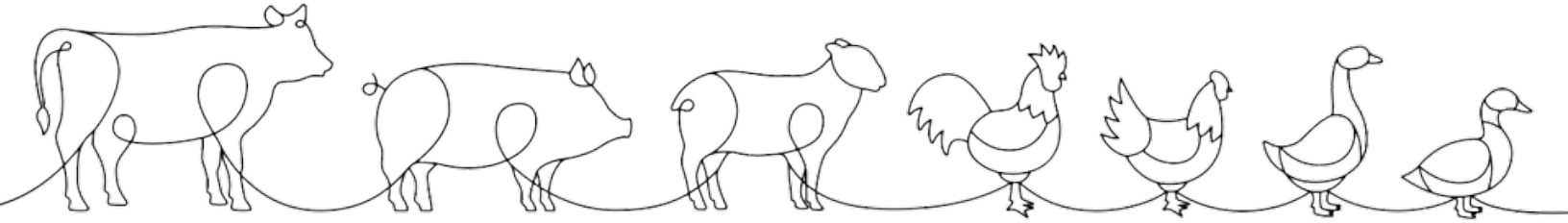
2026 Hartford Fair
Livestock Quality Assurance

Find species specific materials by visiting:
https://go.osu.edu/HartfordQAMaterials



Programming provided by OSU Extension - Licking County

2026 Hartford Independent Fair
Junior Fair Livestock / Animal Requirement Summary

(Last Revision 01.20.2026)

	Exhibit Limit	Possession	Pre-Fair Weigh-In/Tagging	Licking County Quality Assurance (Must complete training annually) JUNE 1st Deadline	Clinics	Entry Deadline	Animal Requirements	Health Requirements
Market Steer & Market Heifer	Maximum of 6 entries for Beef Division (Dept. 102/103/104/105)	December 6th Weigh-In	Must be weighed and tagged on Saturday, December 6, 2025 (8 - 11 a.m.) Grubb Arena, Fairgrounds Fee: $5 / RFID Tag (if needed)	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	All animals must be dehorned, and bulls castrated before December weigh-in. Must be 950 lbs. to sell	No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. and U.P. feeding forms must be completed online during week prior to the fair.
Steer Pool	May only draw 1 animal from Pool to exhibit. Maximum of 6 entries for Beef Division (Dept. 102/103/104/105)	Steer Pool Selection Date (December)	Completed during selection of steers.	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.	A Steer Pool Clinic will be held on April 11th; members are encouraged to bring their steers. (*Open to anyone*!)	Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	Steer must sell at the fair. Carcass Contest will take place following the fair.	No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. forms must be completed online prior to arrival to fairgrounds.
Beef Feeder Calf	Maximum of 6 entries for Beef Division (Dept. 102/103/104/105)	May 1st (New in 2026)	Feeder Calf project animals must have 840 RFID tags and submit photos online by May 15, including side view and head view with ear tag identification.	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	Calves must weigh 300 - 700 lbs. to show for champion (steers and heifers only) (Not a sale animal)	No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines.
Breeding Beef	Maximum of 6 entries for Beef Division (Dept. 102/103/104/105)	May 1	Breeding Beef project animals must have 840 RFID tags and submit photos online by May 15, including side view and head view with ear tag identification.	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	All breeds, except crossbreds, must be registered to show for special premiums. Registration papers will be checked at fair. (Not a sale animal)	No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines.
Dairy Feeder Calf	May only exhibit up to four Dairy Feeder calves. Maximum of 6 entries for Beef Division (Dept. 102/103/104/105)	May 1	Must be weighed, tagged and vaccinated on Saturday, June 6 (8 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.) Grubb Arena, Hartford Fairgrounds Fee: $10 / animal **Must be dehorned / castrated prior to June 6 in order to be tagged**	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	Calf must be 100% Holstein or Brown Swiss. Calf must be dehorned, and castrated PRIOR to weigh-in. Must weigh 400-650 lbs. to sell through junior fair sale.	No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. and U.P. feeding forms must be completed online during week prior to the fair.
Dairy Cattle	No limit as to the number of dairy entries	May 1	*All Dairy Cattle are encouraged to have 840 RFID tags in place. Will be required in Ohio beginning in January 2027.*	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	No horns permitted (except on junior and intermediate heifers). (Not a sale animal)	No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines.
Market Hogs	May exhibit up to 2 animals per exhibitor	May 1	Market Hog ID materials must be submitted online by no later than May 15. Photo(s) must show RFID tag number; RFID tag number must be used for all official ID purposes.	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	Terminal Sale. Min. of 200 lbs. to sell / 220-290 lbs. to show for Champion. Any breed / cross. Gilts and barrows allowed. Clipping discouraged – hair must meet ODA Rev. Code.	<u>Must have RFID tag by May 15 and be documented in photo submission.</u> No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. forms must be completed online prior to arrival to fairgrounds.
Market Lambs	May exhibit up to 5 animals (1 pen of two and 3 singles) NOTE: Can't be shown in Breeding Sheep show during Hartford Fair.	May 1	Tagging on May 16 (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.) Sheriff Office, Hartford Fairgrounds Up to 6 lambs may be tagged at that time. Fee: $3 per animal. Scrapies tags required! *Online pre-registration required.*	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	No rams allowed. MUST be slick shorn one week or less prior to the fair. All lambs must weigh min. of 95 lbs. (except Southdown / Cheviots 85 lbs.).	<u>Must have USDA approved Scrapies tag.</u> No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. and U.P. feeding forms must be completed online during week prior to the fair.
Market Lamb Pool	May select / exhibit up to two lambs. (Counts toward max of 5 that will be shown in Dept 108 Market Lamb)	Lamb Pool Selection will take place May 3 @ 3pm (Claylick Run Farm) Pre-registration required.	Completed during selection of lambs. *NOTE: Lamb Pool application deadline is April 11.*	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	Lambs must come through the Lamb Pool offered by the Licking County Sheep Improvement Association. MUST be slick shorn one week or less prior to the fair. Lambs must weigh min. of 95 lbs.	<u>Must have USDA approved Scrapies tag.</u> No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. and U.P. feeding forms must be completed online during week prior to the fair.
Breeding Sheep	May exhibit up to 5 entries in Junior Fair.	May 1	Scrapies tags are required for official identification.	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	May show ewes or rams. (Not a sale animal)	<u>Must have USDA approved Scrapies tag</u>. No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines.

