

Ohio Youth Livestock Exhibition Rules Overview

To help bring clarity to OAC 901-19 and junior livestock exhibition eligibility

Definitions – from [OAC 901-19-01](#)

"Livestock" means any animal generally used for food or in the production of food, including cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, poultry, swine, alpacas, and llamas.

"Market livestock" means exhibition livestock bred, raised, and intended for slaughter for food purposes. For the purposes of this chapter, horses are not considered livestock.

"Fair" means the annual exhibition held by the Ohio expositions commission, pursuant to division (A)(1) of section 991.03 of the Revised Code, or a county agricultural society or independent agricultural society, as reported to the director of agriculture pursuant to rule 901-5-11 of the Administrative Code.

"Junior livestock show/exhibition" means a show limited to exhibitors eight years of age and in the third grade through nineteen years of age, or as authorized to participate in either 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization.

Competition Eligibility Requirements

1. The exhibitor must be a current member in good standing of either 4-H, FFA, or other youth organization.
2. Ohio 4-H members are sometimes also FFA members. To keep work in both organizations clearly separate, members are advised to take a different species in each organization or, at the very least, to take market animals in one and breeding animals in the other.

Example:

	4-H	FFA
Allowable	Breeding Gilt	Market Hog
Allowable	Market Steer	Market Lamb
Not allowed	Market Goat	Market Goat



3. In accordance with the Ohio Administrative Code Section [901-19-07](#), youth exhibiting market livestock in a terminal or partial terminal show or exhibiting lactating dairy animals must complete an approved Livestock Quality Assurance (QA) training **at least 45 days prior** to the START of the exhibition (not the show day), but no sooner than Oct. 1 of the previous calendar year.
 - a. Counties may require additional animal project members to complete QA training (i.e., breeding, horse, etc.). Exhibitors must meet these county requirements as well.
 - b. To help determine “45 days prior”—an example is: if the opening day of the fair is July 20, but the youth doesn’t show until July 23, QA must be completed by the youth at least 45 days prior to July 20.
 - c. If the fair takes place after the Ohio State Fair, and the youth wants to exhibit at an Ohio State Fair (OSF) livestock exhibition, they must complete QA 45 days prior to the first OSF livestock exhibition to be eligible to participate.
 - d. Contact the local OSU Extension office for Quality Assurance deadlines and requirements.
4. By their respective county deadline, youth exhibitors must be officially enrolled, as documented by the youth organization they are a part of, in the appropriate project corresponding to the class/animal they are entering for exhibition.
 - a. For example, a youth must be enrolled in a market beef project to enter a market steer/market heifer class. A youth CANNOT be enrolled in only beef breeding and exhibit a market heifer.
 - b. Note—if a youth plans to exhibit a livestock project at the OSF, they must enroll in that specific project, even if local exhibition for that project is not offered. For example, swine breeding is a class not offered at their county fair, but the youth wants to exhibit their swine breeding livestock at the Ohio State Fair, the youth must enroll in swine breeding and meet all other eligibility requirements to be verified as a member in good standing.
5. Exhibitors must understand and comply with youth organization rules as well as fair/exhibition rules and regulations including but not limited to:
 - a. [OAC 901-19](#) (Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 901-19 | Livestock Exhibitions)
 - b. Local exhibition and youth organization rules (i.e., county fair, 4-H, FFA, etc.)

Ownership

For market livestock, dairy animals, and owned (not leased) breeding livestock:

1. An animal cannot be used by more than one youth member per project year.
2. The same animal cannot be used for more than one project per project year (i.e., a single heifer cannot be shown as both a market and a breeding project).
 - a. In 4-H, the only exception is for pack and harness goats if allowed at the county level.

