

MANISTEE COUNTY 4-H MARKET LIVESTOCK RULES & GUIDELINES

ALL MEMBERS – ALL SPECIES

1. In order to participate in any 4-H Market Class, a member must have first completed a year of 4-H “Showmanship Only” – that is, showing any species without selling it. Once that initial requirement is fulfilled, the member may market in any other year in their 4-H career. ***Any year of participation in official Cloverbud Showmanship events also counts towards this requirement.***
2. Member must be currently enrolled in Manistee, Benzie County, or Lake County 4-H. *(Revised Nov. 2022)*
3. The Manistee 4-H Livestock Council prohibits 4-H Livestock Exhibitors from entering Manistee Fair Market Livestock classes if they plan to participate in any market livestock program at any other Fair in the same calendar year. If a member violates this rule, they will be prohibited from participating in market livestock classes the following year. *(Amended Jan. 2015)*
4. Prior to participating in that year’s market sale, members must have shown in that species showmanship class during Fair Week. The animal being sold must be shown, except for rabbit, poultry, and goat exhibitors, who may use a different animal of the same species for showmanship. *(Amended Jan. 2012)*
5. Sale eligibility of any animal/species will be determined by the species judge and the Livestock Council.
6. Member may sell a TOTAL of THREE (3) animals: 2 large & 1 small, or 1 large & 2 small, or 3 small. (The maximum of 2 large is due to barn space limitations.) Goats are considered small animals. Sheep and Feeder Calves (Jr. Beef) are considered large animals. No duplicate species may be sold - all must be a different species. *(Amended Nov. 2021)*
7. Any member wishing to donate the proceeds of an animal sale to a charitable cause/entity MUST inform the Council of their intent no later than July 1 of the current Fair Year. The member must submit in writing:
 - a) the name of the charity/cause they intend to donate to AND
 - b) their reason/motivation for doing so
 - c) proposals must also include mailing and contact information for the charitable organization/entityThe Council will review the information provided and issue their acceptance or rejection of the youth members proposal at the July Livestock Council meeting. If the proposal is accepted, the member will be moved to the final place in the sale order AFTER resale, with the 5% commission being assessed on the total funds raised and the remaining balance being issued directly to the charitable entity. *(Nov. 2023)*
8. Animal is not eligible for sale unless Market Registration Form (for steers & feeders) and Fair Registration Form (for ALL species) were completed and turned in by correct date. NO PHONE REGISTRATION OF ANIMALS IS ALLOWED.
9. A completed 4-H Record Book is required for all Manistee, Benzie, and Lake Co. 4-H Members aged 8 years and over, participating in a Market Livestock Project. Books must be turned in by the September Livestock Council Meeting. Failure to do so will result in the member’s participation status for the following Fair year to be suspended. If a record book is not received by the November Livestock Council Meeting, the 4-H member will forfeit their participation in 4-H Livestock Show & Market for the following Fair year. *(Revised Nov. 2022)*

MARKET REGISTRATION DATES

Beef & Dairy Steers – Project Registration:	December 31 – Steer Registration Due
Beef & Dairy Feeders – Project Registration:	March 1 – Feeder Registration Due
All Other Species -Market & Non-Market:	June 25 – Show/Market Registration and Class Registration

10. To be eligible for market sale, animals must meet the following age/weight/possession date requirements by the time of weigh-in day:

Birthdate and/or Possession Date Requirements for Animals <i>(Amended Nov. 2023)</i>		Minimum/Maximum Weights
CHICKENS		
Broiler/Fryer	Maximum age 7 weeks (49 days). Pen of 3/same sex.	Min. 3.5# ea. Max. 6# ea.
Roaster Class	Maximum age 12 weeks. Pen of 3/same sex.	Min. 6.01# ea. No Max
GEESE		
	Minimum 15 weeks, maximum 40 weeks. Pen of 2.	Min. 12# ea.
DUCKS	Minimum 12 weeks, maximum 40 weeks. Pen of 2.	Min. 6# ea.
TURKERY	Hatched March 1 or later. Pen of 2/same sex.	Min. Hen 15# ea. Min. Tom 20# ea.
RABBITS – Fryer Class		
	Maximum age 11 weeks (77 days). Pen of 3.	Min. 3# ea. Max. 6# ea.
RABBITS – Roaster Class		
	Maximum age 11 weeks (77 days). Pen of 3.	Min: 6# ea.
GOATS		
	Born December 1 – March 1.	Min. 60#
SHEEP		
	Born on or after January 1 of current Fair year.	Min. 100#
SWINE - Market		
	Born on or after January 15 of current Fair year.	Min. 220# Max. 325#
SWINE - Roaster		
	Born on or after January 15 of current Fair year. <i>(Nov. 2021)</i>	Min. 150# Max 219#
VEAL		
	6-12 weeks at Fair Weigh-In.	Min. 200# Max. 350#
BEEF FEEDER		
	Born on or after December 1 of prior Fair year.	Min. 300# Max. 700#
DAIRY FEEDER		
	Born on or after December 1 of prior Fair year (dairy breeds/no beef crosses).	Min. 300# Max. 700#
BEEF STEER		
	Register by April 1. Maximum age 2 years at weigh-in.	Min. 1000#
DAIRY STEER		
	Register by April 1. Maximum age 2 years at weigh-in (no beef crosses).	Min. 1100#
<i>Purchase or Proof of Origin MUST be provided for ALL Livestock Animals.</i>		

