

November 2025

Dear Meat Animal Beef & Dairy Beef Project Participants,

Enclosed you will find the 2026 Wyoming County 4-H Meat Animal Beef & Dairy Beef Project Rules. Please take time to review all of the sections for program rule changes.

**Animals will be weighed and tagged on Saturday, December 6, 2025
at Empire Livestock Market in Pavilion, from 8:30am till 11:30am.**

We will be unloading/loading on the receiving end of the auction barn. Please pull in the south entrance (Wyoming side) and drive around the back of the barn to line up facing the north end (towards Pavilion.)

In an effort to prevent long lines, I NEED everyone to register (by truck load) for a time slot. You will be able to specify how many animals and who they belong to in the registration form. This must be done online:

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/beeftagging25_256



Calves **MUST be castrated and dehorned prior to the initial weigh-in** to be eligible for the meat animal program. If they are found to not be castrated and/or dehorned, they will not be entered.

You should ***strongly consider vaccinating animals*** for common cattle respiratory and clostridial diseases as soon as possible before the weigh-in if it has not already been done.

This year, dairy crosses will be placed in the dairy steer division. Please contact Holly with any questions about this change in rules.

****If you have not turned in your 4-H enrollment form, please make sure you do so by November 30th. This is the deadline for returning meat animal participants. New participants must enroll by the 30th for the beef program.**

Please feel free to contact me in the 4-H Office at 585-786-2251 with any questions before the December 6th event.

Best regards,
Holly M. Harwood
4-H Youth Development
Program Manager

2026 General Rules and Regulations for all Divisions

The following apply to all participants and species of meat animals (beef, goats, poultry, sheep & swine):

1. Returning meat animal project participants and new beef/dairy beef participants must be enrolled in a Wyoming County 4-H club or as a lone member by November 30, 2025. New meat animal project participants will have until March 31, 2026, to enroll in the Wyoming County 4-H Program.
2. 4-H participants are expected to follow the 4-H Code of Conduct and present themselves in a positive manner at all times during 4-H sponsored events.
3. Each year, all participants must complete the age-appropriate Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification which is a national multi-species quality assurance program by July 15th. This is in addition to the required and bonus educational events referenced below. Details and program payment vouchers can be obtained in the 4-H office.
4. All participants must complete one 4-H office approved educational event prior to the 2026 Wyoming County Fair to participate in the meat animal competition. A list of all approved events will be finalized by February 1st.
5. Each participant can earn an additional two (2) bonus points for participating in **one additional** approved educational event. These two points will be added to the final project point total that determines species champions and auction order. (No bonus points are given for poultry; does not utilize a point system.)
6. A participant may show and sell only one species in the meat animal program each project year. Final species designation for youth that initially weigh-in more than one species must be made by made in writing to the 4-H office no later than June 1st of the program year.
7. Participants must submit an appropriate animal entry form to the 4-H office on or before July 15th. If the entry form is postmarked or received after the deadline, the participant will receive 10 negative points. Late entries will not be accepted after July 31st and the participant will be ineligible to show or take part in the auction.
8. All participants must make and display a poster advertising the 4-H Meat Animal Auction; they must be on display no earlier than July 1st and no later than July 15th. You must return a tear slip or indicate on your fair entry form where the poster is displayed to the 4-H office on or before July 15th. If the tear slip/entry form is postmarked or received after the deadline, the participant will receive 10 negative points. Late poster slips will not be accepted after July 31st and the participant will be ineligible to show or take part in the auction.
9. All participants, regardless of the degree of completion on the project must submit a Meat Animal Project Record Sheet by October 15, 2026. If the completed record is received in the 4-H office by the above deadline, the exhibitor will receive 20 bonus points for their next project year.
10. If a prior year project record is not received before the current year initial weigh-in date, the exhibitor will not be eligible for the current year meat animal project. Bonus points earned for records will be carried forward to the next year you participate in the meat animal project. If no bonus points are earned, none will be carried forward. All first-time participants automatically receive 20 bonus points.
11. All male meat animal projects must be castrated, meaning complete removal of testicles at the time of initial weigh-in. Veterinary inspection may be requested by the 4-H program at any time during the duration of the project if an animal exhibits intact male characteristics. If found, fully or partially intact males will be disqualified from the program.
12. All project animals must follow proper animal health protocols and withdrawal times. It is important to read all labels for appropriate usage (ie. Blue-Kote is no longer labeled for meat animal species.)
13. Official weights will be recorded during the initial weigh-in and the final weigh-in. Animals will go across the scale one time only at each weigh-in. By the final weigh-in you must choose your animal for the meat animal competition. It will be your first animal to cross over the scale. If that animal does not make weight,

you are allowed to weigh another one of your tagged meat animals to try gaining entry in the competition. Meat animals that do not make weight may be eligible for non-auction market classes at the fair.

