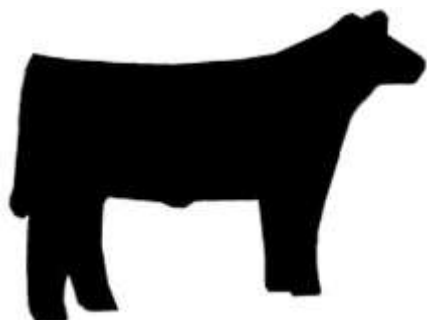
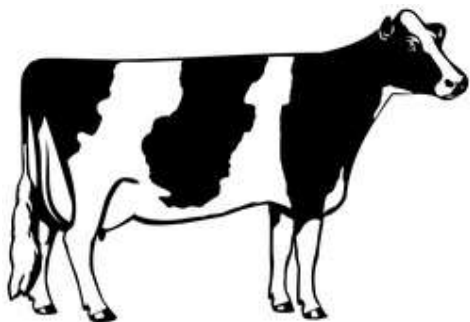


# TUSCOLA COUNTY 4-H/FFA LARGE LIVESTOCK HANDBOOK



Revised April 3, 2026

## 2026 Large Livestock Executive Committee & Superintendents

Title	Name	Contact
Chair	Adrianna Jackson	989-553-2768
Vice-Chair	Colleen Russell	989-553-3663
Secretary	Melinda Freeland	989-352-2864
Treasurer	Shari Boyl	517-425-1758
Dairy Superintendent	Matt Bennett	989-823-4810
Beef & Feeder Superintendent	Shari Boyl	517-425-1758
Sheep Superintendent	Jeremy Glaspie	989-714-8799
Swine Superintendent	Kristen Keinath-Dyjak	810-391-8047
Tuscola County 4-H Coordinator	ReAnna Wilkerson	989-672-3870

### **4-H AND ETHICS: JUST DO THE RIGHT THING!!**

One of the most difficult challenges when involved in competitive events, such as a fair, is remaining true to what we know is right. It can be awfully tempting to do something that isn't quite right but might not be exactly "wrong". This is the true challenge of behaving ethically doing what's right when we're most tempted not to do so.

Although no one can argue that earning a blue ribbon is a great feeling, the ribbon should never be the goal. Instead, fair should be looked at as a means to demonstrate to one another and to the general public what has been learned through a year of hard work in a given project area. Our fair is an educational opportunity for youth, and for the public.

The Tuscola County 4-H members are expected to be sincere, honest and to act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Every individual member represents the entire 4-H program, and their behavior reflects not only on themselves but also their parents, leaders, club, and the entire county. All adults working with 4-H youth, including parents, judges, superintendents, and club leaders, are expected to serve as positive role models by what they say and by what they do.

4-H youth are expected to do their own work to a quality that is appropriate for their developmental level, following the guidelines and rules provided in the Tuscola County Fair Book each year. Adults should guide and support, not do the work for youth.

4-H animal exhibitors are expected to provide appropriate care for their animals and to treat them in a humane manner. Youth who participate in livestock auctions must ensure that the animals that they sell have been raised using agricultural best practices and are safe for consumers to eat.

Most importantly, 4-H members should participate in fair because they are excited about 4-H, about their project areas, want to show what they've learned, and want to share in their peers' accomplishments as well.

