

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR EXHIBITORS

Premier Exhibitor Contests, Showmanship, Super Showmanship, Livestock Judging Contest

Premier Exhibitor Contests

The objective of the Premier Exhibitor Contest is to encourage youth exhibitors to explore multiple aspects of the livestock specie project they are enrolled in, and to reward those youth that participate at the highest level. While some exhibitors may choose to only participate in a single aspect of an animal project, the reality is that all the various opportunities available for any given project are interrelated and participation can enhance the knowledge, skills, and enjoyment gained from the project.

- Exhibitors will learn that market animals originate from breeding stock.
- Performance is vital to the profitability of livestock production.
- Efficient record keeping allows the owner to determine if the project was profitable.
- Livestock evaluation is the foundation for selecting both breeding and market livestock.
- Knowing breeds, body parts and muscle names and locations complements one's ability to evaluate livestock.

It's all interrelated and encouraging youth to expand their knowledge of their project by participating in a variety of opportunities while also in a competitive environment will enhance the learning experience.

Requirements

- Exhibitors must be enrolled in a 4-H/FFA project in that species in their respective 4-H Club/FFA Chapter.
- FairEntry is made in the respective species by August FairEntry deadline.
- The exhibitor must complete the Fairfield County Skillathon for the species they plan to compete in Premier Exhibitor. Those exhibitors who participate in the alternative Skillathon options will not be eligible for Premier Exhibitor (i.e., Ohio State Fair VIRTUAL Skillathon, Ohio State Fair IN-PERSON Skillathon, and/or Fairfield County Make-Up Skillathon). Project books will be reviewed as part of the county Skillathon event.
- **The exhibitor must complete and turn in their project record book at the species' scheduled Fairfield County Skillathon to participate in Premier Exhibitor for each respective species. Books will not be accepted on any other date for Premier Exhibitor participants.**
- An exhibitor must complete a Skillathon for each specie they plan to compete for Premier Exhibitor. If an exhibitor does not participate in the Fairfield County Skillathon for that specie, they will be ineligible for Premier Exhibitor in that species.
- Exhibitors must show their own animal(s).

Eligible Species

Dairy Cattle	Sheep	Pygmy Goats	Dogs
Beef	Dairy Goats	Poultry	Alpacas/Llamas
Swine	Meat/Market Goats	Rabbits	Horses

Scoring

The Premier Exhibitor for each species will be the exhibitor with the highest point total from the activities listed for each specie (dropping the scores as mentioned below).

The goal is to encourage exhibitors to explore various opportunities available to them within their species and allow for lowest scores to be dropped when sufficient experiences can be offered (for example, Beef Exhibitors have far more project opportunities available to them than Pygmy Goats). The objective would be to encourage exhibitors to earn points for exhibiting animals in at least two ways at the Fairfield County Fair in addition to participating in Skillathon, showmanship, rate of gain (if applicable), and judging contests (if applicable). If exhibiting more than one animal in an activity, the highest placing animal will be used for the Premier Exhibitor scoring.

- **Dairy Cattle:** The Dairy Cattle Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from up to 6 of the 7 following Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Dairy Skillathon*, Showmanship, Fairfield County Dairy Judging Contest, and Breeding Class, Market Class, Feeder Class, and Rate of Gain.
- **Beef:** The Beef Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from up to 5 of the 8 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Beef Skillathon*, Showmanship, Fairfield County Beef Judging Contest, Breeding Class, Feeder Class, Market Class, Carcass Class, and Rate of Gain.
- **Swine:** The Swine Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from up to 4 of the 5 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Swine Skillathon*, Showmanship, Fairfield County Swine Judging Contest, Market/MQP Class 1, and Market/MQP Class 2.
- **Sheep:** The Sheep Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from 5 of the 6 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Sheep Skillathon*, Showmanship, Fairfield County Sheep Judging Contest, Breeding Class, Market/MQP Class 1, and Market/MQP Class 2.
- **Dairy Goats:** The Dairy Goat Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from all 4 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Dairy Goat Skillathon*, Showmanship, Breeding **Animal 1**, and Breeding **Animal 2**.
- **Meat/Market Goats:** The Meat/Market Goat Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from 5 of the 6 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Meat/Market Goat Skillathon*, Showmanship, Fairfield County Meat Goat Judging Contest, Breeding (Meat Doe) Class, Market/MQP Class 1, and Market/MQP Class 2.
- **Pygmy Goats:** The Pygmy Goat Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from all 4 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Pygmy Goat Skillathon*, Showmanship, Wether Class, and Doe Class.
- **Poultry:** The Poultry Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from 4 of the 5 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Poultry Skillathon*, Showmanship, Breeding Class, Layers Class, and Market Class.
- **Rabbits:** The Rabbit Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from all 4 of the 6 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Rabbit Skillathon*, Showmanship, Breeding Class 1, Breeding Class 2, Market Class 1, Market Class 2.
- **Dogs:** The Dog Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from up to 4 of the 5 Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Dog Skillathon*, You & Your Dog Interview, Showmanship, Obedience Class, and Agility.

