



Important Livestock Information June 1, 2026

Garrett County Office
1916 Maryland Highway, Suite A
Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550
Phone: 301-334-6960
Fax: 301-334-6961
lashby@um
www.extensi [1/garrett-county](mailto:lashby@um)



This letter contains a summary of important livestock information about entering your animal at the fair. For more information, please review the 4-H/FFA Market Animal Project Guidebook and Garrett County Fair Premium Book.

Before Fair

Mandatory Online Entry! Online entry is available and required for all animal entries.

The online system and instructions are located at: garrettcountyfair.org. Online entry will be open soon and close on July 24th, 2026, at midnight. If you have any questions, please email entries@garrettcountyfair.org. Online entry will be available for indoor exhibits but not mandatory.

Contacting Buyers – Youth with livestock that will be sold at the fair should do the following: Contact potential buyers (mail, personal visit, etc.) Let buyers know that if they purchased an animal last year, they will receive two fair passes by mail from the Garrett County Livestock Association. If you have potential buyers who did not purchase last year, families may purchase an entry pass for them. You are not expected to provide a list of buyers to the 4-H office.

Pictures – Pictures for buyer posters will need to be uploaded to the link provided by the Garrett County Livestock Association by July 15. Youth will need to be dressed in appropriate show attire with their animals clean and show ready, no hats. Pictures must be recent photos, taken after July 1. The link is: <https://forms.gle/8axSU7rRaVfroU9r5>

Livestock Marketing Brochure – A “Buy Local” brochure is available for 4-H youth to assist with recruiting buyers. The brochure describes how much meat they will get from the animal and value of the meat. Printed brochures are available at the 4-H Office or can be found at this URL: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county/4-h-youth-development/events>

Orientation Meetings – This year there will be two events. On the Wednesday before the fair, July 29th at 6:00 pm, an orientation designed for new exhibitors will be held at the fair show ring. This will include information about all aspects of having an animal at the fair. On Sunday, August 2nd at 5:30 pm, an orientation meeting will be held at the show ring for **all** animal exhibitors. This event will highlight the things that are new or different for this year as well as reminding exhibitors of important rules and responsibilities associated with having a market animal on the fairgrounds.

Self-Certification of Animal Health & Health Forms – All animal exhibitors (beef, sheep, swine, goat, poultry & rabbits) must fill out a self-certification section of the animal health form prior to bringing animals, that shall be presented along with the completed health form to the superintendent at check-in for review. The forms will be returned to exhibitor during fair week. Animals housed outside of Garrett County must have Interstate Health Form. A licensed veterinarian will be available to conduct a walk-through health check after all animals are in place in the barns. During fair week, any medical issues of exhibited animals will be the responsibility of the exhibitor and families should call their regular veterinarian to arrange for advice or care.

Entry Day

Entry day for **all** livestock is Sunday, August 2, 2026. Weigh-in will be held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. (Dairy must be on the grounds by noon on Monday). Debbie Barnard will serve as Livestock Coordinator. She will coordinate all activities using the show ring. Each species section has superintendents to work with activities during the week. If you have questions, contact Debbie or the appropriate superintendent.

Fairgrounds Entrance – All animals arriving on the Fairgrounds must use the main entrance off Mosser Road. Animals may be unloaded in the barn areas only. Unloading of animals between the barn area and the main exhibit barn and old fair office area *will not be permitted*. The Rt. 219 gate will not be available for vehicle traffic or walk-ins.

Livestock & Horse Trailers – All exhibitors will be expected to take their livestock trucks and trailers home and not park them on the fairgrounds during Fair Week. Trailers left on the Fair Grounds will need to pay \$100.00 for a trailer-parking permit.

Weigh-in – Before approaching the scales for weighing, please remove all blankets and covers. Once the scale gates have closed, step away from the scale to ensure there is no interference with final weight measurement.

Tagging – There cannot be more than one of beef, sheep, swine, or goat tagged or sold per member. A member can only show and sell two (2) market animals (beef, sheep, swine, goats, rabbits or chickens.)

Steers – Members who have any concerns that their steer may be jumpy or nervous should ask to be weighed last and the exhibitor should have helpers at the scales.

Sheep & Goats – Exhibitors must remove covers at the time they are weighed. Covers must also be removed from 4:30pm to 5:30pm on Sunday after check in for a health check. Exercise time for sheep will take place in the show ring on Sunday evening from following the exhibitor meeting and Monday morning from 6am-7am. Exercise time for goats will take place in the show ring on Monday evening following the sheep show and Tuesday morning from 6am-7am.

