

2023/2024 4-H MARKET LIVESTOCK STEER/DAIRY BEEF PROJECT REQUIREMENTS



1. **Age Requirement:** The 4-H Member must have reached their **10th birthday by January 1, 2024** to sell their animal at the 2023 sale. A member may continue in the project as long as they are 4-H eligible age. 4-H Eligible age is 5 to 19 as of January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. **Returning vs New Member:** A “Returning” Market Livestock Member is a 4-Her that has been enrolled at least one year in a market livestock project. A “New” Market Livestock Member is a 4-H’er enrolling in a market livestock project for their first year. All returning 4-Her’s must have achieved a B or better on their most recent market animal notebook entry at the Oceana County Fair. If you are registered in the 4-H Market Livestock Project you are not eligible to participate in the 4-H Small Market Animal Project.
3. **Optional Two Animal Registration:** Those enrolled in the 4-H Market Livestock Steer/Dairy Beef Project have the option of raising two animals. If they choose to raise two animals, they will be required to pay a non-refundable \$5 fee for the second animal to 4-H Market Livestock at the MSU Extension Office. The second animal will be registered as the “backup” animal. Breeds, RFID tag numbers and pictures, will be required for both animals. At the time of registration the 4-H’er will declare which animal is their “Primary” animal and which will be their “Backup” animal. One backup animal may be registered to more than one 4-H’er, but each 4-H’er **must pay the \$5 backup animal fee by 3 p.m. on December 1, 2023.**
4. **Backup Animal Notification Deadline:** The 4-H-er raising two animals will have until August 12th (1 week prior to fair) to notify the MSU Extension Office, in writing, that they will be bringing their backup animal. If notification is not made, the primary animal will be the one expected to come to fair. If a 4-H’er brings the backup animal without notification, in writing, to the fair they may be disqualified from exhibition and the 4-H Market Program.
5. **4-H Enrollment** 4-H’ers must have completed the 4-H Enrollment through <https://v2.4honline.com/>
6. **Registration/Applications Time Frame:** I understand that all market applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis, pending available space. **If I completed the market steer project last year, and met all of the requirements listed on the 4-H Automatic Enrollment Policy, I may sign up during the time frame of October 23, 2023 - December 1, 2023 at the MSUE Office, through mail, email to pumford5@msu.edu, or fax (873-3710) by 3:00 p.m., pending available space.** I must have reenrolled through 4-H online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/> before my application will be accepted. The deadline for final enrollment is by 3:00 p.m. on Dec.1, 2023, pending available space. **The Tier 1 timeframe is 10/23/22– 10/27/23 (returning Large Market members completing all 6 meetings, earning a B or better on their notebook and selling their animal through the auction). Tier 2 timeframe is 10/30/23– 11/3/23 (returning Large market members completing all 6 meetings and either did not make weight or have special circumstances that were brought before the Market Livestock Committee as per the steps in the 4-H Automatic Enrollment policy (attached). Tier 3 timeframe is 11/11/23 from 8:15-8:30 a.m. - 12/1/23.** (All new 4-H Market Livestock members). If needed, a waiting list of at least 5 names will be taken.
7. **Waiting List System:** Those placed on the waiting list will be notified if a space should become available. Applications will be numbered in the order they are received. There will be no filling of open spots after July 1st.
8. **Beef Loan/Insurance:** 4-H Market Livestock Beef members may apply for a Beef Loan to help with the initial cost of purchasing their animal. A first year member may request a \$300 loan and any members involved two or more years may request a \$150 loan. Loans will be issued no earlier than November 15, 2023. A promissory note is required at the time a loan is applied for as is the insurance fee of \$10.00 (for \$300 loans) or \$5.00 (for \$150 loans). Please see the Promissory Note for additional details.
9. **Ear Tag Requirements/Steer Weigh-In/Pictures:** All 4-H Market Livestock Steer/Dairy Beef project animals will be required to have the 15 digit Michigan Department of Agriculture RFID tag in their animal’s ear prior to the Saturday, December 2, 2023 Steer Weigh-In. **All participants must attend this mandatory Beef Weigh-in** where their animal will be initially weighed, tag number recorded, breed recorded and picture taken. A request of the Executive Committee may be made for those needing a parent or sibling to bring their animal in their absence. This event will be held at the Oceana County Fairgrounds Beef Barn (if permitted) on December 2, 2023 from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Project members must attend unless an exception has been granted by the 4-H Market Livestock Committee. Failure to comply with this statement will result in disqualification from the project. **If you are raising two animals, both animals must be in attendance.** If this event should be cancelled, you will be notified of the adjusted deadline for RFID tag numbers, breeds and pictures of your animal (s) .