- **Alpacas/Llamas:** The Alpaca & Llama Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from up to 4 of the 5 following Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Alpaca/Llama Skillathon*, Showmanship, Public Relations Class, **Trail Pack Class**, and Obstacle/Agility Class
- **Horses:** The Horse Premier Exhibitor will be the highest point total from up to 4 of the 5 following Fairfield County Junior Fair activities: Horse Skillathon*, Showmanship, Pleasure Class, Pattern Class, and Contesting Class.

The ***Fairfield County Skillathon** will be a mandatory activity for participation in the respective species' Premier Exhibitor Contest. A Skillathon is an activity to test knowledge of specific subject matter in a hands-on experiential learning model. Skillathons will take place on the assigned day and times in September, and this will be the only opportunity for participants to complete the Skillathon for their respective species and be eligible to participate in the respective Premier Exhibitor Contest. Exhibitors will earn corresponding Premier Exhibitor points based off of their raw score (out of 100 points). Skillathons will be comprised of four stations. A completed project book is required at Skillathon.

The **Fairfield County Livestock Judging Contest** will take place on Sunday of the Fairfield County Fair for swine, beef, sheep, and goats. Exhibitors will earn corresponding Livestock Judging Contest points based off of their raw score. Total points possible will be determined on the day of the contest. The Fairfield County Dairy Judging Contest will take place on Monday of the Fairfield County Fair for dairy cattle.

Rate of Gain will be available to all market beef, dairy steer, and dairy feeder exhibitors.

Breeding/Market/Showmanship/Rate of Gain class/heat points will be assigned according to class rankings (placing 1st through 5th, followed by participation points).

Livestock Sale: If the Premier Exhibitor has a market animal in that respective species, they will sell third in the market sale for that species following the Overall Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Animals. If an exhibitor chooses to take home and earns Premier Exhibitor, they will lose their sale slot. (In that case second place Premier Exhibitor will not move into that sale slot).

Ties: Exhibitors will complete a tiebreaker station at Skillathon for their respective species. Scoring from the tiebreaker station will only be used to help break ties for the overall rankings of each specie's Premier Exhibitor.

Awards will be given for 1st place winners of each age group (Age 8/9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18), from which, overall 1st through 3rd place winners will be chosen for the Premier Exhibitor Program for each specie.

- 1st Place Awards for each age group (Age 8/9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18) will receive a rosette and coupon to be used at the fair for a free sandwich at the Fairfield County Cattlemen's Food Booth.
- 1st Place Award Overall for each specie will receive a vinyl banner and \$100 cash award.
- 2nd Place Award Overall for each specie will receive a vinyl banner and \$75 cash award.
- 3rd Place Award Overall for each specie will receive a vinyl banner and \$50 cash award.

