animal being resold.
Sale Commission & Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Livestock Committee will withhold a 4.5% sale commission for beef, sheep, swine and a 7% commission for dairy sponsorship, rabbit and poultry to offset costs of conducting the project and sale. Exhibitors graduating from 4-H will not have commission taken out of check. The following amounts will be deducted from each beef, hog, sheep per the National Check off Rules: <p>Beef - \$1/animal</p>

	<p>Swine - \$0.40/ \$100 gross market value. Sheep - \$0.42/animal and \$0.007/pound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set fee per animal sold maybe deducted from the exhibitors check for the presale luncheon - \$10.00 per animal. • If additional funds are needed, any of these costs may be increased at the discretion of the Livestock Executive Committee.
Buyer Recognition	<p>During the presale luncheon, exhibitors are encouraged to welcome their potential buyers and answer any questions they may have.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibitors must be present for picture taking with buyers immediately after the sale. • Exhibitors must send a written thank you to the purchaser of each animal/dairy sponsorship. Use of note cards is encouraged. Use of notebook type paper is not acceptable. A copy of the thank you letter/plaque/name plate must be sent out/delivered to buyer, and a copy provided to Extension Office by 9.15.26. If the deadline is not met by members, they will not be allowed to participate in following year's market sale. You will not receive your check until letter has been received by the buyer and payment from all buyers has been received.

Violations of any of the rules above are subject to sanctions, such as non-issuance of sale money and non-participation in the project for a designated number of years, as determined by the Waushara County Livestock Executive Committee.