

**Date:** June 8, 2023

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

**From:** Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator – 4-H Youth Development

**Re:** 2023 Updates

This is a quick update on the events that will take place for the 2023 fair season within the beef department. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the MSUE office at 269-467-5511. 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 25** from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds.
- **Feeder Calf Tagging:** Countywide tagging and weigh-in dates will be **Tuesday, June 6 or Thursday, June 8** at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Calves that are not registered on either of these dates are not eligible to be shown at fair. Feeder calves must be castrated and dehorned by countywide weigh-in and weigh between **175-325 lbs.**
- **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.
- **Live carcass weigh-in** will be **Saturday, September 9** from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.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** date is **Tuesday, September 12** at 5:30 p.m.
  - 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 14.
- **All 4-H livestock members/clubs** will be held responsible for setting up their project pen/stall and decorations before fair, as well as cleaning and tearing down their project pen/stall at the end of fair. Individuals or clubs may be assessed a \$50.00 fine for failure to do so.
- **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.
- **Evaluations System for 2023:** All market livestock exhibitors will be required to complete an interview and Skill-A-Thon for each species they exhibit. These will take place on **Sunday, September 17, 2023.**
- 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 \$2.63 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. It is taking 4-6 months to receive tags.
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 25 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members can participate in “family” tagging, i.e. two siblings would have access to up to four animals.</li> <li>• <b>If participating in “family” tagging, it must be noted on <u>ALL</u> participating family members.</b></li> </ul>
Dairy Feeder Steer Tagging/Registration	Tuesday, June 6 or Thursday, June 8 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	
Fair Weigh-in	September 16, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Feeder calves must gain a minimum of 1.75# per day.
Skill-a-Thon	September 16, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Community Tent
Interview	September 17, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	This is required for <u>all</u> livestock exhibitors.
Beef Cattle Show	September 19, 9:00 a.m.	Show Arena
Dairy Beef Show	September 19, 9:00 a.m.	Show Arena
Feeder Steer Show	September 19, 9:00 a.m.	Show Arena
4-H Market Livestock Sale (large)	September 21 Large Animal Sale Begins at 10:30 a.m.	Beef are second in the sale order.
Load out from fair and Barn Clean Out	September 24, 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.