## **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Saratoga County



## MARKET AUCTION RULES

- 1. Weight suggested minimum and maximum guidelines are as follows (in pounds): Animals that fail to make weight at the Monday Weigh in will not be sold in the auction.
  - Lambs: 80-150 pounds.
  - Pigs: 200 pounds and up.
  - Beef Steers: 1,000-2,000 pounds.
  - Meat Goats: 45-110 pounds.
  - Roaster meat rabbits must be no more than 7 months old and weigh more than 5 lbs.
  - Chickens: a minimum of 4 pounds
  - **Poultry:** Turkeys: up to 2 birds sold individually. Chickens: single meat birds dressed or egg production pens of three pullets of the same breed (up to 2 entries) aged 3-5 months
  - Turkey and other poultry: contact the 4-H office.

Note: Weights will be evaluated by the Market Auction Committee after weights have been recorded. The animal should exhibit a healthy weight with adequate muscle tone. Animals in a skeletal and/or unhealthy condition (e.g., bones protruding with a rough coat) will be disqualified.

- 2. Each 4-H member may enter no more than a total of four lots in the auction, each species is limited to two lots per species with a one lot limit on beef entries.
- 3. Beef animals must be steers. All other species (except beef) can be male or female. Sheep and meat goats must be either castrated male kids or female kids (with NO adult teeth). Goats and sheep must be born after October 1 of the previous year.
- 4. 4-H members wishing to participate in the livestock auction must indicate their intent to participate to the 4-H Office in writing by the first Monday in December and confirm species and numbers by the First Monday in April.
- 5. Exhibitors must complete a Saratoga County **Bidder Tracking Sheet** and submit the form by Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Both the 4-Her and the 4-Her's parent/guardian must sign the form. Youth must have a minimum of four bidders.
- 6. Weigh-ins will be done at fair at 10 AM on Monday. 4-H exhibitors must be present for weigh-ins with their animals. For youth participating in other shows arrangements will be made.
- 7. All male animals must be castrated, with no signs of testicles allowed, and animal must be completely healed at time of weigh-in. (With the exception of rabbits and poultry.)
- 8. Each 4-Her is responsible for securing buyers for each of their animals in the auction. If a 4-Her is having trouble locating a buyer, contact a 4-H educator for guidance and assistance.
- 9. Minimum bid will be at the market price of the day.

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- 10. Each animal species sold will start with the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion.
- 11. All buyers must pay for the animals they have purchased by the end of the auction.
- 12. All animals will be sold by the pound, live weight with the exception of rabbits and poultry. Rabbits will be sold as price per animal. Poultry will be sold by the price per turkey or price per pen of chicken or duck.
- 13. All drug withdrawal time periods will be followed.
- 14. Auction animals will have a sign displayed by their pen or stall, stating that this animal will be auctioned in the sale.
- 15. Exhibitors must be well dressed and act in an appropriate manner prior, during, and after the auction, to promote a positive image of the 4-H program to the public.
- 16. Exhibitors must enter and show their market auction project animals in the appropriate breed classes at the fair.
- 17. No white ribbon animals will be allowed in the auction.
- 18. 4-Hers MUST provide a personally written thank you note to the buyer(s) of their project animal(s) to the 4-H office to receive payment for their market auction project animal(s).
- 19. The commission on all sales will be %5 and the proceeds from all buyback sales will be contributed to the 4-H program.
- 20. All exhibitors must help with set up and break down of the auction, and supplying gifts for the buyers.