## 2026 YOUTH LARGE LIVESTOCK REGULATIONS

1. All exhibitors are expected to know and follow the Youth General Regulations in the fair book.
2. A top Large Livestock record sheet will be chosen from each grade level and species (beef, sheep, swine, feeders, and dairy). The 4-H member submitting the selected record sheet will receive \$25. All Cloverbud record sheet participants will receive a \$5 gift card to the 4-H Diner.
3. Record sheet(s) need to be completed in order to participate in the market classes at the fair. One (1) record sheet MUST be completed for each large livestock species exhibited at the Tuscola County Fair (example: market steer dairy/beef, feeder calf, breeding stock, one (1) beef record sheet; dairy milk and dairy heifer, one (1) dairy record sheet; individual pens of pigs, one (1) swine record sheet; individual or pens of lambs or breeding ewes, one (1) sheep record sheet), \*No additions to the paper record sheet will be allowed (example: adding scrap book border, adding an extra art page, adding "bling", etc.). If additions are attached, the exhibitor will be disqualified from receiving an incentive. Photos and pictures will be allowed only if there is a request for one on the record sheet.\*Completed record sheets must be turned in by Sunday PRIOR to the end of the mandatory exhibitor meeting. A box will be available Saturday at the Extension table in the Community Building during craft check-in, then in the Swine barn until Sunday evening. The Record Sheet Superintendent will bring the collection box to the mandatory meeting for final collection. You MUST contact the Record Sheet Superintendent if an extenuating circumstance applies. A committee will judge all record sheets the week of fair and select winners. The judged record sheets will be available for pick up from the Community Building on Sunday morning when all other projects are released.
4. Ownership is required for market livestock projects. The exhibitor must own the animal he or she is exhibiting.
5. Market livestock projects must be tagged according to the procedure specified by the superintendent for each species. There will be no exceptions to this rule; all market animals must be tagged. Notification of tagging dates and procedures will be printed in the Tuscola County 4-H Newsletter/Emails/Facebook posts. At the time of tagging, an exhibitor may elect to weigh-in for entry into rate of gain contests if applicable.
6. Each Large Livestock Exhibitor, showing a market livestock project at the Tuscola County Fair, is required to fulfill one (1) educational requirement each year. The Livestock Educational Requirement Tracking Sheet can be found on the last page of this handbook, or get the form from the MSU Extension Office. The educational requirement form must be completed and turned in by the fair paperwork deadline of each fair year. If an exhibitor has not completed their requirement or their paperwork has not been turned into the MSU Extension Office by the paperwork deadline, the exhibitor will only be able to exhibit their project in showmanship. They will not be able to participate in any Market Classes, making them ineligible to sell their project during the fair.
7. All exhibitors must check with the appropriate superintendent before stalling and exhibits must remain in the assigned stall. **Sunday Arrival:** Any Tuscola County 4-H participant that is attending both MLE and the TCF will be granted late arrival for check-in on Sunday of the TCF. The MLE participants shall arrive **NO** later than five (5) hours after final show/class concludes. A Large Livestock Representative at MLE will call another Large Livestock Member on the grounds to let them know when the class has ended and the animal must be weighed in upon arrival at the TCF grounds within the five (5) hour limit.

8. This policy and wording is applicable to all large livestock species that have homegrown divisions to offer consistency and fairness to all participants. All species shown at the Tuscola County Fair must follow the homegrown guidelines set forth in the fair book and Tuscola County Large Livestock Handbook. Homegrown **MUST** be declared at beginning weigh-in/tagging. The Large Livestock Committee's contact information (on pg. 1) if you have any questions about the policy or the wording.

**POLICY:** Homegrown animals will be defined as an animal born on the participant's immediate family's owned and operated farm in which the participant has an active part for the duration of the project.

**DEFINITION OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY:** Participant's parent, grandparent, sibling.

9. The Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan **MUST** be followed. These can be found from MDARD at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions/resources-for-exhibitions>
10. **If any animal shows clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease at check-in; that animal and any other animal(s) transported with or housed with the diseased animal shall be removed from the fair. Alternates will not be accepted.**
11. No exhibitor may exhibit more than five (5) market livestock species. All Grand & Reserve Champions must sell. In the event of more than three (3) Grand &/or Reserve Livestock, the monetary amount above market price for the excess animals will be donated to the Large Livestock Committee. The exhibitor will choose which projects the monetary amount will be donated.
12. A Market Heifer or Market Ewe can NOT be shown in its respective breeding class.
13. There shall be only one (1) official weigh-in per exhibited market livestock animal.
14. Bedding and feed are to be provided by each exhibitor. No bedding or food shall be provided.
15. By submitting livestock entries to the fair, exhibitors agree to abide by the Tuscola County 4-H Large Livestock Cleanliness Policy (on pg. 13). All livestock exhibitors must comply with the online verification in ShoWorks™ with their fair entries. Any exhibitor who fails to keep livestock properly fed and watered as well as maintain a neat stall will be subject to the penalties noted in the Livestock Cleanliness Policy.
16. The animal is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor from the time of arrival to departure on the closing Sunday of the fair. Swine waterers may not be removed until exhibitor's hogs leave their pens on Sunday morning. Cleanliness Policy penalties may be applied. even after the Market Livestock Sale, including the possible forfeiture of all sale earnings.
17. When exhibiting and selling their animals, all exhibitors are expected to adhere to the Large Livestock Dress Code as it appears in this book (on pg. 6).
18. All protests should follow the guidelines found in this handbook (on pg. 11) or refer to the fair book section on protests.