	Exhibit Limit	Possession	Pre-Fair Weigh-In/Tagging	Licking County Quality Assurance (Must complete training annually) JUNE 1st Deadline	Clinics	Entries	Animal Requirements	Health Requirements
Market Goats	May exhibit up to 2 animals.	May 1st	Tagging on May 16 (10 a.m.–12 p.m.) Goat Barn, Hartford Fairgrounds Fee: $2 / animal May tag up to 6 animals. Scrapies tags required. *Online pre-registration required.*	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Goats R Us 4-H Club will host workshops on June 25 and July 16 (7pm) at the Hartford Fairgrounds that are open to any youth. Contact Laney McLaughlin # 740.927.4790	Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	Minimum of 45 lbs. to sell. MUST be slick shorn one week or less prior to the fair. Only goats entered in Junior Fair may stay on the grounds.	Must have USDA approved Scrapies identification in all goats (ear tag / microchip / tattoo / registration papers). No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. and U.P. feeding forms must be completed online during week prior to the fair.
Breeding Goats	May exhibit up to 6 animals (any market goat entries count toward this total of six entries within the goat department)	May 1	Scrapies tags are required for identification.	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Goats R Us 4-H Club will host workshops on June 25 and July 16 (7pm) at the Hartford Fairgrounds that are open to any youth. Contact Laney McLaughlin # 740.927.4790	Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	No horned goats permitted in dairy classes. No bucks permitted. (Not a sale animal) Only goats entered in Junior Fair may stay on the grounds.	Must have USDA approved Scrapies identification in all goats (ear tag / microchip / tattoo / registration papers). No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines.
Market Rabbits	Max of 2 per Lot, which counts toward max of 6 entries for Market and Breeding Rabbits.	30 days preceding fair	Registration/Tattooing July 11 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Beef Barn, Hartford Fairgrounds Fee: $1 / animal	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Rabbit & Poultry Clinic & Fun Show will be held Saturday, June 6th at the Hartford Fairgrounds.	Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	Single fryer / pen of three rabbits min 3 ½ lbs. / max 5 ½ lbs. 69 days old each at show	No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. forms must be completed online during week prior to the fair.
Breeding Rabbits	Max of 2 per Lot, which counts toward max of 6 entries for Market and Breeding Rabbits.	May 1	Registration/Tattooing Sr. Rabbits - May 16 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) Beef Barn, Fairgrounds Jr Rabbits - July 11 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) Beef Barn, Fairgrounds Fee: $1 / animal	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Rabbit & Poultry Clinic & Fun Show will be held Saturday, June 6th at the Hartford Fairgrounds.	Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	(Not a sale animal)	No health papers required. However, you must follow state guidelines.
Meat Poultry (broilers / turkeys / ducks)	Max of 2 per Lot, which counts toward max of 6 entries for Market Poultry. Meat turkeys, chickens and ducks must be purchased through a Hartford Fair Poultry Pool.	Meat turkeys / chickens / ducks must be purchased through Hartford Fair Poultry Pool.	Turkeys are banded May 16 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) Beef Barn, Hartford Fairgrounds All other Meat Poultry - Wing Banding July 11 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Beef Barn, Hartford Fairgrounds Fee: $1 / entry	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Rabbit & Poultry Clinic & Fun Show will be held Saturday, June 6th at the Hartford Fairgrounds.	Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	Meat chicken/single broiler/ pen of three birds must weigh between 5 and 8 lbs. Meat turkeys, chickens and ducks must be purchased through Hartford Fair Poultry Pool.	D.U.N.F. forms must be completed online during week prior to the fair.
Breeding Poultry	Max of 2 per Lot, which counts toward max of 6 entries for Market Poultry.	May 1	Wing Banding May 16 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Beef Barn, Hartford Fairgrounds Fee: $1 / entry	March 19 Watkins H.S. / April 15 Utica H.S. / April 23 Licking Valley H.S. / May 7 Northridge H.S. May 20 Johnstown H.S. All programs held 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Rabbit & Poultry Clinic & Fun Show will be held Saturday, June 6th at the Hartford Fairgrounds.	Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	(Not a sale animal)	Be prepared to show NPIP health papers. All turkeys must be Pullorum tested by a veterinarian. Health papers must be presented upon arrival to barn.
Dogs	May exhibit up to 6 Dogs, max of 6 entries.	April 1 Must be owned by exhibitor or immediate family	N/A	No Quality Assurance Program required for this species in 2026.		Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	(Not a sale animal) Need certificate of license & dog license tag to register. Dog must be older than 6 mos. at time of show. Dogs in heat may not be shown.	Hartford Fair Certificate of Vaccination form required. (available through Licking County 4-H Club Advisors and the Licking County Extension Office website)
Equine (Horse & Pony)	May exhibit up to 6 animals (may only stall 1 animal) NOTE: All horses and ponies must have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of at least "4" to be exhibited at 4-H events and shows.	Licking County exhibitors submit by April 24 to the LC4-HH&PC Knox & Delaware exhibitors must submit by April 24 to Hartford Fair Office	N/A	All Equine members must complete EquiSTEP training program by June 1st. (go.osu.edu/EquiStep2026)	All Pony measurements must be completed prior to April 24 ID paper deadline.	Entry deadline is Friday, June 26. Changes must be made prior to Friday July 17 late entry deadline.	(Not a sale animal) Pre-entry for classes is required. All classes must be entered by fair entry deadline.	Required Vaccinations: West Nile Combo (includes Tetanus), Rhino/Flu, and Equine Rabies. Health papers must be presented at Vet Check Point & Horse Project Grading. Veterinarian certificate and DUNF required for any and all medications with unexpired withdrawal period.

