

Department 18Y – Required Education

Approved 11/13/2025

Returning youth must be enrolled in 4-H by December 1st to exhibit at fair.

New 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.

SCHEDULE

June 1-11th – Posters, Event Summary, and Quality Assurance certificates can be turned into the 4-H office during open hours.

June 11th at 6:30pm – Ionia County 4-H Livestock Committee will be accepting required education submissions in person.

Saturday 7pm: Beef, Sheep, and Goat record books due to the 4-H office

Sunday 7pm: Swine record books due to the 4-H Office

Each youth exhibiting a large animal market specie (beef, sheep, swine, goat) must complete one of the following activities per specie to be eligible to show:

1. Complete and submit a Record Book for judging.
2. Create an educational poster for display during the fair.
3. Attend an educational event and write a summary.
4. Complete a quality assurance certificate program.

If the 4-H member is exhibiting more than one specie, they must complete an educational component for each specie exhibited.

Cloverbuds are only required to complete an educational component if they are selling their animal.

Option 1: Record Book

- Record Books are specific to each exhibitor age category.
- Age categories are Junior (8-11), Intermediate(12-14), and Senior (15-19).
 - Judging will be done by species and age group.
- Record books will be available to download and print on the Ionia County 4-H Extension website and the Fair website.
- Record books are due at 7pm on the night of that species weigh in, at the 4-H office next to the covered arena.

Option 2: Poster

- Posters must be the standard 2'x3' size
- Exhibitor name and 4-H club name must be written on the back of the poster.
- Exhibitors are to select a topic from the approved list below, based on age category.
- Exhibitors may select a topic from their age group or older, but NOT younger.
- Judging will be done by species and age group.
- Posters are to be completed and turned into the 4-H office June 1-11. Exhibitors are invited to attend the Ionia County 4-H Livestock Committee meeting on June 12th at 6:30pm at the fair office, and may turn in their posters at that time.

Approved Poster Topics:

Cloverbud (ages 5-7)

- Picture Board/Collage of your project from start to finish
- Story of fun facts about your animal
- 4-H Pledge

Junior (ages 8-11)

- Picture Board/Collage of your project from start to finish
- Body Parts
- Life Cycle of your animal (Birth to Market)

Intermediate (ages 12-14)

- Breeds
- Meat Cuts
- By Products of your species
- Agriculture Spotlight
- 4-H Spotlight

Senior (ages 15-19)

- Interactive
- Diseases
- Proper Nutrition
- Agriculture Spotlight
- 4-H Spotlight

Option 3: Educational Event Summary

Exhibitors may attend an educational event that is open to the public such as a clinic or demonstration, for any species, that is 1 hour or longer. The exhibitor will need to read a brief summary of the information presented at the event. Summaries should include the event name, location, date, and speaker(s). Educational events may cover a range of topics from nutrition and feeding, to grooming and fitting, showing, etc.

- CANNOT BE A SHOW.
- Event can take place at any time during the 4-H year, starting September 1st.
- Does not have to pertain to your current species
- Event Summaries are to be completed and turned into the 4-H office June 1-11. Exhibitors are invited to attend the Ionia County 4-H Livestock Committee meeting on June 12th at 6:30pm at the fair office, and may turn in their event summaries at that time.

Option 4: Quality Assurance Certification

Exhibitors may complete a Quality Assurance Certification program and present a copy of their certificate to meet the required education. This can be completed starting September 1st and prior to the deadline. A copy of certificate can be turned into the 4-H Office June 1-11. Exhibitors are invited to attend the Ionia County 4-H Livestock Committee meeting on June 11th at 6:30pm at the fair office and may turn in their certificates at that time.

- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) online certification (<https://yqcapogram.org>)

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

Record Books

*A, B, and C Ratings will be given
Awards to the top 3 in each age group per specie*

- Senior, age 15-19
- Intermediate, age 12-14
- Junior, age 8-11

Participation ribbon

- Cloverbud, age 5-7

Posters

*A, B, and C Ratings will be given
Awards to the top 3 in each age group*

- Senior, age 15-19
- Intermediate, age 12-14
- Junior, age 8-11

Participation ribbon

- Cloverbud, age 5-7