14. At the initial weigh-in, all animals (except poultry) will be identified with an official Wyoming County 4-H ear tag. If an animal loses its tag, contact the 4-H office as soon as possible.
15. Siblings participating in the meat animal program may choose to tag one (1) animal to register as a backup animal, rather than additional animals for each participant. See individual species regulations for more details.
16. All animals must meet the health requirements of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and be accompanied by a valid health certificate to stay on the fairgrounds.
17. All animals must be fed, watered and freshly bedded **by 9:00AM** as well as cared for throughout the day (maintaining feed, water, bedding) each day while on exhibit.
18. Once an animal is shown in the live meat animal show, that animal must continue in the project until the conclusion, unless is it disqualified for violation of program rules.
19. Any meat animal that is judged "no ribbon" in Type & Condition classes by the official judge will not be sold during the meat animal auction and said animal will remain the property of the exhibitor.
20. Participants must take part in all phases of the show and auction, including being present at the auction if the project animal is to be sold. The only exception is illness, which must be cleared with the 4-H office.
21. All animals will be auctioned off live and will go through a sale ring auction format. Appropriate clothing is required for the auction; show attire with proper footwear.
22. Auction order for each species will be based off Overall Meat Animal Project Points; ties will be broken using rate of gain. Poultry auction order is outlined in the poultry section.
23. Participants must accept all risks involved in raising and exhibiting livestock such as possible trucking, exhibition, and other handling losses.
24. Participants selling an animal in the auction will be charged a 5% sales commission. They are also required to pay the national check off requirements for their species. These fees will be deducted from the auction check.
25. If a 4-H'er purchases an animal at the Wyoming County 4-H Meat Animal Auction either directly or indirectly, they cannot show it in another 4-H or youth show during the current project year. If they do, they will be banned from participating in the meat animal project in future years.
26. Animals purchased at the auction and donated back to 4-H will be resold at the end of the sale with the proceeds going towards the 4-H Livestock Scholarship Program.
27. Auction buyers may send purchased animals to a packing plant, resell them to a third party, donate them back to 4-H for resale or take them home. If a buyer would like to resell an animal to a packer or another individual, they may do so on their own.
28. All buyers will pay 4-H for the full amount of the purchase. The 4-H office will then distribute payments for animals sold to participants.
- 29. All auction participants must turn in an original copy of handwritten thank you note for buyer(s) to 4-H office before final checks are distributed. Thank you should be unsealed, in an envelope, and properly addressed to buyer. The 4-H office will be responsible for postage and mailing.**

2026 Meat Animal Beef & Dairy Beef Regulations

- ❖ **BEEF BRED:** Steers (castrated males) or heifers (females) which have are bred as full beef blood. Examples of beef breeds: Hereford, Shorthorn, Angus, Chianina, Limousin, Simmental, Beefalo, Maine-Anjou, Santa Gertrudis, Brahma, Charolais, etc.
- ❖ **DAIRY BRED:** Steers (castrated males) that are dairy bred, such as Brown Swiss, Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey, etc... or crosses between these breeds and a beef breed (i.e. beef on dairy).
*** NEW 2026: A cross of any dairy breed and a beef breed will be classified as a steer in the dairy bred division.**
- ❖ All cattle must be born during 2025.
- ❖ Starting your project: The 4-H office has reference materials available to aid you in selection, feeding and showing your animals. Contact us if you need assistance with any of these items.
- ❖ A participant may enter up to 2 animals for the meat animal beef program OR participating siblings may choose to tag one (1) primary animal for each participant, in addition to one (1) total family animal. The family animal may be used as a backup project animal for siblings designated at the time of initial weigh-in.
- ❖ Cattle must be selected and in your possession by December 6, 2025. You must bring your cattle to Empire Livestock Market in Pavilion on Saturday, December 6th between 8:30AM and 11:30AM to be officially weighed and identified. Watch online updates for time scheduling.
- ❖ Only 1 beef animal may be shown and sold in the auction by each participant. Beef & dairy beef participants are not required to show a second animal of the same species.
- ❖ **Both beef bred cattle and dairy steers SHOULD weigh between 450# and 750# at the initial weigh-in. Animals outside these weights may be harder to manage successful end weights.**
- ❖ Both beef bred cattle and dairy steers MUST weigh between 1000# and 1600# at the final weighing on Saturday, August 15, 2026.
- ❖ Both beef bred cattle and dairy steers MUST gain at least 1.50# per day during the recorded feeding period or they will be excluded from the show and auction.
- ❖ At initial weigh-in all cattle must be dehorned and castrated or they will not be eligible for the project. Cattle may be rechecked for horns and testicles at the final weighing. If either is present, the animal will be ineligible to show or take part in the auction.

