

Department 18C - Beef

Approved 11/13/2025

Superintendent – Shane Ferris
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FAIR WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday 7am: Must be in place
Saturday 8am: Beef weigh-in
Saturday 6pm: Record Books due
Sunday 4pm: Beef Show
Wednesday 11am: Mandatory Sale Exhibitor Meeting
Thursday 4pm: IFF Youth Livestock Auction

Youth must be enrolled in 4-H by May 1st to exhibit at fair.

Youth must be registered for the Fair by June 25th.

Entry must be made on FairEntry online.

This document is for informational purposes only.

1. Animals must be in the owner's possession by January 1st of the current 4-H year.
2. All market beef exhibited must have an RFID tag.
3. Animals with testicles or portions of testicles will be disqualified.
4. All market beef must be declared by the specified date and method, as published by the county extension office.
5. **Beef must be in place by 7am on the first Saturday of fair**, unless different arrangements were made with the superintendent prior to the start of fair.
6. **Weigh-in for market beef will be at 8am** on the first Saturday of the fair, assigned by the club.
7. Market beef must weigh a minimum of 1,000 pounds at weigh-in. Animals not meeting the minimum weight will not be allowed to sell. Underweight animals may be shown in Showmanship and the no sale market class.
8. Class sizes and splits will be determined after weigh-in and prior to show.
9. An exhibitor may enter a maximum of three animals to show in the 4-H Beef Show.
10. To qualify for Homegrown Market Beef the exhibitor must own the cow before calving which the animal came from and must have raised the calf from birth. Beef shown in the Homegrown class must be properly tagged as a market beef. This class is in addition to the regular market classes.
11. **The required educational component as declared by the Ionia County 4-H Livestock Committee must be met in order to show.** The requirements and details are available in section 18Y.
12. **Heifers may only show in one section – either as a market animal OR a breeding animal.**
13. Tie out times are 9pm – 9am. Cattle may not be removed from the barn before 9pm, and must be in their stalls by 9am.
14. **The Beef Show will be on Sunday at 4pm, starting with breeding and followed by showmanship.**
15. Animals owned by an FFA Chapter may be exhibited by the chapter or exhibitor caring for them. An FFA Chapter may sell only one market beef.
16. **Please make sure you read the Ionia Free Fair Youth Livestock Auction section for further information and details.**
17. Beef will be released at 12am (midnight) on the last Saturday of the fair, or at the superintendent's discretion.
18. All pens must be cleaned prior to the exhibitor leaving the fairgrounds.
19. The superintendent reserves the right to remove any animal from the fair based on safety and health concerns.
20. The Ionia Free Fair Veterinarian reserves the right to remove any animal from the fair based on the health condition or appearance of the animal.

Ionia Free Fair is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged articles prior to, during or after the Fair.

Beef Breeding Female

Overall award, ribbons 1-8 place

- Heifer (under 1 year old)
- Cow, 2 years and older
- Cow/Calf pair
- Supreme Champion Breeding Female

Showmanship

Champion Overall and Division award, ribbons for 1-8 place

- First Year Exhibitor - any age
- Senior Showmanship, age 15-19
- Intermediate Showmanship, age 12-14
- Junior Showmanship, age 8-11

Participation ribbon, special award

- Cloverbud Showmanship, age 7

Market Beef

Champion Overall and Division award, ribbons for 1-8 place

- Underweight No Sale Market Beef
- Champion/Reserve Market Heifer
- Champion/Reserve Light Weight Steer
- Champion/Reserve Middle Weight Steer
- Champion/Reserve Heavy Weight Steer
- Grand/Reserve Champion Market Beef
- Champion/Reserve Homegrown Beef