19. All exhibitors are required to clean up their respective areas at the close of the fair on Sunday.
20. Exhibit Fee: Each animal exhibited will have a fee deducted from their fair check to help pay for project expenses and equipment updates (see Large Livestock Sale #8 for fee on pg. 5).
21. Any animal purchased or taken home from the Tuscola County Fair is at the owner's risk, and the Large Livestock Committee, Michigan State University Extension and the Tuscola County Fair will not be held responsible.
22. Each Large Livestock Exhibitor and/or a member from their immediate family is required to attend one (1) Large Livestock Committee Meeting each year. If the Large Livestock exhibitor and/or immediate family member does not attend one (1) meeting the exhibitor will only be able to exhibit their project in showmanship. They will not be able to participate in any market classes, making them ineligible to sell their project during the fair. Please check your emailed newsletters or contact the MSU Extension office for the meeting dates and times.
23. All Large Livestock animals are to remain stalled in their designated stall during the Tuscola County Fair. No animals are to be taken off the fairgrounds during the week of the fair. The Grand and Reserve Champion Animals will be moved to their designated spot upon the completion of their show if a spot is designated. (ex: Hall of Champions). If you have any questions, see your superintendent.
24. After the conclusion of the Dairy Show on Monday, lactating animals can be returned home. The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Cow would return on Friday morning no later than 9:00 a.m. to participate in the Large Livestock Auction.
25. Breeding Stock animals can leave at 9:00 p.m. the last Saturday of the fair.
26. All large livestock animals, excluding swine with their pre-made appointments, need to be in their marked stalls by 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday afternoon of the fair. You may start stalling your livestock starting at 9:00 a.m. Sunday. Weigh in will take place after all animals are stalled with times to be determined by superintendent and posted by July 1st. Please follow the marked unloading path and note that you will only be able to unload livestock at this time. After your livestock is unloaded, please pull your truck and trailer away from the barns, and off the midway. You are encouraged to set up your stall Saturday night before bringing livestock in.

## LARGE LIVESTOCK SALE

1. The Large Livestock Sale takes place on the Friday of fair week, immediately following the completion of the Small Livestock Sale that begins at 8:45 a.m.
2. Each exhibitor is limited to selling three (3) items, except for one exclusion ONLY; a pen of lambs and a pen of hogs will be permitted to sell and count as three (3). The latter is the only combination that will work as this exception. The three (3) other items may include any of the following: the Milk of the Grand or Reserve Champion Dairy Exhibit, Market Steer, Market Feeder, Pen of Lambs (counts as 2 items, except when combined with hogs), Pen of Hogs (counts as 2 items, except when combined with lambs), Individual Lamb, or Individual Hog, Ceremonial Milk Can or Breeding Beef Cooler.
3. Any exhibitor electing to sell must have shown the animal on foot in its respective market and breeding class.
4. Each species superintendent determines the order of sale for that species.
5. Cream of the Crop – a ceremonial Milk Can labeled, "Cream of the Crop Supporter 20xx" filled with dairy products will be sold at auction during the sale. This will count towards their three (3) animals sold. 4% will be deducted from this amount and go to the Large Livestock Committee. The remainder will be divided evenly among the dairy show persons, excluding Grand and Reserve show persons. It is highly recommended to be present for the Sale of Ceremonial Milk Can.
6. Breeding Beef Cooler – Cooler will be sold at auction during the sale. All pledged funds raised will help support the youth in the Breeding Stock Project program. The payout is based on the formula – **50:46:4**. Total proceeds are divided with the first **50%** paid equally among all eligible exhibitors (those that select the Breeding Stock Program as one (1) of their three (3) saleable projects). If any exhibitor exceeds the maximum number of animals for the sale, they are excluded from the Breeding Stock payout. The sales proceeds are included in their check provided by the auction house clerking the sale and Commission fees are deducted from the breed stock portion of the check (see no.8 below). Next, **46%** is held in a specific budgeted fund for the following year's Awards (awards can be in the form of gift certificates or reimbursements with proof of purchase) for breeding or show supplies or equipment (this fund itself is then divided with **25%** to Supreme Grand Champion, **15%** to Supreme Reserve Champion, **60%** remaining is divided equally between all youth exhibited in Beef Breeding Stock class). The last **4%** is commission paid to Large Livestock for Breed Stock buyer's gifts for the following year.
7. All exhibitors who sell a market livestock project must complete a "Thank You" card, addressed to their buyer, apply your own postage stamp, and turn it into the Community Building by Saturday before they receive a check for the sale of their animal(s).
8. A 4% Commission Fee will be deducted from your fair check to cover Large Livestock program & project expenses such as tagging supplies, trucking, clinics, pictures, programming supplies, and equipment updates.

