



## 2026 Genesee County 4-H Market Animal Auction Program Rules

### General Rules for all Divisions

#### 1. Eligibility

- Youth must be currently enrolled in the Genesee County 4-H Program and be at least 8 years old as of January 1, 2026 to be eligible to participate in the 4-H Market Animal Auction Program.
- New 4-H members must be enrolled in the Genesee County 4-H Program by February 1, 2026 to participate.
- Cloverbud members (youth ages 5-7) are not eligible.
- Youth may be independent 4-H members or enrolled in a 4-H club to participate.

#### 2. Meeting/Educational Event Attendance

- **Members are required to attend a minimum of three (3) 4-H Club Meetings for each species they intend to sell. Members may also attend Educational Events in addition to their 4-H Club Meetings for the species they intend to sell.** Members will receive 20 points for each meeting/event attended. Members may receive attendance points for any combination of meetings and events within these limits:
  - Up to five (5) educational events per species
  - Up to nine (9) 4-H club meetings per species
  - Maximum of 200 attendance points per species can be earned
- **To receive attendance points for an educational event, members must submit a completed Educational Event Form to the 4-H Office by June 26, 2026.** Forms may be submitted online or by hard copy to the 4-H Office and must be complete to receive credit. An event can be applied to one (1) species only. Contact the 4-H Office to confirm if an event qualifies as an educational event. Examples of qualifying events: attending a livestock show, judging contest, 4-H trip, etc.

#### 3. Project Record

- **Members are required to complete a 4-H Market Animal Project Record for each species they intend to sell.**
- **Project Records are due to the Genesee County 4-H Office June 26, 2026.** Project Records received after this date will be docked 25 points. Maximum Project Record Points = 100 points.

#### 4. **\*\*NEW\*\*** 4-H Public Presentations Program

- Members are **REQUIRED** to participate in 4-H Public Presentations Event. **Members will receive 50 points for giving a 4-H Public Presentation.** These points will be applied to each of the member's project animals.
- The Public Presentations Event will be held on **February 28, 2026**. Location TBD.
- Members who are unable to participate in the Public Presentations Event, due to unforeseen circumstances will have a make-up date to be determined.

#### 5. Community Service (*Optional Points Opportunity*)

- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Members will receive 20 points per hour of completed Community Service for a maximum of 5 hours per species. (100 points).
- **Community Service Hours must be submitted to the 4-H Office by June 26, 2026, to receive points.** Forms may be submitted online or by hard copy to the 4-H Office. Community Service Projects must be completed between October 1, 2025 – June 26, 2026, to be eligible for points.

## 6. Points Spreadsheet

- A points spreadsheet listing Meeting Attendance, Educational Event Attendance, Public Presentations, and Community Service Points earned will be shared via email by the 4-H Office throughout the year.
- Members are responsible for reviewing this spreadsheet and making sure their points are accurate.
- **Points corrections for Meeting Attendance, Educational Event Attendance, Public Presentations, and Community Service will not be made after July 10, 2026. Only show points will be accumulated after this date.**
- All point disputes will be reviewed by the 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee.

## 7. Weigh-in

- All project animals except for chickens must be weighed at initial weigh-in.
- Animals will be tagged with an official Genesee County 4-H identification tag at initial weigh-in. If this identification becomes lost, it is the members' responsibility to contact the 4-H Office as soon as possible.
- All male market animals must be castrated before initial weigh-in. Complete removal of testicles must occur by the time of final weigh-in. Note: Animals may be subject to veterinary inspection.
- Scales are certified by Genesee County Weights & Measures.
- **Animals will walk across the scale only once at initial and final weigh-in. Animals that do not meet weight requirements will be disqualified and will not be able to sell in the 4-H auction. At least one member of the 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee will be present at each weigh-in.**
- **Members are required to submit a signed Acknowledgement of Rules Form at their species' initial weigh-in. Form must be signed by the 4-H member and a parent/guardian.**

