
DEKALB COUNTY 4-H BLUE RIBBON LIVESTOCK AUCTION

RULES & REGULATIONS

OBJECTIVE OF SHOW AND SALE:

- A. Financially support 4-H and encourage the growth and expansion of livestock projects.
- B. Train youth in the proper handling, fitting and showing of livestock.

The sale is under the supervision of the livestock auction committee.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A. To be eligible 4-H'ers must conform to the show rules and the following auction rules:
 - ***Exhibitor must have attended at least six 4-H club meetings***
 - ***Exhibitor must have completed a 4-H project plan, and have it signed by the 4-H club leader***
 - ***Exhibitor must have given a talk or demonstration at 4-H club meeting.***
 - ***4-H club leaders must verify this participation prior to the 4-H Fair, and 4-H members should have club leader sign off on the appropriate form and turn it into the Extension office by June 8.***
 - ***Exhibitor must be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) for beef, dairy, goats, sheep & swine, or Quality Assurance Ethics Certification (QAEC) for poultry and rabbits.***
 - ***Only livestock exhibits receiving a blue rating will be eligible for the livestock auction.***
- B. All exhibitors are expected to wear proper attire for the show ring and sale ring. Safety should be the issue for the attire. Suggested attire includes hard shoes, long pants and a collared shirt.
- C. Exhibitors will be allowed to sell one entry per species with a maximum of 2 species.
- D. The sale is for market animals in beef, goats, sheep, and swine, champion dairy animals, champion bucket calves, grand champion rabbits, and grand champion poultry.
- E. 4-H'ers exhibiting only breeding stock animals in beef, goats and sheep will be eligible to sell in the auction. These animals can only be in one of the following classes: Beef – yearling classes 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, 38, & 39; Dairy Goat classes 100 & 101; Meat Goat classes 107 & 108; Sheep classes 85, 86, 90 & 91. These animals may only be sold one time in their 4-H experience.
- F. The auction is a premium based sale and 4-H'ers will retain ownership of their animals. All animals will be sold by the head.
- G. Livestock auction committee reserves the right to qualify or disqualify any animal.
- H. Conduct unbecoming shall result in the exhibitor being immediately disqualified by the livestock auction committee.
- I. Checks may be picked up at an Auction Committee Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026. ONLY WHEN COMPLETED THANK YOU NOTES TO THE BUYER(S) ARE TURNED IN WILL CHECKS BE GIVEN.
- J. Any violation of a rule is grounds for disqualification from the sale. This will be decided by the auction committee.
- K. The sale is open only to 4-H members enrolled in DeKalb County 4-H clubs.
- L. Members wishing to sell in the livestock auction must complete the auction requirements and have their 4-H club leader sign off on their Auction Participation Form and submit it to the Extension office when fair entries are due.
- M. All animals will be checked in on Friday of the 4-H Fair. A \$35 commission will be charged per sale unit for the promotion and improvement of the auction. This fee will be charged to all 4-H'ers entering animals in the auction.
- N. Sale order will be dairy, rabbits, poultry, bucket calves, swine, beef, sheep and goats. Sale order within

species will be determined at random.

O. Exhibitors are responsible for the care and feeding of their animals while at the 4-H Fair.

- P. **4-H'ers leaving the fairgrounds before the completion of the livestock auction will forfeit auction premiums. All youth and animals are expected and required to remain on the fairgrounds until the completion of the auction. 4-H'ers loading trucks and trailers during the auction are also subject to forfeiting their auction money. While the auction is going on youth should be present to assist their fellow 4-H'ers and in showing their gratitude to the supporters that have purchased and bid on animals at the auction. Distractions within the barns should not be happening while the auction is in process.**
- Q. **4-H'ers not present during the auction line-up of animals into the sale arena will be skipped and will not be included in the livestock auction sale.**
- R. **All exhibits must have received a blue ribbon in order to be sold in the auction.**

S. State health regulations will be adhered to.

T. Bidding will be open to the public. All sales will be final. Cash settlement or satisfactory payment arrangements need to be made immediately following the close of the auction.