## LARGE LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE

The Large Livestock Committee is concerned about the appearance of our 4-H members when selling and exhibiting their animals. Your appearance both in the show and sale ring is important as to how the public views both our program and our members. Exhibitors who do not follow the dress code will not be allowed to exhibit and/or sell their project until they are dressed appropriately.

1. **Shirt:** A shirt with collar and sleeves looks the best while exhibiting livestock. A knit shirt or dress style polo shirt is appropriate, but all shirts must be able to be tucked in. No tank tops, spaghetti straps, or crop shirts. Bare midriffs and visible undergarments are not acceptable.
2. **Pants/Skirt:** Clean and pressed jeans or khaki type pants with no holes are acceptable. Skirts must come below the knee exhibitors should wear a belt if pants have belt loops.
3. **Footwear:** This is for your protection. Boots or leather shoes with a back must be worn. No athletic shoes, sandals, or flip flops.

## CLOVERBUD LARGE LIVESTOCK RULES

1. Cloverbud showmanship classes will be included on the specific species show day. The show time will be determined by each species superintendent (check fair book schedule of shows for dates/times).
2. Cloverbuds will use ShoWorks™ to enter Showmanship and record book sheet classes for the following species: Beef, Dairy, Feeder, Sheep, and Swine.
3. Cloverbud exhibitors are encouraged to work with their 4-H club to help find an animal on site to use for the show. If you need help finding an animal to show, reach out to the superintendent for that species (listed on pg. 1).
4. Cloverbuds will participate in a non-competitive showmanship class; the judge may address the Cloverbuds and ask questions.
5. When entering the ring, Cloverbuds age 5 must be accompanied by their parent/legal guardian; all other Cloverbud participants will be accompanied by an adult or a 4-H member age 14 or older.
6. Cloverbuds are encouraged to participate in other project areas as well.

## YOUTH DAIRY REGULATIONS

1. Exhibitors are responsible for following all rules and regulations pertaining to their project. Refer to Youth General Regulations and Youth Large Livestock Regulations and Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions/resources-for-exhibitions> for additional rules.
2. Dairy must be Bonafide 100% dairy bloodlines. Crossbred dairy exhibits are not eligible for show.

## YOUTH MARKET BEEF REGULATIONS

1. Exhibitors are responsible for following all rules and regulations pertaining to their project. Refer to Youth General Regulations and Youth Large Livestock Regulations and Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions/resources-for-exhibitions> for additional rules.
2. All Beef projects can be tagged in as family alternates. An exhibitor may tag up to two (2) market beef animals at the time of tagging.
3. Exhibitors can NOT exhibit or sell more than one market beef project.
4. Exhibitors wishing to sell a beef project must have completed BQA Feedlot Certification (valid for 3 years) or YQCA certification (valid for 1 year).
5. No stags or bulls will be allowed to stay at the Tuscola County Fair. (Only exception is the bull calf class). All steers must be properly castrated and healed by fair time.
6. Market dairy beef must have 100% Dairy Bloodlines and conform to dairy standards. Animals not having 100% Dairy Bloodlines must be shown as market beef. A committee of three (3) people will settle any discrepancies of this rule. The committee will consist of: Large Livestock Chair, Beef Superintendent, and 4-H Program Coordinator.
7. Market beef must weigh a minimum of 1,000 pounds. Market dairy beef must weigh a minimum of 1,100 pounds.
8. Any market beef/dairy project not making specified weight requirements will be allowed to show in their own class and showmanship, but are ineligible for Grand or Reserve Champion and will not be allowed to sell in the market livestock sale.
9. Grand and Reserve Champion market beef projects MUST sell. This does not include homegrown.
10. Market beef/dairy beef will be sold by the pound.
11. No water is to be left in front of a market beef/dairy beef project.
12. All market steers/heifers must be properly de-horned and healed by fair time. If you have any questions about your animal's horns/scurs, contact the beef superintendent no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in April to have your questions answered. An animal showing up at the fair with horns or scurs (that have not been approved by the Large Livestock Chair, Beef Superintendent, and 4-H Program Coordinator) will not be allowed to stay at the Tuscola County Fair. No vet slips/No excuses.
13. All market beef and market dairy must have a halter on their face and a necktie around their neck. Both need to be tied to the stall.
14. Club leaders are required to turn in their stall count to the MSUE Office no later than July 1. Please remember to include stalls for breeding stock that your club members will be bringing to the fair. The Superintendent(s) will assign stalls by 4-H Club at the designated set-up time. This will help to determine if there is enough room to include tack stalls.
15. All market beef/dairy beef steers must have the Tuscola County Large Livestock Sale Tag in their ear, prior to unloading at the fair. All other tags must be removed from the ears, with the exception of the