10. **Lost/Fallen Out Ear Tags:** If the RFID ear tags should get lost or fall out, the Extension Office must be notified at once. You will have to contact the farm where your animal was purchased to get a replacement RFID tag. Once the replacement tag has been acquired, **you need to contact the MSU Extension with the new number as soon as possible, no later than July 29, 2024** so there is time to get their records updated, and who will be the person putting the tag in the animal's ear. **The Market Livestock Committee will send a committee member, if possible, out to your animal's location to put in the new tag.** Beef animals must have an RFID tag in order to be transported within the State of Michigan. Any project animal coming to the fair without a proper ear tag will not be allowed to enter the barn.
11. **Recommended Starting Weight/Feed Date:** All 4-H Beef project animals should be on feed by Friday, December 1, 2024 to reach the Fair weight range of 950-1600 pounds. The 4-H Market Livestock recommends a starting weight of 450-700 pounds. All steers/dairy beef to be sold at the 2024 Market Livestock Auction must have been born in 2023.
12. **Replacement Deadline:** If the animal should die or some other special problem occurs prior to or on **March 1st of the project year**, the 4-H'er may request the 4-H Market Livestock Committee consider granting a replacement. The MSU Extension Office must be notified prior to, or no later than, March 1st so that the Executive Committee/or Full Committee can be contacted for replacement permission. Replacement animal requests will only be considered after the deceased/special problem animal has been viewed by the leader, 4-H Market Livestock Committee member or submission of a veterinarian's written explanation of the cause of death or special problem. **All pictures, ear tags and breeds for replacement animal must be on file at the Extension Office no later than Monday, April 1, 2024. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from project. If raising two animals, you may elect to have the "backup" animal as your replacement animal and would need to notify the MSU Extension Office in writing of this decision by April 1, 2024 since the request for a replacement was made prior to, or on, March 1st.**
13. **Stags/Castrated Animals/Horns:** No stags will be allowed at the Fair. **It is recommended that all male animals be knife castrated** by January 1, 2024. Heifers will be permitted. All animals must be dehorned. No scurs will be allowed. Any re-growth must be removed. If a stag is determined after slaughter, a \$.25 per pound adjustment will be made.
14. **Notebook Requirements:** Members will be required to complete a project notebook that will chronicle the time and care you spent with your animal. The notebook will be designed to include a table of contents and Appendixes. The notebook must be kept in table of contents order with additional information you would like to include in the notebook within the appendixes. The "Journal of Care" record will be mandatory for all members to complete. The earning of a "B" ribbon or better on your notebook will qualify you for next year's project. **The notebook must be presented at the time the 4-Her's animal is being weighed.** Failure to do so will result in not being able to sell at the 4-H Market Livestock Sale. **The notebook must then be submitted to the 4-H Exhibit Building before 5:00 p.m. on Entry Day. Once your notebook has been placed in the 4-H Exhibit Building, you will not be able to retrieve it to add additional information. Should Fair be held virtually the notebooks must be completed to the best of your abilities and submitted to your leader for pass/fail review.**
15. **Potential Buyer's Names:** Member's must provide a list of potential buyers and their **complete MAILING addresses (including zip codes)** to the Extension Office on or before Thursday, August 1st at 3:00 p.m. **This list must be submitted in person to receive a stamp and initials from the Extension Staff. Members must have three (3) different buyers from that of their siblings. Buyer's names should be submitted on sheet provided in the notebook and not one name per sheet. All potential buyer's names must include phone numbers. Please note: Buyer's email addresses and after hours numbers are being requested this year as well.** Members who attempt to submit buyer's names without address, zip code or phone number will be given the option of returning with the completed information or provided a phone book to look up the required information. Any buyer letters returned for incorrect addresses will be the fault of the 4-Her not providing the correct mailing address (example post office box vs. a street address). The Extension staff will not make any attempts (other than those provided by a postal sticker) to find the correct address. The buyer will be removed from the mailing list. Failure to provide the required buyer's list (with correct and complete information) will result in not being able to sell at the 4-H Market Livestock Sale.

