

80TH 4-H/FFA MARKET ANIMAL SHOW & SALE 2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules can be amended or added to by the MAS Board of Directors at any time up until April 29th, 2026.

Please look for notices on policy or rule changes throughout the year.

Refer to www.marketanimalshow.org or Facebook page: 4-H & FFA Market Animal Show and Sale.

Dates, locations, and rules listed below are subject to change. The MAS Board of Directors reserve the rights to make said changes.

The mission of the Augusta County 4-H/FFA Market Animal Show is to encourage positive youth development through 4-H/FFA livestock projects. The primary focus of the program is to assist youth in developing life skills such as teamwork, accepting responsibility, developing a strong work ethic, and exhibiting good character. In addition, the program strives to teach young people about agriculture and agribusiness and hopes to create positive agricultural awareness in the community, while promoting community development.

The following rules and regulations serve as an exhibitor code of conduct. It is an agreement, formal or implied, between the participants, volunteers, and management of the show.

This agreement's purpose is to:

- Ensure the overall well-being of animals exhibited.
- Ensure the use of commonly accepted practices in preparing and exhibiting animals for show.
- Maintain a safe and wholesome food supply.
- Maintain the intent and integrity of animal competitions and displays for future generations.

The objectives of this Show and Sale are to:

- Demonstrate that it is practical to produce cattle, hogs, goats, and sheep on adapted farms in this area and to show the advantage of good breeding and the use of a balanced ration in feeding livestock.
- Train youth in the proper handling, fitting, and showing of livestock.
- Demonstrate practical economics of purchasing, producing, and marketing livestock.

Policies

1. The 2026 Market Animal Show & Sale will be held April 29th – May 2nd, 2026, at Augusta Expo, Fishersville.
2. The Show and Sale will be under the supervision of the MAS Board of Directors and governed by the organization's by-laws.
3. **This is an Augusta County School approved activity; the use of drugs, tobacco, and/or alcohol products is prohibited for students and adults.**
4. Loss, damage, or injury to animals, property, and/or individuals in transit to the Show, prior to the Show and Sale, and during the Show and Sale is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
5. Dogs are not allowed in the show area, show ring, sale ring, or area where animals are housed from Wednesday through Saturday, April 29th – May 2nd.
6. Trailers must be parked at designated locations once you have unloaded livestock. Assistance will be provided for transporting supplies back to your penning area.
7. An "entry" fee will be deducted from exhibitor's checks. Fees will be: \$15 per steer/heifer; \$10 per lamb; \$10 per hog, and \$10 per goat (max of 2 fees per species). Carcass Contest fees will be deducted from the exhibitor's check. Carcass Contest rates will be determined prior to the show.
8. All entry fees will be deducted from the exhibitor's check following the sale.
9. The Market Animal Show weigh-in on April 29th will be from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for hogs, lambs, goats, and market beef.
10. Exhibitors should make appropriate arrangements with their respective schools to get excused absences for days/assignments missed for MAS.

