



Market Livestock & County Fair Information for Lake County Exhibitors



To participate in the Lake County 4-H & FFA Livestock market sale, Market Livestock project members must comply with the following:

- Youth must be enrolled and in good standing in an active community 4-H Club and be working closely with a livestock leader.
- OR**
- Be enrolled and in good standing in an active Lake County FFA chapter and be working closely with an FFA advisor.
 - Youth must comply with all club/chapter and county expectations, including payment of applicable registration fees.
 - Youth are eligible to sell one lot through the sale. I.e: one beef, one turkey, one lamb, one goat, one hog, one pen of 3 rabbits, or one pen of 3 chickens
 - If an exhibitor shows more than one species, the highest placing animal will be sold through the market sale.
 - The market animal must be designated at spring weigh-in by being weighed and tagged at an official 4-H or FFA weigh-in, by 4-H, FFA, or sale committee personnel.
 - A member may find a replacement if their animal dies, or is unfit and no backup animal is available, if the replacement can be tagged and weighed within 10 days from the original spring weigh-in date. The 4-H leader, FFA advisor, and Extension Office must be notified.
 - All market animals are intended to go to harvest.
 - On or before the first Friday in August, you must register your fair projects with the Extension Office by completing the Fair Registration form. At this time, all 4-H record books are due for judging. If you do not turn in a record book by the deadline, you are ineligible to exhibit at county fair. Buyer card photos are also due at this time.
 - All market animals will be weighed on Thursday of the fair. Weigh-in runs from **7:00am-11:00 am. Beef must be weighed in by 10:30am.**
 - All market animals must weigh-in meeting or exceeding the minimum weight for that species at County Fair Weigh-In (see Table 1).
 - Weight discrepancies that **do not** deal with an animal making minimum weight must be declared at the scale. The animal will be taken off the scale, scale will be balanced, and the animal will be reweighed. The second weight will be the weight that is used.
 - If a member weighs their primary animal and it does not make weight and they have a tagged back-up animal as an individual or household, they may opt to weigh and use the back-up animal at the end of the designated weigh-in time for that species.

 - If a member weighs their primary animal and it does not make weight and they do not have a tagged back-up animal, they may take their animal to their assigned pen in their designated barn and feed and water their animal using 4-H and FFA approved guidelines and bring the animal back for a reweigh at the end of the designated weigh-in time for that species. If the animal still does not make weight the member is still





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eligible to participate in showmanship and may put up a sign to sell their animal after the completion of the sale on Saturday.

- Transportation slips and a bill of sale for beef must be presented at time of arrival to the County Fair.
- All market animals must meet published withdrawal times (see section 4)
- All market exhibitors must show in an age/experience appropriate showmanship class for their species.
- If a market animal is deemed unsafe to be presented through the sale ring, the Variance Process will be used.
- Market animals that receive a white ribbon in market class will be ineligible to sell through the market sale.
- Animals showing any evidence of prolapse or mechanical repair will not be allowed at the show or in the barn. Exhibitors are expected to treat their animals with respect and provide for their continuous well-being through proper feeding, handling, disease prevention, sanitation and attention to their safety.
- All sheep and goats must have official federal scrapie program identification.
- Animals are required to be cared for by the youth owner through Monday of County Fair.

Table 1. 2026 County Fair Market Animal Weight Parameters

2026 County Fair Market Animal Weight Parameters		
Species	Minimum Weight at Fair	Maximum Weight at Fair
Beef	1100 lbs	None
Swine	220 lbs	None
Lambs	105 lbs	None
Goats	65 lbs	None
Rabbits	Fryers: 3.5-5.5 lbs, Roasters: 5.6-9.0 lbs	None
Chickens	Fryers: 4-6 lbs, Roasters: 6.1 lbs and higher	None
Turkey	15 lbs	None

Tips and Tricks for Market Livestock Exhibitors

Youth livestock producers face many challenges when raising a 4-H or FFA market livestock project that is expected to meet the standards established by their respective industries. One challenge is that there is a set date (ie: September 1) when the animal needs to be at the fair. For example, an underfinished steer in a feedlot would simply be kept on feed another 30 days until it was ready to be harvested. A 4-H or FFA member with an underfinished project must still show and sell their animal at the September fair, regardless of if it is finished or not.



