

**2024-2025**  
**EMMET & CHARLEVOIX COUNTY**  
**4-H MARKET LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION RULES**

**A: MEMBERSHIP & CARE:**

1. Members must be between the ages of eight (8) and nineteen (19) as of January 1st.
  - Each animal is to be represented by one individual, registered 4-H market livestock member.
  - Participation for members ends at age 19 or as determined by the county the member is registered in - age determined as of January 1 of the program year. The exception will be for members with a handicap or disability. Their date of membership termination will be age 26. (Determined as of December 31st of the year in which they turn 26)
  - Large Beef exhibitors must be 12 years of age by January 1, 2025
  - All members have the option to attend 1 meeting via remote- platform, 2 are allowed for college students. This will count toward the 5-meeting requirement. The 4-H member planning to use remote-platform to join into the meeting must contact the recording secretary prior to start of the meeting to ensure credit is received. The members name will be written on sign in sheet by recording secretary and then an announcement is made during the secretary report who is joining via remote platform.
  
2. Members must meet the requirements below, to be eligible to show and sell their animals at the 2025 county fair:

**REQUIRED:**

- Five (5) scheduled meetings which includes required meetings of October or November (returning members) or March (new members) AND July or August. \*This rule is to ensure that members are informed of association activities.
- Attendance will be taken at each meeting. It is the members' responsibility to check in with the recording secretary before 7:15 pm to receive credit for attending the meeting.
- Returning members must complete and submit the "Market Livestock Enrollment Form" by the November Livestock meeting to participate in the market livestock program. New members must complete and submit the "Market Livestock Enrollment Form" by the February livestock meeting to participate in the market livestock program.
- Each member is required to submit a contract for the species they will be showing.
- Each member is required to participate in one fundraising activity.
- Each member is required to participate in two fair related work bees per association needs each year.
- Members must exhibit a record book for each animal exhibit to be eligible to participate in the fair.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- It is recommended that adults sign in for market livestock meetings.
  - It is recommended that members attend the barn meeting on Sunday of fair week following animals' arrival. The meeting is held after weigh-in is complete (12:30-1:00 pm) in the T-Barn.
3. All animals are to be ear tagged/banded/tattooed BEFORE contracts are turned in. Members are to have their completed contracts to their appropriate barn superintendent to review for completeness and then forwarded to the Association Secretary by the following deadlines: November meeting for large beef; May meeting for lambs, hogs, dairy feeder, Jr. beef and goats; the June meeting for rabbits, geese, ducks, and turkeys; July meeting chicken. The Secretary will then make & distribute copies for

the President, Vice President, Barn Superintendents, and 4-H staff by the last day of the month in which the contract was due.

4. Completed contracts must be submitted with color pictures and identifiable ear tags (include management tags and state ID – 840 RFID). These contracts will not be accepted without colored photos, ear notching is not acceptable animal identification. Completed contracts will contain the following information:

- Completed member information
- Address where animal is housed
- Animal ID information (840 RFID # for all beef), (State ID or 840 RFID for hogs), (Scrapies # or 840 RFID for sheep and goats, in their ear unless they are earless), (Leg Band # for poultry and waterfowl), (Tattoo # for rabbits). Tag numbers MUST be recorded completely and include any alpha and numeric characters.
- Sponsor Information
- **All required signatures (member, parent and leader)**
- Photo page (profile picture and headshot and readable (tag/band/tattoos))

Any change in tags/tag #'s after contracts are turned in must be communicated to the Association Secretary immediately and all tag information on livestock presented for fair exhibition must be consistent with the information listed on their market livestock contracts.

5. Large beef, dairy feeder and Jr. beef must be double tied in their stalls. When taken from their stalls, large beef, dairy feeder, and Jr. beef must be attended to at all times and be accompanied by the member's parent guardian or any registered adult 4-H leader as needed. In addition, a "nose-notch" halter is needed for control & safety.

6. Closed toe, leather boots are required footwear for all 4-H exhibitors and adults when they are in the show ring, the sale ring, the practice ring. Muck/rubber boots are acceptable for washing, feeding, mucking pens and barn duty. Small animal exhibitors are exempt from leather shoes while showing but must wear long sleeved shirts. No dangling jewelry (earrings, bracelets, necklaces) is to be worn when showing small animals. It is recommended that watches and rings be removed by exhibitors before showing small animals. Violation of these rules will result in dismissal from the show ring.

