

To: Junior Fair Youth Exhibitors, Parents and/or Guardians, and Youth Advisors
Re: 2026 Junior Fair Exhibition Policy
October 18, 2025

The Junior Fair Livestock Show Exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the Junior Fair Show, as stated in the Junior Fair Section of the Senior Fair Premium Book and is referred to as the Exhibitor Only Policy. The mission of the Junior Fair is to provide educational opportunities for youth by encouraging “Learning By Doing” where the youth exhibitor can learn and gain personal experience with the “hands on” involvement offered through the preparation and exhibition of their project. All youth exhibitors, along with their parent and/or guardian will be informed of the guidelines for the animal(s) they intend to exhibit. Youth exhibitors and/or their parent / guardian are responsible for obtaining a copy of these guidelines and will be expected to read and verify that these guidelines were received and understood. The Junior Fair, with the support of the Market Livestock Committee, will not tolerate the breaking of these guidelines. Only special circumstance, which requires prior approval from the committee and Junior Fair representative, will be the exception. With the adoption of this policy, infractions to the guidelines will be handled accordingly.

The Junior Fair Guidelines have been established to provide equal opportunity for competitive excellence for all youth.

Junior Fair Exhibitors shall assume liability for care and control of their livestock, and their personal actions at all times. Youth and parents participating assume their obligation to understand the risks involved in working with livestock. The Mahoning County Agricultural Society, the Mahoning County Junior Fair, and the Mahoning County Livestock Committee & associated volunteers assume no liability for loss, theft, vandalism, or negligence of an exhibitor or their designees.

The Junior Fair is the greatest opportunity to allow the youth to shine and be proud of their accomplishments. We, the youth, parents, advisors, volunteers, and committee members, need to work to encourage and support youth involvement with their projects, and to stress the importance of both knowing and following the specific guidelines to all youth and parents/guardians intending to exhibit in the Junior Fair Show. By working together, we can offer a better experience for all youth involved in the Junior Fair Shows in the future.

2026 MARKET BEEF GUIDELINE RECEIPT

We have received, read, and understand information presented in this letter and the attached guidelines for the Market Beef Project and agree to abide by these guidelines throughout the year to exhibit and sell our Market Beef at the 2026 Junior Fair.

Signature of Youth Member

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Verification - Committee Member

Date

MARKET BEEF

MARKET BEEF COMMITTEE

Shane Wonner: 330-717-4042, Matt Gebhardt: 330-542-9656

Bryan Snyder: 330-360-7497, Bob Jarvis: 330-718-3226

Jaime Henderson: 330-503-7614; Tom Rice: 330-397-9149

Roger Mellott: 330-272-4716

Market Livestock Weigh - In: Wednesday, September 2, 8:00 a.m. **Place:** Livestock Scales, Event Center

Market Beef Showmanship: Friday, September 4, 8:00 a.m.

Market Beef Judging: Friday, September 4, 9:30 a.m. **Place:** Event Center

Market Livestock Market Beef Sale: Friday, September, 7:00 p.m. **Place:** Event Center

MARKET BEEF GUIDELINES

October 18, 2025

MEMBERSHIP: Open to any Mahoning County Youth ages 10 years to 18 years old inclusive on January 1, 2026. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the committee. Youth must be enrolled in a local 4-H club, FFA chapter, and/or an active Junior Fair organization by the organization's deadline; or a current member of the Mahoning County Market Livestock Club by October 18, 2025. Youth must complete the Mahoning County Market Beef Information & Guideline Form by November 1, 2025.

ENROLLMENT: Enrollment closes on Saturday, October 18, 2025. Orders for beef animal(s) must be given to the committee prior to this date.

NUMBER OF STEERS: Beginners, one steer only. Those with experience in livestock may have two at the discretion of the committee. Second year members may have two steers in the manner decided upon by the committee.

