



2026 Market Beef

Agriculture Office: 716-649-3900 Ext. 6488 or Trogers@ecfair.org

Join us in celebrating 2026 4H, FFA, & Youth Livestock Expo Champions at the Breakfast with Champions at 9 a.m., Sunday, August 23 in the Clubhouse - Tickets are \$25 tickets each and can be purchased at www.ecfair.org

SHOW INFORMATION

Superintendent:	Agriculture Office Staff
Judge:	TBD
Deadline to Order DNA Envelopes:	June 15
DNA Submission Deadline:	July 1
Early Entry Deadline:	July 13 (\$25 per head)
Late Entry Deadline:	July 14 - August 1 (\$50 per head)
Stalling:	Barn 5 & ADC
Arrival:	August 18 – 6 a.m.- 10 a.m., 9 p.m.-11 p.m. & August 19 – 6 a.m.- 8 a.m.
Check-In & Weigh-In:	August 19 – 9 a.m.-Barn 5
Classification:	August 19- 8 a.m. - Showplex Arena (Order: Beef, Lambs, Goats, & Hogs)
Show:	August 20- 11:30 a.m. – Showplex Arena
Contests:	August 20- 9 a.m. – Livestock Arena
Grand Drive:	August 21 - 6 p.m. – Showplex Arena
Auction:	August 22 - 11:30 a.m. – Showplex Arena
Breakfast With Champions:	August 23 - 9 a.m. – Clubhouse
Release:	August 23 - 6 p.m.
Tack Vendor:	Twist Of Fate (860) 759-9335

EXHIBITORS: PLEASE READ ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS, IAFE NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS, AND ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENT.

Rules & Regulations

1. Exhibitors are required to purchase a \$20.00 wristband. Wristbands are valid for single person admission each day of your stay. If you do not bring your livestock to the fair for any reason, you will not receive your exhibitor wristbands.
2. Exhibitors entered in the Youth Livestock Expo must be at least 4 years of age and no older than 21 years of age as of January 1 of the current year.
3. All youth exhibitors from the United States and Canada are invited to enter in the Youth Livestock Expo. Please know that all youth (including 4-H and FFA) must pay appropriate fees.
4. Rules of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Standards for the Conduct of Agriculture and Markets for Fairs and Summary of Livestock Health Requirements shall apply.
5. All New York State Veterinarian decisions are final and supported by Erie County Fair Staff inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated and can result in forfeit of premiums and removal from Fair.
6. Stalling will be preassigned. Tack pens are NOT guaranteed.

7. All animal waste must be taken to the manure boxes located outside each barn and not left on the pavement to mix with run-off or storm water.
8. Showmanship is mandatory to participate in the Youth Livestock Expo.
9. Initial sawdust bedding will be supplied to exhibitors. However, if the exhibitor wishes to use shavings or straw, they must bring it or buy it from a purveyor on the grounds. The Fair will not provide straw or shavings.
10. Please read all Rules & Regulations, IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and the Animal Health Requirements. Exhibitors will be required to “click to agree” when making online entries.
11. All Market Beef must weigh at least **1,000 pounds** at official weigh-in and must be born after January 1 of the previous year. Animals will only be allowed to weigh one time. No re-weighs unless requested by show management.
12. All Market Beef will be subject to a classification if shown in a breed Division. Final decisions on division classification will be up to the classification committee.
13. All exhibitors are **required** to participate in **at least 2** contests during their stay at the Youth Livestock Expo, although we encourage exhibitors to participate in multiple contests. (See contest information for more details).
14. There is no limit to the number of animals entered per exhibitor, but each animal may compete for only one premium.
15. The exhibitor of the animal **MUST** be the owner of the animal at time of DNA submission.
16. DNA Validation Envelopes must be submitted for each animal by July 1.
17. After July 1, Youth Livestock Expo animals must NOT be exhibited or shown by another exhibitor at a County, State, or National Show. (Read more on page 5 under DNA).
18. Once DNA is submitted the animals entered in YLE must not have gone through a sale or changed ownership.
19. Once an animal entry is submitted online, exhibitor is then declared and that animal can not be moved to another exhibitor’s name.
20. All animals will be classified and broken into divisions based off breed characteristics livestock will be classified by the classification committee made up of three classifiers appointed by Show Management. If an animal does not meet breed classification, it will move to the appropriate division by the classification committee. **The judgment of the classification committee is final and not subject to protest.** Please keep in mind, registration paper, breeder affidavits, or other paperwork is not considered in the classification process. Eligibility for the class is determined only by visual appraisal, as evaluated by classifiers appointed by Show Management.
21. If you are planning on camping in the livestock lot, please note that payment does not guarantee a spot. You will be notified & refunded if camper lot is full.
22. In order to show showmanship or the market classes, the exhibitor **MUST** have an animal entered in the Youth Livestock Expo under their name.
23. **NOT** mandatory but we highly suggest entering the Erie County Fair Open Livestock Shows as well as some species may already be here during your stay or you may choose to extend your stay by entering those shows.
24. If any exhibitor lives over 100 miles from the Erie County Fairgrounds they are subject to leave after 9pm on Saturday, August 22. This departure **MUST** be pre-arranged with superintendent.
25. At the YLE Grand Drive each species will be placed to 5th place, auction slots will **ONLY** be pulled from top 5 per specie.

