

2026/2027 4-H Livestock Sale Rules

NEW FOR 2026/20027

1. All consignment market beef must be owned and registered as a 4-H project animal by December 1st of current year. All consignment market hogs and lambs must be owned and registered as a 4-H project animal by May 1st of current year. Beef project registration information will appear in the November and December issues of the *4-H Livewire* and hog and lamb project registration information will appear in the April and May issues of the *4-H Livewire*.
2. All beef must be born on or after January 1, 2026. All dairy beef must be born on or after July 1, 2025, and with only one set of permanent teeth. All lambs and hogs must be born on or after January 1, 2027.
3. All animals must have an **official permanent USDA form of identification (RFID Tag)** by the project ownership and registration deadline. Please work with your animal supplier for this ID as suppliers are required to sell animals with this ID. Market poultry are exempt and will be leg banded at show check in.
4. **All male animals must be fully castrated by project ownership and registration deadline.** Any animal in question at any time during the project will need verification/documentation from a veterinarian that they are not intact.
5. All market poultry chicks must be purchased through the Livingston County 4-H Program. A minimum order of 6 chicks per member is required if planning to sell 1 pen of 2 birds or 8 chicks if planning to sell 2 pens of 2 birds. Ordering and purchasing information will appear in the January issue of the *4-H Livewire*.
6. A maximum of three animals per species per exhibitor (except market poultry) may be registered for the program.
7. All Dairy & Livestock and Small Animal exhibitors exhibiting at the Hemlock Fair are required to complete one 45-minute animal-related educational activity by July 1st. Cloverbuds are exempt. This requirement is for all members exhibiting at least one of the following species: Rabbit, Cavy, Fancy Poultry, Market Poultry, Dairy, Beef, Goat, Sheep, or Swine. Only 1 activity is required regardless of the number of species being exhibited. Failure to complete this requirement on time will result in the forfeit of all fair animal premiums for the species listed above. An activity may include any of the following:
 - Any Livingston County 4-H Animal Activity Night participated in during current 4-H year.
 - Participation in the Livingston County 4-H Public Presentation Program. Presentation **MUST** be animal related.
 - Any county, regional, state or Cornell University-sponsored 4-H animal science activity.
 - Independent 4-H animal activity pre-approved by a 4-H educator. A completed Pre-Fair Educational Activity Form must be completed and submitted with this option. Scan the QR code for the form. Examples may include researching an animal-related topic of interest, attending an animal show, participating in a hands-on animal experience with a knowledgeable adult, watching videos/presentations on raising/showing an animal, etc. Please contact Mark or Jenn regarding any of these ideas or if you have one of your own.
 - For questions Contact Mark at mjw16@cornell.edu, 585-991-5441 or Jenn at jls669@cornell.edu, 585-991-5439.
8. All consigned market animal members (including market poultry) are required to complete one of the following auction promotional items by June 1st. Failure to complete this requirement on time will result in the forfeit of all market animal premiums. Complete details will be provided with project registration information, chick distribution, and in the *4-H Livewire*.



- Create and display two posters or fliers promoting the auction. These may be displayed in local businesses, stores, companies, etc. Please ask permission before displaying. Be sure to include the date, time, and location of the auction and the CCE Office phone number for more information – 585-991-5420. Must be displayed by June 1st. Scan the QR code for the form.

OR

- Create a letter to potential bidders and submit a copy to the CCE Office. Must be submitted by June 1st. Letter should include:
 - Introduction of yourself and the purpose for the letter
 - Specific information about your animal(s) - species, breed, age, color, weight, etc.
 - Feeding and care programs
 - What makes your animal unique? Why should individuals or businesses bid on your animal?
 - Invitation to meet you in person, attend the auction, and bid on your animal(s). Include date, time, and location of the auction and your contact information.
 - A picture of your animal(s)
 - Thanking them for their time and consideration.

9. 4-H members are expected to contact several prospective bidders to secure the highest bid for their animal(s). It is recommended that at least five different prospective bidders are contacted for each animal/lot.

10. **4-H Charity Auction Animals:** A member wishing to raise a market animal to benefit a charity of their choice may do so by donating 100% of their auction check to a 4-H approved charity. **A maximum of three (3) official 4-H charity animals per species will be allowed to sell in the auction. Limited to first three members per species to register online for the project. Registration instructions will be provided in issues of the 4-H Livewire. Charity must receive approval from 4-H Educator. One charity animal per member. Proceeds from the sale of a charity animal may be donated to only one (1) charity.** Member must register and have approval by project animal ownership deadline or meat bird chick distribution.

11. If an animal comes to the Hemlock Fair without permanent USDA identification and/or accompanying Certificate of Veterinary Inspection form, the animal will not be permitted to enter the fair. This is in accordance with USDA policy. If your animal loses its identification, the 4-H Educator must be notified. Market poultry are exempt but must pass a health inspection at show check-in.

