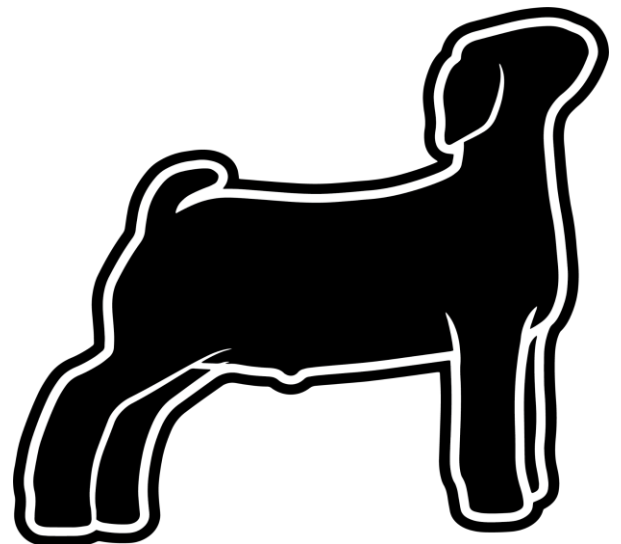
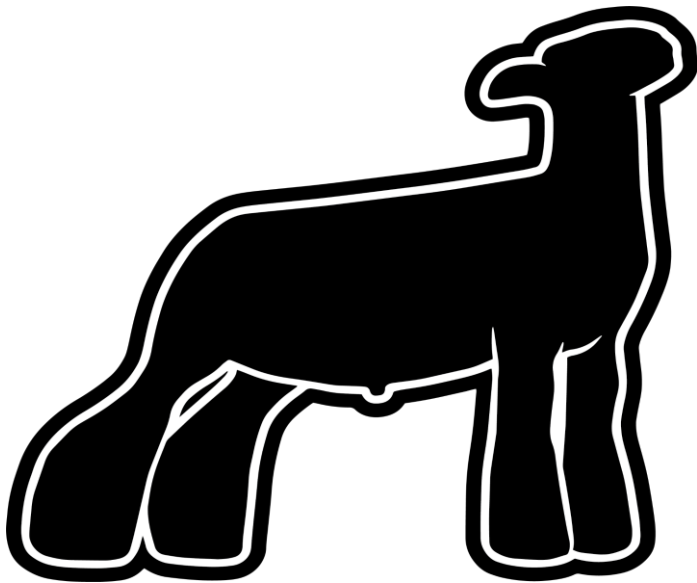


**Rusk County Livestock  
Market Project  
Rules**



**2026**

## RUSK COUNTY LIVESTOCK MARKET PROJECT RULES

Any Rusk County approved youth organization member, grade 3 through 13 (ATCP 160.4(1)), may participate if enrolled in any of the following projects: beef steer or heifer, dairy steer, sheep, goat, or swine. All enrollments are due to the UW-Extension Office by January 31.

### PURPOSE

1. To create an incentive for Rusk County youth organization members to participate in the livestock projects.
2. To provide an educational experience for all Rusk County youth organization members to enhance personal growth, responsibility, and gain knowledge of the livestock industry.
3. To provide Rusk County youth organization members with an economic return; this may not be representative of the real livestock industry.
4. To provide an educational activity -- **LEARN BY DOING**—that allows Rusk County youth organization members to raise a 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 livestock project and industry.
7. To provide Rusk County youth organization members with information to help improve in club exhibits and herdsmanship.

### GENERAL RULES FOR THE LIVESTOCK PROJECT

1. It is mandatory that each member and at least one parent, guardian or adult mentor attend one orientation.
2. Each member must read and sign the Code of Ethics and Rules Agreement Form and turn in the forms by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. **Exhibitors selling animals at the auction must have one-year of previous livestock project experience.**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> year member must complete all requirements of the livestock project excluding the auction, for the successful completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> year.**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> year members may sell his/her animal only if he/she receives Grand or Reserve Champion in his/her species.**
4. Each member must attend at least two educational meetings or events.
  - **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training is mandatory for all 1<sup>st</sup> year members in the project; however, the course can be completed by any project member and will count as an educational meeting. (The course can be completed online and a YQCA certificate must be provided to the committee as proof of completion).**

- A member attending an educational meeting or event not put on by the Rusk County Livestock Project committee must document their attendance on the Rusk County Livestock Educational Verification Form and attain a proper signature.
- The Livestock Committee must approve of any alternatives to the educational meetings not offered by the committee by June 15 of the project year.
- All signed attendance sheets furnished to the participant(s) must be completed and turned in to the UW-Extension Office by July 10<sup>th</sup>.

