

## 2026 La Crosse Interstate Fair Junior Livestock Project(s) Rules

### Objectives of the Junior Livestock Program:

Through participation in education workshops and livestock shows, youth will:

1. Learn and apply practical livestock production, management and marketing practices.
2. Have the opportunity to evaluate his/her educational experiences as they relate to livestock production.
3. Be provided the opportunity to grow in the area of personal development, which encourages character building, including honesty, integrity, credibility, responsibility, work ethic, resourcefulness and leadership skills.
4. Be provided an opportunity to meet new people, share ideas and learn to work cooperatively with others.
5. Have an increased awareness of career opportunities in the livestock/meat industry.
6. Be in a position to acquaint the public with youth livestock programs and the livestock industry, as well as how high quality, wholesome meat animals are produced for the consumer.

### General Rules for Livestock Species (Beef, Sheep, Goats, Swine)

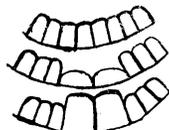
1. In order to exhibit livestock, a youth (exhibitor) must be a member, by April 1 of the exhibit year, of a La Crosse County 4-H, FFA, FHA, Scouting program, La Crosse County junior livestock breed association or any other recognized La Crosse County youth organization under adult leadership with an educational program approved by the local fair. Exhibitor must have beef, sheep or swine as a project. If the exhibitor is showing as a 4-H member, they must be in grades 3-13 during the exhibit year. If they are showing as an FFA member, as a member of a junior livestock breed association or other recognized youth organization, they must be between the ages of 8-19 on January 1 of the exhibit year. Proof of membership will be requested.
2. Market Animal Identification and Weighing procedures:
  - a. Market lambs, market hogs and market cattle will be identified with an ear tag provided by the La Crosse Youth Livestock provided by the superintendents or RFID tag.
  - b. Market animals not identified by either a La Crosse Youth Livestock or RFID ear tag are not eligible to show at the fair.
  - c. All market lambs (wether or ewe) must have a Scrapie tag from the farm of origin at Spring identification.
  - d. All market cattle and market lambs will be identified by purchasing tags and completing paperwork in the spring. All needs to be completed through the superintendents.
  - e. All market hogs will be identified with ear notches and La Crosse Youth Livestock ear tag numbers or RFID tags on the official paperwork. The fair Superintendent will coordinate, and communicate the dates and process to be followed.
  - f. All beef, sheep and swine must come to the fair with a La Crosse Youth Livestock or RFID tag in the animal's ear.
  - g. If a market animal loses a La Crosse Youth Livestock ear tag or RFID tag, the youth must contact the species Superintendent immediately for a replacement.
  - h. Death of market animal: In the event that a market animal dies after it has been identified, the youth may replace the animal within 30 days of the Spring identification date. Contact the species Superintendent immediately in the event of animal death.
3. During Spring identification, animals can be entered using an individual exhibitor name or a family name for beef, swine, sheep and goat. Only members of the immediate family (siblings, step-siblings or legal guardianship) may be included

under the family entry. All eligible exhibitors' names must be listed on identification/weigh-in sheets. **Animals cannot be cross-identified in non-immediate family members' names.** During the fair weigh-in, the exhibitor of the animal must be declared at the scale.

4. Breed of market animal must be declared by the youth or by the family during fair weigh-in and cannot be changed. This will be used to determine the fair livestock show classes.
5. Sheep Spring Weigh-In and Rate of Gain: Spring weigh-in for market lambs will be the first Saturday in May at the fairgrounds from 9:00 AM to noon. Market lambs cannot be born before January 1 of the exhibit year. Market lambs will be tagged with identification tags after they are weighed in. All male lambs need to be castrated/banded before the spring weigh-in. No castration/banding is allowed while at the spring weigh-in. To participate in the Rate of Gain, the wether or ewe lamb need to participate in a market lamb class.
6. Purebred Breeding and Purebred Market Livestock: At final weigh-in during the fair, exhibitor must have certificate of registration from appropriate breed association for all breeding stock (intact males and females) shown as purebred. Tattoos will be read and checked against registration papers. Tattoos must be legible. Check with department superintendent for time when breeding stock registrations will be reviewed.
7. Managerial Livestock Project (Beef Only): A managerial project is a breeding animal (intact male or female) that is under the supervision and daily care of, but not owned by, the exhibitor. A formal written agreement, provided by the Beef Superintendent(s), between the animal owner and the animal exhibitor, outlining the responsibilities/obligations of each party, is required. The completed agreement must be submitted at animal check-in during the fair.
8. Managerial Livestock Project (Sheep Only): A managerial project is a breeding animal (intact male or female) that is under the supervision and daily care of, but not owned by, the exhibitor. An exhibitor will be limited to showing six (6) managerial breeding animals. A formal written agreement, provided by the Sheep Superintendent(s), between the animal owner and the animal exhibitor, outlining the responsibilities/obligations of each party, is required. The completed agreement must be submitted at animal check-in during the fair.
9. Animal Health: See Wisconsin County, District & State Fairs Animal Health Rules and Regulations and Market Animal Health Rules listed in the La Crosse Interstate Fair Exhibitor's Handbook and Premium Listing.
10. Livestock Species Standards:
  - steers showing signs of bulliness will not be permitted to show
  - prolapsed lambs will not be permitted to show
  - barrows, wethers, or steers not properly castrated will not be permitted to show
  - any animals with warts or active ringworm will not be permitted to show.
  - market lambs or breeding sheep with sore mouth will not be permitted to show
11. All steers are subject to age inspection and will be mouthed during fair weigh-in to meet age requirements. Steers must have all 8 temporary center incisors in place and no permanent teeth. Steers will be veterinary inspected with expenses paid by La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee.

