

OGEMAW COUNTY 4-H MARKET ANIMAL RULES 2025-26

Circle clubs: Beef Hog Goat Lamb Rabbit Poultry Waterfowl

Youth Member Requirements

1. Be the age of 8-19 to market small animals and the age of 9-19 to market large animals, as of January 1, 2026.
2. Attend 80% of required club meetings including:
 - a. Weigh-ins
 - b. Clinics or any other events required by leader
 - c. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (**Completed by June 1, 2026**)
3. Complete 3 hours of community service per species through the Ogemaw County Agricultural Society (Fair Board) by **August 1, 2026, unless otherwise arranged with the fair board.**
4. Contact at least 3 perspective buyers if marketing 1 animal, or 4 perspective buyers if marketing 2 animals by **July 10, 2026.** Parents/guardians can assist youth with this process.

Auction Requirements

1. Sale limit is 2 sales per member:
 - a. 2 different species of a large animal
 - b. 2 different species of a small animal or
 - c. 1 small animal and 1 large animal.
 - i. No more than 1 animal per species (A pen counts as one animal)
 - ii. Only one steer project, one goat project, and one poultry sale are allowed per member.
2. Youth must always have control of their animal.
3. To sell an animal, youth must participate in showmanship classes.
4. Youth are only eligible to market animals in one county in Michigan.
5. All members must write thank you letters to buyers and trophy sponsors to show appreciation for their support.

Fair Week Requirements

1. Fair tags must be picked up from the fair's front office **BEFORE 11:00 AM ON AUGUST 17, 2025.** Record books must be turned in **BY 12:00 PM to Exhibit Building #2 ON AUGUST 17, 2026,** or animals **WILL NOT** be sold. Record books can be picked up after the auction and must be completed after the sale and returned to **Exhibit Building #2 by 12:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026.**
2. All animals must be securely penned and properly supervised.
3. Feeding and barn duty times are determined by the barn superintendents. Each member is responsible for following these guidelines to have their animals fed and pens cleaned.
 - a. Final pen and barn cleaning must be completed by noon on Sunday or as arranged by the barn superintendent.
4. Members are responsible for the care of animals until the animals are released from fair.
 - a. All animals must be checked out with the barn superintendent before removal.
 - b. Market animals become the property of the buyer at the time of sale.

Safety, Wellbeing, and Animal Care

1. Youth are responsible for following rules as directed by leaders, superintendents, clubs, and fairgrounds.
2. All members are expected to display respect and sportsmanship toward youth, adults, and animals. Disruptive behavior during meetings will result in dismissal from the meeting without credit for attendance.
3. Animals must not show signs of abuse or neglect.
4. An unmarketable animal, as determined by the livestock committee, may be replaced by an eligible back-up animal that meets all requirements by the deadline of the market record book entry.
5. In the case of an animal death, no replacements will be made after the first official weigh-in of each species, unless the back-up animal is designated to the member at first weigh-in, in the possession of the member, tagged and weighed-in as of the specified weigh-in dates.
6. Steers must be led with the use of a safety rope and halter rope.
 - a. Steers must be led by youth at the last 2 weigh-ins for market eligibility.
 - b. During auction, steers must be led by a member AND an adult.
7. Small animals must have portable pens for the auction. Members may supply locks for cages for small animals, but the leaders must have access to the keys, or they reserve the right to cut any locks to gain access.

Species Requirements

ALL market animals must be identified by a tag, leg band, or tattoo.

Large Animals:

ALL large animals must be castrated by the first official club weigh-in

- a. **Dairy Beef and Beef Steers** must be born after January 1, 2025, purchased, on feed, and weighed in by the date specified by the individual club rules and leader. Dairy beef minimum sale weight is 1150 lb. Beef steer minimum sale weights are as follows: Small frame: 900 lb., Medium frame: 1050 lb., Large frame: 1200 lb. Beef steers will be classified as to frame size at the January weigh-in, and this weigh-in is required to be eligible to show and sell steers. No heifers will be included in the sale.
- b. **Hogs** must be purchased, tagged, and on feed by May 3, 2026 or as specified by club rules or leader. Swine club members may start with a pen of three hogs. Only one can be shown and sold. The member's market hog entry is the first project animal to make weight at the fair entry weigh-in. Hogs will weigh 220-300lb. to be eligible for the sale, preference weight is 240-270lb. Hogs over 300lb. may be sold up to 340lb., but the buyer only pays for 300lb. Hair must not be clipped to less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch as measured on show day.
- c. **Lambs** must be born after January 1, 2026. Lambs must be in possession by May 1, 2026. Members may start with a pen of 3 lambs, but only one may be shown and sold. The member's market lamb entry is the first project animal to make weight at the fair entry weigh-in. Minimum sale weight is 100 lb.
- d. **Market Meat and Dairy Goats** must be born after Nov 1, 2025 and be in possession by the member by May 1, 2026. Members may start with a pen of 3 meat goats, but only 1 goat may be shown and sold. Meat goats must be at least 50% meat breed, and must weigh a minimum of 80lb. and dairy goats must be 100% dairy to dairy cross (no meat breed crosses) and a minimum of 60lb. at the fair entry weigh-in to be eligible for the sale, with the member's market goat entry being the first animal to make weight at the fair entry weigh-in.

Small Animals:

1. **Rabbits** pen of three (3), must be between 10-14 weeks old, weigh between 4 -7 lbs. each, be of purebred or mixed breed meat breed types and each pen will be of the same breed and the same variety. All market rabbits used for litters for market classes must be in possession of the 4-H member by July 17, 2026. Breed date of between 4/10/2026-5/8/2026 birth date between 5/10/26-6/7/26.
2. **Poultry**
 - A. **Cornish Game Hens** pen of three (3), Must be all cockerels or all hens, 7 weeks old with a minimum of 12 lbs. per pen (live weight).
 - B. **Broilers** pen of two (2), must be all cockerels or all hens, 9 weeks old with a minimum weight of 14 lbs. per pen (live weight).
 - C. **Production Pen** pen of five (5) hens of the same breed and all purebred. Must be between 24-26 weeks old. Hens are sold live.
 - D. **Turkeys** pen of one tom or one hen, must be White Giant or Broad Breasted breed (white or bronze), hatched between March 1st and March 31st, toms must be a minimum of 22 lbs. (live weight) and hens must be a minimum of 18 lbs. (live weight).
 - E. **Pheasants** pen of three (3), one rooster, two hens, must be 8 weeks old minimum. Must follow all state regulations regarding captivity of wild birds. See MDARD/DNR for further information. Pheasants will be released into the wild after sale has concluded.
3. **Waterfowl**
 - A. **Ducks** pen of (1), must be White Pekin breed, 10 weeks old and a minimum weight of 6 lbs. (live weight).
 - B. **Geese** pen of (1), must be White Embden breed, hatched between April 1st and April 15th with a minimum weight of 12 lbs. (live weight).

***All requirements must be met, or the member is subject to disqualification or suspension for 1 year from participating in a market livestock project. This will be determined by the livestock committee.**

I have read the above rules and agree to abide by them for the 2025-26 project year.

Member Signature _____ Member Printed _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

*****please return a signed copy of these market rules to your club leader, and keep one for your records*****