If the participant does not attend meeting(s)/workshop(s), it will disqualify his/her animal from the sale.

5. Minimum requirement of (3) bidder forms from legitimate bidders are due to the UW-Extension Office on July 10, 2026. Bidder forms will be available for pick up no earlier than June 1, 2026.
6. Livestock exhibitors are required to participate in the showmanship contest for each species they show at the Rusk County Fair.
7. The livestock project financial record that is provided by the Rusk County Livestock Committee must be completed in the **project member's own handwriting** and put in the monitored drop box, located in the round barn by **11:00 a.m.** on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> of the fair. This is required regardless of whether or not the project member participates in the auction. The inclusion of additional documents and/or photos is encouraged.
8. Buyer thank you cards must be completed in the project member's own handwriting and turned in with an addressed **stamped** envelope to livestock committee and put in the monitored drop box located in the round barn by **11:00 a.m.** on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> of the fair.
9. Livestock exhibitors may show multiple species up to a maximum of **3** market animals in the Rusk County Fair. However, only **2** animals can be entered and shown in a single species. Each species entered must be weighed in at the appropriate days/times assigned and **meet all eligibility requirements to show and sell.**
10. **Each exhibitor will be allowed to sell only 1 animal in the livestock auction.** The exhibitor will have **30 minutes** from their final show to make their decision. The decision needs to be reported to the Livestock Chair.
11. Should an exhibitor receive grand or reserve champion in 2 species. **AN ALTERNATE GRAND OR RESERVE CHAMPION WILL NOT BE CHOSEN TO REPLACE THE MISSING GRAND OR RESERVE SPECIES FOR THE AUCTION.**
12. The number of animals in the project sale has currently been limited to: (27) steers, (33) swine, (10) sheep and (2) goats for a total of 72 possible animals in the sale. If there should be a shortage in a particular species it may be made up from one of the other species at the discretion of the Livestock Committee.
13. The judge's rank in the show will be used to determine eligibility to participate in the livestock auction if necessary. The sale order will be drawn on Thursday evening of the fair. The Livestock Committee reserves the right to adjust the number of animals and species in the project sale prior to the sale.
14. All animals must be in exhibitor's possession by initial weigh-in/registration.
15. All male animals in the Livestock Project must be castrated and dehorned prior to the initial weigh-in date. Animals that are determined to have incomplete, late castration or horns will not be weighed in. In the event that castration was attempted but not successful the animal will not be eligible to be weighed in at the final weigh-in.

