2026 Antrim County Fair Market Livestock Project Checklist

Revised November 26, 2025

2026 Livestock Project Checklist Market and Show Rules for Youth Exhibiting at the Antrim County Fair August 12-15, 2026. Only youth who have completed this checklist in the current Antrim County Fair year, may exhibit in Fair Market Classes and sell at the Antrim County Fair Auction.

General Exhibitor Requirements

1. Youth exhibitors must sign and uphold a contract upon registering their animal (See the section titled “Registration Requirements” for contract deadlines).
    - ☐ The original Project Agreement must be included in the Livestock Record Book.
    - ☐ A copy of the Project Agreement needs to be submitted to the Antrim County Fair Board by the date stated in the Project Agreement.
    - ☐ A copy of the Project Agreement stays with you for your personal records.
2. Attendance at one Market Livestock Meeting (in Antrim County) and one Showmanship Clinic (may be completed anywhere) are required. Market Livestock Meetings will take place in January and April of the program year. Youth who do not attend a Market Livestock Meeting will not be eligible to market their animal(s) at the current year fair.

    ☐ Market Livestock Meeting attendance date _____

3. Each youth exhibitor who markets an animal is also required to participate in at least one Educational Clinic for every two registered market animals. Youth marketing 1-2 animal projects must attend at least 1 clinic. Youth entering 3-4 animal projects must attend at least 2 clinics. Youth must complete the clinic(s) before July 15 of the current program year. Youth who do not complete the necessary clinic requirement(s) by July 15, 2026, may not be eligible to market their animal(s) at the current year fair.

    ☐ Educational Clinic (topic/location):
    _____ Date: _____

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    _____ Date: _____

    Youth exhibitors will document the completion of clinic requirements by submitting an attendance form in their record books at fair. These forms will be provided to youth exhibitors and club leaders at the Market Livestock Meetings or are available on the website. The following list is an example of acceptable clinic workshops:
    - Statewide Livestock Showmanship/Animal Husbandry workshops
    - Exploration Days workshops related to animal science/care/showmanship.
    - Countywide or Regional workshops, etc.
    - Fair Sponsored workshops and clinics

4. Youth exhibitors participating in a Market Livestock Project(s) must sign up for Barn Duty during the fair, at least one hour per day of the fair (these barn duties may be served with one other exhibitor as long as all barn duty slots are covered), and must participate in at least one Work Bee before fair at the Antrim County Fairgrounds, and must assist in fair

clean-up on the day fair closes. Youth exhibitors must check–in and check–out for each of these duties.
Youth exhibitors who do not meet this requirement must go before the Antrim County Fair Board and Livestock Committee to explain their reason for not fulfilling their obligation. The Board will then make a determination regarding the exhibitor's eligibility to participate in the market livestock show and auction.

- ☐ Work Bee date: _____

5. Youth exhibitors participating in a Market Livestock Project(s) for the Antrim County Fair are required to complete a Livestock Record Book for each project.
   - ☐ Completed Record books must be turned in by 9:00 am the morning after fair check-in. Youth exhibitors who fail to deliver complete Record Books before that time exhibit barn closes that evening may not be eligible to market their animals.
   - ☐ Youth exhibitors will be allowed to collect their Record Books to finalize all additional Market Information (Sale Price and all final calculations) following the Livestock Auction on Friday evening.
   - ☐ Youth exhibitors must then return the finalized Record Books to the Exhibit Building no later than 9:00 am on Saturday morning following the auction.
   - The Livestock Record Book format is dependent on the exhibitor's age.
     - Cadet (through 7 years of age)
     - Junior (8-11 years of age)
     - Intermediate (12-14 years of age)
     - Senior (15-19 years of age)

   The Livestock Committee will provide a final checklist of record book requirements at the Market Livestock Meetings in January and April (the following are an incomplete list).
   - ☐ Cover page (Exhibitor name, Date, and Photo of student, club name, and the Project Animal Species)
   - ☐ Project Agreement (Species, Breed, Tag color and number, Signatures)
   - ☐ Record Book Contract (first page) (Name, Club name, Project Leader, Signatures)
   - ☐ My Project Animal (Tag number, Sex, Breed, Date acquired, Beginning weight, Final weight)
   - ☐ Total Expenses (Calculate formulas)
   - ☐ Project Goals (Include date completed and anticipated income)
   - ☐ Feed Record (Indicate feed and costs – if no costs incurred, make note)
   - ☐ Expenses Record (If no additional expenses incurred, make note)
   - ☐ Weight Record (Must have minimum Beginning and Final weights)
   - ☐ Project Knowledge (Complete answers)
   - ☐ Project Reflection (Complete answers)
   - ☐ Project Supplement (Complete)
   - ☐ Educational Clinic Receipts (see clinic rules)
   - ☐ Photos (Must have minimum Beginning and Final photos)

6. All youth animal exhibitors must prepare an Exhibitor Card (for small animals), no smaller than 8”x10”, or Exhibitor Poster (for large animals), no smaller than 11”x14”. The Exhibitor Card/Poster must include the requested information about the project, be legible, and not be larger than a standard poster size. All youth exhibitors are required to have their exhibitor card/poster displayed above their animal prior to 9:00 AM, the day after their animal dropped up at the fair. Failure to display the card will result in the removal of the animal from the fairgrounds and make the animal ineligible for the auction.

