



Hello,

We have released a "revised" 2026 Garrett County Livestock Guidebook due to some important date changes. Please use this Guidebook to guide your animal projects for the 2026 fair to have accurate information for planning and preparation.

Firstly, the fair dates listed in the guidebook have been revised to reflect recently announced changes from the Garrett County Fair Board. Garrett County Fair will take place Aug 1-8, 2026. The GCLA sale will therefore be Saturday Aug.8, 2026 starting at 10:00 AM.

Additionally, the recently released MDA Fairs and Shows Animal Health regulations shared that Maryland CVI's are valid for 60 days (no longer 120 days). Therefore health paper requirements have been updated in the guidebook as well. Health papers are required for any MD fairs and shows, including the Western MD District Show. However, health papers will not be required at spring weigh in if you are only weighing/tagging and going back home.

Please review the revised guidebook at your earliest convenience to familiarize yourself with these changes, and keep it handy throughout the 4-H year.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

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4-H/FFA Market Animal Project

Guidebook ~ 2026

Revised 3/1/26

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Checklist	Due Date	Action/Event
	January 31, 2026	4-H Online enrollment, Record Books Due, and Garrett County Livestock Association (GCLA) contract due
	April	Schedule veterinarian health checks for animals that will attend Spring Weigh-In or be shown at the Spring Preview Show (see page 5 for details)
	April – July 1	Complete Quality Assurance training if needed (see page 3 for details)
	May 1, 2026	Register Online for Spring Weigh-In Appointment, required for any animals being tagged
	May 1, 2026	Register on paper form for District Livestock Show, if you choose to show
	May 8, 2026 noon – 8:00 pm	Spring Weigh-In
	May 9, 2026	Western Maryland District Livestock Show @Garrett County Fairgrounds
	May - July 15	Online registration for fair entries at https://garrettcountyfair.org (see page 7 for details)
	June	Schedule veterinarian health checks for market animals that have not previously been completed (see page 5 for details)
NEW	June 1	Pen of 3 Market Rabbits, and Pen of 2 Market Chickens - Registration Cards Due
	July 15	Picture of exhibitor with each market animal sent to GCLA (see page 7 for details)
	August 1, 2026 10:00am–4:00 pm	Entry of rabbits and poultry in the Garrett County Fair
	August 2, 2026 9:00 am–4:00 pm	Entry of all market animals in the Garrett County Fair
NEW	August 8, 2026 *10:00 AM*	4-H & FFA Livestock Sale at the Garrett County Fair *Please note new TIME*
	September 1	Thank you cards/letters to your buyers and award donors must be turned into the UME Garrett 4-H office before you will receive your check for the sale of your market animal. Fair premium and livestock checks cashed with 30 days of receiving
	November 7, 2026 8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Beef Weigh-In for 2027 Garrett County Fair
	January 31, 2027	4-H record books from leaders to UME Garrett County 4-H Office due, GCLA contracts due, 4-H Online enrollment due

Garrett Co. Livestock Association

Officers (Elected for 2-year term)

President: (301) 616-2781
2026 Vernon Paugh 1557 Harmon Rd
Accident, MD 21520

Vice President: (240) 321-1628
2027 Sam Wright 1722 Green Glade Rd
Swanton, MD 21561

Secretary: (240) 321-6836
2026 Annie Rugola 1454 Wilson Corona Rd
Oakland, MD 21550

Treasurer: (240) 321-0553
2027 Jackie Wright 1722 Green Glade Rd
Swanton, MD 21561

Directors (Elected for 3-year term)