Showmanship

Showmanship is an optional event for the Fairfield County Junior Fair (**EXCEPTIONS: Horse exhibitors are required to participate in at least showmanship class. Alpaca/Llama exhibitors are required to participate in their respective showmanship class to receive a grade**). However, all 4-H/FFA members are strongly encouraged to participate. The purpose of showmanship is to encourage 4-H/FFA members to learn and acquire animal handling skills by presenting their animal to the judge to the best of their ability. Showmanship allows opportunities for the judge to ask questions of the exhibitor about their animal/species. Exhibitors must show their own animal in showmanship, and the animal must be entered in the market/breeding Fairfield County Junior Fair Show. The judge may ask exhibitors to show another exhibitor's animal during the showmanship show.

Showmanship entries are submitted through FairEntry by the fair entry deadline: 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 29th, 2025. Showmanship age divisions are age as of January 1st of the current year. Showmanship age divisions vary by species (please see specie rules). Additionally, awards will be given for each showmanship division. Showmanship is an area where exhibitors can earn points for the Premier Exhibitor Contest.

New in 2024 and continuing for 2025: A Showman of Showmen class will be held at the end of the Showmanship Show for each species. All showmanship division winners (age groups) from the current year only will compete against each other for the title of Showman of Showmen. The 1st place winner will represent the species at Super Showmanship held on Thursday morning of the fair at 8:00 a.m. in Feeder Creek Arena. If the Showman of Showmen winner has previously won Super Showmanship overall representing their specie or is unable to participate, the 2nd place winner will be next in line to compete representing that specie (followed by 3rd, 4th, etc.).

Check out this livestock showmanship resource for additional information:

[4-H Animal Science Lesson Plan: Showmanship from the University of Idaho Extension.](#)

Super Showmanship

Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena, Thursday, October 9th, 2025, 8:00 a.m.

Superintendents: Fairfield County Junior Fair Board Advisors and Members

READ THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP RULES

1. The contest will consist of participants exhibiting the following species: dairy cattle, dairy market, dairy goats, market/meat goats, beef, swine, sheep, horse, llama/alpaca, poultry, rabbits, dog, and pygmy goats.
2. Previous Super Showmanship winners are ineligible to compete. Previous participants who did not place 1st in Super Showmanship are eligible to return if they are the species' representative for that year.
3. The Showman of Showmen winner for each species will participate in the Super Showmanship Contest.
4. An exhibitor may participate in Super Showmanship representing ONE species per year. If they earn Showman of Showmen in multiple species, they must declare the specie they wish to represent to the Junior Fair Office as soon as possible so that an alternate may be contacted.
5. The Showman of Showmen Winner (or alternate) for Super Showmanship must be determined and reported to the Junior Fair Office by the end of the scheduled fair day of the respective specie's competition.
6. If the Showman of Showmen winner is ineligible to compete or unable to compete in Super Showmanship, the 2nd place Showman of Showmen winner will be next in line to compete representing that specie (then followed by the 3rd, 4th, etc.).
7. Superintendents are responsible for notifying contestants in their species of their eligibility to participate in the Super Showmanship contest and notify the Junior Fair Office of the eligible representative.
8. Competing exhibitors are responsible for providing an animal that can be used in the Super Showmanship Contest.
9. Exhibitors will have five (5) minutes at each rotation of the contest.
10. Scoring for the contest will be based on 30 points for each station (15 points for showmanship ability and 15 points for questions/knowledge). The overall scoring shall be based on the sum of all animal/station scores. All ties shall be broken first by the sum of the three highest scores, then by the sum of the lowest three scores.

Super Showmanship Awards

1 st Place Super Showmanship Contest	Carrie Stoneburner & Dustin Bates	Windbreaker
1 st Place Super Showmanship Contest	Carrie Stoneburner & Dustin Bates	Cooler
2 nd Place Super Showmanship Contest	Rachel Stoneburner & Jason Diedrick	Windbreaker
2 nd Place Super Showmanship Contest	Rachel Stoneburner & Jason Diedrick	Tumbler
3 rd Place Super Showmanship Contest	Rachel Stoneburner & Jason Diedrick	Windbreaker
3 rd Place Super Showmanship Contest	Rachel Stoneburner & Jason Diedrick	Tumbler
4 th -13 th Place Super Showmanship Contest (10)	Carrie Stoneburner & Dustin Bates (3) Walker's Shoe Center (2) In Memory of Richard Keller (2) Central Ohio Orthodontics, Dr. Megan Miller (3)	Tumblers Tumblers Tumblers Tumblers

