

STEUBEN COUNTY

2026 4-H MARKET ANIMAL RULES & REGULATIONS

What is a Market Animal?

- A market chicken, turkey, rabbit, beef steer, beef heifer, dairy steer, hog, lamb or goat that's raised with the intention of selling and belongs to a Steuben County 4-H Member.

All Market Animals:

- **Market Beef Steer/Heifer & Market Dairy Steer** entries are due online via FairEntry by **January 2nd, 2026**
- **Market Hog, Lamb, Goat, Turkey, and Rabbit Showcase** entries are **DUE ONLINE** via FairEntry by **July 1, 2026** in order to be eligible to show in the **2026 4-H Showcase**
- **Market Chicken Showcase** entries are **DUE ONLINE** via FairEntry by **July 1, 2026** in order to be eligible to show in the **2026 4-H Showcase**
 - **2026 FairEntry Link:** <https://steubencounty4h.fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/23077>
- All 4-H members who identify a market animal **MUST** have a YQCA Certification and a copy of the Certificate must be submitted to the 4-H office by **July 1, 2026**.
- All 4-H members who exhibit a project in 4-H Showcase are **REQUIRED** to turn in a **COMPLETED** project record to the CCE office by **September 21, 2026 (LATE RECORDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)** Records can be found on this webpage <http://putknowledgetowork.org/4-h-youth/4-h-records>
- Animals cannot be shown in both a market class and breeding class. For example: (A Market Beef Heifer cannot be shown in both the Market Beef Heifer class and Beef Breeding Heifer class)
- ONLY 2 market animals per species & per class can be SHOWN at the 4-H Showcase EXCEPT for MARKET CHICKEN (See Market Poultry section for more information)
- 4-H Staff reserve the right to qualify or disqualify any beef, dairy steer, sheep, swine, turkey, chicken, rabbit & market goat from the show
- Each 4-H member must submit a separate entry, even if the animal is co-owned
- Filling out an online entry for your market animal(s) is REQUIRED in order for you to show at 4-H Showcase
- **Please notify the CCE Office of any market animal entries that will be scratched for the 2026 4-H Showcase BY Monday, July 20, 2026**
- **Please notify the CCE Office if any tags have fallen out & have been replaced with a new number so we can keep our records up to date**

Market Rabbits:

- **Cannot exceed 6 months** of age as of **July 25, 2026**
- Must weigh in at **5-8 pounds**
- Can be either a doe or buck
- Can be any of the **following types** (Purebred or Crossbred): American Chinchilla, Argente Brun, Bevern, Blanc de Hotot, Californian, Champagne de Argent, Cinnamon, Crème de Argent, Flemish Giant, Florida White, Giant Chinchilla, Harlequin, Palomino, New Zealand, Satin, or Silver Fox

Market Poultry:

- Market Chickens **CANNOT** exceed **9 weeks** of age as of **July 20, 2026**
- ***NEW*** 2 pen consisting of 2 market chickens PER EXHIBITOR is eligible for show & sell
- Market Turkeys **CANNOT** exceed **16 weeks** of age as of **July 20, 2026**
- ***NEW*** 2- market turkey PER EXHIBITOR is eligible for show & sell
- 4-H members **MUST** indicate at the conclusion of the show IF their market poultry will be consigned in the auction
- Processing; Birds are sold processed, it is recommended to provide 2 extra birds
- **ONLY BLUE RIBBON MARKET POULTRY WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO GO THROUGH THE 4-H MARKET ANIMAL SALE AT THE 2026 4-H SHOWCASE.**

Market Beef Steers:

- 4-H members must **OWN** all market beef steers by **January 1, 2026**
- 4-H members must **ENTER** their market beef steers online via FairEntry by **January 2, 2026**
- **Cannot exceed 24 months** of age as of **July 25, 2026**
- Must be fully castrated & dehorned
- Must be a beef, beef cross, or beef/dairy cross
- ALL CATTLE must be **BVD** (Bovine Viral Diarrhea) tested & have an RFID tag prior to arrival at the Showcase
- Small Frame Market Beef Steers (Lowline, Dexter, Mini Hereford, etc.) Must weigh between **700-900 pounds** at weigh in
- Large Frame Market Beef Steers (Angus, Simmental, Charolais, Limousin, etc.) Must weigh at least **900 pounds** at weigh in

Market Beef Heifers:

- 4-H members must **OWN** all market beef heifers by **January 1, 2026**
- 4-H members must **ENTER** their market beef heifers online via FairEntry by **January 2, 2026**
- ALL CATTLE must be **BVD** (Bovine Viral Diarrhea) tested & have an RFID tag prior to arrival of the Showcase
- **Cannot exceed 24 months** of age as of **July 25, 2026**
- Must be a beef or beef cross
- Must be dehorned
- Must weigh at least **900 pounds** at weigh in

Dairy Steers:

- 4-H members must **OWN** all market dairy steers by **January 1, 2026**
- 4-H members must **ENTER** their market dairy steers online via FairEntry by **January 2, 2026**
- ALL CATTLE must be **BVD** (Bovine Viral Diarrhea) tested & have an RFID tag prior to arrival of the Showcase
- Must be **26 months** of age or younger as of **July 25, 2026**
- Must be 100% dairy
- Must be **fully castrated and dehorned**
- Must weigh at least **1,100 pounds** at weigh in

Junior Prospect Male Beef Calf, Feeder Beef Heifer, Dairy Feeder Steer:

- Calves must be born between **January 1, 2026-June 1, 2026**
- **MUST BE entered in the 4-H Showcase online system by July 1, 2026 in order to be eligible to show in the 2026- 4-H Showcase**
- ALL CATTLE must be **BVD** (Bovine Viral Diarrhea) tested & have an RFID tag prior to arrival of the Showcase

Market Goats:

- 4-H members must OWN all market goat(s) by **June 1, 2026**
- **Must be under 1-year-old as of July 25, 2026**
- Can be either a doe or fully castrated wether
- Must weigh at least **60 pounds** at weigh in

Market Hogs:

- 4-H members must own all market hog(s) by **June 1, 2026**
- Must be born between **January 1, 2026-June 1, 2026**
- Can be either gilts or fully castrated barrows
- Must weigh **at least 200 pounds but cannot exceed 300 pounds** at weigh in
- Must have an RFID tag

Market Lambs:

- 4-H members must own all market lamb(s) by **June 1, 2026**
- Must be born between **January 1, 2026-June 1, 2026**
- Can be either ewes or fully castrated wethers
- Must weigh at least **80 pounds**
- Market lambs must be slick sheared (no more than 1 inch of wool) at weigh in

Animal Weigh-In & Check-In:

- All 4-H market beef steers, heifers, dairy steers, lambs, hogs, and goats must have USDA approved official identification as listed on their Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) before coming to weigh in. The CVI **MUST** accompany the animal when they **arrive** at the Showcase
- If an animal comes to weigh in **WITHOUT** permanent identification that matches both the Identification Certificate and Showcase Entry Identification, the animal will be disqualified.
- ALL animal ear tags must be clean & legible
- All 4-H animals must be weighed in and be on display at the Showcase by deadline stated in the Premium Book.
- Animals cannot be **unloaded** or taken to barns **UNTIL** they are checked in.
- At weigh-in, members **MUST** indicate IF their market animal will be consigned to the 4-H Market Animal Sale **EXCLUDING MARKET POULTRY (See Market Poultry section for more information)**

Livestock Animal Sale Information:

- Empire Livestock will deduct a **4% commission** from EACH market animal sold for all species that

will go to the **Steuben County 4-H Market Animal Sale Funds**

- Empire Livestock will also deduct & submit the “**check off**” amount for each market beef, dairy steer, market hog and market lamb sold through the sale. This is a state and nationally recognized marketing program that’s funded through producer’s dollars for promotion, research and consumer information. For more information, visit <https://www.beefboard.org/checkoff/>, <https://www.pork.org/about/>, <https://lambresourcecenter.com/lamb-checkoff/checkoff-process/>
- Any adjustments to consigned animals MUST be made at the conclusion of the show
- Each market animal (**except market turkeys, chickens & rabbits**) that is either identified or entered for the Showcase will be issued a Steuben County 4-H Ear Tag by the CCE Office.
- ONLY 2 market animals per species can be **SOLD** at the Steuben County 4-H Showcase
- 4-H staff reserves the right to qualify or disqualify any market animal
- 4-H members are responsible for make sure their market animal is properly cared for until it’s picked up by their buyer
- If an animal wins GRAND OR RESERVE-GRAND CHAMPION, then it **MUST** be **SOLD** at the Steuben County 4-H Market Animal Sale (**EVEN** if it wasn’t originally consigned)
- 4-H members are expected to be **PRESENT** when selling their consigned market animal at the 4-H Market Animal Sale

Please refer to the Steuben County 4-H Showcase Premium Book, 4-H Steubenite, 4-H Monday Memos, mailings, and any 4-H staff for more information!!