

# 140MA – MARKET HOG

## 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 Hog Livestock 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. PROJECT BOOK & LIVESTOCK RECORDS

- **PROJECT BOOKS:** First-year members will receive a **Market Hog Project/Record Book (#140MA)** and a **Swine Resource Handbook (#140R)**. 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 Hogs; not required for Breeding Swine*):

- 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](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 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*.

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 and/or weigh in animal(s) at Spring Tag-in
- ☑ 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 Hog SPRING Tagging Dates:**
  - Saturday, May 2 8:00am - 11:00am Ross County Fairgrounds
  - Monday, May 4 6:00pm - 8:00pm Ross County Fairgrounds
- **Jr. Fair Livestock Entry Form:** July 15
- **DUNF Form:** submit at fair weigh-in
- **Fair Move-in and Rolling Weigh-in:** first Saturday of fair, 7:00am – 11:00am
- **Jr. Fair Market Hog Show:** Tuesday of fair, 8:00am
- **CBBR (County Bred, Born & Raised) Hog Show:** Tuesday of fair, 2:30pm
- **Swine Showmanship:** Wednesday of fair, 8:00am
- **Swine Breeding Show:** Wednesday of fair, following Swine Showmanship
- **Market Hog Sale:** Thursday of fair, 6:00pm (rotate annually - Market Hogs and Market Lambs)

## BEFORE THE FAIR:

1. **POSSESSION.** All market hog projects must be in member’s possession by May 1, current year.
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 (2) market hog animals to the Ross County Junior Fair. The two market hogs can be a combination of two barrows, two gilts, or a barrow and a gilt.
3. **SPRING TAGGING:**  
ALL market hogs must be tagged at a Spring Tagging to be exhibited at the fair. NO HOME TAGGING
  - A. Dates listed above
  - B. Pigs should **weigh 50 - 70 lbs.** by the tagging date.
  - C. Each exhibitor may tag two market hogs. Families with 2 or more members taking market hogs may tag-in and designate 1 family market hog. A family with one exhibitor can tag three (3) market animals.
4. **JR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRY FORMS due July 15**
  - A. Exhibitors must submit an online Jr Fair Livestock Entry form July 15 to be eligible to exhibit at the Ross County Junior Fair.
  - B. Animals brought to the fair must match the entry form to be eligible.

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

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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 has final say)

3. **DRENCHING.** Drenching of livestock is **prohibited** at an exhibition, unless it is for a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed veterinarian. (ODA, 2016)

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. Market Hogs - 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. **FAIR WEIGH-IN.**

- A. **Fair Move-in and Rolling Weigh-in:** first Saturday of fair, 7:00am – 11:00AM
- B. Market hogs must weigh **between 220 lbs. – 290 lbs.** at the fair weigh-in to be eligible for the market show, the Champion Drive, and the Junior Fair Swine Sale.

7. **HOG HAIR LENGTH. (REVISED 2026)**

**Each hog must have at least ½ inch minimum of measurable hair to be eligible for the show and sale.** Hair must be checked before the animal permitted to go across the scale at the fair move-in/weigh-in.

Body clipping/shaving of hogs is NOT a recommended practice. Clippers/scissors are not allowed in the barns and clipping of hogs is not allowed during the fair. **Clipping of the hog's FACE and NECK is allowed but MUST be done prior to the animal coming to the fair. (Face and Neck meaning from where the shoulder STARTS to the end of the snout). Any other clipping is done at the exhibitor's own risk.**

An approved ½ inch hair-line ruling tool will be used to determine hair length by a paid Hair Judge. The Hair Judge's ruling is final and cannot be petitioned. Any violation of this rule will result in dismissal from the fair swine market show and sale; however, the exhibitor will be allowed to show their hog in showmanship.

Any hog rejected due to an infraction of this rule will remain the owner's responsibility for care (feeding, watering, pen cleanliness, etc.). The animal will be sent to the processing plant designated by the Jr. Fair Sale Committee with the other "keep" animals and the owner will be responsible for all fees and processing costs incurred for this animal. The owner will also be responsible for picking up the processed meat. The member will not receive a packer bid or any compensation for the animal.

8. **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 show Market Hogs: page 3 of 4 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.

### 9. JR. FAIR MARKET HOG SALE:

- A. The Jr. Fair Market Hog Show is a terminal show.
- B. Refer to *Ross County Fair Book* for Sale procedure/rules.

## JR FAIR HOG 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 due July 15.
- 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.
- C. Exhibitors are NOT permitted to show their breeding gilts in Showmanship.

## COUNTY BRED, BORN, & RAISED MARKET HOG SHOW (CBBR):

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

1. For all County Bred & Born – (i.e. if in Ross Co. 4-H but living out of county)
  - A. All youth participating through a Ross Co. 4-H Club or a Ross County FFA Chapter are eligible to participate 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 Hog CBBR Swine Show will be an independent event held on Tuesday of the fair, 2:30pm.
3. Hog must have been shown in the Jr. Fair Market Hog Show to compete in the CBBR.
4. Every CBBR hog will be eligible to show (if exhibitor chooses to).
5. To be eligible for the CBBR
  - A. Exhibitors:
    - a. The animal must be raised by a Ross County Jr. Fair exhibitor.
    - b. If hog is purchased, it must be from an approved local breeder AND **bred, born and raised** within county limits until purchased by eligible Jr. Fair exhibitor.
    - c. By May 15 – Submit online CBBR form including the animal's Jr. Fair tag number, the CBBR button tag number, and the breeder's name. Link [go.osu.edu/swinecbbbr](http://go.osu.edu/swinecbbbr)
  - B. Breeders:
    - a. By May 15 – Submit online CBBR Breeder form including the exhibitor family name, the animal's ear notch, and CBBR button tag number. Link [go.osu.edu/swinecbbbr](http://go.osu.edu/swinecbbbr)
    - b. Hogs must be **bred, born and raised** within the county limits until purchased by eligible Jr. Fair exhibitor.