

Otsego County 4-H Market Livestock Program Guidelines

Animals in the 4-H program need to be properly cared for. Learning how to properly care for animals, of course, is one of the reasons people participate in the 4-H animal projects.

In all fairness to the animals, 4-Hers, buyers, and to the reputation of the program, we need to do all we can to ensure that 4-H animals receive adequate care. If a 4-H youth has a problem with their feeding program and asked for help. The Extension staff will be willing to assist in every reasonable manner to help the youth correct the problem.

How do I prepare for the Otsego County Fair?

Your 4-H Extension Staff, 4-H Leader, and 4-H Livestock Committee will help provide the most current information to you. Please see the Otsego County Fair website for more information and current rules of the Otsego County Fair. The Otsego County Fair is an open fair.

Participants in the 4-H Market Livestock Program that plan on taking part in the Otsego County Fair's Youth Livestock Auction are required to show the animal they are marketing in showmanship. If they do not show in showmanship, they will not be allowed to sell their animal(s).

All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors are required to enter a **MANDATORY** Market Animal Project Record Sheet and received an A or B premium in order to sell their animal. Market Animal Project Record Sheet is provided by the Otsego County Fair. Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium.

All exhibitors should be Self-Sponsored. MSU does not support the practice of sponsorships from entities such as a business or private person. 4-H members must have a copy of a sponsor agreement, whether self-sponsored or otherwise on file with the **Otsego County Fair by June 15th.** A Market Livestock agreement is provided by the Otsego County Fair and is available on the Otsego County Fair's website. This agreement does not make Otsego County Fair liable to sponsor. It is required to facilitate sponsorship payment directly to sponsor by OCF if the animal is sold at the Otsego County Fair Youth auction. If a sponsor is not paid back as required by fair rules, the youth will not be eligible to market at the Otsego County Fair Youth Auction until proof of payment has been presented. Any further occurrences regarding repayment to sponsors will be a violation of the youth code of conduct.

If exhibitor has a sponsor, the parents/guardians and exhibitors are responsible for the sponsor fee if the project dies, is incomplete, or is not eligible for auction. This is a new Otsego County Fair Rule. **The Otsego County 4-H program or Otsego County 4-H Council is not responsible for repayment of any kind to the youth or Sponsor.** If a 4-H member does not honor the agreement and fails to pay back the sponsor, he or she will not be eligible to market their animals using the 4-H name until said sponsor has been paid back.

A sponsor is a business or individual that lends a 4-H member money towards the purchase of their project animal. The amount lent is determined by species. 4-H members involved in the Sponsor Program have a responsibility to keep in contact with their sponsor. Let your sponsor know that you appreciate them; after all, you have your animal thanks to their generosity. Encourage your sponsor to come to the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction to see you and your animal and hopefully purchase your market animal project.

Each family is responsible for their own transportation arrangements.

Your 4-H Leader will help you decide what you need in terms of a tack box such as show sticks, brushes, halters, etc. You will need to bring your own feed and hay to the Fair. On judging day and Auction day, exhibitors should be dressed clean and neat, just as the animal should be well groomed. Please read Show Day and Auction Apparel.

During the Fair each member takes a turn keeping the aisles clean and watching the barn. ALL MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FEEDING AND CARING FOR THEIR OWN ANIMAL UNTIL THE CLOSE OF FAIR WEEK.

The buyer pays the Otsego County Fair for the animal purchased. The Otsego County Fair pays the sponsor for the loan, and takes out a small percent (currently 2.5%) to help cover the cost of the livestock auction, advertisements, etc. The remaining money will be paid to the exhibitor.

Any animal that does not make weight will not be sold through the auction. Any animal that is finished may be sold through private treaty after the auction or parents can pay back the agreement loan and take the animal home after the Fair.

Show Day & Auction Apparel

All show apparel should be clean and fit properly. It should be free of design and advertisements. This doesn't mean you have to spend a fortune on proper show attire. The following guidelines can be used when putting together a show outfit.

Poultry: Exhibitors should wear a white long-sleeved shirt and black pants or jeans. Some exhibitors choose a simple black tie to complete the look. Boots or enclosed shoes are required. Hair should be tied back neatly

Rabbits: Exhibitors should wear a white long-sleeved shirt and black pants or jeans. Some exhibitors choose a simple black tie to complete the look. Boots or enclosed shoes are required. Hair should be tied back neatly. A long white lab coat is appropriate while showing also.

