

2025-2026
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, 2026
 - 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 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 2026 County fair:

REQUIRED:

- 4-H Members must attend at least Five (5) scheduled meetings which includes required meetings of October or November (returning members) or March (new members) AND July or August of the program year. *This rule is to ensure that members are informed of association activities.
- 4-H members must sign up for two (2) of the fair related work bees based on the association's needs.
- 4-H Members must complete one (1) Association fundraiser during the year as needed by the association to be eligible to show and sell their animals at the county fair.
- 4-H Member must be actively participate in 1 committee.
- In addition, returning members must attend either the October or November fall membership meetings to review and/or approve the rules and by-laws. New members must attend a meeting in March outside of the March membership meeting to review rules and by-laws. All (returning and new) members must also attend either the July or August pre-fair meetings to receive information relating to their fair week participation.
- Attendance will be taken at each meeting. It is the members' responsibility to check in with the recording secretary before 7:15 pm and stay until adjournment of the meeting 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.
Returning 4-H members must be registered in 4-H online in either Emmet or Charlevoix County by December 1st.
- Each member is required to submit a contract for the species they will be showing.

- Members must exhibit a record book for each animal exhibit to be eligible to participate in the Market Livestock classes in the fair and receive a passing score of a minimum C Ribbon as noted on the record book score sheet.

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 species 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, species 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. 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 number for all beef), (State ID or 840 RFID for hogs), (Scrapies number or 840 RFID for sheep and goats, in their ear unless they are earless), (Leg Band number for poultry and waterfowl), (Tattoo number 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 number(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 with a halter and neck tie for safety. Rope halters must not be sliding ring "breaking" halters. 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.

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.

MEMBER BARN DUTY: All members should 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 species superintendent(s). Parents with children aged 10 and under are recommended to serve with their child for safety.

8. For any member absent from their barn duty assignment, they will be required to complete another barn duty in addition to a fair week work task assigned by the adult President. It is at the discretion of the species superintendents if another fair task needs to be assigned for late arrivals to duty.
9. Unsafe and/or unhealthy conditions will be monitored and acted upon by at least 2 adult members of the Executive Board and the respective species 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.
10. Farm visits by species superintendent(s) and/or board member(s) are required per species contracts, farm visit waivers are available upon request. Farm visits are 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 species 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 species 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; Exhibitors must disclose on their contract and stall poster if heifer is a freemartin. Must have 840 RFID tag.

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 heifer is a free martin. Must have 840 RFID tag.

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 heifer is a free martin. Must have 840 RFID tag.

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. Must have scrapies number or 840 RFID tag.

SWINE: May be either barrow or gilt. Must have State ID, NUES, or 840 RFID tag.

GOATS: May be does or wethers (excluding Boer Does (Horns)) They must have scrapies tags in their ear (unless earless breed), must have milk teeth, and be dehorned. Scurs and horns under 1/2" in length are acceptable. Goats must be a meat breed (examples Boer, Kiko). All must have Scrapies number or 840 RFID tag (unless earless breed, refer to MDARD requirements for official neck strap or collar).

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. Rabbits must have Tattoos, Poultry and Waterfowl must have Leg Bands.

3. RECOMMENDED Birthdates or hatch dates

Large Beef- born on or after January 1, 2025

Dairy Feeder- born on or after January 1, 2026

Swine- born on or after January 1, 2026

Lambs- born on or after January 1, 2026

Jr. Beef- born on or after January 1, 2026

Goats- born on or after Dec 1, 2025

Chickens- hatched on or after June 15, 2026

Turkeys- hatched on or after April 14, 2026

Geese- hatched on or after April 1, 2026

Ducks- hatched on or after April 14, 2026

Rabbits- born on or after May 1, 2026

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:

- Parents/Guardians can call Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at **888-565-8626** to receive their National Premises Registration Number and place orders for RFID tags. 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 based on MDARD requirements by County. These negative test results must be presented at weigh-in upon arrival to the fair or meet MDARD/MSU/Wildlife Risk Mitigation Requirements.
- 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, 2025
- B. Dairy Feeder 90 lbs. by April 1, 2026
- C. Swine 60 lbs. by May 1, 2026
- D. Lambs 60 lbs. by May 1, 2026
- E. Jr. Beef 150 lbs. by May 1, 2026
- F. Goats 40 lbs. by May 1, 2026

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 290 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 175 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 and receive a passing score of a minimum C ribbon as noted in the record book score sheet. 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 species 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 are on the last Sunday of the fair, every member is required to check in and check out with the Record Secretary.
5. Set up for the fair, every member is required to check in and check out with the Record Secretary.
6. 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.
7. Members must compete in the showmanship and market classes to participate in the livestock auction.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
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 detailed in the 4-H Code of Conduct. Any items advertising alcohol, tobacco products, or inappropriate language or images 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. Members with disabilities that need accommodation to have a successful show experience notify the 4-H coordinator so arrangements can be made.

15. 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.

D. MEETINGS

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 and end on or before 8:30 pm. The Sept, Oct, Nov, May, June and July meetings will not be adjourned until the Bylaws & Rules, all enrollment forms / contracts are reviewed for completeness and approved, and elections are finalized. Exception: No meeting in December, and August meeting is usually held on the 1st Monday.

- September
 - ◆ fair week review and election of new board officers
- October
 - ◆ Review of Bylaws & Rules and approval
 - ◆ Review of membership enrollment form & large beef contracts
 - ◆ Committee sign-ups
- November
 - ◆ Continuation of review of bylaws & rules if needed
 - ◆ Review of medium and small animal contracts
 - ◆ Submit completed and signed member enrollment forms
 - ◆ Submit market large beef contracts
 - ◆ Committee sign-ups
 - ◆ Budget review and approval
- December – No meeting
- January – Held on ZOOM (No in person meeting)
 - ◆ Committee reports
 - ◆ Fair preparation
- February – Held on ZOOM (No in person meeting)
 - ◆ New parents/members need to submit member enrollment forms
- May
 - ◆ Parents/members need to submit medium animal contracts

- June
 - ◆ Parents/members need to submit small animal contracts (excluding chickens)
 - July
 - ◆ Parents/members need to submit chicken contracts
 - ◆ Register in Fair Entry online
 - ◆ Fair week participation and fair week rules are discussed.
 - ◆ Code of Conduct statement is signed.
 - ◆ Member barn duty sign up
 - August
 - ◆ Fair week participation and fair week rules are discussed.
 - ◆ Code of Conduct statement is signed.
 - ◆ Member and adult barn duty sign up.
- Members under 12 should be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all meetings
 - Cancellation of an in-person meeting will be made by the following adult officers: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. If an in-person meeting is cancelled, the meeting will be held via Online platform. The membership will be notified by either Facebook, email, phone call, or text message. If forms or contracts are due at the canceled meeting, they are to be mailed to the association secretary at the address listed below:

Sheryl Thayer
3100 E. Levering Rd.
Levering, MI 49755

Or emailed to: sherylkthayer@icloud.com

E. EXECUTIVE BOARD DUTIES

- Fair week adult executive board meeting will be held on Thursday at 10:00 am on the fairgrounds. The purpose of this meeting will be to review any and all fair week issues and discuss sportsmanship awards. Additional meetings may be called if necessary.
- Species 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, species 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. species 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 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.

F. FINANCIALS

- 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 to 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.
 - All expenditures, over \$250.00 and not included in the association budget, need to be submitted to the general members for approval prior to payment. Written documentation of the proposal with the bid amount, layout, and design must be discussed & approved by the board before being voted on at the general membership meeting.
 - All expenditures require an invoice to be sent to the adult treasurer or a detailed receipt to be reimbursed by them.
 - All bills shall be paid by check signed by the adult association treasurer or signatory on account.
 - The youth treasurer will present the monthly treasurer report at each meeting that is compiled by the adult treasurer of all transactions, accounts payable and deposits made.
 - A yearly budget will be submitted by the executive board at the November meeting.
- 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 20, 2025