## 8. Project Animal Limits

- Members may enter (weigh-in) a single species or a combination of multiple species. No more than a grand total of five (5) project animals may be entered by each exhibitor within these limits:
  - Up to two (2) steers (beef or dairy)
  - Up to four (4) lambs
  - Up to four (4) hogs
  - Up to four (4) goats
  - Up to six (6) rabbits
  - A family may choose to tag one (1) additional animal as a family animal, rather than an additional animal for each participant. If a family chooses to tag a family animal, each participant from that family must select their primary animal(s) at initial weigh-in. Primary animals cannot be changed to another youth. Extra or family alternate animals may be brought to fair and shown in non-auction 4-H classes.
- **Members may show and sell a maximum of three (3) project animals.** A pair of chickens will count as one project animal. A pair of rabbits will count as one project animal. Members may show and sell a single species or a combination of multiple species within these limits:
  - Up to one (1) beef steer or one (1) dairy steer
  - Up to two (2) lambs
  - Up to two (2) hogs
  - Up to two (2) goats
  - Up to two (2) pairs of chickens
  - Up to two (2) pairs of rabbits
  - Participants will have one hour following the end of final weigh-in to notify 4-H Staff of which animals they have decided to enter in the auction. This decision will be final.

#### 9. Previous Year Auction Buyer Poster

- Members who sold a project animal in the previous year 4-H Market Animal Auction are required to make and display a poster at your County Fair pen/stall, thanking your previous year buyer. Posters must be displayed by 5:00 P.M on July 20, 2026. No commercial advertising is allowed.

#### 10. Genesee County Fair Entries

- **4-H Fair Animal Entry Forms are due to the 4-H Office by June 26, 2026.** Animals weighed in will not be automatically entered in County Fair.

#### 11. Showmanship & Live Animal Classes

- Members must compete in the appropriate showmanship and live animal classes.
- Showmanship classes will be split by age of the exhibitor. The top two showmen in each division will compete for the title of Master Showman.
- Live animal classes will be split by weight. The top two animals in each class will compete for the title of Grand Champion Animal.
- **All 4-H Market Animal Auction Showmanship and Market Classes will be “No Fit.” Show products including adhesives, oils, coloring agents, and paints are not allowed. Animals are to be shown clean and dry. Fly spray only will be allowed.**

#### 12. Genesee County Fair – July 18 - 25, 2026

- Members are **required** to attend and participate in one (1) fair clean-up session.
- Members are responsible for the care, feeding, and appearance of their project animals until they are released from the Genesee County Fair. Animals must be fed, watered, and freshly bedded by 10:00 A.M daily.
- Release time is set by the Genesee Co. Agricultural Society and will be announced at the Genesee County Fair. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning your pens after your animals are released.
- All 4-H project animals must meet the health requirements of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and must be accompanied by a valid health certificate to remain on the fairgrounds.
- Animals shown in the 4-H Market Animal Auction Classes are only eligible to be shown in the 4-H Market Auction Classes. These animals will not be allowed to show in other 4-H non-auction classes.
- For safety reasons, 4-H Staff and the 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee reserve the right to limit entries.

#### 13. 4-H Market Animal Auction Awards Ceremony

- **Awards Ceremony to be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 6 P.M in the 4-H Show Ring. Project Champions will be announced, and prizes will be awarded at this ceremony.**

#### 14. 4-H Market Animal Auction

- Auction scheduled to be held on **Thursday, July 23, 2026, at the Genesee County Fair.**
- **Sale begins promptly at 6:00 P.M.**
- **Sale Order: Rabbits, Poultry, Meat Goats, Dairy Goats, Lambs, Dairy Steers, Beef Steers, Hogs.**
- **Baked Goods & Agricultural Product Baskets will be sold via Silent Auction.**

#### 15. Auction Details

- Participants must take part in all phases of the show and auction, including being present at the auction if the animal is to be sold. Any exceptions must be approved by 4-H Staff.
- All project animals will be auctioned off live and will go through a sale ring in the main show ring at the fairgrounds, with the exception of poultry which are sold processed.
- Participants must compete in rate-of-gain, appropriate market animal showmanship class, and appropriate live animal class to be eligible for the sale.
- Appropriate clothing and footwear are required for all shows and the auction.
- Participants must accept all risks involved (trucking, exhibition, and handling losses) until the animal is sold.
- Participants are required to write and mail a thank you note to their buyer(s) within two weeks of the auction.