Goats, Dairy, & Llama: Exhibitors should wear a white shirt, long sleeves are preferred with black pants or black jeans. White pants are still acceptable. Boots or enclosed toe shoes are required.

Sheep & Swine: A clean, neat white or conservative colored dress shirt, long sleeves are preferred, with black jeans or pants. Boots or enclosed shoes are required.

Beef: Members participating in beef can be a bit more creative. A long sleeve shirt is preferred. Western styles are acceptable, and a tie or vest can be added. Clean pants or jeans and boots or enclosed shoes are required.

These are guidelines for showmanship classes. The most important thing to remember about show apparel is that it fits properly, and it is clean and free of advertisements. Footwear requirement is a safety issue. No open toe or tennis shoes are permitted. For the wash rack or cleaning stalls, rubber boots are advised.

4-H Market Beef Rules

1. A member must be eleven (11) years old on or before January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. A 4-Her may be in the project and participate in the Otsego County Fair through the summer concluding his/her senior year of high school. This rule applies for the Otsego County Fair-not a 4-H rule.
3. Membership is limited to those who meet the age requirements and are capable of carrying out the project.
4. Members need to enroll or re-enroll in a 4-H Club by **November 1st** of current 4-H year.
5. Housing and facilities must be available, as each member is required to feed, care for, and train their own animal with guidance and assistance if necessary. Members are responsible for the proper feeding and care of their animal through the end of Fair week.
6. Each 4-H beef market member is allowed to show and sell only one Market beef project through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. Animals must weigh at least 900 lbs at weigh in to be sold through the OCF Youth Livestock Auction. Other animals may be raised and shown (such as beef heifers or feeder steers, etc.) in classes other than the Market Steer classes, but not sold at the OCF Youth Livestock Auction.
7. Participants of the OCF Market classes are required to participate in Showmanship for that animal species in order to participate in the OCF Youth Livestock Auction.
8. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors are required to enter a MANDATORY Market Animal Project Record Sheet and receive an A or B premium in order to sell their animal. Market Animal Project Record Sheet is provided by the Otsego County Fair. Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium.
9. The beef project animal must be a calf born January 1st or later of the previous year. Weight of the animal should average 550-650 lbs by December 1st depending on breed.
10. The loans for sponsored animals, which are not sold at the OCF Youth Livestock Auction, must be paid in full no later than 10 days after the Auction.
11. Project animals must be de-horned. Project animals must be steers.

12. All market beef projects require either a self-sponsored or sponsored agreement through the Otsego County Fair Office. The agreement is due to the Otsego County Fair office no later than June 15.

13. All beef market projects need to be in participant's possession by December 1st and ear tagged by December 15th with the tag provided by the MSU Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the 4-H family to complete this task. An ear tagger is available for overnight loan by the MSU Extension Office. **The 4-H Market Livestock Registration Form** along with side view picture of the market animal with tag in place must be turned into the 4-H Livestock Committee by December 15th. These pictures and information will be kept at the 4-H office as reference for the Otsego County Fair to verify animal if needed.

14. Animal replacement will not be allowed after January 1st of current 4-H year. If your project animal dies before this date, you must notify the MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator of your decision to replace the project animal or discontinue the project. If you decide not to replace your animal and have a sponsor, per sponsor agreement, you must pay your sponsor back immediately.

4-H Market Swine Rules

1. A member must be eight (8) years old on or before January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. A 4-Her may be in the project and participate in the Otsego County Fair through the summer concluding his/her senior year of high school. This rule applies for the Otsego County Fair-not a 4-H rule.
3. Membership is limited to those who meet the age requirements and are capable of carrying out the project.
4. New members need to enroll in a 4-H Club by May 1st of current 4-H year. Members re-enrolling must have been fully enrolled no later than November 1st.
5. **The required possession date is May 1 of the program year.** Project recommended starting weight is 60 pounds. Housing and facilities must be available, as each member is required to feed, care for, and train their own animal with guidance and assistance if necessary. Members are responsible for the proper feeding and care of their animal through the end of Fair week.
6. Each 4-H swine market member is allowed to show and sell only one Market swine project through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. Animals must weigh at least 200 lbs at weigh in to be sold through the OCF Youth Livestock Auction. Hogs over 300 lbs will sell at 300 lbs. Hogs that do not make weight may be sold at private treaty after the Youth Livestock Auction.
7. Participants of the OCF Market classes are required to participate in Showmanship for that animal species in order to participate in the OCF Youth Livestock Auction.
8. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors are required to enter a MANDATORY Market Animal Project Record Sheet and received an A or B premium in order to sell their animal. Market Animal Project Record Sheet is provided by the Otsego County Fair. Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium.
9. The swine project animal must be born after January 1st of the current 4-H year.