RFID tag. You, your parents, or your Leader may contact the MSU Extension office to designate how many tags you need, pick them up and put them in your market beef/dairy beef projects ear. You must identify which number you picked up goes with which RFID tag at the time stall counts are submitted by your leader.

### **BREEDING BEEF REGULATIONS**

1. Not more than one (1) male and two (2) females may be exhibited.
2. Three (3) females are allowed provided one (1) animal is the progeny of an exhibited female.
3. Any Breeding Stock with horns as a breed characteristic can be exhibited at the fair in a separate horned class. Horned animals will be allowed to participate in any Showmanship class, Champion and Supreme overall drives.
4. Breeding Stock animals can leave at 9:00 p.m. the last Saturday of the fair.
5. No water is to be left in front of your breeding beef project.
6. Breeding stock must have a halter on their face and a necktie around their neck and needs to be tied to the stall.

### **YOUTH FEEDER BEEF REGULATIONS**

1. Exhibitors are responsible for following all rules and regulations pertaining to their project. Refer to Youth General Regulations and Youth Large Livestock Regulations and Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions/resources-for-exhibitions> for additional rules.
2. An exhibitor may tag up to two (2) feeder beef animals or designate a family alternate at time of tagging.
3. Exhibitors wishing to sell a beef project must have completed BQA Feedlot Certification (valid for 3 years) or YQCA certification (valid for 1 year).
4. Exhibitors can NOT exhibit or sell more than one feeder project.
5. All feeders must be properly castrated or pinched and dehorned by date of arrival on the fairgrounds and must be properly healed from these procedures.
6. Due to feeders being susceptible to viruses, it is strongly advised that a proven and proper vaccination program be instituted to protect the health of the feeder and others in the barn. Contact the superintendent for suggestions on a vaccination program.
7. Feeder weight restrictions are as follows: a minimum of 300 pounds and a maximum of 700 pounds.
8. Any feeder weighing under 300 pounds will be allowed to show in their own class and in showmanship

but are ineligible for Grand or Reserve Champion and will not be allowed to sell in the market livestock sale.

9. Any feeder weighing over 700 pounds will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion. All overweight animals will be sold at the maximum weight limit of 700 pounds if the exhibitor elects to sell.
10. Grand and Reserve Champion beef, crossbred and dairy feeders must sell. (This does not include homegrown.)
11. No water is to be left in front of feeder projects.
12. All feeders are to have a halter on their face and a necktie around the neck and tied to the stall.
13. All feeders must have the Tuscola County Large Livestock Sale Tag in their ear, prior to unloading at the fair. All other tags must be removed from their ears, except for the RFID tag.

### **YOUTH SHEEP REGULATIONS**

1. Exhibitors are responsible for following all rules and regulations pertaining to their project. Refer to Youth General Regulations and Youth Large Livestock Regulations and Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions/resources-for-exhibitions> for additional rules.
2. An exhibitor may tag up to three (3) lambs. Lambs tagged by family members may be designated as a family alternate at the time of tagging.
3. Exhibitor can **NOT** exhibit or sell more than two (2) lambs.
4. Minimum weight for market lambs shall be 90 pounds.
5. Lambs not making weight will be allowed to show in showmanship. They are not eligible for Grand and Reserve Champion and are not able to sell in the market livestock sale.
6. An exhibitor is allowed to show two (2) individual lambs; however, they will not be allowed to have both Grand and Reserve Champion lambs.
7. Grand and Reserve Champion Market Lamb and Pen of Lambs must sell. (This does not include homegrown.)
8. While in the show ring, all four (4) of the lamb's feet must remain on the ring surface after the lamb is set or needs to be reset and the exhibitor has begun to brace the lamb.

## BREEDING SHEEP REGULATIONS

1. The exhibitor is limited to showing one (1) ram lamb, one (1) yearling ewe, and two (2) ewe lambs.
2. Any Breed Stock with horns as a breed characteristic can be exhibited at the fair and must be exhibited in a separate class from other breeding stock breeds.