11. All animals **MUST** be in the possession of the member at the time that species market registration form is due (except for veal, feeder calves, rabbits, and poultry). Members are to own, provided continuous care of, and show their own market animal(s). **An animal is not required to be housed on member's property.** *(Amended Jan. 2012)*

12. Member will not be allowed to sell unless he/she has submitted three (3) completed & signed "Prospective Buyer Slip" forms by the last day of 4-H Fair Registration. (Any less than three (3) will not be accepted initially, but once the first three (3) are in, members may turn in any number of additional slips, if desired.) **The initial three (3) slips must NOT be signed by immediate relatives: parents, aunts,**

uncles, or grandparents. If more than one (1) child in a family is selling, they may not duplicate other siblings' buyers for the *initial* three (3) buyer slips. *(Amended Nov. 2023)*

13. Pen & Stall fees were eliminated after the 2004 Fair.
14. It is the responsibility of the **buyer** of small animals (rabbit, poultry, etc.) to determine where their animals are processed and/or picked up after the Auction. The market purchase will be processed according to the buyer's request, and fees applied if necessary, to the buyers' invoice at check out. *(Amended Nov. 2021)*
15. Any member between **10 & 11 years of age (as of Jan. 1) may show any animal over 700 lbs. in weight, with one (1) year previous experience.** If a member has no previous experience with the intended animal over 700 lbs., then the member must be 12 years of age (as of Jan. 1) to show the animal. All 4-H entries must be weighed upon entry into the barn. *(Amended Nov. 2021)*

AT FAIR WEIGH-IN

ALL MEMBERS – ALL SPECIES

1. All animals must have, depending on species, one of the following: Ear Tag, Leg Band, Wing Band, or Tattoo. (See your species category for further info.) **PROOF OF ORIGIN INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT ON RECORD DURING FAIR WEEK: EVEN IF ANIMAL IS BORN ON YOUR PROPERTY, YOU MUST STILL COMPLETE THE PROOF OF ORIGIN SECTION OF THE PEN & STALL DOCUMENT. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THIS PROOF AUTOMATICALLY ELIMINATES ANIMAL FROM FAIR ENTRY.** *(Amended 01/07/10)*
2. **All participating market members MUST select their intended market animal BEFORE any animal is weighed.** The selected animals tag number will be officially recorded in the market class record program along with the corresponding weight. Members may NOT change their designated market animal after it is weighed. **PENALTY:** If a member is caught showing/marketing their non-market animal in either Showmanship or Market classes, they be disqualified from Showmanship and will forfeit their right to Auction their animal during Fair Week. *(Amended Nov. 2021)*
3. Health requirements established by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Manistee County Fair Board, and the Manistee County 4-H Livestock Council will be strictly enforced. (See your species category for further information.)
4. In the event that a market animal is severely injured or dies, the 4-H Livestock Council officers and 4-H Staff should be notified within 48 hours. A Livestock Council Committee will assist and advise on a suitable replacement animal (depending on size/age/species). The replacement animal must be in member's possession within 14 days of reported injury/death. Any animal determined by Livestock Council to be ill or injured will not be sold.
5. In the event that the Livestock Council has set a mandatory meeting for all members selling an animal, appropriate notice will be given. Failure to attend (or provide a written excuse and complete a make-up meeting) will result in not being able to participate in that year's sale.
6. Any complaints/exceptions to these rules (see also specific species categories) occurring **before** the Fair must be submitted in writing to the Livestock Council **before** their final **pre-Fair** meeting begins. If the complaint/exception occurs during Fair Week and requires instant resolution, the matter must be brought immediately before a Livestock Council Member. It will then be handled by a group consisting of at least one (1) 4-H Staff person and at least three (3) Livestock Council Members, with the possible inclusion of a Fair Board member, depending on the circumstances. All other complaint/exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Livestock Council **before** their next **post-Fair** meeting begins.

4-H AUCTION, PROCESSING, & BUYER BANQUET

1. Sale Commission of 5% will be deducted from each member's sale to help cover expenses of the sale, pictures, advertising, judging fees, ribbons/trophies/plaques, scale certification, and the Buyer Appreciation Event.

