

Date: February 21, 2020

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

From: Eva Beeker, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development



Re: 2020 Updates

This is a quick update on the changes that the beef leaders made at the post-fair meeting. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at the MSUE office at 269-467-5511 or send me an email at beekere@msu.edu.

- Countywide tagging date is **Saturday, March 28, 2020** at the **St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** All market beef/dairy beef animals, including carcass animals, must attend the countywide tagging. This does **not** include feeder steers.
- Beef exhibitors may participate in the "family" tagging policy that was voted on by the beef leaders at the post-fair meeting. 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 on Saturday, March 28, 2020 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.
- Carcass Sunday: All set up of cattle equipment, bedding, and delivery of tack will only take place **PRIOR** to 11:00 a.m. or **AFTER** 4:00 p.m.
- 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 will begin at 6:00pm.
- 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 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 17, 2020. All forms will be date stamped by the MSU Extension office.
- 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 short or long sleeve shirt. NO Sleeveless shirts. Leather shoe/boots
- Written evaluation books (forms) will be optional for the Beef project. There will be an interview process. Each member is required to do the interview evaluation to complete the beef project. Sign up times will be available at fair check in on Saturday, September 19, 2020.
- *****NEW FOR 2020: Each Beef exhibitor will be required to participate in the Beef Skill-A-Thon. The Skill-A-Thon will take place on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Location will be in the Henningsen Show Arena.**
- 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.
- Market Steers and Market Heifers will compete together for Rate of Gain in 2020.
- The beef show order will be: showmanship (oldest to youngest), dairy market steers, market steers, market heifers, and county bred and raised, champion drive, breeding stock (4-H, open)
- 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.



MSU EXTENSION
St. Joseph County

612 E. Main St
Centreville, MI 49032

Phone: 269-467-5511
Fax: 269-467-5641
www.msue.msu.edu/stjoseph

• **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 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 on page 7)
5. All exhibitors are required to compete in Fitting & Showmanship classes showing their own project animal.
6. **All beef animals will have a destination on file from the auction by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 25, 2020 or the animal will be shipped for resale.**

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

Activity or Event	Date(s) or Deadline	Special Information
Initial Animal Tagging/Registration	Saturday, March 28, 2020, 9:00-11:00 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.
Fair Weigh-in	September 19, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign-up for a Beef Animal/Dairy Market Steer Project Interview
Beef/Dairy Beef Interview	September 20, 9:00 a.m. - noon	
Beef Cattle Show	September 22, 9:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East end of the Show Arena
Dairy Beef Show	September 22, 9:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East end of the Show Arena
4-H Market Livestock Sale (large)	September 24 Large Animal Sale Begins 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef are third in the sale order.
Load out from fair and Barn Clean Out	September 27, 5:30 a.m.	

Please feel free to call the Extension Office at 269/467-5511 if you have questions regarding information contained in this letter.