

Rusk County 4-H Small Animal Market Sale Rules

ANY YOUTH ORGANIZATION MEMBER GRADES 3 THROUGH 13 (ATCP 160.4(1)), MAY PARTICIPATE IF ENROLLED IN THE POULTRY, TURKEY, WATERFOWL, OR RABBIT PROJECTS.

PURPOSE

- 1.) To create an incentive for youth organization members to participate in the small animal livestock project.
- 2.) To provide an educational experience for all youth organization members to enhance personal growth, responsibility, and to gain knowledge of the small animal livestock industry.
- 3.) To provide youth organization members with an economic return; but this may not be representative of the real small livestock industry.
- 4.) To provide an educational activity – LEARN BY DOING – that allows youth organization members to raise a small livestock project from a young animal to the final market product.
- 5.) To provide the participant with knowledge on how to maintain records and production of the animal(s).
- 6.) To provide the participants with encouragement for good sportsmanship / ethics; to share knowledge and skills; and to develop a good mental attitude towards the small livestock project and industry.
- 7.) To provide youth organization members with information to help improve in club exhibits and herdsmanship.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE SMALL ANIMAL LIVESTOCK PROJECT

- 1.) Youth must be enrolled in the animal project that they wish to sell an animal at the auction: i.e., sell goose – be enrolled in the waterfowl project; turkey – be enrolled in the turkey project, etc.
- 2.) All animals must be in the exhibitor's possession by **July 1, 2026**.
- 3.) All animals must be fed, fitted, shown, and cared for before and during the fair by the exhibitor. Exhibitor must also be accessible to the barn superintendent for barn duty during the fair.
- 4.) All market animals must have some form of positive identification: leg bands will be handed out at the weigh-in on **August 5, 2026 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm**. Pullorum Testing will be offered at the fair grounds on **July 27th from 5:00pm – 7:00pm**. **All birds being shown must be tested or come from a tested flock.** No exceptions or exchanges will be allowed. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to schedule their testing. Any testing done less than two weeks before the fair, exhibitors will be charged \$4.00 / bird.
- 5.) All animals must be weighed-in Wednesday night before the fair by the specific time indicated for each small animal livestock project. Normal consumption of feed and water is allowed; however, NO forced feeding or withdrawal of food is permitted.
- 6.) Legal withdrawal periods of specific drugs used must be followed. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of sale money, premiums, and awards. Only legal drugs that are approved by the Veterinarian will be allowed on the Fairgrounds. Release statements are necessary for feed additives and / or implants. These release statements are due at the time of unloading the animal(s) at the fairgrounds.
- 7.) To be eligible for the sale, all project members must attend one **Market Orientation** and at least two Small Animal educational functions/meetings and document attendance on the Small Animal Project Educational Sheet. The proper signatures must be signed. If the participant does not attend meeting(s) / workshop(s), it will disqualify his / her animal(s) from the sale.
- 8.) Minimum requirements of (3) bidder forms per youth available **June 1st** are due to the UW-Extension Office on **July 10, 2026**.
- 9.) In the event that an animal, which is not eligible for the Small Animal Sale, is named champion or reserve champion, a champion or reserve champion will also be named from those animals eligible for the Small Animal Sale.