Rabbits & Poultry – All rabbits and poultry need to be entered between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm on Saturday. All rabbits & poultry will need a completed self-certification form and state registration/testing forms. All poultry & rabbits will be checked as part of the Sunday health check. Any poultry without the required leg bands will be dismissed. Rabbits will need a tattoo in their left ear for the fair. All exhibitors need to be present for rabbit judging. Exhibitors planning to bring meat rabbits (pen of three) or meat birds (pen of 2) to fair will be required to finalize the livestock card with the superintendent at check in to be eligible for the livestock sale at the fair. *All poultry exhibitions will be immediately cancelled by MDA if a case of HPAI is reported. *

Eligibility – Classes are open to currently enrolled Garrett County 4-H or FFA Club members. Exhibitors must be enrolled in 4-H work on or before June 1, of current year. (Youth must be 8 years of age by Jan. 1 and be in good standing with FFA or 4-H.) Members of 4-H/FFA may only exhibit livestock projects in one county's 4-H/FFA program in order to be eligible to exhibit at the Garrett County Fair.

Animal Exhibitor Entry – Animal exhibit entry takes place in the show ring. Bring your fair entry papers, animal health papers, Self Certification forms, and stall cleaning fee to each species check in table. Each exhibitor will be charged \$5.00 per animal by the Fair Board on entry day for stall cleaning. Species check in tables will distribute stall cards, and you will draw numbers for sale order. Wristbands are being used this year for admission to the fairgrounds. The wristbands will be distributed to exhibitors and drivers at the show ring on Sunday, Aug. 2nd between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. To receive your wristbands, bring your completed entry form to the show ring. Any exhibitor who does not pick up their wristbands during this time will need to go to the fair office to get a wristband. Siblings who are not exhibiting are not eligible for wristbands but may purchase daily



passes at one of the several advance ticket sales locations throughout the county or at the fair office during the week of the fair. Visit the fair's website at www.garrettcountyfair.org for the advance ticket sale locations. During the week, damaged wristbands will be replaced at the fair office; however, lost wristbands will not be replaced.

Signs – All signs/animal names are expected to have appropriate names and/or themes. Use the 4-H/FFA Behavioral Expectations as a guide. If you have a question, please ask. Do not put signs up in barns until 5:30 pm on Sunday.

Stall Cards –Cards will be available from each department superintendent in the show ring during check-in. Afterwards they will be available at the fair 4-H office. Cards must be displayed for all livestock.

Animal Health Rejections – Animals may be rejected from an exhibition, either denied entry or removed from the exhibition, as described below:

- Failure to provide completed documentation is grounds for rejection.
- Suspicion of communicable disease is adequate grounds for rejection. **Confirmed diagnosis is not required** since timely removal of suspicious animals is required by law to protect the remaining animals.
- Livestock with clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases or external parasites are not permitted entry or allowed to remain at the exhibition. Clinical signs include but are not limited to active lesions of ringworm with resulting loss of hair, sore mouth, sore nose, caseous lymphadenitis, mange, or multiple warts easily visible without close examination.
- Exposed animals may be rejected if it is believed that there is a potentially serious communicable disease present. All animals originating with the suspect animal may be rejected. Vesicular disease are of particular concern.
- All decisions are final.
- All parties involved will be notified of all rejects, including exhibit sponsors and supervisors.

Animal rejects can be made by MDA Animal Health veterinarians or field inspectors, private veterinarians contracted by the show, University of Maryland Extension employees, or individuals designated by the fair or show as a “responsible person.”

Underweight and overweight animals – Underweight and overweight market animals may be able to remain on the grounds (if space allows). These under and overweight animals (steers, hogs, lambs, and goats) will have the opportunity to be judged in a super light weight or super heavy weight class in their respective species and will be eligible for the premiums that are established for each species. Exhibitors with under or overweight animals will also be able to participate in showmanship for that species. Under and overweight animals will not be eligible to compete for division or overall championship honors. Under and overweight animals are not eligible for rate of gain or the market livestock sale on Saturday evening. Any exhibitor of an under or overweight animal will be responsible to transport that animal from the fairgrounds at the conclusion of the fair. Any animal remaining on the fairgrounds Monday morning at 9:00am, following the fair will become property of the Garrett County Fair and will be taken to stockyard.