Typical mouth of calf at various ages:

- 18 months-calf has 8 temporary incisors
- 22 months-Two temporary incisors lost and being replaced by permanent teeth
- 26 months-Two permanent incisors in place. Permanent incisors are about 3 times the size of temporary incisors. This calf would not be allowed to show. If you are not positive of your calf's age, check its teeth before coming to show. See diagrams below.



12. Market Animal Drug History Form: All exhibitors exhibiting animals in any market animal class are required to complete a Market Animal Drug History form for each animal shown. Exhibitors and their parents or guardians must sign the Market Animal Drug History form attesting to proper withdrawal of all additives and injections administered to the animals being shown. Forms are available from the department superintendent and are due at weigh-in.
13. Arrival at the Fair: All livestock species entries for beef, swine, sheep and market goats need to be in place by 10 AM on Wednesday. Special arrival times for Tuesday evening will be coordinated by the species superintendents.
14. Movement: Once animals are in place in their barns and after their designated check in times, animals may only leave the barn to go to the wash rack, to the show ring for their show or for walking during non-scheduled events in the arena. Animals may leave the barn for the photo area or the auction and then must return to their barn. Animals must stay in their species barn at all other times. Animals are not allowed in food areas.
15. Weigh In Times: La Crosse Interstate Fair Weigh-in will be held as follows:
  - Market Lambs – Wed., 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
  - Market Goats – Wed., following market lambs
  - Market Hogs – Wed., 12 noon -2 p.m.
  - Market Beef – Wed., 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.Sheep, Goats and Swine will be weighed on the existing swine scale with sheep weighed first. Sheep and goats will follow the same rule as swine, one time across the scale and all weights are FINAL. Times are subject to change. Confirm time with the department superintendent. There will be no reweighs.  
  
For Beef, it is the responsibility of the beef exhibitor and their immediate family to lead their market animal to the weigh-in chute and onto the scale in a safe and timely manner during the designated weigh-in time frame. Inability to do so safely and in control of the animal, can result in the animal being disqualified from the show and scale events.
16. Livestock exhibits must be shown by the exhibitor unless special arrangements are made with the superintendent prior to the beginning of the show. If the exhibitor has more than one animal in a class, the additional animal must be shown in the ring by an eligible exhibitor participating in the fair.
17. Exhibitor Numbers: Livestock exhibitors must wear exhibitor numbers distributed by the department superintendent of each species during the livestock show.
18. Fitting, Showing and Care - During the fair, it is the individual youth exhibitor's responsibility to prepare his/her exhibit for show/exhibition. The youth exhibitor may be assisted verbally or with written educational instructions with the preparation of his/her livestock exhibit by his/her 4-H/FFA project leader. Hands on assistance may come from another La Crosse

County youth exhibitor, and/or family members (parents, step-parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, step-siblings, legal guardian).

For safety reasons, any individual may be able to step in and assist with a run away or out of control animal.

This is an educational activity and learning by doing is the La Crosse County Ag. Society mission.

