



**LARIMER COUNTY**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

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## **2021 Market Beef Project Letter**

From: Katie Daywalker, County Extension Agent 4-H  
To: 4-H Market Beef Members, Leaders and Superintendents

This letter contains the highlights of the 2021 Market Beef Project guidelines. Once the County Fair premium book is posted online, each member and leader is responsible for reading, understanding and abiding by all rules and regulations.

### **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Affidavits**

There is one affidavit, mandated by the United States Department of Agriculture and/or Food and Drug Administration, which will be required for all market beef youth again this year. These forms will be included in the Jr. Livestock Sale packet that each market beef youth will receive prior to County Fair. Each youth will be required to read, complete and have appropriate youth and parent signatures on these forms, and they must be turned in at the County Fair Check-in.

The COOL Affidavit is no longer mandated by the USDA. Exhibitors will not be required to complete this form.

### **What is BSE?**

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as Mad-Cow Disease, is a fatal, neuro-degenerative disease in cattle. Due to the FDA's food safety requirements, ruminant animals presented for slaughter must have been handled in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration's ban of feeding identified mammalian derived protein materials to ruminant animals (21 CFR Part 589). The BSE form, required by packers, is validating that you, as a livestock producer, have fed your animal in accordance with this government regulation.

### **Premises ID**

**Same as 2020: All MARKET Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit and Poultry youth are required to have a valid Premises ID prior to the fair entry date, **July 19, 2021**, in order to show at the 2021 Larimer County Fair. This does NOT apply to breeding animals.**

Did you show a market animal at the 2020 Larimer County Fair? If so, you obtained a Premises ID and entered your number on the 2020 Fair Entry Form. This means that you already have a Premises ID number and do not need to reapply for one. If you don't remember your number, you can call the number below and they can provide it to you or you can contact Pam at the Extension Office for your number. If you did not show a market animal last year, you will need to obtain a Premises ID.



It's easy (and free) to obtain a Premises ID. Call 303-869-9130 Go to:

<https://ag.colorado.gov/animals/colorado-location-identification-lid-registration-premises>

## Ownership

You must have your market beef animals (steers and heifers) purchased by February 16, 2021 to be eligible to participate in the Larimer County Fair. The Fair involves showing your animal (live placing), a Rate-of-Gain Contest, and the Junior Livestock Sale.

## Market Beef Weigh Day (Mandatory)

### Tentative Schedule

**Date:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021

**Where:** Mac Equipment Arena, The Ranch

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

In an attempt to shorten wait time, please follow these guidelines: Last names beginning with the letters A - L, come between 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Last names beginning with the letters M - Z, come between 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. \*Animals will be accepted anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.\*

### **Weigh Day Snow Plan:** (In case of bad weather.)

1. A decision to cancel or hold the Weigh Day will be made before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12.
2. A message will be placed on the Extension Office answering machine by 4:30 p.m. stating that Weigh Day has been canceled. The message can be accessed by calling (970) 498-6000.
3. Weigh Day will be rescheduled for another date.

### **Weigh-in Procedure**

- 1) Each 4-H member **may tag and weigh up to 5 market animals**, but are limited to **showing 3** at County Fair. Animals that aren't weighed and identified will not show.
- 2) There is a \$5.00 per head fee charged for the cost of ear tags/retinal imaging. Changes of ownership will not be allowed after February 16. **Family members must decide who owns the animal on or before Weigh Day.**
- 3) Showing at State Fair: Retinal imaging for State Fair will be done at Weigh Day. Premises ID is also required for all State Fair Livestock projects again this year.
- 4) **Brand Inspection** -- Following is a note from Brand Inspectors explaining how the inspections will be handled:
  - a) All 4-H members must have their cattle brand inspected for any changes of ownership prior to weigh-in. Appointments will be made to do this at the individual's home.
  - b) Handwritten Bills of Sale or brand papers in other than the 4-H member's name will not be accepted at Weigh Day.
  - c) The Brand Inspector will work the ring area, collecting prior inspections and inspecting cattle solely for weigh-in. No Brand Certificates will be written that day. The certificates will be made later.
  - d) If you have any questions or the need to schedule change of ownership inspections, please contact the Brand Office at 490-1764.
- 5) Do not feed or water your calf after you arrive. Feed and water your calves that morning like you normally do. The superintendents have the right to adjust the weight of calves which appear to have been shrunk. The weights will serve as your beginning weight for the Rate-of-Gain Contest. The final weight will be taken at County Fair.
- 6) After your calf has been weighed and brand inspected, please go to the designated area to pick up your weigh ticket(s) and pay the \$5.00 fee per each head weighed. **Please tell the committee if you are nominating your market beef for State Fair.** They will have you complete a State Fair

Nomination Form at Weigh Day.

