

# **ROCKINGHAM COUNTY 4-H & FFA MARKET LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE**

## **2025-2026 RULES & REGULATIONS**

(Revised December 2025)

**\*\*The General Rules and Regulations provided by the Rockingham County Fair Association apply to the Market Livestock Show and Sale. All exhibitors, parents and volunteers are expected to be familiar and follow the rules and regulations provided here and by the Association. The pricing and exhibit check-in dates and times are subject to change and will be finalized at a later time. General Rules and Regulations are available on our website at [RockinghamMas.org](http://RockinghamMas.org), Fair Office or on the Fair's website ([rockinghamcountyfair.com](http://rockinghamcountyfair.com)).\*\***

**Anything highlighted in **YELLOW** is an addition or change from last year's rules & regulations!**

### **Exhibitor and Animal Eligibility**

All exhibitors must be bona fide Rockingham 4-H Club and/or FFA members meeting the following criteria:

#### **1. Age**

- a. Steers, lambs, hogs, goats, and dairy steers may be exhibited by all bona fide 4-H & FFA members who are 9 years old by September 30<sup>th</sup> of 2026.
- b. Final participation in the show and sale is the show immediately following graduation from high school or the year they turn age 19, whichever comes first.

#### **2. 4-H & FFA membership**

- i) 4-H Membership: 4-H members must be enrolled via <http://v2.4honline.com/> by **January 5, 2026**.
- ii) FFA Membership: FFA members must have an agriculture class scheduled for the current school year and be a member in good standing with their FFA chapter. Members must be listed on the state roster by the spring membership roster deadline.
- iii) Note: A seven calendar day grace period will be allowed for late 4-H/FFA memberships; however, exhibitors must register through the Extension Office during this grace period and will be assessed a monetary penalty of \$75 per exhibitor. Therefore, all LATE 4-H/FFA membership entries and fees must be received in the Extension Office (by 5:00 PM) Monday, January 12, 2026. There will be no protests regarding late entries and NO membership forms will be accepted after this seven-day grace period.

#### **3. Record Books**

- i) **4-H & FFA exhibitors who tagged in a Market Steer, Goat, Hog, Lamb or Dairy Steer(s) at the 2025 initial tag-in/tag it yourself must have turned in a project book for that market animal(s) in Fall of 2025 in order to be eligible to show and sell a Market Steer, Goat, Hog, Lamb or Dairy Steer(s) in the 2026 Fair.**
- i. *Project books are due on the following dates for the corresponding organization*
  1. 4-H: *At your September club meeting unless otherwise specified by your club leader.*
  2. FFA: *To your advisor by the last Monday in September.*
- ii. *Only one project book per species exhibited is required.*
- iii. **Members MUST use:**
  1. *4-H Member Record Books*
    - (a) Experienced Senior (publication 4H-691NP)
    - (b) Experienced Junior (publication 4H-690NP)
    - (c) Novice (publication 4H-689NP)
  2. *Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET) Record Book (FFA Only)*

#### **4. YQCA REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST YEAR EXHIBITORS**

In order to be eligible to show and sell at the 2026 Rockingham County 4-H/FFA Livestock Show and Sale, all **FIRST YEAR** 4-H and FFA Youth **MUST** attend a Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (**YQCA**) Training. YQCA is a quality assurance training for youth raising and producing production livestock for consumers. This training will also give youth the chance to learn and demonstrate additional showing, exhibition, and livestock production skills.

## 5. Market Animal Nominations

### a. Market Steers

- i) **All steers must be entered through FairEntry by Friday, January 23, 2026 at 11:59PM.**
  - (1) **Note:** A seven calendar day grace period will be allowed for late entries; however, exhibitors must register via paper form during this grace period and will be assessed a monetary penalty of \$50 per animal. Therefore, all LATE steer entries and fees must be received in the Extension Office (by 5:00 PM) by **Friday, January 30, 2026**. There will be no protests regarding late entries and NO entry forms will be accepted after this seven day grace period. Steers must be the property of the 4-H & FFA member and fed and cared for by the member exhibiting, with no change of ownership after the date of February 7, 2026.
- ii) **There will be a fee of \$5/entry charged.** This is to help cover the costs of RFID tags, payment processing, etc. The fee needs to be sent to the Rockingham Extension Office with the check payable to 4-H/FFA Livestock Show & Sale Committee.