General Rules

1. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, graders/weigh-in personnel, show management, other exhibitors, or show officials before, during, or after the Show and Sale is prohibited. Violators will be removed from the show grounds immediately.
2. GRADER'S WORD IS FINAL.
3. SCALE WEIGHTS ARE FINAL.
4. Livestock shall be placed in pens designated by the Show Committee and may not be stalled in any other pen, unless approval by the MAS Barn Chairs is given. Expo facilities must not be altered or moved. **All livestock must be housed in designated pens in the barn unless being fitted or at nightly tie out.**
5. Checks will be mailed from the MAS Treasurer or designee within 30 days of the sale. Checks will NOT be available for pick-up in person. The mailing address in the entry system must be correct to receive your check promptly. Premiums can be picked up after the banquet for 30 days in the Extension Office.
6. All protests must be in writing and must clearly state the complaint. All protests must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00 which shall be forfeited to the Show in case protest is not sustained, and must be delivered to the MAS Board of Directors at the time of the offense.
7. The judge, officials, ring-men and/or members of the MAS Board of Directors may dismiss exhibitors from the show ring or prohibit exhibitors from showing unruly and/or unsafe animals.
8. Any exhibitor or his representative or agent who violates any of these rules and regulations of the Augusta County 4-H/FFA Market Animal Show, may be required to forfeit all privileges and premiums and may be barred from future participation at the discretion of the MAS Board of Directors.
9. Unbecoming conduct by Augusta County 4-H or FFA members or adults may be reviewed by the MAS Board of Directors and appropriate action taken.
10. The Show and Sale is open to 4-H and FFA members in Augusta County, the City of Staunton, and the City of Waynesboro, ages 9-19 as of September 30th, 2026, who are in good standing with their school system and 4-H Club or FFA Chapter.
 - A. Exhibitors are NOT eligible to show after they have graduated from high school (or equivalent for home-schooled youth) regardless of their age or membership status. Any student that has met graduation requirements in December and will not be in school for the second semester leading up to Market Animal Show must be active in a 4-H club or be in an approved work-based learning program and active in their FFA chapter to be eligible to show.
 - B. 4-H members must be actively enrolled in 4-H Online, under Augusta County, prior to completing Fair Entry online nominations for their species. 4-H members must complete a minimum of 6 educational hours and be in good standing with their 4-H Club.
 - C. FFA members are required to meet Virginia FFA membership requirements, participate in 6 educational hours, and be in good standing with their FFA Chapter.
 - D. MAS exhibitors are expected to assist with set-up for the MAS Show and Sale and/or clean up the day following the Sale.
11. Exhibitors must show their own animals individually in all classes including showmanship. If he or she has more than one entry per class, it must be shown by another qualified 4-H or FFA member who is registered to show. Emergency/Special situations must be presented to and decided on by the MAS Board of Directors.
12. Proper attire for the Show and Sale is required. A clean, collared shirt (tucked in) and long pants are considered proper attire. County school dress code policies will be in affect during the Show and Sale.
13. Exhibitors are responsible for being on time for all classes and sale order. Show and Sale order will be posted.
 - A. A one (1) minute gate call will be given for classes during the show.
 - B. Exhibitors not in the ring when the gate closes will not show.
 - C. Exhibitors who miss their place in the line-up for the sale will be moved to the end of the species.
 - D. Board of Director members and volunteers will be available to help as needed, including penning hogs and getting those present in order.
14. Showmanship will be offered to all exhibitors according to age in the following categories: Junior (ages 9-12), Intermediate (ages 13-15), and Senior (ages 16 and older). Age is determined as of September 30, 2026.