7. Unethical fitting and grooming of animals are prohibited. Unethical fitting means to alter or change the natural appearance or conformation in an unnatural or artificial manner. Examples below are prohibited-

Altering the animals appearance by cutting, tearing, or removing tissue or body parts. Except for required dehorning and castration procedures.

Artificial means of adding, removing or remedying, physical defects and/or conformation in 4-H exhibits including but not limited to using foreign substances: Injecting, inserting substances to change the animal's shape. This includes drenching and pumping of any kind, lifting and or filling under the skin.

Beating striking or pain inducing compounds or equipment to "fill" an area as a result of swelling or to tense muscles to feel firmer when handled by the judge.

Changing the natural color of the animal is prohibited (for example painting a white sock black). However, external applications of cosmetics or enhancements that affect only appearance may be used.

Additional foreign objects including but not limited to fake switches, fake hair, hemp fibers, or other like fibers, to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body is prohibited,

Exception to these rules is if a licensed veterinarian deems the need for treatment for the safety or wellbeing of the animal.

8. **MEMBER BARN DUTY:** All members need to sign up for their respective barn duties by the August livestock meeting. Any member shifts needing to be filled after that time will be made on an assignment basis the appropriate Barn Superintendents. Parents with children aged 10 and under are recommended to serve with their child for safety.
9. For any member who is absent from their barn duty assignment, will be required to complete another barn duty in addition to a fair week work task assigned by the adult President.
10. Unsafe and/or unhealthy conditions will be monitored and acted upon by at least 2 adult members of the Executive Board and the respective Barn Superintendent, who will contact the MSU 4-H Coordinator(s) who have the authority to approve or deny any animals' participation in the show ring or sale ring as it pertains to the safety of the exhibitors, spectators and other animals. Safety will be stressed at all times in accordance with the 4-H and Fair Code of Conducts and Market Livestock Association Rules.
11. Farm visits may be made by barn superintendents and may include other members of the Executive Board. Farm visits are made for providing educational resources to the exhibitor and to determine the compliance of the following issues and regulations:
  - a. Animal Health / Animal Growth
  - b. Housing Conditions
  - c. Feed & Grain Rations
  - d. Controllability and Training - member must be able to control their beef on a lead
  - e. Ear Tag Condition/ Presence
  - f. Scrapies / 840 RFID tag / tattoos or leg tags depending on species identification
  - g. Address any Dehorning or Castration issues

Additional farm visits may be made by the appropriate superintendents to follow up on any of the above-listed issues. It is highly encouraged that the member exhibiting the animal (s) and a parent/guardian be present during these farm visits, which will be coordinated at the convenience of the visiting team. If the exhibitors are unable to participate in the farm visit, then documentation signed by the member and parent stating the explanation why will be provided to the barn superintendent(s). Any concerns will be discussed and noted. Violations will be taken to the MSU 4-H Program Coordinator(s) to discuss and may create a corrective action plan before being able to exhibit at the county fair. Safety, Biosecurity (MSU/MDARD rules), and animal welfare will be stressed at all times.

## **B: ANIMAL SPECIFICATIONS:**

1. Members may exhibit no more than 3 projects.

Combinations may include:

- 1 large animal and 1 medium animal
- 1 large animal, 1 medium animal and 1 small animal pen
- 1 large animal and up to 2 small animal's pens
- 2 medium animals
- 2 medium animals and 1 small animal pen

- 1 medium animal and 2 small animal's pens
- 3 small animal pens
- Large animals are large beef projects
- Medium animals are swine, lambs, junior beef, or dairy feeders, and goats
- Small animals are pens of turkeys, ducks, chickens, geese, and rabbits.

Alternate animals can only be registered at the ratio of one (1) alternate animal for each project animal registered.

If an exhibitor brings all animals registered on their contract to the fair, the alternates are to be returned to the home farm. These "extra" animals cannot be last minute entries in animal husbandry classes, as the Animal Husbandry registration date is in May. The animals can only be exhibited in open class if there is a class for that animal, housing is available and pre-approved by barn superintendents.