### b. Market Lambs, Hogs, Goats, and Dairy Steers

- i) **All Lambs, Hogs, Goats, and Dairy Steers must be entered through FairEntry.com by April 21, 2026 at 11:59PM.**
  - (1) **Note:** A seven-calendar day grace period will be allowed for late entries, however, exhibitors must register via paper form during this grace period and will be assessed a monetary penalty of \$50 per animal. Therefore, all late lamb, hog, goat, and dairy steer entries and fees must be received in the Extension Office (by 5:00 PM) by April 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be no protests regarding late entries and NO entry forms will be accepted after this seven-day grace period.
- ii) **There will be a fee of \$5/entry charged.** This is to help cover the costs of tags, payment processing, etc. The fee needs to be sent to the Rockingham Extension Office with the check payable to 4-H/FFA Livestock Show & Sale Committee.

## 6. Showmanship Divisions:

- i) **Novice:** for exhibitors showing for the first time at the Rockingham County 4-H/FFA market animals show & sale and who are 12 years of age or younger on September 30, 2026.
- ii) **Junior:** for exhibitors 12 years of age and younger on September 30, 2026.
- iii) **Intermediate:** for exhibitors 13 to 15 years of age on September 30, 2026.
- iv) **Senior:** for exhibitors 16 years of age and older on September 30, 2026.

**(1) We prefer that all exhibitors register for showmanship via FairEntry.com to participate in Showmanship Classes by Wednesday, August 5, 2026, but we will accept entries until Final Weigh-In. These classes are judged strictly on showmanship. Fitting is not considered in the judging of showmanship classes.**

- 7. Only bona fide Rockingham 4-H and FFA members as qualifying in general regulation No. 1 may be selected to show or sell in place of another exhibitor. If there is a conflict with students attending college, notification must be presented in writing by August 1, 2026 to the Extension Office for exhibitors to be allowed to sell by proxy. Approval will be determined on a case by case basis.
- 8. Entries must be in the exhibitor's ownership and daily care and on feed by June 15, 2026 to be eligible to show and sell.
- 9. Youth exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals for the entire duration of the project. While 4-H leaders and volunteers, FFA advisors, siblings, and other family members are encouraged to offer support and guidance, the majority of the care, maintenance, and fitting of project animals should be left to the exhibitor with the goal of providing a hands-on, educational experience.
- 10. All market species are subject to visitations by specie chairmen.

11. Any violation of any rule may result in a warning, fine, probation, and/or banning from future livestock show and sales.

### **Initial Tag In/ Final Weigh-In**

12. **Market Steer Initial weigh-in**

- a. Market Steer Initial weigh in will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at Rockingham Livestock Sales (Snow Date: March 7<sup>th</sup>). All steers are to be brought to this location to be weighed and identified. Steers not tagged and weighed that day are ineligible for the show and sale.
- b. All steers will be required to have a halter on them before being unloaded at initial weigh-in. It is recommended that all steers be broke to lead at initial weigh-in.
- c. It is required that all calves be dehorned and fully castrated before initial weigh-in to be eligible to show and sell. If banding method is used, banding must have occurred at least two weeks prior to the weigh-in and have evidence of scrotal atrophy at the initial weigh-in. There shall be no visible or palpable evidence of testicles. If not, that steer will be ineligible to show and sell at the Rockingham County Fair.
- d. Each exhibitor shall be allowed to nominate and weigh in a maximum of three steers at the initial weigh in.
- e. **Family Animal:** A family may designate one steer of those weighed-in as a family spare, which may be used by any immediate sibling of that family. (See rule #14)
- f. Substitutions with other exhibitor's animals will not be allowed, unless they are using the family spare option.

