

# St. Francois County

## Sale of Champions

### 2026 Rules



2026 ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY 4-H & FFA

## GENERAL RULES

1. Junior Market entries will be accepted from residents of St. Francois County and adjoining counties as follows: Ste. Genevieve, Perry, Madison, Iron, Washington, and Jefferson.
  - a. Active **St. Francois County** 4-H club members who are enrolled by December 31 of 2025 in 4-H projects and whose names are on file at the University of Missouri Extension Center and who were eight (8) years old by January of the current year. 4-H members must have attended 50% plus one of their 4-H club meetings and be in good standing with their club.
  - b. All youth who are active members of FFA in St. Francois County.
2. All 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors must complete the Show-Me Quality Assurance certification to exhibit their animals at the fair in both market and breeding classes. To become certified visit <http://agebb.missouri.edu/smqa/>
3. All youth livestock entries must be completed and submitted per entry form instructions.
4. No stall or pen rental will be charged for the Junior Show.
5. All livestock exhibitors must have a season pass.
6. All fees should be paid according to the Exhibitor Fees Form.
7. Each exhibit shall be owned by the exhibitor and shall represent work accomplished with 4-H or FFA projects in the current year.
8. Junior Market exhibitors must show their own animals and in the case of an exhibitor having two animals in one class, the other animal may be shown by another junior exhibitor, who meets the requirements of Rule 1 listed above.
9. All exhibits must be in place by the designated time.
10. Unbroken or unruly animals will be excused from the show. Animals normally docile but rendered unmanageable because of strange surroundings will be accepted or rejected after being evaluated.
11. No unapproved drugs are allowed for use in animals. Without vet recommendation. Ethical practices of showmanship and fitting must also be followed. Anyone violating these rules will come before the Junior Show and Sale Livestock Committee and St. Francois County Fairboard Association.
12. **There is to be no drenching of any animals on the grounds at any time.**
13. All judging will be on the Danish System, which includes blue, red, and white ribbon groups.
14. Premiums are based on the points earned with each of the ribbons youth receive. The points are indicated in the premium list. In no case shall a point be equal to or more than forty cents for the livestock and dairy exhibits, and twenty-five cents for the home economics, horse show, rabbit, and poultry exhibits.
15. Grievances may be made to the Junior Livestock Committee consisting of FFA Advisors, 4-H Youth Staff members, University Extension Livestock Specialist, Junior Show & Sale Chair, and the Junior Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Cured Meats, and Dairy Superintendents.
16. Exhibitors are responsible for animals and cured meats from weigh in to load out on Sunday.
17. Exhibitors MUST clean their stalls prior to the end of the fair daily and the stall must be cleaned after animal leaves on Sunday.
18. Market animals may have no assistance with set up/bracing in the ring unless prior permission is granted from the committee BEFORE the fair begins. Requests must be submitted with reason.
19. ALL animals MUST have the state mandated vet health check prior to arriving at the fair. Any animal without a health paper will not be allowed to stay on the grounds. (This is also required for prospect show for the steers and heifers)

20. Market animals shown for the Sale of Champions may not be exhibited in any other Junior or Open class.
21. Youth participating in The Sale of Champions MUST complete 1 of the 2 mandatory exhibitor meetings AND complete 4 designated work hours. Exhibitors must sign the code of conduct.
22. Showmanship will be split into 3 groups: Novice- 1st year project members of any age, Junior- ages 8-13 and Senior- 14-21.
23. Exhibitors eligible to participate in the Sale of Champions may sell a maximum of 2 items in the Sale of Champions. One large animal (steer or pig) and one small item (all other qualifying projects) or two small projects (goat, lamb, chickens, rabbits, ham, bacon). If youth exhibit overall grand champion or overall reserve champion projects, all overall grand champion and overall reserve champion projects sell at the sale of champions.
24. Sale order rotates each year except for cured meats, which will sell last, each year for safety reasons. Sale order for 2026: Rabbits, Hogs, Lambs, Goats, Steers, Market Chickens and Fryers, Purple Ribbon Heifer, Cured Meats.
25. All exhibitor's stalls/pens must be cleaned prior to receiving their fair premiums.
26. Final selection of Market Projects selling in the sale MUST be turned in by 8pm Wednesday night to the designated committee member. If not turned in the Sale Committee Chair will make the final choice.
27. No for sale signs permitted.

