

2024 Gallia County Junior Fair Updates

The Fairboard has heard your concerns throughout this past year and have worked to make adjustments for our sale changes and get the word out to our exhibitors as soon as possible for the 2024 Fair. There are a few changes for this year's fair that are outlined below. Not all the details have been finalized, but we are trying to share what we know as we can. We have established this list of Frequently Asked Questions to hopefully help communicate these changes as they happen and as we receive common questions.

One-Day Saturday Sale Will Continue

We will continue with a one-day sale on Saturday of the fair as we did in 2023. However, the Gallia County Junior Fair Board will be managing the sale as well as payments to exhibitors this year. This change will make the sale process easier and more efficient for buyers and exhibitors.

Buyers will only have to write one check and by writing this to an entity instead of individual exhibitors it will help with accounting purposes. Animals that are sent to resale by the buyers will have that amount deducted from their total bill instead of having to wait to receive separate resale checks for each animal. Buyers may be able to pay with credit card with an additional service fee.

Exhibitors will only receive one check that will include amounts from all buyers as well as any animals they sent to resale. They will also see a **quicker turn-around time** with checks being **distributed in a more timely manner after the sale**.

Breeding Show and Horse Show Updates

The Breeding Show will be held on the Monday of the Fair again this year. Please stay tuned for final times/schedule. The plan is for the Horse Show to be held at the new fairgrounds this year, as we had hoped in 2023. A final decision will be made as soon as we are able to determine if this is possible depending on the progress of the new fairgrounds construction. Thank you again for your patience...please stay tuned!



NEW....Market Livestock DNA Sampling for 2024

- In 2024, all Market Livestock (Market Hogs, Market Lambs, Market Goats and Market Beef) will be required to submit a DNA hair sample at the time of tag-in and photos by June 1st. More info will be coming on the photo submission process instructions.
 - Samples will be taken during the tag-in days for Market Beef, Market Lambs and Market Goats. Photos will need to be submitted in 4-H Online by June 1st.
 - Market Hogs will pick up a tag and a DNA collection Envelope and return it to the Extension Office by June 1st. Photos will also need to be submitted in 4-H Online by June 1st. Exhibitors will also have the option to bring their Market Hogs to the fairgrounds to be tagged and samples taken during a designated time. More information to come as that time gets closer. Once samples are taken, they will be secured by the Fairboard/Extension Office until fair.
 - New samples will be collected from the champions at the fair and sent for testing against the original DNA samples for positive identification.
 - The Gallia County Agricultural Society (Fairboard) reserves the right to take samples from any/all market animals against the original samples as necessary.
 - If samples are taken during the designated tag-ins, there will be Fairboard members/volunteers there to complete the collection process and market exhibitors and their parent/guardian will sign the envelope closure of the provided DNA sample.
 - If market hog exhibitors choose to tag their own hogs, they will pick up ear tags and DNA envelopes at the Extension Office and will be responsible for tagging their animals, collecting DNA hair samples and submitting them to the Extension Office along with submitting photos in 4-H Online by June 1st.
 - When collecting samples, market exhibitors and their parent/guardian (if the exhibitor is younger than 18), understand that by sealing and signing across the envelope closure of the provided DNA sample, that they are fully responsible for the collected DNA material placed in the envelope to be of sufficient testing amount.
 - (20 – 30 hair samples with follicles) and free of any debris that will prohibit a reference match DNA test.
 - Lack of sufficient DNA material or cleanliness of the sample for DNA verification will be grounds for disqualification of the market animal in question.



FAQ's

Will there be a sale commission taken out of exhibitors' checks?

Yes, there will be a sale commission taken out of the exhibitors' checks beginning in 2024 that will cover the cost of sale and auction expenses, advertising, recognition, weigh-in tag fees, judge costs, checkoff dollars, fair vet expenses, premium checks, ODA sanitation costs. Those fees will be as follows:

- 3% for Market Hogs, Market Lambs and Market Goats with a maximum \$100 commission
- 2% for Market Beef with a maximum \$150 commission
- Based on 2023 sale averages, the average commission amount would be:
 - Market Hogs - \$42.15, Market Lambs - \$40.70, Market Goats - \$35.52, Market Beef - \$81.37

What will this money be used for?

This money will go to the Gallia County Agricultural Society (Fairboard) to help cover the costs of advertising, recognition, livestock tags, DNA testing, judge costs, fair vet expenses, premium checks, ODA sanitation costs, sale management expenses, auction costs and equipment, handling buyer registration, sale results, payment of checkoff dollars, billing and payment to exhibitors, covering lost animals, if necessary, as well as any other unexpected sale expenses.

Will exhibitors still be charged a weigh-in/tag fee at the fair or weigh-in?

No, the \$5 weigh-in/tag fee that was charged at the scales will no longer be charged as these costs will be covered by the sale commission.

Do other counties charge a sale fee/commission?

To our knowledge, Gallia County is one of the only counties in Ohio that has not charged some type of sale commission/fee to cover the costs of the sale/show. Before deciding this, the Fairboard researched what other counties across the state charge their exhibitors in fees/commission.

Why should our exhibitors have to pay a fee?

4-H and FFA members have a unique opportunity to gain many valuable life skills through their Junior Fair livestock projects. In addition to gaining such skills as communication, critical thinking, financial management, organization, responsibility, and leadership through their project involvement and 4-H club, the 4-H member also has the opportunity to receive a **premium price** for the animals that they market through the youth livestock auction sales at the County Fair. Many youth use the money gained from their 4-H projects to help pay for college and other expenses.

Thinking like a business person is essential to being successful. From the very beginning of their project the 4-H/FFA member is taught to look at their project like a business. Know what your expenses are and be able to calculate your break-even price for the product. Successful completion of a market livestock animal project includes selling your animal in the auction at the County Fair. While our youth are fortunate to sell at a premium price, understanding that there is a cost associated with doing business and selling that animal is an important part of the lesson.

-Adapted from MSU Extension "Marketing Your 4-H or FFA Livestock Project Animal."

What are checkoff dollars and what do they do?

By law, all producers selling livestock must pay the checkoff dollars to support the livestock industry through promotion, research and information. The Checkoff Programs were designed to stimulate consumers to buy more products. This is accomplished through a combination of initiatives including consumer advertising, research, public relations, education and new product development.

Because of the way our Junior Fair Livestock Sale was handled in the past, our youth were not contributing to these funds that are helping to advocate and promote then industry they are learning about.

Who has covered these costs in the past?

In the past, the Fairboard has absorbed these costs and has also charged a weigh-in/tag fee at the scales during weigh-in during the fair. This fee will no longer be charged at the scales during the fair.