General 4-H Market Animal Sale Rules

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, for their species department rules set forth by their department chair, as well as the rules described herein.

1. Only regular 4-H Members (grades 4-13) are eligible to participate in the market animal sale.
2. The following items must be completed and submitted by the assigned deadline for a member to be eligible to sell their animal project at the Market Sale:
    a. 4-H members must give a county-level public presentation for the current project year.
    b. 4-H members must write a letter inviting a buyer to attend the Social and Sale. A copy (photo or scan) will be provided to the MAS Committee.
    c. 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 deadline for their species. *(see table)*
    d. Along with the Land/Lease/Board contract 4-H member will keep a Journal to document the actual time spent caring for the animal. Journal entries should include dates and time spent at the farm, as well as specific work/care performed each time. Farmer and members are to sign journal entries at the end of each visit.
    e. MAS animal registration must be completed online (ZSuite) by the set deadlines (see table). Members must upload two photos for each animal-1 full body shot (profile), and 1 head shot with ear tag/tattoo clearly visible.Scrapies tags are required for Market Goat and Sheep.
    f. 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 and delivered to the 4-H Office no later than 7/1.

       Members should exercise care to ensure all animal projects they plan to enter in MAS are documented in their record books.
    g. A NJSF/SCFHS entry form must be completed and handed in to the species club leader at the June club meeting.
    h. An MAS booster form (green) 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.

3. Project animals are required to be on the member's property by a specified 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.
    a. If this requirement has not been met, a 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 May 1st for market lambs, goats and market hogs. Sussex 4-H Lease/Board Contract must be submitted to the 4-H Office by the deadlines as specified in (see table)

4. No animals will be considered for the Sale that do not comply with the criteria listed here. Therefore, it is strongly suggested members include all animals they own/lease that would qualify for MAS be entered on all forms, records, and journals.

5. A 4-H member may raise more than one market project species and may also raise more than one animal (lamb, goat, beef and hog) in each species. If a member raises more than one species, he or she may only sell one of each species in the Market Animal Sale-if 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. Loading and unloading of a member's project animal(s) is the responsibility of the member and their family. Assistance from other 4-H members is encouraged as needed.

7. A guardian/adult representative 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. **If a guardian or representative does not attend this meeting, the 4-H member will not be permitted to participate in the MAS.** Only a true emergency with documentation will be considered by the committee/4-H Office as an excuse for missing this event.

8. **If a 4-H member violates any of the above, department, or fair rules, the 4-H member may not show or sell their animal(s) in the 4-H MAS.**

9. If a member or guardian of a member violates either the Fair or 4-H Code of Conduct during the fair, the member may be disqualified from participation in that year's MAS and may be prohibited from future participation in the MAS program. This decision will be made by the Market Animal Sale Committee/4-H Office.

The Sale

1. All market animals must be weighed-in at the time specified by the MAS committee[1] in conjunction with species chairs. All animals must be prepared to be weighed at the time specified. **If the member misses their species' time slot, they will forfeit the right to show. Animals that fail to meet the minimum weight requirement will be disqualified from the Sale.** Animals will not be reweighed unless a scale malfunction is suspected.

2. 4-H member dress for the market sale (photo, social and sale) will be clean, unripped blue jeans, boots or sneakers, and MAS T-shirt (to be provided by MAS). No baseball caps are permitted.

   For those staging the animals for the Sale, no ripped jeans, shorts, or open toed shoes are permitted by youth or adults. Only members whose animals are on deck to be auctioned may be in the staging area.

3. The animal staging area (behind the auction podium) will be limited to designated adults and MAS participants only.

4. Only animals awarded a blue ribbon (Excellent) at their respective shows may be sold. Their sale is at the option of the exhibitor, except for the Grand and Reserve Champion animals of each species. Both Grand and

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1 2027 weigh-ins for sheep, goat, and swine are anticipated to be Sunday evening. Beef is anticipated to be Monday morning. Dates and times will be confirmed prior to the opening of the fair.

Reserve Champion animals 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 MAS Committee as soon as possible, and no later than after their animal's show.

5. When an animal is sold in the 4-H Market Animal Sale, the sale is final. 4-H members, guardians, relatives, or friends may not attempt to interfere with the sale or the transfer of the animal to the buyer or hauler. Any buyer taking an animal as live, must coordinate the animal's transfer from the fairgrounds with the seller and the Ag Division. A live animal waiver stating this policy will be signed by each buyer intending on a live sale.

6. On the day of the Sale all members must have their photo taken with their animal by the photographer provided by MAS. A fluid schedule for photographs will be provided. 4-H members and/or their families must be on site all day, Tuesday. All members must meet at 5:00 pm for a group photo. Member bio cards and drug forms will be collected on the day of the Sale, prior to the auction.

7. Any 4-H member who is not available to present his or her animal for sale at the appropriate time may forfeit the privilege of selling the animal. Extraordinary circumstances such as medical, emergency, or physical limitations will be considered at the discretion of the 4-H club's leader and species show chair, who will then need to obtain approval from the MAS Committee/4-H Office for this to be allowed. 4-H members must participate in their species Showmanship class and show their project animal.

8. Resale of any market animals will be scheduled at the end of the sale. Only one animal of each species will be auctioned for resale. Funds generated by the resale are donated to Sussex County 4-H affiliated organizations such as the 4-H Foundation, or 4-H MAS Scholarship Fund.

9. 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. This amount may vary year to year.