- ❖ Beef and dairy bred meat animals must have certificates of veterinary inspection and all shots that are required for cattle going to the fair, including rabies shots and shipping fever shots. Observe withholding times on all vaccines. A negative test for BVD-PI is required.
- ❖ Meat animal beef and dairy beef are to be shown clean and dry. Fly spray only, will be permitted on animals.
- ❖ Exhibitors must show their own animals unless excused by livestock committee for illness.
- ❖ Meat animal beef and dairy beef will be shown on Monday, August 17, 2026 beginning at 9:00am. Youth will enter the show ring for showmanship & fitting with classes divided by exhibitor age and then again for type & condition of cattle with classes divided by animal weight. 1st Place showmanship winners will participate in a champion showmanship drive. 2nd Place showman will be on standby for reserve consideration. 1st Place type & condition winners will participate in a champion animal drive. 2nd Place animals will be on standby for reserve consideration.
- ❖ Beef bred and dairy bred classes will each be in separate divisions.
- ❖ Participants exhibiting only a meat animal project will not be eligible for additional 4-H showmanship or type classes.
- ❖ The Meat Animal Auction will take place on Wednesday, August 19, 2026 beginning at 5:00PM.
- ❖ During the auction, the initial high bidder on a beef animal will have the choice of taking the whole animal or half. If the initial high bidder wants just half, it must go to one of our packing plants. The initial high bidder chooses the plant. The second half will then be sold with the stipulation that it has to be processed at the plant selected by the buyer of the first half. This pertains to all beef (champions and non-champions.)

Judging Procedures for Beef & Dairy Steers

- A) Rate of Gain from initial weigh-in to final weighing. Both beef bred cattle and dairy steers must gain at least 1.50# per day or they will be excluded from the show and auction.

Blue	2.50# per day and higher	30 points
Red	2.00# - 2.49# per day	20 points
White	1.50# - 1.99# per day	10 points

- B) Type & Condition will be determined by the live show judge. The top five placing animals in each class will receive additional points: 1st - 5pts, 2nd - 4pts, 3rd - 3 pts, 4th - 2pts, 5th - 1pt.

Blue	70 points
Red	50 points
White	20 points

- C) Showmanship will be determined by the live show judge. Overall fitting of the animal will also be taken into consideration. The top five placing animals in each class will receive additional points: 1st - 5pts, 2nd - 4pts, 3rd - 3 pts, 4th - 2pts, 5th - 1pt.

Blue	70 points
Red	50 points
White	20 points

- D) The Champion Animal as chosen by the official judge, will receive 2 bonus points, to be added to their project score. Reserve Champion will receive 1 bonus point.

- E) The Champion Showman as chosen by the official judge, will receive 2 bonus points, to be added to their project score. Reserve Champion will receive 1 bonus point.

- F) Records: 20 points will be awarded for records turned in by October 15, 2025.

- G) Educational Event Bonus: 2 points will be awarded for participating in one additional approved educational event. (Each participant is required to participate in one approved event to be eligible for showing at fair.)

- H) For late filing of required forms:

10 points will be deducted for late entries.

10 points will be deducted for late poster notification

- I) A maximum of 206 points may be earned towards the 4-H Meat Animal Project Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion. Overall point ties will be broken based on "Rate of Gain" in order to determine auction order.