## 16. Auction Terms:

- Participants will be charged up to a 5% sales commission fee, trucking fee and national check off fee for each project animal sold in the 4-H Market Animal Auction. All species will be charged a trucking fee. These fees will be deducted from the auction proceeds check. Participants will receive their auction proceeds check approximately 60 days after the auction.
- Auction buyers may send purchased animals to a meat processor, resell them to a third party, or take them home. If a buyer would like to resell an animal to a third party, they must do so on their own.
- For liability reasons, project animals sold through the auction will be transported to designated processors by designated truckers unless the buyer chooses another form of transportation. Trucking of project animals to designated processors will be provided by the 4-H Market Animal Auction Program. If the buyer chooses another form of transportation or chooses to send the animal to a location other than one of the designated processors, the buyer is responsible for arranging and paying for that transportation.
- Payment is expected night of sale. Accepted forms of payment are cash, check or credit card. All buyers will pay the Genesee County Cooperative Extension Office for the full amount of their purchase. The Extension Office will then distribute payments for animals sold to participants.

## Points System for all Divisions

- Champion Project Animals in each species will be chosen on a point system using the following points scale.
- Points Tie Breakers: (1<sup>st</sup>) Live Placing, then (2<sup>nd</sup>) Showmanship, then (3<sup>rd</sup>) Rate-of-Gain, then random selection.
- Sale Order for Each Species: (1<sup>st</sup>) Champion Project Animal, (2<sup>nd</sup>) Champion Live Placing Animal, (3<sup>rd</sup>) Reserve Champion Project Animal, (4<sup>th</sup>) Reserve Champion Live Placing Animal, (5<sup>th</sup> downward) Ranked by Points
- Members may receive a points deduction for late submission of required paperwork at the discretion of the Extension Office.

<b>Meeting/Educational Event Attendance</b>
<b>20 points per meeting/event</b> <b>Maximum: 200 points</b>
<b>Community Service</b>
<b>20 points per hour</b> <b>Maximum: 5 hours, 100 points per species</b>
<b>Public Presentations</b>
<b>50 points</b>
<b>Project Record</b>
<b>Maximum: 100 points</b>
<b>Rate of Gain</b>
<b>Top placing animal will receive 400 points, decreasing two (2) points for each placing downward. Animals will be ranked in order of highest Rate of Gain from initial weigh-in to final weigh-in.</b>
<b>Showmanship</b>
<b>Top placing showman in each ribbon color will receive their ribbon color base points, decreasing five (5) points for each placing downward.</b>
<b>BASE POINTS:</b> Blue Ribbon: 600 Red Ribbon: 400 White Ribbon: 200

<p><b>BONUS POINTS:</b>  Master Showman: 15  Reserve Master Showman: 10  Division Champion: 5  Reserve Division Champion: 2</p>
<b>Live Animal Placing</b>
<b>Top placing animal in each ribbon color will receive their ribbon color base points, decreasing five (5) points for each placing downward.</b>
<p><b>BASE POINTS:</b>  Blue Ribbon: 1,000  Red Ribbon: 700  White Ribbon: 400</p>
<p><b>BONUS POINTS:</b>  Grand Champion Animal: 15  Reserve Champion Animal: 5  Division Champ: 5  Reserve Division Champ: 2</p>
<b>Maximum Possible Points: 2490</b>