10. The loans for sponsored animals, which are not sold at the OCF Youth Livestock Auction, must be paid in full no later than 10 days after the Auction. There will be no auction commission assessed for these animals.

11. Hogs may be a barrow or gilt.

12. All market projects require either a self sponsored or sponsored agreement through the Otsego County Fair Office. A copy of this contract must be provided to the Otsego County 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st of the current 4-H year.

13. All market projects need to be ear tagged by June 1st with the tag provided by the MSU Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the 4-H family to complete this task. An ear tagger is available for overnight loan by the MSU Extension Office. **The 4-H Market Livestock Registration Form** along with side view picture of the market animal with tag in place must be turned into the 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st.

14. Animal replacement will not be allowed after June 1st of current 4-H year. If your project animal dies before this date, you must notify the MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator of your decision to replace the project animal or discontinue the project. If you decide not to replace your animal and have a sponsor, per Sponsor contract, you must pay your sponsor back immediately.

4-H Market Lamb Rules

1. A member must be eight (8) years old on or before January 1st of the current 4-H year.

2. A 4-Her may be in the project and participate in the Otsego County Fair through the summer concluding his/her senior year of high school. This rule applies for the Otsego County Fair-not a 4-H rule.

3. Membership is limited to those who meet the age requirements and are capable of carrying out the project.

4. New members need to enroll in a 4-H Club by May 1st of current 4-H year. Members' re-enrolling needs to be reenrolled by November 1st.

5. The required possession date is June 1st of the program year. Project recommended starting weight is 65 pounds. Housing and facilities must be available, as each member is required to feed, care for, and train their own animal with guidance and assistance if necessary. Members are responsible for the proper feeding and care of their animal through the end of Fair week.

6. Each 4-H lamb market member is allowed to show and sell only one Market lamb project through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. Animals must weigh at least 90 lbs at weigh in to be sold through the OCF Youth Livestock Auction. Lambs over 175 lbs will sell at 175 lbs. Lambs that do not make weight may be sold at private treaty after the Youth Livestock Auction.

7. Participants of the OCF Market classes are required to participate in Showmanship for that animal species in order to participate in the OCF Youth Livestock Auction.

8. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors are required to enter a MANDATORY Market Animal Project Record Sheet and received an A or B premium in order to sell their animal. Market Animal Project Record Sheet is provided by the Otsego County Fair. Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium.

9. The lamb project animal must be born after January 1st of the current 4-H year.
10. The loans for sponsored animals, which are not sold at the OCF Youth Livestock Auction, must be paid in full no later than 10 days after the Auction. There will be no auction commission assessed for these animals.
11. Lambs may be a wether or ewe.
12. All market projects require either a self-sponsored or sponsored agreement through the Otsego County Fair Office. A copy of this contract must be provided to the Otsego County 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st of the current 4-H year.
13. All market projects need to be ear tagged by June 1 with the tag provided by the MSU Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the 4-H family to complete this task. An ear tagger is available for overnight loan by the MSU Extension Office. A side view picture of the market animal with tag in place must be turned into the 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1.
14. Animal replacement will not be allowed after June 1st of current 4-H year. If your project animal dies before this date, you must notify the MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator of your decision to replace the project animal or discontinue the project. If you decide not to replace your animal and have a sponsor, per Sponsor contract, you must pay your sponsor back immediately.

4-H Market Feeder Calf Rules

1. A member must be eight (8) years old on or before January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. A 4-Her may be in the project and participate in the Otsego County Fair through the summer concluding his/her senior year of high school. This rule applies for the Otsego County Fair-not a 4-H rule.
3. Membership is limited to those who meet the age requirements and are capable of carrying out the project.
4. New members need to enroll in a 4-H Club by May 1st of current 4-H year. Members re-enrolling need to be reenrolled by November 1st.
5. The required possession date is May 1st of the program year. Project recommended starting weight is 200 pounds. Housing and facilities must be available, as each member is required to feed, care for, and train their own animal with guidance and assistance if necessary. Members are responsible for the proper feeding and care of their animal through the end of Fair week.
6. Each 4-H feeder calf market member is allowed to show and sell only one Market feeder calf project through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. Animals must weigh at least 350 lbs at weigh in to be sold through the OCF Youth Livestock Auction. Feeders over 500 lbs will **NOT** be allowed to sell at the Auction.
7. Participants of the OCF Market classes are required to participate in Showmanship for that animal species in order to participate in the OCF Youth Livestock Auction.

8. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors are required to enter a MANDATORY Market Animal Project Record Sheet and received an A or B premium in order to sell their animal. Market Animal Project Record Sheet is provided by the Otsego County Fair. Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium.
9. The Feeder Calf project animal must be born after January 1st of the current 4-H year.
10. The loans for sponsored animals, which are not sold at the OCF Youth Livestock Auction, must be paid in full no later than 10 days after the Auction. There will be no auction commission assessed for these animals.
11. Feeder calves may be either sex, (steers preferred) of any breed. Feeder calf must be dehorned.
12. All market projects require either a self-sponsored or sponsored **agreement** through the Otsego County Fair Office. A copy of this contract must be provided to the Otsego County 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st of the current 4-H year.
13. All market projects need to be ear tagged by June 1st with the tag provided by the MSU Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the 4-H family to complete this task. An ear tagger is available for overnight loan by the MSU Extension Office. **The 4-H Market Livestock Registration Form** along with side view picture of the market animal with tag in place must be turned into the 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st.
14. Animal replacement will not be allowed after June 1st of current 4-H year. If your project animal dies before this date, you must notify the MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator of your decision to replace the project animal or discontinue the project. If you decide not to replace your animal and have a sponsor, per Sponsor contract, you must pay your sponsor back immediately.

4-H Market Goat Rules

1. A member must be eight (8) years old on or before January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. A 4-Her may be in the project and participate in the Otsego County Fair through the summer concluding his/her senior year of high school. This rule applies for the Otsego County Fair-not a 4-H rule.
3. Membership is limited to those who meet the age requirements and are capable of carrying out the project.
4. New members need to enroll in a 4-H Club by May 1st of current 4-H year. Members reenrolling need to be reenrolled by November 1st.
5. The required possession date is June 1st of the program year. Project recommended starting weight is 45 pounds. Housing and facilities must be available, as each member is required to feed, care for, and train their own animal with guidance and assistance if necessary. Members are responsible for the proper feeding and care of their animal through the end of Fair week.
6. Each 4-H goat market member is allowed to show and sell only one Market goat project through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. Animals must weigh at least 55 lbs at weigh in to be sold through the OCF Youth Livestock Auction. Goats that do not make weight may be sold at private treaty after the Youth Livestock Auction.

7. Participants of the OCF Market classes are required to participate in Showmanship for that animal species in order to participate in the OCF Youth Livestock Auction.
8. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors are required to enter a MANDATORY Market Animal Project Record Sheet and received an A or B premium in order to sell their animal. Market Animal Project Record Sheet is provided by the Otsego County Fair. Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium.
9. The goat project animal must be born after January 1st of the current 4-H year.
10. The loans for Sponsored animals, which are not sold at the OCF Youth Livestock Auction, must be paid in full no later than 10 days after the Auction. There will be no auction commission assessed for these animals.
11. Goats may be a wether or doe.
12. All market projects require either a self-sponsored or sponsored agreement through the Otsego County Fair Office. A copy of this contract must be provided to the Otsego County 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st of the current 4-H year.
13. All market projects need to be ear tagged by June 1st with the tag provided by the MSU Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the 4-H family to complete this task. An ear tagger is available for overnight loan by the MSU Extension Office. **The 4-H Market Livestock Registration Form** along with side view picture of the market animal with tag in place must be turned into the 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st.
14. Animal replacement will not be allowed after June 1st of current 4-H year. If your project animal dies before this date, you must notify the MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator of your decision to replace the project animal or discontinue the project. If you decide not to replace your animal and have a sponsor, per Sponsor contract, you must pay your sponsor back immediately.