For all species divisions which are listed on this form, the youth member must be currently enrolled in the respective appropriate project in either Licking, Knox, or Delaware County 4-H / FFA/Steer Pool programs. The project must be carried through the county of which the youth is a 4-H or FFA member in good standing. Licking, Knox and Delaware County members are encouraged to attend a Quality Assurance Program within their county of membership.

2026 HARTFORD SENIOR FAIR BOARD TALKING POINTS of IMPORTANCE

VARIOUS ANIMAL UPDATES AND REMINDERS…

- **BEEF CATTLE.**
  - NEW in 2026: Both Beef Feeder Calves and Breeding Heifers must be in possession of the exhibitor by May 1st, have an RFID tag in place, and upload a side-view and front-view photos (with tag visible) by May 15th.
  - NEW in 2026: We will offer a Shorthorn (Purebred Shorthorns only) and a Maintainer (Maintainers and High Maines) division in Junior. and Open Breeding Heifer Shows. We will no longer have an Angus division, they will show in the High All Other Breeds (AOB).
  - Market Beef Bred and Owned animals will be showing in their own respective classes. During the entry process you must select the Bred and Owned classes when appropriate.

- **DAIRY CATTLE.**
  - Beginning January 1, 2027, all cattle (beef and dairy) will be required to have 840 RFID tags in place. Exhibitors are encouraged to begin that process during 2025… Tags are available at no cost from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

- **DAIRY FEEDERS.**
  - Dairy Feeder calves may be only of 100% Holstein or Brown Swiss breeding.
  - Weigh-in on June 6th will run from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. The weigh-in will also include an independent assessor whose task will be to identify calves that may require DNA testing, to verify Holstein / Brown Swiss breeding. A clinic and show will be offered following the weigh-in.

- **GOATS.**
  - All goats must have approved Scrapies identification!
  - Only goats entered in Junior Fair classes may stay on the grounds.
  - All market goats must be in the possession of the exhibitor by May 1st and attend weigh-in / tagging on May 16th. An online registration will be provided in advance of tagging. All goats are required to be pre-registered into the survey by noon on May 15th.
  - NEW in 2026: Bred & Owned (B&O) market goats will have the option to enter in a B&O division this year. B&O market goats must be tagged as such during the May tagging & will be able to choose to enter the fair as B&O or a regular market goat.
  - NEW in 2026: All meat goat breeding does under 12 months of age will be weighed on move-in Saturday and sorted in to weight classes instead of by age.

- **MARKET LAMBS.**
  - NEW in 2026: Lamb Pool grand champion drive will place the Top 10 lambs (rather than Top 5)!
  - All market lambs must have USDA approved Scrapies tag identification at the time of tagging on May 16th.
  - All market lambs must be in the possession of the exhibitor by May 1st and attend tagging on May 16th to be tagged with a fair tag. An online registration will be provided in advance of tagging. All lambs are required to be pre-registered into the survey by noon on May 15th.

- **BREEDING SHEEP.**
  - NEW in 2026: Classes have been added for Dorset Advantage sheep in both Junior Fair and Open Class divisions.
  - All breeding sheep project animals must have USDA approved Scrapies tags.

- **RABBITS & POULTRY.**
  - Rabbit & Poultry exhibitors must complete DUNF forms ahead of arriving to the fairgrounds or will not be allowed to weigh-in on day of show!

- **MARKET HOGS.**
  - All hogs must be tagged with an 840 RFID tag prior to the May 15th Market Hog ID submission deadline. Tags will be available at the Fair Office for purchase. Taggers will be available for use, with a deposit.
  - If your hog(s) already has an 840 RFID tag, there is no need to re-tag. The 15-digit number on the 840 RFID tag will be used for the fair. Tag number must be visible in the headshot picture of your ID submission. See Hartford Fair website for additional details information.
  - Hog Identification photos are required of all junior fair hogs and will be uploaded directly into FairEntry. Photos must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. May 15th – one of the photos must include official tag with number that is readable. Up to four (4) hogs may be identified. If photos are not entered by May 15th, the hog is ineligible to make entry to the fair and thus is ineligible to show or sell.
  - All hogs consigned to sale will be sent to the packer on either Tuesday night or Wednesday. All youth participating in the sale must send one hog on the trailer. Hogs will not be present during the hog sale on Thursday.
  - Any youth bringing a second hog for exhibition will be responsible for removing that hog from the fairgrounds on Friday. These hogs are also eligible to be shown in the open market hog show on Friday.
  - All pens must be cleaned by the end of the fair.

- **GENERAL JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK.**
  - NEW in 2026: The fair is expanding the area for trailer parking inside of the fence this year. This will allow more space for paid trailer parking, and a designated area for open show parking to prevent crowding around the barns. Trailers will no longer be allowed to be parked in the general parking lot outside of the fence during the week of the fair.
  - Please be aware that section 901-19 of the Ohio Revised Code provides rules pertaining to junior fair exhibition of livestock. All rules will be enforced, and families are responsible for reviewing and understanding these rules prior to entry and exhibition. These rules are also posted on the Hartford Fair website, Fair Premium Book, and are available on the Ohio Department of Agriculture website. Should you have questions, be sure to ask!
  - Junior Fair Exhibitors will enter their SHOWMANSHIP classes as a part of the entry process ahead of June 26th. This will allow classes to be split into appropriate sizes ahead of the fair.
  - All market animal exhibitors must complete their Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) online by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 7th. Online form information will be shared one week prior to fair.

FACILITIES AND BARN SAFETY.

- No floor fans will be permitted in the barn areas. All fans must be hung, for the safety of small children.
- Only three-prong electrical cords are permitted on the grounds, and they must be good repair and in a safe condition.

LIVESTOCK SALES.

