



October 3, 2023

Dear Beef Exhibitors,

All market beef animals must be ear tagged in order to be eligible for the 2024 Mercer County Junior Fair. This includes all market steers (beef, dairy, cross dairy) and market heifers. An exhibitor will have 2 options to have your animals identified for the fair this year.

Options for Identification:

1. The identification clinic for market beef projects will be held at the Mercer County Fairgrounds, Beef Barn, on **Friday, December 1, 6:00-8:30 p.m. OR Saturday, December 2 from 9:00-10:00 am.** You do not need an appointment.

OR

2. You may select to have, at your own expense, your veterinarian visit your farm and tag your animals. You must pick up tags and paperwork at the Extension Office, make an appointment with your vet, have animals tagged and paperwork completed and **return this paperwork to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2024.** Animals tagged on the farm will NOT be eligible for the rate of gain class. **Please note that Friday, January 12, 2024 is a firm deadline.** The date is moved later to follow the state fair paperwork deadline and to allow families extra time to purchase animals.

Families may choose options #1 and/or #2. Once you have reached your number of tags allowed – you can't receive additional tags or exchange.

As an alternative for those families who do not wish to bring their animals to the fairgrounds, see list below for veterinarians who have been sent tagging information.

Coldwater Animal Clinic	110 Harvest Drive	Coldwater	678-4071
Ft. Recovery Veterinary Center	119 State Route 119	Ft. Recovery	375-2684
Celina Animal Hospital	7100 Havemann Road	Celina	586-3109
Maria Stein Animal Clinic	8155 State Route 119	Maria Stein	925-4212
Chickasaw Vet Center	PO 144	Chickasaw	925-4910
Four Star Veterinary Service	108 West Franklin	Chickasaw	925-9300

This letter is being sent to any exhibitor who was enrolled in any type of beef project in 2023. (You received this letter because you exhibited a breeding heifer, market beef or a feeder calf at last year's fair. You DO NOT need to ID breeding heifers or feeder calves at this time, but I wanted you to have this information in case you have decided to exhibit a market beef animal for 2024).

If you exhibited a market beef project in 2023 BUT ARE NOT taking this project in 2024, please notify me so that we know not to expect you at this event.

(OVER) 

Rule for Animal Identification

Each exhibitor will be allowed a maximum of 5 animals for identification. Families do not need to designate animals with specific member names. All animals will be identified under a family name. The family name/unit is composed of Legal siblings (brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and stepsisters, half-brothers, and half-sisters).

For example: The “Clover” Family has 3 children- they could tag up to 15 steers for their family (3 children times 5 steers).

An exhibitor may show any of the family identified animals at the county fair. Member’s will identify what animal(s) for the county fair on Fair Entry in July before livestock judging.

Dairy Beef Cross Classes

This year we will be adding a dairy beef cross division to the end of the dairy steer show. Classes will be made based on weight and an overall winner will be determined. The overall dairy beef cross steer will be a part of the Sale of Champion. All dairy beef cross exhibitors will be listed on the online auction.

If you are interested in showing dairy beef cross feeder calves, the birth date must be after January 1st and they must weigh less than 700 pounds at the fair. These can be signed up when you enroll online for your beef projects in March.

Additional guidelines will be released in the winter months after Jr Fair Board has met.

General Reminders:

All Market and Feeder Cattle: Horns will not be allowed on market or feeder cattle. If animals arrive at the fair with horns, they will not be eligible to show.

FOR STATE FAIR: If you are just considering showing at the state fair in 2024 and have not yet made a firm decision, I would advise you to submit the required hair samples and EID tagging requirements by the state fair’s January 15, 2024 deadline. Simply providing this sample to the state fair office does not enter your animal into the state fair show. The actual entry process happens in June. However, if you do not send the required information to the state fair by January 15, 2024, your animal(s) will not be eligible to be shown and you cannot make an entry for that animal in June. **Hair sample kits are available in our office starting mid-November- first come, first serve. Exhibitors must provide their own 840 tags for their entries.**

Questions may be directed to me at the Extension Office at 419-586-2179 or guggenbiller.23@osu.edu.

Sincerely,

Beth Guggenbiller

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