

MANISTEE COUNTY 4-H MARKET LIVESTOCK RULES & GUIDELINES

ALL MEMBERS – ALL SPECIES

1. In order to participate in any 4-H Market Class, a member must have first completed a year of 4-H “Showmanship Only” – that is, showing any species without selling it. Once that initial requirement is fulfilled, the member may market in any other year in their 4-H career. ***Any year of participation in official Cloverbud Showmanship events also counts towards this requirement.***
2. Member must be currently enrolled in Manistee or Benzie County 4-H. *(check enrollment deadlines)*
3. The Manistee 4-H Livestock Council prohibits 4-H Livestock Exhibitors from entering Manistee Fair Market Livestock classes if they plan to participate in any market livestock program at any other Fair in the same calendar year. If a member violates this rule, they will be prohibited from participating in market livestock classes the following year. *(Amended Jan. 2015)*
4. Prior to participating in that year’s market sale, member must have shown in that species showmanship class during Fair Week. The animal being sold must be shown, except for rabbit, poultry, and goat exhibitors, who may use a different animal of the same species for showmanship. *(Amended Jan. 2012)*
5. Sale eligibility of any animal/species will be determined by the species judge and the Livestock Council.
6. Member may sell a TOTAL of THREE (3) animals: 2 large & 1 small, or 1 large & 2 small, or 3 small. (The maximum of 2 large is due to barn space limitations.) Goats are considered small animals. No duplicate species may be sold - all must be a different species. *(Amended January 2015)*
7. Animal is not eligible for sale unless Market Registration Form (for steers & feeders) and Fair Registration Form (for ALL species) were completed and turned in by correct date. **NO PHONE REGISTRATION OF ANIMALS IS ALLOWED.**
8. A completed 4-H Record Book is required at weigh-in from all Manistee and Benzie 4-H Members aged 8 years and over, participating in a Market Livestock Project. Books must be turned in by close of weigh-in day. Failure to do so will result in Livestock Council holding the member’s market check until the book is submitted along with a letter of explanation for the delay. *(Revised Jan. 2021)*

MARKET REGISTRATION DATES

Beef & Dairy Steers -Market Only:	December 31 – Steer Form Due
	April 1 – Market Registration Due
All Other Species -Market & Non-Market:	Third Friday in the Month of June

9. To be eligible for market sale, animals must meet the following age/weight/possession date requirements by the time of weigh-in day:

Birthdate and/or Possession Date Requirements for Animals <i>(Amended February 2015)</i>		Minimum/Maximum Weights
CHICKENS		
Broiler/Fryer	Maximum age 7 weeks (49 days). Pen of 3/same sex.	Min. 3.5# ea. Max. 6# ea.
Roaster Class	Maximum age 12 weeks. Pen of 3/same sex.	Min. 6.25# ea. No Max
GEESE		
	Minimum 15 weeks, maximum 40 weeks. Pen of 2.	Min. 12# ea.
DUCKS		
	Minimum 12 weeks, maximum 40 weeks. Pen of 2.	Min. 6# ea.
TURKERY		
	Hatched March 1 or later. Pen of 2/same sex.	Min. Hen 15# ea. Min. Tom 20# ea.
RABBITS		
	Maximum age 11 weeks (77 days). Pen of 3.	Min. 3# ea. Max. 6# ea.

RABBITS – Roaster Class	Maximum age 11 weeks (77 days). Pen of 3.	Min: 6# ea.
GOATS	Born December 1 – March 1.	Min. 60#
SHEEP	Born on or after January 1 of current Fair year.	Min. 100#
SWINE	Born on or after January 15 of current Fair year.	Min. 220# Max. 325#
VEAL	6-12 weeks at Fair Weigh-In.	Min. 200# Max. 350#
BEEF FEEDER	Born on or after December 1 of prior Fair year.	Min. 300# Max. 700#
DAIRY FEEDER	Born on or after December 1 of prior Fair year (dairy breeds/no beef crosses).	Min. 300# Max. 700#
BEEF STEER	Register by April 1. Maximum age 2 years at weigh-in.	Min. 1000#
DAIRY STEER	Register by April 1. Maximum age 2 years at weigh-in (no beef crosses).	Min. 1100#
Purchase or Proof of Origin MUST be provided for ALL Livestock Animals.		