- Market Hog Sale will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 13th. Large Animal Sale will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 15th . Small Animal Sale will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 15th.
- Livestock sales checks will be mailed no earlier than 30 days following the sale. All checks will be mailed, no checks will be held for pick-up! There will be a $35 charge to re-issue a check with a stale date past the 60 days cashing period.

…AND OTHER ITEMS.

- Entries are due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 26th, with late entries being due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 17th. Exhibitors will be expected to review their entries online to ensure that they are accurate.
- Be sure to stay up to date through the Hartford Fair website and Facebook pages.
- Junior Fair Exhibitors and Advisors…
  - ID Cards will be issued, with exhibitors and advisors being required to provide a photo by no later than June 26th. Exhibitors will submit their photo during the entry process in FairEntry, while Advisors will be asked to submit their photos by email, as a club / chapter. Additional details will be shared later in the year by email as well as through the website.

BEEF | DAIRY PROJECT UPDATES

BREEDING BEEF / FEEDER CALF.

- All Breeds, except crossbred, must be registered to show for special premiums, papers will be checked at the fair.
- Photo submission deadline is May 15th . One photo must clearly show 840 RFID tag number.
- Feeder Calves must weigh 300 – 700 lbs. to show for champion
- Must be steer or heifer to show, no bulls.
- Not eligible for sale.

NEW IN 2026

- We will offer a Shorthorn (PB Shorthorns only) and Maintainer (Maintainers and High Maines) divisions in the Junior and Open Breeding Heifer Shows.
- We will no longer have an Angus Division, they will show in the High AOB's.
- BOTH Beef Feeder Calves and Breeding Heifers must be in the possession of the exhibitor by May 1st, have an 840 RFID tag in place, and upload a side-view and front-view photos (with tag visible) by May 15th.
- Tags are available at the Fair Office and Licking County Extension Office.

BEEF BARN OVERHANG – SPACE REQUESTS (NEW!!!)

- The Hondros Beef Barn overhang will be assigned per club. A percentage will be determined by the number of exhibitors planning to use the overhang in the club.
- Each club is to have one advisor contact Ian (740-973-5629) or Kody (740-404-3676) to let them know the number of kids in the club who plan to use the overhang - do NOT include exhibitors that plan to use a tent.
    - That advisor is also asked to submit the number of stalls each exhibitor needs in the Hondros Beef Barn. If the club has any special stalling requests, they need to let the committee know at that time, as well.
- Please submit this information to the Committee two (2) weeks before moving in (July 25th).

MARKET BEEF (STEER / HEIFER).

- Market Beef Bred and Owned animals will be showing in their own respective classes. During the entry process you must select the Bred and Owned classes, when appropriate.
    - Bred and Owned (B&O) status had to be designated at the December weigh-in.
- Animals Market Beef must be 950 lbs. to sell.

DAIRY FEEDERS.

- Dairy Feeder calves may be only of 100% Holstein or Brown Swiss breeding.
- Weigh-in on June 6th will run from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
    - The weigh-in will also include an independent assessor whose task will be to identify calves that may require DNA testing, to verify Holstein / Brown Swiss breeding. A clinic and show will be offered following the weigh-in.
- All Dairy Feeders will be tagged with 840 EID tags in 2026 during the June 6th weigh-in.

DAIRY CATTLE.

- Beginning January 1, 2027, all cattle (beef and dairy) will be required to have 840 RFID tags in place.
- Exhibitors are encouraged to begin that process during 2026 Fair. Tags are available at no cost from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- No horns are permitted on dairy cattle, except for junior and intermediate heifers.

IMPORTANT DATES.

- Dairy Feeder Weigh-In / Tagging / Vaccination:
    - Saturday, June 6th | 8 – 11 a.m. | $10 / Head
    - Clinic and Fun Show will follow weigh-in
- Ohio State Fair entry Deadline: Sunday, June 21st
- Hartford Fair Entry Deadline: Monday, June 26th
- Hartford Fair Late Entry Deadline: Friday, July 17th
- Hartford Fair Livestock Move-Inp: Saturday, August 8th

GOAT PROJECT UPDATES

FEEDING.

Hay… nice looking, green alfalfa, clover or mixed alfalfa/clover/grass. Should not be dusty or moldy.
Water…fresh water twice a day.
Grain…pre-bagged goat feed or prepare your own balanced ration.
Free choice salt or mineral salt and baking soda… for rumen function.

HEALTH.

Signs of Illness:

Any change in normal behavior, especially inactivity.
Poor appetite or not eating at all.
Change in color or consistency of manure.
Urinates more than usual.
Grinds teeth.
Coat becomes rough or dull.
Color of gums and lining membranes around eyes becomes pale or blue.
Changes in milk for breeding does.
Goats normal temperature is 103 +/- 2 degrees.
Changes in milk appearance with lactating does.

Vaccinations: CDT to prevent enterotoxemia, associated with high grain intake, and tetanus, at least at 8 and 12 weeks of age and yearly thereafter. Give booster to does 30-60 days before kidding to cover newborn kids.

Parasites: Goats are highly susceptible to worms. If there is weight loss, or gums/eye membranes become pale, goat need wormed. Take feces (manure) specimen to lab for ID of worm type and use appropriate worm medication. Most wormer dosages need to be doubled label directions to be effective on goats. Use the FAMANCHA chart. Check with your veterinarian. Worm medications also have withdrawal dates that need to be watched at slaughter/sale time.

Coccidiosis: This is an illness caused by a protozoan parasite that becomes a problem due to manure contamination of feed and water. A common sign of this illness is dark diarrhea, and general weight loss. If untreated, goat will die. If not treated as soon as the diarrhea is noticed, the gastrointestinal tract absorption of the goat can be damaged for life. Call a veterinarian for the proper meds.

HOUSING:

Protect from wind, precipitation, sun, predators, dampness, and injury. Provide shelter / barn; keeping in mind 10-12 square feet needed per animal.