REQUIREMENTS: **Mandatory - Members taking the Market Beef Project must attend at least two of the County Market Beef meetings, in addition to one Mahoning County Quality Assurance Program in order to exhibit and sell their market beef animal(s) at the fair.** However, members are encouraged to attend all meetings of the County Market Beef Club. Each exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of their animal(s) prior to and during the 2026 Mahoning County Junior Fair; and to comply with the "Exhibitor Only" policy, which encourages youth to be the primary individual responsible for this market beef animal. The market beef purchased and raised for this project must be exhibited and sold at the 2026 Mahoning County Junior Fair. Exceptions must be approved by committee.

- **Market Beef exhibitors MUST not use any growth hormones or implants on their Market Beef projects.**
- **Exhibitors MUST not use any products which tranquilize livestock animals such as Calf Calm or like products.**

Exhibitors must submit a Junior Fair Entry Form online to exhibit their animal by August 1 at midnight.

Market Livestock Photos must be submitted at this time. If a Junior Fair Entry Form is not submitted, then the youth will NOT be permitted to exhibit their animal in the Junior Fair Show.

Members not able to participate in the Junior Fair must contact the Manager of Junior Fair prior to entry day.

All members taking a Market Beef project are required to submit a COMPLETED RECORD BOOK for EACH project. These books must be turned in Sunday of the Fair between **12:00 noon and 3:00 pm** in front of the Market Beef area to a Market Beef Committee member. In addition, each member must write a THANK YOU note to the buyer of each animal. The committee will provide THANK YOU notes and the postage. Both the project book(s) and thank you note(s) must be turned into the committee before payment will be made for the sale of the project animal. Members not complying can expect a delay in payment until requirements are fulfilled.

SHOW/SALE ATTIRE: All exhibitors are required to wear appropriate dress for both handling and showing of animals. For safety reasons, all youth must wear closed toe shoes/boots and jeans. As we are in the public view, dress code while working with animals should be reflective of the agricultural industry. During weigh-in, the show, and the sale; exhibitors are expected to dress in their best jeans/show pants, Market Livestock shirt for weight classes; and/or Market Livestock shirt, clean t-shirt or collared shirt, or nice button show shirt; closed toe, leather shoes/boots. No casual footwear such as sneakers, sandals, flip-flops, or rubber barn boots may be worn in the show ring. Low cut shirts, tank tops, torn clothing, novelty t-shirts, cut-offs, low cut jeans and like-style clothing will not be tolerated and will not be considered appropriate show attire. Exhibitors dressed in such clothing shall not be permitted to enter the show/sale ring. Those taking Market Projects should be reminded that pictures for buyers will be taken during weigh-in. PLEASE DRESS ACCORDINGLY!!!

MANDATORY: ALL YOUTH WILL BE PROVIDED A MARKET LIVESTOCK CLUB SHIRT COMPLIMENTS OF WALNUT HILL FEEDS. THIS T-SHIRT WILL BE REQUIRED ATTIRE IN EACH MARKET CLASS. THIS T-SHIRT WILL NOT BE REQUIRED IN SHOWMANSHIP OR DURING THE SALE. SHOWMANSHIP ATTIRE WILL BE OPTIONAL.

Please be reminded of the following: No individual club shirts may be worn to show Market Livestock. Individual club shirts may be worn during the sale & for pictures. If a youth does not have a club shirt or special attire for pictures, then it is highly recommended they wear their new Market Livestock shirt.

SECURING CALVES:

1. Each member shall buy his or her calf through the club in the manner decided upon by the committee.
2. A \$20.00 deposit will be made upon the placement of the market beef order. Each member shall finance his or her own calf, and make all payments at the time of drawing, or upon receipt of the bill. Where outside financing is needed, contact the committee.
3. Calves will be tagged and weighed at the time of delivery. Market livestock animals which are tagged to be exhibited in the Mahoning County Junior Fair Show are intended to be sold for slaughter in the current project year, MAY NOT be exhibited in any other state/county junior fair market livestock show intended for sale.
4. The day of selection of calves: All calves are placed in pens of 5 in random order. The committee will pull 2 pens first to place 10 calves in the selection pen for the members to begin the selection process. Once the pen is down to 5 calves, the committee will bring 5 more calves, the committee will bring 5 more calves into the selection pen, for the next 5 members.

