

JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK SHOW

Livestock projects will be exhibited in the Junior Fair Livestock designated areas. Hay and straw/bedding will be furnished after Entry Day. Exhibitors are to furnish all other feed, feeding box, water bucket, cleaning equipment, tack or lock box, show supplies, and other necessary equipment for the care of animals. Some livestock may be exhibited in Open Class in addition to the Junior Fair. See specific requirements for Open Class entries. Open Class entries must be completed online with the designated Department by the due date listed. All livestock must adhere to the listed Livestock Health Requirements.

GENERAL JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK GUIDELINES

MEMBERSHIP:

1. Open to any Mahoning County Youth ages 8 and in the third grade to 18 years old inclusive on January 1 of the current year or 9 years old as of January 1. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the committee.
2. Member must be enrolled in a local 4-H club, FFA chapter, Farm Bureau Youth, or a current member of the Mahoning County Market Livestock Club/Mahoning County Junior Fair by March 15, 2026 and can add a project until April 1, 2026.
3. To exhibit in the Junior Fair, members must complete the online Junior Fair Registration Form and sign off on the Junior Fair Guidelines by April 7, 2025 at midnight.
4. All members must adhere to the Exhibitor Owner Policy listed below.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

1. **All members must follow the specie specific guidelines.**
2. **Members must attend required meetings for the specific specie to participate in the program. Meeting dates are available on the Mahoning County Junior Fair Calendar at www.mcjrfair.com.**
3. **Quality Assurance is a state mandated program and does not count toward specific meeting requirements. Youth exhibiting Market Livestock (Market Beef, Feeders, Swine, Lambs, Goats, Poultry & Rabbits), Dairy Cattle & Goats, and at least one parent/guardian must attend a Mahoning County Quality Assurance Program in order to exhibit and/or sell their livestock or products at the fair, or fulfill the optional requirements for the Mahoning County Quality Assurance Program.**
4. **For Junior Fair Exhibitors with pen space in the event center and the tents behind the event center: (Does not include dogs, llamas, pocket pets, beef breeding, or dairy exhibitors.) IF A MEMBER PARTICIPATES IN BOTH SET UP AND TEAR-DOWN OF PENS FOR THE JUNIOR FAIR SHOW, THEY WILL RECEIVE CREDIT FOR 1 MEETING ATTENDANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.**
5. It is the sole responsibility of the member and his/her parents or guardian to attend and SIGN IN at meetings to receive vital information that might otherwise not be made available to them from other resources, and to ensure that the information they are receiving is correct and understood. Each youth must sign in to receive credit for attendance.

SKILLATHON

1. The skillathon is MANDATORY for all Small Animals. The skillathon will NOT count towards the meeting requirements. Youth attending college or participating in sports and other spring/ summer activities will need to make special arrangements with the committee if there is a conflict with meeting dates. Plan ahead. Make-up dates are on the calendar or must be arranged with the committee. To qualify for awards you must attend the actual hands on skillathon.
2. **The skillathon is highly recommended for Market Livestock and does count toward the meeting requirements. There are no make-up dates for the Market Livestock Skillathon.**
3. **Youth must be enrolled and participating in the project to receive awards for the specific skillathon.**

JUNIOR FAIR EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. **To exhibit in the Junior Fair, the member must complete and submit a Junior Fair Entry Form online by August 1 at midnight, except rabbits and poultry. Rabbits and poultry must submit their entry forms by August 22 at midnight.**
2. 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.
3. Notification must be made to a committee member and Junior Fair Management no less than one week prior to fair entry day if an animal is not going to be exhibited at the fair. If no notification is given, Junior Fair participation in this project can be denied the next fair year.
4. Members 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.
5. No livestock animals are permitted to leave the fair until 9:00 p.m. Monday, unless otherwise listed in their guidelines or instructed by the Junior Fair Management.
6. All livestock must be removed from the fairgrounds Monday evening, unless granted special permission by Junior Fair Management. Any livestock left Monday evening are not the responsibility of the Committees or the Junior Fair. Exhibitors not removing livestock may be barred from exhibiting the following year.