13. **Market Lamb, Hog & Goat Tag-It-Yourself and Dairy Steer Initial Weigh In**

- a. All hogs, lambs, and goats must complete the Tag-It-Yourself nomination procedure by **Monday, June 15, 2026**. Lambs, hogs, & goats, not tagged by the 15<sup>th</sup> will not be eligible to show or sell.
- b. All Dairy Steers must attend a mandatory Initial Weigh In. Date, Time, & Location are TBD.
- c. Each exhibitor may tag in a maximum of 4 lambs, 4 hogs, 4 goats, and 3 dairy steers at the initial tag-in, unless you will be utilizing the family spare option (see rule #14).
- d. **Family Animal:** A family may designate one steer, lamb, goat, hog, or dairy steer of those tagged-in as a family spare, which may be used by any immediate sibling of that family. (See rule #14)

14. **Family Animal:** A family may designate one steer, lamb, goat, hog, or dairy steer of those tagged-in as a family spare, which may be used by any immediate sibling of that family.

- i) A family must identify the one Steer, lamb, goat, hog, or dairy steer as the "family spare" at Initial Weigh-In/Initial Tag-in time.
- ii) A family must notify the Extension Office in writing by final weigh-in of the steer, lamb, goat, hog, or dairy steer that is going to be used and which family member will be using it.
- iii) This option can be used as an alternative to tagging in four animals per exhibitor.

(1) Example: Market Steers & Dairy Steers

1. Not using the spare option- which means you may not interchange the steers. A family with three children would weigh-in a maximum of nine steers.
2. Using the spare option for a family of three, you would weigh-in a maximum of seven steers with one being designated the family spare that could be interchangeable.

(2) Example: Market Lambs, Goats, & Hogs

1. *Not using the spare option-which means you may not interchange the animals. A family with three children has the option to tag a maximum of 12 lambs, goats, or hogs.*
2. *Using the spare option for a family of three, you would tag a maximum of 10 lambs, goats, or hogs with one being designated the family spare that could be interchangeable.*

15. **Bred & Owned:**

- a. **All Bred and Owned animals must be designated at the initial weigh-in by filling out the B&O Part 1 Paperwork.** Rockingham Bred and Owned animals must meet the following description, "The immediate family must own the dam at the time of service and conception. The exhibitor must have continuously cared for the market animal since birth". The Livestock Committee reserves the right to pull DNA from any animal to confirm Bred & Owned status.
- b. Deadline for part 1 for Market Steers due – February 7, 2026
- c. Deadline for part 1 for Market Lambs, Goats, & Hogs due – June 15, 2026
- d. Deadline for part 2 for all species due - July 15, 2026

16. **Final weigh-in**

- i) Final weigh-in time is by appointment. *Tentative dates for final weigh-in: hogs, goats, and lambs will be on Sunday, August 9, 2026. Location is tentatively set for Rockingham County Fairgrounds (location and dates may change). Market Steers and Dairy Steers will weigh in at Shenandoah Valley Livestock Sales.*
- ii) Each exhibitor will be allowed to present at the final weigh-in a maximum of two steers, two lambs, two hogs, two goats, or two dairy steers which are selected from those that were officially tagged in at the 4-H and FFA Hog, Lamb, Goat, and Dairy Steer Initial tag-in, with **no more than three total animals being presented at final weigh-in**, unless they are a graduating senior. Graduating seniors may bring four total market animals to the final weigh-in (maximum of two per specie). Substitutions with other exhibitor hogs, lambs, goats, and dairy steers will not be allowed. Any eligible animal not shown will be sold at the Floor Price.
- iii) **Animal Accident Protocol**
  - (1) Initial Tag in/Weigh-In Animal Injury/Death
    - (a) Physical Injury/Death occurring at the tag-in site must be reported to the Extension Office (540-564-3080) on the weigh-in date and include vet confirmation.
    - (b) Vaccine death needs to be reported to Extension Office (540-564-3080) or the appropriate specie chair within 24 hours of initial weigh-in and include vet confirmation.
    - (c) A replacement animal needs to be nominated to Extension Office (540-564-3080) within 7 days from vet confirmation.
    - (d) Replacement animal needs to be verified by an Extension Office (540-564-3080) and/or specie chairman.
  - (2) Final Weigh-In Animal Injury/Death
    - (a) Physical Injury/Death occurring at the weigh-in site must be reported to the Extension Office (540-564-3080) on the weigh-in date and include vet confirmation.
    - (b) If physical injury/death occurs at final weigh-in site, exhibitor can substitute a spare animal if it was previously nominated in individual's name.