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Other challenges young producers may encounter include things like lack of experience, lack of handling/feeding facilities, and high feed costs associated with purchasing small quantities at one time.

With these challenges in mind, 4-H and FFA members can do a few things to improve the likelihood that they exhibit a market ready animal. Select animals that are the proper weight, age, and frame size for the growth period. Develop an appropriate feeding program that meets the nutritional requirements for the animal. There are many excellent sources for pre-mixed total feeds. Another option is to work with an animal nutritionist or veterinarian to develop rations that meet the nutritional requirements of a project animal.

Develop an effective health care program to keep your animal healthy. Project animals should be up-to-date on vaccinations for respiratory diseases and parasites when first placed on feed. Youth should keep a vaccination history as part of their quality assurance program. They should also develop a strong client relationship with a local veterinarian who is familiar with the health needs of the species you are raising, as well as the production schedule in your area. Lastly, learn what a market ready animal looks like. A 4-H or FFA member should be able to recognize the physical characteristics that indicate a market ready animal.

Section 1. Weights and Average Daily Gain

Know your animal’s weight and know how to predict how much they must gain to meet minimum weight at fair weigh-in. The easiest way to predict this is by calculating the average daily gain (ADG), or number of pounds an animal needs to gain every day between spring weigh-in and fair weigh-in.

This is done by using the formula below (the same formula is used for all species):

Ideal End Weight (or minimum weight parameter) – Starting Weight (weight at spring weigh-in)

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Number of days on feed (number of days from spring weigh-in to fair weigh-in)



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For example: *If there are 150 days from spring weigh-in to fair weigh-in, a steer weighing 650 lbs at spring weigh-in would need to gain an average of 3.0 lbs per day to meet the minimum weight requirement of 1100 lbs.*

$$1100 \text{ lbs} - 650 \text{ lbs} = 450 \text{ lbs of weight gain}$$

$$450 \text{ lbs} \div 150 \text{ days} = 3.0 \text{ lbs per day}$$

A good way to keep an eye on your animal's weight and growth is to do periodic weight measurements to determine what your animal's ADG has been. Having this knowledge will allow you to adjust your feeding strategies to make sure your animal meets the minimum weight requirement, as well as reaches an acceptable finishing point.

Typical ranges for Average Daily Gain (ADG) for each species from Spring weigh-in to Fair weigh-in are as follows:

Beef: 2.0-4.0 lbs per day

Swine: 1.5-2.5 lbs per day

Lambs: 0.3-0.8 lbs per day

Goats: 0.2-0.4 lbs per day

Section 2. What is finishing?

“Finish” refers to the overall fat-cover or subcutaneous adipose tissue an animal has at the end of the feeding period right before harvest. To ensure the most favorable eating experience, as producers, we want to make sure our animals have enough fat cover to keep the end product moist and flavorful, but not so much that we have excess waste or “trim” from a carcass. This requires feeding our animals high quality feeds for a long enough time, and at a high enough volume. Does that mean that all lambs at 105 lbs are finished? – NO. Does that mean that all pigs at 290 lbs are finished?—NO. Animals grow, mature, and finish at different rates. This can be due to a combination of genetics, breed, feeding regimen, environment, illness, and many other factors. Please work with your leader/advisor and your veterinarian to determine your specific animal's finishing point.

Here are bench marks for appropriate degrees of finish:

Beef: 0.35 inch to 0.50 inches of 12th rib fat

Swine: 0.60 inch to 0.80 inches of 10th rib fat

Lambs & Goats: 0.20 inch to 0.30 inches of 12th rib fat





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Section 3. How much does my animal need to eat?