19. Animals in showmanship classes are to be shown by the exhibitor who entered the animal. During showmanship classes, judging is based on the youth's ability to fit and show his/her animal to its best advantage, adult assistance may only be provided to secure and return a "run away" animal to the exhibitor, with this assistance preferably being provided by show personnel.
20. Dual Species and Showmanship: If an exhibitor is planning on exhibiting more than one species in Showmanship for Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goat and Horse, the exhibitor must declare their primary species on day one of the fair to the fair office in the Farm Progress building. If undeclared, and the exhibitor is the top showman in more than one species, the first species shown will become primary. This is for determining the participants in the Round Robin competition.
21. Showmanship classes are as follows:
  - Novice class, grades 3-6
  - Junior, grades 3-6
  - Intermediate, grades 7-9
  - Senior, grades 10-13Novice class is for a beginner/learner or a first or second year showman not wanting to compete in the Junior class. Novice will not participate in Round Robin Showmanship event on Sunday if placing first in the class.  
  
Youth will participate in showmanship based upon the grade that they were in on January 1 of exhibit year. Showmanship order for all species begins with senior, then intermediate, and followed by junior. The superintendents may divide a showmanship class that is large into two or more approximately equal groups with each group judged as a class. Winners of divided heats will then be grouped together to compete for class champion.
22. Animals deemed uncontrollable and/or unsafe to exhibit by the department superintendents will be dismissed from the fairgrounds and premiums will be forfeited.
23. During the livestock show, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to be a courteous and safe showman by controlling their animal. If an animal gets away from an exhibitor two or more times during the show, the exhibitor may be asked to leave the show ring by the judge or by the department superintendent. If asked to leave the ring, the animal will be placed last in the class.
24. If an exhibitor, parent or an immediate family member shows disrespect, either verbal or physical, to judges, superintendents, parents, fellow participants or livestock show personnel, he/she shall be subject to review by the department superintendent, the La Crosse Youth Livestock designee(s), and the La Crosse County Ag Society designee(s). If behavior is found to be inappropriate, the exhibitor will forfeit all premiums and may not be eligible to show and/or sell an animal in the auction and could include the inability to exhibit the following year.
25. Exhibitors of livestock must have their entries clean and orderly by 9:00 am each day of the fair. Livestock superintendents will periodically check barn area to ensure acceptable appearance.

26. **All entries are exhibited at the exhibitor's own risk. The La Crosse County Agricultural Society, the La Crosse Interstate Fair and the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee will take every reasonable precaution but will not be responsible for damages, loss or theft.**

27. All livestock exhibitors are required to furnish feed and water for their animals. Any exhibitor who does not properly care for their livestock at the fair will have necessary costs deducted from their premiums and will be asked to remove their animal from the fairgrounds by the superintendent in cooperation with the La Crosse County Agricultural Society.

28. Carcass Contest / Ultrasound Evaluation: Each livestock exhibitor in Beef, Swine, Sheep and Goat) will be allowed one animal to participate in the ultrasound evaluation. If an exhibitor is showing more than one species, exhibitor will determine which species to enter in the Carcass Contest / Ultrasound Evaluation. See species Special Awards section for carcass awards.

29. Exhibitors having stalling/pen space assigned them will not be allowed to change to another position without first obtaining consent of the Superintendent of that department. Only those animals shown may be kept in stalls/pens on the fairgrounds.

Swine exhibitors will be allowed 1 pen per/exhibitor for 2 hogs. If there are 3 hogs then 2 pens will be allowed.

30. Livestock exhibits, except steers shipped to market at 5:00 pm on Sunday, will not be removed before 6 pm on Sunday.

31. Shipping of auction animals: Each market animal will be issued a livestock shipping document by the La Crosse Youth Livestock. Pertinent ownership information will be included on the shipping document as the animal passes through the scale. The committee will use this document to schedule trucking of auction animals.

32. Herdsmanship is encouraged through herdsman awards as determined by the La Crosse Interstate Fair premium list.

33. All problems are to be reported to the department superintendents. Any emergency not provided by these rules shall be referred to the superintendents along with the La Crosse County Agricultural Society. Any decision made by the La Crosse County Agricultural Society shall be final.

34. Liability: All livestock shall be at the risk and responsibility of the exhibitor. See liability statement listed in the La Crosse Interstate Fair Premium List under General Regulations.