16. **Entry Day/Weigh-In:** All steers/dairy beef must be weighed at a central scale designated by the 4-H Market Livestock Committee. All steers/dairy beef will be immediately weighed and placed in their stalls upon removal from their trailers. There will be no tying up of animals outside the barn on entry day. Weighing of steers/dairy beef will be to the nearest pound and re-weighs will not be allowed. All steers/dairy beef must weigh a minimum of 950 lbs. The Market Livestock Committee has removed the maximum weight, but will only record weight up to 1600 lbs. as the scale is only accurate up to 1600 pounds. Any steer/dairy beef weighing over 1600 pounds will be sold as a 1600 lbs. animal. Any animal that does not make minimum weight will not sell. Animals that do not make weight can be taken home or may stay to participate in showmanship classes and sell out of the barn as a 4-H animal but will be charged a "\$25 marketing fee" that will be used towards program costs. Those paying the \$25 marketing fee will receive a 4-H For Sale Sign that can be posted following the auction to potentially sell their animal out of the barn. Hauling pass will extra if animal sells and is to be hauled to Market Livestock arranged processor. Failure to pay assessed fee can result in disqualification from next year's project. For safety purposes, the Beef Superintendent has the right to send any unruly beef animals home. See the Beef Superintendent for direction on when your animal can be taken to the exercise ring on entry day.
17. **Grading of Animals:** All steer/dairy beef will be graded at the Fair. Any animal determined to be below quality by weight, age, or grade by the judge will not be eligible to be sold at the Market Livestock Sale at the Fair. All eligible animals must be sold at the 4-H Market Livestock Sale.
18. **Showing/Selling Requirements:** All animals must be shown in showmanship and market classes by the registered owner to be judged and sold. Steers/Dairy Beef animals must be shown on a halter in showmanship and market classes. All halters with mouth/lip chains and nose leads are prohibited, unless special permission is received. If a 4-H'er withdraws from the auction portion of the project after completing the showing and judging classes, he or she will not be allowed to bring any animal to the following year's Fair. Special considerations may be granted by the 4-H Market Livestock Committee should a health issue or college conflict happen prior/or during the scheduled showing and selling times for the 4-Her. Pre-approval must be requested no later than 1 week before the fair. Failure to seek pre-approval may result in disqualification from the project. Considerations based on health issues may require a physician's letter of confirmation.
19. **Animal Care During Fair:** You are responsible for feeding, cleaning and removal of your animal until the end of the Fair. The 4-H Market Livestock Committee permits the use of sawdust (provided by the Fair Board) or kiln-dried wood shavings (you may provide) as bedding material. **NO STRAW PERMITTED! All pens/stalls must be cleaned before 9:00 a.m. each day the Fair is open.** Failure to comply with this rule can result in forfeiture of premiums, \$50.00 disciplinary charge from sale proceeds and/or a one year suspension of 4-H Market Livestock Project privileges. Borrowing of cleaning equipment should be done with permission granted by equipment owner. If your animal requires a veterinary exam during fair, the 4-H'er will be responsible for the cost of the vet service.
20. **Non-Club/Club Points:** Project participants must have earned **nine (9)** meeting attendance or volunteer points before selling a market livestock animal. **Six (6)** of the **nine (9)** required points must be earned from attending your club's meetings. The additional **three (3)** points required must be earned from attending various non-club 4-H events or activities approved on the 4-H Market Livestock Non-Club Point List or may be given at the discretion of other 4-H Extension Staff or superintendents. Extra curricular school or community projects (above normal school requirements) may count for 1 non-club point, when the MSU Extension Office is notified and can verify project. If you require non-club point signatures from the MSU Extension Staff, you must have the event, location and date completed. If these nine (9) points are not achieved you are **not allowed** to bring your animal as a registered 4-H market animal to the fair. **There will be no signatures provided by MSU Extension Staff on workbee night or entry day.**
21. **Auction Sale Checks:** Those selling their animals through the 4-H Market Livestock Auction will receive their sale checks no sooner than the 4-H Market Livestock Annual Meeting. Determination of the date of the Annual Meeting will be dependent on when all sale proceeds have been received from the buyers. A 4-H'ers check will have the following deductions: Loan repayment (if you received a loan), Percentage & Dollar amount to cover program expenses, picture fee for two 8x10 pictures by the Committee's contracted photographer, hauling fee (if your animal was hauled) and any promotional fee required by the animal industry. 4-Her's must present a signed Buyer's Receipt, for the delivery of their picture and buyer thank you, in order to receive their auction check either at the Annual Meeting or at the Extension Office following the Annual Meeting. All auction sale checks are valid for 60 days. Any checks after the 60 days will be assessed a \$25 re-issue fee. Any animal "Sold out of the Barn" is a private sale and should be handled between the 4-Her and buyer. If assistance is needed from the Extension Office, these transactions will be handled on Friday morning following the auction. As a sale "Out of the Barn", the buyer will not receive credit for purchasing that year, a ribbon or a picture. This is a private sale.

