2026-2027 4-H Market Livestock Sale Commitment Form

Due to the MSU Extension Office no later than:
Nov. 1st for the beef project and Feb. 1st for the sheep and swine projects

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

- Be an Active 4-H member by Nov. 1st (beef) or Feb. 1st (sheep/swine) This includes:
  - Complete 4-H enrollment, in ZSuite with $25 member dues paid and $5 livestock project fee paid
  - Enroll in appropriate market livestock project in ZSuite (ie: Beef/Beef Market, Sheep/Sheep Market, Swine/Swine Market)
  - Enroll in appropriate market livestock level in ZSuite (ie: Beef/Beef level 1, Sheep/Sheep Level 2, etc.)
  - Enroll in second non-market animal related 4-H project in ZSuite.
- Be in **good standing** with their club.
  - "good standing" = in compliance with their current club's by-laws or if switching, previous club/FFA Chapter.
  - **NEW An approved Corrective Action Plan will be required for any youth who did not show/sell at the 2026 NWMT Fair for the following reason: if your market animal was under weight, overweight, received a white ribbon, was sick, did not register my market animal for the fair, other.
- Comply with all **age** requirements.
  - Be at least 8 years old by October 1st of the current 4-H year (sheep and swine)
  - Be at least 10 years old by October 1st of the current 4-H year (beef)
- If a youth is 19 years old on or before October 1st of the 4-H year, can enroll in 4-H if youth is enrolled in high school.
- Comply with all **Requirements** listed in #1 to #8 below and all **Expectations** listed in #9-22 below.
- Comply with the following **Tag and Weigh-in dates** and **Replacement Cut-off dates**:
  - Tag and Weigh-in dates: beef – Dec. 4 & 5, 2026, swine – May 1st, 2027, and sheep – May 24, 2027
  - Replacement Cut-off dates: beef - January 31, 2027, swine - May 31, 2027, and sheep - June 30, 2027

Note: To obtain a replacement ear tag, the youth's 4-H organizational (org) leader, 4-H club species leader, or county-level 4-H market livestock species leader must verify that the animal died, failure to thrive or verified illness within 7 days. You must submit a picture of the ripped ear/hole in ear AND a picture of the animal with the new ear tag in the animal's ear with the number visible in the picture within 7 days of the incident.

Detailed Requirements:

1. **LQA.** All members must attend species-specific Livestock Quality Assurance (LQA) training during their first registered year as a Junior member **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 attended or 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. 1st** 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 NW MT Market Livestock sale must turn in their Buyer's Thank You Confirmation form to the Flathead County Extension Office no later than December 1st.
6. **Commitment to Excellence and Drug Withdrawal forms.** All members must sign the youth livestock program Commitment to Excellence and Drug Withdrawal form and turn the form into the MSU Extension Office prior to August 1st of the project year.
7. **Second Project.** Members must complete at least one other project, in addition to their market livestock project. Members must complete the records for at least one other project and turn-in their up-to-date records for both their market livestock project and their second project to their club org leader before Aug. 1st. And completed records for both projects to their club org leader prior to Sept 30th.
8. **Records.** Members must complete a 4-H Project Forms & Financial Journal for their market animal/back-up animal and second project. Submit these up-to-date forms / records to the member's club livestock or org leader for review and approval prior to Aug. 1st. Members must also submit their completed livestock project records to their club's livestock or org leader prior to Sept 30th to be eligible to participate in the market livestock project the following year.

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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 backup animal for multiple children. Each child must have the backup animal information on their own ear tag form. 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:
    - **Sheep** between 110 and 160 pounds / **Swine** between 230 and 315 pounds / **Beef** between 1,100 and 1,650 pounds.
    - Under or overweight animals are ineligible for the regular Market Class and will not be sold at the NW MT Fair Market Livestock Sale
    - Only underweight animals are eligible to participate in the feeder Market Class at the NW MT Fair.
    - Under/overweight animals may be shown in the Showmanship Class at the NW MT Fair.
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. If a 4-H youth tags a market livestock animal with the intent to show it and sell it at the NW MT Fair, but does not bring their animal to the NW MT Fair for any reason, that youth must meet with the appropriate 4-H market livestock species committee and receive an approved Reflective Action Plan form, prior to registering to show and sell a market livestock animal at the NW MT Fair the following year. Initial mtg w/ species committee and completed form are due to Extension Office by Nov. 1st.
16. 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 fully clean their animal's pen or stall after their animal departs the fairgrounds on a trailer to the processor.
17. The Flathead Livestock Sale Organization (FLSO) collects 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.
18. After FLSO prints the official buyer's photos, members will be notified to pick up a Buyer's Photo Packet from the MSU Extension Office. The Buyer Packet includes 2 official buyer photos (one for the buyer and one for the 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 MSU Extension Office and complete a W9 form with the member's social security number and member's signature to receive their check from FLSO.
19. I understand that even though my animal makes weight, I'm not guaranteed a place in the livestock market sale. The judge will make that decision based on genetics, feeding and overall project management.
20. I agree to act with dignity and grace regardless of the outcome of my project. This includes ethical treatment of my animal regarding appropriate feeding, watering and treatment. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited. The following behaviors are not permitted: slapping, excessive whipping, kneeing, etc.
21. 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.
22. Failure to act appropriately by my parent(s) / guardian (s) or me will result in my removal from the event and could also prohibit me from attending and participating in future events.

***Failure to comply 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 confirm that I read and agree to follow the guidelines on this Market Livestock Sale Commitment Form.

_____ _____

Project Member's Printed Name Project Member's Signature

_____ _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature Date

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