

Hello GFF Youth Exhibitors!

Below are new updates/reminders and important dates for upcoming events. All forms and updates can be found at [www.thegreatfrederickfair.com/youth](http://www.thegreatfrederickfair.com/youth)

**NEW MDA Guidelines: (Below are highlights. A full version of MDA requirements has been uploaded to the GFF Youth page website.)**

- CVI's (health papers) are required to be within 60 days (not 120) of the fair/show. This will impact those of you who show at multiple shows. They are only good for half the time frame now, so please plan accordingly.
- Health papers are transitioning to electronic versions. Paper copies may not be available, but you will be able to print out the version sent to you.
- Equids are now required to have either a CVI or VCPR.
- Poultry/turkeys must be tested within 21 days of the fair/show start date.

**Turkey Sign-ups:**

The turkey process will go back to normal for 2026. Turkeys will be present at the fair and judged on Monday 9/21/26.

- Sign-ups will open March 1<sup>st</sup> and close at midnight on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Link and more information coming very soon.

**Livestock Workshops:**

- Rabbit – March 14<sup>th</sup> – “If you are carrying a rabbit project this year or are interested in learning about the rabbit projects, we invite you all to join us for this year's Rabbit Workshop. We will have multiple speakers giving out great information on everything you need for your rabbits and the project. We will be providing Pizza for lunch at the conclusion of the workshop. We hope you can join us!” – a note from your Rabbit Superintendents.
  - Building 13 at 10am
  - RSVP to [Tatiana\\_burrier@msn.com](mailto:Tatiana_burrier@msn.com) by Wednesday March 11, 2026
  - Use gate 1 to enter fairgrounds. The grounds will be very busy that day with several rental events.
- Beef – April 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Building 18 (beef arena)
  - Wash rack will open at 7am and sessions will start at 8am.
  - Please sign up using this link <https://forms.gle/fHDyduGyvRomFvDC7>
  - More specific information to come very soon.
- Swine – April 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Building 28 (sheep/goat arena) at 10am
  - Please sign up using this link <https://forms.gle/yiaaxBfVijDbXfJ67>
  - More specific information to come very soon.

**Beef Reminders/updates:**

- **New this year. There will not be a maximum weight cap for market steers.**
- Weigh-in: March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8am - 1pm.
- Please bring a copy of your market steer registration papers if you have not already sent to Carrie (from breed associations if showing in a purebred market class vs crossbred class).

- Beef weight checks: The scales will be available to use again this year to check the progress of your steers. Please use this link if you would like to sign up for any dates. The link will remain open throughout the year.
  - <https://forms.gle/TXvtoVDkdxoDQkhM6>
  - May 12<sup>th</sup>
  - August 11<sup>th</sup>
  - If you would like to use the scales an additional month than listed below. Please contact Carrie. We may be able to accommodate an additional night on a case-by-case basis.

**NEW/updated/reminders for Swine Rules:**

- Market is limited to two (2) hogs per exhibitor this year. Exhibitors may still weigh in up to 8 hogs at the June weigh-in, but only 2 are eligible to show at fair.
  - Due to growing numbers in swine exhibitors, pen space is a big issue. Each exhibitor is guaranteed one (1) pen for their hogs. (If you need to separate your hogs you must bring a divider to use in your pen.)
- Showmanship –
  - No market hogs will be eligible to come in early to be used for Open Showmanship on Sunday. All hogs used for Open Showmanship must be shown in the breed show that same day.
  - No breeding hogs (exception purebred barrows) will be eligible to stay past Sunday to be used for Showmanship on Wed. All breeding hogs must leave the fairgrounds on Sunday at the normal scheduled check-out times.
- All non-sale market hogs must leave the fairgrounds Thursday night after the market show.
- Reminder: ALL market hogs are to be ear notched (and fully healed) before weigh-in in June. Speak with the breeders you are purchasing from ahead of time and let them know they will need to be notched. It’s better if they are notched by a week old. For those families unsure of ear notches or how to do them, please reach out.
- Reminder: ALL market hogs (barrows) need to be fully healed from castration before weigh-in. If there are any cuts not completely healed the animal will not be tagged.
- Reminder: there is a cap on weight for the June weigh-in. Market hogs to be shown at GFF CANNOT weigh more than 140lbs on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Any market hogs weighing more than 140lbs on June 6<sup>th</sup> will NOT be eligible to sell at GFF. Please keep in mind all animals not eligible for sale are not eligible for champion drive.

**Livestock Sale Rules:**

- 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.
- Weight limits to be eligible to sell: Note changes in red.

Species	Minimum	Maximum	Notes
Steers	1,100 lbs.	No max	Eliminated Max Cap
Sheep	100 lbs.	150 lbs.	
Swine	245 lbs.	300 lbs.	Max weight 140lbs on June 6 <sup>th</sup>
Market Goats	60 lbs.	No max	
Turkeys – Toms	29 lbs.	No max	
Turkeys – Hens	21 lbs.	No max	

Rabbits – Meat pen	10.5 lbs.	16.5 lbs.	
Rabbits – Fryers	3.5 lbs.	5.5 lbs.	
Rabbits – Roasters	5.5 lbs.	9 lbs.	

- An updated copy of the Livestock Sale Rules and Regulations is available on our website at [www.thegreatfrederickfair.com/youth](http://www.thegreatfrederickfair.com/youth)

**Reminder: Bred & Owned Class Eligibility (ALL 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 (*this is not breeding registration forms. 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.

- All first year members are required to present 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.

As always, feel free to reach out to Carrie with any questions!