FOOT CARE:

Prevent foot rot with clean, dry housing and proper foot trimming. Keep hooves trimmed with sharp hoof knife or hoof trimmers about every six weeks.

MARKET GOAT TATTOOING.

All market goats must be tagged and registered to participate in the Hartford Fair. Tagging will be done the third Saturday in May. This year that will be **May 16, 2026** **from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. Cost is $2.00 per animal, limit of 6 animals may be tagged.** This will take place at the Hartford fairgrounds. Information will be provided in advance so that exhibitors can pre-register for the May 16th tagging. Scrapies ID information must be submitted with online pre-registration. Goats being tagged must be designated to an individual exhibitor at the time of tagging. There will also be a weighing of those animals that wish to participate in the rate of gain contest. If you cannot bring your animal on this date you must have your 4-H advisor call Jared McLaughlin (Senior Fair Board member), before the tagging date.

MARKET GOAT REQUIREMENTS: HARTFORD FAIR.

- May use wether or doe.
- Milk teeth must be present at weigh-in on Sunday of the fair.
- All goats must have a USDA-approved Scrapies Eradication ID tag.
- Horns are optional for Market Goats.
- Full-body clip ten (10) days prior to the fair for Market Goats.
- Minimum weight 45 lbs. (there is no maximum weight).
- One animal per exhibitor to sell.
- Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion must sell. Sale is terminal for these two animals and drug testing will be
  completed following selection.
- Weigh in Sunday morning of the fair at 10:00 am before the open market goat show.
- Exhibitor / family is expected to attend Barn Meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday of fair.
- Exhibitor must be present with project at show and sale.
- At weigh-in each exhibitor must designate if animal is to sell.
- Goats are not permitted to be exercised in the Horse Complex, nor the parking areas to the east/ south of horse barns.
- Only those goats entered in Junior Fair classes can be stalled on the grounds throughout the fair.

HARTFORD FAIR GOAT SCHEDULE REMINDERS.

- Open Market Goat show is Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (see Hartford Fair website for details)
- Junior Fair Market Goat & Meat Breeding Show starts Monday at 10:00 a.m. (Grubb Arena)
- Junior Dairy and Pygmy Shows will be held Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. (Grubb Arena)
- Skillathon is Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. (4-H Center)
- Goat Obstacle Course is Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. (Goat Barn)
- Goat Costume class will be held on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. (Grubb Arena)
- Pee Wee Goat Show is Thursday at 2:30 p.m. (Grubb Arena)
- Open Pygmy Goat Show will take place on Thursday evening at 5:00 p.m. (B. Carr or Grubb Arena)
- Open Dairy Show is Friday at 9:00 a.m. (Grubb Arena)
- Sale is last Saturday of the fair at 10:00 a.m.. (Grubb Arena)

PREPARING FOR THE FAIR.

- Observe a show.
- Teach your animal to lead. Collar should be nylon dog collar or chain (do not use as a choker). Work with them 20 minutes, twice daily, at least 6 weeks before the fair.
- Learn the parts of the goat, and scorecards for Showmanship classes. Pages 21-26 in the Goat Resource Book.
- Trim hooves
- Full body clip ten (10) days prior show for dairy and market goats; body trim on meat breeding does.
- All goats must have Scrapies Identification from USDA. If in need of additional information, contact Jennifer Reynolds at USDA office in Pickerington (614) 322-4700.

POULTRY PROJECT UPDATES

HARTFORD FAIR POULTRY CLASSES.

Class JA – Meat Poultry (eligible for sale at action)
Broiler chickens, ducks, and turkeys intended for the table are included in this class. All broiler chickens, ducks and turkeys must originate from the Hartford Fair meat chicken/duck/turkey pool to be eligible for showing and selling.

Class JB - Poultry Breeding/Egg Layers (not for sale at auction)
Chickens and ducks kept for egg production or for breeding stock are included. Male and female birds are eligible for showing. Birds in this class are generally purchased from a hatchery or farm store and are not necessarily purebred.

Class JC – Fancy Poultry (not for sale at auction)
Purebred Bantam and Large Fowl chickens, purebred Bantam and large ducks, and turkeys bred to the APA or ABA Standard for show are included in this class. People breeding and raising this type of poultry are considered *fanciers,* and they participate in a tradition of breeding, raising and showing purebred poultry, referred to as the *poultry fancy*.

You must enter your project in the correct class in order to get the recognition you deserve for your hard work. Also you must have your birds banded or registered at the appropriate banding session at the Hartford Fairground poultry barn to be eligible for showing at the fair as follows:

- Fancy, breeding/egg layers, and turkeys, first Saturday in May from 10:00 – 2:00.
- All other meat poultry, second Saturday in July from 10:00 – 2:00.
- If you can't attend the appropriate banding, make arrangements with someone to bring your project birds for the appropriate banding session for your project. Contact the Sr. Fair Board prior to the deadline if arrangements can't be made to bring the birds to the fairgrounds.

HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW.

- If you bought your birds from a feed mill or hatchery, they should be entered as breeding/egg laying or meat poultry.
- If you bought your birds from a *breeder* who produces and shows birds bred to the Standard, then you enter in the *fancy* class.
- All sale birds must meet weight and quality standards – no malnourished or injured birds will be sold.
- Exhibitors are responsible for all feeding, watering, and pen cleaning while at the fair. Be sure to make arrangements with your fellow exhibitors to cover any times you may not be available to monitor your birds.
- The Hartford Fair Premium Book from last year's fair is the best source for information about the fair until the new book is released.
- You should always know the breed and purpose of the stock you are raising, and participate in the corresponding 4-H project through your club. If you have questions about the breed or class you need to enter, ask your advisor, or call John deSaavedra (740) 927-0548.

CARE FOR YOUR BIRDS AT THE FAIR.