## **Market Hogs**

1. Youth exhibiting market hogs in the Junior Market Hog class, who are current 4-H or FFA members in St. Francois County, and have completed the SMQA program are eligible to sell hog(s) in the Sale of Champions.
2. Market hog eligibility:
  - a. All hogs for the St. Francois County Junior Market Hog sale must be nominated, weighed and identified by ear tag during the current year weigh in.
  - b. An exhibitor will be allowed to identify up to five hogs to feed out. Exhibitors may only weigh in and show two hogs. The tag numbers of the hogs being shown must be identified on the entry form. Exhibitors are responsible for submitting substitution requests by the deadline (see entry form for details).
  - c. The hogs may be purebred or crossbred and a barrow or a gilt.
  - d. Hogs nominated must not exceed 75 lbs at the time of weigh-ins, or they will be disqualified.
  - e. Hogs that do not make the minimum weight (230 pounds) will automatically be moved to a lightweight junior class and show at the end of the market hog classes.
3. Sale of Champions
  - a. Hogs must weigh 230 pounds or more to sell in the market hog sale. They will be weighed only once at the fair unless the hog is within 5 pounds of the goal weight, these hogs may weigh one more time after all hogs are weighed in.
  - b. Hogs in the lightweight junior class are not eligible to sell in the Sale of Champions.
  - c. If a hog participates in the Sale of Champions and weighs over 300 pounds, the animal will be sold to the buyer as a 300 pound hog.
  - d. Exhibitors may show two market hogs in the Junior Market Hog class but sell only one unless they show both the Overall Grand Champion and Overall Reserve Champion market hog in which case they may sell both.
  - e. Market hogs will be sold in the order of index scores. Carcass index (25%), rate of gain (25%) and live placing (50%) will be used to determine the index score. One extra point will be awarded to the winner of the carcass index. Three extra points will be awarded to the grand champion (show) winner. One extra point will be awarded to the reserve champion (show) winner. The Average Daily Gain winner will receive one additional point.
  - f. Market Hog pens should be cleaned out a minimum of 2 times daily, throughout the length of the fair.
4. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants.

## Market Lambs

1. Youth exhibiting market lambs in the Junior Show, who are current members of 4-H or FFA in St. Francois County, and have completed the SMQA program are eligible to sell lamb(s) in the Sale of Champions.
2. Market lamb show eligibility:
  - a. Lambs must be weighed in and identified by ear tag at the St. Francois County Lamb Weigh-In to be eligible to participate in the St. Francois County Junior Market Lamb sale.
  - b. An exhibitor will be allowed to identify up to five lambs to feed out. Exhibitors may only weigh in and show two lambs. The tag numbers of the lambs being shown must be identified on the entry form. Exhibitors are responsible for submitting substitution requests by the deadline (see entry form for details).
  - c. Lambs must be castrated at the time of initial weigh-in.
  - d. The lambs may be purebred or crossbred and a wether or ewe.
  - e. All market lambs must be slick-shorn **at least** ten days before the show.
  - f. Sheep that are to be exhibited must be free of clinical signs of an infectious or contagious disease.
  - g. Sheep must be officially individually identified and listed on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
  - h. Lambs will be weighed only once at the fair unless they are within 2 pounds of the goal weight, these lambs can weigh a second time after all lambs have been weighed.
    - i. Only those animals that have lamb teeth will be eligible to show in the lamb classes (Must be less than one year of age).
3. Sale of Champions:
  - a. Lambs must weigh 100 pounds or more to sell in the market lamb sale, with the expectation of hair sheep which must weigh a minimum of 75 pounds.
  - b. Exhibitors may show two lambs in the Junior Market Lamb class but sell only one unless they show both the Overall Grand Champion and Overall Reserve Champion in which case they may sell both.
  - c. Market lambs will be sold in the order of index scores. Live score (80%) and ADG (20%) will be used to determine the index score.
  - d. The average daily gain winner will receive one extra point toward the overall index score. The grand champion (show) winner will receive 3 extra points, reserve champion (show) winner will receive one extra point.
4. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants.