Your animal’s required feed/nutrient intake will vary based on the age of your animal, genetics, weather, feed quality, exercise level, and many other factors. The most important component of feeding animals is to determine their daily nutrient/feed requirement. Be sure to measure your feed based on weight and not volume! Here are some general benchmarks for nutrient requirement and feed intake:

Species	Daily Feed Intake (% of Body Weight)	Daily Water Intake (Gallons)
Beef	~2.5%	8-20
Swine	~1.0%	2-6
Lambs & Goats	~3.5%	1-5

*Note: feeding values and actual intake will vary based on feed quality.

General feeding rules:

- Make diet changes and increases gradually
- Feed at the same time every day
- Remove old/spoiled feed from the feeder/area before providing fresh feed
- Ensure fresh water is available 24/7
- Compare your costs—the most expensive feed does not always equal the best feed
- Make sure your feed has an appropriate ratio of salt/minerals. You can have free choice salt/mineral available for your animal if needed.

Section 4. Medications and Withdrawal Periods

Much like humans, when animals are healthy, they are alert, energetic, have a strong appetite, drink more water, and gain weight more efficiently than a sick animal. Healthy animals typically have a higher average daily gain, and a lower feed cost associated with each pound of weight gained. Most importantly, healthy animals provide a product that is safe for consumers and provides a favorable eating experience. It is important as a youth livestock producer to know the signs of a healthy animal—and conversely, signs of an unhealthy animal.

Sick Animals

A sick animal may show several signs. These can include humped back, droopy ears, snotty nose, dry crusty nose, matted, dry hair coat, scours (runny manure, some just loose but could be very watery: a variety of colors), slow moving, or lack of appetite. Symptoms may include an abnormal temperature, pulse, and/or respiration. Sometimes, they might just act not quite “themselves” with no other visible signs.

Keeping Animals Healthy

A 4-H or FFA member can do several things to make sure their animal stays healthy:

- Provide consistent high quality feed
- Provide fresh clean water 24/7





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- Provide shelter
- Follow proper biosecurity procedures
- Develop a herd health program including vaccinations and de-wormers
- Keep thorough records
- If an animal does become sick, consult a veterinarian for proper treatment and care

Records, Drug Residues & Withdrawal Periods

An example of how keeping thorough records can be useful is in the reduction/elimination of drug residues. What is a drug residue? – The term *drug residue* refers to the presence of veterinary pharmaceutical products, such as antibiotics, in meat or other animal products. We can reduce the risk of drug residues by keeping records on the identification, treatment, and handling of our market animals. Records allow producers to compare drug withdrawal times to the dates of treatment—thus reducing the likelihood that a drug residue would be present. *Withdrawal periods* are the period of time (ie: number of days, weeks, etc.) after administration of a medication or drug needed to assure that the residue in animal products or tissue are non-existent or under a determined maximum residue limit (MRL).

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) frequently conduct inspections of processors facilities and products to make sure all products entering the food-chain are safe for consumers to eat. Keeping good records shows that a producer has been compliant in training, animal identification, adherence to withdrawal periods, and other best practices to help avoid liability from a residue problem if a regulatory inspection is conducted.

Where can I find the withdrawal period for a given product? – Check the label!





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Medication Label



Before administering any drug to an animal, you must have a knowledge of the information found on the drug label and insert. Make sure you are able to identify the parts of the medication label and medication insert.

