



General Rules of the West Michigan Livestock Council (Revision 1)

Membership

- 1-1. Entries in the West Michigan Livestock Council Auction will be limited to youth members eligible to exhibit at the Western Michigan Fair in Ludington.
- 1-2. Youth members may participate in the Market Sale project from the age of 5 years old through the calendar year in which he/she attains the age of 19. Ages are determined by the age of the youth member on January 1st (of the current fair year).
- 1-3. Youth Members selling market steers must attain the age of 10 years old by January 1st (of the current fair year).
- 1-4. The parents or legal guardians of the members must sign a parent permission slip and turn in to the West Michigan Livestock Council no later than the November meeting for those selling Market Steers, and no later than the March meeting for all other market livestock. Failure to submit a parent permission slip will result in the youth member not being able to tag an animal for market.
- 1-5. All participants re-enrolling in a market project must complete an annual enrollment form. The enrollment form must be submitted to a member of the Executive Board of the West Michigan Livestock Council, no later than the September Meeting. Youth and Adult Members will not be eligible to vote for Officers or on By-law/General Rule changes until an annual enrollment form has been submitted. Any new members will be required to complete the enrollment form at their first meeting of attendance with the WMLC.
- 1-6. Beginning with the graduating class of 2019, WMLC will offer a scholarship of up to \$200, available to all graduating seniors who have participated in a market project for a minimum of two years. The scholarship will start at \$40 for the first two years of participation and increase \$20/year until the maximum of \$200 is met. There is not a requirement on post high school education, all members meeting the eligibility requirements are eligible. Eligibility will be determined by the number of years each senior has participated with the WMLC in the past and will be determined by the WMLC Executive Board. In addition to the scholarship, there is also an incentive for youth to continue to participate with WMLC until they meet the age of 19, as of January 1st. Those who continue to participate until they age out, do **NOT** have to pay the 5% premium deduction in their final year. To be eligible for this each youth must have participated with WMLC for a minimum of five years.

Meetings

- 2-1. The monthly West Michigan Livestock Council meeting will be held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- 2-2. Meeting attendance is fair to fair.
- 2-3. (Reserved)
- 2-4. **If West Michigan Livestock Council member does not attend three required meetings by fair; they will be unable to sell an animal. All special exceptions will be dealt with on an individual basis by the Executive Board, no later than the August meeting.**

Exhibiting and Selling at Fair

- 3-1. Members must be present to sell their own animals. If a West Michigan Livestock Council Member has an injury or illness, or college bound, another West Michigan Livestock Council Member may show the market animal in the market class and in the sale ring only.
- 3-2. Any animals doctored in any way, artificially, improperly or unfairly prepared or tampered with before coming into the judging arena will be disqualified.
- 3-3. All West Michigan Livestock Council Members must exhibit in a showmanship class, for each species of animal they have chosen to exhibit.
- 3-4. At the close of fair, all pens must be cleaned and inspected by their club leader. If pens are not cleaned, the fair board will be notified.
- 3-5. All market animals will cross the same scale at the time of tagging and fair weigh-in.
- 3-6. There will be 3 people present at the scales for all weigh-ins for all species.
- 3-7. Youth exhibitors may sell in only one animal auction at the Western Michigan Fair.