## YOUTH SWINE REGULATIONS

1. Exhibitors are responsible for following all rules and regulations pertaining to their project. Refer to Youth General Regulations and Youth Large Livestock Regulations and Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan <https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions/resources-for-exhibitions> for additional rules.
2. The use of **Ractopamine** under any label will be prohibited in any exhibitor's feed for the Tuscola County Fair. The affidavit for non-Ractopamine Usage in Swine MUST be check-marked online through ShoWorks™ (see pg. 12 for copy of affidavit).
3. Mandatory tagging of up to three (3) hogs is required. Each exhibitor may select 1-2 hogs to exhibit. Exhibitors may elect to bring one (1) barrow and one (1) gilt or two (2) of the same. Each exhibitor has to be designated up to three (3) hogs and if there is only one family alternate, it must be designated at tagging time. (Immediate family, not cousins.)
4. Exhibitors can **NOT** exhibit or sell more than two (2) hogs. Market pens may also enter individual classes. It is suggested that exhibitors enter both pen and individual classes on their entry form. Classes may be scratched or dropped but not changed or added.
5. No unloading of hogs without supervision by the superintendents or assigned individuals acting on behalf of the superintendent. Stalls will be assigned by club.
6. Minimum weight for market hogs shall be 220 pounds. Underweight hogs will be re-weighed after all species have been weighed in. Hogs weighing under 220 pounds will be able to show in showmanship class but **NOT** allowed to sell at the livestock sale and are not eligible for Grand and Reserve Champion. It will be at the exhibitor's option to keep the hog at the fair or to take it home.
7. Any hog weighing over 310 pounds will be eligible to show, but **NOT** eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion.
8. Hogs weighing over 310 pounds may sell at the large livestock sale at the 310-pound weight limit.
9. A pen of two (2) hogs must meet the weight requirements and weigh within 10 pounds of each other. (Exhibitors entering this class will be scratched if they are ineligible.)
10. An exhibitor is allowed to show two (2) individual hogs, however, is not allowed to have both the overall Grand and Reserve Champion.

11. Individual Market Hog classes will be split into separate groups by both weight and sex, barrow or gilt. Please note on entry form whether hog is gilt or barrow.
12. Grand and Reserve Champion Market Hog and Pen of Market Hogs must sell. (This does not include homegrown)
13. All hogs must have a minimum hair length of 1/2 inch over their entire body except the head and tail. Hogs with less than 1/2 inch of hair will be disqualified and **NOT** allowed to show. Hogs will be checked prior to the show. The use of the top edge of the black strip on a credit card will be the method for measurement.
14. Powdering and oiling of hogs is prohibited and doing so is grounds for disqualification from the show.
15. All hogs must be properly castrated. Failure to properly castrate will result in disqualification and the removal of the animal from the fairgrounds.
16. Swine sold during the livestock sale are non-terminal, subject to change.
17. All hogs must have water towers; no buckets or pans will be allowed. This will help keep pens clean. **Towers will not be provided.** Swine Waters may not be removed until the exhibitor's hogs leave their pen on Sunday morning.
18. To enter your swine project in the fair, the following requirements must be met: Submit a photo of your hog with RFID tag and assigned fair tag numbers. Both tags must be readable with full body photo. Photo must be submitted to MSU Extension one (1) week prior to the tagging date. If the photo is not approved, you will be contacted and must submit a replacement to the MSU Extension office before the tagging date.

## PROTESTS

1. Any exhibitor may file a complaint regarding any of the following:
  - A. Conflict of interest between the judge.
  - B. Disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor.
  - C. Exhibitor, group leader, or superintendent behavior.
  - D. Eligibility of the exhibit.
2. All protests must be in writing and filed with the Board Secretary within 10 days after fair closing day.
3. A committee appointed by the President (including two board members, one Extension office personnel and other deemed necessary) shall review, investigate, and issue a notice of findings and recommended actions within 15 days of receiving such protests.
4. The Fair Board shall act on the recommendations of said committee within 10 days of receiving such.
5. If the exhibitor filing the protest is not satisfied with the actions of the Board, they may file an appeal with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) within 45 days of the initial protest.

## Affidavit for non-Ractopamine Usage in Swine

Announcements have been made from several commercial pork processing plants indicating that they will be eliminating the purchase of pigs that have been fed ractopamine from their markets. This decision is driven by the restrictions placed on pork products destined for export markets. Due to these new stipulations the Tuscola Large Livestock committee has decided to make some changes to their rules for exhibition to the Tuscola County Fair. Pigs that have been fed a ractopamine product at any time will not be allowed to exhibit at the fair. These changes will continue to allow buyers of the pork projects at the fair access to resale markets for this year and hopefully beyond.

