

117DF – DAIRY BEEF FEEDER

4-H PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

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

- Enroll in 4H Club by March 1
- Be 4-H member in “Good Standing” (complete county and club requirements)
- Complete Project Book and Livestock Record Book
- Attend Quality Assurance Training
- Complete Livestock Skillathon
- Project must be in member’s possession by May 1

*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. 4-H PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Dairy Beef Feeder Project and Record Book (#117DF) and a Beef Resource Handbook (#117R)**. Members must retain 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 new **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 *(required for Dairy Beef Feeders)*

- 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 a 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. *Note: Dairy Beef Feeder exhibitors will be completing BEEF Skillathon (with minor changes i.e. breeds)
- **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*.

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

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” (complete county and club/chapter requirements)
- ☑ Complete Project Book and Livestock Record Book
- ☑ Attend Quality Assurance Training
- ☑ Complete Livestock Skillathon
- ☑ Complete online “Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form” by July 15
 - One form includes Market, Breeding, and Showmanship entries
- ☑ Project must be in member’s possession by May 1
- ☑ Submit online DUNF form at fair move-in

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

2026 JR FAIR IMPORTANT DATES

- **Dairy Beef Feeder Weigh-in & Tagging:** Saturday, May 2, 11:00am – 12:00pm
- **Jr Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
- **DUNF Form:** due at fair move-in
- **Fair Move-in:** first Saturday of fair, 7:00am – 11:00am
- **Dairy Beef Feeder Weigh-in:** first Saturday of fair, 11:30am
- **Dairy Beef Feeder Showmanship:** Monday, 8:00am
- **Dairy Beef Feeder Show:** Monday, following Dairy Beef Feeder Showmanship

BEFORE THE FAIR

1. **POSSESSION.** Projects must be in a member's possession by **May 1**, current year.
All Livestock Projects must be in the continual care of the youth and their parent(s) during the duration of the project.
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 Dairy Beef Feeder animals to the Ross County Junior Fair.
3. **TAGGING & WEIGH-IN.**
All Dairy Beef Feeders must be weighed and tagged on **Saturday, May 2 from 11:00am – 12:00pm. This is the only day/time!**
 - A. Each exhibitor can tag in two dairy beef animals and the family can tag in one family dairy beef animal. A family with one exhibitor can tag in a total of 3 dairy beef animals (may only exhibit two).
 - B. Dairy Beef Feeders must be one of the six dairy breeds: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, or Milking Shorthorn
**NOTE: Dairy Feeders may be crossed with any dairy breeds but not crossed with any beef breeds.
 - C. Dairy Beef Feeders must be born **after January 1, current year.**
 - D. Dairy Beef Feeders must be male and castrated by May weigh-in/tagging.
 - E. Dairy Beef Feeders must be dehorned and healed by fair show date.
 - F. Dairy Beef Feeders must weigh between **300 lbs. - 700 lbs.** at the fair weigh-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.
5. **DUNF FORMS**
 - A. All DUNF forms must be submitted online at fair move-in
 - B. Dairy Beef Feeders - 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. **SAFETY.** Any animal found by the Superintendents to be a risk to the health and well-being of exhibitors and/or fair-goers will not be permitted to show or sell can be dismissed from the fairgrounds at any time.
No livestock permitted in the campgrounds.

2. **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).
3. **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 Vet gets final say)
4. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian.
5. **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.
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. **JR. FAIR SHOW**
 - A. Dairy Beef Feeders must weigh between **300 lbs. and 700 lbs.** at the fair weigh-in
 - B. Dairy Beef Feeders will exhibit like a beef animal (i.e. show stick; walking forward, etc.)
 - C. Dairy Beef Feeders will be shown **by weight**. Classes determined after weigh-in
 - D. Placings: Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champions. Class Winners - 1st – 3rd Place
8. **SALE INFORMATION.** Dairy Beef Feeders will NOT be participating in the Jr. Fair Sale.
9. All livestock exhibitors must clean their stall/pen and aisle by 12:00noon Sunday after fair. Exhibitors not in compliance will be placed on a 1-year probation. If a second offense occurs, the exhibitor will be ineligible to exhibit the following year.

JR FAIR DAIRY FEEDER 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 due July 15.

RATE OF GAIN CONTEST

Refer to current Ross County Fair Book for rules