b. **Market Steer Final Weigh-In**

- i) Each exhibitor is allowed to bring no more than two steers to the final weigh-in.
- ii) No re-weigh will be allowed.
- iii) Those steers that are determined by the Steer Chairmen as not being broke to lead by exhibitor at FINAL weigh-in will not be allowed to be shown or sold. Any steer that constitutes a safety hazard at any time as deemed by steer chair(s) will be sent home immediately and will not be eligible for show or sale.
- iv) All steers will be weighed prior to showing and selling. *Steers must weigh between 1050-1600 pounds and **Grade Select, Choice, or Prime*** by officials of the Virginia Division of Markets Grading Service in order to

show and sell. *Steers not meeting the qualifications will be disqualified from the show and sale and will not unload at fairgrounds and must return home the day of weigh-in.*

**c. Market Lamb, Hog, Goat, and Dairy Steers Final Weigh-In Requirements**

- a. All lambs must weigh between 90 and 170 pounds to show. **Lambs must grade Prime, Choice, or Good.**
  - b. Hogs must have clean backs at final weigh-in in order to weigh in. **Hogs must weigh between 220 and 300 pounds** and must grade 1 or 2.
  - c. Goats must be washed and clean. Goats must weigh between 60 and 130 pounds at final weigh in and grade 1, 2, or 3.
  - d. Dairy Steers must weigh between **500 and 850** pounds to show. Dairy steers must grade M or L: 2, 3, or 4.
- i) Hogs, lambs, goats, and dairy steers not meeting the weight and/or grade requirements will be ineligible for show and sale and will be marked and must return home on the day of weigh-in. Ineligible animals are not to be unloaded or housed at the fairgrounds.
- ii) **Re-weigh for equipment check will be at the discretion of the Chairman (Re-weigh is defined as an animal that is taken off the scale, scales are zeroed, and the animal is put immediately back on.)**

**17. Show & Sale**

- a. Each exhibitor can show and sell **no more than three market animals total and not more than two animals of each species**. Graduating seniors may show and sell four market animals total and not more than two animals of each species.
- b. Each exhibitor must show and sell his or her own animal(s). The following exceptions apply:
  - i) The exhibitor has more than one animal in the same class.
  - ii) The exhibitor is unable to attend the show and sale because of sickness or death in the immediate family.
  - iii) Other cases will be evaluated by the Executive Committee on a case by case basis.
  - iv) Exhibitors who cannot show or sell due to an injury or illness, must be present at the show and sale if physically possible. Exhibitors must submit a written request to the Specie Chairperson at least 24 hours before the show if they will not be showing their own animal. Non-compliance with this ruling will disqualify the animal from the show and sale.
  - v) If you show, you must sell or you will forfeit participation in the next year's show.
  - vi) If you do not show in a market class, you must sell at floor price.

**c. Showmanship Classes**

**i) Showmanship Divisions:**

- (1) Novice: for exhibitors showing for the first time at the Rockingham County 4-H/FFA market show & sale, and who are 12 years of age or younger on September 30, 2026.
- (2) Junior: for exhibitors 12 years of age and younger on September 30, 2026.
- (3) Intermediate: for exhibitors 13 to 15 years of age on September 30, 2026.
- (4) Senior: for exhibitors 16 years of age and older on September 30, 2026.

**ii) In all showmanship classes, the exhibitor must be showing his or her own animal, if not that will disqualify the exhibitor from showmanship.**

- d. All Market classes will be based on Weight Division (not breed). The classes will be divided on the day of the show based on weight. The Grand Champion will be selected from the division champions.
  - (a) With a maximum of 10 steers/ Dairy Steers/class.
  - (b) With a maximum of 10-15 lambs & goats/class
  - (c) With a maximum of 8-10 Hogs/class
- e. All exhibitors are required to wear appropriate dress in both the show ring and sale ring.

**Inappropriate dress and appearance are:**

  - i) Clothing with negative, indecent language or symbols.
  - ii) Excessively tight or short garments.
  - iii) Exposed undergarments.

