

Youth Beef Cattle

Superintendent – Dan Dunsmore (517) 676-1730
Assistant Superintendents – Jessica Rogers (517) 937-4282 & Valerie Jackson (517) 525-9195
Clerks – Cheryl Hutchison, Tim Dunsmore
Youth Representatives - Kacie Erickson, Julia Ward

Judging: Monday, August 2nd at 5:00 pm (following Dairy Market Show) - Main Arena
Arrival: Saturday July 31st – 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, or Sunday August 1st before 12:00 noon
Weigh In: Sunday, August 1st – 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Release: Sunday, August 8th at 8:00 am

BEEF DEPARTMENT RULES
All exhibitors are responsible for reviewing and complying with the General Rules, Junior Livestock Association (JLA) Rules, and Animal Health Requirements.

MARKET BEEF
1. Number of Animals Each exhibitor may register and exhibit a maximum of two (2) market steers. One (1) additional steer may be registered as a family alternate.
2. Animal Age and Class Placement Market beef animals must be 24 months of age or younger as of the opening day of the current year's fair. Animals determined to be more than 24 months of age are not eligible to exhibit as market beef. Market classes will be divided according to the animal's official fair weight recorded at weigh-in.
3. Market Animal Eligibility and Prior Participation A market beef animal that was exhibited and sold through the Ingham County Fair Livestock Auction in the preceding fair year is not eligible to be exhibited or sold through the Ingham County Fair Livestock Auction in the current fair year.
4. Minimum Market Weight Market beef animals weighing less than 1,000 pounds at the official fair weigh-in will be shown in the Prospect Class (Class 24.09). Prospect Class animals are not eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion Market Beef and are not eligible to sell in the livestock auction.
5. Market Beef Registration & Rate of Gain Weigh-In All market beef animals must be registered using the designated Google Form by February 20, 2027.
- Exhibitors wishing to participate in the Rate of Gain Class must present their steer(s) for the Rate of Gain weigh-in at the MSU Beef Research Facility on February 20, 2027, between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Completion of the February registration does not replace the fair entry requirement. All exhibitors must also enter their appropriate class(es) in ShoWorks by May 1, 2027.

6. Official Fair Weigh-In, Identification & Class Placement All market beef animals will be officially weighed at the fair on Sunday, August 1, 2027. This weight will be the animal's official fair weight and will be used for market class placement and all other fair purposes requiring an official weight. The weight recorded when the animal crosses the scale is final. No reweighs will be permitted, except when the beef superintendent determines that a scale malfunction or other equipment-related error occurred.
- Each market animal will also receive an official secondary identification tag at the Sunday fair weigh-in. This tag will serve as an additional means of identification along with the animal's RFID tag and must remain in the animal throughout the fair.
- If an animal's RFID tag or secondary identification tag is lost, falls out, becomes unreadable, or must be replaced, the exhibitor or parent/guardian must promptly notify the Beef Superintendent or an Assistant Beef Superintendent. Failure to report a lost or replaced identification tag may affect the animal's eligibility to exhibit.

7. Market Class Requirement All market beef animals brought to the fair must be entered and shown in the appropriate market beef class.

HOMEGROWN MARKET BEEF
8. Homegrown Class Eligibility The Grand and Reserve Champion Market Beef animals are not eligible to compete in the Homegrown Class. After selection of Grand and Reserve Grand Champion, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Overall Market Beef animals will be selected. These animals remain eligible to compete in the Homegrown Class, provided they meet all other Homegrown Class eligibility requirements.

ANIMAL & EXHIBITOR CONDUCT

9. Exercising Beef Animals Beef animals may only be exercised at the east end of the Main Arena or in the Ash Street Arena. Exercising beef animals in any other area of the fairgrounds is prohibited.
10. Assistance in the Show Ring Parents, guardians, and other unauthorized individuals are not permitted to enter the show ring with an exhibitor and animal unless permission is granted by the Beef Superintendent. Experienced showmen designated by the Beef Superintendent may be present in the show ring to assist exhibitors when necessary.

BEEF CARCASS

1. Carcass Class Entries & Availability The Beef Carcass Class is limited to a maximum of six (6) entries per year, with one (1) entry permitted per exhibitor.
- Registration will open on January 1, 2027, at 8:00 a.m. using the designated Google Form.
- Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The first six (6) eligible entries received will be awarded a spot in the Carcass Class.
- Any additional eligible entries will be placed on a waitlist in the order received and may be offered a spot if an opening becomes available.

2. Carcass Animal Delivery Exhibitors are responsible for delivering their carcass animal to the MSU Meat Laboratory on July 26, 2027, at a time to be determined.
- The scheduled delivery date and time are subject to change based on the availability of the MSU Meat Laboratory. Exhibitors will be notified of any changes.

3. Slaughter, Transportation & Processing Fees Carcass animals will be slaughtered and hung at the MSU Meat Laboratory.
- The exhibitor is responsible for paying the $150 slaughter fee at the time of animal drop-off.
- The Ingham County Junior Livestock Association (JLA) will pay the $25 transportation fee for transporting the carcass to Merindorf Meats.
- The buyer is responsible for the purchase price of the carcass and all associated meat processing fees.

4. Carcass Grading Carcass grading is scheduled for July 30, 2027, at a time to be determined. The grading date and time are subject to change based on the availability of the MSU Meat Laboratory. Exhibitors will be notified of any scheduling changes.
5. Results & Notification Official carcass results will be available following completion of the grading process. Exhibitors will be notified of their individual results once the official results have been received.
6. Official Placings & Awards Official Beef Carcass Class placings will be publicly announced during the Beef Show.

Showmanship

Top 5 Showman Banners for Each Division

24.01	Junior, 7 – 10 year olds	24.02	Intermediate, 11 – 14 year olds	24.03	Senior, 15 – 19 year olds

Carcass

Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Carcass (Steers & Heifers) Banners

24.04	Beef Carcass

Market Beef

Grand and Reserve Champion Market Animal (Steers & Heifers) Banners, and Class Winner Awards

24.05	Market Steers – All Breeds	24.06	Market Heifers – All Breeds
24.07	Homegrown (steer or market heifer) (Must be entered in individual market class)	24.08	Rate of Gain

Prospect Beef

Class Winner Ribbons

24.09	Lightweight Prospect Feeder (Heifer or Steer) up to 1000 lbs – All Breeds