Protest Rule

- A. Protests regarding any livestock competitions and events held by the Erie County Agricultural Society, during the Erie County Fair, in Hamburg, NY (Youth Livestock Expo & Open Class Livestock Shows) must be made in writing on the appropriate form, plainly stating the reason for the complaint or appeal. This form along with a \$300 cash deposit must be submitted to the CEO of the Erie County Agricultural Society The deposit shall be refunded **only** if the protest is sustained by the Erie County Agricultural Society CEO. If the protest is not sustained, the \$300 will be donated to the Erie County Agricultural Society scholarship fund.
- B. Classification and judges opinion are not eligible for protest.
- C. Protests against the exhibition of animals shall be filed at least 3 hours before the start of the show that the animal/ exhibitor is being made against will show in.
- D. The CEO of the Erie County Agricultural Society may hold a meeting regarding the protest at which time the party making the protest may present evidence or argument in support of the protest.

- E. The written decision of the CEO of the Erie County Agricultural Society shall be final and shall be served by certified mail to the party making the protest within five days of the date on which the protest was heard.
- F. Exhibitors of animals at livestock competitions shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show.

DNA

1. All Youth Livestock Expo Market Animals must have DNA samples submitted to the Erie County Fair Agriculture Offices by appropriate deadlines. **All DNA validation envelopes will be species specific and color-coded.**
2. All DNA must be post marked by July 1 of the current year. The YLE is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail. **Certified mail with return receipt is recommended.**
3. **The last day to order DNA Envelopes is June 15.**
4. Hair will be used for DNA validation on all species. DNA Validation envelopes must be ordered from the Erie County Agricultural Society office. Only 2026 YLE DNA Validation envelopes will be accepted. Please follow the instructions for collecting hair samples exactly. Should the original sample not be a valid sample, the animal may be disqualified, and no monies will be paid.
5. There is no limit on the number of DNA samples that an exhibitor may submit.
6. Animals must be individually identified. The following forms of identification must be used. The identification on the animal must exactly match the identification on the DNA validation envelope.
 - a. Market Swine- must be identified by a federal 840 tag number, ear notches, and any plastic tag (not mentioned previously). Official ID's must start with 840 and must have the US shield on them.
 - b. Market Steers/Heifers- must be identified by a Federal 840 tag number, tattoo, and any plastic tag (not mentioned previously).
 - c. Lambs must be identified by a scrapie ID number* and individual tag number and any plastic tag (not mentioned previously). Entire ID number including state ID and herd/flock number** is required.
 - d. Goats must be identified by a scrapie ID number* and any plastic tag (not mentioned previously). Entire ID number including state ID and herd/flock number** is required.
7. After July 1, Youth Livestock Expo animals may NOT be shown by another exhibitor at any County, State, or National show. The only exception to this rule is another exhibitor may show the original exhibitor's animal only if both of the following conditions are met:
 1. **The original exhibitor has two animals that fall into the same class, division, or drive, and Both animals are officially entered under the original exhibitor's name.**

***Since scrapie tags can occasionally be lost, it is recommended that you also tattoo the lamb or goat and record the tattoo number on the front of the DNA envelope.**