7. Notification must be made to a committee member and Junior Fair Management no less than one week prior to fair entry day if an animal is not going to be exhibited at the fair. If no notification is given, Junior Fair participation in this project can be denied the next year.
8. Health papers are required for specific animal projects to exhibit in the Junior Fair Show. Youth MUST bring one extra copy of their health paper **for EACH of their animals** at time of registration, and this health paper is to then be stapled on animal's pen and retain a photocopy for his/her records.
9. If a health issue occurs with an animal, the committee, Junior Fair Management and the fair veterinarian may excuse the animal from exhibition.
10. Any protests or discrepancies should be discussed with the specific Committee or Junior Fair Management.

CHECK IN PROCEDURES:

1. Check-in will be from 8 a.m. on Tuesday to 8 p.m. All exhibits must be in place by 8:00 p.m. Entry Day, Tuesday.
2. **Members unloading livestock to exhibit in the Junior Fair Show must check-in with their committee at the pens/stalls. Once approved by the committee, members must go to the Junior Fair Office to complete the check-in process.**
3. **Drug Use Notification Forms must be completed within a 24 hour period prior to Junior Fair check-in for all Market and Dairy Production Livestock.**
4. **Permission to Treat Forms must be submitted at check-in for all livestock exhibiting.**
5. 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.
6. Small Animals must be health checked prior to being placed in pens. Youth must bring a verification of this health check with them to the Junior Fair Office to check-in. **NO SMALL ANIMAL IS PERMITTED IN ASSIGNED PEN WITHOUT FIRST BEING HEALTH CHECKED.**

SHOW/SALE ATTIRE: All exhibitors are required to wear appropriate dress for both handling and showing of animals.

1. 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.
2. During the show and the sale, the 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 considered appropriate show attire. Exhibitors dressed in such clothing shall not be permitted to enter the show/sale ring.
3. **ALL YOUTH WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A 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.**
4. 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.

ANIMAL CARE DURING THE FAIR

1. Each member is responsible for feeding, watering, bedding, cleanliness, grooming, and fitting of their swine from check-in until 9:00 p.m. of the final day of the fair.
2. Any member who violates this rule may be prohibited from exhibiting the following year.
3. **Project animal(s), the stall, and the area around your pen must be completely cleaned each day during the fair before 9:00 a.m.**
4. **Pens will be inspected by committee members after 9:00 a.m. for cleanliness and animal care. This will include, but not limited to cleanliness of pen & animal, water, feed, etc.**
5. Animals must also be fed on a regular schedule and cleaned periodically throughout the day.
6. Spot checks will be made during the fair. Members not cleaning pens or caring for their animals will be notified.
 - a. The first violation will be noted and the member will be notified. A \$20.00 fine will be implemented and deducted from their sale check.
 - b. If a second offense occurs during the fair week, another fine will be charged, and the member forfeits their eligibility to participated in the project the following year.
 - c. The third warning will be considered animal neglect, and the animal will be disqualified from the Junior Fair Show. Exhibitor may also be barred from future participation in Junior Fair activities.

\$20.00 per day will automatically be deducted from the sale check of any member who does not comply with pen cleanliness and animal care. Members can be fined for each offense. Two separate fees can be charged if a pen is deemed not cleaned, and the animal does not have the proper feed and care provided in the same day.

RECORD BOOKS: Check specific guidelines for record book requirements for non-market livestock.

POST FAIR CLEAN UP: All exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their stalls after the fair.

1. Members should clean pens BETWEEN Tuesday after 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. on Saturday following the fair.
2. The members should take a photo of their stall including the stall number and exhibitor name when completed. This will document your clean pen to keep everyone honest.

3. 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 12 noon.
4. If exhibitor is unable to return, then arrangements should be made within your club for ALL stalls to be cleaned
5. Stalls must be completely stripped, and manure hauled to the manure pit. 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 fund designated by each committee. Non-market livestock not cleaning their pens will be charged the \$50 fee that must be paid to the designated fund prior to enrolling the following year. If the fee is not paid, they will not be permitted to exhibit in the Junior Fair Show.

STALL CLEAN AREA AWARDS MAY BE PRESENTED TO YOUTH MAINTAINING A CLEAN STALL, CLEAN AREA AROUND THE STALL/PEN, FRESH CLEAN WATER PROVIDED, & ANIMAL KEPT CLEAN IN APPEARANCE.

