

Department 1: 4-H/FFA Dairy Cattle

Dairy Market Show and Showmanship: Round Cattle Barn, Tuesday, October 7th, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Dairy Breeding Show and Showmanship: Round Cattle Barn, Wednesday, October 8th, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Superintendent: Lori King
Assistant Superintendent: Derek Burns

Dairy Steer Possession and Weigh In:

- Dairy Steer possession is the second Saturday of March. All animals exhibited must have been completely and fully owned and in the complete possession and continual care of the exhibitor on and after the designated date.
- Dairy Steer Weigh-In is the second Saturday of March (Saturday, March 8th by appointment) at Fairfield Cattle Company. This is REQUIRED FOR ALL DAIRY STEER ANIMALS. The scheduling of appointments for weigh-in will be shared by OSU Extension.
- Up to two animals and one back-up dairy steer may be registered for each exhibitor in the family at the March weigh-in/tag-in.
- Dairy Steers will be required to have an EID 840 tag and submit a DNA sample for identification at the Dairy Steer Weigh-In/Tagging, the 2nd Saturday of March. If your animal already has an EID 840 tag, this tag number will be used for identification. For all Dairy Steers that need an EID tag, these will be provided prior to the March weigh-in. Details of that DNA collection and tagging process will be shared in February by the OSU Extension Office.
- Final Dairy Steer weigh-in is Sunday of the fair (Sunday, October 5th) from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Round Cattle Barn. There will be no reweighs.

Dairy Beef Feeder Weigh In:

- Summer weigh-in is the last Saturday of June (Saturday, June 28th) from 8:00-10:30 a.m., at the fairgrounds. This is REQUIRED FOR ALL DAIRY BEEF FEEDERS.
- Up to two animals and one back-up dairy beef feeder may be registered for each exhibitor in the family at June weigh-in/tag-in.
- All market animals will be tagged with an EID 840 tag. If an animal currently has an EID 840 tag in place, this tag will be used as the official fair identification. All dairy beef feeders will submit a DNA sample for identification purposes at the Dairy Beef Feeder Calf weigh-in the last Saturday of June.
- Final Dairy Beef Feeder weigh-in is Sunday of the fair (Sunday, October 5th) from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Round Cattle Barn. There will be no reweighs.

Tagging: All MARKET animals (including Dairy Steers and Dairy Beef Feeders)

- All market animals will be family tagged and any member of the family can show any animal tagged.
- As defined in [Ohio Administrative Code 901-19-01](#), "Family" means the immediate family of an exhibitor, including but not limited to the exhibitor's parent, stepparent, foster parent, grandparent, step-grandparent, foster grandparent, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, or guardian.
- No tagging will be performed after the designated weigh-in/tag-in day.

Housing Forms: Junior Fair Exhibitors housing animal(s) in a location other than the property on which they reside must obtain and file a Livestock Housing Form with the OSU Extension Office. The deadline for filling out this form is the deadline set forth for possession of the animal. For more specifications, refer to the General Rules.

Dairy Breeding: Lease Agreement Forms, Breeding Association Registration Papers, and Livestock Housing Forms must be filed per required deadlines. These forms will be checked the day before show day. Also see Dairy Breeding Special Rules below.

Quality Assurance: As mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, each exhibitor must have attended an educational experience by June 30th of the current year. Club/Chapter Quality Assurance Clinics taught by a trained and certified assistant instructor, or the countywide make-up clinics are required for exhibitors to meet this requirement. The 4-H Youth Development Educators at OSU Extension can provide locations of workshops provided in our county.

Skillathon: Each exhibitor must participate in a Skillathon. Youth are encouraged to attend the species you are exhibiting. If an exhibitor plans to compete for Dairy Premier Exhibitor, they must attend the Dairy Skillathon at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 6th, 2025, to be eligible.

Project Record Books:

- 4-H and FFA Record Books are required to be COMPLETED for each project.
- 4-H Members should have a NEW 4-H Record Book each year they take the project.
- 4-H and FFA Records Books will be reviewed at Skillathon.
 - For those who forget or don't bring their book – the book will need to be completed and turned into the OSU Extension Office by Friday, September 19th, 2025.
 - Exhibitors who do not properly complete a record book for each of their fair projects WILL NOT be allowed to exhibit at the fair. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - No books will be reviewed after September 21st, 2025.

