

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY 4-H & FFA MARKET LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE **2024-2025 MARKET HOG, LAMB, GOAT, and DAIRY STEER REGULATIONS**

(Revised March 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, Fair Office or on the Fair's website (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 30th of 2025.
- 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 3rd**.
- 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 10, 2025. 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 Goat, Hog, Lamb or Dairy Steer(s) at the 2024 initial tag-in must have turned in a project book for that market animal(s) in Fall of 2024 in order to be eligible to show and sell a Market Goat, Hog, Lamb or Dairy Steer(s) in the 2025 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. Registration

- a. **All Lambs, Hogs, Goats, and Dairy Steers must be entered through FairEntry.com by April 21, 2025 at 11:59PM.**
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 28th. There will be no protests regarding late entries and NO entry forms will be accepted after this seven-day grace period.
- b. **There will be a fee of \$5/entry charged.** This is to help cover the costs of tags, payment processing, etc. Fees need to be paid on FairEntry with a credit card or a check mailed and sent to the Rockingham Extension Office with the check payable to 4-H/FFA Livestock Show & Sale Committee by April 28, 2025.

- c. We prefer that all exhibitors register for showmanship via FairEntry.com to participate in Showmanship Classes by Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 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.

5. **YQCA**

- a. In order to be eligible to show and sell at the 2025 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.
6. If a youth is a member of 4-H and/or FFA in one or more of the following counties (Rockingham, Augusta, Page, and Shenandoah), then the 4-H/FFA members must choose to participate in only one county's 4-H/FFA Market Livestock Show and Sale for that project year.
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, 2025 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 10, 2025 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. All hogs, lambs, goats, and dairy steers must complete the Tag-It-Yourself nomination procedure by **Tuesday, June 10, 2025**. Lambs, hogs, goats, and dairy steers not tagged by the 10th will not be eligible to show or sell.
13. 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).
14. *A family may designate one 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.*
- a. *A family must identify the one lamb, goat, hog, or dairy steer as the "family spare" at Tag-in time.*
- b. *A family must notify the Extension Office in writing by final weigh-in of the lamb, goat, hog, or dairy steer that is going to be used and which family member will be using it.*
- c. *This option can be used as an alternative to tagging in four animals per exhibitor.*
- i) *Example:*
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. All Bred and Owned animals must be designated at the initial tag-in. 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. Deadline for part 2 due July 15th.
16. Final weigh-in time is by appointment. *Tentative dates for final weigh-in: hogs, goats, and lambs will be on Sunday, August 10, 2025. Location is tentatively set for Rockingham County Fairgrounds (location and dates may change). Dairy Steers will weigh in at Shenandoah Valley Livestock Sales with the Market Steers.*

17. Each exhibitor will be allowed to present at the final weigh-in a maximum of 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.
18. **Final Weigh-In Requirements**
- All lambs must weigh between 90 and 170 pounds to show. Lambs must grade Blue-O, Red-O, Heavy Blue-O or Heavy Red-O.
 - Hogs must have clean backs at final weigh-in in order to weigh in. Hogs must weigh between 220 and **295** pounds and must grade 1 or 2.
 - Goats must be washed and clean. Goats must weigh between 60 and 130 pounds at final weigh in and grade 1, 2, or 3.
 - Dairy Steers must weigh between 400 and 850 pounds to show. Dairy steers must grade M or L: 2, 3, or 4.
19. 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.
20. **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.)**
21. Animal Accident Protocol
- Initial Tag in/Weigh-In Animal Injury/Death
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - A replacement animal needs to be nominated to Extension Office (540-564-3080) within 7 days from vet confirmation.
 - Replacement animal needs to be verified by an Extension Office (540-564-3080) and/or specie chairman.
 - Replacement animal is not eligible for Rate of Gain awards.
 - Final Weigh-In Animal Injury/Death
 - 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.
 - 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.

Show and Sale

22. 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.
23. Each exhibitor must show and sell his or her own animal(s). The following exceptions apply:
- The exhibitor has more than one animal in the same class.
 - The exhibitor is unable to attend the show and sale because of sickness or death in the immediate family.
 - Other cases will be evaluated by the Executive Committee on a case by case basis.
 - 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.
 - If you show, you must sell or you will forfeit participation in the next year's show.
 - If you do not show in a market class, you must sell at floor price.**
24. Hog, lamb, goat, and dairy steer classes will be divided on the day of the show based on weight. The Grand Champion will be selected from the division champions.

25. All exhibitors are required to wear appropriate dress in both the show ring and sale ring. Exhibitors should strive to look professional. Call will be made by committee chair and if not compliant, will be asked to change. Inappropriate dress and appearance are:
- Clothing with negative, indecent language or symbols.
 - Excessively tight or short garments.
 - Exposed undergarments.
 - Clothing with holes, tears, or slashes.
 - Halter tops/tube tops.
 - Tank tops with straps of less than 2 inches in width and/or cut low enough to show bosom or chest.
 - Skirts or dresses that do not reach mid-thigh (below fingertips) or do not cover appropriate body parts.
 - Belly shirts that expose excessive midriff.
 - See through blouses, skirts, or pants.
 - Any adornment that can be perceived as or used as a weapon.

