



2026 JACKSON COUNTY 4-H BEEF PROJECT EXPECTATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendents:

MERSHELL COOK
(517) 206-5066
beefdna24@gmail.com

LUKE BAKER
(517) 745-8666

STEVE MCMURTRIE
(517) 795-8992

Important Dates for the 2026 Jackson County Fair

Date	Event
Monday, February 2nd - Friday, February 6th by 5:00 p.m. Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m. MSU Extension Office 1715 Lansing Ave, Ste 257 Jackson, MI	DNA, Google Forms and Pictures Drop Off BY 5 P.M Friday February 6th: - DNA must be brought to the Jackson MSU Extension Office - Pictures may be brought in with DNA or emailed to beefdna24@gmail.com -Google form link- 2026 Beef Pre Fair Check In Form *REMEMBER MUST have RFID TAG NUMBER ON FORM, DNA AND PICTURES
Saturday, April 18th Time: 9 a.m. -11 a.m. Where: Napoleon Livestock 6810 Brooklyn Rd. Jackson, MI	Rate of Gain Only for animal(s) that want to show for the Rate of Gain at the fair need to come. Will be weighed and tagged
June TBA	FAIR ENTRY & LIVESTOCK GATE PASS DUE
Sunday, July 26th Time: 10 a.m. Where: Jackson County Fairgrounds	Gate/Rail Set Up/Barn Clean Up -All clubs/families need to bring your gates to set up -No tack or decorations are to be brought in at this time as sanitation will happen after gate set up
Saturday, August 8th Time: 1-4 p.m. Where: Jackson Co. Fairgrounds	Fair Check In -Do not unload your animal(s) until it's your turn in line - Make sure each animal has a RFID tag in ear & are clean - Bring your YQCA certificate with you or email it before to beefdna24@gmail.com
Monday, August 10th Time: 2 p.m.	Beef Show - Show order is listed later in packet - Class lists will be put up Sunday morning and changes will need to be brought to one of the superintendents by Monday morning at 9 am
Thursday, August 13th Lunch starts at 12:30 p.m.	Livestock Auction
Saturday, August 15th	Decoration Tear Down - Begins at 10 p.m. NOT earlier Load Out Begins at 11 p.m. AUCTION animals will be first -The 4-H member or family member need to be at their animal's pen and bring animal when called to load on trailer and collect their halter

PROJECT INFORMATION

- Market beef projects must be in your **possession by February 1** of the current fair calendar year.
 - Google Forms w/RFID # DNA and pictures are **due by Friday February 6th, 2026 at 5pm**. All Cattle MUST have a RFID tag in ear.
- Feeder calf project must be in your **possession by June 1** of the current fair calendar year.
 - Google Forms w/RFID # and pictures are **due by the FIRST Friday of June at 5pm (June 5th)**. All Cattle MUST have a RFID tag in ear.
- Rate of Gain tagging and weigh in will be held at Napoleon Livestock 6810 Brooklyn Rd. Jackson, MI 49201. (This is not mandatory. Only if you want to compete in the rate of gain class at the fair).
- YQCA certificate is **mandatory!** YQCA can be done online or in person, link and times TBA.
- For Saturday night load out of auction animals the 4-H member or family member is to be at their animal's pen and bring the animal when called to load on the trailer and collect your halter.

BARN RULES

- Walkways/aisleways must be kept free of clutter and swept.
- Stalls and club areas must be cleaned by **9:00 AM daily**.
- Animals need to be clean and fed by **9:00 AM daily**.
- Clean up manure throughout the day, each day.
- Tack and feed need to be kept in your assigned space—no tack or personal items in the walkway/aisleways.
- Both a neck rope and halter must be on all market beef, feeders, and heifers.
- No flip-flops or open-toe shoes in the barn while working/walking cattle.
- Be kind and courteous to your fellow neighbors
- No crockpots or any other food cooking appliances allowed in the barn

SHOW ATTIRE

- No open-toed shoes or flip-flops of any kind!
- Nice long sleeve shirt that's long enough to tuck in.
- Nice clean jeans with no holes or rips.
- No low-cut tops!
- No baseball caps!

AUCTION

- All pens are to be cleaned out totally and new bedding put down **by 9 AM** that morning.
- Each participant should help set up the arena and help serve the auction dinner.
- You need to be ready with your animal, clean and dry, and be in line when your name is called.
- All champions must go through the auction! If you choose to pull your animal out of the auction (except champions), you must notify the superintendents **by 9 AM** of the following morning after the beef show.

SHOWMANSHIP

- Showmanship is NOT mandatory. Please still work with your animal to assure you can show that animal in your market class. Safety for you and all others is our number one priority. If your animal gets away from you twice it will be tied to the show ring rail for the duration of your class.
- **Cloverbuds** will take place on **Tuesday** of fair week. Time TBA, will be later in the day. This will allow all cloverbud species to participate in one day.

SHOW DAY- SHOW ORDER

BREEDING STOCK

SHOWMANSHIP: SENIOR AGES 16-19 YRS

SHOWMANSHIP: INTERMEDIATE AGES 12-15 YRS

SHOWMANSHIP: JUNIOR AGES 8-11 YRS

CHAMPION OVERALL SHOWMAN

DAIRY FEEDER CALVES – 250LB TO 750LB

BEEF FEEDER CALVES – 250LB TO 750LB

CHAMPION DAIRY AND BEEF FEEDER

BREAK (AS PER JUDGES DISCRETION)

HOMEGROWN MARKET DAIRY – 900LB MINIMUM WEIGHT

MARKET DAIRY- 900LB MINIMUM WEIGHT

HOMEGROWN MARKET BEEF- 900LB MINIMUM WEIGHT

MARKET BEEF – 900LB MINIMUM WEIGHT

AFTER CHAMPION SELECTION BEST 3 HEAD FROM EACH CLUB

Please read the Bylaws posted on the Jackson County Extension Office website for the most current Bylaws and Jackson County 4-H Livestock rules.