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| Fair Week |
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Show Ringmasters – Each show will have a ringmaster who will be available to provide assistance to youth in the ring. Parents are reminded that they are not permitted in the show ring while children are showing.

Small Animal Pens – must be cleaned out to the ground by Friday at noon. New bedding will be available.

Fair Gates – The gates will be open and will not be manned before 9:00 am. Regular fair entry rules will apply after 9:00 am. Call 301-387-5400 for help with feed and a gator.

Show & Sale Attire – Proper show attire is required for all fitting and showing, breeding shows, market shows, pictures and the livestock sale. Please see page #7 of the 2026 Guidebook. This includes appropriate footwear, nice slacks/jeans (no holes or stains), nice dress shirts with sleeves and collar. No hats or attire with inappropriate logos.

Parents & Youth – Each year there are several questions raised regarding the handling and grooming of livestock for the fair. The following examples may help answer these questions.

| OK | Not OK |
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| During a show, the exhibitor needs to make final preparations to the animal outside of the show ring. A parent or helper is holding the animal while the exhibitor does the final preparation. | During a show, the exhibitor needs to make final preparations to the animal outside of the show ring. The exhibitor is holding the animal while a parent or helper is making final preparations. |
| An exhibitor needs help leading a steer to the wash rack or moving a hog to the show ring. A parent or helper is moving the animal for the exhibitor while the exhibitor is present or helping. | A parent or helper leads and washes the animal and the exhibitor is not helping. |
| A parent or helper carries a bucket of water, a bag of feed, or a bale of straw to an animal for an exhibitor. | A parent or helper feeds, waters and beds an animal while the exhibitor is away from the animal. |
| Any guidance provided from an immediate family member, other Maryland 4-H/FFA youth or a county adult leader with the youth participating. | Anytime the youth is not fully participating in the grooming process of their animal, for example, youth is sitting nearby, watching, or not present in the area where the grooming is being done. |

In general, many exhibitors need help handling and grooming animals during the fair. After all, the livestock project is intended as a learning experience. Exhibitors will not learn the correct ways to handle and groom livestock without help from parents or older youth. However, there will be times when too much help is offered and the exhibitor finds him/herself watching and not doing. Remember, the goal for livestock projects, is for youth to have an opportunity to learn to keep records and participate in the care of their animal. If each exhibitor will carefully follow the guidelines, the livestock shows will go smoothly and all youth should have a positive experience at the fair.

Grooming – Daily hair and skin products are allowed, such as shampoo and conditioner. No adhesive, paints, hair building products, or color altering products are allowed.

Bio-security – Keeping everyone safe and healthy is a top priority during the fair. To ensure the safety of all participants and fair visitors, always remember:

Wash your hands after being in the barns; No food or drink in the barns.

Don't kiss the animals; No toys, pacifiers, cups, or strollers in the barns.

We want everyone to have a fun, healthy and safe fair.

Rabbit Show- Just a reminder, rabbits will show on Monday at 9:00 am. Rabbit exhibitors who do not have other livestock will be given a one-day pass for the show on Monday.

Swine Exhibits

1. Swine bedding will be provided by the Fair.
2. There will be wash pens available where exhibitors will be able to bathe their pigs. Pigs will not be bathed in the pens due to the switch to dry bedding. Water nipples for the pigs will remain in the pens.
3. Pig pens must be cleaned daily, and cleaning must be completed by 12 noon.
4. It will not be necessary to completely empty the pens of the dry bedding each day. Exhibitors will need to clean up any manure in the pens at least daily. We anticipate that a complete change of the dry bedding will be necessary at least 2 times during the week of the fair. Garrett County Fair Livestock Committee members will monitor the conditions in the barn to help determine if the bedding needs to be completely changed more often.
5. Overhead fans are installed in the swine barn, *therefore individual fans will not be allowed.*

6. There will be an opportunity to exercise pigs in the show ring on Tuesday after 10:30 pm or Wednesday 6:00 am – 7:00 am.
7. Swine exhibitors will be responsible to move their pigs to and from the show ring at the appointed times. There will be adults in the barn to inform exhibitors about what class is in the ring or on deck. Adults will assist as needed.
8. There will be a registered swine breeding class offered at the Garrett County Fair this year. There will be two classes, Fall Gilts and Spring Gilts. Exhibitors may only make one entry in any one class.

