

Good Afternoon Youth Exhibitors!!

Spring is here and we hope you are enjoying the warmish weather! Please see the below updates for upcoming youth related programs.

New Updates:

Weigh-ins – A separate email was sent out with all instructions for swine, sheep and goat weigh-ins. Reach out if you did not receive it and would like the information.

- Reminder - 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.

Goat Workshops – Meat and dairy goats will hold workshops on Saturday, August 1st. More information to come closer to the date.

- Link to apply: <https://forms.gle/BEDSQPXRKikV1PhT8>
- Dairy Goats will start at 9am
- Meat Goats will start at 1pm
- Please bring your goat with you for hands-on learning
- *Deadline to receive a t-shirt for dairy goats is June 26th*

Poultry/Turkey Workshop – Thursday, June 18th 6-8pm

- Link to apply: <https://forms.gle/Xbb7AZ7R4Z5Gfag69>
- Main topics (but not limited to):
 - Showmanship & Skillathon
 - Fair Expectations - including schedules, judging, exhibitor responsibilities, etc.
 - Sale Requirements and Expectations
 - Poultry Testing Requirements
 - "All things Fair" - the "need to know" for the poultry barn.
- Pizza will be provided for dinner
- Deadline to register: June 15th
- One of the Rabbit Superintendents will be there and available to answer any questions you might have about rabbit projects as well.

Sheep Workshop – Saturday, May 16th (9am – noon)

- Building 28 (sheep/goat arena)
- Please sign up using this link <https://forms.gle/RaZ9T4HpqxsA3UZ68>
- Registration closes May 11th
- Please bring your lamb with you
- Pizza will be provided for lunch

Schedule Changes –

The full fair schedule will be available very soon online, but we wanted to share a few major schedule changes for youth exhibitors.

- Market Beef show – Now Monday, 9/21 at 9am. Youth Showmanship and heifer shows will now be Wed. 9/23 with heifers being released later that same day.
- Market Swine show – Now Tuesday, 9/22 at 12:30pm. Youth Market hogs will come in Monday, 9/21 (12-9pm)
- Youth/Open Poultry Judging – Now Tuesday, 9/22 at 9am. Youth Turkey Show will remain on Monday, 9/21 at 9am

- Youth/Open Dairy Shows – for 2026 we are combining youth & open shows
 - Sunday, 9/20 - Ayrshire, Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn and Jersey
 - Showmanship for kids with these breeds will start at 8am
 - Thursday, 9/24 – Brown Swiss, Holstein
 - Showmanship for kids with these breeds will start at 8am (youth must elect 1 showmanship day to participate in, either Sunday or Thursday)

Important Reminders:

Scholarships:

GFF Scholarships for 2026 close May 15th!! The Great Frederick Fair is offering FIVE \$1,000 scholarships along with TWO \$2,500 Joe Free Memorial Scholarships. Additional sponsored scholarships may be available closer to fair; information TBA. (Ambassador applications will stick with the August deadline)

- Link to apply: <https://forms.gle/2xkZpSX2Jv7HY7kd6>

Beef weight checks: The scales are available to use again this year to check weights of your steers. They will be open the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 7pm (dates below). Please register to come so we know who to expect. The scales will not be opened if no one signs up by the Friday before the date, meaning walk-ins will not be available.

- Sign-up: <https://forms.gle/TXvtVDkdxoDQkhM6>
- May 12th
- August 11th

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.

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.
 - 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/LDxULCnNoLFSPz189>
- 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.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you have. 😊