VETERINARY CARE:

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

EXHIBITOR ONLY POLICY: Each exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of their animal(s) prior to and during the 2026 Mahoning County Fair; and to comply with the “Exhibitor Only” policy, which encourages youth to be the primary individual responsible for their project animal(s).

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 providing assistance 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 refers 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.**
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, 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, or violence; 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. 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 he/she must pay immediately or must agree that the \$50.00 penalty will be deducted from his/her sale check. Penalty money will be paid to the Market Livestock Committee. The penalty and/or agreement to deduct the penalty from the sale 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 this 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.

SMALL ANIMAL GUIDELINES

1. **Small & Exotic Skillathon/ Interview Judging is mandatory.** If there is a conflict with the time of the Skillathon/Interview judging, arrangements must be made with the specific committee. Members may only participate or place in the skillathon if they are currently taking that project.
2. If the member does not participate in the skillathon/interview judging, they will not be permitted to exhibit in the Junior Fair Show.
3. All small animals must follow the Junior Fair General Rules & Livestock Health Rules.
4. Any protests or discrepancies should be discussed with the Committee and Manager of Junior Fair.
5. Small & Exotic Animal Committee has highly recommended that all youth planning to exhibit their animals at the Junior Fair attend the meetings offered by their committee. Quality Assurance offers excellent programs on animal nutrition and sportsmanship & ethics. Specific meeting requirements are listed in the guidelines for each specie.
6. All Small & Exotic Animal exhibitors taking Market animals must adhere to the Market Livestock guidelines.

SMALL ANIMAL CLEAN AREA GUIDELINES

1. All cleaning must be complete by 9:00 a.m.
2. Judging for Clean Area Awards will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.
3. Project area should be:
 - Neat and attractive.
 - Cages clean– no cover-ups: Try to keep wires clean, clean animal, clean curtains, clean between, behind and in front of cages
 - Animals should have food and water. The amount of food should be appropriate for the animal. Animals may be fed earlier.
 - Clean bedding.
4. Categories for judging: A. Poultry-Breed & Pullets B. Fowl-Ducks, Geese & Pigeons C. Self Determined & Turkeys
D. Pocket Pets: 2 Awards E. Rabbits F. Doe & Litter G. Market Fryer H. Market Roaster
I. Market Meat Pen
Mini Club: 1 to 4 members Small Club: 1 to 6 members
Medium: 7 to 10 members Large Club: More than 10 members
5. Winning cages will receive rosettes placed on their cage or pen.
6. If there are any cleaning problems where a cage is not being cleaned, the advisor of the club will be contacted to question the youth, in regards to this problem. Any youth not able to clean pens daily must make arrangements with another youth exhibitor and/or parent/guardian; and notify a committee member in your area.

GENERAL MARKET LIVESTOCK & JUNIOR FAIR SALE GUIDELINES

2026 MARKET SALE PICTURE POLICY:

1. All members planning to exhibit Market Livestock or participating in the Junior Fair Sale **MUST SUBMIT A PICTURE** which includes the youth and the animal they plan to exhibit online by August 1 at midnight with their entry sheet, except for rabbit and poultry. Rabbits and poultry must submit their photos by August 22 at midnight, with their entry sheets.
2. If the member has not chosen their final animal when photos must be submitted, then the member must submit photos with each animal.
3. Photos should be landscape and saved as a jpeg file. Pictures must be clear with a quality of at least a 300 dpi.
4. Youth must be dressed appropriately, and animals must be clean and represent a final market project.
5. If the photo submitted is not a quality photo, the member will be notified to resubmit the photo.
6. **IF NO PHOTO IS SUBMITTED, THE ANIMAL WILL BE SOLD AT THE END OF JUNIOR FAIR 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.

SELLING & SHOWING MARKET LIVESTOCK:

1. All MARKET ANIMALS must be sold at auction and in the order of their placing in the show ring during the 2026 Junior Fair Show. Grand & Reserve Champion, Showmanship, and Skillathon Winners will be placed at the top of the sale order.
2. Animals in poor condition, unruly, or unmanageable shall not be shown or sold at the fair. Any exceptions must be approved by the committee.