Terminal Project Notice: The market animal sale is a terminal project. All participating animals sold through the auction will be harvested and are not eligible or available for any future livestock competitions or shows. The primary objective of this program is for each youth participant's project animal to be fully finished and market-ready by the time of the fair.

To preserve the integrity of the terminal sale, youth members and their families are strictly prohibited from approaching buyers to request, purchase back, or arrange to take their project animals live for the purpose of participating in future competitions after the fair.

In 2027 there will be no commission taken (0%).

The Social

1. The Buyer Social is offered to provide a meal for the buyers in gratitude, and as an incentive to purchase an animal. Each species[2] 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 brief time (to be assigned), 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.
    - BBQ Pavilion one hour after the Sale for breakdown (equipment from the Social)

2 *In species where there is more than one 4-H club participating, the clubs will rotate this responsibility.*

2. All 4-H clubs participating in the MAS are responsible for providing a share of the beverages for the Social (usually 4 cases). The quantity and type (iced tea, lemonade, water, soda, etc.) required will be determined by the Social Chair. (Beverage brands must conform to the Fair's sponsorship, currently PepsiCo.)

2. Successful participation in MAS requires support from the member's parent(s)/guardian. Parents of 4-H members will be required sign-up for shifts on the day of the Sale to prepare for the MAS Social, which includes but is not limited to set-up and clean up. 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 space limitations and catering (unless there are openings on the day of the social and are approved by the committee).

After the Sale

1. There must be a representative from each family present to load their animals onto the hauler's trailer. Each family is responsible for the loading of their animals. The 4-H member (seller) must be present. Those with live sales are solely responsible for the transfer of said animal to the buyer, preferably before the fair opens the following day, per the live sale waiver. If this is not possible, arrangements for delivery must be coordinated with the Agricultural Division.

2. Proceeds from the Market Animal Sale will be distributed in-person to 4-H members after all buyers have paid for their purchases. Check distribution will take place on a scheduled date, time, and location (TBD by the MAS committee).

3. All 4-H members participating in the MAS show and sale are required to send a photo and thank you note to their buyer(s). The MAS committee will provide photo files and buyer's address info. to the leader of each club. The leader will forward them to their MAS members. It is the responsibility of the member to have an 8"x10" photo printed 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-before the end of the calendar year.

   A copy of the member's thank you note/card will be provided to the MAS Committee.

4. All members/sellers chosen to deliver a gift[3] to a buyer (November/December) 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.

5. Following the Sale, parents of the 4-H Sellers must assist with the clean-up of the Social. They will sign-in at the BBQ Pavilion for attendance. **If a parent does not sign-in, up to 5% of the sales price for their child's animal will be deducted.**

6. **Failure to follow through on these commitments will prevent a seller from future participation in MAS.**

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3 Traditionally, the gift has been a holiday wreath purchased through the 4-H Foundation. Buyers who purchase one animal receive a small wreath. Those who purchase multiple animals, receive a large wreath. The 4-H member/seller delivering large wreaths are chosen at random.

Meat Delivery

1. 4-H members are responsible for picking up their meat at the processing facility, and for delivering it to their buyer or charity in a timely manner (<2 weeks). 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. If the 4-H member is not able to pick up the meat, s/he must:

   - Plan for someone else to pick up and deliver their meat
   - Contact buyer(s) and/or charities prior to the day of delivery.

2. All meat must be delivered to the buyer or charity selected by the buyer on the day of pick up or agreed upon date by the buyer. **Failure to meet these responsibilities will result in up to a 10% penalty, deducted from his or her proceeds.**

✦ *The MAS committee, in conjunction with the 4-H Office, reserves the right to make exceptions to any of the above rules under extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis. 4-H club leaders must report any such situations to the MAS Committee and 4-H staff.*

✦ ***If a member does not fulfill their obligations, they will be ineligible to participate in the MAS program the following year. Any member aging out of the 4-H program, that does not fulfill their obligations, will be subject to a penalty fee deducted from their MAS sales check (Penalty to be determined by the MAS Committee and 4-H staff).***

MAS Charts 2026

Species	Earliest Birthdate	On member's property date and age	Land/Lease/Board Due Date
Beef	11/1 of previous year (<21 months old)	1/1	2/1
Swine	2/1 of current year	5/1	5/1
Sheep	1/1 of current year	5/1, < 12 weeks of age	5/1
Goat	1/1 of current year	5/1, < 12 weeks of age	5/1

Species	✧Project Record Book Due to Club Leader	✧Fair Registration Form Due to Club Leader	MAS Registration Form (yellow) due	MAS Booster Forms (green) due	Member Bio Cards Due	Animal Drug Forms Due
Beef	June meeting	June meeting	2/1	June meeting	Day of Sale, 10 am	Day of Sale, 10 am
Swine			6/1			
Sheep			6/1			
Goat			6/1			

✧*Due at 4-H Office no later than 7/1*

Species	AHC/CVI Due✧	Rabies Withdrawal Date	BVD Test Due
Beef	*Confirm with your 4-H Leader*	*Confirm with your 4-H Leader*	*Confirm w/4-H Leader*
Swine			n/a
Sheep			
Goat			

✧*per NJSF/SCFHS health rules*

Market Project Finished Weight Requirements:

- Market lambs must be a minimum of 75 lbs.
- Market goats must be a minimum of 50 lbs.
- Market hogs must be between 200 and 310 lbs.
  Hogs weighing in at over 310 pounds will be considered over conditioned and be exempt from receiving a blue ribbon.
- Market beef must be between 900 and 1550 lbs.
  1550 is the maximum payout amount for a steer.
  Steer weighing over this amount will be sold at 1550 lbs.