Your birds are representing you, your hobby, and 4-H while they are at the fair. It is important to take extra care of them while they are on display. To be sure that they are presentable at all times, consider keeping the following list of things available. Keep these supplies in the common area near the bulletin board in the front of the barn behind the information desk. Mark your supplies with your name so you can find them later. Items piled in or at the ends of aisles will be moved.

SUPPLIES:

- Pine shaving for litter. No straw or cedar.
- Container to carry soiled litter.
- Gloves of any kind.

- Watering can or jug.
- Extra feed appropriate for your birds.
- Grooming supplies in case your birds need attention.
- Two one-gallon or half-gallon plastic jugs if none are available at the barn on the day of coop-in.

Once the coops have been selected, put a 2-inch layer of white pine shavings in the bottom of the coop. Then tie a cutout jug in opposite front corners of the coop for feed and water. Do not use chick feeders or waterers, or any other kind of cup of crock, as they will be knocked over or soiled immediately.

Be prepared to see that your birds are provided with clean water at all times, and that they have the appropriate feed. Also be prepared to check the litter 2-3 times a day. Using gloves or small scoop, remove manure and wet spots. All litter and manure must be taken to the manure pit behind the hog barn. This will help keep everyone, including your parents, advisors, the public, and especially your birds happy all week.

Remember, it is your responsibility to keep the very best care of your project birds while on display. If there is a time when you cannot check your project, make arrangements for someone else to do so. It is also important that you are willing to be there when someone else needs help.

Show Day - It is expected that all birds brought to the table will be clean and groomed. This means bathing birds before the fair with touch up cleaning the day of the show. No judge wants to handle a dirty or wet bird.

PROJECT CARE CHECKLIST

Things to keep in mind when you are not able to be with your project birds, and asking others to help you:

— Suggested signage on pen / barn area:
  - My emergency phone number is _____..
  - Another person you can call in an emergency is _____.
  - I will return at _____.

— Empty and refill water everyday
— Provide exact instructions for using water founts.
— Ensure that water is checked two times each day. Do not allow animal to be without water.
— Check temperature at least two times each day.
— Rig an extra fan before you leave, so it can be turned on / off, as needed.
— Always check heat lamps carefully, when in use. Always use two lamps when chicks are small. Keep an extra bulb available. Do not use clip lamps. Secure heat lamps or night lights with a chain, wire, or cable.
— Provide enough feed for your time away. Label the feed clearly.
— Provide clear instructions for filling the feeders or cups. Example: fill each feeder no more than /3 full.
— Feed adult birds at regular time each day when possible.
— No not let the broiler chickens run out of feed or water, ever.
— Make arrangements for banding and testing with someone you can county on, if you will be away.
— Separate any sick or picked-on birds from the flock right away. Be sure to provide a place to separate birds, if needed.
— Provide instructions for what to do when the power is off.
— Review your checklist with all potential helpers.
— Have helpers walk through the list by helping with the chores before you leave.
— Post an extra copy of your checklist in the barn for everyone to see.

RABBIT PROJECT UPDATES

PRE-FAIR ACTIVITY - RABBIT REGISTRATION & TATTOOING.

- All rabbits entering the Hartford Fair must be registered and tattooed to be eligible for exhibition. A permanent tattoo is required in the left ear of each rabbit.

- Exhibitors can register as many rabbit projects as they wish.

- What to bring to tattooing and registration:
  - Completed rabbit registration form
  - Rabbits to be registered

- Tattooing will be available on-site for $1 per rabbit (cash only) as a committee fundraiser. It's the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure tattoos are legible before fair check-in.

- What if you can't attend registration?
  - A representative may bring your rabbits and forms on your behalf, but all rabbits must attend registration day to qualify for exhibition.

RABBIT REGISTRATION AND TATTOO DATES.

- Senior Breeding Rabbit Registration
  - *The Beef Barn, Hartford Fairgrounds*
  - DATE: Saturday, May 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

- Bred & Raised Doe ID Forms
  - Due by mail or drop off to the Hartford Fair Board Office by May 16, 2025

- Junior Breeding & Market Rabbit Registration
  - *The Beef Barn, Hartford Fairgrounds*
  - Saturday, July 11, 2026, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

HARTFORD FAIR SHOW INFORMATION

- Rabbit Shows
  - Market & Breeding Rabbit Show – *Monday, August 3, 2026*
    - Market Weigh-In: 7:00 a.m.
    - Breeding Show: 9:00 a.m., the market show will follow the breed show.
  - Rabbit Showmanship – *Wednesday, August 5, 2026*
  - Small Animal Sale – *Saturday, August 8, 2026*

- Entry Reminders:
  - Pen of 3 market rabbits is 1 entry
  - Only purebred rabbits that do not have a specific class listed may enter "All-Other Breeds" classes.
  - Rabbits that have parents from two different breeds are considered mixed-breed rabbit. Mixed-breed rabbits should be exhibited in the Mixed-Breed class.
  - Be sure to make an entry for your showmanship class.

- What's the Difference in Showmanship and the Market/Breed show?
  - Showmanship: You're the one being judged! It tests your handling skills and rabbit knowledge.
  - Market & Breeding Show: Your rabbit is judged on their body confirmation, color, fur, and breed characteristics.

- Study Tips for Showmanship
    - Use these resources to study breeds, body parts, and showmanship skills:
    - 4-H Rabbit Resource Book and Record Book
    - American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) website and YouTube channel
    - ARBA Standard of Perfection Book for breed-specific standards

- Grooming for the Show
    - Never wash your rabbit unless necessary!
        - Spot clean with a baby wipe or washcloth
    - Trim toenails regularly
    - Brush long-haired breeds to remove knots regularly
    - Rex & Mini Rex only: use a shedding block as their fur is special
    - Never use dye or baby powder on the coat this will damage fur quality

MARKET RABBIT INFORMATION.

