



Chenango County 4-H Market Animal Auction Program Guidelines

1. Auction Details:

- The Chenango County 4-H Market Animal Auction Program is organized by the Chenango County 4-H Livestock Auction Committee, a volunteer group working in coordination with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County (CCECC). Its goal is to establish an enduring, education-focused livestock auction program with an emphasis on youth education, recognition, fairness, and alignment with core 4-H values.
- This year's auction scheduled to be **held at 6:30 pm on Friday, August 14, 2026, at the Chenango County Fair**.
- Baked goods and donated product baskets will be sold via silent or chance auction.
- All project animals will be auctioned off live and will go through a sale ring in the main show ring at the fairgrounds, apart from poultry which are sold processed. They must be in good market condition.

2. Eligibility:

- Youth must be currently enrolled in the Chenango County 4-H Program and be at least 8 years old as of January 1st to be eligible to participate in the 4-H Market Animal Auction Program.
- New 4-H members must be enrolled in the Chenango County 4-H Program by February 1st to participate.
- Cloverbud members (youth ages 5-7) are not eligible.

3. Auction Terms:

- Participants must accept all risks involved (trucking, exhibition, and handling losses).
- Members are responsible for the care, feeding, and appearance of their project animals until transferred.
- All 4-H project animals must meet the health requirements of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and must be accompanied by a valid health certificate.
- Participants will be charged a 5% sales commission fee and national check off fee for each project animal sold in the 4-H Market Animal Auction. These fees will be deducted from the auction proceeds check.
- When a lot is purchased, the participant receives 95% of the proceeds and the 4-H Auction Committee receives the 5% commission fee. If the lot is donated back, 100% of the proceeds for the second sale and beyond go directly to the Chenango County 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Payment must be completed during the sale. Accepted forms of payment are cash, check, or credit card. All buyers will pay CCECC for the full amount of their purchase. CCECC will then distribute payments to participants.
- For liability reasons, project animals sold through the auction will be transported to designated processors by designated truckers unless the buyer chooses another form of transportation. Fees for the trucking of project animals to designated processors will be covered by the 4-H Market Animal Auction Program. If the buyer chooses another form of transportation or chooses to send the animal to a location other than one of the designated processors, the buyer is responsible for arranging and paying for that transportation.
- Buyers are responsible for paying processing costs for poultry lots. This fee will be added to auction invoices.

4. Requirements for Participation:

- **Members are required to attend a minimum of three (3) 4-H Educational Events and submit their completed Educational Event Forms to the 4-H Office by the third Friday in July to participate.** Forms may be submitted online or by hard copy to the 4-H Office and must be complete to receive credit. Contact the 4-H Office to confirm if an event qualifies as an educational event. Examples of qualifying events: attending a livestock show, judging contest, public presentations, 4-H trip, etc.
- **Members are required to complete a 4-H Project Record Book for each species they intend to sell.** Project

Records Books must be submitted to the 4-H Office to be reviewed for Achievement Day. Failure to submit a Project Record Book for an animal sold will result in disqualification from the following year's auction.

- **Members are required to submit a signed Acknowledgement of Rules Form at their species' initial weigh-in.** Form must be reviewed by participants and signed by a parent/guardian.
- **Participants must compete in appropriate 4-H showmanship and breed classes to be eligible.**

5. Project Animal Limits:

- **Members may show and sell a maximum of three (3) project animals.** A pen of 3 chickens or 3 fryer rabbits will count as one project animal. A pen of 2 ducks will count as one project animal. A single turkey will count as one project animal. Members may show and sell a single species or a combination of multiple species within these limits:
 - Up to one (1) beef cattle or one (1) dairy beef cattle
 - Up to two (2) market lambs
 - Up to two (2) hogs
 - Up to two (2) meat goats
 - Up to two (2) pens of 3 chickens
 - Up to two (2) pens of 3 fryer rabbits
 - Up to two (2) pens of 2 ducks
 - Up to two (2) turkeys
 - Up to two (2) steyer rabbits
- **Members may tag an additional project animal in each species area.**

6. Project Animal Guidelines:

Beef Cattle Projects

- Only steers (castrated males) and freemartin heifers (infertile females) are eligible. **Bulls are not eligible.**
- **It is required that each project animal is tagged with an 840 RFID tag.**
- Dairy Beef Cattle (50% beef bred) are allowed to participate in the auction.
- Cattle must not exceed 24 months of age at the final weigh-in.
- Project animals must weigh a minimum of 1000 lbs. at the final weigh-in.
- Cattle must be dehorned unless they are a Texas Longhorn or Highland.

Meat Goat Projects

- Wethers (castrated males) and does (females) are eligible. **Bucks are not eligible.**
- **It is required that each project animal is tagged with an official scrapie tag.**
- Goats must be at least 50% meat breed crosses.
- Project goats must be less than a year old at weigh-in, born after August 15th of the previous year.
- Project animals must weigh a minimum of 60 lbs. at the final weigh-in.

Market Lamb Projects

- Wethers (castrated males) and ewes (females) are eligible. **Rams are not eligible.**
- **It is required that each project animal is tagged with an official scrapie tag.**
- Project lambs must be born on or after January 1st of the current year.
- Lamb breeds that present as small/dual purpose must be 60lbs at the final weigh-in.
- Lamb breeds that present at large wool breeds must be 90 lbs. at the final weigh-in.
- Lambs must be shorn within 10 days and dry at the time of the final weigh-in.

