

117M – BEEF MARKET

4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

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

- Enroll in 4-H Club by March 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
- Market Beef Livestock projects must be in member’s possession by December weigh-in/tagging

*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 (#117M)** 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 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 at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Deadlines: **June 24, 2026** for Ross County Fair and June 1 for State Fair.
- **QA OPTIONS:**
 - **Ross County** dates/times go to ross.osu.edu
 - **QA Sessions (all ages):** Pre-register **by March 1** at 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 on January 1):** 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 the species 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 7, 5:00pm-7:00pm
 - July 18, 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): Optional contest. 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*.

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 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 & weigh-in market beef animal(s) on December 7, 2024
- ☑ Submit online “Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form” by July 15.
 - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries
- ☑ Submit online DUNF form at fair weigh-in

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

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

- **Market Steer Weigh-in & Tagging:** December 6, 2025 at Ross Co. Fairgrounds Beef Barn
 - **Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
 - **DUNF Forms:** submit at fair weigh-in
 - **Fair Move-in**
 - **Market Move-in:** first Saturday of fair, 5:00pm – 9:00pm
 - **Exhibitor/Parent Meeting:** first Saturday of fair, 9:15pm in Show Arena
 - **Market Weigh-in** Sunday of fair, 5:00pm
 - **Breeding:** Move-in first Saturday of fair, 5:00pm – 9:00pm
 - **Beef Team Fitting Contest:** Monday of fair, 12:00noon (rules on page 4)
 - **Market Beef Show:** Wednesday of fair, 8:00pm
 - **Beef Showmanship:** Thursday of fair, 8:30am
 - **Beef Breeding:** Thursday of fair, following Beef Showmanship
 - **CBBR Show:** Friday of fair, 8:00am
 - **Market Beef Sale:** Friday of fair, 6:00pm (rotate annually with Beef, Dairy Product, Goats)
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BEFORE THE FAIR

1. **POSSESSION.** Beef Market projects must be in member’s possession by the December weigh-in date and in continual care of the 4-H or FFA member.
2. **NUMBER OF ANIMALS.**
 - A. Exhibitors may take up to 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 2 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 on **December 6, 2025**
 - 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. All animals should be born after January 1, 2025.
 - C. Minimum weight of calves at December weigh-in **must be 450 lbs.**
 - D. Minimum weight at the Fair weigh-in **must be 1,000 lbs.**
 - E. Beef with any type of horn will not be tagged or weighed-in.
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.

AT THE FAIR (Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules!)

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. **FAIR VETERINARIAN**
The Fair Veterinarian is hired by the Ross Co. Agricultural Society per Ohio Dept. of Agriculture guidelines. Determinations related to animal health, care, and wellbeing are up to the discretion of the Fair Veterinarian up to and including animal removal and possession. (clarification that the Fair Veterinarian gets final say)
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. **DUNF FORMS**
 - A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online at the fair weigh-in.
 - 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).
6. **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.
7. **Stall Requests.** Exhibitors can request their animals to be stalled with another exhibitor's animals, but exhibitor cannot request location.
8. Stall fan cage must be able to go down to **4 feet** or animal will need to share its cage with a neighboring animal.
9. If desired, mulch will be provided for exhibitor use
10. Only ONE parent/guardian will be permitted in the makeup arena before show.
11. **Must show to sell**
All market animals must be shown in their respective market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale (*3 exceptions- see below). If the animal is lightweight or overweight, they can receive packer price but not premium or add-on funds.
 - A. Exceptions:
 - I. Exception 1 - If the animal dies after weigh-in but before showing in the respective species market show the exhibitor will be eligible to receive add-ons.
 - II. Exception 2 - If the animal dies after the respective species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Jr. Fair Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 - III. Exception 3 - If the animal dies after showing in their respective species showmanship show and before their species market show, then the exhibitor will be eligible to participate in both the Premium Sale and receive add-ons.
 - Note: if the exhibitor's animal does not die and they have shown in showmanship, they must still show in the market show to be sale eligible.
 - Note: This is a temporary exception that will be evaluated after the 2026 fair.
 - B. Exhibitors will have 3 minutes from when other exhibitors enter the showing to enter the showing before the Superintendents/Judge moves on with the show. All exhibitors must participate in their market show to be eligible to participate in the Ross Co. Jr. Fair Premium Sale.
12. **SALE INFORMATION.**
 - A. The Jr Fair Beef Show is a terminal show.
 - B. Refer to the current Fair Book for Livestock Sale procedure/rules.

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

1. **July 15** – Showmanship sign-ups (Beginner, Junior, Intermediate & Senior) are included in the online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form.
2. Peewee 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.
3. All participants must comply with the Jr. Fair Dress Code Policy.

CBBR SHOW

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for complete rules

1. For all County Bred & Born – (i.e. if enrolled in Ross Co. 4-H but living out of county)
All youth participating through a Ross Co. 4-H Club or a Ross County FFA Chapter are eligible to participate as an exhibitor in any Ross Co. Jr. Fair CBBR show. If residing outside of the county limits, animals must be kept at a legal guardian's home address. (NOTE: this eliminates residency requirement if already permitted in Ross Co. 4-H)
2. The Market Beef CBBR Show will be an independent event held on Friday of fair, 8:00am.
3. To be eligible for the CBBR
 - A. Exhibitors:
 - i. Must comply with all other market beef exhibitor requirements and be shown in the Jr. Fair Market Beef Show to compete in the CBBR show.
 - ii. The animal must be raised by a Ross County Jr. Fair exhibitor.
 - B. Breeders:
 - i. **NOTE: For 2027 Jr Fair**, the Breeders must register to be a CBBR breeder by calling the Extension Office by **March 15, 2026**.
 - C. Calves do not have to be bred in-county but, must be born and raised within county limits until purchased by eligible Jr. Fair exhibitor.
4. The CBBR Show Placings
 - A. If less than **9** entries – there will be **1** class
 - B. If greater than **10** entries – then classes will be divided by weight
 - C. Grand Champion; Reserve Grand Champion; 3rd Place Overall; 4th Place Overall; 5th Place Overall