## 2. SPECIES SPECIFICATIONS:

- All USDA rules take precedence over all Market Livestock rules.
- An animal may be sent home at the veterinarian's discretion
- Signs of contagious, infectious, or toxicological disease may result in the animal being sent home.
- Veterinarian (or Weigh Master) may require a member to wash and dry their animal prior to crossing the scale if they are excessively dirty in order to get an accurate assessment on weight or health.

**LARGE BEEF (Large):** May be a steer or heifer; Male cattle must be castrated; All must be dehorned; Scurs and horns under ½" in length are acceptable; Disclose on contract & fair poster if heifer is a freemartin.

**DAIRY FEEDER:** May be heifer or steer and must be a full dairy breed; Male cattle must be castrated; All Dairy Feeder calves must be dehorned. Scurs and horns under ½" in length are acceptable. Approved dairy breeds: Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, and Ayrshire. Exhibitors must disclose on their contracts and stall posters if their project is a free martin.

**JR. BEEF:** May be a steer or heifer and must be a beef breed; must be dehorned and castrated. Scurs and horns under 1/2" in length are acceptable. Exhibitors must disclose on their contracts and stall posters if their projects are free martins.

**LAMBS:** May be either whether or ewe. All lambs must be shorn prior to arrival at fair, no leg wraps or coats will be allowed to be worn while weighing in, slinkies/tube/sleeves are allowed while weighing in. Lamb tail dock must not be scooped. Any animal that prolapses may be required to leave the fairgrounds immediately.

**SWINE:** May be either barrow or gilt.

**GOATS:** May be does or wethers. They must have scrapies tags in their ear (unless earless breed), must have milk teeth, and be dehorned. Goats must be a meat breed (examples Boer, Kiko).

SMALL ANIMALS: May be any of the following pens: Meat chickens (2 per caged pen) Geese (2 per caged pen), Turkeys (2 per caged pen), Meat rabbits (2 per caged pen), Ducks (2 per caged/pen) \*Pens are encouraged to be same sex, variety (color), and breed.

### 3. RECOMMENDED Birthdates or hatch dates

- Large Beef- born on or after January 1, 2024
- Dairy Feeder- born on or after January 1, 2025
- Swine- born on or after January 1, 2025
- Lambs- born on or after January 1, 2025
- Jr. Beef- born on or after January 1, 2025
- Goats- born on or after Dec 1, 2024
- Chickens- hatched on or after June 15, 2025
- Turkeys- hatched on or after April 1, 2025
- Geese- hatched on or after April 1, 2025
- Ducks- hatched on or after April 1, 2025
- Rabbits- born on or after May 1, 2025

4. Upon arrival at the fairgrounds, all T-Barn animals are to remain on the truck/trailer until they are vet checked. Only healthy, tagged animals will be allowed to be exhibited at the fair. In addition, the member or parent/guardian must accompany the animal from the weigh-in location to the assigned stall/pen. Small animals must go to the small animal barn for health check.

\*If a member or parent/guardian is not present at weigh-in and unloading, the un-accompanied animal(s) will be placed in a holding area until the member, parent/guardian arrives. If the owner/exhibitor has not arrived by 12 noon, the member will be considered in violation of the rules. Their animal(s) will not be allowed to be placed on exhibit and will be required to leave the fairgrounds.

### 5. TESTING & PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS:

- \* All large beef, dairy feeder and jr. beef may be required to be tested for TB and receive a negative test result within 60 days prior to fair exhibition. These negative test results must be presented at weigh-in upon arrival to the fair or meet MDARD/MSU/Wildlife Risk Mitigation Requirements. Members exhibiting bovine should contact the MDARD at 1-866-870-5136 for premise ID number.
- \* Large Beef, dairy feeder and jr. beef must have RFID tags. Producers can call Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at 1-866-870-5136 to receive their National Premises Registration Number and place orders for RFID tags.
- \* In addition, transportation to the fair may require a movement permit from the MDARD and must accompany the animal to the fair. It is recommended that you call the MDARD at least a week prior to the fair.
- \* All sheep and goats must have scrapies or 840 RFID Tag in ear (unless earless breed)
- \* All swine must have State ID tags; NUES, 840 RFID Tag

- \* All poultry must meet MDARD testing requirements to be eligible for exhibition and sale. All birds must be pullorum tested at the fair.
- \* Additional testing may be required by MDARD prior to Fair- Exhibitors at state, county, and district fairs (along with other livestock exhibitions, expositions, and shows) are required to comply with all the statutory and regulatory provisions of the State of Michigan relating to animal health outlined in the Animal Industry Act, 1988 PA 466, MCL 287.701-287.747.