8. ****Scrapie tag numbers vary greatly; however, each tag will include a state identified, herd number and animal number. The scrapie tag number on the DNA envelope must include the entire ID number as listed about and must EXACTLY match the number on the scrapie tag at check-in.** Any discrepancies at check-in will be the responsibility of the exhibitor and the animal may be disqualified from the show. Should additional DNA testing be allowed (only if approved by show officials and determined on an individual bases), the cost to the exhibitor will be \$150 payable immediately by cash or credit card only. After testing is completed, any exhibitor showing an animal without a matching DNA sample will be subject to consequences determined by YLE management, including but not limited to, disqualification of animal, forfeiture of all monies, and suspension from showing at the Youth Livestock Expo.
9. Family Nominations: Siblings (two or more individuals have one common parent) may submit DNA samples on the same animal if all siblings are involved in the care and management of the animal. Names and signatures of each sibling must appear on the DNA Validation Envelope when it is submitted. Siblings may submit DNA samples on the same animal but may not enter the same animal in the show. All DNA Validation Envelopes from the same family should be sent in the same envelope.

10. Once an animal is entered, exhibitor is then declared and that animal can not be moved to another exhibitors name.
11. DNA provides proof of ownership. Except for the sibling rule above, market animals can only have DNA submitted by one exhibitor. If multiple DNA samples are received for the same animal by multiple exhibitors, the animal and the exhibitors may be disqualified from the show.
12. DNA validation does not constitute an entry in the 2026 Youth Livestock Expo. Regular entry procedures must be followed; early entry deadline is July 14th. Visit www.ecfair.org for more details on entering.
13. Should there be any missing information on your 2026, YLE Validation Envelope for any reason, there will be a \$10.00 reprocessing fee.

Note: DNA Validation Envelopes/ hair samples submitted to the Youth Livestock Expo on all junior market animals become property of the Youth Livestock Expo. Exhibitors relinquish any claim to said envelopes and samples when submitted as proof of ownership. Validation envelopes/samples are stored in a secured environment and are destroyed in due time following the show.

***NEW* Youth Livestock Expo Drug Testing Policy**

General Testing Policy

1. The Youth Livestock Expo will conduct drug testing on all Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion animals that become eligible for the Junior Livestock Auction. In addition, random drug testing may be conducted on other junior market livestock at the discretion of Youth Livestock Expo management.
2. Drug testing procedures are highly sensitive and capable of detecting substances at concentrations of less than one nanogram. Testing laboratories may screen for a broad range of legal and illegal substances.
3. The Youth Livestock Expo reserves the right to conduct fluid testing, which may include blood and/or urine, as well as tissue, hair, feather, and/or other laboratory analyses on any animal entered for competition.
4. It is important to read and understand the policies and guidelines for all shows in which you are entered and exhibiting, especially the rules regarding the animal drug testing policy.
5. Any exhibitor whose animal produces a positive test result for any unapproved medication, drug, chemical, performance-enhancing substance, or chemical residue may be disqualified and barred from future participation in the Youth Livestock Expo.
6. Exhibitors whose market animals test positive for any performance-enhancing medication, drug, chemical, or substance—including but not limited to steroids, diuretics, anti-inflammatories, tranquilizers, painkillers, or chemical residues—shall forfeit all premiums and/or sale proceeds associated with that animal and agree to accept all resulting consequences without recourse against the Youth Livestock Expo.

Do's and Don'ts for Preparing to Exhibit at the Youth Livestock Expo

The following guidelines are provided to help exhibitors properly prepare their livestock projects for exhibition and ensure compliance with animal health and exhibition standards.

Do's

- Know exactly what you are feeding your animals. Carefully read and understand the labels on all feeds, feed additives, and medications.
- Ask questions when unsure. Always follow label directions and observe all required withdrawal times.
- Maintain a working relationship with a licensed veterinarian. Consult your veterinarian before administering any medication or medicated feed to your animals.

Don'ts

- Do not use feed from un reputable or unknown sources.
- Do not use feed without a clearly labeled ingredient list.

- Do not feed human food or beverages, such as chocolate or energy drinks, to animals, as they may contain caffeine or other prohibited substances.
- Do not administer human medications to animals unless specifically directed by a licensed veterinarian.