Market Hog Projects

- Barrows (castrated males) and gilts (females) are eligible. **Boars are not eligible.**
- **It is required that each project animal is tagged with an 840 RFID tag.**

- Project hogs must be born on or after January 1st of the current year.
- Project animals must weigh a minimum of 200 lbs. at the final weigh-in.

Market Rabbit Projects

- Pens of 3 fryer rabbits must be uniform in weight and size, but do not have to be the same sex. If one of the rabbits is disqualified during judging, the whole pen is disqualified.
- **It is required that each project animal is tagged with an official scrapie tag.**
- Fryer rabbits must be under 3 months old at the time of the auction.
- Fryer rabbit project animals must weigh a minimum of 3.5 lbs. and cannot exceed the maximum of their breeds standard at the final weigh-in.
- Stewer rabbits are sold individually and must be 6 months or older at the time of the auction.
- Stewer rabbits must weigh a minimum of 8 lbs. at the final weigh-in.

Market Poultry Projects

- **All market birds must have come from a pullorum free facility or be tested within 90 days of sale.**
- All market poultry must be transported to the Poultry Show in personal carriers. These carriers will be used to transport the live birds to the processing facility and must be clearly marked by family name.
- Market chickens and ducks must weigh a minimum of 6 lbs. (live weight) at final weigh-in. Market turkeys must weigh a minimum of 12 lbs. at final weigh-in.
- After the 4-H Poultry Show, project birds will be transported to a USDA processing facility.

7. Identification & Weigh-in:

- **Animals must be properly tagged by species in accordance with NYS Agriculture and Markets guidance.** Upon starting your animal project, a photo with the appropriate tag applied to your animal project must be sent to the 4-H office. If this identification becomes lost, it is the members' responsibility to contact the 4-H office as soon as possible. Members who do not submit images of their tagged animals by May 1st, apart from rabbits and poultry, may be disqualified from participating in the auction.
- **Project animals will be provided with official Chenango County 4-H identification tags.** Families are strongly encouraged to apply these tags to aid in advertising their livestock projects and the auction program.
- **Weigh-in will be held at the Chenango County Fair on August 11th at 5 p.m.** At least one member of the 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee will be present. All male market animals must be castrated, with the complete removal of testicles occurring before final weigh-in.
- **Animals that do not meet weight requirements will be disqualified from the 4-H auction.**

8. Sale Order and “Points to Success” Incentive:

Champion Project Animals in each species will be chosen on a point system using the following points scale:

- 20 points per educational livestock-related program or fair/show attended. **Maximum 200 points.**
- 10 points per community service hour completed. **Maximum 50 points per species.**
- 50 points for completing a 4-H Public Presentation, participating in a livestock clinic, attending a NYS 4-H Animal Science Event, or doing a marketing workshop. **Maximum 150 points.**
- **The Points to Success document at ccechenango.org/auction contains examples of each event. If you ever need clarification or want to confirm if an event qualifies please contact us.**

- Points Tie Breakers: (1st) Live Placing, then (2nd) Showmanship, then (3rd) random selection.
- Sale Order for Each Species: (1st) Champion Project Animal, (2nd) Champion Live Placing Animal, (3rd) Reserve Champion Project Animal, (4th) Reserve Champion Live Placing Animal, (5th downward) Ranked by Points

9. Liability Disclaimer:

All individuals attending or participating in this auction event do so voluntarily and at their own risk. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County (CCECC), the Chenango County 4-H Program, and the 4-H Auction Committee (collectively, “Organizers”) expressly disclaim any and all liability for personal injury, death, property damage, or financial loss arising from attendance, participation, or interaction with animals or equipment at this event, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

The Organizers make no warranties, express or implied, regarding the condition, behavior, health, or merchantability of any animal or item sold. All sales are final and conducted on an “as-is, where-is” basis.

CCECC does not assume ownership of any livestock or poultry presented at the auction and is not responsible for any disputes, misrepresentations, or non-payment issues between buyers and sellers. The Organizers reserve the right to refuse entry or sale of any animal for any reason, including but not limited to health, safety, or compliance concerns.

CCECC cannot guarantee payment for any livestock bids made by public bidders. All bidders are responsible for fulfilling their financial obligations. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the item or animal and potential exclusion from future events.

This event is coordinated to provide educational opportunities for youth under the 4-H program. Participation implies acknowledgment and acceptance of these terms. Attendees are encouraged to exercise caution and consult appropriate professionals when making decisions related to animal handling or the sale of livestock.

10. Seller Acknowledgment and Signature

By signing below, **I, the seller**, acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms outlined in the Liability Disclaimer provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County (CCECC), the Chenango County 4-H Program, and the 4-H Auction Committee. I confirm that I am the rightful owner of the animal(s) I am selling, and I accept full responsibility for any representations I make regarding said animal(s). I release the Organizers from any liability associated with the auction and its outcomes.

Seller Name (Printed): _____

Seller Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

(Required for sellers under 18 years of age)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

(A signed copy of this document must be submitted to CCECC prior to participation)