Name of Drug		OMNIBIOTIC	Active Ingredient(s)
		(hydrocillin)	
Directions for use: See package insert			
Cautions and Warnings	Warning: Milk that has been taken from animals during treatment and for 48 hours after the last treatment must not be used for food. The use of this drug must be discontinued for 30 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food. Exceeding the highest recommended dosage level may result in antibiotic residues in meat or milk beyond the withdrawal time.		Withholding Times
Store between 2° and 8° C (36° and 46° F)		Storage	
Keep dry and away from light			
Quantity of Contents	Net contents: 100 ml		
Distributed by		Name of Distributor	
USA Animal Health, Inc.			
Lot Number	Lot # 0009900-Q123	Date of Expiration	TAKE TIME OBSERVE LABEL INSTRUCTIONS
Expiration Date 05/17/XX			

This activity adapted from information found in the Quality Assurance and Animal Care: Youth Education Program. Research made possible by the Extension Service, Oregon State Department of Agriculture, under grant project number 11-2716-000.

Illustration courtesy of Ohio State University Extension, 4-H Youth Development, from 117R Beef Resources Handbook.

If you are not sure what the withdrawal period is, or want to double-check that you are following the withdrawal protocol, check with your veterinarian. The best way to keep in compliance with withdrawal times is to know the following:

- Type of drug given (vaccine, antibiotic, implant, dewormer, etc.)
- Amount of product given
- Location a product was given
- Route of administration (subcutaneously, intramuscularly, orally, topically, etc.)
- Date the product was given
- Withdrawal time listed on the drug label



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Bottom line—you, as the producer, play a significant role in keeping your animal healthy by following best practices to ensure a quality product for the end consumer.

Section 5. County Fair

- No animal may be entered in both 4-H and FFA.
- The market sale committee reserves the right to test any animal for drug residues or for any form of tampering. If an animal is condemned in the slaughter process (because of disease, etc.), it is the seller's (4-H/FFA member) responsibility to absorb the loss.
- Beef and dairy animals must be cross tied (halter and neck rope). Unruly animals may be barred from showing.
- Adults may assist youth in fitting, caring for and/or handling 4-H livestock ONLY if the superintendent for HEALTH and SAFETY of the 4-H member, deems the assistance necessary. 4-H members must be present when an adult is assisting with the livestock exhibit.
- If a member has more than one animal in a class, another 4-H member may show the other animal. If a member has scheduling conflicts with other youth competitions during the fair, they may ask the superintendent for permission to have another 4-H member show their animals, with the exception of showmanship.
- Animals (except horses and dogs) used in showmanship must also be exhibited in a conformation class.
- Parents are restricted to a position of observer in the barns and around the exhibitors (except in safety situations). All feeding, grooming and stall cleaning, etc. are to be done by the exhibitor.
- All animals must be fed and watered twice daily by 8:00 AM and prior to barn closing, unless otherwise specified by barn superintendent. All pens are to be cleaned at minimum of once daily.
- All animals may be subject to health or veterinary inspection at any time from arrival on the grounds to departure from the grounds.
 - While an effort will always be made to have the exhibitor with the animal during an inspection, this may not always be possible.
- No animal will be allowed to remain on the grounds if it shows evidence of any infectious or contagious disease or any unsightly disease conditions such as warts, ringworm, fungus, etc.
 - Objections can be reviewed by the on-call veterinarian, at the owner's expense; the on-call/on-site veterinarian decision is final.
 - Animals considered unsightly for any reason will also be subject to removal from the show and the grounds. "Unsightly" in this case is defined as an appearance of unhealthiness or an appearance of poor care or husbandry; this might include animals obviously and/or significantly under-weight, animals in poor condition due to age or other circumstances, or animals not handling the stress of the show conditions for reasons beyond our control.





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- All pens must be cleaned and stripped before you leave the grounds on Monday. You will not receive your sale check until your pen has been stripped and checked by your leader/advisor.