For additional details, please refer to the official 2026 Youth Livestock Expo Drug Testing Policy posted on the Erie County Fair website.

Classification

1. Classification standards are located on the ecfair.org website.
2. No pedigrees will be required or considered in the classification process.
3. The judgement of the classification committee is final and not subject to protest.
4. If the animal and exhibitor are not present at the classification area at the assigned time for that species and breeds classification that animal will be moved to the crossbred division.
5. If there are less than three beef cattle that classify within a breed that breed will be moved to the AOB division. If there are three beef cattle that classify as the same breed within the AOB division they will receive their own breed division.

Auction

14. There will be 3 auction slots per species. One slot is guaranteed to the highest placing NY exhibitor. The other two slots go to the highest placing animals from any state (including NY). Exhibitors have the option to opt out of the sale, if that happens sale slots open up to the next highest place through 5th place. No sale slots will be selected beyond 5th place.
15. If you are one of the three listed animals above, you have the option of selling your animals. The exhibitor must notify the Youth Livestock Expo staff of their decision to sell or not immediately following their participation in the Grand Drive.
16. 6% commission will be taken out of the checks on all animals sales for the Youth Livestock Expo for expenses.
17. Exhibitors selling in the YLE auction must remain on the fairgrounds and care for their animal(s) until the official release times on Sunday, August 23—either before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m. (unless other arrangements are approved by show management). Failure to follow these release times will result in forfeiture of premiums and sale checks.

Release Schedule

For your safety and the safety of the public the Erie County Fair has a release schedule protocol. This program was designed to eliminate the congestion of trucks and trailers on the Fairgrounds during release times. Each exhibitor will receive a time slot for release. Release times are given in 30-minute intervals. You will only be allowed into the Fairgrounds with your truck and trailer for that increment of time. The exhibitors that have the longest travel time will receive the earliest time slots. Multiple trips will also be considered. It is in each exhibitor's best interest to help each other load animals and tack. If any exhibitor lives over 100 miles from the Erie County Fairgrounds, they are subject to leave after 9 p.m. on Saturday, August 22. This departure must be pre-arranged with superintendent.

Scholarships (money placed into a 529 Plan)

The Erie County Agricultural Society pledges 2 opportunities for youth to win a \$10,000 scholarship. If an exhibitor wins 3 of the 4 Champion Market Animal Titles they will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship. Also, if an exhibitor wins 3 of the 4 Champion Showman Competitions, they will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

Contests

1. Each exhibitor **MUST** compete in at least two contests (one speaking **and** one creative) in order to show in the Youth Livestock Expo. However, if an exhibitor wishes to participate in more than two contests, they may do so.

2. All contests with the exception of Livestock Judging will be held on Thursday August 20 at 9 a.m. in the Livestock Arena. Livestock Judging will take place on Friday, August 21 at 9 a.m. in the Showplex.
3. Exhibitors will be assigned timeslots for the Careers in Ag and Livestock Project Speeches.
4. If an exhibitor requires special accommodations, please email troggers@ecfair.org by August 1.
5. There will be a Top 5 Sweepstakes Winners awarded during the Grand Drive on Friday, August 21 at 6 p.m. Sweepstakes will be determined based on an exhibitors highest placing market and showmanship placings in addition to their highest scoring single contest.
6. Sweepstakes tie breaker will be determined from an exhibitors' total points from all contests that they participated in. (Those who compete in more than two contests will have a greater chance of winning the sweepstakes tie breaker).
7. Payouts for Sweepstakes
 1. Grand Champion- \$200 and a Banner
 2. Reserve Grand Champion- \$150 and a Banner
 3. Honorable Mention- \$100 and a Banner
 4. 4th Overall- \$50 and a Banner
 5. 5th Overall- \$30 and a Banner



Payouts sponsored by: Note Advisors, LLC

8. Below is a listing of the contests that will be offered. Exhibitors are required to do one speaking and one creative contest to participate in YLE. All contests must be entered on Showworks by August 1.