35. Ethics: See ethics statement listed in the La Crosse Interstate Fair Premium List under General Regulations.

## 2026 La Crosse Youth Livestock Auction Rules

**The La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee is responsible for the La Crosse Interstate Fair Junior Livestock Auction.**

### 2026 La Crosse Youth Livestock Board

Aaron Langrehr, Wade Olson, Mel Hart, Steve Huffman and Bella Langrehr

Follow them on Facebook: La Crosse Youth Livestock or email: [lacrosseyouthlivestock@gmail.com](mailto:lacrosseyouthlivestock@gmail.com)

**In order to participate in the La Crosse Interstate Fair, La Crosse Youth Livestock Auction, participants must comply with the following rules:**

1. Youth Eligibility: In order to sell an animal in the auction, a youth must be a member, by April 1 of the exhibit year, of a La Crosse County 4-H, FFA, FHA, Scouting program, La Crosse County junior livestock breed association or any other recognized La Crosse County youth organization under adult leadership with an education program approved by the La Crosse County Agricultural Society. Exhibitor must have beef, sheep, swine or goat as a project. If the exhibitor is showing as a 4-H member, they must be in grades 3-13 during the exhibit year. If they are showing as an FFA member, as a member of a junior livestock breed association or other recognized youth organization, they must be between the ages of 8-19 on January 1 of the exhibit year. Proof of membership will be requested.

2. Education Requirements: All livestock project members must have attended at least two (2) educational species session exhibited by the youth (animal selection, judging, grooming and fitting, etc.) sponsored by, or approved by La Crosse Youth Livestock (LYL) in order to participate in the auction. FFA members will be allowed to use livestock functions to count as educational sessions towards meeting their educational requirement for selling. The livestock functions should be approved by the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee. **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is required of all beef, swine, sheep and goat project members who sell an animal in the auction.**

3. Showmanship Participation: The La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee requires that market animal exhibitors must participate in showmanship in each livestock market that they show to ensure eligibility in the auction.

4. Animal Eligibility: All auction animals must comply with **all** La Crosse Interstate Fair junior livestock show and project rules. **Animals must be eligible to show in order to be eligible to sell in the auction.**

To be eligible for the auction, animals must meet the following requirements:

#### Market Beef

- beef mini market beef must weigh a minimum of 700 pounds.
- beef and beef-cross animals must weigh a minimum of 1050 pounds
- dairy and dairy-beef cross animals must weigh a minimum of 1150 lbs except for Jersey and Guernsey which is 900 lbs.
- those showing staginess will be disqualified.

#### Market Hogs-any breed or crossbred

- barrows and gilts are eligible
- must weigh a minimum of 230 pounds, maximum 320
- auction sale will pay up to 300 pounds

#### Market Lambs-any breed or crossbred

- wether and ewe lambs are eligible
- must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds
- no maximum weight limit
- prolapsed lambs will not be allowed to sell

#### Market Goats

- dairy or non-dairy wether/doe are eligible
- minimum weight is 50 pounds
- no maximum weight limit

5. Auction Species Order: The La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee determines the order in which each species is sold during the auction. An annual rotation of beef, market hogs, market lambs and goats is observed.

6. Judges' Role in Auction Selection & Order: Beef and Sheep judges will select animals for the auction. Judges' decision is final in determining eligibility of each market animal in the

livestock auction. Judges of beef and sheep species will determine the order in which beef and lambs will sell. Swine superintendent will select market hogs at random for auction.

7. Champions Required to Sell: The supreme champion and reserve supreme champion market animal of each department (beef, sheep and swine) must sell at auction. The supreme champions and the reserve supreme champions of each species will sell first, followed by the top and reserve showman.
8. Number of Animals per Each Youth: Exhibitors may sell only one animal in the auction. Exception: an exhibitor may sell more than one animal if the animal is the supreme or reserve supreme champion of beef, swine, sheep or goat.
9. Exhibiting/Selling Multiple Species: If the exhibitor has more than one species selected for the auction, it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to contact the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee no later than 5:00 pm on Friday to indicate which species will sell. This may be adjusted depending on show times.
10. Youth Presence at Auction: All exhibitors selling an animal in the auction must be present to sell his/her own animal. If the exhibitor cannot be present, they must submit a written excuse to the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee officers by noon on the day of the auction.
11. Attire: During the Junior Livestock auction, junior exhibitors selling an animal will not be allowed to wear farm logos inside or outside of the auction ring.
12. Animal Care After the Auction: Once an animal is sold, it becomes the property of the buyer. However, the exhibitor must adequately bed, feed and water the animal until it is shipped to market following the auction. If an exhibitor abandons an auction animal, the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee will care for the animal and will deduct all money over market price from the exhibitor's auction check. The La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee will retain all money deducted from the exhibitor's auction check. Fair premiums will also be withheld and exhibitor will not be permitted to participate in their next eligible auction.
13. Shipping/Trucking: Only animals sold at the Jr. Livestock Auction and all other swine shown in the terminal swine show will be eligible for trucking. LYL will handle the trucking for only the sale animals going to Craig's Meats, Brock's Butcher Block, Equity, Foss Fine Meats and Steve's Country Meats. The remaining terminal swine will have the same locations adding on Fennimore Livestock Exchange as another option. For Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association and Fennimore Livestock Exchange the current day's sale price will be the selling price for the location. All terminal swine not in the sale will ship on designated trucking. Marking of the animals will be coordinated by the LYL/Superintendents and the individual exhibitors. All exhibitors are responsible for finding buyers for additional animals not sold in the sale. **Trucking of all other beef and sheep animals will be the sole responsibility of the animal's owner.** Animals sold on Premium will not be eligible for trucking.

