

OGEMAW COUNTY 4-H 2024-25 SMALL AND LARGE MARKET ANIMAL RULES

Circle clubs: Beef Hog Goat Lamb Rabbit Poultry

1. Age requirements to sell a small animal shall be a minimum of 8 years of age, and a maximum of 19 years as of January 1, 2025. Age requirements to sell a large animal shall be a minimum of 9 years of age, and a maximum of 19 years as of January 1, 2025. *Age requirements are subject to fair board guidelines.*
2. Species must meet the following requirements:
 - a. All rabbit and poultry exhibits for auction must meet requirements as stated below.
 - i. Rabbits: pen of three (3), must be between 10-14 weeks old, weigh between 4 -7 lbs. each, be of purebred or mixed breed meat breed types and each pen will be of the same breed and the same variety. All market rabbits used for litters for market classes must be in possession of the 4-H member by July 16, 2025. Breed date of April 3rd, and birth date of May 5th.
 - ii. Cornish Game Hens: pen of three (3), Must be all cockerels or all hens, 7 weeks old with a minimum of 12 lbs. per pen (live weight).
 - iii. Broilers: pen of two (2), must be all cockerels or all hens, 9 weeks old with a minimum weight of 14 lbs. per pen (live weight).
 - iv. Production Pen: pen of five (5) hens of the same breed and all purebred. Must be between 24-26 weeks old. Hens are sold live.
 - v. Turkeys: pen of one tom or one hen, must be White Giant or Broad Breasted breed (white or bronze), hatched between March 1st and March 31st, toms must be a minimum of 22 lbs. (live weight) and hens must be a minimum of 18 lbs. (live weight).
 - vi. Ducks: pen of (1), must be White Pekin breed, 10 weeks old and a minimum weight of 6 lbs. (live weight).
 - vii. Geese: pen of (1), must be White Emben breed, hatched between April 1st and April 15th with a minimum weight of 12 lbs. (live weight).
 - viii. Pheasants: pen of three (3), one rooster, two hens, must be 8 weeks old minimum. Must follow all state regulations regarding captivity of wild birds. See MDARD/DNR for further information. Pheasants will be released into the wild after sale has concluded.
 - b. Dairy beef and beef steers must be born after January 1, 2024, purchased, on feed, and weighed-in by the date specified by the individual club rules and leader. Dairy beef minimum sale weight is 1150 lb. Beef steer minimum sale weights are as follows: Small frame: 900 lb., Medium frame: 1050 lb., Large frame: 1200 lb. Beef steers will be classified as to frame size at the January weigh-in, and this weigh-in is required to be eligible to show and sell steers. No heifers will be included in the sale.
 - c. Hogs must be purchased, tagged, and on feed by May 4, 2025 or as specified by club rules or leader. Swine club members may start with a pen of three hogs. Only one may be shown and sold. The member's market hog entry is the first project animal to make weight at the fair entry weigh-in. Hogs will weigh 220-300 lb. to be eligible for the sale, preference weight is 240-270 lb. Hogs over 300 lb. may be sold up to 340 lb., but the buyer only pays for 300 lb. Hair must not be clipped to less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch as measured on show day.
 - d. Lambs must be born after January 1, 2025. Lambs must be tagged and weighed-in by the first weekend in June. Members may start with a pen of 3 lambs, but only one may be shown and sold. The member's market lamb entry is the first project animal to make weight at the fair entry weigh-in. Minimum sale weight is 100 lb.
 - e. Market and market dairy goats must be born after Nov 1, 2024 and be in possession by the member, tagged and weighed-in by the first weekend in June. Members may start with a pen of 3 meat goats, but only 1 goat may be shown and sold. Meat goats must be at least 50% meat breed, and must weigh a minimum of 80 lb. and dairy goats must be 100% dairy to dairy cross (no meat breed crosses) and a minimum of 60 lb. at the fair entry weigh-in to be eligible for the sale, with the member's market goat entry being the first animal to make weight at the fair entry weigh-in.
3. All large animal market animals **MUST BE** castrated by the first official club weigh-in.
4. An unmarketable animal, as determined by the animal advisory committee, may be replaced by an eligible back-up animal that meets all requirements by the deadline of the market record book entry. In the case of an animal death, no replacements will be made after the first official weigh-in of each species, unless the back-up animal is designated to the member at first weigh-in, in the possession of the member, tagged and weighed-in as of the specified weigh-in dates.
5. Auction sale limit is two sales per member: 2 different large animal project sales or 2 different small animal project sales, or 1 small and 1 large animal sale. Only one steer project, only one goat project and only one poultry project sale allowed per member. A pen counts as one sale. Members may sell no more than one project animal of each species. **ALL** market animals must be identified by tag, leg band or tattoo. Animals shown in market classes must sell. **Members can only market in one county in Michigan.**
6. To be eligible to sell an animal and receive 4-H credit, each member must be evaluated on a project approved by the Small and Large Animal Advisory Committee.
7. Market animal club members are responsible for contacting, by date specified by Buyer Subcommittee, a minimum of three (3) prospective buyers if marketing one project or four (4) prospective buyers if marketing two projects. Parents of members are also responsible for the contact of prospective buyers by assisting youths in making contacts.