Speaking Contests

1. **Careers in Ag Speech** - Each exhibitor will be expected to do their own research prior to contest day on a career in agriculture of their choice. Exhibitors are to come prepared by having done research on one agricultural career and be ready to give a 3–5-minute speech about the career to the panel of judges. Exhibitors will be scored on their ability to explain the career in depth, such as education requirements, work conditions, tasks and what a day typical day would look like, etc. Exhibitors are allowed to bring supporting documents, props or materials, but are not required to do so.
2. **Livestock Project Speech** - Each exhibitor will be required to give a 3–5 minute educational speech on a topic related to the species that they exhibit to a panel of judges. Topics could include but are not limited to daily care, clipping, fitting, digestion systems, nutrition, etc. Exhibitors are allowed to bring supporting documents, props or materials, but are not required to do so.
3. **Livestock Judging** – Exhibitors will be required to judge a class per species of livestock in addition to giving a set of reason to an official on one of those classes.

Creative Contests

1. **Creative Drawing Contest** - Each exhibitor will promote the Youth Livestock Expo through their artistic skills. This contest challenges participants to design the initial concept of a Youth Livestock Expo Flyer that could be used to spread the word about YLE's mission to inspire youth involvement in livestock and agricultural activities. With this being an initial concept contest, submissions are to be in the form of a drawing.
 - a. The flier drawing must include the following:
 - i. The name – Youth Livestock Expo
 - ii. The location – Erie County Fair – Hamburg, NY
 - iii. Images of all four species – Hog, Lamb, Goat, Steer
 - iv. Theme – Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights
 - b. Fliers are required to be draw on an 8 ½ X 11 sheet of white paper. Any mediums may be used to create the drawing.
 - c. Judging for this contest will take place in the Livestock Arena on Thursday, August 20 at 9 a.m. All flier drawings **must** be turned in **at 7 a.m. on Thursday, August 20**.
2. **Educational Poster Contest**- The purpose of this contest is to create a poster to educate the public about your livestock project.

- a. Judging for this contest will take place in the Livestock Arena on Thursday, August 20 at 9 a.m. All flier drawings **must** be turned in **at 7 a.m. on Thursday, August 20.**
3. **Photography Contest** – Exhibitors that enter this contest will supply a photo **they** have taken of something in agriculture. The photo may be of their project but is not limited to. Photos are to be printed as an 8 X 10 print and brought to the fair for judging. Judging for this contest will take place in the Livestock Arena on Thursday, August 20th at 9am, all flier drawings **must** be turned in **at 7 a.m. on Thursday, August 20.**

Divisions

\$25 Early Entry Fee / \$50 Late Entry Fee (per head)

Market Heifers

Market Steers- Classification (see rule # 19)

Class Payouts: \$50/\$40/\$30/\$20/\$10

Division Payouts: \$100/\$75

- Grand Champion - \$1000 and Banner
- Reserve Grand Champion - \$750 and Banner
- Honorable Mention - \$500 and Banner
- Fourth Overall - \$300 and Banner
- Fifth Overall - \$200 and Banner

Cattle Showmanship Divisions

\$10 Entry Fee

Pee-Wee Showman (Ages 4-8)

Junior Showman (Ages 9-12)

Intermediate Showman (Ages 13-16)

Senior Showman (Ages 17-21)

Class Payouts: \$50/\$40/\$30/\$20/\$10

Division Payouts: \$100/\$75

- Grand Champion Showman- \$1000
- Reserve Grand Champion Showman- \$750

Herdsmanship

Three Herdsmanship awards will be given out to the beef exhibitors. Herdsmanship will be judged daily by management, but not announced until the end of the stay. Awards are 1st place: \$50, 2nd place: \$25, 3rd place: \$15.

The following criteria will be considered for Herdsmanship judging:

1. Cleanliness & neatness of aisles, pens, bedding, and animals.
2. Stall decorations will be included in the overall herdsmanship score. Make sure to tie with the theme **“Stars, Stripes, & Summer Nights.”**
3. Promptness in getting animals into the show ring and competence in show ring.
4. Courtesy to fellow breeders, spectators, and others during the exhibit.
5. Personal appearance, including neatness and cleanliness of clothing in and out of the show ring.
6. Systematic and neat arrangement of feed, feed pans, bedding, tack, etc.

Note: DNA Sample submission does not constitute entry into the 2026 Youth Livestock Expo Show. Regular Entry procedures must be followed.