**6. RECOMMENDED STARTING WEIGHTS:**

- A. Beef 600 lbs. by November 1, 2024
- B. Dairy Feeder 90 lbs. by April 1, 2025
- C. Swine 60 lbs. by May 1, 2025
- D. Lambs 60 lbs. by May 1, 2025
- E. Jr. Beef 150 lbs. by May 1, 2025
- F. Goats 40 lbs. by May 1, 2025

**7. RECOMMENDED FINISHING WEIGHTS:**

- A. Beef 1050 - 1,350 lbs.
- B. Dairy Feeder 300 – 400 lbs.
- C. Swine 250 – 280 lbs.
- D. Lambs 120 – 140 lbs.
- E. Jr. Beef 300-500 lbs.
- F. Goats 80-120 lbs.

**8. REQUIRED MINIMUM FINISHING WEIGHTS:**

- A. Beef 1050 lbs.
- B. Dairy Feeder 275 lbs.
- C. Swine 230 lbs.
- D. Lambs 115 lbs.
- E. Jr. Beef 300 lbs.
- F. Goats 75 lbs.
- G. Meat Chickens 4 lbs. each
- H. Geese 8 lbs. each
- I. Turkey 16 lbs. each
- J. Ducks 4 lbs. each
- K. Rabbits 4 lbs. each

## 9. REQUIRED MAXIMUM FINISHING WEIGHTS:

- A. Beef 1500 lbs.
- B. Dairy Feeder 550 lbs.
- C. Hogs 325 lbs.
- D. Lambs 160 lbs.
- E. Jr. Beef 550 lbs.
- F. Goats 130 lbs.
- G. There are no maximum weights for small animals as they are sold by pens and not by weight.

## C. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT:

1. Members must exhibit a record book for each animal exhibit to be eligible to participate in the fair. Market small animal exhibitors must complete a market record book for each pen they exhibit, not each animal. Record books are to be completed and turned into the club leader prior to when record books are due to be judged on Sunday of fair week. The leader will then review the books, make comments and sign the books. Members are responsible to turn in their books to the Barn 2 check-in table by 6:00 pm of the Sunday of animal weigh-in day.
2. All barn posters must be completed and hung by 7:00 pm on Sunday. Must include emergency contact information. Members who don't have their posters up will be required to complete an age-appropriate community service task as determined by the barn superintendent.
3. All animals must be fed, watered, pens cleaned and area around the pens before 9:00 am daily, and check again before 9:00pm. If the livestock member does not comply with this rule. Each occurrence will require them to complete a fair week work task assigned by Adult President.
4. Final cleaning and tear down is on the last Sunday of the fair.
5. Members are responsible for the removal of their personal equipment and ribbons by 10pm on Saturday night. Posters must remain hanging for livestock identification/hauling purposes and can't be removed until haul out is completed.
6. Members must compete in the showmanship and market classes to participate in the livestock auction.
7. Members must show their own animals in the showmanship and market classes; the exception being a member having two animals in the same weight class, the member may find a co-showman. Co-showman must be a registered 4-H member.
8. Exhibitors must accompany their animal (s) into the show and sale rings. If an exhibitor is not present or is unable to participate in the auction, a written request to be excused must be presented to the appropriate superintendent prior to sale day. The request must specify why the exhibitor will be absent and specify who the alternate auction day exhibitor will be.
9. Members are to become involved in the promotion of the auction prior to and including fair week by contacting at least two (2) buyers for each project.
10. A commission will be deducted from the sale price of each project to cover the advertising and operational expenses of the livestock program. All sales are final. The commission funds will be divided as follows: 2.5 % will go the livestock association and 1% will go to the Emmet County

livestock fund, managed by the Emmet County Controller's office, for maintenance of and improvements to the T-barn. If the 1% commission is no longer required by the county, the commission monies will be used by the livestock association for equipment and supplies specific to the livestock program.

