

FFA & 4-H Market Animal Auction Contest 2026

The Jefferson County Livestock Association sponsors the market animal auction to assist in the support of 4-H and FFA member projects. The auction date and time to be determined. Objectives of the auction:

- To provide an outlet for market animal projects raised by 4-H and FFA members.
- To improve the livestock enterprise by encouraging excellence in management.
- To provide public awareness for 4-H and FFA programs.
- To provide experience with consumer preference and market requirements.
- To provide recognition of the members and buyers.
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The FFA & 4-H Market Animal Auction is a **terminal sale** and all animals will go to slaughter.

Auction Rules:

Rules for auction animals must be followed. All situations giving evidence of rule violations before or after slaughter can result in removal of animal from the auction, forfeit of auction proceeds, and/or awards being withheld as determined by the Auction Committee and/or Show Committee. Consult the fair week Auction Catalog/Buyers Guide for additional auction rules. *The Auction Committee will be held harmless during tagging, moving, or transporting of animals at pre-fair weigh-ins, fair weigh-in or during the fair, auction, or final destination to packing plants.*

1. **2026:** A Quality Assurance Form is required for all market animals; weigh-in registration forms will be used for all species. The market animal auction is a **terminal sale** and all auction animals will go to slaughter.
2. **Important to note** – Market livestock can be fitted with livestock approved fitting products during fair. All fitting products must be washed off the animal using only a livestock approved shampoo (no conditioner) **by Friday at 10:00 p.m.** No fitting products can be used on any auction animal between Friday at 10:00 p.m. through the loading of market animals on Sunday morning. Evidence of fitting products being applied on an animal will disqualify the animal from the auction.
3. All potential market animals must have been owned by the 4-H or FFA member, be in possession, carry an official ear tag, have all horns and scurs removed on steers and sheep and be recorded on the Jefferson County Livestock Association's weigh in sheet by official tagging/possession date. **Official tagging/possession/weigh-in dates are: steers, February 7th, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at Central Oregon Livestock Auction; sheep, swine and goats, May 13th, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds; and rabbits, chickens, and turkeys June 16th, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Central Oregon Ag Research Center.** All market animals sold at the Jefferson County Fair will be tagged on the above prescribed dates.
 - a. All animals must weigh within possession weight requirement to be eligible to be tagged and accepted into the market program.
 - b. Steers – 600 to 1100#
Lambs – 65 to 120#
Swine – 100 to 200#
Goats – 50 to 90#
Rabbits – 1# 14oz to 3#
Chickens – 1# 8oz to 2# 4oz
Turkey – 20-30# Toms and 15-25# Hens
 - c. Each steer must have a Change of Ownership Brand Inspection Exemption Certificate (E-slip/Blue slip) and transportation slip at possession/tagging/weigh in on February 7th and will be checked off on the weigh in form before the steer is weighed (4-H/FFA member keep the e-slip and transportation slip). Steers must have a halter on before they will be unloaded at the possession facilities.

4. An individual exhibitor may exhibit multiple market animals (as determined by youth organization rules) but only one market animal or pen of 3 rabbits or chickens is allowed in the auction for each exhibitor. To determine which auction animal will sell the following will be used:
 - a. Highest placing animal in market classes (blue, red or white placing categories), or
 - b. In instances where there are two or more animals with equal placing (considering grade) the exhibitor will choose the animal that will sell.
5. A replacement committee will decide auction animal eligibility between official tagging/possession date and two weeks prior to Fair. There will be no changing of ownership to replace an animal two weeks prior to Fair. The committee will be made up of the Jefferson County Livestock Association Auction Committee members.
6. **Only rations appropriate for species may be fed to auction animals from official weigh in date** through the final disposition of animals following the sale. This means that no auction animal will be fed items such as watermelon, beer, ice cream, etc. or any other item that the commercial meat industry does not use in the production of food for the consumer. Drenching is not allowed during the fair from fair entry date through final disposition of animals following the sale except under a veterinarian's advice.
7. At entry Tuesday of fair week, potential auction livestock will be weighed based on the following times:
•**Hogs** 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. •**Sheep, Goats** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. •**Steers** 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
•**Rabbits, Chickens & Turkeys** 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Re-weigh for all species is 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.** (Only those animals that are within 5% of market weights are eligible for re-weighing). Tuesday's weight and reweighs will determine eligibility for the auction and establish market show classes, and will be used in the auction catalog.
 - a. There is a 2% shrink allowed on the minimum weight on animals for all species and that will be their final weight. No shrink on the maximum weight.
 - b. All ear tags that are non JCLA tags or scrapie id tags must be removed prior to Tuesday weigh in at Fair.
8. All animals must meet the following weight and age guidelines upon arrival or for rabbits and poultry during market classes:
 - a. Steer – 1,150 to 1,500 lbs. and less than 20 months of age.
 - b. Lambs – 110 to 155 lbs. (Born on or after November 1, 2025).
 - c. Swine – 230 to 290 lbs. (Born on or after December 1, 2025).
 - d. Goats – 80 to 120 lbs. (Born on or after November 1, 2025).
 - e. Rabbits – Pen of three fryers, 4 to 6 lbs. each, under 84 days of age.
 - f. Chickens – Pen of three fryers/broilers, 5.5 to 7.5 lbs. each, under 70 days of age.
 - g. Turkeys – 30-45 lbs toms and 25-40 lbs hens (5 ½ months or younger by fair weigh in day)
9. A qualified judge will evaluate all animals meeting the weight and age guidelines. All ribbon categories are eligible for the auction.
10. Animals previously sold through a finished market auction connected with a fair or livestock show are not eligible for the auction.
11. **Once entered, auction animals are under the jurisdiction of the Jefferson County Livestock Association Auction Committee who will decide auction eligibility.**
12. Special auction steer rules:
 - a. A Change of Ownership Brand Inspection Exemption Certificate (E-slip/Blue slip) and transportation slip per steer must accompany all steers to the fairgrounds and turned in at the weigh in table on Tuesday of Fair before being weighed.
 - b. All steers must be double tied when in pen or stall.
 - c. Steers must be dehorned by possession/tagging date. Scurs up to 2" will be allowed at fair but are highly discouraged.
 - d. Steers must be gentle and under the control of the exhibitor at all times.
 - e. All steers must be castrated at possession/tagging date. Evidence of partial castration will be cause for disqualification from auction.
13. Special auction lamb rules:
 - a. Lambs must be shorn after May 1 and before fair.