Barn, Stalls & Herdsmanship

- Please remember that county fair is a public event and 4-H and FFA members are ambassadors for the agricultural industry. Please keep your area in the barn clean and your animal(s) well cared for at all times. This includes raking/wetting of aisleways. The walkways need to remain free of debris or other tripping hazards.
- Herdsmanship judging will begin Friday and go through Sunday morning. A copy of the Herdsmanship judging standards will be provided to your leader/advisor. The top Herdsmanship clubs/chapters for each species will receive cash awards.
- Stall assignments will be posted by Noon on the Tuesday of fair week. Stalls may be prepared and barns decorated any time after posting. All decorations must be in place by Thursday at 1 pm.
- Stalls must be cleaned by 8 am every morning. At this time, all feed pans need to be removed from the pens (excluding water).
- No generators will be allowed in the barns.
- Exposed extension cords must adhere to the ground or remain overhead to prevent tripping.
- Members who fail to adequately care for their animal(s), clean stalls by 8 am and/or complete barn duty will have all or a partial amount of their premiums held at the discretion of their club leader(s).

Departing Fair

- Market animal shipping will begin Saturday evening (primarily re-sale swine, sheep and goats). Remaining market animals will be shipped by Monday morning. It is your responsibility to care for your animal adequately until it ships.
- Stall decorations may be taken down after 3 pm Monday.
- Stalls are to be cleaned down to the dirt and should be inspected by your leader/advisor.
- Record books are released from the exhibit hall at 4 pm.
- Check-out with your leader/advisor, who will provide you with your sale check after you have completed all of your obligations.

Fitting

All care and fitting must be done by the 4-H exhibitor. Exhibitors should be able to demonstrate skills if asked. Involvement of adults must be limited to advising and safety. All animals must be fitted in the designated area for each species and any animal removed from the fitting area for additional fitting without approval from the species superintendent will be ineligible for showing.





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Any 4-H animal fitted for showing by adults or professionals will be declared ineligible for showing. Adults may use electric shears on an animal so long as the 4-H member who the animal belongs to is present and the electric shears are used only for the shearing to the skin, not block shearing.

4-H & FFA Market Sale

- Sale begins at Noon on Saturday. Sale order will be posted just prior to the sale.
- Barns are closed to the public during the sale. Only 4-H and FFA market livestock members and adults in an official volunteer capacity are allowed in the barns at this time.
- After the member sells their animal, they need to pick up their sale poster at the table located outside the front of the sale barn and give it to their buyer inside the sale barn. The member must remain in their show clothes for this.
- If a member receives a bump, a bump check will be mailed to the member within two weeks after fair.

4-H & FFA Market Sale Thank-You's

- Buyer thank-you notes will be distributed by your 4-H Leader.
- Buyer addresses will be posted outside the 4-H & FFA Market Sale Office on Sunday morning. Members will be responsible for addressing their own envelopes.
- Members will turn in their completed buyer thank-you note to their leader/designated parent, who will check the notes for content, proper buyer name(s), member's first and last name, buyer's address, spelling and neatness.
- Bump thank-you notes will not be facilitated by the 4-H & FFA Market Sale Committee. It is the responsibility of the member to complete a thank you. The bump check will include the name(s) of the people who provided the bump.

Section 6. Summary

Any 4-H or FFA member can complete a successful livestock project. The place to start is by selecting an animal that has good genes and the potential to grow into a quality market animal that closely follows industry standards. Every successful project requires hard work, dedication, an effective feeding and health care program, and sometimes, a bit of luck. As a youth livestock producer, you have a responsibility to ensure that the animal you raise was treated humanely, fed a high quality diet, and was cared for in accordance with animal care best practices—including adherence to withdrawal periods. By following the guidelines provided above, you can play a big part in giving consumers a high quality product and thus, a favorable eating experience.

By enrolling in a market livestock project, you have agreed to follow all of the 4-H & FFA program rules and regulations, as well as those set forth by the Lake County 4-H & FFA Market Sale Committee.

If you have questions or need some guidance, use the resources available to you: parents and other successful livestock people, peer reviewed publications, 4-H leaders, FFA advisors, County Extension Educators, and veterinarians. Best of Luck!