## Market Goats

1. Youth exhibiting market goats in the St. Francois County Junior Goat class, who are current members of 4-H or FFA in St. Francois County and have completed the SMQA program are eligible to sell goat(s) in the Sale of Champions.
2. Market goat show eligibility:
  - a. Goats must be weighed in and identified by ear tag at the St. Francois County Market Goat Weigh-In to be eligible for the St. Francois County Junior Goat sale.
  - b. Market goats must be born after September 1st of the previous year.
  - c. An exhibitor will be allowed to identify up to five goats to feed out. Exhibitors may only weigh in and show two goats. The tag numbers of the goats being shown must be identified on the entry form. Exhibitors are responsible for submitting substitution requests by the deadline (see entry form for details).
  - d. Goats must be castrated at the time of the initial weigh-in.
  - e. The goats may be purebred or crossbred and a wether or a doe.
  - f. Goats will be weighed only once at the fair unless they are within 2 pounds of the goal weight, these goats can weigh a second time after all goats have been weighed.
3. Sale of Champions:
  - a. Exhibitors may show two goats in the Junior Market Goat class but sell only one unless they show both the Overall Grand Champion and Overall Reserve Champion in which case they may sell both.
  - b. Market goats will be sold in the order of index scores. Live score (80%) and ADG (20%) will be used to determine the index score.
  - c. The average daily gain winner will receive one extra point toward the overall index score. The grand champion (show) winner will receive 3 extra points, reserve champion (show) winner will receive one extra point.
  - d. Goats must weigh a minimum of **60** pounds to sell in the Sale of Champions..
4. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants.

## Market Steers

1. Youth exhibiting steers and heifers in the Junior Steers class and the Purple Ribbon Heifer class, that are current members of 4-H or FFA in St. Francois County, who exhibited at the St. Francois County Prospect Show, and who have completed the SMQA program are eligible to sell steer(s) in the Junior Steer Sale.
2. Market steer show eligibility:
  - a. All steers for the St. Francois County Junior Steer Sale must be weighed in and identified by ear tag at the St. Francois County Steer Weigh-In.
  - b. Animals must be born after January 1 of the previous year.
  - c. An exhibitor will be allowed to identify up to five steers to feed out. Exhibitors may only weigh in and show two steers. The tag numbers of the steers being shown must be identified on the entry form. Exhibitors are responsible for submitting substitution requests by the deadline (see entry form for details).
  - d. Steers will be weighed only once at the fair unless they are within 5 pounds of the goal weight, these steers can weigh a second time after all steers have been weighed.
3. Sale of Champions:
  - a. Exhibitors may show two steers in the Junior Steer class, but sell only one unless they show both the Overall Grand Champion and Overall Reserve champion steer in which case they may sell both.
  - b. Steers will be sold in the order of index scores. Average daily gain (25%), carcass index (25%), and live placing (50%) will be used to determine the index score.
  - c. The Grand Champion Show Animal will receive three additional points in the live show, and the Reserve Champion Show Animal will receive one additional point. The Average Daily Gain winner will receive one additional point. The Carcass winner will also receive one additional point.
  - d. Steers must weigh 1000 pounds or more to sell in the Sale of Champions.
4. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants.
5. Steers are REQUIRED to have neck rope on and secured nightly.
6. **Halter must be put on at first weigh in and attempt must be made to lead animal to scale**
7. **Prospect Show rules will follow suit with Junior Sale of Champion Rules, steers must be in attendance in order to sell at the fair.**