15. All animals in showmanship must be shown clean with no adhesives, glues or paints.
16. Only one re-weigh per animal will be allowed. All re-weighs must take place immediately. Animals may not leave the scale area and return later for re-weigh. All animals must be dry when weighed. All blankets must be removed including the spandex types. All ear tags must be clean and legible at time of weigh-in.
17. Any animal not meeting the weight and/or grade requirements will not be eligible to be shown or sold. **Any ineligible animal must leave the premises following the close of weigh-in.**
18. All male animals must be castrated by species nomination.
19. General Livestock Health Guidelines:
 - A. All animals exhibited and sold in the Market Animal Show must not receive any treatment with drugs, biologics, or growth stimulants within the withdrawal time period prior to check in. Withdrawal times for drugs and biologics are all stated on the directions for use. Label directions must be followed at all times. The act of entering an animal in this show gives consent by the owner to have specimens of urine, saliva, blood or other samples from the animals or carcass taken, to be used for testing. All animals entered into competition shall be subject to testing for foreign substances that exceed acceptable levels established by the FDA, FSIS, USDA and/or EPA. (It is a Federal offense to violate this rule).
 - B. Treating an animal, internally or externally, with an irritant or counter-irritant or other substance to artificially change its conformation, appearance, and/or behavior for the show is unacceptable. There will be no filling by means of a stomach pump or drench. The use of inhumane/abusive fitting, showing and/or handling practices will not be tolerated. Any animal found to be erroneously entered or artificially altered by changing the natural conformation or the color of the hair, wool or hide in any way, shall be evaluated by the MAS Board of Directors and any veterinarian or expert appointed.
 - C. All livestock must be provided with adequate water and the opportunity to drink during the Show and following the Sale.
 - D. Intentional misrepresentation of an animal in any way including age of the animal, ownership, prior show activity, or other misinformation provided by the exhibitor is prohibited.
 - E. Federal Law requires a Health Certificate (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or CVI) for any livestock transported across state lines. Some animals sold at the Market Animal Sale are invariably exported from Virginia. While exhibitors are not required to obtain a health certificate (CVI) to enter the show and sale, all animals MUST meet health requirements such that a CVI could be issued if needed, to be eligible for the show and sale. Specifically, animals must not be manifesting signs of infectious, contagious, or communicable disease. Additionally, any animal that cannot rise from a recumbent position or cannot walk, including but not limited to, those with broken appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured vertebral column or metabolic conditions will not be eligible to participate in the show or sale.
20. All exhibitors, parents and other helpers must be off the fairgrounds by 10:30 p.m. every night, unless extended by the Market Animal Show Board of Directors. No overnight camping allowed. The fairgrounds will re-open at 6:00 a.m. each morning on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
21. In the event of an injury or illness of an animal while at the show, the Board of Directors reserves the right to make any necessary decision, with the consultation of a licensed veterinarian, including but not limited to not allowing the animal to be shown or sold on the floor. The well-being of the animal will be the top priority in any situation.
22. Animals will only be sold one time and will be to the benefit of the exhibitor only.
23. All exhibitors are eligible to nominate 3 animals per species or 2 animals + 1 family alternate. For family alternates: 1 animal per species per immediate family can be nominated. To utilize the family animal, you must first have an animal nominated in that species.
24. Exhibitors may bring 3 animals per species to final weigh-in; however, the first and second animals to make weight and grade will be shown and sold.
25. To be eligible for the Bred and Owned division in each species, animals must be bred and owned by the exhibitor or immediate family of the exhibitor.

Beef Rules

1. Nominations:
 - A. To be eligible for the April 29th – May 2nd Show and Sale, all market cattle **MUST** be weighed on Saturday, November 1st, 2025. There are no exceptions. No late entries are accepted. The market cattle will be weighed at Expo from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The MAS Board of Directors reserves the right to identify market cattle by appropriate means.
2. Market cattle with horns/scurs must be dehorned by November nominations. Animals with horns/scurs will not be allowed to enter the Show and/or Sale.
3. All market cattle must be castrated by November nominations.
4. All market cattle will be shown by weight, regardless of breed. Only beef type cattle may be shown. No dairy type cattle may be shown.
5. Market cattle may consist of market heifers and market steers. All will be shown together under one market cattle show and abide by the same rules and regulations.
6. Market cattle must be shown with a halter and **MUST BE FULLY BROKEN**. The MAS Board of Directors will identify unbroken animals and disqualify them from showing if a threat to human safety is present. The use of tranquilizers, sedatives and depressants is prohibited. In the event an animal gets loose in the ring, on the third time it will be dismissed from the class and moved to the end of the species sale.
7. **Market cattle must weigh at least 1000 pounds and grade Prime, Choice, or Select to be eligible for the Show and Sale.**
8. All animals in showmanship must be shown clean with no adhesives, glues or paints.

Sheep Rules

1. To be eligible for the April 29th – May 2nd Show and Sale, all lambs must be tagged at the nomination day March 7th, 2026 at Augusta Expo; 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (March 14th, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. is the “snow date”. In case of snow, check www.marketanimalshow.org or the Facebook page for updates).
2. **Lambs must weigh between 90 and 150 pounds and grade Prime or Choice to be eligible for the Show and Sale.**
3. All lambs must be docked and all male lambs must be castrated, (short scrotum is not an approved method of castration), prior to initial nominations.
4. All lambs must be slick shorn from the hock up PRIOR TO weigh-in at the show.
5. All sheep must have a scrapie tag.
6. All animals in showmanship must be shown clean with no adhesives, glues or paints.