Health Papers: Are not required except for a valid and current Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) for all Dairy Beef Feeders, Dairy Steers, and lactating Dairy Cows. DUNF forms are to be filled out online and not before three (3) days of weigh in. DUNF forms must be filled out by NOON on the Friday before weigh-in on Friday, October 3rd, 2025. **All livestock must be free from any/all drugs in their system on fair weigh-in/check-in day.**

Entries: Fair entries are required by 4-H and FFA exhibitors to be eligible to compete at the Fairfield County Junior Fair. 4-H exhibitors must be enrolled in the corresponding 4-H project by enrollment deadline, April 15th. Fair entries will open in early August and close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 29th, 2025. All entries will be made online in the FairEntry program: <http://go.osu.edu/fairfieldfairentry>.

Dairy Breeding Divisions: All Other Breeds (AOB), Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey

Dairy Breeding Classes:

1. Junior Heifer Calf, born on or after March 1, 2025, and over 4 months old.
2. Intermediate Heifer Calf, born December 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025.
3. Senior Heifer Calf, born September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.
4. Summer Yearling Heifer, born June 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024.
5. Junior Yearling Heifer, born March 1, 2024, through May 31, 2024.
6. Intermediate Yearling Heifer, born December 1, 2023, through February 28, 2024.
7. Senior Yearling Heifer, born September 1, 2023, through November 30, 2023.
8. Junior 2-year-old Cow, born between March 1, 2023, through August 31, 2023.
9. Senior 2-year-old Cow, born between September 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023.
10. 3-year-old Cow, born between September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022.
11. 4-year-old Cow, born between September 1, 2020, through August 31, 2021.
12. Aged Cow, born on or before August 31, 2020.
13. Exhibit 3 Best Females (any age)- Must be of same breed or breed characteristics.
 - No more than 1 animal may be entered per class in each Dairy Breeding Division. Animals which will be exhibited in different breed divisions (Guernsey, Holstein [including black and white and red and white Holsteins as one class], Jersey, and All Other Breeds) will be considered different classes, even if the animals are in the same age class (e.g., an exhibitor may show a Holstein Spring Heifer and a Jersey Spring Heifer because they will show in separate breed divisions despite being the same age).
 - All Fall Yearlings in milk will automatically show in the Junior 2-year-old Cow class.

Dairy Market Division:

1. Dairy Beef Feeder Class: Exhibitors may have no more than 2 fair entries in this class.
2. Dairy Steer Class: Exhibitors may have no more than 2 fair entries in this class.

Showmanship Divisions: Showmanship entries are submitted through FairEntry by the fair entry deadline. There are separate Showmanship Division for Dairy Breeding and Dairy Beef Feeders. If an exhibitor plans to participate in Dairy Breeding AND Dairy Beef Market Showmanship, they must make two separate showmanship entries in the respective showmanship division and class. Ages are as of January 1st of the current year.

Dairy Breeding Showmanship Classes:

1. Senior Dairy Breeding Showmanship (Ages 15-18)
2. Intermediate Dairy Breeding Showmanship (Ages 12-14)
3. Junior Dairy Breeding Showmanship (Ages 9-11)
4. Beginner Dairy Breeding Showmanship (1st year dairy exhibitor, under the age of 11)

Dairy Market Showmanship Classes:

1. Senior Dairy Market Showmanship (Ages 15-18)
2. Intermediate Dairy Market Showmanship (Ages 12-14)
3. Junior Dairy Market Showmanship (Ages 9-11)
4. Beginner Dairy Market Showmanship (1st year dairy exhibitor, under the age of 11)

Arrival Times: All dairy beef feeders and dairy steers must be stalled by 10:00 a.m. Sunday, October 5th, 2025. All dairy breeding animals must be stalled by Sunday, October 5th at 10:00 a.m., or between 7:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Lactating dairy cows (both open and junior) have the option to arrive by 9:00 a.m. or from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday. If an animal is not being exhibited and shown in its entered class, it CANNOT be housed in the Round Cattle Barn.

Dairy Exhibitor Meeting: There will be an exhibitor meeting for dairy cattle exhibitors on Sunday, October 5th, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Round Cattle Barn.