3. An animal may only be exhibited by the project member in any junior livestock exhibition, including at the Ohio State Fair.
 - a. Excludes show/class conflicts at the exhibition, “showman of showmen” type classes, or extenuating circumstances. Check with local exhibition sponsor to determine what circumstances may qualify.
 - b. For junior fair classes where education or charity is the purpose (e.g., pee wee, special needs, Dean’s Charity Steer Show, etc.), ensure that the exhibitor is involved in the mentoring of the individual showing the animal in that class.
 - c. Refer to “junior livestock show/exhibition” definition above.
4. As described in [OAC 901-19-39](#), all market, dairy, and breeding animals exhibited at a junior livestock exhibition must be fully owned by the exhibitor or household (as defined in [OAC 901-19-01](#)) as evidenced by a bill of sale or registration, including all showing rights, and in the complete custody and care of the exhibitor on or before possession deadlines.
5. As described in [OAC 901-19-39](#), ownership of an animal shall be considered lost if the animal has been:
 - a. Leased to a different individual (not the project member) after the applicable possession date, or
 - b. Exhibited in an exhibition **outside** of a junior livestock exhibition by an individual other than an immediate family member after the applicable possession date.
6. The exhibitor is expected to fully provide daily care for their animal(s) from the possession deadline to the conclusion of the exhibition/sale. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring adequate access to clean, fresh water, feed, and shelter while ensuring good health and welfare of the animal. If not possible, in extenuating circumstances, the exhibitor is responsible for contacting the local Extension office and/or FFA advisor to ensure transparency. Additional paperwork may be necessary, as determined at the local level (i.e., Ohio 4-H Livestock Care Agreement).

Leasing of Breeding/Dairy Animals

Leasing MARKET animals for youth exhibition projects is NOT permitted under any circumstances.

To be eligible to exhibit a leased dairy/breeding livestock project, the following requirement must be met:

1. Counties will determine if leasing of breeding/dairy animals is permitted for their local exhibitions. If permitted at the junior exhibition, at a minimum, the 4-H/FFA Breeding Animal Lease or 4-H/FFA Dairy Animal Lease must be on file. Please contact your local Extension office for that leasing agreement.

2. The lease is to be in place at least 60 days prior to exhibition (OAC 901-19-39) and be in effect until the end of the project. However, the county may require it be submitted at an earlier date (i.e., project enrollment deadline).
 - a. The lessee (the member and their parent/guardian) is responsible to take the completed contract to the County 4-H Educator/FFA Advisor by the established deadline.
3. The lessor (owner) of the animal relinquishes all rights to train the animal, and the lessee has priority right to show the animal during the term of the lease. Potential lessors should not lease animals they want to show on a regular basis during the term of the lease.
4. An animal cannot be leased to more than one youth per project year and may only be exhibited by the lessee in any junior exhibition, including at the Ohio State Fair.
5. The lessor may not take the animal back prior to the end of the lease unless the youth is neglecting or abusing the animal, or the youth agrees to return the animal.
6. The lessor should have the youth sign whatever agreements they decide upon in regard to care of the animal (see #7 below), but no agreement will supersede the terms of this lease.
7. The lessor will allow the lessee to transport and show the animal in 4-H/FFA, open, or breed shows.
8. The leased animal cannot be consigned or sold through an auction or any other type of transaction during the effective dates of the lease agreement, even if the owner or exhibitor “buys back” the animal.
7. The lessee is expected to fully provide daily care for their animal(s) during the dates specified in the lease agreement. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring adequate access to clean, fresh water, feed, and shelter while ensuring good health and welfare of the animal. If not possible, in extenuating circumstances, the exhibitor is responsible for contacting the local Extension office and/or FFA advisor to ensure transparency. Additional paperwork may be necessary, determined at the local level (i.e., Ohio 4-H Livestock Care Agreement).
9. The lessee is responsible for creating an agreement in consultation with the lessor to cover who is responsible for expenses related to providing care for the animal, showing expenses, as well as who is liable in case of injury or death of the animal. Both the lessor and lessee must sign it, and a copy of that agreement be attached to the lease.

Who do I ask if I have questions?

1. For questions or clarification of [OAC 901-19](#) (*Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 901-19 | Livestock Exhibitions*) please contact:
 - ODA Division of Animal Health (614-728-6220, agranimal@agri.ohio.gov) or
 - Jacquie Keller-Potvin (Jacquelyn.Keller-Potvin@agri.ohio.gov)
2. For questions or clarification of *Ohio 4-H eligibility requirements* please contact:
 - Your local Ohio State University Extension Office or,
 - Ohio 4-H (614-292-4444)
3. For questions or clarification of *Ohio FFA eligibility requirements* please contact:
 - Your local Ohio FFA Chapter or,
 - Ohio FFA (614-466-3076)