16. All animals must have some form of positive Rusk County livestock project identification assigned to a specific individual. Animals will be required to have (2) Rusk County identification tags. (Plastic scrapie tags for sheep and RFID tags for pigs are acceptable forms of identification).
17. In the event that one identification tag is lost, the project leader or UW-Extension Office must be notified **immediately**, and replacement identification will be made. If both tags are reported lost, that animal is disqualified. If it is determined that tags have been tampered with, the project member will be disqualified from the project permanently.
18. Shared Animal – “Floater Animal Rule” – If siblings within one family weigh in two animals per sibling, they may share one additional animal with their other siblings for their third animal. The floater must be designated at the final weigh-in with the name of the final exhibitor.
19. All animals must be weighed in on entry day of the fair by the specific time indicated for each species. Normal consumption of feed and water is allowed; however, NO forced feeding or withdrawal of food is permitted. There will be no re-weighing of animals.
20. 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.
21. Once a Project Animal is weighed in at the final weigh-in at the fairgrounds, the animal **CAN NOT BE REMOVED** from the fairgrounds. This rule applies to all Livestock Market Sale Animals. If the exhibitor chooses to remove such animal without the proper approvals, the exhibitor **WILL NOT** be eligible to exhibit or show in the Rusk County Livestock Project the following year. Such removal will result in forfeiting **ALL** premiums, ribbons, and trophies. If a project animal needs to be removed from the fairgrounds for any reason, the exhibitor needs proper approval. A certified veterinarian is the only one who can remove an animal other than the Fair Board and the Justice, Youth & Extension Committee.
22. Any unruly animal that may cause safety issues can be disqualified from the project at the final weigh-in, show, and/or sale at the discretion of the livestock committee.
23. In the event that any animal does not make weight, this animal will be shown in the non-auction market class and will not be judged at the carcass show.
24. An exhibitor’s extra animal or any non-eligible animals will be entered and shown in the non-auction market class.
25. The livestock committee will secure processing for one animal per exhibitor. Exhibitors are responsible for securing a processor for any additional animals prior to the fair. Exhibitors will be required to turn in an Extra Animal Destination Form to the livestock committee to ensure adequate trucking can be provided. All 1<sup>st</sup> year members will be responsible for securing a processor for your animal.
26. The exhibitor is personally responsible for feeding, fitting, showing, and caring for his/her animal before, during, and after the show until the animal leaves the fairgrounds. The exhibitor must also be accessible to the barn superintendent for barn duty during the fair.
27. Parents are encouraged to be present when their son/daughter is showing an animal in the livestock project. Parents and other adults are not allowed in the show ring, unless asked to assist by a barn superintendent.

28. Buyers are integral to the market animal sale and are to be treated with utmost respect. There will be zero tolerance of any badgering, harassment, etc. of buyers by either exhibitors or their families (including, but not limited to, parents, siblings, grandparents and stepfamily members).
29. Exhibitors and family members are entitled to one bid only on their animal during the sale.
30. Exhibitors must be in attendance with their animals before, during and after the auction from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
31. Private sale signs or any online marketing (such as Facebook, Instagram etc....) of your non-auction market animal may not be posted until the auction is complete.
32. Commissions will be assessed to cover the costs incurred conducting the sale, such as promotions, sale catalogs, etc.
33. 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.
34. Final disposition of the animal will be at the buyer's discretion, except the sale champions. The sale champions must be sent to the carcass show. A designated site will be announced for the carcass show. All auction animals will go to the designated carcass show site, unless the buyer indicates otherwise, to the livestock committee prior to loading on Sunday.
35. If for any reason your animal carcass or portion of the carcass is condemned, the seller (project member) is responsible for providing the buyer with a carcass or portion of a carcass, of comparable size or value.
36. Pen reservations will be held at the Rusk County Fairgrounds on the Monday of fair week. Time will be announced. Livestock project animals will be grouped together by a club/organization. Pens will be clearly marked. NO switching will be permitted unless approved by the barn superintendent.
37. Cleaning of pens or stalls after the fair is the responsibility of the exhibitor. All exhibitors must have pen or stall cleanliness approved by the barn superintendent prior to leaving on Sunday. If the barn superintendents, along with livestock committee representatives determine that the cleanliness does not meet approval, the exhibitor will forfeit \$100 from their sale check for cleanup of their area. Any money collected as a result will be used to establish a scholarship fund.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE RULES WILL SUBJECT THE EXHIBITOR TO REPRIMANDS BY THE LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE AND/OR FAIR BOARD. THESE REPRIMANDS MAY INCLUDE INELIGIBILITY TO SELL IN THE AUCTION, LOSING PRIVILEGES TO SHOW IN THE LIVESTOCK PROJECT THE FOLLOWING YEAR, OR FUTURE ELIGIBILITY TO BE A PART OF THE LIVESTOCK PROJECT.

