



Muskingum County Junior Fair

TO: Potential 2026 Market Beef Exhibitors

New this Year: Market beef animals must weigh at least 900 pounds at the county fair to be eligible for auction. *Change from previous minimum of 1000 pounds.*

The following is information for registering 2026 market beef projects. **All** market beef animals to be exhibited at the 2026 Muskingum County Fair must come to beef registration day to be tagged and weighed, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. If the exhibitor is unable to attend, someone else can bring their animal(s) for them.

Junior Fair Livestock Committee is asking that you complete the registration form for each animal **BEFORE** weigh-in. It is available online: <https://go.osu.edu/muskmarketbeef>. The form should be completed **by December 9 at 12:00 p.m.** **Anyone who does not complete the form by this time should still complete it, but be prepared to show the confirmation e-mail at weigh-in.**

- Market beef registration and weigh-in will be held December 8 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** at Muskingum Livestock Sale Barn, 944 Malinda Street, Zanesville. All animals must be tagged and weighed-in at this time to be eligible to exhibit at the 2026 Muskingum County Fair.
 - Youth can weigh-in and tag up to two market beef animals in their own name **OR** one market beef animal in their name and one shared household back-up.
 - Example #1: Joey and Jonny are brothers. Joey registers two animals (Tag #1 and Tag #2) in his name. Jonny registers two different animals in his name (Tag #3 and Tag #4). The household has four total animals. At the fair, the exhibitor can only show one of the animals registered in his name.
 - Example #2: Joey and Jonny are brothers. Joey registers one animal (Tag #5) in his name and Jonny registers one animal in his name (Tag #6). They register one household back-up (Tag #7). The household has three total animals. At the fair, the exhibitor can show the animal registered in his name, or one of them can show the household back-up.
 - Animals must be on a halter at registration and should be halter broke.
- Animals must be owned, being cared for and in continuous possession of the exhibitor by weigh-in date (December 2025).
- All animals must have been born after January 1, 2025 and must be dehorned and castrated (if applicable). Calves will be checked for proper dehorning and castration by a licensed veterinarian at the December weigh-in. **There will be no on-site castration or dehorning. Steers must be castrated prior to arrival at December weigh-in.**
- 840 tags:** Exhibitors will be asked on the registration form if their animal already has an 840 tag. If yes, the exhibitor should enter the complete 840 tag number **(840+all other numbers on the tag)**. Animals that already have an 840 tag will not be tagged again, but the tag number will be verified with the number entered on the registration form.



This year, all market beef animals will have an 840 tag. This **complete number (840+all other numbers on the tag)** must be entered by the exhibitor when completing the fair entry by June 30 and the Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) in August.

5. **Purebred Steer Registration:** Attach a copy of the steer's registration paper to the online county registration form. The steer must be registered in the name of the youth planning to exhibit it at the fair. If you do not have the breed registration paper yet, upload a copy of the bill of sale (if applicable) then follow up with a copy of registration after it is received. **This must be turned in to the Extension Office by JANUARY 31, 2026 or the steer will be placed in Crossbred class. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - There must be a minimum of 4 steers of one particular breed to constitute a class. All others will be placed in an "All Other Breeds" class. There will be no minimum number in an AOB class. All registered steers will be recognized including appendix and low percentage. Once you have declared the steer to be shown in a purebred/AOB class changes cannot be made at the fair.
 - Each breed class winner will compete for overall purebred division champion/reserve. The purebred division champion will show against other crossbred division champions for overall grand and reserve grand market steers.
6. **Born & Raised Market Steer Class:** If exhibitor owned and had in their possession the mother of their market steer by March 25, 2024, they qualify for this class. Youth will be asked on their registration and entry form if the animal is bred and owned on their farm. Exhibitors may NOT use a back-up for this class but must show the same steer as they do in the regular market steer class. The Born and Raised class takes place at the beginning of the market show. All steers in the class show together, regardless of weight.
7. **Market Heifer Class:** This is a separate division that will take place during the Tuesday market beef show. Youth will be allowed to exhibit a market steer OR a market heifer at the fair (ONE TOTAL market beef animal). Separate classes will be created if numbers warrant, but only one division champion/reserve champion will be selected. The market heifer division champion/reserve champion will compete for overall market beef grand/reserve champion.
5. **Ohio State Fair Reminders:** Ownership date for State Fair market beef is the same as our county registration. Any market beef animal to be shown at the Ohio State Fair must be registered in December at the county registration site. **Youth planning to participate in the 2026 Ohio State Fair with a Junior Livestock market steer or heifer must pick up a State Fair registration packet at December weigh in.**
6. **Muskingum County Fair Reminders:**
 - Youth may exhibit ONE market beef animal.
 - Youth may only sell one lot of livestock in the Junior Fair Livestock Sales; with the exception of an exhibitor who has more than one grand and/or reserve grand champion. All grand and reserve grand champions of each species must sell.
 - Market beef animals must weigh at least 900 pounds at the county fair to be eligible for auction.
7. **Other Information:**
 - Ownership and showing rights are considered lost if the animal has been cosigned or sold, even if the exhibitor "buys back" the steer.
 - Members of both 4-H and FFA may not take the same project in both organizations (ex: market beef project #117M).

