Date: February 9, 2017

To: All 4-H Beef/Dairy Beef Market Project Members and Leaders

From: Eva Beeker, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development

Re: 2017 Updates

This is a quick update on the changes that the beef leaders made at the post-fair meeting. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at the MSUE office at 269-467-5521 or send me an email at beekere@anr.msu.edu.

- Countywide tagging date is Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. All market beef/dairy beef animals, including carcass animals, must attend the countywide tagging. This does not include feeder steers.

- Beef exhibitors may participate in the “family” tagging policy that was voted on by the beef leaders at the post-fair meeting. Each family member must indicate on their registration form if they are participating in “family” tagging.

- As of 2015: Ownership of beef animals; Each 4-H member must remain in possession of their beef animals after tagging on Saturday, March 25, 2017 and must house their animal(s) within a 25 mile radius of members home address. If an animal is determined to be housed over the 25 mile radius of the members home address and is in violation determined by the beef superintendent or by MSU Extension staff, that animal will be disqualified for exhibition at the St. Joseph County Fair.

- Carcass Sunday: All set up of cattle equipment, bedding, and delivery of tack will only take place PRIOR to 11:00 a.m. or AFTER 4:00 p.m.

- Carcass animals MUST be broke to lead or will be disqualified at the discretion of the Beef Superintendent and or MSU Extension staff.

- 2016 change: Beef Carcass hanging evaluation contest will begin at 6:00pm.

- 2016 change: If a beef steer is disqualified from the carcass contest, the member may request the steer to be shipped with other steers for butcher, the member will be responsible for all expenses of processing and steer will not be entered into the carcass contest.

- County Bred and Raised forms are due to the MSU Extension office by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 12, 2017. All forms will be date stamped by the MSU Extension office.

- Check in time at fair will be from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the beef barn for all beef animals. This includes market beef, dairy market beef, feeder steers, and breeding stock.

- 2016 change: No written evaluation books (forms) will be used for the Beef project. There will only be an interview process. Each member is required to do the interview evaluation to complete the beef project. Sign up times will be available at fair check in on Saturday, September 16, 2017.

- 2016 change: Dairy Market Steers may be a cross bred animal of two of the following breeds: Holstein, Jersey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey, Lineback, and Dutch Belt.

- The beef show order will be: showmanship (oldest to youngest), dairy market steers, market steers, market heifers, and county bred and raised, champion drive, breeding stock (4-H, open)

- 4-H members may tag both a dairy market steer and a feeder steer. Member may also bring both animals to fair. If member does bring both a market dairy steer and feeder steer to fair, only the market steer may be used as showmanship animal and the only animal sold at auction.

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• **Electronic Identification (EID) Tags**
  1. All cattle moving to a show, sale, or exhibition are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag. Exhibitors may call the Michigan Department of Agriculture at 1-866-870-5136 to order RFID tags at a cost of $2.00 per tag.
  2. All out-of-state cattle exhibited in Michigan shall be tagged with an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag. Tags can be ordered by calling Vickie McCune with RJ Matthews Co. at 330-834-3000, ext 2013 or by calling Amy Bledsoe with the Indiana Animal Health, Inc. at 219-279-237.
  3. All cattle purchased in the State of Michigan, by law, must have an EID tag.

**General Rules of Interest**

1. There are four different types of 4-H market cattle that can be exhibited in 4-H classes at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair: Beef market steers, beef market heifers, dairy market steers and dairy feeder steers. A given member may register all four types of market cattle with the MSU Extension office.
2. **Dehorning:** All market and breeding stock cattle must be clean-polled/dehorned with an allowance of 1 ½” regrowth at fair in order to be exhibited in 4-H classes at the fair.
3. Beef/dairy beef with physical defects (i.e. ruptured navel, abscess, etc.) will be ineligible for exhibition in 4-H/ FFA & Other Youth classes at fair.
4. Feed and water buckets/pans must be removed from the stall as soon as the animal has finished eating/drinking. Also, stalls must be cleaned daily (removing wet and manured bedding). The 4-H member is responsible for monitoring when the animal is done eating/drinking and removing buckets/pans accordingly as well as cleaning the stall(s). Failure to follow these rules may lead to “yellow/red-tagging” the exhibit. If a member receives two yellow tags and one red tag his/her project animal will be sent home and all awards/premiums relating to that animal will be revoked.
5. All exhibitors are required to compete in Fitting & Showmanship classes showing their own project animal.
6. **2016 Change:** All beef animals will have a destination on file from the auction by 5:00 am on Sunday, September 24, 2017 or the animal will be shipped for resale.

**Important Dates and Deadlines for the Beef Animal/Dairy Market Steer Project**

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<th>Activity or Event</th>
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| Initial Animal Weigh-in/Registration | Saturday, March 25                        | • Members can participate in “family” tagging, i.e. two siblings would have access to up to four animals.  
                                          |                                             | • If participating in “family” tagging, it must be noted on ALL participating family members. |
| Fair Weigh-in                      | September 16, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.        | • Sign-up for a Beef Animal/Dairy Market Steer Project Evaluation                     |
| Beef/Dairy Beef Evaluation         | September 17, 9:00 a.m. - noon             |                                                                                     |
| Beef Cattle Show                   | September 19, 9:00 a.m.                    | • East end of the Show Arena                                                        |
| Dairy Beef Show                    | September 19, 9:00 a.m.                    | • East end of the Show Arena                                                        |
| 4-H Market Livestock Sale (large)  | September 21, Large Animal Sale Begins 10:30 a.m. | • Beef are third in the sale order.                                                 |
| Load out from fair and Barn Clean Out | September 24, 5:30 a.m.                  |                                                                                     |

Please feel free to call the Extension Office at 269/467-5521 if you have questions regarding information contained in this letter.