   Information on the poster should include:
   - Exhibitor name
   - Club name (if applicable)
   - Name of the animal
   - Breed of the animal
   - A photo of Animal and Exhibitor
   - Breeder

   All Market Posters must also include:
   - Beginning weight
   - Ending weight
   - Rate of gain of the animal
   - Total cost of project

   - Livestock Exhibitor Card/Poster _____ species

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   - Livestock Exhibitor Card/Poster _____ species

   - Livestock Exhibitor Card/Poster _____ species

7. All youth Market Livestock Exhibitors must create one educational poster to be displayed in the barns during the Antrim County Fair. This is in addition to their Exhibitor card/poster(s). This poster must feature specific information on one species that they are marketing during this year’s fair. The poster should highlight something factual about that species in a positive and educational way. During the fair, a public vote will be cast to determine the best poster. Prizes will be available on the top two voted posters as well as a third poster winner determined by the Antrim County Fair Board Members.

8. Youth exhibitors are encouraged to safely decorate the area around their exhibitor card/poster to create an eye-catching display. The fair board will award the best decorated pen(s) in each barn.

9. Youth exhibitors must abide by all rules written here and in the Antrim County Fair Book. Violation of any rules will be subject to review by the Antrim County Fair Board.

10. Any situation, or decision regarding a Market Livestock Project not covered by the project rules or these general rules will be directed to the Livestock Committee and put before the Antrim County Fair Board for their consideration and cooperation.

Registration Requirements:

1. Market Livestock project classes may be entered by any youth through age 19. However, **Cadet Exhibitors may only enter small animal market classes and are the only age group who may enter Cornish.** There are no age restrictions on specie conformation and showmanship classes, but please use discretion on child's ability to show larger animals in those classes.
2. Youth exhibitors must submit one Market Livestock Project Agreement for each market project they intend to market by their specified due date (See following pages).
    - Market Livestock Project Agreement and event registration
3. Youth exhibitors may enroll up to four market projects per year with any combination of animal projects; however, exhibitors can only market one project class per project animal. Youth exhibitors cannot market the same project animal in more than one county. Please reference the Project Classes in the "Weight Guidelines" when considering specific market livestock animal projects.

Market Beef – ___Dairy ___Feeder	Market Chickens- __Meat __Production
Market Dairy– ___Dairy ___Feeder	Ducks
Market Sheep	Geese
Market Goat	Turkeys
Market Swine	Rabbits
Other Large-_____	Other Small-_____

Market projects that do not make minimum suggested weight may not be allowed to sell at auction at the discretion of the judge and the Antrim County Fair Board.

4. The following list outlines contract deadlines for market livestock contracts:
    - Market Livestock Project Agreements for Steers and Production Chickens must be submitted by February 1, 2026. No exceptions.
        - **Junior exhibitors** must have completed at least one medium market project in previous years to be allowed to show a Steer.
    - All additional Market Livestock Project Agreements must be submitted by June 1, 2026. No exceptions.
    - Possession date must be calculated backwards from the current year's fair check–in date.
        - (Ex. Market chickens should be at least seven but no more than eight weeks old. Ages are maximums based on exhibitor check–in dates. Length of possession is based on getting birds as day old.)

- All medium and large animals must provide tag numbers, to MDARD standards, to the Antrim County Fair Board with all Livestock Project Agreements by their appropriate due dates. No exceptions.

Exhibitor Requirements during the Fair and Auction

1. Arrive to weigh-in in a timely manner. Check the Antrim County Fair Schedule for current check-in and weigh-in times.
    - Large and Medium Animals: May not come off trailers until approved for unloading.
    - Chickens: Must each be Pullorum-tested before placement in cages.
    - Rabbits: Require department superintendent inspections before placement in cages.

    All exhibitors must prove they can manage their animal(s) safely and humanely before that animal is cleared to stay at fair.
2. Any animal with internal or external parasites or signs of disease or illness will be sent home by order of the department superintendent.
3. Youth must feed, water, and clean pens before 8:30am and again after 4:00pm each day of the Antrim County Fair. Department superintendents will check pens at 9:00am and 5:00pm each day of the fair.