26. All eligible lambs, hogs, goats, and dairy steers must show and sell. Any animal deemed non-ambulatory and/or unfit as determined by the species chair and/or veterinarian may not enter the show or sale ring.

27. The sale order for the 2025 4-H/FFA Livestock Show and Sale will be **BEEF STEERS, LAMBS, DAIRY STEERS, GOATS, & HOGS.**

28. All livestock will be sold by the pound.
29. 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.
30. Bye bidding is discouraged. This means if parents or siblings bid on livestock of their child or sibling, they must purchase it. Buyers should bid with the intention to purchase.
31. 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 & Advertising</u>	<u>Check-Off</u>
Steers	2.0%	\$1 per head = (\$.50 <u>State</u> , \$.50 <u>National</u>)
Lambs	2.0%	(\$.50 <u>State</u> + \$.005 * Lamb Weight <u>National</u>)
Goat	2.0%	No Check-Off
Hogs	2.0%	(.004 * total dollars realized per head)
Dairy Steers	2.0%	\$1 per head = (\$.50 <u>State</u> , \$.50 <u>National</u>)

Showmanship Divisions:

- Novice: for exhibitors showing for the first time at the Rockingham County 4-H/FFA Show, and who are 12 years of age or younger on September 30, 2025.
- Junior: for exhibitors 12 years of age and younger on September 30, 2025.
- Intermediate: for exhibitors 13 to 15 years of age on September 30, 2025.
- Senior: for exhibitors 16 years of age and older on September 30, 2025.
- Master Showmanship.** Please refer to the Master Showmanship Rules.

Specific Specie Rules

Lambs

- 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.
- 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.
- Lamb coverings will be taken off immediately after unloading. They can be put back on following the animals being weighed and graded.
- 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. NO EXCEPTIONS.

36. 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.
37. 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.*
38. 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.
39. The use of muzzles are permitted so long as the muzzle does not impede the animals access to water.
40. The use of coloring agents must not be used to change the natural color of the animal.
41. The addition of twine, wool, hair, or any substance (such as to "build" legs) is prohibited.

Goats

42. 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.
43. 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.
44. Goat coverings will be taken off immediately after unloading. They can be put back on following the animals being weighed and graded.
45. 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.
46. 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.*
47. 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.
48. The use of muzzles are permitted so long as the muzzle does not impede the animals access to water.
49. The use of coloring agents must not be used to change the natural color of the animal.
50. The addition of twine, hair, or any substance (such as to "build" legs) is prohibited.

Hogs

51. All hogs may be vaccinated for Erysipelas at the initial tag-in. The vaccine will be provided if needed at the tag-in.
52. 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.
53. 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.*
54. 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.
55. 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.
56. 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.

Dairy Steers

57. All dairy steers must have been born after November 1, 2024. Animals are subject to age verification by a certified veterinarian.
58. 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.
59. 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.
60. 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.

61. 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.
62. 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.
63. 4-H & FFA dairy steer exhibitors must enter the show ring leading their steer on their own.
64. 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.
65. No dairy steer blocking or clipping chutes are allowed in the wash rack area. Chutes should be placed and used in the designated area.
66. For public safety, no dairy steers are to be out of their stalls between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.
67. Fitting of market dairy steers is allowed, but it must be done in an ethical manner following the guidelines set forth below.
 - a. 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:
 - 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 promotants, 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 the show ring or make-up areas.
 - b. 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.

Fair Week

68. 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.
69. *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.*
 - a. *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.*
 - b. ***ALL pen space must be paid/postmarked by July 15, 2025 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.***
70. If an animal medical emergency occurs, an FFA advisor, Extension Office (540-564-3080), or species chair should be notified immediately.
71. 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.
72. All exhibitors must abide by prescribed withdrawal periods on antibiotics and drugs. Animals may be subject to testing by licensed vet or appointed official.

73. 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 deem able condition*, they will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately.
74. 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.
75. 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

- January 1st-Must be enrolled as a 4-H/FFA member
- April 21st -Market Hog, Lamb, Goat, and Dairy Beef entries due online using FairEntry
- April 28st - \$5/entry fees due via FairEntry with a Credit Card or Check mailed, or dropped off to the Rockingham Extension Office
- April 28th- Late Entry Deadline (\$50 a head late fee) due to the Extension Office
- May 27nd- Tag-It-Yourself Packets Available for Pickup
- June 10th - 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 10th – Bred & Owned Part 1 Paperwork due at Tag-It-Yourself
- July 15th -Bred & Owned Part 2 Pictorial Story due to Rockingham Extension Office
- July 15th -Pen space fees and forms due to **Rockingham County Fair Office**
- August 10th -Final Market Hog, Lamb, and Goat Weigh-In, starting at 6AM
- August 10th -Final Beef Steer and Dairy Steer Weigh-In, start time TBD