10. All animals **MUST** be in the possession of the member at the time that species market registration form is due (except for veal, rabbits, and poultry). Members are to own, provided continuous care of, and show their own market animal(s). **Animal is not required to be housed on member's property.** (Amended Jan. 2012)
11. Member will not be allowed to sell unless he/she has submitted **four (4)** completed "Prospective Buyer Slip" forms by the last day of 4-H Fair Registration. (Any less than four (4) will not be accepted initially, but once the first four (4) are in, members may turn in any number of additional slips, if desired.) The initial four (4) slips, must NOT be from relatives. If more than one (1) child in a family is selling, they may not duplicate other siblings' buyers for the *initial* four (4) buyer slips. (Amended Jan. 2020)
12. Pen & Stall fees were eliminated after the 2004 Fair.
13. It is the responsibility of the seller of small animals (rabbit, poultry, etc.) to deliver their animals to their buyer within two (2) weeks after the Auction. The market purchase will be processed according to the buyer's request. **PENALTY:** Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 deduction from your market check. (Amended March 2013)
14. Any member under twelve (12) years of age (as of Jan. 1) may not show any animal over 700 lbs. in weight. All 4-H entries must be weighed upon entry into the barn. (Amended March 2017)

AT FAIR WEIGH-IN

ALL MEMBERS – ALL SPECIES

1. All animals must have, depending on species, one of the following: Ear Tag, Leg Band, Wing Band, or Tattoo. (See your species category for further info.) **PROOF OF ORIGIN INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT ON RECORD DURING FAIR WEEK; EVEN IF ANIMAL IS BORN ON YOUR PROPERTY, YOU MUST STILL COMPLETE THE PROOF OF ORIGIN SECTION OF THE PEN & STALL DOCUMENT. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THIS PROOF AUTOMATICALLY ELIMINATES ANIMAL FROM FAIR ENTRY.** (Amended 01/07/10)
2. Health requirements established by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Manistee County Fair Board, and the Manistee County 4-H Livestock Council will be strictly enforced. (See your species category for further information.)

3. In the event that a market animal is severely injured or dies, the 4-H Livestock Council officers and 4-H Staff should be notified within 48 hours. A Livestock Council Committee will assist and advise on a suitable replacement animal (depending on size/age/species). The replacement animal must be in member's possession within 14 days of reported injury/death. Any animal determined by Livestock Council to be ill or injured will not be sold.
4. In the event that the Livestock Council has set a mandatory meeting for all members selling an animal, appropriate notice will be given. Failure to attend (or provide a written excuse and complete a make-up meeting) will result in not being able to participate in that year's sale.
5. Any complaints/exceptions to these rules (see also specific species categories) occurring before the Fair must be submitted in writing to the Livestock Council before their final pre-Fair meeting begins. If the complaint/exception occurs during Fair Week and requires instant resolution, the matter must be brought immediately before a Livestock Council Member. It will then be handled by a group consisting of at least one (1) 4-H Staff person and at least three (3) Livestock Council Members, with the possible inclusion of a Fair Board member, depending on the circumstances. All other complaint/exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Livestock Council before their next post-Fair meeting begins.

4-H AUCTION, PROCESSING, & BUYER BANQUET

1. Sale Commission of **5%** will be deducted from each member's sale to help cover expenses of the sale, pictures, advertising, judging fees, ribbons/trophies/plaques, scale certification, and the Buyer Appreciation Event.

For all donated items, the commission is 7.5% or \$18.00 per item, whichever is greater.

