

# Market Animal Show & Sale of Marathon County

Market Animal Show & Sale



## 2026 M.A.S.S. PROGRAM RULES

### Wisconsin Valley Fair - Junior Fair

The following rules have been adopted by the Market Animal Show and Sale of Marathon County, Inc. Committee. All **CHANGES** have been indicated in **CAPITAL LETTERS, BOLD-FACE TYPE & HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW.**

#### A. PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The sale is limited to those persons eligible to exhibit in the Junior Fair of the Wisconsin Valley Fair. Exhibitors who belong to youth groups of other counties and who weigh-in animals for other county sales will be ineligible for the Marathon County Market Animal Show & Sale.
2. Only exhibitors who are in GRADES 3-13 as of **JANUARY 1, 2026**, will be eligible for the M.A.S.S. program.
3. Only animals entered and shown in the Junior Fair will be eligible for the show and sale.
4. All participants must attend the entire annual participant information meeting with a parent/legal guardian. If participant is in grade 13 and has previously participated in the MASS program, participant can request preapproval in writing to the MASS committee to waive attendance at the mandatory meeting but must still complete required documents according to stated deadlines.
5. The final entry deadline for the Market Animal Show & Sale registration is **SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 at 11:59pm**. Participants must register on-line via M.A.S.S. link.
6. All participants are required to fulfill the educational requirement.
7. All participants must deliver a thank you letter and sale photo to their buyer, with the buyer completing the buyer acknowledgement form. All participants must submit the completed buyer acknowledgement form by **September 15, 2026**, to be eligible to participate in next year's program. The document must be submitted via the MASS link.
8. Evidence of lack of cooperation by participants or parents/guardians will be forwarded to the M.A.S.S. committee for appropriate action. Discrepancies identified may result in disqualification from the show and sale. All participants must abide by the Junior Fair Exhibitor's Code of Conduct as listed in the premium book.
9. Anyone caught falsifying documents will be suspended for the current year and the following year.

#### B. DNA/RFID TAG

1. General:
  - a. Each participant may tag up to four (4) animals per species via RFID/DNA tags at \$15 per tag.
  - b. Families must purchase their RFID tags & DNA envelope kits through the M.A.S.S. committee.
  - c. DNA samples must be submitted to M.A.S.S. committee by **MAY 1, 2026**.
    - i. **FAILURE TO TURN DNA INTO MASS MEMBER BY DEADLINE, WILL RESULT IN BEING INELIGIBLE TO SELL IN THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE MARKET PROGRAM.**
  - d. Families may identify animals as a family unit rather than individuals. (Family is defined as immediate family only). All participant names must be listed on the DNA envelope.
  - e. Must own and care for the animal(s) as an exhibitor or parent/legal guardian.
  - f. All animals must be ear tagged with an M.A.S.S. ear tag identification prior to unloading. If an animal comes to the fair without a M.A.S.S. tag, DNA samples will be pulled at weigh-in and animals will be tested at the expense of the participant.

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- g. Replacement tags are available through the M.A.S.S. committee. Participants need to contact M.A.S.S. weigh-in chair to request replacement tags and may incur charges up to **\$15**.
- h. M.A.S.S. committee reserves the right to randomly DNA sample any animal at the WI Valley Fair for DNA verification.

## C. SPECIES RULES

The following rules per species are required to be followed:

1. Beef:
  - a. Animal(s) must be castrated (testicles removed) and dehorned before DNA/RFID tag required date.
  - b. Any breed or crossbreed steer or heifer are eligible.
  - c. Only animals born on or after January 1 of the preceding year are eligible for the sale.
  - d. Beef will be divided into weight classes at final weigh-in.
2. Goat:
  - a. Any meat goat wethers or does are eligible.
  - b. Animal(s) must be castrated (testicles removed) before the DNA/RFID tag required date.
  - c. Selection #1 or #2 with a minimum weight of 75 lbs. Maximum weight of 110.
3. Hogs:
  - a. Any breed or crossbred barrows or gilts are eligible.
  - b. Animal(s) must be castrated (testicles removed) before the DNA/RFID tag required date.
  - c. Per junior fair rules, all hogs must have a veterinary check within 30 days of the fair. All health papers must be presented to appropriate authorities prior to unloading of animals. The person bringing the animals into the fairgrounds should have all pertinent health papers with him/her.
  - d. Per state veterinarian directives, all swine moving within the state need to be tested for porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv), and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS). All hogs being brought to the 2026 Marathon County Market Animal Show and Sale must show proof testing for these two diseases.
  - e. **PRRS TESTING IS REQUIRED PER PREMISE ID; MEANING ALL ANIMALS HOUSED UNDER THE SAME PREMISE ID CAN BE TESTED AS A GROUP WITH ONE TEST.**
4. Sheep:
  - a. Any breed or crossbred wethers or ewe lambs are eligible.
  - b. Animal(s) must be castrated (testicles removed) before the DNA/RFID tag required date.
  - c. Animal(s) must have all lamb's teeth.