Cleaning - Cleaning the show ring and walkways between barns is the responsibility of all exhibitors. Example: If the swine show is Wednesday evening, the swine exhibitors would clean the ring and the walkways Thursday morning. Please give your time to help keep the areas clean. All animals should be fed, washed, and in stalls by 12 noon except show day. Please observe the 11:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. curfew of not feeding or disturbing the animals.

Livestock Skillathon –The Skillathon will be held on Monday, August 3rd at 12:00 PM in the Ag Heritage Hall. If you have not preregistered, please arrive 15 minutes early. Awards will be presented one (1) hour after the conclusion of the contest in the Ag Heritage Hall.

Participants will be tested on their general knowledge of farm & livestock. Parts of the test will include identification of breeds, body parts, equipment, grains & minerals and meat cuts, quality assurance and written (multiple choice) exam.

We encourage new participants not to feel overwhelmed and to use this as a fun learning experience. Each year our participation continues to grow.

There will be a Clover division. This is a learning opportunity for Clover members. Clover participants will not be judged, and they will each receive a participation gift. New for this year we plan to divide the clovers up into 2 divisions based on age. Early registration is encouraged. Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/GzREafTi2L8bWiPK9>

The first 50 participants registered before July 11 will receive a complimentary T-shirt. If you do not pre-register by this date, we cannot guarantee you a shirt. The fair board offers a \$5.00 Participation Premium to Skillathon participants. **To receive this premium, it is your responsibility to include it in your Fair Entry Form.**

The awards, premium and t shirts would not be possible without our generous group of sponsors! Those sponsors donating at least \$50 will have their names printed on the back of the T-shirts. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Crystal or Lilah.

Parents are not permitted to help their child during the Skillathon. If you feel your child will need special assistance during the Skillathon please include that in your registration. All Juniors will have the written part of the exam read to them in groups. If you are unable to complete the registration, have questions or concerns, or are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Crystal DeBerry at 301-268-5402.

Livestock Sale

Awards – Livestock citizenship & scholarship awards program will be held at 8:30am at the show ring on Saturday, August 8th. All other trophies and awards will be presented after each show.

Sale – The sale will start at **10:00 a.m.** on Saturday, August 8, 2026. Sale order will be Sheep, Beef, Chickens, Pigs, Rabbits, Goats. Animals may be donated to charities. There will be no resale of animals. The following animals must be sold: Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and County Bred Grand Champion and County Bred Reserve Grand Champion market animals. The sale bill will be available on-line on the Garrett County Extension website and also on the Garrett County Agricultural Fair website as soon as possible. In addition, a printed copy will be posted in the barns as soon as it is finalized.

Release of Exhibits – Livestock only may be removed after 11:00 pm on Saturday, August 8, 2026. Indoor exhibits will be released on Sunday, August 9, 2026, from 11:00am – 1:00pm only. No indoor exhibits will be removed

on Saturday, August 8th. Any animal remaining on the fairgrounds Monday morning at 9:00am, following the fair will become property of the Garrett County Fair and will be taken to stockyard.

Final Night – Cleaning of the pens at the end of the Fair will be the responsibility of the Fair Board. Beef must be left tied with a halter after the sale. Put a nametag on your halter (tags will be available). Halters may be picked up at the University of Maryland Extension Garrett office the following week after Wednesday. The final Fair clean-up will be on Saturday night, August 8 and Sunday, August 9. All 4-H/FFA members, parents, leaders, and friends are needed to help.

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| After Fair |
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Thank-You Cards/Letters – Thank-you cards/letters to all buyers and trophy/award sponsors **are important and required** and should be done immediately after the fair. All trophies should have a sticker on the bottom with the award sponsor's name and address. All thank-you letters (stamped, sealed and ready to mail) must be turned in to the Livestock Association at the University of Maryland Extension Garrett office or given to your 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor by September 1. If given to leader or FFA Advisor, they need to notify the University of Maryland Extension Garrett Office. **Checks will not be issued until thank-you letters are sent.** Checks from the sale will be released by September 15.

The Fair is an excellent opportunity for exhibitors to highlight their project work, as well as to help educate the public about animal safety, care of animals, and the value of participating in youth livestock programs. Let us work together to make this a great fair.

Sincerely,

Lacie Ashby

Lacie Ashby

Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

cc: All Market Livestock Superintendents
Vernon Paugh, President of GC Livestock Assoc.
Jason Rush, President of GC Ag Fair
Animal Health Lab
Debra Barnard, Livestock Coordinator
4-H Club Organizational Leaders
FFA Organizational Advisors

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact us at (301) 334-6960 by June 13, 2024.