# Ontario County 4-H
# 2026-2027 Meat Animal Beef Regulations

- A steer (castrated male) or market heifer, all cattle must be born during 2026.
- Starting your project: The 4-H office has reference materials available to aid you in selection, feeding and showing your animal. Contact Taryn at tjb322@cornell.edu if you need assistance.
- A participant may tag/weigh-in up to 2 animals (strongly encouraged) for the meat animal beef program. At weigh-in time at the fair, the 4-H youth will need to designate which animal will be their animal for the Livestock Auction.
- Cattle must be selected and in your possession for this project by steer weigh-in. Which will be on Saturday December 5th at 1pm.
- Only 1 steer may be shown and sold in the meat auction animal division by each participant.
- Steers SHOULD weigh at least 500lbs at initial weigh-in.
- Steers must weigh a minimum of 1000# at the final weighing at the fair in July.
- At initial weigh-in all cattle must be dehorned and castrated or they will not be eligible for the project. Cattle may be rechecked for horns and testacles at the final weighing. If either is present, the animal will be ineligible to show or take part in the auction.
- Steers must have certificates of veterinary inspection and all shots that are required for cattle going to the fair, included rabies shots and shipping fever shots. Observe withholding times on all vaccines. A negative test for BDV-PI is required and an RFID Tag.
- Meat animals are to be shown clean and dry.
- Participants are required to provide feed and bedding for their animals while on exhibit at the fairgrounds. Exhibitors are expected to help keep the barn aisles swept and look presentable for the public.
- Participants need to communicate to the Auction Committee where their animal will be housed after the sale.
- Participants are required to show their own animals in the auction market class and must participate in showmanship.
- Dairy Beef steers will compete in their own division of dairy steers.
- If animal weighs over 1600lbs, the buyer is only responsible for paying for 1600lbs. *this is to offset the additional charges the buyers will face at processing, due to a large carcass.
- The Livestock Meat Animal Auction will take place on Friday, July 30th!

Beef – Tom Grefrath – 585-330-3676