## D. FINAL WEIGH-IN

1. Animals will be weighed by 3:00 p.m. on livestock entry day.
2. Participant has the right to accept/reject scale weight. If weight is rejected, animal will not be allowed in the sale.
3. Participant must be able to identify the appropriate Wisconsin Valley Fair class of their animal(s), as listed in the premium book by final weigh-in.
4. Prior to the final weigh-in, all market animal show and sale sheep must be slick sheered.



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5. All animals shall be weighed in at the Wisconsin Valley Fair clean and dry. M.A.S.S. committee reserves the right to refuse to weigh animals until clean and dry.
6. M.A.S.S. drug history form will be collected at the time of weigh-in, by weigh-in personnel, at the weigh-in site. They are not collected by Superintendents.
7. Each exhibitor's name must be identified with animal ID prior to final weigh-in.
8. The first two (2) animals weighed in per species by/for each participant are the two (2) animals qualified for M.A.S.S. program.
9. Families who participate in the family DNA submission must identify which exhibitor is showing prior to the final weigh-in with drug history form.

## **E. MARKET ANIMAL SHOW**

1. The judge will make the final determination of sale eligibility at the time of class placing by weight, grade, age, and quality during the market animal show.
2. Only first (1<sup>st</sup>) place animals will be eligible for the championship. The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place animal in the champion class will then become eligible for the reserve champion with other first (1<sup>st</sup>) place winners.
3. In the market animal show, grand and reserve champion animals will receive **Wisconsin Valley Junior Fair** Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons respectively in each species. In the market animal sale, grand and reserve champion animals that are sold will each receive appropriate award in each species. If grand and reserve champion animals are not sold, an alternate will move up in sequence, determined by the show judge. Judge(s) will place the top 6 animals of each species.
4. The judge is authorized to eliminate unclean animals and participants from the show and sale.
5. Clipping and grooming on exhibits while on the fairgrounds is to be done by the exhibitor, his or her immediate family, 4-H Leaders, FFA Advisor, and/or other participating WI Valley Junior Fair exhibitors.
6. Animals deemed uncontrollable and unsafe to exhibit by the M.A.S.S. Committee and/or species superintendent will be dismissed from the show and the sale.
7. On show day, no animals will be allowed to leave the building, except to go to the designated wash rack or show ring. No exceptions.
8. No drugs are to be administered to an animal while on the fairgrounds unless under the supervision of a veterinarian and must be acknowledged to the species superintendent.
9. Code of Ethics: Any product administered internally or used externally to alter the conformation of an animal for exhibition is prohibited while on the fairgrounds. This includes altering natural hair color or the use of false hair, graphite, hemp fibers or other similar substances externally and/or artificially filling internally. However, false tail heads or tails are permitted on beef. Failure to adhere to this rule will lead to removal from the sale.
10. While on the fairgrounds, market animals may be subject to re-weighing. At this time the weights of the animals must be within plus or minus seven percent (7%) of the first weight at the fair. Animals who do not meet these criteria will only receive sale price minus the difference after the plus or minus seven percent (7%) has been factored.

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11. Bred and Owned: To qualify for the bred & owned class, the exhibitor **must own and care** for the maternal parent of M.A.S.S. market animal before it is born. Proof of ownership must be provided upon request. Registration papers, bill of sale or a signed letter from an agriculture teacher or 4-H project leader may be used as proof. The judge will get information regarding how to judge the class. Participants must indicate on the M.A.S.S. Participant Agreement they intend to show in the bred and owned class. Participant is allowed to show one animal per species in the bred & owned division.