- 7) **Larimer County will again be retinal imaging all market beef at Weigh Day.**
- 8) **All bulls must be castrated** and all **animals dehorned** before arrival. Bulls will not be weighed.
- 9) **All animals must wear halters on Weigh Day. Please have your animals halter broken.** This will make it easier on the committee and yourself. The animals are much easier to halter break now when they are small. The superintendents have the right to refuse and/or not weigh an unruly animal. Youth and/or their parents are responsible for unloading and loading their own animals.
- 10) If you have trouble getting to Weigh Day (breakdown of equipment, flat tire, etc.) call 720-270-1623 and report in so that the Weigh Day team will wait for you.
- 11) Neither Larimer County Extension Office nor The Ranch staff nor the volunteers/4-H youth helping process animals can be held responsible for any injuries to people or the livestock.

### **Meat Quality Assurance Program and Jr. Livestock Sale Information**

- 1) **Meat Quality Assurance Program (MQA)** - All 4-H members must have completed the Meat Quality Assurance Program requirements to exhibit at the 2021 County Fair and participate in the Jr. Livestock Sale. For information on MQA requirements and trainings in the area, visit the web: <https://larimer.extension.colostate.edu/programs/4-h/>
- 2) **Wholesome Meat Animal Assurance Program** - All market beef animals consigned to the Junior Livestock Sale may be screened for illegal use of drugs or chemicals. Anyone found guilty of illegal drug or chemical use will be barred from future Larimer County Fairs. All 4-H members with meat animals are required, along with a parent/guardian and 4-H leader to sign a "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" assuring the animals have not received illegal drugs or chemicals. The statements must be turned in at County Fair weigh in. (purple sheet)

We encourage you to keep your animals as free as possible of any and all drugs. If you use any drugs or feed containing antibiotics be sure to follow the correct withdrawal times. If your animal becomes sick prior to the Fair and you must use antibiotics, please notify the Sale Committee or the Extension Office. Be sure to put this information on the "Certificate and Statement of Disclosure" form. Also, be sure to list all vaccines, antibiotics, insecticides, and feed additives given to your project animal and date administered.

- 3) **Official Photo** - You must have an official picture taken with your Market Beef animal at the designated time at the Fair to be eligible to sell in the Junior Livestock Sale.

### **Tentative 2021 County Fair Information**

**Market Steers must weigh between 1100 (minimum) - 1550 (maximum) pounds to show in the Larimer County Fair market classes. Market Heifers must weigh between 1050 (minimum) – 1400 (maximum) pounds to show in the Larimer County Fair market classes.** The County Fair is offering classes for under and overweight market animals. Under- and over-weight market animals are not eligible for the market beef championship nor allowed to sell in the Junior Livestock Sale.

- **Live Placing** - All market beef entered at the Larimer County Fair will be classified by weight. Most classes will not exceed 15 animals and classes will be divided as evenly as possible. There will be separate classes for heifers. There will be no special class at the Larimer County Fair for National Western Stock Show Catch-It-Calves. You may show in one of the regular classes and in a showmanship class.

Ribbons for the top ten in each class will be given. An Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef will be selected among the Champion and Reserve Champion Steers and Heifers.

