

MERCER COUNTY SALE COMMITTEE

2020 JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

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Dear Prospective Buyer,

The 2020 Mercer County Junior Fair Livestock Auction is rapidly approaching. While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought much uncertainty across the state, one thing we do know for certain is that our county youth have been very busy with their 4-H and FFA livestock projects and are excited for the opportunity to exhibit their projects. Along with the knowledge and skills they have gained in their chosen project areas, they have certainly learned a great deal of responsibility as well. These kids are not ordinary kids; they work extremely hard each and every day feeding, walking, grooming, and caring for their livestock projects. We believe their efforts deserve to be commended and hope that you will consider supporting these fine, young individuals.

We take public health seriously and are excited to offer a NEW auction platform that will provide additional safety measures for our buyers as well as for our youth. This year we will provide an ONLINE AUCTION allowing buyers from all across the state to easily support the Mercer County exhibitors and their livestock projects. In addition to our online sale, we will also hold a LIVE SALE OF CHAMPIONS event.

The online auction will be available at: www.bwfinaldrive.com. Bidding will begin on **Friday, August 14th** and will close at midnight on **Friday, August 21st**. We will continue to use the premium method for livestock bidding. This means, what you bid is what you pay; you are contributing towards a premium and not purchasing the actual project. Multiple buyers can contribute towards an exhibitor's overall premium. Minimum bids of \$25 will be accepted. To avoid billing errors, NO bids will be accepted via phone, email, etc. Additional details on how the online auction will work are laid out in the color flyer that is included in your packet. Online buyers will be recognized in a newspaper spread after the fair, and exhibitors will also be notified of your contributions.

Also available online is a "Junior Fair Booster Lot." **We encourage ALL buyers to consider contributing to this fund, which is used to support exhibitors who have a low final premium.** We are fortunate to have so many hardworking kids in our county and want to ensure everyone receives support for their projects.

The LIVE Sale of Champions event will be an elite event recognizing our Grand and Reserve Champion exhibitors. The buyers of grand and reserve champion projects will be given special recognition via newspaper, radio, and social media coverage. As in the past, buyer groups will be allowed to work together to purchase projects. Buyers interested in getting into one of these groups who are unsure how to do so should contact an auction committee member. Youth exhibiting the Champion and Reserve Champion projects will be awarded BOTH their online premiums as well as their LIVE auction premiums, however, only those buyers attending and bidding in the LIVE auction will receive recognition as the champion and reserve champion buyers. Online bidders for these champion projects will receive the same recognition as all other online bidders via a newspaper spread after the fair.

The LIVE Sale of Champions will be held on **Thursday, August 20th at 1:00 p.m.** The auction will be held in the Coldwater Young Farmers Arena. The order of the sale will be as follows: Market Lambs, Meat Goats, Gallon of Dairy Cattle Milk, Dozen of Eggs, Meat Rabbits, Market Turkeys, Market Chickens, Market Beef, Gallon of Dairy Goat Milk, and Market Hogs. Again, to avoid billing errors, we cannot accept any bids for exhibitors other than the champions at this event; the online auction doesn't close until midnight on Friday, August 21st.

The dairy cow milk and dairy goat milk will again be sold by the unit. These units will be available for purchase ONLINE as well as via paper vouchers – both methods will be accepted for milk bids only. Enclosed you will find forms to pre-purchase as many units of either as you desire. We ask that all milk bids be placed by **NOON on Thursday, August 20th** to ensure we give buyers proper recognition at the LIVE auction event. Milk bids made after NOON on Thursday, August 20th will still be accepted but not announced at the LIVE event.

Home use will again remain the same as last year. State regulations limit the number of days that hogs can be on the fairgrounds; therefore, hogs will be shipped to market on Wednesday evening **PRIOR** to the livestock auction. If you wish to have meat for your freezer, you may still purchase the animal at the current market price, however, you must notify an auction committee member by **Tuesday, August 18th** so the animal can be transported to the correct slaughterhouse. If you are unsure of which animal you plan to purchase, an auction committee member can assist you in getting an animal lined up. **Home-use purchase during the LIVE event will NOT be available.** You must make arrangements with the slaughterhouse of your choice BEFORE the animal is shipped so they know the animal is coming.

A preliminary list of the exhibitors and their projects can be viewed online at: <http://go.osu.edu/auction>
The final listing of auction exhibitors will be available online on Friday, August 14th when bidding opens.
The Sale of Champions list will be available Thursday, August 20th.

Payments will NOT be accepted at the LIVE event. In order for our clerks to combine both the online bids and live auction bids, ALL buyers will be mailed or emailed invoices for their purchases within one week following the conclusion of the online auction. Prompt payment is appreciated. Exhibitors do not receive their checks until sufficient funds are received.

Thank you in advance for your support of our youth. If you have any questions, feel free to call one of the above numbers, submit emails to mercer.fair.auction@outlook.com or stop in at the clerk's table at the live event.

Sincerely,
The Mercer County Sale Committee

