

ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H MARKET BEEF PROJECT RULES

Membership

1. Allegan County 4-H Market Beef Projects are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status.
2. Youth must be at least 8 years old and not older than 19 years old as of JANUARY 1ST of the current year to be enrolled in the 4-H Market Beef Project
3. Youth must be enrolled BY FEBRUARY 15 in 4-HOnline in the beef project, paid their participation fees and in an Allegan County 4-H club to participate in 4-H Market Beef project activities and sell an animal at the 4-H Livestock Auction during the Allegan County Fair.

Project Animal(s)

1. 4-H Members must have their Project animal(s) tagged and in their possession by February 15th. Youth may tag 2 market beef (heifers &/or steers) - but bring only one to the fair. The member must be the owner of the project animal(s). Breed papers must be in the members name and shown at weigh in prior to Fair. Tag numbers must match registration papers. Dairy beef crosses or dairy animals are not allowed to show & sell as market beef.
2. All market beef animals MUST have a Michigan Mandatory RFID Tag. 4-H Leaders get plastic tags from the office – these are the tag numbers that need to be recorded on the Tag forms. The Plastic tag and the RFID tag **MUST** be in the animals ear on the tagging deadline of February 15
3. Family Tagging – The tag sheets are set up so that all 4-Hers in the same family are linked to all animals of that species in that family. (Example a Family has 3 youth enrolled in the 4-H market beef project. Since every youth can tag 2 the family can have a maximum of 6 beef animals. Giving the 3 youth the option of showing any one of them.)
4. 4-H members must work with their market beef projects becoming familiar with them by caring, fitting, and learning how to show their animals. 4-H members are responsible for their project animal's care. Each project animal must meet State Health guidelines.
5. 4-H members must be certified in Quality Assurance (as identified by the Allegan County 4-H Livestock Leaders) and a copy of the certificate turned in at the MSU Extension Office before July 1st.
6. 4-H members are encouraged to keep project records of their market animals. Notebooks can be a valuable resource for members if kept up over the years. Sample table of contents of notebooks along with general guidelines are available at the MSU Extension Office. 4-H Beef Notebooks can be displayed at the Fair in the Youth Exhibit Building. The class must be added onto the members entry form. Class 2952 under Department 72 – Youth Educational Projects – Youth Educational Miscellaneous Exhibits, Section 1 Vet Science and Animal Science.

Exhibition and Sale Rules

- A. Market beef need to be dehorned before the Fair; Market beef must be tied and shipped with a serviceable rope halter; Steers must weigh a minimum of 1000# to show and sell at the fair.
- B. Exhibitors must declare what 2 species they are selling on their entry form on August 10th and again at weigh in.
- C. Weight Classes for market animals will be determined by superintendents after weight in.

- D. A market animal that doesn't make weight (either below minimum or above maximum) may reweigh ONE time at the end of the species weigh in. If the animal doesn't make weight at this time it will be sent home.
- E. An animal change due to injury or death of animal may be made up to the day of the show (the animal must be one of those tagged for the Family).
- F. It is the member's responsibility to prepare his/her animal for show. Members may be assisted in grooming by another Allegan County 4-H member, immediate family member and/or Allegan County 4-H Leader.
- G. 4-H Members must show their own animals. Livestock youth must show in showmanship in order to sell livestock. Members showing beef, sheep or swine market and breed animals must use their market animal in showmanship class. Exceptions are in the Club herd class or when a member has another animal in another class at the same time (ex. 2 pigs in same weight class) The member should notify Superintendent of this and the Superintendent shall make arrangements.
- H. All Champions must sell. Champion animals do not count toward the two species limit at sale. Animals declared as no sale at scale and do not become champions do not sell.
- I. The 4-H Livestock Auction is held Wednesday in the Show Arena. All clubs are asked to help set up the Rumery Arena on Tuesday night before the auction. Each family is asked to bring wrapped cookies for the refreshments on auction day. The Sale order rotates from year to year and is listed in the current Fair premium book. Following the sale of the Grand Champion the order of the Auction Sale Bill will be determined as follows: Reserve Champion(s) will be listed first, then the species top showman, followed by all remaining animals listed at random.
- J. In the case of fraud or deception discovered the animal(s) in question will not be permitted to sell in the 4-H Market Livestock sale.
- K. A commission fee will be determined by the Allegan County 4-H Livestock Leaders and deducted from the sale price of the 4-H member's animal. The commission fee covers expenses of the auction and 4-H Livestock program.

Dress Code for shows and auction - The 4-H Livestock Leaders policy for appropriate dress for 4-H members showing beef, sheep and swine:

- 1. Dress neatly. Wear a short or long sleeved collared type shirt tucked into clean not ripped jeans or show pants. Wear a belt for neatness. Jewelry that makes noise or interferes with handling the animal should be avoided.
- 2. Leather or safety boots/shoes must be worn for safety and appearance reasons.
- 3. From Fair premium book: Youth may not wear clothing which display a farm name, breed association, or title or award won by youth. The member may wear clothing which represents membership in a 4-H or FFA club/chapter

RATE OF GAIN

- 1. 4-H members interested in competing for Rate of gain must indicate so on the Market Beef Tag sheet and include a copy of a certified weight slip with tag sheet.
- 2. Using the weight slip given at the Fair for weigh in the member calculates the "rate of gain" in lbs per day.
- 3. The written calculations are presented to the Clerks table during the Youth Beef Show at the Fair. Calculations are checked and premium and ribbons will be awarded accordingly.