Hog Rules

1. To be eligible for the April 29th – May 2nd Show and Sale, all hogs must be tagged at the nomination day March 7th, 2026 at Augusta Expo; 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (March 14th, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. is the “snow date”. In case of snow, check www.marketanimalshow.org or the Facebook page for updates).
2. **Hogs must weigh between 220-295 pounds and grade 1 or 2 to be eligible for the Show and Sale.**
3. Due to packer’s specifications, hair on hogs may be clipped NO shorter than ½” on the body. Hogs clipped shorter than ½” will not be eligible for Show and Sale.
4. All hogs must be castrated prior to initial nominations.
5. All animals in showmanship must be shown clean with no adhesives, glues or paints.

Goat Rules

1. To be eligible for the April 29th – May 2nd Show and Sale, all goats must be tagged at the nomination day March 7th, 2026 at Augusta Expo; 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (March 14th, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. is the “snow date”. In case of snow, check www.marketanimalshow.org or the Facebook page for updates).
2. Wether goats must be castrated by initial nominations. No bucks.
3. All goats must have a scrapie tag.

4. **Market goats must weigh between 60-120 pounds. Goats must grade 1 or 2 to be eligible for the Show and Sale.**
5. All animals in showmanship must be shown clean with no adhesives, glues or paints.
6. All market goats will be shown by weight, regardless of breed. Only market type goats may be shown. No dairy type goats may be shown.

Sale – May 2nd, 2026 – Expo, Fishersville

1. All animals that are weighed in and shown will be sold, providing they meet requirements. Sale of animals will be conducted in accordance with MAS Board of Directors or designee procedures. Once an animal is sold, it becomes the property of the MAS Board of Directors or designee until payment in full is received. **NO animals may be purchased off the floor.**
2. The destination of each animal must be clearly determined before the animal leaves the sale ring and no changes will be made. Destinations include: Floor, Processing Facility, or Home.
3. All buyers (or those transporting animals for buyers) must have their animals checked off by the designated MAS Board of Director member at the loading areas to ensure that all animals are accounted for and go to the correct destination.
4. Exhibitors wishing to maintain ownership of their animals must purchase them in their name during the sale and designate as “home”. **Exhibitors are not to approach buyers and have them change the destination after the animal has been sold.**
5. Animals will be sold in rotation each year. The 2026 rotation will be hogs, cattle, sheep, goats.

Awards and Record Books

Record books are required for all exhibitors for all species. Exhibitors must complete one record book that contains all four species (Market Beef, Lambs, Goats, & Hogs) exhibited at the May MAS Show and Sale. Record books must be turned into the Extension Office by the date printed on the cover of the record books to be eligible for awards/premiums. Consult the directions in the record book for details and instructions. Premium amounts can be found in the show book and on the website and Facebook page. **Failure to turn in a completed record book by the due date listed on the front will result in forfeiture of premiums and carcass awards for that species.** A completed record book is defined as one that scores at least 50% based on the scoring rubric in the back of the record books. Record books must be turned in, COMPLETE AND ON TIME, for the exhibitor to be considered for any premiums. Record books turned in by email must be in Word or PDF format. The top five record books in each age division will be awarded monetary awards in the following amounts: 1st place - \$200; 2nd place - \$150; 3rd place - \$100; 4th place - \$75; 5th place - \$50.

Record Book Due Dates:

Market Cattle, Lamb, Goat, Hog – Due Monday, May 18th, 2026

Banquet

Banquet Date: TBA at Augusta Expo. Tickets will be sold online. Ticket sale times are subject to change and will be posted/announced during the Show and Sale. Tickets are first come, first serve until sold out. Neither the banquet committee nor the Extension Office will maintain a waitlist and/or manage tickets after they are sold out. After the Sale, refer to the MAS Facebook post concerning needed or available tickets.