Rules Governing Entries, Exhibits, Awards and Business of the Association:

As stated in the fair book (year 20XX) located on page 9, Section 1:

3. Disregard of any rule by an exhibitor or concessionaire forfeits all rights and privileges without recourse.

As stated in the fair book (year 20XX) located on page 9, Section 3:

6. Any person using deception in entering any animal or article shall not be awarded a prize and shall be disbarred from exhibiting for a period of three years.

As stated in the fair book (year 20XX) located on page 20 Youth Swine Department, Youth Swine Regulations:

**2. The use of Ractopamine under any label will be prohibited in any exhibitor's animal feed for the Tuscola County Fair.**

Ractopamine is a beta-agonist commonly used in production that mimics the effects of adrenalin and promotes lean muscle growth, and even though it can be fed any time, is typically fed a few weeks prior to slaughter. This feed additive has been approved for use in swine diets for several years, with domestic markets setting tolerance guidelines. **Common names include Paylean, Explode, XXL and Lean Maximer, among others,** C Beth Ferry, MSU Extension swine specialist states, "with our export pork sales reflecting over 25% of our market's commercial processors need to reduce the risk of distributing a product that does not meet the export market guideline. By eliminating the use of ractopamine products in swine diets, they have done just that."

Ractopamine may be mixed in feed, or top-dressed, so be sure to talk to your feed dealer to see exactly what is in your feed program. It is important that youth exhibitors are aware of what is in the feed that they are purchasing for their projects. Reading the feed ingredient label and having conversations with your feed supplier will help identify any feed additives that may not be allowed.

I have read the above information on ractopamine and by checking the box in ShoWorks™ when signing up for the Tuscola County Fair, understanding and agree therefore, that I cannot use Ractopamine in any circumstance when feeding my pig.

**TUSCOLA COUNTY 4-H LARGE LIVESTOCK CLEANLINESS AGREEMENT – 20XX**

***ONE PER EXHIBITOR***

**BEEF                      SHEEP                      FEEDER BEEF                      SWINE                      DAIRY**

As a 4-H/FFA Livestock Exhibitor, I agree to maintain a clean pen and provide appropriate care for my animal(s) from their arrival to the fairgrounds until their departure from the fairgrounds. At 10 00 a.m. each morning the project area superintendent will do a barn check, and a yellow warning tag will be issued at this time if pen(s) and care are found to be unsatisfactory. The 10:00 a.m. check will be the first of many checks throughout the day and the ONLY announced/scheduled animal check. Any pen that was issued a yellow warning tag at either the 10:00 a.m. check or any subsequent pen checks will be given two hours maximum to make the pen(s) and animal care satisfactory. If the pen is still found unsatisfactory after two hours, a red tag will be issued and will result in a \$25 00 fine for the exhibitor. Two superintendents will examine the pen(s) and sign the red tag before it is issued. Also, the project area superintendent will attempt to notify the 4-H member's leader before fines are assessed. An additional \$25.00 fine will be assessed every day thereafter that pen(s) and care are found to be unsatisfactory; no yellow warning tag will be given. After THREE Red Tags, the exhibitor will forfeit sale monies and will be asked to remove the animal from the grounds. Fines shall be deducted from monies earned in the Livestock Sale and from exhibitors directly if an animal is not listed in the sale. Fines will be issued only after agreement by the project area superintendent and a member of the Tuscola County 4-H Large Livestock Committee. Notice of fines issued will be sent to the President of the 4-H Council as well.

I will also ensure that my pen(s) are cleaned and disassembled to the satisfaction of the project area superintendent by 12:00 p.m. on the last Sunday of the fair.

**All Exhibitors must consent to the Large Livestock Cleanliness Agreement with the exhibitors' fair entries on Sho Works to exhibit 4-H/FFA livestock animals at the fair. Those members who do not check yes, and consent to this policy, will not be allowed to participate in the 4-H/FFA classes or the Large Livestock Sale at the Tuscola County Fair.**

**Animals exhibiting any of the following conditions, symptoms, or behaviors shall not be permitted to enter the show ring:**

- A. Animals showing no evidence of dehorning or are not properly healed over.
- B. No stags or bulls are allowed to stay at the Tuscola County Fair, except it is a bull calf class. All steers must be properly castrated and healed by the Sunday of fair.
- C. Anything found to have a contagious disease or sickness for example, but not limited to; warts, ringworm, lice, or not properly healed from open wounds that could be caused by, but not limited to, dehorning castration shall be sent home, unless a note from the vet is turned in during the time of check in.
- D. Failure to lead or be handled safely by exhibitor in or out of the show ring.