- iv) Clothing with holes, tears, or slashes.
  - v) Halter tops/tube tops.
  - vi) Tank tops with straps of less than 2 inches in width and/or cut low enough to show bosom.
  - vii) Skirts or dresses that do not reach mid-thigh (below fingertips) or do not cover appropriate body parts.
  - viii) Belly shirts that expose excessive midriff.
  - ix) See through blouses, skirts, or pants.
  - x) Any adornment that can be perceived as or used as a weapon.
  - xi) Headgear of any type should not be worn.
  - xii) Non- Leather Shoes (\*\*Steer Exhibitors Only\*\*)
- f. All species must be washed and clean to participate in the show *and sale*.
- g. *All eligible animals must show and sell. Any animal unable to participate in a market class due to health reasons but has participated in the showmanship class, will place last in their respective market class and sell accordingly.*
- h. The sale order for the 2026 4-H/FFA Livestock Show and Sale will be **Steers, Dairy Steers, Goats, Hogs, Lambs**.
- i. All livestock will be sold by the pound.
- j. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to have his or her livestock lined up in the proper specie sale order when time to sell. If not in proper sale order then livestock will be sold at the end of the specie sale order. If an exhibitor does not show up to sell their livestock then the livestock will be sold at floor.
- k. A Sale Commission & Advertising Fee/animal + check off (if applicable) will be collected on each head of livestock sold at the 4-H & FFA Livestock Sale as follows:

	<u>Commission &amp; Advertising</u>	<u>Check-Off</u>
Steers	2.0%	\$1.50 per head = ( <del>\$1.00</del> State, \$.50 National)
Lambs	2.0%	\$1.25 per head (State and National)
Goats	2.0%	No Check-Off
Hogs	2.0%	(.004 * total dollars realized per head)
Dairy Steers	2.0%	\$1.50 per head = (\$1.00 State, \$.50 National)

\*\*\*All commission, fees, etc. are subject to change\*\*\*

- l. Bye bidding is discouraged. This means if parents or siblings bid on livestock of their child or sibling then, they must purchase it. Buyers should bid with the intention to purchase.

## Specific Specie Rules

### 18. Steer

- a. Fitting of market steers is permitted but must be performed by the Exhibitor and up to two additional people, with a maximum of three individuals per steer: the Exhibitor and two assistants. Fitting must be in an ethical manner following the guidelines set forth below.
- b. The Rockingham County 4-H/FFA Livestock Committee reserves the right to disqualify any animal that has been fitted in an unethical manner. Unethical fitting shall include (but not limited) the following:
  - i) The addition of any hair or hair like substances, including false tail heads and false polls.
  - ii) The cutting, tearing or gluing of the hide or underneath the hide or removal of tissue in an attempt to alter the shape of the animal.
  - iii) The injection of any gas, solid, or liquid under the hide to alter the normal conformation.
  - iv) Any product/solutions/liquids administered internally or externally to alter the conformation of the animal is prohibited. This includes the use of steroids, illegal or unapproved growth promotions, and the act of artificially filling animals internally, which would include stomach pumping, drench tubes, or any other method.
  - v) Aerosol cans used for grooming are not permitted in show ring or line-up areas.

- c. EXCEPTIONS: In the case of severely sick or severely dehydrated animals, the exhibitor may have fluids or electrolytes administered by the licensed official show veterinarian with the approval of the show superintendent. This exception is not applicable on show day or weigh in/check-in day.
- d. The Market Steer Show will immediately begin at the conclusion of steer showmanship.
- e. Exhibitors assume the responsibility for feeding, loss, injury, or damage of animals in transit to weigh-in and through the end of the sale when steers must be properly tied with halter and neck tie. Steers must be provided water thru Sunday morning 10:00 a.m. If exhibitor does not care for animal, after fair warning, livestock committee will take action.
- f. **Entire contents of steer tack space and pen set up must remain in place until TBD.** A \$50.00 fine will be deducted from sale checks if this requirement is not met as deemed by appropriate personnel.
- g. Tie spaces, pen spaces, and tack spaces will be assigned by designated species chair persons. Any alterations or changes of designated spaces must be cleared with the designated persons making the assignments by July 15, 2026.
- h. Tack space, if available will be assigned by each department chair. Violations will result in removal of tack and/or animals from fairgrounds.
- i. ALL pen space must be paid/postmarked **July 15, 2026 to the Rockingham County Fair Office.** A \$5 per head fee will be charged for every animal registered by the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. A seven calendar day grace period will be allowed for late entries however exhibitors registering during this grace period will be assessed a monetary penalty of \$50.00 per head. After the seven day grace period entries will not be accepted and animals will be ineligible.
- j. Steers cannot be in the show ring prior to 10 p.m. the night prior to the steer show.
- k. For public safety:
  - i) No steers are to be out of their stalls between 5:00pm and 10:00pm
  - ii) Short Leg Animals and stands are **NOT** allowed in the Steer barn at any time.
- l. Exercise time for steers will be set and posted by steer co-chairman. Designated exercise areas will be located on the west side of the barn.
- m. Market steers are allowed to utilize tie-outs at night, but they must be kept in the designated fairgrounds cattle tie-out area. All market steers may go to tie-outs after 10:00 p.m. at night and must be returned to the barn by 8:00 a.m. in the morning.
- n. No steer blocking or clipping chutes are allowed in the wash rack area. Chutes should be placed and used in the designated area west of the steer barn.

