

2026 Livestock Sale – Member Information

Sale Order: Rabbits – Beef - Dairy Products – Sheep – Goats – Swine – Poultry

Date: Wednesday, July 15th, 2026 at 1:00pm

GENERAL

1. In order to participate in the Livestock Auction, a 4-H member must sell an animal, owned and shown by said 4-Her, from the species in which he or she participated. Auction exceptions only for Dairy Cow group auction items.
2. Animals in each section will sell in the following order, if applicable, Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, 10 year members, 1st year members and finally alphabetical or randomized order.
3. **ALL 4-H MEMBERS are highly encouraged to properly thank their buyer from the previous year's auction by creating a display no larger than 22" x 28" and display it at their pen. For species that prohibit hanging it at their pen, a designated area to display these posters will be made available. Posters will be judged (by species) and the winner will be chosen by the committee. Posters should be displayed prior to the day of your show.**
4. An individual or business should feel free to buy an animal, but no special pressure shall be brought to bear by any individual to over inflate the price of any animal.
5. The Auction Committee shall have final determination of the interpretation of all rules.

PRE-AUCTION

1. Appraised price will be obtained on all species in the sale and agreed upon prior to the auction.
2. All animals entering the ring must sell. All sales are final and animals will be marked SOLD in 4-H Online. All animals participating at the auction are **NOT ELIGIBLE** at the Indiana State Fair. Any animal entering the auction ring will be loaded onto the market truck. ANY ANIMAL GOING THROUGH THE AUCTION MAY NOT RETURN HOME.
3. Weighing times and conditions:
 - a. Cattle, swine, sheep and goats will use weight of entry to the fair for weight of sale.
4. Each 4-H member may sell one animal except rabbit and poultry which may sell a meat pen as one unit. Dairy Cow members have the option to collect their portion of Dairy project premium or enter an alternative species, NOT both.
5. Sale weight requirements can be found in the project guidelines. Please see your project leader for more information.
6. All 4-H members who wish to participate in the livestock auction will have a \$10 fee

deducted from their premium check.

7. The Livestock Auction Committee reserves the right to reject any sale animal it deems sick, inferior, tainted, unqualified or for any other reason deemed appropriate by the Livestock Auction Committee Chairperson or his/her designee. Specifically, but without limitation, no sale animal shall have any substance present or alteration that: 1. Violates standards established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 2. Violates standards established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or 3. Provides any potential performance enhancing quality (e.g., gait altering) and/or any potential showing advantage (including but not limited to tampering, altering, and/or misrepresenting any exhibit; coloring that alters or misrepresents breed characteristics; pumping air or other substances to alter conformation; methods to induce artificial fill; performing surgical and/or non-surgical procedures to alter the animal's configuration or natural conformation of any part of the animal's body; and unethical fitting – allowed exceptions include hoof trimming, dehorning, removal of hair, castration, branding, tattooing, ear notching, and docking of tails).

DURING THE AUCTION

1. Auction participants are responsible for being in the proper position to enter the auction ring when their time to sell comes. It is required that 4-H members wear proper attire during the auction. Participants are encouraged to begin lining up at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to their sale time. Any participant failing to be in position (except for emergency circumstances) at such time is subject to being removed from the auction order without recourse.
2. Dairy Cow Grand Champion will sell a gallon of cow milk or a block of cheese. These products represent the 4-H member's animal and that animal is **not allowed to return to the fair if the animal is 2 years old or older**. Remaining Dairy Cow members will sell a basket of cheese or a basket of milk products. Remaining members will share the proceeds equally between 4-H members. Per state fair rules, Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion animals that have run through the auction cannot be shown at the Indiana State Fair (This includes the sale of animal products in lieu of the animal)
3. 4-H members are required to support the auction by participating in a variety of activities, including but not limited to set-up, networking with buyers, ring support with snack/drinks, tear-down, etc. By participating in the auction, the 4-H member will gain more interaction with the buyers and learn networking skillsets.

POST-AUCTION

1. Auction Participants are encouraged to write a Thank You note to the successful bidder. Please remember without the dedicated bidders, there would be no auction.
2. Auction buyers will pay premiums to 4-H Council. 4-H Council will pay the 4-H member directly for both market price and premium.
3. There will be dates distributed for check pick-up, usually in July. **Auction checks must be picked up AND cashed or deposited by November 1st or the funds will be forfeited (checks will have a stop payment executed) and utilized to fund the 4-H Grows Here Fund!**

Any participant and/or family member that fails to comply with the guidelines outlined above or exhibit misconduct deemed inappropriate by 4-H Council will forego their premium proceeds from the current year's auction. Those proceeds will be donated to the 4-H Grows Here Fund. Eligibility for the successive year's auction will be determined by the Auction Committee after investigation into non-compliance.

Decatur County 4-H Auction Committee Members and Contact Information:

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