5. When the members are selecting their calves, they need to be selected based on temperament and structure.
6. Unmanageable animals will not be replaced. The members will draw their first round. If a member chooses to take a second calf, they will have to draw a second number. The second-round drawing will take place after the first round is completed.
7. Each member will assume full responsibility for this calf at the time of the drawing after they are paid for and loaded in the trailer.
8. A committee member shall be notified within 48 hours if a member's calf should die. The death shall be verified by 2 or more members of the Market Beef Committee prior to disposal. If the death happens prior to January 1st, a replacement will be supplied, if available, from the back-up steers that have been purchased by the committee. As lottery steers, these animals would remain eligible for Grand & Reserve Champion. Special circumstances must be reviewed and voted on by the committee.
9. The Market Beef Club will carry its own insurance. Each member will contribute 4% of the cost of the calf(s) to the insurance fund. In the event that no calf dies during the year, each member will be pro-rated at the close of the year the amount of the insurance which was paid at the beginning. Any member's loss of a steer after the purchase date in October thru Labor Day when sent to the packer, shall be reimbursed the price of the steer. Should the losses exceed the contributions made by the members, additional assessments will be made on each member to determine the amount reimbursed. Each member will be assessed in proportion to the cost of their steer(s).
10. Members will pay their own veterinarian fees. The youth will be responsible for any veterinarian fees for castration or dehorning after January 1st.
11. All steers shall be dehorned before the show and sale. In the event a calf must be dehorned before the delivery to the member, the Market Beef Committee will arrange to have the calf dehorned and will pay for the cost.

JUNIOR FAIR EXHIBITION:

1. **A committee member must be notified no less than one week prior to Junior Fair Entry Day if member wishes to cancel their Junior Fair Entry for their Market Beef in the Junior Fair Show. Failure to provide notification could result in barring of exhibition in the Junior Fair Show next year.**
2. Two or more members of the Market Beef Committee will visit each youth member within 60 days of the Junior Fair Show to verify **the condition and handling** ability of each steer. **Steers not meeting handling guidelines at this visit will be red tagged** by the committee and revisited prior to the fair to determine Junior Fair Exhibition.
3. **NO UNRULY OR UNMANAGEABLE STEERS WILL BE SHOWN AND/OR SOLD AT THE FAIR.** Exhibitors may not use any products which tranquilize livestock animals such as Calf Calm or like products.
4. All Market Steers must be unloaded in the Coliseum.
5. Each youth exhibitor must present his/her steer in the Event Center to at least two members of the Market Beef Committee to demonstrate the ability to control and handle their steer prior to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday. **Any steer deemed unruly by the Market Beef Committee will be removed by the exhibitor immediately.** Any steer deemed unruly and not removed by midnight of Entry Day, will be removed to exhibitor's home by a hauler at the direction of the committee at the exhibitor's expense.
6. Only steers able to be led by the member will be permitted to be weighed Wednesday morning. Steers should be brought to weigh-in with a rope halter and long rope (such as the halter which was on your steer at the time of purchase). This type of halter will help in the safety and ability to move steers through the scales.
7. To provide the most desirable market animal, the following rules will apply: At weigh-in at the fair, any steer weighing less than 1,100 lbs. will be sent home.
8. After Entry Day, any steer that is deemed unruly by the judge and/or the Market Beef Committee, will be tied to the wall during the Market Beef Show, and sold at the end of the Market Beef Sale.
9. **SALE PICTURE POLICY: All members planning to exhibit Market Livestock in the Junior Fair Show MUST SUBMIT A PICTURE August 1 with their Junior Fair Entry.** Photos should be landscape and saved as a jpeg file. Pictures must be clear with a quality of at least 300 dpi. Youth must be dressed appropriately, and animals must be clean and represent a final market project. **If the photo submitted is not a quality photo, the member will be notified to resubmit the photo. PHOTOS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL MARKET LIVESTOCK. IF NO PHOTO IS SUBMITTED, THE ANIMAL WILL BE SOLD AT THE END OF JUNIOR FAIR MARKET BEEF SALE and WILL BE LISTED IN THE SALE BILL AS HAVING NO PHOTO AVAILABLE.** Youth without photos will also not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion. Keep in mind that our buyers look forward to these photos to show pride in their purchase. A photo is a simple way to thank your buyer.

