



# **ST. JOSEPH COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION**

Livestock Post-Fair Meeting

November 13, 2025

St. Joseph County ISD

1. Meeting was called to order by Kayla Mitchell, 4-H Program Coordinator, at 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledges – Lead by all in attendance
3. There was a quick introduction of those in attendance
4. There was a motion made to accept the agenda as is. There was a second, motion passed.
5. There was public comment regarding the educational display in the Beef Barn. Many thought it was a great display, especially with parts you could touch. There were questions about whether all the species could do this. There may be Educational Displays available through the Livestock Association.
6. Break-Out Sessions Discussion and Voting
  - a. Carcass Show will be staying at Bontrager Custom Meats
  - b. Fair check in Friday, September 18, and Saturday, September 19
  - c. Evaluations went well
  - d. There needs to be alley way on Tuesday during the Calf Show to keep the school children with AgCiting away from the calves
  - e. Auction went well, no comments
  - f. Load out on Sunday morning, some species asked about having a meeting regarding load-out procedure and what to expect
  - g. Dairy Cattle, we didn't talk much about the items listed here
7. Regroup Vote on Fair Book Changes
  - a. Rabbit
    1. Show date will be Sunday, September 20, 2026
    2. There was a motion to change the weights for a pen of Rabbits. The fair book currently reads as follows "Each market rabbit must weigh a minimum of 3 lbs. with a minimum total pen weight of 9 lbs. and maximum total pen weight of 17 lbs. Pens weighing less than 9 lbs. or more than 17 lbs." The motion was to make the minimum total pen weight 10 lbs. and the maximum total pen weight 20 lbs. There was a second, and the motion passed.
    3. This was the only discussion; rabbits were tabled for another meeting to be held on January 27 at the MSU Extension office.
  - b. Poultry
    1. Show date will be Sunday, September 20, 2026
    2. There was a motion to have a record sheet added to the evaluation; this will be a requirement. The exhibitor will present this at their evaluation. There was a second, and the motion passed.
  - c. Swine
    1. Show date will be Monday, September 21, 2026
    2. There was a motion to add Purebred Divisions for the 2026 fair year. There was a second, and the motion passed. This would bring at a minimum six (6) more classes.
    3. There was a motion to bring back the binders, have first weigh-in at the Fairgrounds, and be able to bring back rate-of-gain, there was a second. After the discussion, the motion was amended. The new motion is to have the above voted on at the countywide winter meeting. There was a second, and the motion passed.
  - d. Goats
    1. Show date will be Monday, September 21, 2026

2. There was a motion to allow 4-H members who are college students competing in carcass class in any species to be exempt from the Hanging Carcass Evaluation (at Bontrager Custom Meat Processing) if approved by MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator. There was a second, and the motion passed.
3. The wording can be found in Dept 4 Sec D #5.
- e. Beef
  1. Show date will be Tuesday, September 22, 2026
  2. There was a motion to add a Beef Feeder Steer classes, there was a second, motion passed.
  3. Beef Feeders will need to weigh between 175lbs and 400lbs at June weigh-in.
  4. Beef calves should be born between January and February.
  5. Shots for Beef Feeders would follow the same as Dairy Feeders.
  6. Superintendents will work out the details.
- f. Sheep
  1. Show date will be Tuesday, September 22, 2026
  2. There was a motion made to allow sheep exhibitors to show a ewe in Market Class and show the same animal in Breeding Stock, there was a second. After discussion, the motion failed. There was a motion to take the proposal to the Fair Board. There was a second, and the motion passed.
- g. Dairy Cattle
  1. Show date will be Wednesday, September 23, 2026
  2. There was a motion to remove the pre-registration papers if the member owned the cattle. There was a second, and the motion passed.
8. Barn Setup and Teardown
  - a. Clubs need to make sure all decorations are taken down promptly
  - b. Photo Wall teardown & cleanup Saturday night – all clubs must help!
9. Initial Weigh-in/Tagging Dates
  - a. Market Beef
    1. Saturday, March 21, 2026, 9:00-10:30
  - b. Dairy Feeders/Sheep/Goats
    1. Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 5:00-7:00
    2. Thursday, June 4, 2026, 5:00-7:00
  - c. Swine
    1. Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 5:00-7:30
    2. Thursday, June 4, 2026, 5:00-7:30
10. Tagging/Vaccination and Tattoo Dates
  - a. Turkeys
    1. Hatch Date: Saturday, May 23, 2026
    2. Tagging/Vaccination: Sunday, July 19, 2026, 5:00-7:00
    3. Tagging/ Vaccination: Monday, July 19, 2026, 5:00-7:00
  - b. Chickens
    1. Hatch Date: Sunday, August 1, 2026
    2. Tagging: Sunday, August 23, 2026, 4:00-7:00
    3. Tagging: Monday, August 24, 2026, 4:00-7:00
  - c. Rabbits-TBD
11. Concerns for the good of the group
  - a. There was a motion made to change the nasal vaccination to two weeks before fair for Dairy Feeders and Beef Feeders. There was a second, and the motion passed.
  - b. Some of those in attendance voiced opinion that they did not like the meeting as one post-fair livestock meeting. They would rather have it as independent species meetings. Others mentioned it worked fine and they liked hearing what was going

Respectfully submitted by Holly Smith, reviewed by Kayla Mitchell