

## **BEEF PROJECTS**

### **4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS**

To complete a project in 4-H, member must annually:

- ☒ Enroll in 4H Club by March 1
- ☒ Sign up for the project in 4Honline by April 1
- ☒ Be 4-H member in "Good Standing" by completing county and club requirements
- ☒ Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- ☒ Attend Quality Assurance Training
- ☒ Complete Livestock Skillathon

\*NOTE: 4-H Members may also choose to exhibit their livestock at the Ross County Junior Fair. Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project in 4-H.

#### **1. PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS**

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Beef Project/Record Book (#117)** and a **Beef Resource Handbook (#117R)**. Members must retain these books for use in future years. The Resource Handbook is given one per family and must be retained for future family members.
- **LIVESTOCK RECORD:** Each member will receive a **Livestock Record** annually. **Members are required to bring their completed Livestock Record to the Animal Project Skillathon** with all information completed up to the date of the Skillathon.

#### **2. QUALITY ASSURANCE (mandatory for Market Beef. Not required for Breeding Beef):**

- Exhibitors of Market and Dairy Projects must attend Quality Assurance training annually in order to show, exhibit and/or sell their animal at the county or state fair. This training is mandated by the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture for any producer that contributes to the food industry and must be completed 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: June 18, 2024 for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
  - **Ross County** dates/times go to [ross.osu.edu](http://ross.osu.edu)
    - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register **by March 1** at [go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance](http://go.osu.edu/rcqualityassurance)
    - **Test-Out (ages 15-18 on January 1):** Youth will complete QA for the current year and will then take a test. Youth scoring 70% - 100% will "test out" of QA for next three years.
  - **Other In-Person (all ages):** Exhibitors may attend approved QA programs or clinics. To get credit, it is the member's responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office.
  - **YQCA Online (ages 14-18):** <http://yqcaprogram.org> (\$12/person). Must use 4-H online log-in. To get credit, it is the member's responsibility to send a copy of the completion document to the Extension office.

#### **3. SKILLATHON**

- All Ross County Jr. Fair Animal Project Exhibitors must complete an Animal Project Skillathon to exhibit, show and/or their animal(s). Exhibitors may complete either the Ross County Skillathon OR the Ohio State Fair Skillathon (if offered) for their species. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to submit proof of completion to the Extension office, if attending the OSF Skillathon.
- **Skillathon Dates:**
  - Location: Fairgrounds
  - July 9, 5:00pm-7:00pm
  - July 20, 9:00am-11:00am
- **Age Categories:** Members complete Skillathon according to their age (as of January 1).
  - Junior (8-11 years)
  - Intermediate (12 – 14 years)
  - Senior (15 – 18 years)
- **PREMIER SKILLATHON** (all ages): An optional contest held during the Animal Project Skillathon. Participants will compete in a Premier Skillathon station in each specie area. Details will be in the *May Family Hotline* and *Ross County Fair Book*.

*Beef: page 1 of 4*



## **JR. FAIR INFORMATION**

→ *This is not a complete list of all Jr. Fair rules. Refer to Ross County Fair Book for all rules.*

To exhibit, show and/or sell an animal at the Ross County Junior Fair, exhibitors must:

- ☑ Enroll in 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter
- ☑ Sign up for the project by March 1
  - 4-H members sign up through 4Honline
  - FFA members sign up with Ag Teacher
- ☑ Be 4-H/FFA members in "Good Standing" by completing county and club/chapter requirements
- ☑ Complete Project Book or Livestock Record Book
- ☑ Attend Quality Assurance Training
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Tag and/or weigh in market beef animal(s) at December Tag-in
- ☑ Submit online "Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form" by July 15.
  - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries
- ☑ Submit online DUNF form

\*NOTE: Members are NOT required to exhibit at the fair to complete a project through 4-H or FFA.

---

### **2024 IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Market Steer Weigh, Tag, Tattoo:** December 2, 2023 at Ross Co. Fairgrounds Beef Barn
- **Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
- **DUNF Form:** Date TBA
- **Fair Move-in**
  - **Market Move-in:** first Saturday of fair, 4:00pm – 9:00pm
  - **Exhibitor/Parent Meeting:** first Saturday of fair, 9:15pm in Show Arena
  - **Market Weigh-in** first Saturday of fair, 9:30pm
  - **Breeding:** Move-in first Saturday of fair, 4:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Market Beef Show:** Wednesday of fair, 8:00pm
- **Beef Showmanship:** Thursday of fair, 8:30am
- **Beef Breeding:** Thursday of fair, following Beef Showmanship
- **Market Beef Sale:** Friday of fair, 6:00pm (rotate annually with Beef, Goats, & Lambs)

### **Additional Opportunities**

- **Beef Team Fitting Contest:** Monday of fair, 11:00am (rules on page 4)