PENALTY: Further penalties may be assessed (see #5 above) for improper/negligence of animal or barn duties and may also include forfeiture of awards and premiums and removal from Fairgrounds. *(Revised Jan. 2020)*

2. If processor selected by buyer charges a trucking fee, it will also be deducted from the member's market sale, or member may arrange their own trucking.
3. All members participating in the sale **will be expected** to attend the Annual Buyer Banquet and will help their Club with set-up and clean-up duties as established by the banquet planning committee. **PENALTY: Those members not attending without providing both a written excuse note and a reasonable substitute to cover their absence (parent, sibling, friend, etc.) will face an additional 5% commission deducted and unclaimed photos and checks must be picked up at the November Livestock Council meeting.** *(Revised April 2017)*
4. Written excuses must be received **no later than two (2) weeks before** the banquet. If you have reason to excused on short notice, you **STILL** must submit a letter. Letters **MUST** contain the following:
 - a) The **REASON YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.**
 - b) The **NAME OF THE PERSON WHO WILL BE HANDLING YOUR DUTIES** (handle your buyer photo presentation, pick up your market check, and read your program portion – if you are a Senior Showman). It can be a relative, fellow 4-H member, your Club Leader, neighbor, etc.
 - c) For **Senior Showman Only: THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON WHO WILL BE READING YOUR ASSIGNED PORTION OF THE BANQUET PROGRAM.** (It can be the same person who is handling your buyer photo and check, or someone else.) When reading assignments are made, we will be mailing your assignments to that person.

*If your Club has been assigned to **help with the planning, decorating, or set-up before the banquet – you are STILL expected to do YOUR SHARE to support your Club!***

5. The butchering & delivery of all small animals (rabbits and all types of poultry) is the responsibility of the **seller**. The buyer will pay an added fee of \$6.00 per animal for chickens, ducks, or rabbits; and \$10 per animal for turkeys & geese. *(Amended March 2016)*
6. It is the responsibility of the seller to submit completed Thank You Notes to the Livestock Council by the start of the September Livestock Council meeting (after the Fair). Notes must be properly and correctly addressed to the appropriate buyer and bear sufficient postage. **ENVELOPES MUST REMAIN UNSEALED, SO THAT A BUYER BANQUET INVITATION CAN BE INSERTED BY A COUNCIL VOLUNTEER. PENALTY:** \$25.00 will be deducted from the market check for each animal sold where there was no Thank You submitted. *(Amended March 2013)*

Date: The Buyer Appreciation Event is typically the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of October. Pay attention to news blasts, e-mails, Facebook postings and Fair Week Announcements for the exact date.

Occasion: Beginning in 2019, the Livestock Council began experimenting with a “Desert Social” type of event, instead of the traditional buffet-style dinner.

What to Bring: Nothing – unless you have been asked to bring something due to a specific request. Some members do bring gifts and/or flowers for their buyers. This is not expected and is voluntary.

Arrival Time: The event usually begins at 6:30 PM (EST), so please arrive 15 minutes early, so that you have time to be comfortably seated and ready for opening announcements and pledges. With the event having changed to a “Desert Social” in 2019, a different start time might be announced.

Attire: Business casual or moderately dressy. As room and kitchen cleanup do occur after the event, safe footwear is highly encouraged.

Guests: You may bring your parents/guardians and immediately family.

Duties: Pay close attention to program announcers that night and the printed program. **BE READY TO COME FORWARD** to pick up your photos. Give the large photo to your buyer(s) and keep the smaller one. If your buyer is not in attendance, please deliver the photo to them. If possible, let the Council know why your buyer was unable to attend.

Market Check: You **ARE** expected to help clean up after the event is over! Market Checks will be distributed once that task is completed.

SPECIES CATEGORIES

❖ POULTRY

- i. Exhibitor may use a different poultry animal (from the pen being sold) for Showmanship but must be same species. **Pullorum testing is required** (Ducks are excluded). **Exhibitor must also provide information on proof of purchase or origin.** *(Revised 02/05/15)*
- ii. **BROILER/FRYER CHICKENS:** Maximum age of 7 weeks (49 days) at the time of Fair Weigh-In. Pen of 3/same sex. *(Amended 02/05/15)*
- iii. **ROASTER CHICKENS:** Maximum age of 12 weeks at time of Fair Weigh-In. Pen of 3/same sex. *(Amended 02/05/15)*
- iv. **TURKEYS:** Hatched March 1 or later. Pen of 2/same sex (Either 2 Hens or 2 Toms).
- v. **GEESE:** Minimum age of 15 weeks at time of Fair Weigh-In (maximum age 40 weeks). Pen of 2.
- vi. **DUCKS:** Minimum age of 12 weeks at time of Fair Weigh-In (maximum age 40 weeks). Pen of 2.

