

September 1, 2025

Dear Market Livestock Project Member:

Members planning to tag or sell a steer at the 2026 Garrett County Fair or Maryland State Fair must bring their steer to the fall weigh-in event. **We will only be having one weigh-in day.**

Date: Saturday, November 1st from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm
Location: Garrett County Fairgrounds

In case of bad weather, cancellation announcements will be made on radio stations (WFRB and WKHJ) and are Facebook page. If the date needs to be rescheduled, the make-up date will be **Saturday, November 8th.**

Weigh-in will be by appointment only again this year. **We ask that each member bringing a market steer to the fall tagging register for a time slot at the link noted at the end of this letter.** There will be one time slot per member. We hope that this will minimize your wait time in the line.

The 2025 Garrett County Fair will be July 25 through August 1, 2026.

When choosing your calf, please keep in mind the fair date and the minimum weight requirement for steers, 1,000-pound minimum weight.

All steers must have an RFID Tag. This is a tag that shows the US shield and is associated with the premise ID of the beef producer. Breeders/producers can tag their own animal by requesting their own premise identification number (pin) from MDA by calling 410-841-5810 or emailing animal.disease.traceability@maryland.gov and order through an approved manufacturer of RFID tags that have the US shield, more information is available at <http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/disease-traceability.aspx>

Market beef must be neutered and healed prior to 4-H weigh-in and tagging. The only exception would be animals that have obvious signs they have been banded, however, their scrotal sack is still intact.

Health checks will not be done at fall weigh in because it is too early for the 2026 show season.

Rate of gain for steers will be calculated using the November weigh-in weights and the fair entry weight.

Policy for Designation of County Bred Animals

The enclosed card must be completed including the signature of the breeder. Please have the card completed, front and back, when you arrive for weigh-in and tagging. Only animals bred and born in Garrett County are eligible for competition in this class. Please refer to full guidelines in the 2025 fair book, pg. 136, also available on the Garrett County Fair website.

Animals purchased at the stockyard may be eligible for the county bred program if they were bred and born in Garrett County. The stockyard staff can provide you with the name and contact information to help you determine eligibility. Animals purchased from a producer outside of the county by a Garrett County resident and resold to a Garrett County 4-H or FFA member are not eligible for county bred program because they were not born in Garrett County.

Animals not declared as county bred at the time of tagging will not be eligible for the county bred program at the 2026 Garrett County Fair.

Fall Weigh-in Procedures Please review thoroughly before weigh-in.

1. Complete enclosed blue card before going to the scales to weigh your animal. The card includes the following:

Maryland 4-H Livestock Registration, Animal Identification, County Bred Certification, and Code of Ethics has been combined to one form, same as last year (blue card).

➤ Front of Card

- Livestock Registration-Please List

The member's name and parent's/guardian's name on this card as you would like it to be announced at the sale and will appear on the sale bill & poster.

If animal is housed at a different address, please complete appropriate section.

- Animal Identification

RFID Tag number is required on the form. 4-H/FFA Tag number and weight will be added to the form at the scales.

- County Bred Certification – if applicable.

This section must be completed and turned in when the animal is tagged at the fall weigh in.

➤ Back of the Card – Code of Ethics

The 4-H/FFA member and a parent/guardian must **sign the front and back** of the card.

2. Take your animal to the scales along with your blue form.
3. You should know the immunization status of your steer so you will know if you need the immunization that will be provided at weigh-in by the Livestock Association.
4. **Important!** ~ Bring completed blue beef card to the 4-H staff, (give to Roberta or Lacie) before you leave the fairgrounds.

The Livestock Association representatives who will be conducting the weigh-in understands that you have not had a lot of time to work with your animal. To have the weighing and tagging go as smoothly as possible, please abide by the following guidelines:

1. Your animal should be wearing a halter (this does not mean it is expected to be halter broken, the halter will be used for restraining purposes).
2. Please try to work with your animal enough that they are comfortable with you and are controllable.

4-H/FFA Market Animal Project Guide Book ~ The 2026 4-H/FFA Youth with Market Animals Guide Book, compiled by the Garrett County Livestock Association & University of Maryland Extension Garrett County Office, will be handed out early 2026 or at fall weigh-in. Be on the lookout for this Guide Book as it will contain information regarding MDA regulations and rules as well as any new information.

*** NEW *** 4-H/FFA members choosing to sell a market animal with either youth organization at another county level fair must relinquish their tagging and sale privileges for market animals at the GCLA livestock sale. This applies to all other county level fairs, expos, and festival livestock sales, no matter the youth organization. Members found in violation by the GCLA board will be ineligible for the following year sale. Individual market animals can only be tagged and designated for one county level fair and designated as 4-H or FFA.

Example:

- A 4-H member of Garrett County selling a market animal at another county under FFA will not be permitted to tag or sell any market animals for the GCLA sale.
- An FFA member of Garrett County selling a market animal at another county under 4-H will not be permitted to tag or sell any market animals for the GCLA sale.

The Fall Weigh-in is a mandatory event for all youth with a market steer project!

Please share this information with anyone who may be planning to have a steer for the first time in 2026.

Any questions can be directed to the Livestock Association or the Extension Office.

Vernon Paugh, President
Garrett County Livestock Association
301-746-7141

Lacie Ashby, Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
301-334-6960

Enclosures

Required Registration Link: <https://go.umd.edu/2025BeefWeighIn>

Other Resources to review:
Market Animal Project Guidebook
Garrett County Fair Book

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact us at (301)334-6960 by October 25, 2025.