- **Rate of Gain Contest** - An average rate of gain will be computed for all market steers and heifers showing at Fair. The final weight will be taken at Fair weigh in. Under- and over-weight animals are not eligible for Rate of Gain contest.
- **Beef will check in on Friday, August 6.**
- The Breeding Beef Show will be on Sunday, August 8, in the Mac Equipment Indoor Arena, **followed by Beef Showmanship.** The Market Beef Show will be held on Monday, August 9 in the Mac Equipment Indoor Arena.
- We will once again have a carcass contest at the 2021 Larimer County Fair. Plans are to collect actual carcass data on Market Beef, and use ultrasound on Market Sheep, Swine and Goats. This will be an optional contest, which will cost \$6/animal to enter (in addition to traditional fair entry fees). However, only those Market Beef that qualify and go through the Jr. Livestock Sale will be eligible to enter the carcass contest, since actual carcass data will be collected. Therefore, carcass contest entries for Market Beef will be accepted up until Wednesday, August 11 at 10 a.m. in the Livestock Office.

### **Additional Information for Fair This Year**

**All members are required to create an Animal ID through 4honline for all of your 4-H project animals. Watch for instructions and information coming soon.**

**Breeding Heifer exhibitors will be required to turn in Brand paperwork or Registration papers to the Extension Office by April 1, 2021. You can turn in a copy of your Brand Paper or Registration Paper or you can email a copy to the Extension Office.**

- **Supreme Beef – Interviews will be held on Thursday, July 29**  
The Supreme Beef contest will be awarded based on a combination score of Class placing, Carcass Contest placing and Interview score. Members will be interviewed on current industry topics, as well as general knowledge of the Beef project; the judges will score based on knowledge. Interviews will take place during county fair.  
Supreme Beef will be awarded at the Carcass Contest Awards Night.
- **Premier Exhibitor Contest – Test & ID will be held on Thursday, July 29**
  1. Exhibitors may have breeding or market projects or both. All ages will compete together within each specie. Exhibitors are allowed to enter the Premier Exhibitor Contest in as many species as they are enrolled in. One winner per species will be awarded.
  2. Exhibitors must pre-enter this contest along with their regular fair entries.
  3. The contest will be judged using the following criteria:
    - ❖ Practicum: 100 points possible – Exhibitors will be given a real-life scenario relating to the Beef Project. This scenario can be hands on or in question/answer format. The point of this portion of the Premier Exhibitor contest will be to test the knowledge of the exhibitor in a hands on format.
    - ❖ Test: 30 points possible - Exhibitors will be required to take a 30 question, multiple choice test, designed to evaluate knowledge of their project species in areas such as: health, feeding, breeding, selection, handling, carcass, and industry related issues. The test location and time will be announced.
    - ❖ Showmanship: 30 points possible - Points given for showmanship placing will be broken down as follows: 1st = 30 points; 2nd = 28 points; 3rd = 26 points; 4th = 24 points; 5th = 22

points; 6th = 20 points; 7th = 18 points; 8th = 16 points; all other showmanship participants = 12 points

- ❖ Class Placing: 10 points possible - Each exhibitor will receive points for his/her highest placing animal. Only one animal per exhibitor (market or breeding) will be used for class placing points. Points will be broken down as follows: 1st = 10 points; 2nd = 9 points; 3rd = 8 points; 4th = 7 points; 5th = 6 points; 6th = 5 points; 7th = 4 points; 8th = 3 points; all other placings = 1 point
- ❖ Number of Animals Exhibited: 6 points possible - Exhibitors will receive one point for each market animal they exhibit (up to 3 points). Exhibitors will receive one point for each breeding animal they exhibit (up to 3 points)
- ❖ Bonus Points: 5 points possible - Exhibitors will receive 5 bonus points for exhibiting animals in both the market and breeding divisions.

Awards Winners will be announced after the Round Robin Awards presentation.

### **For 2021 Breeding Heifer Show**

All Breeding Beef Cattle must turn in a copy of proof of ownership to the Extension Office by April 1, 2021. Acceptable forms of proof of ownership may include original registration papers, brand inspection, or a bill of sale. A scanned copy of the acceptable proof of ownership will be retained by the superintendent for records. Heifers or bulls that are registered with an official breed association, will be required to check tattoo or bands against the original registration papers.

**Animal information will also need to be uploaded in the Animal ID section of the enrollment system by May 1, 2021.**

After the correct information is collected, it is the right of the superintendent to request proof of ownership at any time during the Larimer County Fair.

**Be watching for more County Fair information as it becomes available.**