- 10.) The Small Animal Livestock Committee reserves the right to assign animals to the project sale at the time of the sale in case a youth wins more than 2 champions and /or reserve champion animals.
- 11.) All youth organization members may sell two lots at the market sale. If the youth has participated in the large animal livestock sale, they will only be allowed to sell one qualifying lot in the Small Animal Sale.
- 12.) Sale commissions will be 5% and subject to change by the committee to cover the costs incurred conducting the sale, such as promotions, sale catalogs, auctioneers, etc.
- 13.) Once an animal is sold, it becomes the property of the buyer. However, the exhibitor has the responsibility of caring for said animal until it leaves the Fairgrounds. If the buyer does not want the animal, it will become the property of the Small Animal Committee.
- 14.) Private sale signs cannot go up until 8:00pm on the night after the auction is complete.
- 15.) Final disposition of the animal will be at the buyer's discretion.
- 16.) All youth are required to present a **Buyer Thank You note in an addressed, stamped envelope to the Committee Chair by 3 PM the last day of the Fair.**
- 17.) Checks will be issued at the September meeting, or left at the extension office.
- 18.) Cleaning of pens after the fair is the responsibility of the individual exhibitor, youth organization member. Barn cleanup IS REQUIRED for all small animal exhibitors and will be posted in the barn at the fair.
- 19.) Pen Reservation for auction animals will be assigned by the Barn Superintendent. NO switching will be permitted unless approved by the Barn Superintendent.
- 20.) **NOTE:** Once a Project Animal is weighed-in at the final weigh-in, the animal **CANNOT BE** exhibitor chooses to remove such animal, the exhibitor **WILL NOT** be eligible to exhibit or show in the Rusk County Fair Small Animal Project the following year. Such removal will result in forfeiting **ALL** premiums, ribbons, and trophies relating to this project. If a Project Animal needs to be removed from the Fairgrounds, for any reason, the exhibitor needs a Veterinarian or the Barn Superintendent(s) approval.
- 21.) Parents are encouraged to be present if your son / daughter is showing an animal in the Small Animal Livestock Project. (ONLY PROJECT MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO HANDLE ANIMALS AT JUDGES TABLE!)
- 22.) All Small Animal Project Members with Market Animals MUST participate in the Project Butcher Day (Date to be announced). Project members can butcher at their own farm, but will be required to submit photos to the committee.
- 23.) **FAILURE TO COMPLY** WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE RULES WILL SUBJECT THE EXHIBITOR TO REPRIMANDS BY THE SMALL ANIMAL COMMITTEE AND / OR RUSK COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR. THESE REPRIMANDS MAY INCLUDE INELIGIBILITY TO SELL IN THE AUCTION, LOOSING PREIVILEGES TO SHOW THE FOLLOWING YEAR, OR FUTURE ELIGIBILTY TO BE A PART OF THE SMALL ANIMAL PROJECT.
- 24.) The Small Animal Committee reserves the right to make all decisions on which animals will be sold on sale day. All decisions of the committee are final.

SHOWMANSHIP

To be eligible to participate in the sale, the exhibitor **must participate in the showmanship contest** for their respective area at the Rusk County Junior Fair. This must be your own animal that is shown for this competition. Proper clothing attire should be followed. This includes a long-sleeved white shirt and dark pants.

EXCEPTION TO THE RULES

The individual must be present with his / her own animal in the sale ring the day it is sold. Realizing that there may be circumstances out of the control of the seller, the current Small Animal Committee will be the authority to give or deny permission in certain cases for the substitute person to perform such duties. (Example: funeral, death in the family, sickness, etc.).

RULES FOR RABBITS

- 1.) All market rabbits must be born after January 1, **2026**. 3 animals per meat pen/ 1 fryer per sale lot/1 roaster per sale lot. final weigh-in on **August 5, 2026**. Final weigh-in to take place in the small animal barn at the Rusk County Fairgrounds.
- 2.) Single fryer. Any rabbit entered as a single fryer must not be over 69 days old nor weigh **over 5.5 pounds** at final weigh-in. The rabbit may not be entered in any other class.
- 3.) Roaster Rabbit. The exhibit consists of a single rabbit of either sex, between 70 and 180 days old, weighing **not less than 5 pounds** and which may not be entered in another class.
- 4.) Only the top 4 animals per class may be sold at the market auction. The committee reserves the right to adjust numbers as needed.

RULES FOR POULTRY, WATERFOWL, AND TURKEY

- 1.) Poultry will include: yearling hen, roaster chickens, broiler chickens, young, duck, young geese, and young turkey.
- 2.) Market poultry must be hatched after **January 1, 2026**.
- 3.) Final weigh-in for all poultry will be on **August 5, 2026** in the small animal barn at the Rusk County Fairgrounds. At the final weigh-in, weights should be as follows:
 - Yearling hen; determined on past egg production.
 - Roaster chickens; 2 birds of either sex, each weighing 7.5 to 8.5
 - Broiler chickens; 2 young birds, each weighing 3.5 to 5.5 pounds and at least 37 days old
 - Broiler chickens; 2 young birds, each weighing 5.5 to 6.5 pounds and at least 37 days old
 - Young duck; either sex, weighing 5 pounds or more
 - Young goose; either sex weighing 7 pounds or more
 - Young Turkey; either sex, over 15 weeks of age

Animals will be banded at time of final weigh in.

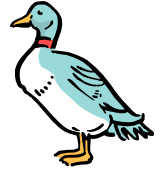
- 4.) Roasters and Broilers, will be two animals per sale lot. Yearling hen, duck, geese, and turkey will be one animal per sale lot.
- 5.) Only the top 4 animals per class may be sold at the market auction. The committee reserves the right to adjust numbers as needed.

RUSK COUNTY 4-H SMALL ANIMAL PROJECT MEMBER

Name: _____

Youth Organization Group: _____

Small Animal Educational Meeting



Date: _____

Time: _____

Place of Meeting: _____

Title of Meeting: _____

Topics Discussed: _____

Signature of Meeting Leader: _____

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