Grounds for Disqualification

Beef bred cattle and dairy bred steers that gain less than 1.50#/ day

And/or weights outside the 1,000 – 1,600 # range

"No Ribbon" awarded in Type & Condition classes by official judge

Other reasons made at officials' discretion

4-H MEAT ANIMAL PROJECT RECORD FOR 2026

NAME: _____ AGE: _____ # OF YEARS IN PROJECT: _____

ADDRESS: _____ 4-H CLUB: _____

SPECIES (CIRCLE ONE): BEEF LAMB SWINE

BIRTH DATE OF ANIMAL (IF KNOWN): _____ BREED: _____

(A) WEIGHT WHEN PURCHASED: _____ (B) DATE PURCHASED: _____

(C) PROJECT STARTING WEIGHT: _____ (D) WEIGH-IN DATE: _____

(E) FINISHED WEIGHT: _____ (F) DATE OF FINAL WEIGHING: _____

EXPENSES: USE PURCHASE COST (OR FAIR MARKET VALUE IF THERE WAS NO "OUT OF POCKET" EXPENSE;
FIGURE EXPENSES FROM WEIGH-IN DATE)

	VALUE OF PROJECT ANIMAL ON WEIGH-IN DATE = _____	
{	_____ TOTAL POUNDS HAY FED X _____ (VALUE PER POUND) = _____	}
	_____ POUNDS CORN SILAGE X _____ (VALUE PER POUND) = _____	
	_____ TOTAL POUNDS OF DRY HAY EQUIVALENTS FROM CORN SILAGE (TO OBTAIN THIS: DIVIDE POUNDS OF CORN SILAGE BY 3)	
	_____ POUNDS HAYLAGE X _____ (VALUE PER POUND) = _____	
	_____ TOTAL POUNDS OF DRY HAY EQUIVALENTS FROM HAYLAGE (TO OBTAIN THIS: DIVIDE POUNDS HAYLAGE BY 2.5)	
	_____ TOTAL POUNDS GRAIN X _____ (VALUE PER POUND) = _____	
	_____ (J) TOTAL POUNDS OF HAY EQUIVALENTS & GRAIN FED	
	BEDDING EXPENSES = _____	
	VET EXPENSES = _____	
	TRUCKING EXPENSES = _____	
COMMISSION = _____		
PROMOTION FEE = _____		
OTHER EXPENSES = _____		
	(K) TOTAL EXPENSES = _____	

INCOME:

(L) WEIGHT OF ANIMAL SOLD _____ X (M) PRICE PER POUND _____ = (N) GROSS SALE VALUE _____

(P) NET PROFIT _____ OR LOSS _____ ($P = N - K$)

EFFICIENCY FACTORS:

(R) TOTAL WEIGHT GAINED = _____ POUNDS ($R = E - C$)

(S) TOTAL DAYS ON FEED (COUNT DAY AFTER (D) THROUGH (F)) = _____ DAYS

(T) AVERAGE DAILY GAIN (ADG) = _____ POUNDS PER DAY ($T = R \div S$)

(V) FEED EFFICIENCY = _____ POUNDS OF FEED TO PRODUCE 1 POUND OF WEIGHT GAIN ($V = J \div R$)

PROJECT SUMMARY



1. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THIS YEAR'S MEAT ANIMAL PROJECT?

2. WHAT WERE TWO THINGS YOU LEARNED FROM COMPLETING THIS PROJECT, THIS YEAR?

3. LIST ONE THING THAT WENT WELL FOR YOUR PROJECT AND ONE THING THAT YOU COULD IMPROVE ON IN THE FUTURE.

4. SELF-MOTIVATION IS AN IMPORTANT LIFE SKILL YOU CAN DEVELOP BY PARTICIPATING IN 4-H LIVESTOCK MARKET PROJECTS. TELL US HOW YOU USED THIS SKILL OR WORKED ON DEVELOPING IT DURING THIS YEAR'S PROJECT.

5. RESEARCH THE CURRENT MARKET PRICE PER POUND FOR YOUR MEAT ANIMAL SPECIES AND COMPARE IT TO THE ACTUAL PRICE PER POUND YOUR ANIMAL RECEIVED. *HOW DO THEY COMPARE? *WOULD YOU HAVE PROFITED OR LOST MONEY AT CURRENT MARKET PRICE?

CURRENT MARKET PRICE PER POUND: _____ PRICE PER POUND RECEIVED: _____

DID YOU SUBMIT YOUR ORIGINAL THANK YOU NOTE FOR BUYER(S) TO THE 4-H OFFICE TO BE MAILED, AS NOW REQUIRED IN THE RULES? YES ____ No ____