## Project Completion Checklist

- The project member and a parent, guardian or adult mentor attend one of the orientations.
- If you do not currently have one, Register for a livestock premise identification number.
- Attend two educational meetings. All 1<sup>st</sup> year members are **required to complete YQCA**. YQCA will count as an educational requirement if completed and certificate is presented
- Attend initial weigh-in or complete the registration for their species.
- Pick up at least three bidder sheets on or after June 1st.
- Turn in at least three (3) completed bidder sheets to the UW-Extension Office by July 10<sup>h</sup>.
- Turn in any required educational documents to the UW-Extension Office by July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Complete fair entries for your animals by the required date.
- Members showing swine. PRRS and PEDv testing within 90 days of the fair and obtain a veterinary certificate within 30 days prior to the fair.
- Attend final weigh-in during the Rusk County Fair.
- If showing more than one market animal. Turn in a completed Extra Animal Destination Form.
- Participate in the showmanship contest for each species shown at the Rusk County Fair.
- Be in attendance with their animal before, during, and after the auction from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Turn in Livestock Project Financial Records by 11:00 a.m. August 9th of the fair. Financial records must be completed, in the member's own handwriting.
- Turn in Buyer Thank-you note by 11:00 a.m. August 9th of the fair. Thank you cards must be in the project member's own handwriting with an addressed and **stamped** envelope. (Be sure to include your name and address on the outside of the envelope to ensure the livestock committee credits you with completing this requirement).
- Clean pens/stalls and remove decorations/staples.

## INCENTIVE PROGRAM

All incentive award programs will be based on the following:

- |    |                                |            |
|----|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Grand Champion                 | Live Grade |
| 2. | Reserve Grand Champion         | Live Grade |
| 3. | Champion Rate of Gain          |            |
| 4. | Champion of Carcass            |            |
| 5. | Project Financial Record Award |            |

Awards will be presented to the top animals/exhibitors in each species.

## SHOWMANSHIP

To be eligible to participate in the sale, the exhibitor is required to participate in the showmanship contest for their respective species\* at the county fair. Proper clothing attire should be followed for each species.

- \*Respective species:
1. Animal must be owned by the participant.
  2. Must participate in showmanship for each species entered

## RATE OF GAIN

The minimum average daily gain for sale eligibility is listed below:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>RATE OF GAIN PER DAY</u>
❖ Beef and Dairy	1.8 pounds per day
❖ Sheep	0.4 pounds per day
❖ Swine/Goat	No requirement

## CARCASS SHOW

1. All animals will be entered in the carcass show unless designated by the buyer. (See general rule #34)
2. All sale participants and exhibitors are encouraged to attend the carcass show.

## BIDDER/BUYER APPRECIATION

The Rusk County Livestock Committee will host an appreciation luncheon for all potential bidders. Details to be announced.

## EXCEPTION(S) TO THE RULES:

Exhibitors must be present with their 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 livestock committee will have the authority to give or deny permission in certain cases for a substitute person to perform such duties. (Example: funeral, death in the family, etc.)

## RULES FOR BEEF STEER, BEEF HEIFERS AND DAIRY STEERS EXHIBITORS

1. All beef steers, beef heifers and dairy animals must be born on or after January 1, 2025.
2. All males must be castrated, and all animals dehorned before the time of the initial weigh-in date.
3. All beef and dairy animals must be initially weighed in on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Rusk County Fairgrounds. SNOW DATE: Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Rusk County Fairgrounds. No nose rings or leads may be used at either weigh in.
4. Each exhibitor may weigh in a maximum of three steers or beef heifers. There is no minimum weight at the weigh-in. (It is recommended for the steers or heifers to weigh at least 600 pounds at this time)
5. Minimum weights at the final weigh-in are:  
    Beef: 1150 pounds  
    Dairy: 1200 pounds
6. There will be no maximum weight limit.
7. Any beef breed or beef crossbred will be considered a beef steer or heifer. A Dairy Steer shall be from the dairy herd and be entirely a dairy breed.

## RULES FOR SHEEP EXHIBITORS

1. All Spring Lambs (male or female) must be born on or after January 1, 2026.
2. All males must be castrated before the time of the initial weigh-in date
3. All lambs must be initially weighed-in on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Rusk County Fairgrounds. **Lambs must have a scrapies tag prior to arrival at the weigh-in.**
4. Each exhibitor may weigh in a maximum of three lambs. There is no minimum weight at the weigh-in.
5. Minimum weight at the final weigh-in will be 110 pounds.
6. There will be no maximum weight limit.

## **RULES FOR GOAT EXHIBITORS**

1. All Spring Kids (male or female) must be born on or after January 1, 2026.
2. All males must be castrated before the time of the initial weigh-in date
3. All kids must be initially weighed-in on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Rusk County Fairgrounds. **All kids must have a scrapies tag prior to the arrival of the weigh-in.**
4. Each exhibitor may weigh in a maximum of three kids.
5. Minimum weight at the final weigh-in will be 65 pounds.
6. There will be no maximum weight limit.
7. Only goat animals selected as Grand and Reserve Champion will be sold at the sale.