U. No donated animals will be allowed to resale at the auction.

V. 4-H'ers looking for markets to sell their animals could consider Equity Livestock Sale Barn in Monroe, WI, or Schrader Market in Dakota, IL. Contact information for Equity is 608-328-8344, and they sell pigs through the barn on Mondays, or on Tuesdays individuals can bring pigs to be hauled to Heinhold's. Individuals should call one week prior to schedule their animals. Contact information for Schrader Market is 815-449-2215. These are only suggestions to assist 4-H'ers and their families.

AUCTION SPECIES RULES

SWINE

- A. All swine need to be in the barns and **penned by 11:00 a.m. on Friday, prior to weigh-ins** beginning at 12:00 noon. Swine Superintendents and Assistants will be at the swine barns between 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. **No animals will be weighed from trucks/trailers.**
- B. All youth showing swine are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) during the current year.
- C. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is required on all swine exhibits. Please make note that for Illinois pseudorabies testing is not required.
- D. Individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, ("840" tag). **The tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.**

BEEF

- A. Calves with **horns will not** be allowed to enter the show or sale.
- B. All calves must be halter broken.
- C. All male calves must be castrated and completely healed prior to their entry on the fairgrounds.
- D. Steers should weigh a minimum of 1100 lbs.
- E. Heifers should weigh a minimum of 1000 lbs.
- F. Animals will be checked-in and weighed between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Friday.
- G. For Bucket Calves - Champions in each age division will be eligible to sell calves in the 4-H Auction, providing they meet auction requirements.
- H. For overnight purposes, it is recommended that cattle be neck tied and halter tied to the stables.
- I. All youth showing a beef project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.

- J. 4-H'ers showing breeding beef only can participate in the auction if they are exhibiting in one of the following classes – 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, 38, & 39. Animals can only be auctioned one time in their 4-H experience.
- K. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is required on all beef exhibits over 6 months of age.
- L. Individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, ("840" tag). **The tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.**

SHEEP

- A. It is highly recommended that market lambs weigh between 110 and 140 pounds. All lambs must be docked and shorn within 10 days prior to the show and sale and all male lambs must be castrated and completely healed.
- B. Animals will be weighed and checked-in between 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Friday.
- C. All youth showing a sheep project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.
- D. 4-H'ers showing only breeding sheep can participate in the auction if they are exhibiting in one of the following classes – 85, 86, 90 or 91. Animals can only be auctioned one time in their 4-H experience.

GOATS

- A. All Market Goats from class 112 will be eligible for the Livestock Auction as long as the youth have met the criteria and guidelines required for participating in the auction.
- B. 4-H'ers showing only breeding goats can participate in the auction if they are exhibiting in one of the following classes – Dairy Goats 100 or 101 or Meat Goats 107 or 108
- C. Market goats weigh-in and check-in will be conducted by the superintendents on Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- D. All youth showing a goat project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.
- E. Goats with horns are not permitted on the fairgrounds unless they are **REGISTERED FEMALE BOER GOATS** being shown in the 4-H Meat Goat Classes 107-111. Registration papers must be presented at the 4-H Fair to the Goat Superintendent.
- F. All male goats must be castrated and completely healed prior to entering the fairgrounds.

RABBITS & POULTRY

- A. Must be a blue ribbon award animal.
- B. The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Rabbits of Show, the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Rabbit Meat Pens, the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Poultry of Show, and the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Poultry Meat Pen are all eligible to sell in the Blue Ribbon Auction. 4-H'ers will retain ownership of their animals.
- C. Youth winning the eligibility to sell their rabbits and poultry must have completed the Quality Assurance Ethics Certification.
- D. Youth selling rabbits & poultry in the auction must meet the criteria and guidelines required for participating in the auction. The requirements for the auction are as follows: Attend six 4-H Club meetings, doing a talk/demonstration, and complete and a 4-H project plan that has been signed by the 4-H club leader.

DAIRY

- A. The Grand Champion Overall Breeds and the Junior Champion Overall Breeds in the dairy department.
- B. These 4-H'ers will retain ownership of their animals.