12. Minimum weights to be eligible for the sale are:

Beef:	1,000 Pounds
Dairy Beef:	1,000 Pounds
Hog:	200 Pounds (not to exceed 299 pounds)
Lamb:	85 Pounds
*Pen of 2 Market Poultry:	9 Pounds (not to exceed 26 pounds)
<i>*Combined weight of both birds</i>	

13. A.) The 4-H Educator reserves the right to disqualify and send home any consigned animal that is deemed unacceptable by current market standards. The show judge may also recommend disqualification because of health, weight, or finished condition.

B.) The 4-H Educator reserves the right to disqualify and send home any consigned animal that is unruly and/or unmanageable in the interest of safety.

14. Any beef, hog, or lamb receiving a White Danish Ribbon in a 4-H market class will not qualify for the auction. A pen of consigned market poultry receiving a white Danish Ribbon may be substituted with a pre-entered, non-consignment class, pen of market poultry receiving either a Blue or Red Danish Ribbon. A substituted pen is not eligible for Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion.

15. All consigned market animals officially weighed in and meeting program requirements must go through the 4-H Livestock Auction at the Hemlock Fair. Exceptions to this are rules #13A, #13B, and #14.

16. The 4-H Livestock Auction is limited to 4-H market animals exhibiting in a 4-H consignment market animal class.

17. This is a **Terminal Sale**. No animal going through the sale ring may be used after the sale in another 4-H show during the current 4-H year.
18. Animals will be sold by the pound, live weight, at public auction. Market poultry will be sold by the lot (pen of 2 birds) at public auction.
19. A % commission per animal or lot (pen of 2 birds) will be charged to the 4-H member to cover overhead expenses for the sale, program supplies, and resources. The commission fees are:

Beef	1.5% per animal
Hog	4% per animal
Lamb	4% per animal
Market Poultry	4% per lot

20. 4-H members may only sell 2 consignment beef, hogs, and/or lambs. Exhibitors consigning market poultry only, and no other species, may sell 2 pens of 2 birds. Exhibitors selling meat birds **AND** another species may only sell 1 pen of meat birds.
21. Only dehorned or polled animals will be allowed to be shown and sold.
22. 4-H members must exhibit and sell their own animals. Only a valid reason provided to the Educator will be accepted as a waiver of this rule.
23. All lambs must be slick shorn prior to weigh-in.
24. Sale day fitting for all sale animals will be limited to washing and blow drying the coat. Use of adhesives will be prohibited.
25. It is recommended that 4-H livestock participants refrain from the use of hormone implants due to consumer perception.
26. 4-H members can expect to pick up their sale checks in the CCE Office after Labor Day. **Project records and a copy of the “Thank you” letter/card to the buyer(s) of each animal/lot are required to be submitted to the CCE Office to receive your sale check.**
27. Cloverbuds are **ineligible** to participate in the 4-H Livestock Auction.
28. You will need to work with a veterinarian to fulfill your animal health requirements for fair in accordance with USDA policy and New York State law. You may schedule your vet appointment to come to your farm any time after May 1st to complete a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for your animals. Rabies vaccine can be given anytime within 1 year of the fair. **The withholding time on rabies vaccine is 28 days for sale animals and must be given by June 24, 2027.** Legible and proper identification of your animal is very important. Make sure that your Certificate of Veterinary Inspection lines up with the identification on your animal. Market poultry are exempt.

Fair Animal Health Requirements

Beef Cattle:

- ***Due to meat withholding requirements, rabies vaccines must be given at least 28 days prior to slaughter or by June 24, 2027.***
- Must have Certificate of Veterinary inspection done after May 1st.
- Bovine Respiratory Disease complex (shipping fever) vaccine must be given. Be sure to observe the appropriate withholding time for your shipping fever vaccine as well.
- BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhea) testing is mandatory for entry into County and State Fairs.
- All cattle must be individually identified by a USDA approved official ear tag (RFID).

Sheep:

- ***Due to meat withholding requirements, rabies vaccine must be given at least 28 days prior to slaughter or by June 24, 2027.***
- Must have Certificate of Veterinary inspection done after May 1st.
- All sheep must be identified by USDA approved individual scrapie program identification - USDA approved official ear tag or legible USDA flock tattoo and individual animal ID.

Swine:

- ***Due to meat withholding requirements, rabies vaccine must be given at least 28 days prior to slaughter or by June 24, 2027.***
- Must have Certificate of Veterinary inspection done after May 1st.
- All swine must be individually identified by a USDA approved official ear tag (RFID). Consignment market hogs will receive a USDA approved official ear tag at tag-in.

Market Poultry:

- Please follow all feed/medication withholding requirements.