- b. Lambs must be wethers or ewes.
 - c. Lambs must be gentle and under the control of the exhibitor at all times.
 - d. Docking of tails will conform to good husbandry practices. Any prolapsed lamb (as seen by at least two individuals in leadership) at fair will be disqualified from the auction. Any prolapsed lamb following the auction and up to time when the resale buyer takes possession on Sunday, will be the exhibitor's responsibility and will be considered a no-sale animal.
 - e. All wethers must be castrated at possession/tagging date. Evidence of partial castration will be cause for disqualification from auction.
 - f. No potential market sheep will be given a fair auction tag unless the animal has a scrapie tag in place at possession/tagging date.
14. Special auction swine rules:
- a. Swine must be barrows or gilts.
 - b. Swine must be gentle and under the control of exhibitor at all times.
 - c. All barrows must be castrated by possession/tagging date. Evidence of partial castration will be cause for disqualification from auction.
 - d. Swine body hair is not to be clipped shorter than ½ inch. Any dockage as a result of hair shorter than ½ inch by the packer will be deducted from members final auction payout.
15. Special auction goat rules:
- a. Goats must be gentle and under the control of exhibitor at all times.
 - b. Does or wethers are eligible for the auction and wethers must be castrated by possession/tagging date. Evidence of partial castration will be cause for disqualification from auction.
 - c. There are no horn restrictions for market goats.
 - d. No potential market goat will be given a fair auction tag unless the animal has a scrapie tag in place at possession/tagging date.
16. Special auction rabbit rules:
- a. Rabbits will be sold in a pen of 3 fryers.
17. Special auction chicken/turkey rules:
- a. Chickens will be sold in a pen of 3 fryers or broilers.
 - b. Turkeys will be sold as single
18. Artificial coloring of any animal or any artificial means of removing or remedying physical defect of conformation in animals such as lifting or filling under the skin will be considered as fraud and deception. All animals giving evidence of such treatment before or after slaughter will result in the owner being barred from future shows and all awards and auction proceeds will be withheld from current show.
19. Exhibiting animals during auction:
- a. The order of animal in the auction catalog will be as following for each species: grand champion, reserve grand champion, champion, reserve champion all to be in order placed by judge; blues in random order, reds in random order, whites in random order. Random order will be established going from heavy to light weight classes.
 - b. Sale order: swine, rabbits, chickens, steers, goats, sheep and turkeys.
 - c. Each 4-H and FFA member shall show their own animal through the auction ring unless excused by the Auction Committee.
 - d. No market animals can be decorated beyond show place ribbon.
 - e. Dress code for auction is the same dress code established by the 4-H and FFA programs for showmanship classes. Exhibitors may be excused from auction if dress is deemed inappropriate.
20. Auction sale:
- a. It is the general philosophy that market auction animals do not exceed the price of Grand Champions within each species.
 - b. All support of individual participants is made at the time that the animal is sold in the auction ring. Additional support following the sale is encouraged; however, this support will be used to floor animals within that species and not a specific exhibitor or animal.

- c. Consignment of auction animals will be to the original buyer or to the Jefferson County Livestock Association who will have resale buyers.
- d. The commission will not exceed 5%.
- e. Auction checks will be available on September 16th, 2025, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Central Oregon Ag Research Center. Checks will be based on the bid price, minus sale charges. Final steer checks will be adjusted based on carcass grade, carcass yield and carcass discounts. (See Auction Catalog prior to auction).
- f. When a person purchases an animal for their own use and the carcass does not grade on the rail as estimated, it will be the purchaser's responsibility to accept the carcass as graded.
- g. If the animal is condemned in the slaughter process (because of disease, use of medicine, infection, etc.) it is the seller's (4-H or FFA member's) responsibility to absorb the loss.

21. Health and Quality Assurance:

- a. **A Quality Assurance Form is required on all auction animals. They will be available on the JCLA or 4-H website. The Quality Assurance Form is also available from a 4-H Leader, FFA Advisor or at the 4-H Extension Office. Instructions on the form must be followed. Contestants must submit a filled out and signed form at the time of fair entry/weigh in, and can't go across the scales until it is completed and turned in.**
 - b. Once entered, all auction animals will be treated only by the authorized show veterinarian. If an animal needs attention exhibitors are to contact the 4-H Office and fill out a form. Once returned to the 4-H Office, a veterinarian will be called.
 - c. ALL ANIMALS are subject to inspection by a veterinarian upon admission to, or while on, the exhibition grounds. No animal that shows evidence of any infectious or contagious disease or any unsightly condition shall be admitted to, or be allowed to remain on the grounds. The management reserves the right to require health inspections, diagnostic tests, treatments and/or other animal health measures or procedures which might become necessary in emergencies. Expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the owner.
22. No other animals will be transported to meat packing plants with auction animals.
23. Once across the scales the animals can't leave the Fairgrounds and have to go to their pens.
24. JCLA reserves the right to drug test any market animal in JCLA possession at their discretion.
25. Each participant understands their animal is in a **Terminal Sale**.