For all donated items, 100% of proceeds will go to the Manistee 4-H Livestock Council General Fund unless indicated to another qualifying 4-H fund. (*Amended Nov. 2021*)

PENALTY: Further penalties may be assessed (see #5 above) for improper/negligence of animal or barn duties and may also include forfeiture of awards and premiums and removal from Fairgrounds. (*Revised Jan. 2020*)

2. If the processor selected by buyer charges a trucking fee, it will also be deducted from the member's market sale, or member may arrange their own trucking.
3. All members participating in the sale are expected to be present in the Sale Barn during the Auction to assist Adult Volunteers, network with buyers, and keep animals/items moving through the sale. **PENALTY:** Members who are absent/cannot be located during the Auction, risk forfeiting their market participation status for the following Fair year. (*Revised Nov. 2022*)
4. When the Buyer Appreciation Event/Dinner is hosted during the night of the Auction, Clubs are strongly encouraged to donate an item/items to be auctioned to support the hosting of the Buyer Appreciation Event/Dinner. These items will be auctioned by silent auction. (*Revised Nov. 2021*)
5. It is the responsibility of the **buyer** of small animals (rabbit, poultry, etc.) to determine where their animals are processed and/or picked up after the Auction. The market purchase will be processed according to the buyer's request, and fees applied if necessary, to the buyers' invoice at check out. (*Amended Nov. 2021*)
6. It is the responsibility of the seller to submit completed Thank You Notes to the Livestock Council by the start of the September Livestock Council meeting (after the Fair). Notes must be properly and correctly addressed to the appropriate buyer and bear sufficient postage. **ENVELOPES MUST REMAIN UNSEALED. PENALTY:** Envelopes without sufficient postage may be delayed in being sent to the buyer until postage is provided by the member. (*Amended Nov. 2022*)

BUYER DINNER/BUYER APPRECIATION EVENT

Date: The Buyer Appreciation Event was held during the 4-H Livestock Auction on the Fairgrounds in 2023.

Occasion: Beginning in 2021, the Livestock Council began experimenting with a catered dinner during the Auction. Reviews were mostly positive, and Council is exploring continuing this avenue.

What to Bring: Nothing – unless you have been asked to bring something due to a specific request. Some members do bring gifts and/or flowers for their buyers. This is not expected and is voluntary.

Arrival Time: The event begins at 5:30 PM (EST), caterers arrive 45 minutes early, so there is time to be set up. With the event having changed to a catered dinner in 2021, a different start time might be announced for dinner.

Attire: Business casual or moderately dressy. As room and kitchen cleanup do occur after the event, safe footwear is highly encouraged.

Guests: Registered 4-H Buyers. 4-H selling members may bring their parents/guardians and immediate family (siblings).

Duties: 4-Hers should talk with Buyers, direct them to the dinner tent, answer questions during the Auction, and assist Volunteers working the Auction.

Market Check: You ARE expected to help clean up after the event is over! Market Checks & Buyer Photos will be distributed mid-October via pick up from either Manistee or Benzie MSU Extension Office. If a member wants their check and photos mailed or picked up by a third party, this request MUST be submitted to 4-H Staff in writing, otherwise checks & photos will NOT be released to a third party.

SPECIES CATEGORIES

❖ POULTRY

- i. Exhibitor may use a different poultry animal (from the pen being sold) for Showmanship but must be same species. **Pullorum testing is required** (Ducks are excluded). **Exhibitor must also provide information on proof of purchase or origin.** *(Revised 02/05/15)*
- ii. BROILER/FRYER CHICKENS: Maximum age of 7 weeks (49 days) at the time of Fair Weigh-In. Pen of 3/same sex. *(Amended 02/05/15)*
- iii. ROASTER CHICKENS: Maximum age of 12 weeks at time of Fair Weigh-In. Pen of 3/same sex. *(Amended 02/05/15)*
- iv. TURKEYS: Hatched March 1 or later. Pen of 2/same sex (Either 2 Hens or 2 Toms). Will be weighed, individually, **on the poultry scale.** *(Amended Nov. 2023)*
- v. GEESE: Minimum age of 15 weeks at time of Fair Weigh-In (maximum age 40 weeks). Pen of 2.
- vi. DUCKS: Minimum age of 12 weeks at time of Fair Weigh-In (maximum age 40 weeks). Pen of 2.

❖ RABBITS

- i. Litters must be registered and tattooed before Fair Entry Day. Pen of 3 animals.
- ii. Rabbits do not have to be born at the Exhibitor's home premises. *(Amended April 2017)*
- iii. Exhibitor may use a different rabbit (from the three (3) being sold) for Showmanship.