22. **Disciplinary Action:** If disciplinary action is warranted, the 4-H Market Livestock Committee reserves the right to impose one or more of the following actions: additional percentage deducted from 4-H'ers Animal Sale proceeds, suspension from 4-H Market Livestock Project areas and/or forfeiture of premiums.
23. **Financial Loss:** The exhibitor will bear financial loss of any market livestock animal until that animal leaves the Fairgrounds at which time the hauler or buyer assumes responsibility unless the animal is condemned for any reason.
24. **Rules/Requirements Acknowledgement:** Signing the 4-H Market Livestock Beef project application and being accepted into the project indicates that the 4-H member and family have read all the rules and requirements for the project in addition to the Oceana County Animal Project Code of Ethics and agree to abide by these rules.
25. **Issues/Complaint Process:** In questioning project rules or issues with your project you should contact the following people/groups in this order: 1) Your leader; 2) MSU Extension—4-H Program Coordinator; 3) 4-H Market Livestock Committee. If you should have any issue related to your project during Fair, please contact the following people/groups in this order: 1) Your leader; 2) Leader will contact Barn Superintendent; 3) Barn Superintendent will contact Executive Committee of project area; 4) Executive Committee will contact Youth Council Members.
26. **Final Authority:** The 4-H Market Livestock Committee will be the final authority on all matters of concern and can grant exceptions to the above rules. They will consult with Youth Council if necessary.

Market Beef Project Dates: All deadlines are by 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted!

Market Beef Project Automatic Enrollment for returning Members who meet requirements:

Tier 1 - 10/23/23– 10/27/23 (completed 6 meetings, got a passing grade on their notebook and sold at auction)

Tier 2 - 10/30/23 - 11/3/23 (completed 6 meetings, got a passing grade on their notebook but had extenuating circumstances such as did not make weight and followed steps outlined in the Automatic Enrollment policy (attached))

Tier 3- 11/11/23 (8:15 a.m.– 8:30 a.m.) – 12/1/23 (new to the project or did not meet requirements), pending available space.

Replacement Request Deadline (death or special issue) – **Friday, March 1, 2024**

Paperwork for Replacement Animal – **Monday, April 1, 2024**

Potential Buyer's Names – **Thursday, August 1, 2023**

Written declaration of switch to "backup" animal – **Monday, August 12, 2024**

Entry and Weigh-In at Fair – **Animals/Notebooks weighed 8:00-12:00 p.m. Monday, August 19, 2023; note books entered in the Youth Exhibit Bldg. by 5:00 pm**

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