Dairy Steers and Dairy Beef Feeders: This is a **partial-terminal** show. See [ODA Rules 901-19-01 GG](#). Dairy Steer and Dairy Feeder Exhibitors will have the option to take home their animals. [Click here to review information to consider when making this decision.](#)

- Take home forms will be available at each specie's fair/final weigh-in.
- **The NUMBER of take home animals must be declared at the scale (no exceptions).**
- **Tag numbers of take home animals must be declared to the Show Superintendent within one hour of the conclusion of that species show.**
- Take home animals will lose their sale slot and will not be eligible for a premium and packer bid.
- Exhibitors who do not take home must qualify for their sale slot (as individual or group) at the discretion of the species show committee.

Dairy Steer and Dairy Beef Feeder Sale: Thursday at the Feeder Creek Vet Show Arena. **Sale order is pending.** Please review rules on the sale page: <http://u.osu.edu/livestocksale>

Dairy Products Sale: There will be no dairy products in the livestock sale.

Release Times: No animals will be removed from the fairgrounds prior to the stated release time without approval from the Junior Fair Director or the Senior Fair Board. Any exhibitor violating this rule will be barred from exhibiting that species the following year.

- **Dairy Beef Feeders and Dairy Steers who have completed a Take Home Form will be released THREE HOURS after the Dairy Market Show on Tuesday, and this release time window will last for TWO HOURS. Any exhibitor violating this rule will be barred from showing that species the following year. Exhibitors must check with the Superintendent before leaving the fairgrounds to ensure animals are accounted for before the sale.**
- Lactating Dairy Cattle: Immediately following the show Wednesday, October 8th. All dairy cattle are to be removed from the fairgrounds Friday, October 10th after 6:00 p.m. up until 11:00 a.m. Saturday, or on Saturday, October 11th between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Premiums: Project books will be checked during county Skillathon. If an exhibitor does not complete a project book and turn it in at Skillathon, he or she will be ineligible to receive a premium and will not **show** that specie at the county fair for that year. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to complete project books annually for their exhibit.

- Dairy Breeding Premiums: "A"= \$10.00; "B"= \$8.00; "C"= \$5.00
- Dairy Steer Premiums: "A"= \$10.00; "B"= \$8.00; "C"= \$5.00
- Dairy Beef Feeder Premiums: "A"= \$10.00; "B"= \$8.00; "C"= \$5.00

Livestock Sale Exhibitor Checks: Exhibitors must submit a stamped thank you note to their advisor prior to November 1st. Advisors will be required to mail thank-you notes and maintain their buyer checklist to receive the exhibitors' checks. If a check is not cashed within the specified 90-day period from the check date, there will be a Stop Payment Fee deduction imposed, and a replacement check issued to the exhibitor.

READ THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR GENERAL RULES AND HEALTH REGULATIONS

Dairy Breeding Special Rules

1. All dairy breeding animals must be in the exhibitor's possession by July 1st of the current year.
2. All animals exhibited must have been completely and fully owned (as evidenced by a bill of sale or registration papers) or leased (following lease guidelines; see Dairy Breeding Special Rule 3) and in the complete possession and continual care of the exhibitor on or after July 1st of the current year.
3. Exhibitors leasing heifers must obtain and file a Lease Agreement Form to the OSU Extension Office by July 1st of the current year.
4. All exhibitors showing registered/qualified animals must present registration/qualification papers when requested. Registered and grade animals the same age will show in the same class.
5. If the exhibitor's name does not appear on the animal's registration/qualification papers, then a letter from the breed association or a notarized letter stating the names of the members associated with that animal in question must be submitted to the OSU Extension Office by July 1st.
6. No bulls.
7. No horns, no scurs, polls must be healed. Clean poll ONLY, no exceptions.
8. Straw or shavings may be used for bedding.
9. All exhibitors must wear white.