3. **Members must show and sell their own project animals.** Exceptions will only be made for exhibitors who have submitted and received permission from the specific committee and Junior Fair management.
 - a. **The name of a substitute exhibitor must be included in this letter and will be documented by the Committee.**
 - b. **Substitute exhibitors must be a current livestock club member and enrolled in the same species.**
 - c. **The member must be present for either the show, or the sale. They may not request a substitute for both.**
 - d. **Unexpected emergencies, such as illness...etc., must be reviewed and approved by the committee.**
 - e. **If the member is not present to show and sell their animal, and they have not submitted a written request as mentioned above; then the youth will forfeit the right to show and the right to sell their market livestock animal in the sale.**
4. A commission charge of not more than 2% will be withheld from the selling price of the animal sold by the Market Livestock Committee for supplies and handling fees.
5. Checks will be processed through the sale & fees/expenses dispersed accordingly on the designated check night.

MARKET LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON GUIDELINES

1. All Market Livestock Club members are eligible to participate in the Skillathon. Check your specie guidelines for participation requirements.
2. Each skillathon will be handled by the specific subcommittee.
3. Members participating in each Skillathon must be currently enrolled in the project to be considered for placement.
4. Scoring for the skillathon will be dependent on the number of stations offered, which will be determined by the subcommittees.
5. Awards for the skillathons will be selected according to total scores. Each species will select Junior, Intermediate, and Senior skillathon winners.
6. The skillathon winners will be announced during the Market Livestock Show and will sell at the top of the sale order.

SECURING MARKET LIVESTOCK

1. **PLEASE NOTE: Market livestock animals which are tagged to be exhibited in the Mahoning County Junior Fair Show and intended to be sold for slaughter in the current project year, MAY NOT be exhibited in any other county junior fair market livestock show intended for sale.**
2. Animals must be housed at the member's residence, when at all possible, unless other arrangements have been made with the committee's approval. (Refer to Exhibition Rule 901-19-39 - Owner Requirements: No person shall register, enter, or exhibit a market hog in Junior Fair Livestock Exhibition unless this person has owned the animal for not less than 60 days.)

MARKET LIVESTOCK JUNIOR FAIR EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. All project animals must be shown by the member to whom the animal has been registered. Help from a parent or other adult is strictly prohibited during the time a child is in the show ring. Refer to the "Exhibitor Only" guidelines below. If a child is unable to show his or her animal due to sickness or other emergency, another member may show said animal if the County Market Livestock Committee and Junior Fair Management have been notified of any hardship and have approved the exhibitor substitution.

COMPLETED RECORD BOOK & THANK YOU MANDATORY:

1. **All members taking a Market Livestock Project and Goat Milk Fudge are required to submit a COMPLETED RECORD BOOK to the prospective committee at the designated time and place listed in the specific guidelines. Members not turning books or Thank Yous at this time must contact a committee member, and make arrangements to turn in this information. DO NOT TURN THESE OR LEAVE THESE AT THE JUNIOR FAIR OFFICE. THEY MUST BE TURNED IN TO YOUR COMMITTEE.**
2. Members must write a THANK YOU note to the buyer of each animal. The committee will provide THANK YOU notes and the postage.
3. **MEMBERS MUST COMPLETE THE FULL RECORD BOOK TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR S BEST RECORD BOOK PRIZE.**
4. **See specific specie guidelines in regards to which Market Book may be submitted and when they should be submitted.**
5. Members not complying can expect a delay in payment until requirements are fulfilled.

WEIGH—IN:

The following Market Livestock will be weighed Tuesday evening upon arrival: Market Swine, Market & Carcass Lambs, Market Rabbits, Poultry & Goats. Market Beef and Feeders will be weighed Wednesday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m.

SALE ORDER:

- All Market Livestock must be sold at auction in order of their placing in the show ring during the 2025 Junior Fair Show. Grand & Reserve Champion, Showmanship, and Skillathon will be placed at the top of the sale order.
- The 2025 Market Livestock Sale has been designated partial terminal for all livestock, except rabbits and poultry, which requires at least the Grand & Reserve Champion must be slaughtered.

Neither the Mahoning County Agricultural Society, nor any other youth organization involved in Junior Fair, nor 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 provide liability insurance to cover the exhibitor and/or livestock.

ALL DEADLINES ARE FINAL WITH NO EXCEPTIONS.

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

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