2026 Chas Stoner (301) 616-7735
1354 Rosco Lantz Rd
Aurora, WV 26705

2026 Andrew Harvey (802) 359-3832
4251 Pleasant Valley Rd
Oakland, MD 21550

2027 Crystal DeBerry (301) 268-5402
203 DeBerry Lane
Oakland, MD 21550

2027 Sandy Harvey (301)-501-2968
4243 Pleasant Valley Rd
Oakland, MD 21550

2028 Ryan VanNosdeln (240) 321-5650
1076 Williams Rd
Grantsville, MD 21536

2028 Melinda Stoner (304) 698-5072
1354 Rosco Lantz Rd
Aurora, WV 26705

Youth Representatives

Southern 4-H/FFA: Matthew Stoner
Chloe Campbell

Northern 4-H/FFA: Chase Preston
Brady Garlitz

Agricultural Education Instructors

FFA-NHS (301) 746-8688
Becky Yost Northern High School
86 Pride Parkway
Accident, MD 21520

FFA-SHS (301) 334-1580
Jolene Custer Southern High School
345 Oakland Dr.
Oakland, MD 21550

Extension Educators

University of Maryland Extension
Garrett County Office
1916 Maryland Highway, Suite A
Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550
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Lacie Ashby 4-H Youth Development
Willie Lantz Agricultural & Natural Resources

Veterinarians

Casselman Veterinary Services
77 Hemlock Drive
Grantsville, MD 21536
(301) 895-3109

Pineview Veterinary Hospital
85 Pineview Dr.
Oakland, MD 21550
(301)-334-8393

Rules and Guidelines for Market Animal Projects for the Livestock Sale at the Garrett Co. Fair

Introduction:

The following rules and general information are to be followed by each exhibitor. Additional rules are found in the Garrett County Fair premium book. Please keep this copy handy and refer to it as necessary. Any questions not covered may be referred to your club leader, 4-H Extension Educator, or FFA advisor. You have just made a large investment by deciding to raise, show, and sell a market animal. This guidebook was compiled to provide information that will help you to learn and succeed in raising your animal.

Membership:

- Youth entering a market animal in the Garrett County Livestock Association Sale at the Garrett County Fair must be enrolled in a Garrett County 4-H Club by January 31, 2026 or a Garrett County FFA Chapter by November 30, 2025 and abide by that organization's rules for active membership.
- 4-H membership requires a completed 4-H Online enrollment, behavioral expectations, and Garrett County Livestock Association contract. 4-H members must have passed their 8th birthday and must not have reached their 19th birthday on January 1 of the current year.
- FFA members must have annual dues paid in their local FFA Chapter for the current year and be conducting a Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) under the guidance of the local FFA Advisor. FFA members cannot have passed their nineteenth birthday as of January 1 of the current year when competing in the same class with 4-H members.
- A project record for each market animal **tagged** must be completed and submitted to be eligible to sell a market animal the next year. 4-H Records are due January 31st to the UME Garrett Office. FFA members submit records to Agricultural Education Instructors by their deadlines and verification sent to GCLA by January 31st from the FFA member and/or FFA Advisor. All market records will be reviewed for accuracy.
- In addition to remaining a member in good standing in their particular 4-H club or FFA chapter, market livestock exhibitors must also meet the attendance requirements set forth by the GCLA. The GCLA requires that for 4-H clubs holding 8 meetings or less, a member may be allowed to miss only one meeting. The GCLA requires that for 4-H clubs holding 9 meetings or more a member may be allowed to miss two meetings. The FFA member must attend 75% of the meetings held to meet the attendance requirements.
- 4-H and FFA members whose attendance does not meet this requirement may attend one or two of the events listed below as make up meetings:
 - ◀ Fall meeting and picnic (date to be announced)
 - ◀ Helping at the Livestock Association set up meeting at the fairgrounds for the Western Maryland District Show
 - ◀ Showing a market animal at the Western Maryland District Livestock Show
 - ◀ Fair clean-up and preparation (date to be announced)
- 4-H club leaders and FFA chapter advisors will record members' attendance and will submit the current year's attendance records to the GCLA for review. Exhibitors that do not meet the attendance requirement will not be eligible to sell a market livestock animal at the current year's sale. The GCLA Board of Directors and Officers will review any circumstances requiring arbitration of eligibility to offer an animal in the sale.
- Youth in last year of 4-H/FFA eligibility: If a member finds they are not able to attend all club meetings because of college classes or work commitments and want to tag and sell a market animal - they may submit to the Livestock Association a letter requesting a waiver of attendance. An attendance waiver from older youth must be received by the Livestock Association by October 1st. If a situation changes after that date, the member should submit the waiver request as soon as possible (prior to missing meetings). Waivers will not be granted retroactively for meetings already missed. To be eligible for a waiver members should have met the requirements and record book completion

