

December 10, 2025

Hello Youth Exhibitors!

I hope that each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break! We are so thankful for each of you and your part in helping us continue our love for agriculture and youth education! Below are new updates and important dates for upcoming events. All forms mentioned below, and a copy of this email, are available on our website at www.thegreatfrederickfair.com/youth

Important dates:

	Proof of Ownership Due Dates for Market Animals	Weigh-in Dates
<i>Beef</i>	January 1 st	3/28/2026
<i>Swine</i>	May 25 th	6/6/2026
<i>Sheep</i>	May 25 th	6/8/2026
<i>Goats</i>	May 25 th	6/8/2026
<i>Rabbits</i>	August 1 st	n/a
<i>Turkeys</i>	Must sign up by March 31 st to receive turkeys from Southern States. Google registration will open March 1 st . More information will be sent out after the new year.	n/a

Beef Reminders:

Ownership: The ownership deadline will remain Jan. 1st (meaning all association papers must be dated for Jan 1st or earlier)

GFF Registration forms: Forms are normally due to me by Jan 1st, but to help a lot of you out, I am extending this date to Friday, Jan. 9th by 4pm so you can turn in a hard copy with your hair samples if you prefer not to email.

- **These are not for registered breeding animals, only market and commercial animals.** Please fill out one form per species category. A blank form is attached to this email. Please fill it out in its entirety and as legible as possible. Written emails tend to get interpreted wrong when we read them from your forms so, please make sure they are readable. We ask that you do not take pictures but truly scan the forms back due to resolution/legibility issues when printing.
- You can still email me the form OR you can wait to turn in a hard copy with hair samples if scanning is a challenge for you. Either option is fine but make sure I have it by Jan 9th at 4pm.

Hair Samples: Samples are due to the office by 4pm on Friday, Jan. 9th. There is a drop box on the outside of the main office (left side of the door) if you need to drop off hair samples after business hours. I will empty the drop box every morning starting Monday, Jan 5th. Regular office hours are Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm.

- You will need a clean, unused envelope for each steer/heifer you are collecting. Please watch this video (it is not ours, but a good tool from Purdue University) which explains how to pull your hair sample. Hair follicles are important! Please make sure you watch the video to understand what we are looking for.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCT-SGv8Z6o>

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- On the outside of your envelope, please clearly identify your name, and the animals information that it belongs to. ****Make sure this information matches the information on the GFF registration form that you email me by Jan. 1st. I will be matching the hair samples dropped off to the steers/heifers listed on your forms. Do NOT mail hair samples.*
 - Your Name
 - Animal ID – RFID/Tattoo/Farm Tag (whichever is on your form)

Beef weigh-in: Will be held at the scales behind the Southside Tire and Auto Beef Arena from 8am - 1pm on March 28th.

- Please bring a copy of your official (not pending) market steer registration papers (from breed associations if showing in a purebred market class vs crossbred class) to weigh-in. All purebreds should have papers by March with ownership remaining Jan. 1st. Please note, the breed you tag in as at weigh-in, is the breed you will show as in Sept. pending proper ID requirements.
- ****NEW for 2026**** There will not be a weight maximum cap for market steers. Minimum weight will remain at 1100lbs but we are removing the 1500lb cap.

Other Livestock Workshops:

Dates will be announced as those are finalized. They will be late spring/early summer for the remaining species. If there are certain things you would like to learn about or have any questions regarding a species, please feel free to reach out to myself or the superintendents of your dept. We are here to help!

Sale Rules and Eligibility:

The rules will remain the same for 2026. “Exhibitors may nominate only two (2) species for the sale regardless of animal size.” This means you may only sell TWO animals total in the entire youth sale. If you have questions, feel free to read the full Sale Rules and Regulations on the website.

Reminder: Bred & Owned Class Eligibility (For Market Livestock):

To be eligible for market B&O classes, you must present a completed copy of breeding project records from GFF, 4-H or FFA record book (*Registration forms may not be used in place of the form. This is a 4-H or GFF breeding project record form*). Records must be presented to the superintendents at **Weigh-ins!** If we do not receive a completed breeding record form for your market animals by the respective weigh-in you will not be eligible to show in Bred & Owned Classes in the market division.

- Please note – the first page is the list of animal inventory including the dam/sire of the animal you are showing this year. This record shows all records from the START of your breeding journey through the information for the market animals you are showing in bred and owned classes.
- All first-year members are required to present breeding records as well. They can complete the GFF project breeding records since they won’t have a 4-H or FFA record book yet. Reach out to Carrie for further details if you are a first-year member and need some help.

Eligibility Requirements:

- All youth must be a member in good standing of either Frederick Co. 4-H, FFA or the GFF Youth Program. The GFF Youth Program is strictly for those individuals that are NOT participating in 4-H or FFA. You **MAY NOT** enroll in GFF Youth Club if you are currently a 4-H member in any county.

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- If you wish to sign up for the GFF youth program, please use this link to register. Link closes May 1st, 2026.
- <https://forms.gle/C1gMREG6z5JWDEAC7>
- KEEP IN MIND – If you participate through the GFF Youth Program and NOT 4-H, you are NOT eligible to show at the MD State Fair. You must be a 4-H member to show at State Fair.
 - All GFF Youth Program members are required to submit GFF Project Records. Enrolled GFF members are being messaged separately, but if you do not receive an email, contact Carrie.
- Youth that are switching to the GFF Program but showed in 2025 as a 4-H member are still required to complete a project record. Please reach out if you are switching and need the forms or download them from the youth show page on our website.

Please pass this email along to any new exhibitor wishing to participate that has not shown in previous years. The fair office will be closed Dec. 18th – Jan 4th but will monitor incoming emails during that time. Please reply to cjwolf@thegreatfrederickfair.com with a note if you wish to no longer receive further youth updates from The Great Frederick Fair.

Wishing you and your family the Merriest Christmas and start to the New Year!