❖ RABBITS

- i. Litters must be registered and tattooed before Fair Entry Day. Pen of 3 animals.
- ii. Rabbits do not have to be born at the Exhibitor's home premises. *(Amended April 2017)*
- iii. Exhibitor may use a different rabbit (from the three (3) being sold) for Showmanship.

❖ GOAT

- i. Must be a wether (castrated male) or doe (female). Wethers must be castrated by no later than two (2) months of age. Tagging will be done at Fair Weigh-In. All goats being exhibited as **"Showing Only"** must be dehorned **according to breed standards**. All goats being exhibited as **"market class"** goats must be dehorned **without exception**. *(Amended March 2015)*
- ii. Separate market classes have been established for meat and dairy goats. Only one (1) goat per member, per year may be sold. Dairy goats may be purebreds or crosses of dairy breeds only. *(Amended Jan. 2012)*
- iii. Exhibitor may use a different goat for Showmanship. *(Amended Jan. 2012)*

❖ SHEEP

- i. Only one (1) Lamb per member per year may be sold. Must be wether (castrated male) or ewe (female). Tagging will be done at Fair Weigh-In.

❖ SWINE

- i. Only one (1) hog per member per year may be sold. Must be barrow (castrated male) or gilt (female).
- ii. Health alerts, disease prevention measures, quarantines, and special tagging/testing involving swine may arise on short notice. All swine exhibitors are expected to comply with all swine health and sanitation announcements from the Fair Board and/or Extension Office as they occur. *(Revised March 2017)*
- iii. **Any swine exceeding 325 lbs. in weight will be marketed at 325 lbs.** *(Revised 12/06/07)*

❖ CATTLE

- i. All cattle shall be less than two (2) years old at time of sale. Breeding animal's horns may not exceed two (2) inches in length. Steer tagging will be done as soon as possible after January 1, weather permitting. Animal must be able to be led by the Exhibitor. *(Amended May 2019)*

- ii. **STEERS** – (*Beef or Dairy as of 2/6/03*) Exhibitor must be **no younger than** 12 years of age **on January 1 of current 4-H Year**. Animal must be dehorned and castrated December 31. Only one (1) Steer per member per year may be sold. This can be a maximum two (2) year project, or a maximum two (2) year old animal (either/or) can be sold. **Dairy Steers may be purebreds or crosses of Dairy breeds only.** (*Revised May 2019*)
- iii. **STEER REGISTRATION/TAGGING:** Steers must be registered by December 31. Members are allowed to register and tag two (2) Steers. However, BEFORE weigh-in, member must choose Market Animal. (*Revised Jan. 2020*)
- iv. **FEEDERS** – Members are allowed to do both a beef feeder and a dairy feeder project. Not intended for slaughter however. Please consider before acquiring as market animal. If purchased, at Auction, buyer will be advised to take animal home and raise to a finished animal.
- v. **BEEF FEEDER** – Must be born after December 1 of the prior Fair year. Feeders must be in possession and registered by the final date of Fair Registration. Heifers, steers, or bulls will be allowed. All must be dehorned. Heifers that will be over four (4) months of age at Fair Weigh-In must have brucellosis (reproductive disease/bacterial infection) vaccine. Minimum weight at Fair Weigh-In will be 300 lbs. and the maximum weight will be 700 lbs. Any Beef Feeder exceeding 700 lbs. will be sold at 700 lbs. and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Award. (*Revised 01/11/07*)
- vi. **DAIRY FEEDER** – Must be born after December of the prior Fair year. Feeders must be in possession and registered by the final date of Fair Registration. Heifers, steers, or bulls will be allowed. All must be dehorned. Heifers that will be over four (4) months of age at Fair Weigh-In must have brucellosis (reproductive disease/bacterial infection) vaccine. Minimum weight at Fair Weigh-In will be 300 lbs. and the maximum weight will be 700 lbs. Any Dairy Feeder exceeding 700 lbs. will be sold at 700 lbs. and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Award. **Dairy feeders may be purebreds or crosses of Dairy breeds only.** (*Revised 01/11/07*)
- vii. **VEAL** – Six (6) to twelve (12) weeks at Fair Weigh-In. Bull or heifer.