for the past three years. Youth receiving a waiver are encouraged to participate as much as possible in club and county educational programs.

- ***NEW*** Livestock Exhibition/Sale Eligibility: To be eligible to exhibit and/or sell a species of animal (the “Animal”) at the Garrett County Agricultural Fair, the person seeking to exhibit and/or sell (the “Exhibitor”) must meet the following criteria:
 - a. The Exhibitor and the Animal must reside in Garrett County or within ten air miles of the Garrett County border.
 - b. If the Exhibitor and/or the Animal do not reside in Garrett County or within ten air miles of the Garrett County border, the Exhibitor may apply to the Garrett County Fair Board Livestock Advisory Committee for a special exemption to the rule above.
- Garrett County Fair - 4-H and FFA livestock exhibits: Classes are open to those currently enrolled in Garrett County 4-H or FFA clubs and are in good standing. Members of 4-H and FFA may only exhibit livestock projects in one county’s 4-H/FFA program (s) in order to be eligible to exhibit at the Garrett County Fair.
- 4-H/FFA members choosing to sell a market animal with either youth organization at another county level fair must relinquish their tagging and sale privileges for market animals at the GCLA livestock sale. This applies to all other county level fairs, expos, and festival livestock sales, no matter the youth organization. Members found in violation by the GCLA board will be ineligible for the following year sale. Example:
 - A 4-H member of Garrett County selling a market animal at another county under FFA will not be permitted to tag or sell any market animals for the GCLA sale.
 - An FFA member of Garrett County selling a market animal at another county under 4-H will not be permitted to tag or sell any market animals for the GCLA sale.
- Individual market animals can only be tagged and designated for one county level fair and designated as 4-H or FFA.
- Maryland 4-H and FFA On-Line Animal Husbandry & Quality Assurance (AH&QA) is an on-line training requirement managed by the Maryland State 4-H Office. The program usually opens around April 1 and closes on August 10, however, 4-H exhibitors must complete the training before showing animals at the fair. The program includes caring for, grooming and showing animals in safe and ethical ways. All 4-H members enrolled in alpacas, beef, dairy, goats, horse and pony, llamas, poultry, sheep, swine and rabbits are required complete the training to be eligible to exhibit their project animals. 4-Hers are required to complete the on-line training program when they reach each 4-H age division (Juniors (ages 8-10), Intermediates (ages 11-13), Seniors (ages 14-18) – all as of January 1 of the current year) OR when as Intermediates and Seniors, they are new to an animal science project listed above. Thus, each time a member enters a new age division, they will be required to complete the training PLUS if an Intermediate or Senior 4- H member chooses to show a new species since last completing the program within an age division they must return to program and complete the program for the new species area.

Website for Quality Assurance: <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/animal-sciences>

Look for the tab Animal Science Resources and then scroll down to 4-H Online Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance (AH&QA) Program to view the guidelines and access the Online AH&QA Program modules.