By checking yes in Sho Works, I hereby acknowledged that my livestock that I am entering and exhibiting at the Tuscola County Fair is to my knowledge healthy and free from the above listed and has not been in contact with other sick animals. Upon visible inspection at weigh in, if you are in violation of any of the above statements, you will be required to remove your livestock from the Tuscola County Fairgrounds and not be eligible to exhibit or participate in the sale of that livestock.

By checking yes in ShoWorks™, I hereby acknowledge that by unloading my livestock Sunday, July XX, 20XX, at the Tuscola County Fair, that my animal is perfectly healthy, and accept the fact that the privilege of exhibiting and selling may be revoked if my animal is not healthy or deemed sane

**TUSCOLA COUNTY 4-H LARGE LIVESTOCK CLEANLINESS AGREEMENT – 20XX  
*FOR LARGE LIVESTOCK ANIMALS ONLY!***

## **Tuscola County 4-H/FFA Large Livestock Educational Requirements**

Large Livestock species exhibitors, who are intending to show a market livestock project at the Tuscola County Fair, is required to fulfill one (1) educational requirement each year.

Guidelines for educational requirements are as follows:

Large Livestock species exhibitors must complete one (1) of the following (as offered).

- Attend a Large Livestock Education Clinic
- Attend any livestock event/workshop sponsored by Michigan State University or Michigan State University Extension
- Attend a YQCA educational class
- Successfully complete/pass an Animal Science or Ag Science Class
- Attend a breed stock or breed association event
- County 4-H sponsored educational clinic/shows for Large Livestock
- Attend Livestock/Jackpot shows beyond the county level
- Attend Ag Career Night at the Tuscola Technology Center
- Be actively enrolled in a FFA class

It is the responsibility of the livestock exhibitor to inform the Extension Office when they have met/completed their educational requirement, by turning in a Livestock Educational Requirement Tracking Sheet (pg. 15) with the Large Livestock Section completed and signed by the member's parent.

Educational requirements and tracking sheets must be completed and turned into the Tuscola County MSU Extension Office on or before the Fair paperwork deadline of **June 19, 2026**.

Educational requirements and tracking sheets are available at the MSU Extension Office.

All educational requirements must be met beyond attendance at regular club meetings.

\*Horse events/workshops/clinics/activities do not count towards Large Livestock Educational Requirements. Must be livestock centered.

\*\*Failure to meet a Large Livestock Educational Requirement, will result in the 4-H/FFA youth member not exhibiting their Large Livestock Market Project(s) at the Tuscola County Fair.

**\*\*\*NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE FOR EDUCATIONAL TRACKING SHEETS TURNED IN AFTER THE FAIR PAPERWORK DEADLINE!!**

## 2026 Livestock Educational Requirement Tracking Sheet

This Educational Requirement Sheet must be completed and turned into the MSU Extension Office by **June 19, 2026**, when the rest of the Fair paperwork is due.

Members are responsible to track their own activities and reporting that information to the MSU Extension office.

In order to exhibit any market project at the Tuscola County Fair, members are required to attend at least:

- One (1) meeting and have signed-in to verify (see \* below for meeting description required)
- One (1) educational requirement with proof by document, certification, day of event flyer.  
(Acceptable examples: clinics, jackpot show, YQCA/BQA feedlot, Ag Career Night, FFA class, etc.)

***Please note that educational videos are not acceptable for meeting this requirement.***

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

4-H Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*One (1) Large Livestock committee meeting after September 1<sup>st</sup> attended**

**LARGE  
Livestock  
Section**

Activity Name	Date Attended

**\* Fat & Feeder Livestock - must complete YQCA or BQA Feedlot certification and submit a copy of your certificate to the 4-H office by June 19th. The class will also meet your educational requirement.**

**\*One (1) of two Small Livestock mandatory meetings scheduled:  
July 18<sup>th</sup> (prior to 'Empty the Barn') or July 22<sup>nd</sup> (prior to 'Fair Set Up')**

**SMALL  
Livestock  
Section**

Activity Name	Date Attended