

Date: March 10, 2022

To: All 4-H Beef/Dairy Beef Market, and Feeder Steer Project Members and Leaders

From: Autumn Converse, 4-H Program Coordinator

Re: 2022 Updates

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2022 fair season within the beef department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSUE office at 269-467-5521. Please note that the information contained in this letter is subject to change.

- **Market Beef and Dairy Beef Weigh-In and Tagging:** All market steers, market heifers, dairy market steers, and carcass beef animals must be weighed and tagged on **Saturday, March 26th** from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds.
- **Feeder Calf Tagging:** Countywide tagging and weigh-in dates will be **Tuesday, June 7 or Thursday, June 9** at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Feeder calves must attend one of these.
- **Family Tagging:** Beef exhibitors may participate in “family” tagging. Each family member must indicate on their registration form if they are participating in “family” tagging.
- **Ownership of beef animals:** Each 4-H member must remain in possession of their beef animals after tagging and must house their animal(s) within a 25 mile radius of members home address. If an animal is determined to be housed over the 25 mile radius of the members home address and is in violation determined by the beef superintendent or by MSUE staff, that animal will be disqualified for exhibition at the St. Joseph County Fair.
- More information to come about live carcass weigh-in/evaluations and allowable times to set up equipment, bedding, and tack.
 - Carcass animals **MUST** be broke to lead or will be disqualified at the discretion of the Beef Superintendent and or MSU Extension staff.
- **Beef Carcass hanging evaluation contest** date is TBD.
 - If a beef steer is disqualified from the carcass contest, the member may request the steer to be shipped with other steers for butcher, the member will be responsible for all expenses of processing and steer will not be entered into the carcass contest.
- County Bred and Raised forms are due to the MSU Extension office by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2022.
- **Check in time at fair** will be from **8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** at the beef barn for all beef animals. This includes market beef, dairy market beef, feeder steers, and breeding stock.
- **Dress code for Interview and Show:** Long pants (no holes, rips, or tears), Collared dress shirt or long sleeve shirt. NO Sleeveless shirts. Leather shoe/boots.
- **NEW Evaluations System for 2022:** All livestock exhibitors will be required to complete an evaluation (interview and record book) and Skill-A-Thon for each species they exhibit. These will take place on Sunday, September 18, 2022.
- Dairy Market Steers may be a cross bred animal of two of the following breeds: Holstein, Jersey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey, Lineback, and Dutch Belt.
- **Order of Show:** Fitting & Showmanship (oldest to youngest age group), Dairy Market Steers, Market Steers (lightest to heaviest classes), Market Heifer, County Bred & Raised, Grand Drive, Breeding Stock.
- 4-H members may tag both a dairy market steer and a feeder steer. Member may also bring both animals to fair. If member does bring both a market dairy steer and feeder steer to fair, only the market steer may be used as showmanship animal and the only animal sold at auction.



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- **Electronic Identification (EID) Tags**

1. All cattle moving to a show, sale, or exhibition are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag. Exhibitors may call CentralStar Cooperative at 1-888-203-3398 to order RFID tags at a cost of \$2.42 per tag.
2. All out-of-state cattle exhibited in Michigan shall be tagged with an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag. Tags can be ordered by calling Rise' with RJ Matthews Co. at 330-834-3000.
3. All cattle purchased in the State of Michigan, by law, must have an EID tag.

General Rules of Interest

1. There are four different types of 4-H market cattle that can be exhibited in 4-H classes at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair: *Beef market steers, beef market heifers, dairy market steers and dairy feeder steers*. A given member may register all four types of market cattle with the MSU Extension office.
2. **Dehorning:** All **market and breeding stock cattle** must be clean-polled/dehorned with an allowance of 1 ½” regrowth at fair in order to be exhibited in 4-H classes at the fair.
3. Beef/dairy beef/feeder steers with physical defects (i.e. ruptured navel, abscess, etc.) will be ineligible for exhibition in 4-H/FFA & Other Youth classes at fair.
4. Feed and water buckets/pans must be removed from the stall as soon as the animal has finished eating/drinking. Also, stalls must be cleaned daily (removing wet and manured bedding). The 4-H member is responsible for monitoring when the animal is done eating/drinking and removing buckets/pans accordingly as well as cleaning the stall(s). Failure to follow these rules may lead to “yellow/red-tagging” the exhibit. If a member receives two yellow tags and one red tag his/her project animal will be sent home and all awards/premiums relating to that animal will be revoked. (See “yellow/red tag” rule in the St. Joseph County 4-H Fair book).
5. All exhibitors are required to compete in Fitting & Showmanship classes showing their own project animal.

Important Dates and Deadlines for the Beef Animal/Dairy Market Steer Project

Activity or Event	Date(s) or Deadline	Special Information
Market Beef Tagging/Registration	Saturday, March 26 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members can participate in “family” tagging, i.e. two siblings would have access to up to four animals. • If participating in “family” tagging, it must be noted on <u>ALL</u> participating family members.
Dairy Feeder Steer Tagging/Registration	Tuesday, June 7 or Thursday, June 9 5:00-7:00 p.m.	
Fair Weigh-in	September 17, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	
Evaluation and Skill-a-Thon	September 18, time TBD	This is required for <u>all</u> livestock exhibitors.
Beef Cattle Show	September 20, 9:00 a.m.	Show Arena
Dairy Beef Show	September 20, 9:00 a.m.	Show Arena
Feeder Steer Show	September 20, 9:00 a.m.	Show Arena
4-H Market Livestock Sale (large)	September 22 Large Animal Sale Begins 10:30 a.m.	Beef are first in the sale order.
Load out from fair and Barn Clean Out	September 25, 5:30 a.m.	

Please feel free to call the Extension Office at 269/467-5521 if you have questions regarding information contained in this letter.