Each market animal will be issued a livestock trucking document by the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee. Pertinent ownership information will be included on the shipping document as the animal passes through the scale. The committee will use this document to schedule trucking of auction animals.

14. Beef Halters: An adequate halter must be left on steers until shipped to market. Halters will be returned to exhibitor if labeled with exhibitor's name.

15. Animal Inspections/Tampering: All beef, swine and lambs sold in the auction are inspected for evidence of tampering upon slaughter. Any animals not clearing inspection will forfeit auction payment, ribbons, prizes, and premiums and exhibitor will not be permitted to participate in their next eligible auction.
16. Auction Set Up/Tear Down: All exhibitors participating in the auction and their parents/guardians are required to assist with assembling and/or dismantling of the auction area. Assembly of the auction area will take place early Saturday afternoon and will be announced via signage in the barns and announcements. Dismantling of the auction area will take place immediately following the auction.
17. Participation in Other County Fair Auctions: Exhibitors are eligible to sell an animal in only one (1) county junior livestock auction. Selling one animal at the La Crosse Interstate Fair Junior Livestock Auction and one animal at another county junior livestock auction will result in the exhibitor being barred from future auctions at the La Crosse Interstate Fair.
18. Auction Commission: Five percent (5%) of each animal's auction price may be deducted by the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee to offset auction-related costs such as trucking, advertising, insurance, youth education and donor/buyer recognition.
19. Volunteers: All auction workers, auctioneers, clerks of sale, and La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee members are volunteers and receive no compensation of any kind for their services.
20. Reimbursement Rule: Any livestock superintendent or individual seeking reimbursement for expenditures from the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee needs prior approval before expenditures will be reimbursed.
21. Buyer's Option: The buyer can pay the premium (Sale Price minus Market Price times the weight of the animal) to the sales clerk. The exhibitor then retains ownership of the animal. A selling fee of 5% of the gross, on the amount of the sale, may be taken.
22. Harassment of Buyers: Any person or persons who are reported to the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee for harassing any buyer for any reason will be subjected to a one (1) year suspension from selling in the Junior Livestock Sale. This will include all immediate family members defined as such: parents, step-parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, step-siblings, legal guardian or any other relative per discretion of the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee. The youth(s) involved may still show for exhibit but are ineligible for the sale. All La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee decisions are final.
23. Auction Snack and Beverages: This will only be served to the buyers, their guests and the volunteers who help with the actual sale
24. Buyer Thank You/Check Hand-Out Meeting: After the auction, each youth who sold an animal is required to do the following prior to receiving their auction check:
  - Attend the Check Hand-Out Meeting which will be held approximately 1-2 weeks after the fair at a date, time and place to be communicated by the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee and/or the Superintendents.
  - Bring a stamped unsealed thank you note addressed to their buyer. This will be collected and auction checks given in return.
  - A youth may send a family member or other representative to the meeting in their behalf.
  - Should circumstances prevent a youth or representative to attend the Check Hand-Out Meeting, they must contact a member of the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee to make arrangements to turn in their thank you and pick up their auction check by not later than August 15.

- If the youth does not comply with these rules, the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee will mail a thank you to their buyer and mail the youth their auction check. That youth will not be allowed to participate in the La Crosse Youth Livestock Auction the following year.
- A picture delivery verification form needs to be signed by the buyer before the auction check can be picked up. Below is an example.

**EXAMPLE**

<b>Picture Delivery Verification</b>
_____ has delivered their
NAME
La Crosse Youth Livestock Sale animal photograph to the following buyer:
Buyer Signature: _____
Business Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Date: _____

25. Questions/Interpretation of Rules: Any questions not provided for by the auction rules, or the interpretation of the auction rules, will be referred to the La Crosse Youth Livestock Committee Officers and their interpretation and/or decision will be final.