Livestock Judging Contest

Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena, Sunday, October 5th, 2025, 12:30 p.m.
Contest to follow beginning at 1:00 p.m., in Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena

Superintendent: James Maynard
Assistant Superintendent: Hayley Maynard

Please sign up to participate in the Livestock Judging Contest in advance using the online registration link (by Wednesday, October 1st):

<http://go.osu.edu/fclivestockjudging>

Pre-Registered individuals can pick-up materials at 12:30 p.m. on contest day.
Onsite registration will also be available **at NOON on Sunday, October 5th, 2025.**



Signup for Livestock Judging

The Fairfield County Junior Fair Livestock Judging Contest allows for 4-H/FFA youth to analyze and evaluate live animals against the industry standard and contest official(s).

READ THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR GENERAL RULES AND HEALTH REGULATIONS

1. The contest will be conducted in two divisions: Senior (ages 14-18) and Junior (ages 8-13).
2. All ages are as of January 1st of the current year.
3. Rules and conditions apply to both divisions.
4. When available, one class from each of the following will be used: Market Hogs, Breeding Gilts, Market Lambs, Breeding Ewes, Market Goats, Breeding Goats, Market Beef Steers, and Breeding Beef Heifers.
5. Livestock entered in the Junior Fair and/or Open classes and housed at the fair are subject to be used for the Livestock Judging Contest.
6. Committee members have the right to bring in outside livestock to fill classes, if not enough animals are made available from FFA and 4-H members on Sunday of the fair. Animals brought to the fairgrounds must be checked by a veterinarian before setting foot on the fairgrounds.
7. For each species there will be at least one placing class and one questions class.
8. The scores will be computed by the committee in charge and displayed **outside of the Junior Fair Office by Tuesday of fair.**
9. To be eligible for Livestock Judging Contest awards, exhibitors must complete all classes for all species.
10. For Junior Fair Premier Exhibitor purposes, exhibitors will receive points for their raw score in that respective species.
11. Tiebreakers for the Livestock Judging Contest Awards shall be (in order):
 - a. The highest total score for all questions and answers.
 - b. Most consistency of class scores- narrowest spread from high to low score.
 - c. Highest score on one set of oral reasons given on a class of the participant's choice, given to the contest superintendents.
12. Out-of-County participants are welcome to participate.
13. **Contestants may carry only plain paper/blank notebooks, a clipboard and pencils or pens into the contest.**
14. **While the contest is in progress, contestants are not permitted to have cell phones or any other electronic devices, including smartwatches, in their possession. If found with a cell phone or other electronic device during the contest, the contestant will be disqualified.**
15. **While the contest is in progress, there shall be no talking or conferring between contestants, coaches, and anyone else, except as directed by the superintendents. Any violation of this rule will result in one warning, repeat violations will result in contest disqualification.**
16. **Only officials, contest volunteers (superintendents, animal handlers, etc.), and contestants of the contest will be allowed on the floor of the arena.**

Livestock Judging Contest Awards

1 st Place Senior Livestock Judging Contest (Age 14 & Older)	Maynard Boer Goats/Maynard Family Farms	Belt Buckle
1 st Place Senior Livestock Judging Contest (Age 14 & Older)	Maynard Boer Goats/Maynard Family Farms	Banner
2 nd -5 th Place Senior Livestock Judging Contest (Age 14 & Older)	Maynard Boer Goats/Maynard Family Farms	Banners
1 st Place Junior Livestock Judging Contest (Age 8-13)	Maynard Boer Goats/Maynard Family Farms	Belt Buckle
1 st Place Junior Livestock Judging Contest (Age 8-13)	Maynard Boer Goats/Maynard Family Farms	Banner
2 nd -5 th Place Junior Livestock Judging Contest (Age 8-13)	Maynard Boer Goats/Maynard Family Farms	Banners
1 st -3 rd Place Livestock Judging (Out of County)	Maynard Boer Goats/Maynard Family Farms	Banners