### **Market Beef Steer Division**

1. Only steers (castrated males) are eligible. Heifers (females) and bulls are not eligible.
2. Suggested age of project steers: born in 2025. Steers are not to exceed 24 months of age at final weigh-in.
3. Members may enter (weigh-in) up to two (2) steers and no more than a grand total of five (5) project animals.
4. Members may show and sell a maximum of one (1) beef steer. Members may show and sell a maximum of three (3) project animals. See General Rules, #8.
5. **Beef & Dairy Steer Initial Weigh-in: Saturday, December 6, 2025, 7:30 A.M at Foss Livestock, 10697 Tinkham Road, Darien Center, NY 14040.**
  - a. Steers must be dehorned before the initial weigh-in.
6. **Final Weigh-in will be held at the Genesee County Fair. See fair schedule for day/time.**
  - a. **Beef Steers must weigh between 1000 lbs. to 1600 lbs. at final weigh-in.**
7. **There will not be a safety evaluation/check, but members must be able to safely handle and control their project animal(s). At final weigh-in, members must be able to walk their project animal(s) from the pen/stall to the scale by themselves without the assistance of an adult. Members who are unable to do so will be disqualified. If you need help with your project animal, please contact the 4-H Office and we will connect you with a 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee member who will be more than happy to help you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us and please do not wait until the last minute if you feel you need some help.**

### **Market Dairy Steer Division**

1. Only steers (castrated males) are eligible. Heifers (females) and bulls are not eligible.
2. Suggested age of project steers: born in 2025. Steers are not to exceed 24 months of age at final weigh-in.
3. Dairy Steers must fit into one of two classes:
  - a. Dairy Steer – Dairy x Dairy bred steer. 100% dairy bred.
  - b. Dairy Beef Steer – Dairy x Beef bred steer. Up to 50% beef bred.
4. Members may enter (weigh-in) up to two (2) steers and no more than a grand total of five (5) project animals.
5. Members may show and sell a maximum of one (1) dairy steer. Members may show and sell a maximum of three (3) project animals. See General Rules, #8.

6. **Beef & Dairy Steer Initial Weigh-in: Saturday, December 6, 2025, 7:30 A.M at Foss Livestock, 10697 Tinkham Road, Darien Center, NY 14040.**
  - a. Steers must be dehorned before the initial weigh-in.
7. **Final Weigh-in will be held at the Genesee County Fair. See fair schedule for day/time.**
  - a. Dairy Steers must weigh between 1000 lbs. to 1600 lbs. at final weigh-in.
8. **There will not be a safety evaluation/check, but members must be able to safely handle and control their project animal(s). At final weigh-in, members must be able to walk their project animal(s) from the pen/stall to the scale by themselves without the assistance of an adult. Members who are unable to do so will be disqualified. If you need help with your project animal, please contact the 4-H Office and we will connect you with a 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee member who will be more than happy to help you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us and please do not wait until the last minute if you feel you need some help.**

### **Market Meat Goat Division**

1. Wethers (castrated males) and does (females) are eligible. Goats must be at least 50% meat breed crosses.
2. Suggested age of project goats: less than a year old at final weigh-in, born after July 1, 2025.
3. Members may enter (weigh-in) up to four (4) goats and no more than a grand total of five (5) project animals.
4. Members may show and sell up to two (2) goats. Members may show and sell a maximum of three (3) project animals. See General Rules, #8.
5. **Market Goat Initial Weigh-in: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 7:00 P.M at the Kennedy Building at the Genesee County Fairgrounds, 5056 East Main Street Road, Batavia.**
  - a. Goats must be identified with an official scrapie tag at initial weigh-in.
6. **Final Weigh-in will be held at the Genesee County Fair. See fair schedule for day/time.**
  - a. Meat Goats must weigh between 60 lbs. to 125 lbs. at final weigh-in.

### **\*\*NEW\*\*Market Dairy Goat Division**

1. Wethers (castrated males) and does (females) are eligible. Goats must be 100% dairy goat bred.
2. Suggested age of project goats: less than a year old at final weigh-in, born after July 1, 2025.
3. Members may enter (weigh-in) up to four (4) goats and no more than a grand total of five (5) project animals.
4. Members may show and sell up to two (2) goats. Members may show and sell a maximum of three (3) project animals. See General Rules, #8.
5. **Market Goat Initial Weigh-in: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 7:00 P.M at the Kennedy Building at the Genesee County Fairgrounds, 5056 East Main Street Road, Batavia.**
  - a. Goats must be identified with an official scrapie tag at initial weigh-in.
6. **Final Weigh-in will be held at the Genesee County Fair. See fair schedule for day/time.**
  - a. Dairy Market Goats must weigh between 50 lbs. to 110 lbs. at final weigh.