## F. MARKET ANIMAL SALE

1. To qualify for the sale, exhibitors need to submit the following items **VIA ONLINE LINK by JUNE 15, 2026:**
  - a. At least three (3) signed bidder forms. For example, if you have one (1) exhibitor in your family, you need three (3) different bidders; two (2) exhibitors need six (6) different bidders and so on. Families up to and including the fourth (4th) child will be required to get **NINE (9)** different bidders. Additional exhibitors would not require additional bidders. (Make sure that each exhibitor's name appears on at least one (1) bidder slip).
  - b. **EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET.**
  - c. Participants who do not have access to submit information on-line **NEED** to talk with a M.A.S.S. committee member. All information must be submitted via online link by **JUNE 15, 2026.**
2. Participants understand once they submit the required paperwork on/by June 15th, they must sell one qualified market animal in the market animal sale, if eligible.
3. Participants must show in a beef, goat, swine, or sheep showmanship class. It does not have to be the species they are selling. Reasonable accommodations can be made with prior approval from the M.A.S.S. committee.
4. Not meeting the above requirements will disqualify participant from selling the animal in the sale. Participant will be able to still show in the Junior Fair.
5. All exhibitors must turn in the following forms to the on-site M.A.S.S. office (located in the locker room) no later than 60 minutes after **MARKET HOG SHOW** is completed:
  1. "Destination Form" for extra animal(s) going to slaughter.
  2. "Animal to be Sold" form (form will be available at the fair).
  3. **FAILURE TO TURN IN THESE FORMS WILL:**
    - i. Authorize the Sale Chairman or designee to enter the top placing (ribbon) animal at the end of the sale order.
    - ii. Require **DOUBLE CATEGORY C** from educational log the following year.
6. Where an exhibitor qualifies more than one (1) animal for the sale, for example, one (1) beef and one (1) sheep; or two (2) hogs, one (1) heavy and one (1) medium weight; the participant must select one (1) entry for the sale. The participant is encouraged to sell the higher placed animal, to maintain the high standards of quality.
7. Sale Standards are:
  1. Beef: Graded USDA select plus or better by the judge. USDA yield grade of "4" or less. Minimum weight of 1150 lbs. Maximum weight of 1600 lbs.
  2. Goat: Selection #1 or #2 with a minimum weight of 75lbs. Maximum weight 110 lbs.
  3. Hogs: USDA grade #1 or #2. Minimum weight of 240 lbs. Maximum weight of 300 lbs.
  4. Lambs: USDA grade choice or prime. Minimum weight of 120 lbs. Maximum weight of 155 lbs.

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8. All animals sold in the Marathon County Market Animal Sale must go to slaughter.
  1. Animals can be exempt from immediate slaughter to be shown at the Wisconsin State Fair.
  2. Official M.A.S.S. contract between the seller and buyer must be completed at the end of sale.
9. Up to an eight-percent (8%) sales commission will be charged by the sale committee to offset costs incidental to conducting the show and sale. An additional charge **may be** made for two (2) color photographs (one for the buyer and one for the participant).
10. Exhibitors may not buy back their own animal.
11. There will be a \$25 fee for having checks replaced, which will be deducted from the replacement check.
12. Animals and exhibitors must maintain proper show ring appearance in the sale ring.
13. Exhibitors must present their own animal in the sale. Reasonable accommodations can be made with prior approval from M.A.S.S.

## G. WISCONSIN STATE FAIR RULES

1. Exhibitors may retain show rights for Wisconsin State Fair by declaring their intent to the M.A.S.S. Committee no later than 60 minutes following the end of the **MARKET** hog show. Exhibitors must also provide a private written contract, signed by the exhibitor's parents and the buyer, to the auction clerks before the conclusion of the auction. The written contract must state that the exhibitor and parents agree to the following items: accept responsibility for any liability claims caused by the animals; provide proper care of the animal; to only exhibit the animal at the Wisconsin State Fair; and to have their auction checks held until they confirm delivery of the animal to the processor of the buyer's choice. A copy of this signed agreement must be provided to the buyer and the auction clerk prior to the conclusion of the auction.
2. Participant must arrange for slaughter with the buyer's chosen processor of state fair animals the Monday after the sale.

## H. CARCASS

1. **Only animals sold in the MASS Sale are eligible for Grand and Reserve Champion Carcass Awards.**
2. If an animal carcass is condemned at slaughter by a state inspector, it is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor, and he/she will receive no payment for the animal.

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## I. HARASSMENT

1. **BUYERS & MASS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE INTEGRAL TO THE MARKET ANIMAL SALE AND ARE TO BE TREATED WITH UTMOST RESPECT BY PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THERE WILL BE ZERO TOLERANCE OF ANY BADGERING, HARASSMENT, ETC. OF BUYERS BY EITHER PARTICIPANTS OR THEIR FAMILIES (INCLUDING PARENTS, SIBLINGS, GRANDPARENTS AND STEP FAMILY MEMBERS.) M.A.S.S. COMMITTEE WILL DETERMINE PUNISHMENT, WHICH MAY LEAD UP TO, AND INCLUDING, TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE M.A.S.S. PROGRAM FOR LIFE.**

**ALL DATES AND RULES WILL BE ADHERED TO!!!**

**NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**