## **RULES FOR SWINE EXHIBITORS**

1. All swine exhibited must be born on or after January 1, 2026.
2. All males must be castrated before the time of the initial registration date.
3. Initial weigh-ins have been eliminated. Exhibitors will be required to send photos along with a completed information card by May 1, 2026. Forms and ear tags will be provided.
4. Each exhibitor may register a maximum of three barrows and/or gilts, however, only 2 swine per exhibitor may be brought to the Rusk County Fair. (It is recommended that swine weigh less than 80 pounds at the time of initial registration)
5. Minimum weight at the final weigh-in will be 240 pounds.
6. There will be no maximum weight limit
7. The Rusk County Livestock will be implementing PRRS and PEDv testing for all swine project participants. All swine must be tested for Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Virus (PRRS) and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv) within 90 days of the Rusk County Fair. All swine must have a CVI (Certificate of veterinary inspection) at least 30 days prior to the fair. This will eliminate the terminal show.



PART 1

FEED SUMMARY	Total Pounds	Cost per Pound	Total
Shelled Corn			
Oats			
Hay			
Hay Silage			
Corn Silage			
Complete/Pre-Mixed Feed			
Mineral			
Salt			
Top Dress/Additives			
Other			
Other			
TOTAL POUNDS OF FEED		TOTAL FEED COST	\$
÷ number of animals		÷ number of animals	
=TOTAL FEED PER 1 ANIMAL		=TOTAL COST PER 1 ANIMAL	

(Enter in line 8 page 1)

(Enter on line 2 page 1)

PART 2

MISCELLANEOUS COST SUMMARY	Total
Building Rent	\$
Veterinarian	\$
Thank You Ad	\$
Show Supplies (show stick, show sheen, combs)	\$
Entry Fees	\$
Transportation/Trucking	\$
Bedding	\$
Other	\$
Other	\$
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS COST	\$
÷ number of animals	
=TOTAL COST PER 1 ANIMAL	

(Enter on line 3 page 1)

### Project Results

1. Project Animal Auction Sale Price (If not in auction skip to #2)

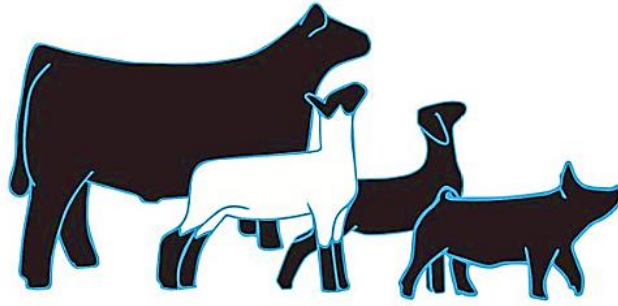
$$\frac{\text{Sale Price per Pound}}{\text{Sale Price per Pound}} \times \frac{\text{Final Weight}}{\text{Final Weight}} = \text{Auction Sale Price } \$ \text{_____ (1)}$$

2. Posted Market Price (posted in the barn by the Livestock Board)

$$\frac{\text{Market Price per Pound}}{\text{Market Price per Pound}} \times \frac{\text{Final Weight}}{\text{Final Weight}} = \text{Current Market Value } \$ \text{_____ (2)}$$

3.  $\frac{(1)}{(1)} - \frac{(2)}{(2)} = \text{Return above/below Current Market Value } \$ \text{_____ (3)}$

(If not in auction do not complete #3)



## Rusk County Livestock Educational Verification Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Club/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Event/Workshop/Online: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of the Event/Workshop/Online: \_\_\_\_\_

Event/Online Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Event Length (Hours/Minutes): \_\_\_\_\_

Explain what you learned at this event:

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How will you use what you learned?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Event Representative Signature (Required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Event Representative Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Event Representative Title/Position

Drop off or mail to UWEX 311 Miner Ave E Suite S 140, Ladysmith, WI 54848 or email to the Livestock Committee Secretaries at (ruskcountylivestock@yahoo.com)