ANIMAL CARE DURING THE FAIR:

- Each Market Beef Club member is responsible for feeding, watering, bedding, cleanliness, grooming, and fitting of their steer(s) from check-in until 9:00 p.m. of the final day of the fair. ****Project animal, the stall, and the area behind your beef must be completely cleaned each day during the fair before 9:00 a.m.**
- Steer must also be fed on a regular schedule and cleaned periodically throughout the day. Spot checks will be made during the fair. Incidents will be documented. Two warnings will be given. The third warning will be considered animal neglect, and the owner will be fined, and the steer will be disqualified from the Junior Fair Show. Exhibitors may also be barred from future participation in Junior Fair activities.
- **Steer must be provided with a secured water bucket (safely, unable to spill), and bucket must be filled with fresh, clean water at all times.**
**** Grooming and exercise will be permitted in designated areas only, for safety reasons.**
Tack boxes, feed, wheelbarrows, tools, etc. are required to be kept in tack stalls provided.
No equipment, and or feeding supplies should be kept in the aisles.

\$20.00 per day will automatically be deducted from the sale check of any member who does not comply with the above animal care guidelines during the fair.

- **POST FAIR CLEAN UP: All exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their stalls after the fair.** Stall cleaning must be completed between Tuesday and 9:00 a.m. Saturday following the fair. If exhibitor does not clean prior to Saturday, then exhibitors must arrive to participate in the Market Livestock Post Fair Clean-up to be held the Saturday following the fair beginning at 9:00 a.m. Stalls must be completely stripped, and manure hauled to the manure pit. If exhibitor is unable to return, then arrangements should be made within your club for ALL stalls to be cleaned. Garbage (paper, pop cans, plastic etc.) should be disposed of in garbage cans. Manure pits need to contain manure, straw & sawdust only!

PLEASE NOTE: Exhibitors not cleaning/stripping their pen between the Tuesday following the Junior Fair Show and Saturday by 9:00 a.m. during the Post Fair Clean-up, will be notified of their negligence and fined a \$50.00 stall cleaning fee, which will be deducted from their Market Livestock Sale check. NOTE: All collected fines will be deposited in the Jim Baer Market Livestock Scholarship Fund.

Any veterinary measures requested by the owner to maintain animal health, are the responsibility of the owner. Each youth showing Market Livestock MUST have a Permission to Treat Form on file, to provide emergency treatment for your animal. All veterinary treatment required after Drug Notification Form is submitted on entry day, must be recorded at the Junior Fair Office to update Drug Notification Information. Any preventative veterinary measures requested by the buyer following the sale, are the responsibility of the buyer; and must be approved by the Market Beef Committee.

SELLING & SHOWING: Market Beef Project animals will be weighed Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. No more than two steers shall be shown and sold by one club member. All steers must be sold at the Market Livestock Auction, and in the order of their placing in the show ring during the 2026 Junior Fair Show. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the committee. The 2026 Market Beef Show has been designated as a partial terminal show, which requires that at least the Grand and Reserve Champion Market Beef must be slaughtered. No replacement steer is eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion. **Member must show and sell his/her own steer.** Exceptions will only be made for exhibitors who have submitted in writing the reason for need of a substitute. The name of the substitute must be included in this letter. Permission must be approved by the Steer Committee. The member must be present for either the show or the sale. **They may not request a substitute for both.** Substitute exhibitors must be a current livestock club member and enrolled in the same specie. The name of the person selling for the youth will be documented by the Key Leader. If the member or the substitute is not present at the time of the auction, the project will **not** be sold. Unexpected emergencies, such as illness...etc., must be reviewed and approved by the committee.

IMPORTANT: A show stick is recommended and a leather show halter with a chin chain is mandatory for showmanship and market classes.

Steers in poor condition, unruly, or unmanageable shall not be shown or sold at the fair. No steer shall be sold through the sale that was not bought through the committee. No adults may lead or assist in the show ring. Any exceptions must be approved by the committee.

