



## 2023-2024 4-H Market Livestock Sale Commitment Form

Office  
Copy

Due: Nov. 8th for the beef project and Feb. 1st for the sheep and swine project to the MSU Extension Office

The **requirements** for Flathead County 4-H youth to participate in the Market Livestock sale are as follows:

- Be in good standing with their club.
  - “good standing” = in compliance with their club’s by-laws
- Comply with all age requirements.
  - Be at least 8 years old by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year (sheep and swine)
  - Be at least 10 years old by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year (beef)
  - If a youth is 19 years old on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year, he / she is not eligible to re-enroll in 4-H unless still in high school.
- Comply with all **Requirements** listed in #1 to #8 below and all **Expectations** listed in #9-21 below.
- Animals must be tagged and weighed-in by **replacement cut-off date for specific species.**  
Replacement Cut-off dates: beef - January 31, 2024, swine - May 31, 2024, and sheep - June 30, 2024
- Tag and Weigh-in dates: beef Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, swine April 30, 2024, and sheep May 20, 2024

### Detailed Requirements:

1. **LQA.** All members must attend species-specific Livestock Quality Assurance (LQA) training during their first registered year as a Junior member in a specific species livestock project **and** again during their first registered year as a Senior member in the specific species livestock project.
  - ALL 1st year market project members must attend LQA training specific to their market species.
    - i. Example: If you are new to the beef project this year, you must attend the beef LQA, even if you completed lamb or hog projects and lamb or hog LQA training during previous years.
  - A parent or guardian must also attend the LQA in the same species as their youth.
    - Name of **Parent or Guardian** who will attend **LQA**: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Additionally, if a member received a white ribbon in Market Class at previous year’s NW MT Fair or if their animal was over or under weight at previous year’s NW MT Fair weigh-in, the member must attend LQA again prior to participating in the market livestock project the following year. Also, the member must meet with their species-specific livestock committee prior to participating in a market livestock project the following year.
2. **Clinics.** All members are required to attend or serve as an instructor during at least one Flathead County 4-H species-specific clinic each 4-H year. LQA can only count as a clinic if the youth is not required to attend LQA. Please see #1 for LQA requirements.
3. **4-H Market Livestock Sale Commitment form.** All members must turn in this 4-H Market Livestock Sale Commitment form to the Flathead County Extension Office no later than **Nov. 8th** for the beef project and **Feb. 1st** for the sheep and swine project.
4. **Ear Tag Form.** All members are required to turn in an Ear Tag Form for their primary animal and secondary (if applicable). Please see #9 for primary and secondary animal information.
5. **Buyer’s Thank You Confirmation form.** All members who sold an animal at the previous year’s Northwest Montana Fair Market Livestock sale must turn in their Buyer’s Thank You Confirmation form to the Flathead County Extension Office no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year.
6. **Commitment to Excellence and Drug Withdrawal forms.** All members must sign the youth livestock program Commitment to Excellence and Drug Withdrawal forms and turn the two forms into the Flathead County Extension Office or before August 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year.
7. **Records.** Members must complete a 4-H Project Forms & Financial Journal for their market animal and submit these up-to-date forms to the member’s club livestock leader for review and approval prior to Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> and fully completed by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.
8. **Second Project.** Members must complete at least one other project, in addition to their market livestock project. The members must complete the records for at least one other project and turn-in current records for both the market livestock project and the second project to their club organizational leaders before Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> and fully completed by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. The club leader will inform the Flathead County Extension Office regarding both projects before Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> and be fully completed by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Market Livestock Expectations:**

9. Each member may tag a maximum of two market livestock animals for their project(s). The member may only take one of their tagged market livestock animals to the NW MT Fair. Members must declare their primary and their secondary / back-up animal on their ear tag form. Members in the same family may list the same secondary / backup animal for multiple children. Members must keep livestock records for their primary and secondary / back-up animal.
10. On the first day of the fair, market livestock will be weighed-in at the fairgrounds. If a member is unable to be present with their own animal at weigh-in, then they must coordinate for another 4-H or FFA youth to take their animal through the weigh-in process.
11. The weigh-in standards for the first day of the NW MT Fair are as follows:
  - o Sheep between 110 and 160 pounds.
  - o Swine between 220 and 295 pounds.
  - o Beef between 1,050 and 1,550 pounds.
  - o Under or overweight animals are ineligible for the regular Market Class and will not be sold at the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale
  - o Only underweight animals are eligible to participate in the feeder Market Class at the NW MT Fair.
  - o Under/overweight animals may be shown in the Showmanship Class.
12. Members must show their own animals in the Market Class and Showmanship Class in order to sell their animal at the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale. If extreme circumstances occur, please direct requests for an exception to this policy to the MSU 4-H Extension Agent, NW MT Fair Board, and / or Flathead Livestock Sale Organization (FLSO).
13. All 4-H members must follow the dress code of a collared, button-down white shirt, black pants, and sturdy close toed shoes when participating in the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Market Class and Showmanship Class competitions, in addition to the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale.
14. The Market Class Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, Purple ribbon winners, Blue ribbon winners, and Red ribbons winners are eligible to participate in the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale. Market Class White ribbon recipients are ineligible to participate in the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale.
15. Members must care for and feed their animals while housed and shown at the NW MT Fair until the time their animal is loaded onto a trailer for transportation to the processors. Members must clean their animal's pens or stalls after their animal departs the fairgrounds on a trailer to the processor.
16. The Flathead Livestock Sale Organization (FLSO) will collect a sales commission from all youth who sell an animal at the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale to pay invoices for required goods and services. FLSO will publish the exact sales commission percent prior to the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale.
17. After FLSO prints the official buyer's photos, members will be notified to pick up a Buyers Packet from the Flathead County Extension Office. The Buyer Packet includes 2 official buyer photos (one for buyer and one for member) and a Thank You Confirmation Form. The member must contact their animal's buyer and schedule a time to thank them. The member must thank the buyer, provide them with one official buyer's photo, and a thank you gift or memento. The member must present the Thank You Confirmation form to the buyer and the buyer must sign the form. The member must then turn in the Thank You Confirmation form to the Flathead County Extension Office and complete a W9 form with the member's social security number and member's signature to receive their check from FLSO.
18. I understand that even though my animal makes weight, I'm not guaranteed a place in the livestock market sale. Judges will make that decision based on genetics, feeding and overall project management.
19. I agree to act with dignity and grace regardless of the outcome of my project. I will accept the judge's determination whether I view it as good or bad.
20. I understand my market livestock project is a learning experience and I agree to accept the outcome, even if I disagree with the judge's opinion.
21. Failure to act appropriately by my parent(s) / guardian (s) or me will result in my removal from the event and will also prohibit me from attending and participating in future events.

\*\*\*Non-compliance with the above criteria could result in disqualification from the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale and / or future participation in the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale.\*\*\*

**I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES ON THIS MARKET LIVESTOCK SALE COMMITMENT FORM.**

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Project Member's Printed Name

Project Member's Signature

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Parent or Guardian Signature

Date