Tagging and Identifying Market Animals:

Members may tag three (3), but only show and sell two (2) market animals (market beef, market sheep, market swine, market goats, pen of market rabbits or pen of market chickens). There cannot be more than one beef, sheep, swine, goat, pen of rabbits, or pen of chickens tagged or sold. It is mandatory that market animals be identified by a Maryland State 4-H ear ID tag by the established deadline. **If a tag is lost prior to fair weigh-in, contact the UME Garrett 4-H Office immediately.**

NEW Exhibitors planning to bring meat rabbits (pen of three) or broiler chickens (pen of two) to the fair will be required to complete a livestock card **by June 1 to the UME 4-H Office** to be eligible for the livestock sale at the fair.

4-H Livestock Housing Location:

4-H project animals should be housed at a location that maximizes the 4-H member's ability to be directly responsible for daily care of the animals.

- The preferred location to house 4-H project animals is at the home of the 4-H member.
- When project animals cannot be housed at the home of the 4-H member, the preferred locations would be at the home of a direct relative or an approved UME volunteer.
- Animals should be housed within the county of 4-H enrollment whenever feasible.
- 4-H project animals should not be housed at the residence of the person selling or providing the 4-H member the project animal when that person has a vested interest in the competitive status of the animals in the show ring.

Source: MD 4-H Animal Science Program Guidebook

County Bred Class (as per Garrett County Fair):

Market animals that are bred by a full time Garrett County resident and born in Garrett County are eligible for competition in the County Bred Champion program. Embryo transplanted animals will be considered county bred when the following conditions have been met:

1. The breeder must own both the donor dam and the recipient dam.
2. Offspring must be born in Garrett County.
3. The breeder must be a full time resident of Garrett County.

All county-bred animals must be identified as such at the initial weigh-in and tagging for the species. County bred animals that are not able to be tagged at weigh-in due to a medical issue (a veterinarian's advice), can still be authorized at weigh-in as county bred if the owner brings the completed animal card to the check-in station at the fairgrounds on weigh-in day. At weigh-in and tagging, the exhibitor must note the name of the county producer from whom the animal was purchased and, the producer must sign the attestation statement on the card used to record the animal's information at weigh-in and tagging. Animals may not be designated as county bred animals after the initial weigh-in and tagging date. The cards are generally mailed in April, however if you are going to a county producer for an animal before this you can pick up a card at the 4-H Office and have the producer complete the card at that time.

Fall Weigh-In: November

Beef: A fall weigh-in is held for beef steers in November. Only steers weighed and tagged in November are eligible to be shown at the fair. Rate of gain for steers will be calculated using the November weigh-in weights and the fair entry weight. Steers are ear tagged and vaccinations are available. Health checks are not done at fall weigh-in because it is too early for the show season. MDA requires that health checks are completed within 90 days of the first show.

Vaccination of beef for the bovine respiratory complex and BVD may be given at fall weigh-in. Remember, if a killed BVD vaccine is used, a booster needs to be given 10 to 14 days after the first shot. Immunity should be adequate through the summer show season. All steers must be neutered and healed prior to 4-H weigh-in and tagging. The only exception would be animals that have obvious signs they have been banded, however, their scrotal sack is still intact.

Update from Maryland Dept. of Agriculture (MDA)

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) requires all market swine and cattle to have a USDA Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tag.

Breeders and/or exhibitors may purchase their own RFID tags. It is the expectation from MDA that RFID tags would be provided by breeders prior to the sale of swine and cattle to exhibitors.

Why are RFID tags required?

Radio-frequency identification (RFID) uses electromagnetic fields to automatically identify and track tags attached to objects. In animals, the RFID tags make it easier to identify animals quickly and from a safe distance. Using a "reader" coordinators of livestock shows and sales can identify animals as they pass through a gate. In some cases, the RFID tag can help livestock producers with record keeping such as vaccination and other health information.

- Cattle/Swine exhibitors:
 - Cattle and Swine are required to have a USDA RFID tag and also a MD 4-H tag.
- Sheep and Goat exhibitors:
 - Sheep and goats are required to have both an official scrapie ID tag and also a MD 4-H tag.