#### 19. **Lambs**

- a. All lambs must bear an official USDA scrapie flock identification tag at the initial tag-in. Lambs not bearing an official tag will not be allowed to weigh-in, show, or sell.
- b. All lambs must be docked and all male lambs must be castrated by the initial tag-in date to be eligible to show and sell. There shall be no visible or palpable evidence of testicles. No short sacking or crimping.
- c. Lamb coverings will be taken off immediately after unloading. They can be put back on following the animals being weighed and graded.
- d. **All lambs must be washed and wool length must not exceed ¼ of an inch over the body at the final weigh-in. Measuring will be done before animals are put on the scale. If wool exceeds this limit, lambs will not go through the scale and will not be allowed to go to show/sale. Belly/flank wool shall be sheared uniform with the body with all wool removed from behind the navel to the rear flank area. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- e. Lambs must have milk teeth and show no eruption of permanent teeth at the final weigh-in. Permanent teeth or



rupture will be cause for disqualification.

- f. Lambs must be washed and clean to participate in the show and sale. *Please reference the International Association of Show Ring Ethics adopted by Rockingham County Fair.*
- g. Exhibitors are expected to care for their animals in an acceptable manner and adhere to quality assurance guidelines. Use of irritants including alcohols, sprays, and other irritants is prohibited.
- h. The use of muzzles are permitted so long as the muzzle does not impede the animals access to water.
- i. The use of coloring agents must not be used to change the natural color of the animal.
- j. The addition of twine, wool, hair, or any substance (such as to “build” legs) is prohibited.

## 20. Goats

- a. All goats must bear an official USDA scrapie flock identification tag at the initial tag-in. Goats not bearing an official tag will not be allowed to weigh in, show, or sell.
- b. All male goats must be castrated by the initial tag-in date to be eligible to show and sell. There shall be no visible or palpable evidence of testicles. No short sacking or crimping.
- c. Goat coverings will be taken off immediately after unloading. They can be put back on following the animals being weighed and graded.
- d. Goats must have milk teeth and show no eruption of permanent teeth at the final weigh-in. Permanent teeth or rupture will be cause for disqualification.
- e. Goats must be washed and clean to participate in the show and sale. *Please reference the International Association of Show Ring Ethics adopted by Rockingham County Fair.*
- f. Exhibitors are expected to care for their animals in an acceptable manner and adhere to quality assurance guidelines. Use of irritants including alcohols, sprays, and other irritants is prohibited.
- g. The use of muzzles are permitted so long as the muzzle does not impede the animals access to water.
- h. The use of coloring agents must not be used to change the natural color of the animal.
- i. The addition of twine, hair, or any substance (such as to “build” legs) is prohibited.

## 21. Hogs

- a. All hogs may be vaccinated for Erysipelas at the initial tag-in. The vaccine will be provided if needed at the tag-in.
- b. All male hogs must be castrated by the initial tag-in date to be eligible to show and sell. There shall be no visible or palpable evidence of testicles.
- c. Hogs must be washed and clean to participate in the show and sale. *Please reference the International Association of Show Ring Ethics adopted by Rockingham County Fair.*
- d. Exhibitors are expected to care for their animals in an acceptable manner and adhere to quality assurance guidelines. Use of irritants including alcohols, sprays, and other irritants is prohibited.
- e. Hair Clipping: For show eligibility, hair length on the pig body (hams, top, sides, and shoulders) must be at least **one-half inch**. Pigs with body hair length less than one-half inch are not eligible to show.
- f. Pig snaring at the fairgrounds is prohibited. If a pig must be snared, it must be done under the direction of a veterinarian and hog chairman.
- g. The use of coloring agents must not be used to change the natural color of the animal.
- h. The addition of twine, hair, or any substance (such as to “build” legs) is prohibited.
- i. Aerosol cans used for grooming are not permitted in show ring or line-up areas.