❖ GOAT

- i. Must be a wether (castrated male) or doe (female). Wethers must be castrated by no later than two (2) months of age. Tagging will be done at Fair Weigh-In. All goats being exhibited as **"Showing Only"** must be dehorned **according to breed standards**. All goats being exhibited as **"market class"** goats must be dehorned **without exception.** *(Amended March 2015)*
- ii. Separate market classes have been established for meat and dairy goats. Only one (1) goat per member, per year may be sold. Dairy goats may be purebreds or crosses of dairy breeds only. *(Amended Jan. 2012)*
- iii. Exhibitor may use a different goat for Showmanship. *(Amended Jan. 2012)*

❖ SHEEP

- i. Only one (1) Lamb per member per year may be sold. Must be wether (castrated male) or ewe (female). Tagging will be done at Fair Weigh-In.

❖ SWINE

- i. Two (2) hogs may be tagged each year.
- ii. Only one (1) hog per member per year may be sold. Must be barrow (castrated male) or gilt (female).
- iii. Hog intended for market **MUST** be identified before either hog is weighed at check-in. *(Revised Nov. 2021)*
- iv. Health alerts, disease prevention measures, quarantines, and special tagging/testing involving swine may arise on short notice. All swine exhibitors are expected to comply with all swine health and sanitation announcements from the Fair Board and/or Extension Office as they occur. *(Revised March 2017)*

- v. **Any swine exceeding 325 lbs. in weight will be marketed at 325 lbs.** (Revised Dec. 2007)
- vi. **If a hog does not make weight in the 220 to 325 lbs. range, the hog may be entered and marketed as a Roaster Class hog between 150 and 220 lbs.** (Revised Nov. 2021)

❖ **CATTLE**

- i. All cattle shall be less than two (2) years old at time of sale. Breeding animal's horns may not exceed two (2) inches in length. Steer tagging will be done as soon as possible after January 1, weather permitting. Feeder calf tagging will be done as soon as possible after March 1. Animal and Exhibitor must be deemed satisfactory during handling checks throughout the year to be eligible to bring their animal to Fair. (Amended Nov. 2021)
- ii. **STEERS & HEIFERS**– (Beef or Dairy as of Feb. 2003) Exhibitor must be **no younger than 10** or 11 years of age **on January 1 of current 4-H Year with one (1) year Feeder experience OR 12 years of age (as of Jan. 1) with no previous experience.** Animal must be dehorned and castrated December 31. Only one (1) Steer or Heifer per member per year may be sold. This can be a maximum two (2) year project, or a maximum two (2) year old animal (either/or) can be sold. **Dairy Steers/Heifers may be purebreds or crosses of Dairy breeds only. Beef breeds/beef crosses will be shown in Beef Divisions.** (Revised Nov. 2023)
- iii. **STEER & HEIFER REGISTRATION/TAGGING:** Steers and Heifers must be registered by December 31. Members are allowed to register and tag two (2) Steers. However, Steer or Heifer intended for market **MUST** be identified before either Steer or Heifer is weighed at check-in. (Revised Nov. 2023)
- iv. **FEEDERS** – Members are allowed to do both a beef feeder and a dairy feeder project. **Not intended for slaughter, however. Please consider before acquiring as market animal. If purchased, at Auction, buyer will be advised to take animal home and raise to a finished animal.**
- v. **FEEDER REGISTRATION/TAGGING:** Feeder Calves must be registered by March 1. Members are allowed to register and tag two (2) beef feeders **OR** two (2) dairy feeders **OR** one (1) beef and one (1) dairy feeder. However, the calf intended for market **MUST** be identified before either calf is weighed at check-in. (Revised Nov. 2021)
- vi. **BEEF FEEDER** – Must be born after December 1 of the prior Fair year. Feeders must be registered by March 1 and in possession by June registration. Heifers, steers, or bulls will be allowed. All must be dehorned. Heifers that will be over four (4) months of age at Fair Weigh-In must have brucellosis (reproductive disease/bacterial infection) vaccine. Minimum weight at Fair Weigh-In will be 300 lbs. and the maximum weight will be 700 lbs. Any Beef Feeder exceeding 700 lbs. will be sold at 700 lbs. and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Award. (Revised Nov. 2021)
- vii. **DAIRY FEEDER** – Must be born after December of the prior Fair year. Feeders must be registered by March 1 and in possession by June registration. Heifers, steers, or bulls will be allowed. All must be dehorned. Heifers that will be over four (4) months of age at Fair Weigh-In must have brucellosis (reproductive disease/bacterial infection) vaccine. Minimum weight at Fair Weigh-In will be 300 lbs. and the maximum weight will be 700 lbs. Any Dairy Feeder exceeding 700 lbs. will be sold at 700 lbs. and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Award. **Dairy feeders may be purebreds or crosses of Dairy breeds only. Beef breeds/beef crosses will be shown in Beef Divisions.** (Revised Nov. 2023)
- viii. **VEAL** – Six (6) to twelve (12) weeks at Fair Weigh-In. Bull or heifer.