

4-H MARKET ANIMAL PROJECT

Lamb, Beef, Hog, Goat, Rabbit

1. 4-H members must comply with General Health Fair Exhibitor Rules of the New Jersey State Fair®/ Sussex County Farm & Horse Show, as posted on their website, the 4-H Exhibitor Catalog Department Rules, as well as the rules described herein. Only junior and senior members may participate in the market animal projects.
2. Project animals are required to be on the member's property by a specific date: January 1st for market beef projects, May 1st for market lambs and goats born on the member's farm, (or age of weaning, but no more than 12 weeks of age if purchased), May 1st for market hogs, and July 1st for market rabbits. If this requirement has not been met, a Land/Lease/Board Contract between the 4-H member and the landowner/farmer must be completed and on file with the 4-H office by February 1st for market beef and by Feb 1st for market lambs and goats (or for pregnant ewes/does and their unborn offspring), May 1st for market hogs and July 1st for market rabbits. Authorized adult club leaders must determine whether a project animal can be replaced due to sickness or injury. Should the situation arise, the club's organizational leader must notify the MAS Committee immediately. After July 1st, a 4-H member can only replace a designated market lamb, hog, goat, beef, or rabbit pen (3 rabbits), with another animal that is already in their project record book and has been raised at their farm.
Note: The Land/Lease/Board Contract for sheep and goats covers the pregnant ewe/doe and any of its unborn offspring which may be used for a market project animal.

	Project animal must be on member's property	Land/Lease/Board Contract must be submitted to 4-H Office
Beef	By Jan 1 st	By Feb 1 st
Pig	By May 1 st	By May 1 st
Lamb	By May 1 st or 12 weeks age	By Feb 1 st (covers unborn offspring)
Goat	By May 1 st or 12 weeks age	By Feb 1 st (covers unborn offspring)
Rabbit	By May 1 st	By May 1 st

3. **Birth dates of each market project are as follows:**
 - Market Rabbit pens may not be older than 10 weeks on the date of the sale.
 - Market lambs must be born January 1st or later of the current year.
 - Market goats must be born January 1st or later of the current year.
 - Market hogs must be born February 1st or later of the current year.
 - Market beef must be born after November 1st of the previous year and not be more than 21 months old or showing any permanent incisor teeth at the time of the show.

Market Project Finished Weight Requirements:

- Market Rabbits must be a minimum of 3.5 to 5.5lbs. per rabbit. (Maximum pen pay weight is 16.5 lbs.)¹

¹ Market Rabbits are auctioned based on the combined weight of the three rabbits.

- Market lambs must be a minimum of 75 lbs. and 150 lbs. maximum pay weight.
 - Market goats must be between 50 lbs. and 120 lbs. maximum pay weight.
 - Market hogs must be between 200 lbs. and 275 lbs. maximum pay weight.
 - Market beef must be between 900 lbs. and 1550 lbs. maximum pay weight.
4. A NJ animal health certificate is required for every animal and signed by a veterinarian. No animal will be unloaded at the fairgrounds before a designated fair official completes a health evaluation on the animal. The NJ Animal health certificate must include proof of rabies vaccine/BVD test for beef, pseudo rabies/Bruceellosis for hogs by a licensed veterinarian (*if required by the Ag Division of the NJSF/SCF&HS*). Rabies vaccinations are recommended for all species. All animals must complete a pink drug form. Out of state animals are required to have an official CVI from their state.
 5. A 4-H member may raise more than one market project species and may also raise more than one animal (lamb, goat, beef, hog, rabbit pen) in each species. The member may enter up to two animals per species for judging. If a member does raise more than one species, he or she may only sell one of each species in the Market Animal Sale, as long as they fulfill all requirements for their MAS project animals and are members in good standing. The only exception to this rule is when the 4-H member's projects have been awarded both Grand and Reserve Champion in a single species. This necessitates both the Grand and Reserve Champions must be sold in the MAS.
 6. **No** horned animals will be allowed in a 4-H show, barn and/or exhibit.
 7. All market animals must be weighed in between 8:00 and 10:00 AM on the first Monday of the fair at times to be announced by the division chairpersons. All animals must be prepared to be weighed by 8:00 AM. Failure to do so will forfeit the right to show. (Rabbit pens on Sunday at 10:00 am in barn 6). Animals that fail to meet the minimum weight requirement will be disqualified from the Sale.
 8. The following items must be completed and submitted by the designated deadline:
 - a. 4-H members must give a county level public presentation for the current project year, in order to qualify to sell their market animal in the sale.
 - b. If the market project animal is not on the 4-H member's property, a Sussex 4-H Land/Lease/Board Contract must be submitted to the 4-H Office by the deadlines as specified in Rule 2 above.
 - c. Yellow market registration forms must be completed and submitted to the club leader and MAS Secretary by the following dates (see table). Members must attach two photos for each animal- **1 full body shot**, and **1 head shot with ear tag/tattoo clearly visible**. If ear tag is lost or has fallen out, the member must contact the leader & provide the new tag number and new photos. The leader must notify the Chair of the MAS Committee and submit new tag # and photos. **Animal cannot be re-tagged in the same hole in the ear. It must be re-tagged in opposite ear.**

MAS Registration (Yellow Form)

	Members give to Club Leaders	Club Leaders give to MAS Secretary
Beef	January club mtg.	By Feb. 1
Pig	May club mtg.	By June 1
Lamb	May club mtg.	By June 1
Goat	May club mtg.	By June 1
Rabbit	July club mtg	By July 15