A commission charge of not more than 1% will be withheld from the selling price of the animal sold.

MARKET BEEF SHOWMANSHIP

Junior: 10 - 11 (as of Jan. 1 of current year)

Intermediate: 12-14 (as of Jan. 1 of current year)

Senior: 15 - 18 (as of Jan. 1 of current year)

1. Open to Market Beef project members.
2. Each member will fit and show their animal. The member may be asked by the judge to show some other animal.
3. Judges decisions will be final and based on the condition, quality, amount finished, cleanliness and appearance of both the exhibitor and the animal, equipment to show the animal, and the ability to handle the animal.
4. A show stick is recommended and a leather show halter with a chin chain is mandatory for showmanship and market classes.

MARKET LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON GUIDELINES

1. All Market Livestock Club members are eligible to participate in the Skillathon. Participation is not mandatory but is **highly recommended**.
2. Each skillathon will be handled by the specific subcommittee.
3. Scoring for the skillathon will be dependent on the number of stations offered, which will be determined by the subcommittees.
4. Awards for the skillathon will be selected according to total scores. Each specie will select Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Skillathon winners.
5. The skillathon winner will be announced during the Market Livestock Sale. However, this award will not change the sale order.

EXHIBITOR ONLY POLICY - GUIDELINES FOR ALL LIVESTOCK FITTING, SHOWING, AND SHOWMANSHIP

- (A) A junior livestock show exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior fair livestock show.
- (B) An exhibitor may receive **assistance** in the care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior livestock show, provided that the **assistance shall be limited to explanation and/or demonstration** provided by the following:
 - (1) Family members;
 - (2) Household members;
 - (3) Members of the exhibitor's 4-H club, FFA chapter, or other youth organization. Members helping must be active youth members of the youth organization;
- (C) **Assistance will be limited to explanation and minimal demonstration, or for safety purposes.** Explanation and minimal demonstration refer to explaining and/or showing a youth how to perform the task at hand and is restricted to this assistance. **Youth exhibitors are expected to complete the task.**
- (D) Member must show and/or sell his/her own animal. **Coaching or assisting by any person outside the show ring while the exhibitor is showing is prohibited.** ONLY YOUTH EXHIBITORS AND/OR JUNIOR FAIR DESIGNEES AND/OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS ASSISTING WITH THE SHOW MAY BE IN THE RING DURING THE SHOW. Any exceptions must be approved by the committee. Any violation may result in the disqualification of the exhibitor.
- (E) All **youth exhibitors, parents, family members, advisors, adult volunteers, or other individuals involved in these projects are expected to maintain a respectable and professional demeanor throughout the project year, and especially during the Junior Fair Show.** The project year will be considered from the time an individual enrolls in their project until the next enrollment deadline. **Foul language, disrespectful, unsportsmanlike, unruly behavior and/or animal neglect will not be tolerated. Behavior which purposely disrupts another youth exhibition will be considered disrespectful and unsportsmanlike conduct.** Discipline will be any, or all of the following:
 - (1) One verbal warning to discontinue behavior
 - (2) Second warning will be security escort of the individual from the premises.
 - (3) Third warning will result in the barring from exhibition, and/or participation in the activities held during the year, and/or other Junior Fair Livestock events/activities, and/or Junior Fair Show for up to three years.

- (F) All youth exhibitors, parents, family members, advisors, adult volunteers, or other individuals involved in these projects are expected to **maintain respectable demeanor in the use of social media with regards to the youth involved in the Junior Fair Program. Social Media use, which is deemed unlawful, abusive, threatening, defamatory, obscene, harassing, creates a hostile environment, or creates a negative image of the Junior Fair Youth Program will not be tolerated.**

Discipline will be any, or all of the following:

- (1) One verbal warning to discontinue behavior
- (2) Second warning will be removal from events/activities
- (3) Third warning will result in the barring from exhibition, and/or participation in the activities held during the year, and/or other Junior Fair Livestock events/activities, and/or Junior Fair Show for up to three years or a length of time determined by the committee, Manager of Junior Fair, and/or Senior Fair Directors involved in the Junior Fair Show.