11. Underweight animals may be shown in their respective showmanship classes but are ineligible for participation in market classes or for sale through the live auction. The sale of underweight animals must go through the treasurer, be bought and paid for by Friday at 10am and a commission will be deducted as it is with market animals. All paperwork on the sale of these animals must be turned into the hauling committee chairman.

In addition, overweight animals can be shown in showmanship and market classes. For the auction program, however, the weight of the animal will be listed as the maximum allowed by the association rules and buyers will only be responsible for paying the price per pound of that maximum allowed weight.

12. Animal husbandry and open class animals are not to be sold on the fairgrounds. The market livestock association is not responsible for the trucking of any animal husbandry animals that exhibitors want sent to processors. As these are breeding stock animals, they should return home, and any off-site trucking arrangements are between the animal's owners and any private, non-association contracted truckers. Any Animal Husbandry, open class, or unsold underweight animal that is being sent from the fair to a processor must have association paperwork and will be charged \$10.00 per head to cover transportation paperwork. Animals not sold through the Market Livestock Auction will not be given processor preference over auction animals. If space is available, we will try to accommodate specific processor requests. It is recommended that those animals go home, and appointments be made after the fair.

13. Members and adult volunteers must wear proper attire as detail in the 4-H Code of Conduct. Any items advertising alcohol or tobacco products are not ever allowed. Closed toe leather boots / work boots or cowboy boots must be worn in the barn areas (while handling livestock), as well as in the show and sale ring, muck boots and rubber boots are acceptable when washing livestock. Long sleeved shirts must be worn by small animal showman.

14. Barn Superintendents have the responsibility and the authority to require any ring practice or animal evaluation for determining any handling, controllability, and safety issues pertaining to the exhibition of that animal. Failure to participate with their animal in ring practice will result in their forfeiting the opportunity to participate in the livestock shows as deemed by the species superintendent. In addition, MSU 4-H Program Coordinator(s) have the authority to remove any 4-H members who do not adhere to the fair week Code of Conducts.

In addition, Barn Superintendents are responsible for creating Market Weight Classes within their species. They will create these classes by weight and keep similar weights in the same classes. This may mean a member will need to have another member exhibit a project, if they have two projects in the same weight class. Barn Superintendents will also set up sale order for their species. If the species awards placings 1- 5, those placings will start the sale order. We then start with weight Class A and select the first place. If a first place in any class already appears in the sale order, the weight class is skipped until all firsts are included in the sale order; then the second places beginning in weight Class A will be added using the same process. The process repeats until the sale order is complete.

15. It is highly encouraged that parents attend all membership meetings. These meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month and begin at 7:00 pm. Exception: August meeting is usually held on the 1st Monday.



- It is especially important that parents attend these meetings:

#### September

- Voting

#### October & November

- Discussion and voting on by-laws take place.

#### November

- Returning parents and member need to sign enrollment forms
- Parents and members need to sign market beef contracts
- Committee sign-ups begin
- Budget is approved

#### January

- Meeting agenda with committee reports and other fair related items
- Year-long planning calendar handed out

#### February

- New parents and members need to sign enrollment forms

#### May

- Parents and members need to sign medium animal contracts

#### June

- Parents and members need to sign small animal contracts (excluding chickens)

#### July

- Parents and members need to sign small animal chicken contracts

#### July/August

- Fair week participation and fair week rules are discussed
- Code of Conduct statement is signed
- Member barn duty sign up
- Nominations for new executive board members
- Adult Executive Board work bee sign-up

- ❖ Members under 12 should be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all meetings

**16.** Members who have special needs (developmental, ADD/ADHD, etc.) may need to have an assistant with them during show and sale days to ensure they are ready and informed of the order in which they participate. In the instance that a member requires a parent/guardian to accompany them in the show ring, the adult is only to attend to that member.

**17.** All exhibitors and parents are responsible for knowing and abiding by the following:

- \* All health requirements are listed in the fair book.
- \* All rules pertaining to their exhibition, conduct and disciplinary actions as found in the fair book, Livestock Association rules, the 4-H Code of Conduct, and their County Code of Conduct.
- \* And that failure to comply with any of these rules may result in termination of contract and dismissal from the livestock program. Amendments to these rules may be made annually by the established Executive Board and adopted by the general membership. These changes or amendments must be made no later than the 3rd Monday in November that begins the project year.

APPROVED: October 21, 2024