All animals must have their tags prior to the veterinarian completing the animal health papers. If you would like to view the complete list of requirements from MDA, please see the following website:

<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>

MDA Health Forms, also known as Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection (CVI) forms are required for all exhibited animals. Contact your veterinarian to make arrangements for getting health forms completed for all animals that will be shown at the District Show or Garrett County Fair. Exhibitors should have a copy of the completed animal health form available at each show check-in along with complete Self Certification of Animal Health Form.

Animal Health Checks:

To arrange for health checks, you must contact your veterinarian 4 weeks prior to the animal's first event and schedule a date and time that works for you. There will not be a veterinarian doing health checks at weigh-in.

Which animals must have a health check in **April**?

All animals that will be exhibited at the Western Maryland District Livestock Show.

***Health papers are required only for those animals staying to show at the Western Maryland District Show. Animals weighing/tagging only do not need health papers to attend.**

*Sheep and goat exhibitors requiring a flock check. (This applies to farms that have sheep or goats on their farm in addition to those that will be brought to 4-H shows) These same health papers will be valid for the GC Fair with completion of the self-certification.

Which animals must have a health check in **June**?

All exhibitors bringing animals to the Garrett County Fair.

Out-of-state animals must have health checks within 30 days of a show. Exhibitors will have to make arrangements with their veterinarian.

Spring Weigh-In: May 2026

The Livestock Association will conduct a spring weigh-in in May. The following animals will be weighed and/or tagged as needed:

- Market sheep
- Commercial breeding sheep that do not yet have a MD 4-H Commercial tag
- Market swine
- Market goats
- Commercial breeding goats that do not yet have a MD 4-H Commercial tag
- Commercial Beef Heifers that do not yet have a MD 4-H Commercial tag

These animals must be the bona fide property of the youth by this date. Weigh-in weights will be the beginning weight for market rate-of-gain calculations for market animals.

All male livestock market animals must be neutered and healed prior to 4-H weigh-in and tagging. The only exception would be animals that have obvious signs they have been banded, however, their scrotal sack is still intact.

- **Market Steers** may be brought to the spring weigh-in to be weighed, but this is NOT mandatory. Hoof trimming may be available if there is sufficient interest.
- **Market Sheep** must be ewe or wether and have a USDA Scrapie ID Tag and a 4-H tag.
- **Commercial Class for Breeding Beef** must have the USDA RFID tag and the MD 4-H tag.
- **Commercial Class for Breeding Sheep** are required to have both an official scrapie ID tag and the MD 4-H tag.
- **Market Swine** must be a barrow or gilt. Swine are required to have a USDA RFID tag and a 4-H tag.
- **Market Goats** may be wethers or does. Horns should be blunted. All goats must have a USDA Scrapie ID Tag and a 4-H tag.
- **Commercial Class for Breeding Goats** are required to have a USDA Scrapie ID tag and the MD 4-H tag.

The Garrett County Livestock Association is not responsible for injury to any animals during the unloading, weighing, and reloading of animals during the fall and spring weigh in.

Western Maryland District Livestock Show will be held at the Garrett County Fairgrounds in a Saturday in May. Registration information will be available. All Garrett County youth participating in the Western Maryland District Livestock Show must weigh their animal on Friday evening and the animal must remain on the fairgrounds through the show.

Keep your copy of the animal's health form. It must be brought with your animals for fair check-in.

Garrett County Fair

Pictures: Pictures for buyer posters showing 4-H and FFA members with each market livestock entry are required to be taken by families and uploaded to the link provided by the Garrett County Livestock Association by **July 15**. Exhibitors should be in show attire for the picture with their animals, clean and show ready. Pictures must be recent photos, taken within 30 days of the Fair. Please do not crop pictures. Photos can also be emailed to garrettcountylivestock@gmail.com. If you have questions call Jackie Wright at 240-321-0553.

Animal Show, Sale & Picture Attire: - Proper show attire is required for all fitting and showing, breeding shows, market shows, pictures and the livestock sale.