## **MARKET BEEF BEFORE THE FAIR**

1. **POSSESSION.** Beef Market projects must be in member's possession by the December weigh-in date.
2. **NUMBER OF ANIMALS.**
  - A. Exhibitors may take up to two (2) market species to the Ross County Junior Fair. Exhibitors must follow the guidelines of the number of animals per species and abide by the specific rules for each species.
  - B. Exhibitors may take TWO Market Beef animals to the Ross County Junior Fair. The two market beef animals can be a combination of two steers, or two heifers, or one steer and one heifer.
  - C. Market heifers must NOT be bred.
3. **TAGGING & WEIGH-IN.** All market calves must be weighed and tagged in December, 2023
  - A. Each exhibitor can tag in two market beef animals and the family can tag in one family market beef animal. A family with one exhibitor can tag in a total of 3 market beef animals (may only exhibit two).
  - B. Minimum weight of calves at December weigh-in must be 450 lbs.
  - C. Minimum weight at the Fair weigh-in must be 900 lbs.
4. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15**
  - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
  - B. Animals at the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

5. **DUNF FORMS**

- A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online by Date TBA
- B. Cattle - A separate DUNF must be submitted for each animal.
- C. DUNF form must be correctly submitted, or exhibitor will not be allowed to weigh-in their animal(s).

**AT THE FAIR (read all rules in the Fair Book!)**

- 1. **JR FAIR EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE:** Exhibitors **must** adhere to the following dress requirements at all shows and sales at the fair: must wear nice jeans or slacks (no low-rise, no holes or tears); a shirt, blouse or polo with a collar and sleeves AND without slogans or advertisements (4-H club/member name is acceptable); no cleavage showing; no undergarments showing. Shoes must be closed-toe (no sandals or flip flops).
- 2. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian.
- 3. **MEDICATIONS.** If a prescription is written that requires medication/treatment, a superintendent must be present each time the medicine/treatment is administered to ensure compliance with the guidance in the prescription. The superintendent must be present before any medicine/treatment is mixed through delivery.
- 4. → **NEW in 2024** – Jr. Fair Market Heifer registration must include a minimum of 5 animals to form a separate class during the market show. If there are less than 5 animals, the heifers will be included in the overall Jr. Fair Market Show classes with the steers.
- 5. Requests for special Breeding stall requirements must be pre-approved by the Beef Superintendents.
- 6. **Stall fan cage** must be able to go down to **4 feet** or animal will need to share its cage with a neighboring animal.
- 7. **Sale Information.**
  - A. The Jr Fair Beef Show is a terminal show.
  - B. Refer to the current Fair Book for Livestock Sale procedure/rules. (i.e. Exhibitors may sell only one time through the sale unless exhibiting more than one overall species Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion)

**BREEDING BEEF**

- 1. **POSSESSION.** Beef Non-Market (breeding) livestock projects must be in a member's possession by **June 1**
- 2. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15**
  - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
  - B. Animals at the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.
  - C. Registration papers must be attached for registered animals; papers will be checked for age and breed classification.
  - D. **Breed Registration Papers** are required for any Beef Breeding Junior Fair project that will be shown as a particular breed (example: Angus, Hereford, or Mainetainer).
- 3. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian.
- 4. **MEDICATIONS.** If a prescription is written that requires medication/treatment, a superintendent must be present each time the medicine/treatment is administered to ensure compliance with the guidance in the prescription. The superintendent must be present before any medicine/treatment is mixed through delivery.
- 5. **Beef Breeding Show Class Change Requests:** No changes to class entries will be allowed after 12:00noon Tuesday of the fair. The Beef Breeding show bill will be posted for review prior to this time and changes given to Jr. Fair Superintendents.
- 6. **JR FAIR EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE:** Exhibitors **must** adhere to the following dress requirements at all shows and sales at the fair: must wear nice jeans or slacks (no low-rise, no holes or tears); a shirt, blouse or polo with a collar and sleeves AND without slogans or advertisements (4-H club/member name is acceptable); no cleavage showing; no undergarments showing. Shoes must be closed-toe (no sandals or flip flops).
- 7. All Feeder steers must be castrated and healed by the fair. Steers must be non-bull appearing as determined by the beef superintendents. Any feeder steer not meeting the above requirements will have a choice of being exhibited in the bull calf class or showing for grade only.

8. **JR FAIR CLASSES.**

Project

Breeding/Production

Feeder Calf (Dairy & Beef)

Class Choices

Junior Female Calf; Senior Female Calf  
Summer Yearling Heifer; Junior Yearling Heifer; Senior Yearling Heifer  
2-year old Female Cow; Cow/Calf  
Junior Bull Calf; Senior Bull Calf

Feeder Calf - Steer or Heifer (may not be shown in any other classes)

**JR FAIR BEEF SHOWMANSHIP**

*Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules (age divisions, fitting/showing rules, show order, etc.)*

Showmanship Sign-ups

- A. **July 15** –Showmanship sign-ups (Beginner, Junior, Intermediate & Senior) are included in the online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form.
- B. Pee wee Showmanship sign-up sheets will be posted in each species' barn. Participants can sign up until the start of the Pee Wee Show.

**BEEF TEAM-FITTING CONTEST**

*Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules*

1. An optional event available to Junior Fair Beef Exhibitors.
2. Teams will consist of **(2)** Ross County Jr. Fair Beef Exhibitors of any age.