IMPORTANT: In extreme situations in regards to (E) and (F) above, where the safety of any individual has been threatened and/or is in question, and/or if there is any evidence of the use of alcohol, drugs, violence, or a law has been broken; the committee may waive the right of the first and/or second warning; and may immediately seek assistance in the removal of an individual from the premises/activities. This individual will be placed on probation and the situation will be reviewed as to further participation referring to section (E) number (3) above.

This guideline shall be referred to as the "EXHIBITOR ONLY" guideline. Any additional adult assistance required by a youth exhibitor must be approved by the committee and/or Junior Fair Supervision. Infractions of this guideline shall result in the following:

- (A) If an infraction has been reported and confirmed, one verbal warning will be given immediately to the exhibitor and/or parent/guardian. Exhibitor will be expected to adhere to the guidelines;
- (B) If exhibitor refuses to adhere to the guidelines, a second warning will **result and include a \$50.00 penalty**, which the exhibitor must pay immediately or must agree that the \$50.00 penalty will be deducted from his/her sale check. Penalty monies will be paid to the Market Livestock Committee. The penalty and/or agreement to deduct the penalty from the sales check will be attached to a signed, written agreement which states the exhibitor will adhere to the above guidelines;
- (C) A third refusal will be termed as tampering and/or misrepresentation, and will result in the immediate disqualification of the exhibitor and their animal from the Junior Fair Show. After the situation is reviewed by the Senior Fair Board, this disqualification may result in the barring of this exhibitor from the Junior Fair Show for a period of up to three years.

CLEAN AREA AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO YOUTH MAINTAINING A CLEAN STALL, CLEAN AREA AROUND THE STALL, FEED TUBS PUT AWAY AFTER FEEDING, & FRESH CLEAN WATER PROVIDED, ANIMAL KEPT CLEAN IN APPEARANCE.

JUNIOR FAIR GENERAL LIVESTOCK GUIDELINES

Exhibitors should check in with the committee to unload. Youth should bring one extra copy of their health paper for their animal to show at time of registration, and this health paper is to then be stapled on animal's pen.

1. Exhibits are to be in place by 8:00 p.m. Entry Day, Tuesday. Exhibits will be released at 9:00 p.m. Monday evening.
2. Neither the Mahoning County Agricultural Society, nor any other youth organization involved in Junior Fair and their volunteers, assume responsibility for exhibits/projects, including livestock, any article lost or stolen, or any injury during the fair, or any damage of person or possessions on the grounds, or the neglect of any exhibitor, patron, or employee, nor providing liability insurance to cover the exhibitor nor livestock.
3. All livestock exhibitors are to be present to show their livestock at the time and place designated. Judges determine member's grade based on knowledge of projects, animal appearance, and ability to handle animal. Member must show their own project, unless reviewed by designated committee and Junior Fair Manager. An exception is in Championships where more than one animal may need to be exhibited. A youth member of the same specie may be asked for assistance with approval of the specified committee. See specific guidelines for each specie.
4. All exhibitors are asked to help provide an attractive and educational display for the public. **Members are expected to feed, water, and maintain cleanliness of their animal.** Please check with your livestock committee as to the specific guidelines in your livestock area.
5. Members are responsible for their Market Livestock Animal for the duration of the fair.

ANY MEMBER WHO VIOLATES THESE RULES MAY BE PROHIBITED FROM EXHIBITING THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

ANY OF THESE GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMITTEE.

MARKET BEEF INSURANCE POLICY – IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

The following procedure **MUST BE FOLLOWED** to collect insurance in the event of the death of a Market Beef Project:

- If your Market Beef Project dies, the parent/youth must contact a committee member immediately, prior to the disposal of the animal.
- A committee member must identify the Market Beef, and a picture will be taken for insurance purposes.
- After the verification of the Market Beef, the committee member will contact the Treasurer of the Market Livestock Committee to report the death.
- Insurance payment will be presented to the youth member at check night for the Market Beef in October.
- **If the above procedure is not followed, insurance payment WILL NOT BE PAID.**