1. Safe, appropriate attire, including footwear, is required at all times. No sandals or lightweight tennis shoes. Good work shoes or boots are best.
2. Black or dark-color or khaki slacks/jeans are required. White shirts or nice dress shirts with sleeves and collar are required. Girls may wear long dark or khaki colored skirts.

3. Members exhibiting through FFA will need to follow FFA official dress requirements for showing livestock (white collared shirt, neck tie/scarf, black pants, and jacket). Students who have been chapter officers have the option of wearing official officer polo's and khakis.
4. No hats in the show ring or sale ring.
5. Appropriate neckpieces may be worn.
6. Unacceptable attire includes t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts & shirts with inappropriate logos (such as advertising for alcohol, tobacco or farm names).
7. Faded or jeans with holes are not allowed.
8. Proper show items for your animal are required. Example: Swine: Hog cane or flapper and a brush. Beef: Show stick, comb, and show halter.

Fair: The Garrett County Fair Board will have **online entry** available for all exhibitor categories. Online entry will be mandatory for all 4-H livestock exhibitors. Information is available on the Garrett County Fair website at <https://garrettcountyfair.org/> If you have questions about the online registration please call Shaina Saturday at 724-562-3036.

Weigh-In: A licensed Veterinarian will check for castration and general health condition of all market animals at the time of fair weigh-in. All castrations must be completely healed. The Garrett County Fair Advisory Committee will disqualify any animal found to have one or more testicles (i.e. cryptorchids, no matter what size or condition) and the animal must then be removed from the fairgrounds.

Animal health care is very important. Before giving any medication, please read all labels carefully and administer under the advisement of a veterinarian. Check your animal regularly for any signs of parasites, lice, ring worm, warts or any other health issues and treat appropriately. The health status of animals will be checked on entry day and/or upon the arrival of a state or local veterinarian. If at any time during a livestock exhibition event an animal is found to be of poor health or condition, it may be necessary for the animal to be removed from the fairgrounds. The decision to have an animal removed is at the discretion of the Livestock Advisory Committee and/or local or state veterinarians or Maryland Department of Agriculture staff.

- **Market Beef:** Must weigh a minimum of 1000 lbs. at the fair weigh-in. All horns must be removed. If stub horns return, eligibility will be determined by the Garrett County Fair Advisory Committee.
- **Market Sheep:** Sheep must weigh between 90 -150 lbs. at the fair weigh-in. A market lamb must be a wether or ewe. Market lambs must be slick shorn. Exhibitors must remove covers at the time they are weighed. Covers must also be removed from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm on Sunday for a health check.

It is recommended that market lamb tails be docked no shorter than the distal end (farthest point from the body) of the caudal tail fold to avoid rectal prolapse.

- **Market Swine:** Swine must weigh between 220—300 lbs. at the fair weigh-in. It is recommended that swine have a minimum of one half inch of hair at market weight.
- **Market Goats:** Market goats may be of a meat breed, a crossbreed or dairy breed. Market goats must weigh between 50—110 lbs.at the fair weigh-in. They must be wethers or does and horns must be blunted. Market Goats must be less than 1 year in age. Exhibitors must remove covers at the time they are weighed. Covers must also be removed from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm on Sunday for a health check.
- **Market Rabbits:** Pen of three (3) under 10 weeks old and between 3 to 5 pounds. Meat type rabbits only, no crossbreeds. (Only champion and reserve champion pens will be sold).
- **Market Poultry:** Meat birds (2) between 8 and 16 weeks old - (Only champion and reserve champion will be sold).

GENERAL NOTES

4-H Animal Ownership Deadlines for the Maryland State Fair and the Garrett County Fair.