Dairy Breeding Showmanship Rules

1. Exhibitors should sign up for Showmanship when making fair entries in August. Fair entries are due Friday, August 29th, 2025. Showmanship entries should be made for each species you plan to participate in.
2. Exhibitors must have an animal entry in that specie to show in showmanship for that respective specie.
3. All ages are as of January 1 of the current year.
4. Rules and conditions apply to all divisions.
5. Each exhibitor must show their own animal, but during the competition may be asked to show another animal. Each exhibitor must show one of their declared animals (if more than one), but during the competition may be asked to show another animal. However, if they are called back into the ring for another heat of showmanship, it must be with the same animal.
6. Winners from each age division will come back and compete for Dairy Breeding Showman of Showmen.
7. The Dairy Breeding Showman of Showmen Winner will compete in the Super Showmanship Contest on Thursday morning of the fair. An exhibitor can continue to return to Super Showmanship until they win the title of Champion Super Showmanship Overall.
8. In making the placing, fitting will count 50% and showmanship 50%. Fitting includes condition, quality, and finish. The hide, hair, and hooves must be clean. Showmanship includes the exhibitor's appearance and knowledge of the project and the ability to properly pose the animal and move the animal in the ring as directed by a judge.

Dairy Beef Feeder Special Rules

1. All dairy beef feeders must be completely and fully owned (as evidenced by bill of sale) and in complete possession and continual care of the exhibitor by the second Saturday of June. **NO LEASING OF ANIMALS IS PERMITTED.**
2. Dairy beef feeders will be tagged and weighed-in at the June weigh-in at the fairgrounds. Each dairy beef feeder will be issued one EID 840 tag and will have a DNA hair sample taken. If the animal already has an EID 840 tag in place, this will be used as the official fair identification. If a dairy beef feeder loses the ear tag, the exhibitor must report the lost tag to the Dairy Superintendent and the Senior Fair Office immediately. Any dairy beef feeder exhibitor who fails to report a lost ear tag will not be eligible to show at the fair.
3. Dairy beef feeders must be male and castrated. These calves must be free of any testicular tissue and healed to show or sell at the fair or they will be disqualified.

4. Dairy beef feeder calves weighing less than 300 or more than 700 pounds at October weigh-in will be shown in the same class for grade only, will all receive B grades, and will be disqualified from the rate of gain contest. Exhibitors with an under or overweight feeder are still eligible for showmanship. Sale eligibility will be at the discretion of the feedlot (packer) bidder. There will be no re-weighs at fair weigh in.
5. Exhibitors are not required to wear white. Show sticks are optional.
6. No horns, no scurs, polls must be healed. Clean poll ONLY, no exceptions.
7. Dairy beef feeder calves must show dairy characteristics and color of dairy breed and verified by vet at June weigh-in.
8. There may be an individual feedlot (packer) bid for dairy beef feeder calves and the bids may vary by breed and weight. Exhibitors must choose at or before weigh-in if they want to take their calf home. All calves going to the packer must be vaccinated at weigh-in, at the exhibitor's expense. The proper vaccines, chosen by the feedlot (packer) bidder and veterinarian, will be administered by a veterinarian.
9. Overall Grand Champion Dairy Beef Feeder and Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Beef Feeder will sell first and second, respectively. If the exhibitor of the Overall Grand Champion Dairy Feeder and Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Feeder submitted a Take Home Form, it becomes null and void after earning this honor.
10. **All other dairy feeders are eligible to sell as an individual or a group. Exhibitors will be able to sell one dairy feeder in the sale (as an individual or in a group). Their second dairy feeder may go directly to packer. The Dairy Cattle Show Committee will determine sale order.**
11. If an exhibitor has both of their dairy beef feeders in the same heat/class, another qualified Junior Fair exhibitor will be used to help show their second Dairy Beef Feeder.
12. Straw or shavings may be used for bedding.