4-H Market Veal Rules

1. A member must be eight (8) years old on or before January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. A 4-Her may be in the project and participate in the Otsego County Fair through the summer concluding his/her senior year of high school. This rule applies for the Otsego County Fair-not a 4-H rule.
3. Membership is limited to those who meet the age requirements and are capable of carrying out the project.
4. New members need to enroll in a 4-H Club by May 1st of current 4-H year. Members reenrolling need to be reenrolled by November 1st.
5. The required possession date is May 1st of the program year. Project recommended starting weight is 70 pounds. Housing and facilities must be available, as each member is required to feed, care for, and train their own animal with guidance and assistance if necessary. Members are responsible for the proper feeding and care of their animal through the end of Fair week.
6. Each 4-H market veal member is allowed to show and sell only 1 Market veal project through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. Animals must weigh at least 175 lbs at weigh in to be sold

though the OCF Youth Livestock Auction. Veal max weight is 400 lbs. Veal calves that do not make weight may be sold at private treaty after the Youth Livestock Auction.

7. Participants of the OCF Market classes are required to participate in Showmanship for that animal species in order to participate in the OCF Youth Livestock Auction.
8. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors are required to enter a MANDATORY Market Animal Project Record Sheet and received an A or B premium in order to sell their animal. Market Animal Project Record Sheet is provided by the Otsego County Fair. Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium
9. The veal project animal must be born after January 1st of the current 4-H year.
10. The loans for Sponsored animals, which are not sold at the OCF Youth Livestock Auction, must be paid in full no later than 10 days after the Auction. There will be no auction commission assessed for these animals.
11. Veal can be either sex or any breed.
12. All market projects require either a self-sponsored or sponsored **agreement** through the Otsego County Fair Office. A copy of this contract must be provided to the Otsego County 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st of the current 4-H year.
13. All market projects need to be ear tagged by June 1st with the tag provided by the MSU Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the 4-H family to complete this task. An ear tagger is available for overnight loan by the MSU Extension Office. **The 4-H Market Livestock Registration Form** along with a side view picture of the market animal with tag in place must be turned into the 4-H Livestock Committee by June 1st.
14. Animal replacement will not be allowed after June 1st of current 4-H year. If your project animal dies before this date, you must notify the MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator of your decision to replace the project animal or discontinue the project. If you decide not to replace your animal and have a sponsor, per Sponsor contract, you must pay your sponsor back immediately.

4-H Market Small Animal Rules

1. A member must be eight (8) years old on or before January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. A 4-Her may be in the project and participate in the Otsego County Fair through the summer concluding his/her senior year of high school. This rule applies for the Otsego County Fair-not a 4-H rule.
3. Membership is limited to those who meet the age requirements and are capable of carrying out the project.
4. New members need to enroll in a 4-H Club by May 1st of current 4-H year. Members re-enrolling need to be re-enrolled by November 1st.
5. Housing and facilities must be available, as each member is required to feed, care for, and train their own animal with guidance and assistance if necessary. Members are responsible for the proper feeding and care of their animal through the end of Fair week.

6. Each 4-H small animal market member is allowed to show and sell only up to five Market small animal market pens, each to be a different species through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. Uniformity of sex, color, and weight within a pen is desirable. Market pens will be weighed in on entry day. Small Animal Market pens that do not make weight may be sold at private treaty after the Youth Livestock Auction.
7. Participants of the OCF Market classes are required to participate in Showmanship for that animal species in order to participate in the OCF Youth Livestock Auction.
8. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors are required to enter a MANDATORY Market Animal Project Record Sheet and received an A or B premium in order to sell their animal. Market Animal Project Record Sheet is provided by the Otsego County Fair. Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium.
9. The small animal market pens may not be split for the auction. Small animals are sold as a unit. Animals must be a meat breed or will be disqualified and not allowed to sell at auction.
10. All small animal market projects require Intent to sell contract through the Otsego County Fair Office. The 4-H small animal market registration form is due to Otsego County 4-H Livestock Committee by June 15 of the current 4-H year.
11. Chickens-
Pen of 3 roasters 8-16 weeks old. Minimum combined weight of 18lbs
12. Turkeys
One roaster 16-19 weeks old with a minimum weight of 16 lbs.
One roaster 20-24 weeks old with a minimum weight of 24 lbs
Heritage breeds turkey minimum weight of 16 lbs.
13. Ducks & Geese
Pen of 3 ducks 3-6 months old with minimum combined weight of 15 lbs
Pen of 3 geese 3-6 months old with a minimum combined weight of 30 lbs
14. Rabbits-Pen of 3 fryers 8-12 weeks old. No minimum weight but must be meat breed.