Animal	Maryland State Fair	Garrett County Fair
Beef Steers	January 1	November Weigh-in
Commercial Heifers	July 1	Spring Weigh-in
Dairy Steers—Market	January 1	N/A
Market Goats	June 1	Spring Weigh-in
Commercial Goat	July 1	Spring Weigh-in
Market Sheep	June 1	Spring Weigh-in
Commercial Sheep	July 1	Spring Weigh-in
Market Swine	June 1	Spring Weigh-in
Poultry	June 1	June 1
Rabbits	June 1 (Except pen of three rabbits)	June 1

- Begin working with your animal as soon possible. Regular practice improves your performance in shows.
- Respecting the safety of all exhibitors. Animals that cannot be controlled during the show will be removed from the show ring.
- Please be on time for your shows and sale. Times are listed in the fair book. Exhibitors that miss their show or sale time will not be allowed to show/sell in a different class or time. If an animal is not shown it cannot be sold during the Livestock Sale Saturday night.
- For assistance and information about grooming and showing, please refer to the listed references in this guidebook, plan to attend future workshops, or contact your Club leader or the 4-H Extension Educator.
- If an animal is uncontrollable, tranquilizers may not be used. If tranquilizers are used, the animals cannot be sold during the Livestock Sale Saturday night.
- After an animal has been weighed and tagged, no substitutions can be made even in the event of death, illness or injury.

Garrett County Livestock Association Board, their members, 4-H volunteers, 4-H Extension Educators, FFA Advisors and Fair Superintendents may routinely interact with and observe animals present at livestock events. However, the above mentioned will not be responsible for any injury, disease, illness or death of animals incurred.

If you are planning to own and exhibit any of the above animals, please make certain they are listed as a project on your 4-H Online enrollment. This list is used for future mailings relating to the animal projects. If you are planning to exhibit at the Maryland State Fair, please contact the Extension Office.

It is the policy of the Maryland State 4-H Program that once a market animal is sold it is no longer eligible for any other 4-H show. Once the gavel is tapped, the animal becomes the possession of the buyer and is no longer a 4-H Market Animal. At the conclusion of the county fair, a copy of market animals sold and their 4-H market animal tag numbers is sent to the State 4-H Office. Market animals sold at a county fair may not be exhibited at another county or state fair in any class in that same year.

Livestock Sale

NEW The GCLA Livestock Sale will begin at **10:00 AM** in 2026; on Saturday August 8th, 2026. All animals must remain on the fair grounds until 11:00pm Saturday night, following fair and carnival closure.

Buyers: Garrett County Livestock Association will send buyer's passes to all individuals who purchased an animal at the previous livestock sale. We urge members to contact potential buyers for your animals by inviting them to the sale in person or by letter.

4-H and FFA market livestock exhibitors must recognize that it is not tolerable behavior for anyone to harass a bidder and/or buyer before, during, or after the livestock sale for buying or not buying a livestock project or asking for the animal to be donated back to the exhibitor. Any 4-H or FFA exhibitor or anyone associated with an exhibitor that is determined to be in violation of this rule will be subject to sanctions up to and including having the privilege of selling market livestock at the Garrett County Fair permanently revoked.

Animals required to be sold: Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, County Bred Grand Champion and County Bred Reserve Grand Champion for all species must be sold. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the forfeiture of eligibility for the following year.

The sale order will be determined by class placing or by drawing for position during animal check in on Sunday fair check-in at the show ring.

Night of Sale: Each steer must be left with an ordinary halter for leading after the sale. Halters should be tagged with the exhibitors name and may be picked up at the 4-H office on the Wednesday following the fair. Any exhibitors who have breeding, open class or a 4-H animal not selling must make their own arrangements to have the animal removed from the fairgrounds after the sale.

Payment to Members: Payment for animals will start after September 15th and continue as funds are collected. Deductions from the check include:

- Commission
- Promotion fee
- 25 cents for Livestock Association dues

Starting 2023: Lambs will be sold by the head at the Livestock Sale.