### **Purple Ribbon Heifer and Buckle Bull Class**

1. Youth exhibiting in the Purple Ribbon Heifer class and Buckle Bull Class at the St. Francois County fair must be current members of 4-H or FFA in St. Francois County and have completed the SMQA program.
2. Heifer/Bull eligibility for Purple Ribbon Heifer and Buckle Bull class:
  - a. Exhibitors must enter heifers/bulls in the Purple Ribbon Heifer and Buckle Bull class at the time entries are due.
  - b. Heifers/Bulls can be purebred or crossbred and will compete together.
  - c. Heifers/Bulls Must be 24 months or younger at the time of fair, age verification may be requested.
  - d. Bulls are required to have either permanent/clasp nose ring on during fair.
3. Sale of Champions:
  - a. The Purple Ribbon Heifer class does not count towards the two-item limit at the sale of champions
  - b. The Purple Ribbon Heifer will sell after the Reserve Champion Steer (only the ribbon sells).
  - c. Bulls are not eligible for the sale. Will receive a buckle.
4. Youth are responsible for the care of their animal(s) until it is released on Sunday.
5. Heifers/Bulls are REQUIRED to have neck rope on and secured nightly.

**Market Chicken**  
**Poultry Superintendent: Amber Wampler**

**RULES**

1. Exhibitors are limited to entering only ONE meat pen. The poultry must be a broiler type bird. There must be three birds in this pen.
2. All exhibited animals must be free of any visible signs of infection, contagious disease or parasites. Exhibitors may be asked to remove any project animal not in good health. Dismissal will be at the discretion of the superintendent or judge.
3. Pullorum-Typhoid testing is not required for birds less than 4 months old.

**Before Fair**

1. Every year in December at a date and location TBD, The St. Francois County MU Extension Office in coordination with the Broiler Project leader, will host a meeting for interested 4-H and FFA members to join the county wide Broiler Project, also referred to as the St. Francois County Poultry Peeps. Exhibitors are not required to join the Boiler Project/St. Francois Country Poultry Peeps in order to show or sell at the fair.

**Fair Check-In**

1. Birds will be leg banded if they do not already have a band for identification. No birds can be caged in the Poultry/Rabbit barn until your birds have been through this process.
2. Broilers may be between 6-8 weeks of age and weigh between 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 pounds each at weigh in.
3. Roasters may be between 6-10 weeks of age and weigh between 5 1/2 to 10 pounds each at weigh in. **(Bring four birds to be weighed just in case)**

**Fair Show Day**

1. Participants will exhibit only three of their best live broilers or roasters.
2. Exhibitors must exhibit their own poultry, but may be assisted by other 4-H/FFA member if necessary.

**After The Sale of Champions**

1. Broilers are released from the fairgrounds after the St. Francois County Fair Sale of Champions.
2. The 4-H or FFA member is responsible for processing the birds. It can be done professionally or by the member, but must be discussed with the buyer and delivered in a timely manner or as directed by the buyer. If this is not done, the exhibitor must reimburse the buyer the amount the buyer paid for the birds.

**Rabbit Rules**  
**Superintendent – Amber Wampler**

**RULES**

1. Sale of Champions: Animals must be an exhibit at the current fair **and must be a meat breed (6 Class) rabbit.**
2. Exhibitors can only sell **ONE** Pen of Three rabbits **OR ONE** Single Fryer rabbit, not both.
3. Exhibitors selling their rabbits at the fair must provide **ONE** picture with both the exhibitor and the rabbit/rabbits they are selling at the fair to the poultry/rabbit superintendent by June 30th of each year before fair. A tattoo number must be assigned to the animals and provided to the superintendent at this time as well. However, the rabbits must have their tattoos administered in the left ear before coming to the fair. Please email pictures and tattoo numbers to Amber Wampler at [amberwampler84@gmail.com](mailto:amberwampler84@gmail.com).