Before Sale

- 4-1. Each member will be allowed to sell any one of the following: one species of large animal, one species of large animal and one species of small animal, or two species of small animal. Large animal livestock will consist of steers, sheep and swine, and small animal livestock will consist of Jr. beef, Jr. dairy beef, goats, poultry and rabbits. All market animals must meet health requirements as stated in the fair book.
- 4-2. All three species of large animal livestock (*2 steers, 2 lambs, 2 hogs, or a combination of any 2*), and all five species of small animal (*2 Jr. beef, 2 Jr. dairy beef, 2 goats, 2 pens of poultry, 2 pens of rabbits, or a combination of any 2*) must be ear tagged/banded/tattooed by the appropriate dates. Each member choosing to tag an extra animal of the same species, may show both animals in the market class. The exhibitor **must** sell their highest placing market animal. Those who choose not to exhibit both animals in a market class, may elect to enter their extra animal in the extra-tagged class. This election must be made at weigh-in, or both animals will be put into the market class, and the exhibitor will be required to sell their highest placing animal. Anyone choosing to tag two animals of a different species, would be required to indicate which animal will be their market animal, at the time of weigh-in. The additional market animal will be entered in the extra-tagged class. Those choosing to sell two species of small animal will be allowed to sell both tagged animals.
 - A. There will no transferring of tagged market animals to another West Michigan Livestock Council Member.
 - B. **Family Tagging-** Animals will be tagged as a family and may be used for any child in that family that was listed on the parent permission slip that was signed (by parents or legal guardian). Example: Three siblings sell pigs. Family purchases five pigs. Three of those animals can be selected to be sold at fair. All animals must be assigned to the child who will be exhibiting them, at the time of weigh-in.
 - C. All poultry are to be banded before arriving at fair, and Pullorum tested at weigh-in.
 - D. Rabbits are required to have tattoos before arrival at fair for weigh-in.
- 4-3. Hardship cases will be dealt with on an individual basis, by the West Michigan Livestock Council Executive Board.
- 4-4. Buyers names and addresses are to be submitted to a member of the Executive Board, scanned and emailed to wmlc2011@gmail.com, or mailed to P.O. Box 22 Scottville, MI 49454, no later than the July meeting. **Two or more buyers, per project animal, must be contacted and buyer signature must be obtained.** An Additional 5% commission will be deducted from the animal's market sale price if buyer's names are not turned in by the July meeting.

- 4-5. To speed up the sale, numbers for the perspective buyers will be mailed with the buyer's fair entrance letter.

Sale

- 5-1. The sale order of livestock will rotate small animals consisting of Rabbits, Poultry, Goats, Dairy Feeders & Beef Feeders and also rotate large animals consisting of Steers, Sheep, Milk, and Hogs. Small animal will sell first and large animal will sell second.
- 5-2. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion animals must be sold.

After Sale

- 6-1. All animals sold, must be delivered by the member to the buyer's choice within 7 days from the date of the sale. No substitutes of sale are allowed without approval of the buyer.
- 6-2. Completed record books must be turned in to a drop box located at the fair office no later than 12:00PM on Sunday at the close of fair. FAILURE TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL 5% PENALTY AND WILL BE ADDED TO THE COMMISSION CHARGE.
- 6-3. Each member will be charged a 5% commission of their animal's sale price, plus ½ cost of picture. The commission will be used for the promotion and expenses of the sale.

Buyer Appreciation Banquet

- 7-1. Parents of the owners of the Grand & Reserve Champion of all market species are to plan the meal for the Buyer's Banquet. Chairperson will be selected from the group of families.
- 7-2. ALL MEMBERS MUST BRING ASSIGNED FOOD AND SERVE ON DESIGNATED COMMITTEE. FAILURE TO DO EITHER WOULD RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL 5% COMMISSION THAT WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THE ANIMAL'S MARKET SALE PRICE.
- 7-3. Unless donated, all meat and paper products for the Buyer's Banquet will be purchased by the parents of the Grand & Reserve Champions and reimbursed by the West Michigan Livestock Council.

Miscellaneous

- 8-1. Judges selected for livestock classes at the fair will be recommended by the West Michigan Livestock Council.
- 8-2. Plaques will be given every 5th year as a recognition to Market Sale Buyers, who have purchased 5-10-15-20-25 (etc.) years. Plaques are to be awarded at the start of the sale. Separate plaques will be presented to each business that purchased under different names.
- 8-3. When more than one buyer purchases an animal, each buyer will receive an 8 x 10 color picture.
- 8-4. Home-grown classes will be offered for beef, sheep, goats and swine.

