

Date: September 12, 2023
To: Potential 2023 Livestock Buyer
From: Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development
Re: 2023 St. Joseph County 4-H Market Livestock Sales

On "Sale Day", Thursday, September 21, 2023:

1. Stop by the Buyer Registration Table set up inside the Livestock Show Arena on the south side. Registration begins at **8:00 a.m.** and continues through the Small and Large Animal Sale for as long as necessary. **Bring the enclosed copy of your buyer registration card (pink) with any necessary changes to the information and return signed to the Buyer Registration Table where you will receive your official buyer number.**

The **Small Animal** sale (in the east end of the livestock show arena) begins at **10:00 a.m.** the **Large Animal** sale (in the west end livestock show arena) begins at **10:30 a.m.** and the order of the Large Animal sale is lambs, market beef, dairy steers, gallon of milk, dairy feeder steers, and hogs. The order of the Small Animal sale is rabbits, goats chickens, and turkeys.

2. The auctioneers' sale price is final. The winning buyer will be announced by the auctioneer. **Note:** The winning buyer will designate final destination of the animal. You may add money to the sale of an animal at the check-in table using the enclosed Add-On form **DUE THE DAY OF THE AUCTION.** No money may be added after Thursday, September 21, 2023. Also, all lots within the swine weight groups must be shipped to the same destination.

Following the Sale:

3. **Buyer Invoicing/Payment:** Go to the Sale Check-Out Window to pick up your **preliminary buyer invoice.** All sale lots with multiple buyers will be split evenly unless a "split sheet" is completed designating the amount to be paid by each buyer. You have the choice of either paying for your livestock the day of the sale if you are the sole buyer, or mailing a check made payable to **St. Joseph County 4-H Livestock Association** 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032. You may also pay for livestock on Friday, September 22, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the 4-H office located between buildings #43 and #44 on the fairgrounds.
4. **Payment Due Date:** 4-H market livestock payments are due and payable to St. Joseph County 4-H Livestock Association by **Friday, October 13, 2023.** No checks for any 4-H members are released until payments have been received for **all** animals sold through the 4-H Market Livestock Sales. After Friday, September 21, 2023, payments must either be mailed or delivered to St. Joseph County MSU Extension Office located at 612 E. Main St. in Centreville.
5. **Livestock Support Price:** Please be aware that you may arrange at the Sale Check-Out Window to receive support price on market steers, dairy feeder steers, hogs, lambs and. There will be one (1) designated market for each species of market livestock listed above. All animals must be shipped to the designated market.
6. **Important Support Price Payment Information:** Buyers only need to pay the difference between the sale price and the "market price". The designated market will then mail the payment for the support price value of the animal to St. Joseph County 4-H Livestock Association as the "balance due" for the sale of the animal in question.
7. **Shipping Destination Options: Give the clerk at the Sale Check-Out Window complete information on the shipping destination of each animal you purchased. Shipping options include:**
 - Ship to the "designated market" (limited to cattle, hogs, lambs and goats).
 - Ship for "complimentary processing" (available for rabbits, chickens and turkeys if desired).
 - *Ship to one of the available slaughter/processing plants (limited spots available at each location): Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing (Leonidas, MI), Butcher Bob's (LaGrange, IN), Countryside Quality Meats (Union City), Drake's Country Cuts (Marcellus, MI), Nagel's Meat Processing (Homer, MI), Smokin' Butcher Custom Butchering (Decatur, MI), Stutzman Brothers Meats (Sturgis, MI)*
 - Pick up by buyer (or by a trucker arranged for by the buyer).



MSU EXTENSION

612 E. Main St
Centreville, MI 49032

Phone: 269-467-5511
www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph

“Default” Destinations for 4-H Market Livestock Policy

Notify the **4-H Office** at **269/467-5511** with destination information by
➔ **12:00 noon on Friday, September 22, 2023** ◀

If we have not heard from you by this deadline regarding your choice of destination(s) for the livestock you purchased, we will assign the following default destinations, where applicable (which will remain in effect unless we subsequently hear from you regarding other destination choices):

- ◆ Market steers (beef and dairy), dairy feeder steers, hogs, lambs, and goats will be resold to the designated 4-H support price market.
- ◆ Market chickens, turkeys and rabbits will be processed and frozen (as a complimentary service) and will be available for pick-up as noted below under item no. 9.

8. **Trucking Arrangements:** MSU Extension staff and volunteers will arrange all animal trucking. You must notify the 4-H Livestock office if you plan to arrange your own transportation.
9. **Poultry and Rabbit Processing Service:** Please notify the 4-H livestock office if you would like your chickens, turkeys or rabbits processed. The 4-H member covers the cost of processing (including freezing) **Special Note:** You may choose to donate chickens, turkeys and rabbits to a food bank; they will be delivered to the food bank for you.
10. **Buyer Pick-Up of Processed Poultry/Rabbits:** Building No. 46 on the fairgrounds in Centreville from **5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, October 4, 2023**. **Policy Regarding Unclaimed Processed Poultry/Rabbits:** Unclaimed poultry and rabbits will be "donated" and delivered to the nearest food bank on the evening of October 4.
11. If you purchased the *Champion or Reserve Champion* **beef, goat, hog, or lamb carcass** you need to call **Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing**, Leonidas, (269-496-7587) to make arrangements for pick-up of the processed meat. Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing will bill you directly for the slaughter and processing. All carcasses will already have been processed, and wrapped according to a standard "cut and wrap" plan for a two-person family.
12. **Buyer Phone Contact Information:** Please provide the check-out clerk with information on where and when we can reach you by phone (including phone numbers) on Friday, September 22 in case we have questions regarding the destination of the livestock you purchased.
16. **Proxy Bidders Available:** If you are unable to attend the sale, but would like to participate in the sale by "**proxy**", please consider contacting one of the following individuals to bid on your behalf:
 - ◆ Jeff Brazo, 269/689-0200 (cell) ➔ **small animals**
 - ◆ Tom Frisk, 269/503-0203 (cell) ➔ **large animals**