- When do I breed for a market rabbit?
    - End of April or beginning of May

- What breeds of Rabbit do I need to get?
    - New Zealand (Solid White, Red, Black, Blue or broken/spotted colors only)
    - Californian (all white with brown ears, feet and tail)

- When do I pick up my Market Rabbits from the Breeder?
    - The rabbit should be weaned and 6 weeks old, typically exhibitors are picking up rabbits the last week of June or first week of July.

- How do I find a Market Rabbit Breeder?
    - Check out the ARBA website for New Zealand or Californian rabbit breeds.
    - Check Ohio Rabbit Breeders group on Facebook and inquire if anyone is accepting reservations for The Hartford Fair.
    - Local 4-H or FFA member in Licking or Knox County

- What do I feed a market rabbit?
    - High protein complete rabbit pellet from a feed mill or check with your rabbit breeder you are purchasing from.
    - Avoid carrots, too many greens or hay as this could cause the rabbit get a pot belly and not grow muscles.
    - Fresh and free choice of water

EXHIBITOR REMINDERS

- White lab coat or white long sleeve shirt, polo, jeans, and closed-toe shoes for the show ring.
- Rabbit stalling is optional (haul-in/haul-out permitted)
- Cages available on a first come, first serve basis
- Rabbits must be present for stalling. NO cage saving!
- Ventilated carry cage
- Water bottle & feed crock
- Cage lock and extra feed in a dry container (if staying all week)
- Battery-operated fans for rabbits
- Bring locks and water bottles for all stalled rabbits
- Exhibitors must feed, water, and clean up after their rabbits daily and after the fair.
- Tent, chairs, and cooler for comfort

SHEEP PROJECT UPDATES

Important Sheep/Market Lamb Dates.

—April 11, 2026 Lamb Pool Application Deadline

—April 13, 2026 Lamb Royalty Application Deadline

—April 16, 2026 Licking County Lamb Banquet &
Royalty Interviews, Selection and Announcement
- 6:30 p.m. - Rise Christian Church, 1578 Dayton Road NE, Newark

—May 3, 2026 Lamb Pool Selection
- 3:00 p.m. | Claylick Run Farm

—May 16, 2026 Market Lamb Tagging
- 9:00 a.m. – Noon | Sheriff's Office, Hartford Fairgrounds | $3.00 / head
- Mandatory Online Registration

—June 13, 2026 Lamb Luau Market / Breeding Lamb Jackpot Show
- Grubb Arena, Hartford Fairgrounds
- See Flyer on Licking County Sheep Improvement Facebook page

SHEEP-RELATED EVENTS DURING HARTFORD FAIR.

—August 9, 2026 Sheep Skillathon
- 4-H Center - NO pre-registration needed

—August 10, 2026 Lamb Cook Off
- B Carr Pavilion | Senior and Junior Divisions Offered
- Entry forms available in JFB Office beginning August 5th

—August 11, 2026 Shepherd's Lead / Pee Wee Showmanship (*NEW TIME: 3:00 p.m.)*
- B. Carr Pavilion | Junior, Senior and Adult Divisions, followed by Pee Wee
- Shepherd's Lead entry forms available in JFB Office beginning August 5th

Market Lamb Showmanship (must make entry through Hartford Fair)
- Grubb Arena | Senior, followed by Intermediate and Junior Divisions

Lamb Pool Market Lamb Show (must make entry through Hartford Fair)
- Grubb Arena

—August 12, 2026 Bred and Owned Market Lamb Show (must make entry through Hartford Fair)
- Grubb Arena

Market Lamb Show (must make entry through Hartford Fair)
- Grubb Arena | Starting with lightest weight classes

—August 13, 2026 Open Wool / Fleece Show (entry onsite)
Junior Breeding Sheep Show / Showmanship (must make entry through Hartford Fair)
- B Carr Pavilion

—August 14, 2026 Open Breeding Sheep Show (must make entry through Hartford Fair)
Old Timers Showmanship
- B. Carr Pavilion

For any questions or concerns regarding your Sheep Project,
contact your 4-H / FFA Advisor or a Licking County Sheep Improvement Committee Member
(lickingcountysheep@gmail.com)

Licking Co Sheep Producers:

Lamb Luau

JUNE 13, 2026

Hartford Fairgrounds

Open Show For All States 4-H Age

Sheep & Goat Exhibitors

14028 Fairgrounds RD

CROTON, OH 43013

Details:

-Check in: 7a-830a
-Show Begins: 830a
-Entry Fee: $20/animal
No Entry Fee for Showmanship
-Judge: Evan Snyder
-Show off Trailers
-Papers Not Required
-Ewe Lambs can double enter in Market Show
-Photographer: Olivia Looker

Show Order:

Showmanship
Breeding Show
Market Goats & Lambs

****NEW****
Online Registration & Payment on Showman.app

Payouts to Top 3 Places

$250 CHAMPION LAMB
$250 CHAMPION GOAT
$250 SUPREME RAM
$250 SUPREME EWE

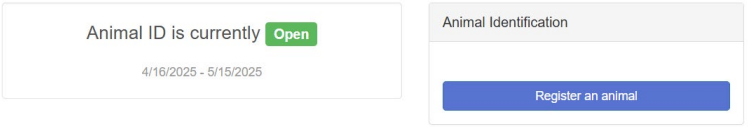
Questions Contact: Tom Wolford
740-334-9713