8. The idea of the sale is to encourage participants to become familiar with the handling of animals. Any animal whose training has been neglected cannot be sold at the auction. The decision will be made by the Livestock Committee.
9. To sell an animal, all members must show their market project in both market and market showmanship classes. To show in a market class the animal must be eligible to sell in the 4-H auction.
10. The judge has control over all exhibitors while they are showing. Any member not able to control his or her animal in a safe manner will be excused from the show ring by the judge or the market animal advisory committee for the safety and respect of all the other exhibitors.
11. Fair tags must be picked up from the fair's front office **BEFORE 11:00 AM ON AUGUST 11, 2025**. Record books must be turned in **BY 11:00 AM to Exhibit Building #2 ON AUGUST 11, 2025, or animals WILL NOT be sold**. Record books can be picked up after the auction and must be completed after the sale and returned to **Exhibit Building #2 by 12:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025**.
12. All animals must be securely penned and properly supervised. Small animal species members must have portable pens for the auction. Members may supply locks for cages for small animals, but the leaders must have access to keys or reserve the right to cut any locks to gain access. Steers must be led with use of a safety rope **AND** halter rope. **ALL steers being moved will be led by a member AND an adult.**
13. Any unsafe behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct by members could constitute disqualification from the sale.
14. During the fair, feeding times for all animals shall be determined by the barn superintendents. Each member is responsible for having clean pens and animals fed by the established time. Chore check-offs may be used, which the members are also responsible for. Final pen and barn cleaning shall be completed by members by noon on Sunday or as arranged by barn superintendents.
15. Members will be responsible for the care of all animals until the animals are released from the fair. Market animals become the property of the buyer at the time of the sale. All animals must be checked out with the barn superintendent before removal.
16. **After the sale, all members will write thank you letters to buyers and trophy sponsors. Let them know you appreciate their support.**
17. Attendance at **80%** of all club meetings and weigh-ins is required. Members **MUST** attend any clinics that leaders require. Members **MUST** also attend all combined mandatory meetings of market animal project clubs and Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training (YQCA). YQCA training must be completed by June 1, 2025. Disruptive behavior during meetings will result in dismissal from the meeting without credit for attendance.
18. All members are responsible for following fairground rules, club rules and superintendent's rules during fair week.
19. 3 hours of community service per **species** must be completed through the Ogemaw County Agricultural Society (Fairboard) by August 1, 2025.
20. **All** project requirements, regulations, club rules and above rules must be followed, or the member runs the risk of being suspended for 1 year from participating in a 4-H *market* livestock project. *This will be determined by the Livestock Committee.*

I have read the above rules and agree to abide by them for the 2024-25 project year.

Member Signature _____ Member Printed _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

****please return a signed copy of these market rules to your club leader, and keep one for your records****