**Before Fair**

1. Rabbit cages will be provided to house rabbits during the fair. 4-H and FFA members must provide their own padlocks if needed. All rabbits listed in the rabbit show will need a cage and stay on the fairgrounds.
2. Exhibitors must provide their own cages for transportation to and from the show area.
3. 4-H and FFA exhibitors may show rabbits in the open class, however the same rabbits cannot be shown in both the open and junior class.
4. **Rabbits being sold at the St. Francois County Sale of Champions must be tattooed.** It is encouraged that all rabbits be permanently identified with a tattoo in the left ear prior to check-in, however only auction rabbits are required to be tattooed. Tattoo in animal must match 4hOnline ID.

**Fair Check-in**

1. A veterinarian or the superintendent will inspect each rabbit. Meat pens and single fryers will be weighed at this time. Exhibitors need to be present during this process. If the exhibitor is unable to be present, make sure to check with the superintendent or MU Extension staff. No rabbits allowed in cages without prior inspection.

**Fair Show Day**

1. A meat pen must consist of 3 meat breed (6 Class) rabbits. They must be of the same breed and no more than 10 weeks of age.
2. Each rabbit in a meat pen must weigh 3 ½ to 5 ½ pounds each. **Rabbits that do not meet the weight requirements are not eligible to sell in the St. Francois County Sale of Champions.**
3. Each exhibitor is limited to one Meat Pen entry and one Single Fryer entry. The fryer must not be pulled from a meat pen.

**Definition of 6 Class Rabbit** – Usually large breed rabbits utilized for meat production and are shown in 6 classes: senior buck, senior doe, 6/8 buck, 6/8 doe, junior buck, and junior doe.

## **Cured Meats Hams & Bacons**

1. Youth exhibiting cured meats in the St. Francois County Cured Meat classes, who are current members of 4-H or FFA in St. Francois County and have completed the SMQA program are eligible to sell cured meat(s) in the Sale of Champions.
2. Cured Hams & Bacon Eligibility
  - a. Meats must be free of insect holes, rot, and bone sour. Meats that are not consumable will be disqualified and must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately.
  - b. Participants must attend a verified county curing project meeting.
  - c. All cured meats must be entered into the fair according to the guidelines for building exhibits.
  - d. Participants must be present to check in and tag cured meats.
3. Cured Meats Sale of Champions
  - a. Each exhibitor may sell one ham and/or one bacon. (not to exceed two items in the Sale of Champions).
  - b. If the grand champion and reserve champion are shown by the same exhibitor, then both entries may be sold.
  - c. The sale order will be based on the rating from the judge.
  - d. Cured meats will always sell last in the sale for health safety reasons.
  - e. Exhibitors must make arrangements with the buyer of their cured meat for pick up or delivery if the buyer does not take home the meat after purchase at the Sale of Champions.
4. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants.
5. Cured Meats MUST be picked up Sunday by 1pm **or the cured meat project will be donated to a local charity of the Committees choosing.**

## **2026 Livestock Dates**

*Mandatory meetings & Fair dates/times to be announced in January*

**-Feb 21 - Beef weigh in @ SFC FairGrounds  
7:00- 9:00 AM**

*Inclement weather date Feb 28 7-9am(will be announced if that is happening)*

**-March 28- Swine Weigh In @SFC FairGrounds  
9:00-11:00am**

**-May 2- Sheep and Goat Weigh In @ SFC Fairgrounds TIME  
9:30- 10:30 AM Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting at 9:30am**

**-May 2 - Prospect Show @ SFC Fairgrounds  
7:00 AM**

**-June 30 - Rabbit Nomination Pictures due to Amber Wampler**

### **2026 Estimated Commission Fees**

Beef	\$45
Swine	\$25
Sheep	\$25
Goats	\$25
Hams	\$25
Bacons	\$25
Poultry	\$20
Rabbits	\$20