## 22. Dairy Steers

- a. All dairy steers must have been born after November 1, 2025. Animals are subject to age verification by a certified veterinarian.
- b. All dairy steers must be purebred and one of the following dairy breeds: Holstein, Red & White Holstein, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Milking Shorthorn, Guernsey, or Jersey. Verification by genetic testing may be required if the animal does not meet breed color standards.
- c. It is required that all calves be dehorned, weaned and fully castrated before the initial tag in date to be eligible to show and sell. There shall be no visible or palpable evidence of testicles. No short sacking or crimping.
- d. Dairy steers may be implanted with growth hormones. It is recommended that dairy steers receive a nasal vaccine prior to weaning and at least one dose of respiratory vaccine.



- e. Those steers that are determined by the Dairy Steer Chairmen as not being broken to lead by the exhibitor at FINAL weigh-in will not be allowed to be shown or sold. Any steer that constitutes a safety hazard at any time as deemed by dairy steer chair(s) will be sent home immediately and will not be eligible for the show or sale.
- f. Prior to entering the ring, parents/guardians are to inform the Dairy Steer Co-Chairmen if they feel their child may have a problem handling the steer. Parents are not to enter the show ring.
- g. 4-H & FFA dairy steer exhibitors must enter the show ring leading their steer on their own.
- h. Dairy steer Co-Chairmen will be attentive to the exhibitors and if handling problems occur will assist the exhibitor in tying the steer to the rail of the show ring.
- i. No dairy steer blocking or clipping chutes are allowed in the wash rack area. Chutes should be placed and used in the designated area.
- j. For public safety, no dairy steers are to be out of their stalls between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- k. Fitting of market dairy steers is allowed, but it must be done in an ethical manner following the guidelines set forth below.
  - i) The Rockingham County 4-H/FFA Livestock Committee reserves the right to disqualify any animal that has been fitted in an unethical manner. Unethical fitting shall include (but not limited to) the following:
  - ii) The addition of any hair or hair-like substances, including false tail heads and false polls.
  - iii) The cutting, tearing, or gluing of the hide or underneath the hide or removal of tissue in an attempt to alter the shape of the animal.
  - iv) The injection of any gas, solid, or liquid under the hide to alter the normal conformation.
  - v) Any product/solutions/liquids administered internally or externally to alter the conformation of the animal is prohibited. This includes the use of steroids, illegal or unapproved growth promotions, and the act of artificially filling animals internally, which would include: stomach pumping, drench tubes, or any other method.
  - vi) Aerosol cans used for grooming are not permitted in the show ring or make-up areas.
- l. EXCEPTIONS: In the case of severely sick or severely dehydrated animals, the exhibitor may have fluids or electrolytes administered by the licensed official show veterinarian with the approval of the show superintendent. This exception is not applicable on show day or weigh-in/check-in day.

## 23. **Fair Week**

- a. Exhibitors assume the responsibility for feeding, loss, injury, or damage of animals in transit to weigh-in and through the end of the sale. All lambs, hogs, goats, and dairy steers must be provided feed and water until the end of the sale. If the exhibitor does not care for animals, after a fair warning, the livestock committee will act. Pens are expected to be as clean, dry, and professional as possible. Add fresh shavings if needed.
- b. *Tie spaces, pen spaces, and tack spaces will be assigned by designated species chair persons. Any alterations or changes of designated spaces must be cleared with the designated persons making the assignments by July 15, 2025.*
  - i) *Tack space, if available will be assigned by each department chair. Any adjustments of pen space must be approved by the Species Chair. Violations will result in a warning with 24 hours to remove tack. If not done at that time animals will be disqualified from show/sale.*
  - ii) ***ALL pen space must be paid/postmarked by July 15, 2026 to the Rockingham County Fair Office. A \$5 per head fee will be charged for every animal registered. A seven-calendar day grace period will be allowed for late entries however exhibitors registering during this grace period will be assessed a monetary penalty of \$50.00 per head. After the seven-day grace period entries will not be accepted and animals will be ineligible.***
- c. If an animal medical emergency occurs, an FFA advisor, Extension Office (540-564-3080), or species chair should be notified immediately.
- d. Mistreatment or abuse of livestock project animals will not be tolerated. No animal is to be beaten, underfed, under watered, or misused in any fashion.
- e. All exhibitors must abide by prescribed withdrawal periods on antibiotics and drugs. Animals may be subject to testing by licensed vet or appointed official.