Hartford Fair Market Hog ID Process for Exhibitors

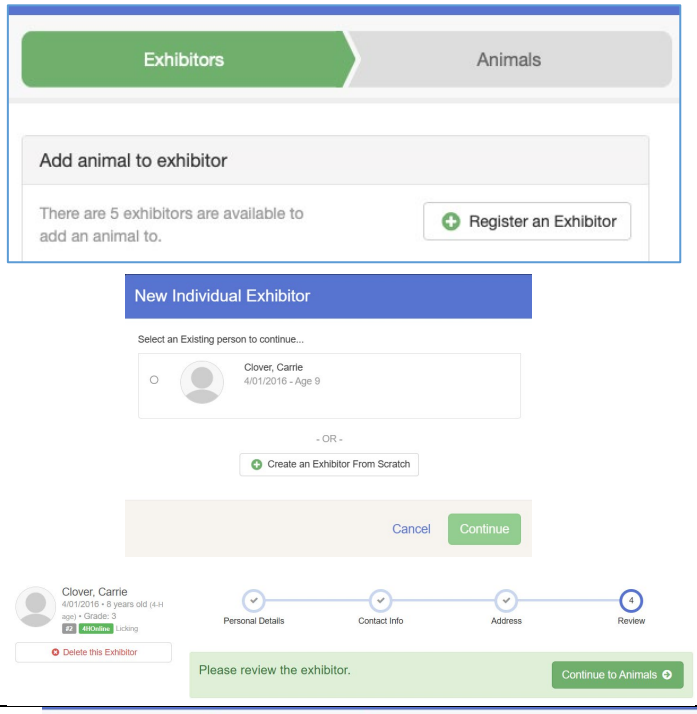
Market Hog IDs must be submitted within FairEntry (hartfordfair.fairentry.com) between April 15 and May 15, 2026. Any IDs not submitted in that timeframe will not be eligible to show at the 2026 Hartford Fair.

Market Hog exhibitors must also submit the Swine Tagging Form to the Hartford Fair Office by May 15, 2026. A swine housing form should also be submitted at this time if your hog(s) are house somewhere other than your home or at a facility owned by the member's parent/guardian.

1. After logging in, the exhibitor will click on the Register an animal button. There is no option to make fair entries yet.

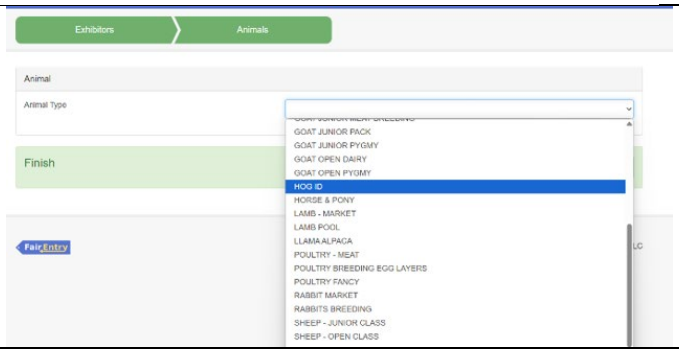


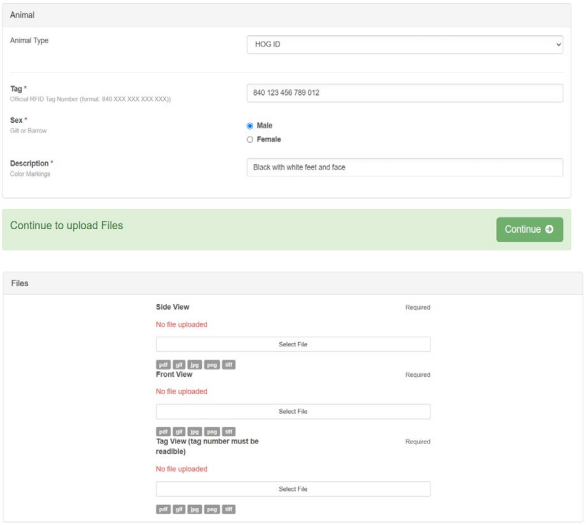
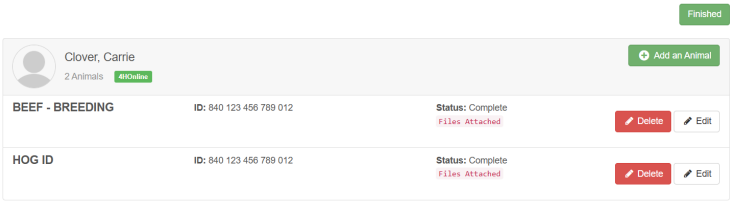
2. The first step is to register the exhibitor. If the exhibitor is a 4-H member, you will select their name from the imported list when you click the "Register an Exhibitor" button. If the exhibitor is an FFA member (NOT also a 4-H member), there are 3 screens to complete:
   - First Name, Last Name, Birthdate, Grade – Names are required, Birthdate and Grade are controlled by your entry settings.
   - Contact Info – Phone is required, email, cell phones are optional.
   - Address (required)
3. When those 3 screens are complete, there is a Continue to Animals button on the Review screen.



4. The first step is to select the Animal Type to be identified.

PLEASE NOTE: Only Market Hogs and Breeding Beef should be entered at this time. You will enter other animal IDs during the entry process.



5. After all fields are complete, the exhibitor will see a Continue to Upload Files option to upload the photos of your hog. Files uploaded must be an image file (GIF, JPG, PNG, TIFF). You will need to have your 840 RFID Tag Numbers when completing the IDs. RFID Numbers should be entered in the format: 840 XXX XXX XXX XXX • Market Hog IDs must include THREE photos: ○ Side View ○ Front View ○ Tag View (Tag must be readable)	
6. After clicking Finish, the exhibitor is taken to a list of all exhibitors/animals for this family. There is an option beside each to Add an Animal for that exhibitor. There is also an option to Edit existing animals. To add a new exhibitor to the family, click on the green Exhibitors tab at the top of the screen.	

SWINE PROJECT UPDATES

- May 1st — Possession Deadline | Obtain 840 RFID Tag from breeder / available at Fair Office

- May 15th — Deadline to submit the following: (www.hartfordfair.com > Jr Fair Exhibitor > Swine
  - ID photos online (FairEntry)
  - Swine Tagging Form (Fair Office)
  - Swine Housing Form – if housed at location other than your home (Fair Office)

- Fair Basics: May exhibit two hogs | barrows and gilts permitted | minimum of 200 lbs. to sell | 220-290 lbs. to show for Champion | sale hog leaves grounds on Tuesday evening | hog sale is held on Thursday | second hog can show in open show on Friday, is yours to take home.