ANIMALS ENTERED IN THE SALE MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

Large Animal Requirements

Market Steers

- 9-1. Must be owned by member and available for tagging the first Saturday of December.
- 9-2. De-horning and castration must be completed prior to tagging (knife castration is preferred.)
- 9-3. Any steer weighing over 1450 pounds will be sold as a 1450 pound steer. Steers which fail to meet minimum weight of 1000 pounds will not be sold. If member wishes to have the steer re-weighed, it must be done immediately following original weigh in of all steers.
- 9-4. There will be a mandatory check for steers with an option of one being at the May Beef Show and the other being four weeks (a weeknight) prior to the fair at the fairgrounds. If your steer does not pass one of those two checks, then you will be given a final check on the Sunday prior to fair week, before 4:00 p.m. If your steer does not pass the final check, you will be asked to remove the steer from the fairgrounds and you will not be allowed to show or sell it.
- 9-5. If there are 15 or more steers, class will be split into three weight divisions. A champion and reserve will be in each division, with an over-all champion and reserve. The judge will put them in sale order.

Market Hogs

- 10-1. Must be barrows or gilts.
- 10-2. Must be owned by member and available for tagging by the last Saturday of April of the year of the sale.
- 10-3. Must weigh 220 lbs. at fair. Hogs over 290 lbs. will be sold as a 290 pound animal. If you want to reweigh your animal, it must be done immediately following weigh-in.
- 10-4. The market hogs will be split into two groups of gilts/barrows, and then divided into weight divisions. A champion and reserve will be in each weight division, with a grand champion and reserve champion gilt & barrow chosen from each group. The over-all grand champion will be chosen from the champion gilt and champion barrow class divisions. Each exhibitor will be able to show a maximum of either two gilts, two barrows, or a combination of gilt/barrow. The exhibitor **must** sell their highest placing hog.

Market Lambs

- 11-1. All animals must be born after December 1st of the current fair year.
- 11-2. Must be a wether or ewe. Wethers must be castrated by complete removal of testicles prior to spring weigh-in.
- 11-3. Must be owned by member and available for tagging the first Saturday in June.
- 11-4. Must weigh 100 pounds at fair. Any lamb weighing over 150 pounds will be sold as a 150 pound animal. If the West Michigan Livestock member wishes to have the lamb re-weighed at the time of fair it must be done immediately following original weigh-in.
- 11-5. The market lambs will be split into three weight groups if there is a minimum of 15 lambs. A champion and reserve will be in each division, with an over-all champion and reserve. The judge will put them in sale order.

Market Dairy Steer

- 12.1 Same as beef steers except weight recommendations have not been established at this time.

Small Animal Requirements

Market Junior Beef/Junior Dairy Beef

- 13-1. Calves must be born after January first of current fair year.
- 13-2. Can sell steers or heifers.
- 13-3. Must be 100% beef or dairy. No beef-dairy crosses.
- 13-4. Must be owned by member and available for tagging the first Saturday in June.
- 13-5. De-horning and castration must be completed prior to the start of fair.
- 13-6. Must be weaned and started on grain.
- 13-7. The animal must weigh 250lbs. minimum at time of weigh in or will not be able to sell the animal.

Market Goats

- 14-1. All animals must be born after December 1st of the current fair year.
- 14-2. May be wether or doe. Wethers must be castrated by complete removal of testicles prior to spring weigh-in.
- 14-3. Must be owned by member and available for tagging the first Saturday in June.
- 14-4. All market goats must be dehorned/disbudded prior to arrival at fair.
- 14-5. Market Goats will be divided into two weight groups. Those weighing under 45 pounds and those weighing 45 pounds and over. If the West Michigan Livestock member wishes to have the goat re-weighed at the time of fair it must be done immediately following original weigh-in.
- 14-6. The market goats will be split into three weight groups if there is a minimum of 15 goats. A champion and reserve will be in each division, with an over-all champion and reserve. The judge will put them in sale order.

Market Poultry

- 15-1. All Market Poultry must be purchased through the Poultry Coordinator.
- 15-2. All Market Poultry must be banded prior to fair.
- 15-3. All market birds must be tested for Pullorum at fair check-in.
- 15-4. All Market Poultry must meet the minimum/maximum age and weight requirements, and meet the minimum number per pen, as stated in the fairbook.

Market Rabbits

- 16-1. Must be tattooed at the mandatory 6 week old Tattoo Clinic for the fair.
- 16-2. Market Rabbits will be exhibited as a single rabbit, or a Pen of 3 rabbits, of the same breed and variety, which do not have to be from the same liter, but must be the same age, not over 70 days of age, and should weigh between 3-5 lbs.