    Not adhering to these requirements will result in the following disciplinary action:
    - First Violation: Verbal Warning.
    - Second Violation: 2 hours of Community Service at the fair.
    - Third Violation: Youth exhibitors must go before the Antrim County Fair Board or Livestock Committee to explain their reason for not fulfilling their obligation. The Board will make a determination regarding the exhibitor's eligibility to participate in the Market Livestock Show and Auction.
5. Animals not cared for may be sent home at the discretion of the Fair Board or Barn Superintendent.
6. Maintaining clean, safe, and healthy environments for animals throughout each day is expected of exhibitors. Animals must be treated humanely and with respect and provided for their continuous well-being through proper feeding, handling, disease prevention, sanitation, and attention to their safety.
7. Youth exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals until delivered to the buyer.
8. Youth should adhere to withdrawal times for any medicated feed and/or medications administered prior to the fair; questions regarding medications should be directed to the Fair Veterinarian.
9. Youth exhibitors are responsible for delivery of their animal, within a reasonable distance, to a place designated by the buyer. Buyers will specify the processor being used, transport arranged, and/or the destination of the animal after the fair during check-out at the Livestock Auction.
10. Youth exhibitors must follow the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) Exhibition Requirements for tagging and moving permit requirements. All rabbits attending Antrim County Fair should be tattooed or marked in their ear for their safety.
11. Neither the Fair Board nor the 4-H Leaders Council will be responsible for any animal left on the grounds after the fair. Youth exhibitors are required to clean pens for large and medium animals after the animal has been removed from the fairgrounds. In the case of small

animals, exhibitors must remove animals into travel containers, hose down, fold, and put each pen in the exhibit building at the end of the fair.

12. All youth exhibitors showing and marketing a livestock project at the Antrim County Fair are required to participate in the breakdown and cleanup of the fairgrounds at the conclusion of the fair. Failure to participate may result in the exhibitor's loss of eligibility to participate in the market livestock show and auction the following year.
13. The market livestock sale will be conducted under the auspices of the Antrim County Fair.
14. Youth exhibitors must submit Auction Cards to a Barn Superintendent no later than 12:00 noon Friday, August 14, 2026. Writing on the auction card must be legible, and in ink, so the auctioneer can read the card. Failure to submit the Auction Card may result in the exhibitor's loss of eligibility to participate in the market livestock show and auction.
15. A sales commission of 5% of the sale price of each animal sold, plus Michigan and national livestock checkoff fees (see below), and hauling fees, will be deducted from each livestock animal's sale price. The money will be used to cover program expenses.
    - USDA Pork Promotion Investment fees (The Pork Checkoff rate is $0.35 per every $100 of the sale price)
    - Michigan Beef Industry Commission and National Cattleman's' Beef Board checkoff fees, (The Michigan checkoff is 10 cents for every $100 of value on cattle raised in Michigan, capped at $1 per head. The Michigan checkoff will be collected along with the national $1 per head checkoff.)
    - American Lamb Board and Michigan Sheep Producers Association checkoff (American Lamb Board the live weight assessment is $.007 per pound and the first handler assessment is $.42 per head. And $0.40 per head to be remitted to the Michigan Sheep Producers Association.)
16. Youth exhibitors will be responsible for sending a thank-you note to the buyer and delivering a photo/plaque within two weeks after buyer photo availability and prior to receiving their check for the market sale. Checks will be available for mailing after buyer invoices have been paid and confirmation of thank you and plaques have been made by contacting the Antrim County Fair Board.
17. Grievances will follow Antrim County Fair rules as stated in their Fair Book:
18. "Any exhibitor may file a complaint regarding conflict of interest of judge, disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor, behavior of exhibitor, leader or superintendent or eligibility of an exhibit to Antrim County Fair Board postmarked within 10 days of last day of fair. Fair Board will call a special meeting to deal with said complaint and notify exhibitor of findings within two weeks of receipt."
19. Each youth marketing a market livestock project is responsible for supporting the Buyer's Dinner. The cost of the dinner is $10 per youth exhibitor. Payment must be submitted to the Antrim County Fair Board no later than June 1, 2026.

Classes and Awards

1. Market and Showmanship: Age of member is the age he/she will be on January 1 of the current fair year. There are no age restrictions on animal types for showmanship or conformation classes, however Market project restrictions are in parentheses below.
    - Senior Showmanship—Member age = 15-19 years
    - Intermediate Showmanship—Member age = 12-14 years
    - Junior Showmanship—Member age = 8-11 years (steers allowed after one year of Medium Market project experience)
    - Cadet Showmanship---Member age = through 7 years (only Small Market allowed)
2. Showmanship is required for all market animals.
    - If Game Birds are entered, exhibitors must participate in showmanship in a poultry class; all other market exhibitors must complete showmanship for the species they are marketing.
    - Showmanship classes may be altered at the discretion of the superintendent.

The Antrim County Fair Board reserves the right to make decisions, up to and including the eligibility to participate, regarding the best interests of the Youth Exhibitors.