### **Market Lamb Division**

1. Wethers (castrated males) and ewes (females) are eligible. Rams are not eligible.
2. Suggested age of project lambs: born after January 1, 2026.
3. Members may enter (weigh-in) up to four (4) lambs and no more than a grand total of five (5) project animals.
4. Members may show and sell up to two (2) lambs. Members may show and sell a maximum of three (3) project animals. See General Rules, #8.

5. **Market Lamb Initial Weigh-in: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:00 P.M at the Kennedy Building** at the Genesee County Fairgrounds, 5056 East Main Street Road, Batavia.
  - a. Lambs must be identified with an official scrapie tag at weigh-in.
6. **Final Weigh-in will be held at the Genesee County Fair. See fair schedule for day/time.**
  - a. Lambs must weigh between 90 lbs. to 160 lbs. at final weigh-in.
  - b. Lambs must be shorn within 10 days of final weigh-in and dry at the time of weigh-in.

### **Market Hog Division**

1. Barrows (castrated males) or gilts (females) are eligible. Boars are not eligible.
2. Suggested age of project hogs: born after January 1, 2026.
3. Members may enter (weigh-in) up to four (4) hogs and no more than a grand total of five (5) project animals.
4. Members may show and sell up to two (2) hogs. Members may show and sell a maximum of three (3) project animals. See General Rules, #8.
5. **Market Hog Initial Weigh-in: Thursday, April 23, 2026, 6:00 P.M at the Kennedy Building** at the Genesee County Fairgrounds, 5056 East Main Street Road, Batavia.
  - a. Hogs should be identified with an official 840 tag at initial weigh-in.
6. **Final Weigh-in will be held at the Genesee County Fair. See fair schedule for day/time.**
  - a. Hogs must weigh between 225 lbs. to 310 lbs. at final weigh-in.

### **Market Poultry Division**

1. All project market birds must be purchased through the Genesee County 4-H Program. A minimum order of six (6) chicks per participant is required. All market birds will have come from a pullorum free facility and the 4-H Office will hold the certificate.
2. Market Poultry classes will be judged on health, vigor, and market quality at the time of show. Entries judged "No Award" will not be eligible to be sold and must be removed from the fairgrounds by the exhibitor.
3. The 4-H Market Poultry Show and final weigh-in will be held prior to the Genesee County Fair on **June 27, 2026.**
4. **\*\*NEW\*\*Birds must weigh a minimum of 6 lbs. (live weight) at final weigh-in. Birds weighing less than 6 lbs. will be disqualified. 3 birds are required per pair entered in the market poultry show. The 3<sup>rd</sup> bird will be substituted if damage is found by processor.**
5. After the 4-H Market Poultry Show, project birds will be transported to a processing facility. Participants are responsible for making processing arrangements for any additional birds.
6. Participants must exhibit at least one animal in the 4-H Merton Building at County Fair to be eligible to sell their project birds in the auction.
7. A sale lot will consist of two (2) processed market chickens. The buyer will be responsible for paying processing costs for each lot purchased. This fee will be added to auction invoices.
8. **\*\*NEW\*\*** All market poultry must be transported to the Market Poultry show in personal carriers. **NO** processing crates will be provided prior to the show.

### **Market Rabbit Division**

1. Rabbits will be entered and sold as a pen of two rabbits. Pair must be from the same litter, but do not have to be the same sex. If one of the rabbits is disqualified during judging, the whole pair is disqualified.
2. Rabbits must be born between January 18, 2026 and April 18, 2026.

3. Purebred rabbits must not exceed their ARBA Junior Class weight limits. Rabbits will be shown by breed.
4. **Market Rabbit Initial Weigh-in date TBD.**
5. **Final weigh-in will be held at the Genesee County Fair. See fair schedule for day/time.**
  - a. **Rabbits must be under 6 months old at final weigh-in.**
  - b. **Rabbits must weigh a minimum of 5 lbs. and a maximum of their breeds standard at final weigh-in. Crossbred rabbits maximum will be determined by the largest breed.**
6. A sale lot will consist of two (2) live rabbits.
7. All participants are required to have a clean, two-hole carrier for each pair.