Dairy Steer Special Rules

1. This class is open to any 4-H/FFA members who have enrolled in a market beef animal project.
2. Participation in the Dairy Steer class does not affect eligibility for participation in the Dairy Beef Feeder class.
3. All dairy steers must be completely and fully owned (as evidenced by bill of sale) and in complete possession and continual care of the exhibitor by the second Saturday of March. NO LEASING OF ANIMALS IS PERMITTED.
4. All dairy steers must be tagged/weighed-in during the second Saturday of March.
5. In March, an exhibitor may tag/weigh-in up to three dairy steers for the dairy steer class at the fair in October.
6. Each dairy steer will be issued one EID 840 tag. If the animal already has an EID 840 tag in place, this will be used as the official fair identification. If a dairy steer loses the ear tag, the exhibitor must report the lost tag to the Junior Fair Director and OSU Extension Office immediately. Any dairy steer exhibitor who fails to report a lost ear tag will not be eligible to show at the fair.
7. DNA on each steer will be collected/submitted at or prior to the March weigh-in. Details will be shared by OSU Extension. All market animals are subject to a DNA sample at the fair to verify proper ownership.
8. An exhibitor may exhibit one or two steers at the fair but only one animal will be eligible for the Livestock Sale (highest placing animal).
9. The animal not sold individually will be sold to the packer for the packer bid. The only time the exhibitor can sell two live market animals individually is if they are selected for both a Grand and Reserve Champion overall within the same species.
10. Each steer weighed/tagged in March will be entered into a Rate of Gain Contest.
11. Dairy steers must weigh at least 1100 pounds to show for champion and sell individually. There is no maximum weight limit. There will be no reweighs.
12. Underweight market animals will be shown in their own class and may also be used for showmanship. Underweight animals will be offered a packer bid or may go home regardless of if a "Market Animal Take Home Form" was completed prior to weigh-in. If not being used for showmanship, and not being sold for a packer bid, the animal may go home immediately.
13. No bulls.
14. No horned dairy steers.
15. All dairy steers must be free of warts.
16. Dairy steers showing evidence of testicular tissue are not eligible to be shown or sold.
17. Any animal that cannot be controlled (goes wild) must be removed from the fairgrounds.
18. Owners of animals that cannot be controlled will be held responsible for any loss or damage of property or persons.
19. Exhibitors are not required to wear white. Show sticks are optional.
20. Dairy steers must show dairy characteristics and color of dairy breed.
21. All eligible dairy steer animals may be sold in accordance with [ODA Rule 901-19-02 E](#).
22. The exhibitors of the Grand and Reserve Grand Champions will provide continual care through Saturday and will leave feed for the Senior Fair Board through Wednesday. Additionally, they will assist with the load out of the animals on the Saturday concluding the fair. Premiums, prize money, and sale proceeds will be forfeited if the exhibitor fails to provide this continual care.
23. Overall Grand Champion Dairy Steer and Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Steer will sell first and second, respectively.
24. If an exhibitor has both of their dairy steers in the same heat/class, another qualified Junior Fair exhibitor will be used to help show their second dairy steer.
25. Straw or shavings may be used for bedding.

Dairy Market Showmanship Rules

1. Exhibitors should sign up for Showmanship when making fair entries in August. Fair entries are due Friday, August 29th, 2025. Showmanship entries should be made for each species you plan to participate in.
2. Exhibitors must have an animal entry in that specie to show in showmanship for that respective specie.
3. All ages are as of January 1 of the current year.
4. Rules and conditions apply to all divisions.
5. Each exhibitor must show their own animal, but during the competition may be asked to show another animal. Each exhibitor must show one of their declared animals (if more than one), but during the competition may be asked to show another animal. However, if they are called back into the ring for another heat of showmanship, it must be with the same animal.
6. Winners from each age division will come back and compete for Dairy Market Showman of Showmen.
7. The Dairy Market Showman of Showmen Winner will compete in the Super Showmanship Contest on Thursday morning of the fair. An exhibitor can continue to return to Super Showmanship until they win the title of Champion Super Showmanship Overall.
8. In making the placing, fitting will count 50% and showmanship 50%. Fitting includes condition, quality and finish. The hide, hair, and hooves must be clean. Showmanship includes the exhibitors' appearance and knowledge of the project and the ability to properly pose the animal and move the animal in the ring as directed by the judge.

Dairy Beef Feeder and Dairy Steer Rate of Gain Contests

1. Rate of Gain Contests will be calculated separate for dairy feeders and dairy steers.
2. The actual rate of gain will be calculated by subtracting the beginning weight from the final weight and dividing the difference by the number of days from initial weigh-in in July to the final weigh-in at the fair.
3. Order of placement in regular show has no relevance to the rate of gain contest.
4. To be eligible for rate of gain awards, the dairy beef feeder and/or dairy steer(s) must be exhibited and shown at the Fairfield County Fair.
5. Awards will be given to the top two dairy beef feeder calves and top two dairy steers according to the criteria listed above.