- f. All animals are subject to a veterinary inspection at the final weigh-in and during fair week and if found to have an active case of an infectious or contagious disease *or any other deemed condition*, they will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately.
- g. If an animal's condition is deemed unfit for exhibition during fair week by designated species chairperson, the animal may be sent home at any time.

#### 24. Fair Week Protest Procedure

- a. Protest must be in writing, plainly stating the complaint and with accompanying substantial evidence of the infraction. The person submitting the protest must print and sign their name to the protest or it will not be reviewed.
- b. A \$50.00 fee is to accompany the protest.
- c. Both the protest and fee must be delivered to the 4-H and FFA Livestock Committee Chairperson within *twelve* hours after the cause of the protest.
- d. If the protest impacts the show and/or sale then Livestock Committee Chairperson will call a meeting of the Livestock Committee within twenty-four hours of receiving the protest and presenting it, and all substantial evidence, to the Livestock Committee members that are present. If the protest does not impact the show and/or sale the Livestock committee Chairperson will make the decision of when the committee will meet and review the protest and evidence.
- e. The Livestock Committee members present at the meeting will review the protest and accompanying evidence and shall make a decision as to sustain or reject the protest.
- f. If the protest is not sustained, the \$50.00 fee shall be forfeited to the 4-H and FFA Livestock Show Treasury.
- g. The Livestock Committee Chairperson shall inform those involved in the protest of its decision.

## **Important Dates to Remember**

- **December 9, 2025** – Fair Entry for Steer Nominations will open for nominations
- **January 5, 2026** -Must be enrolled as a 4-H/FFA member
- **January 23, 2026**-Steer entries due online using FairEntry
- **January 23, 2026**- Steer Entry Fees Due to the Rockingham Extension Office \$5/head
- **January 30, 2026** - Late Steer Entry Deadline (\$50 a head late fee) due to the Extension Office by 5:00pm.
- **February 7, 2026** -Initial Steer Weigh In @Rockingham Livestock (*Snow Date March 7<sup>th</sup>*)
- **February 7, 2026** -Market Steer B&O Part 1 Paperwork due at initial weigh-in
- **March 3, 2026** – Fair Entry for Market Hogs, Lambs, Goats, and Dairy Steers will open for nominations
- **April 21, 2026** -Market Hog, Lamb, Goat, and Dairy Steer nominations are due online using FairEntry
- **April 21, 2026** - \$5/entry fees due via FairEntry with a Credit Card or Check mailed, or dropped off to the Rockingham Extension Office
- **April 28, 2026**- Late Entry Deadline (\$50 a head late fee) due to the Extension Office by 5:00pm.
- May 26, 2026 - Tag-It-Yourself Packets Available for Pickup at the Extension Office
- **TBD – Mandatory Dairy Steer Initial Tag & Weigh-In**
- June 15, 2026 - Tag-It-Yourself Procedure Completed (Includes all tags in place for Market Hogs, Lambs, Goats, and Dairy Steers data submitted correctly to the Extension Office)
- June 15, 2026 – Bred & Owned Part 1 Paperwork due at Tag-It-Yourself
- July 15, 2026 -Bred & Owned Part 2 Pictorial Story due to Rockingham Extension Office
- July 15, 2026 -Pen space fees and forms due to **Rockingham County Fair Office**
- August 5, 2026 – Premier Exhibitor Applications & Carcass Contest Money Due to the Rockingham Extension office
- August 9, 2026 -Final Market Hog, Lamb, and Goat Weigh-In, starting at 6AM
- August 9, 2026 -Final Beef Steer and Dairy Steer Weigh-In, start time TBD
- August 9 – 15, 2026 – 2026 Rockingham County Fair