- d. A 4-H project record book completed through **May** must be submitted to club leader at the **June** species club meeting to be reviewed and signed by the club leader.
 - e. A NJSF/SCFHS entry form must be completed and handed in to species club leader at the **June** species club meeting.
 - f. An MAS (green) booster form must be completed and handed in to species club leader at their **June** club meeting. All booster forms and accompanying funds must be submitted to the MAS Treasurer by **July 1st**. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements will forfeit a member's eligibility to participate in the MAS.
9. Only animals awarded a blue ribbon (Excellent) at their respective show may be sold, and those may be sold at the option of the exhibitor, except for the Grand and Reserve Champion animals of each species. These **must** be offered for sale. If a 4-H member chooses to withdraw his or her animal from the sale, they must inform their 4-H club leader and the Chair of the MAS Committee as soon as possible, and prior to the beginning of the sale.
 10. When an animal is sold in the 4-H Market Animal Sale, the sale is final. 4-H members or their parents, relatives or friends may not interfere with the transfer of the animal to the buyer or hauler. A 4-H member may not keep his or her animal and receive payment for the sale of the animal.
 11. Dress for market sale (photo, social and sale) will be clean blue jeans and MAS T-shirt. No ripped jeans, shorts, baseball hats or sandals are permitted.
 12. On the day of the Sale all members must have their photo taken with their animal, based on the schedule arranged with the photographer. Leaders will notify their club members of their scheduled photo time.
All members must meet in the Ag Livestock Arena show ring at 5:00 pm for group photo. Bio cards and drug forms will be collected at 10:00 AM on the day of the Sale.
 13. Any 4-H member who is not available to present his or her animal for sale at the appropriate time will forfeit the privilege of selling the animal. Extraordinary circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the 4-H club's leader, who will then need to obtain approval from the MAS executive board for this to be allowed.

14. 4-H members are responsible for picking up their meat at the processing facility, for delivery to their buyer or charity. 4-H members will be notified via email of meat pick up date and time, along with the buyer's name(s) and contact information, to arrange for delivery of the meat. **If the 4-H member is not able to pick up the meat, s/he must:**
 - Make arrangements in advance for someone else to pick up and deliver their meat and;
 - Contact buyer(s) and/or charities *prior to the day of delivery*.
15. All meat must be delivered to the buyer or the buyer selected charity on day of pick up, or agreed upon date by the buyer. Failure to meet these responsibilities will result in a 10% penalty, deducted from his or her proceeds.
16. The 4-H member will receive no less than 90% of the sale price. The percentage the 4-H member receives for the sale of their market animal will be determined by the MAS committee.
17. The Buyer Social is offered to provide a meal and allow socialization for the buyers in gratitude, and as an incentive to purchase an animal. Each club is responsible for purchasing, cooking and carving their club's meat contribution to the social meal. 4-H members who are selling animals may be present (in appropriate dress) for a short time, beginning at 5:30 to mingle with the buyers. All 4-H members shall be present at the:
 - BBQ Pavilion to help move chairs to the Ag Arena (~6:30)
 - Ag Arena for the opening ceremony at the beginning of the sale (~7:00)
 - Ag Arena at the close of the sale to help move chairs back to the BBQ Pavilion.
18. Resale of any market animals will be scheduled at the end of the sale. Only one animal of each species will be auctioned at the end of the sale. Funds generated by this resale are donated to Sussex County 4-H affiliated organizations such as the 4-H Foundation, or 4-H MAS Scholarship Fund.
19. Proceeds from the Market Animal Sale will be distributed in-person to 4-H members **after** all buyers have paid for their purchases on a scheduled date, time and location (TBD).
20. A parent or guardian of any 4-H members intending to participate in the MAS **must** attend a **mandatory** parent meeting in the fall and the month of April. There will be no exceptions, unless otherwise excused by the MAS executive board. If a parent or guardian does not attend this meeting, the 4-H member will not be permitted to participate in the MAS.
21. Successful participation in MAS requires support from the member's parent(s)/guardian. Parents of 4-H members will be required to donate food (or make a cash contribution in lieu) to the MAS Social. Additionally, 4-H parents will be asked to help with set up and cleanup of the social. Parents **must** sign up for their volunteer responsibilities at the mandatory parent meeting in April. Buyer packets will be emailed to all MAS members after the April parent meeting. Only buyers pre-registered by July 15th will be able to attend the social due to catering. Unless there are openings on the day of the social, but must be approved by the committee.

22. All 4-H members participating in the MAS show and sale are required to send a photo and thank you to their buyer(s). The MAS committee will provide photo files and buyers info. to the leader of each club. The leader will forward them to their MAS members. It is the responsibility of the member to make an 8"x10" photo from the files. They must deliver that photo in a picture frame along with a thank you note/card to each of their buyer(s) in a timely manner.

Also, all members that are chosen to deliver a buyers gift to a buyer must do so in a timely manner. They will make delivery arrangements with the buyer prior to gift pick up. The buyer's contact information and address will be provided in advance for this purpose.

If a member does not fulfill these obligations, they will be ineligible to participate in the MAS program the following year. Any member aging out of 4-H that doesn't fulfill their obligations will be subject to a penalty fee being deducted from their MAS sales check (Penalty to be determined by the MAS committee).

23. If a 4-H member violates any of the rules, the 4-H member may not show or sell their animal(s) in the 4-H MAS.
24. If a member or parent/guardian violates the 4-H Code of Conduct during the fair, the member may be disqualified from participation in that fair's MAS and may be barred from future participation in the MAS program. This decision will be made by the Market Animal Sale Committee.
25. The MAS reserves the right to make exceptions to any of the above rules under extenuating circumstances. 4-H club leaders of the sheep, beef, hog, goat and rabbit project clubs must report any such situations occurring with individual members which cause conflict in conforming to the above regulations to the 4-H Market Animal Show and Sale Planning Committee which will take appropriate action.

Reviewed and amended MAS Committee Fall 2022

10-25-22

Amended 1-13-23