In case of carcass condemnation, the 4-H or FFA member selling the animal is responsible. The buyer is entitled to a replacement of equal weight or restitution of funds paid by the 4-H or FFA exhibitor.

Thank You Cards: Before you will receive your livestock sale check, a thank you card or letter must be written to your buyer(s) and award sponsors. This thank you notification, with postage attached, must be turned into the University of Maryland Extension Garrett Office no later than September 1st. Failure to submit thank you notes in a timely manner can result in suspension of privilege of selling in future livestock sales.

Other Notes:

Please notify the Garrett County Livestock Association Treas., Jackie Wright, by Thursday of fair week by 11:00pm if a market animal will not be sold at the Livestock Sale.

General Information for Exhibits at Fair:

1. Exhibitors must also abide by General Rules and Regulations printed in the fair book. Please read the rules prior to fair week.
2. All animals, especially beef, must be controllable. Exhibitors must be familiar with and able to show their own animal. If an animal is uncontrollable, unsafe or in an undesirable condition, it may be removed from the fairgrounds at the request of the Livestock Advisory Committee.
3. All animals must be checked by a veterinarian prior to the fair and health papers presented at the time of fair weigh-in.

4. All Market animals are to be brought to the fairgrounds on Sunday of fair week and will be weighed on Sunday from 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m. (Note: This time may change prior to the fair and exhibitors will be notified via a letter and/or news release in newspaper).
5. Animals are to arrive to the fairground clean and bathed and are to be kept in this condition during the week. Washing must be completed before 12:00 noon and restricted to one bath a day. Special permission will be given under unusual circumstances. Animals being shown that day have 1st priority at the wash rack.
6. The Fair Board requires all exhibitors to have their stall area, barns and general areas in a neat and orderly manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of premiums. All animals must be fed and washed, and all stalls and barn areas cleaned by 12 noon, except show day. Please observe the 11:00 pm to 6:00 am curfew of not feeding or disturbing animals. All small animal pens must be cleaned out to the ground by Friday at noon. New bedding will be issued.
7. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their barn area. Beef manure should be forked out at the time it is deposited. Urine areas should be removed daily and new sawdust added. Trash, twine, pop cans, etc. are not to be deposited in the manure pile.
8. Tack boxes are not allowed in the sheep, goat or swine barn. Beef tack boxes are limited to one per family.
9. Exhibitors are responsible for raking and cleaning walk areas in the barn, general areas around the barns and will also help clean the show ring.
10. No horseplay in the barns. You are responsible if someone gets hurt.
11. No spraying people with the water hoses.
12. Consider all people in the barns as potential buyers.
13. Due to space restrictions, no canopies, tents, or generators will be allowed. If additional power is needed contact the fair board. No grooming chute will be allowed under the overhang of the new multipurpose livestock barn.

Insurance Policy: It is recommended that families check their homeowner's insurance to see if project animals are covered under the policy.

Additional Resource Material: Contact the UME Garrett Office at 301 334-6960 for additional project resource materials.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Fair and Show Requirements

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA), Animal Health Section strives in safeguarding Maryland's animal industries at our Fairs and Shows. With an increased potential of disease transmission occurring when large numbers of animals gather for exhibition, MDA has set forth requirements for exhibitors to follow at Maryland Fairs and Shows. As an exhibitor you can help reduce the potential risk of introduction and spread of infectious and/or contagious diseases by following the species specific health requirements as specified on their website at:
<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>

Questions

If you have any questions or are unsure of any of these animal health requirements for Maryland fairs and shows, please contact your MDA Regional Health Offices during normal business hours.

*Maryland Law provides penalties for violations of Animal Health Law and Regulations.

*Livestock failing to meet Health Requirements will be denied entry or removed from the exhibition.

MDA Headquarters: 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401 (410)-841-5810

Frederick Animal Health Lab: 1840 Rosemont Ave., Frederick, MD 21702 (301)-600-1548