

Important! 2026 Junior Fair Updates



*Below are general updates that have been approved by Pickaway Senior Fair Board and/or shared from the Ohio Department of Agriculture as of November 2025. Always check the Pickaway County Fair website at <http://www.pickawaycountyfair.org/> for official and complete Junior Fair rules and updates!

County:

The 2026 Pickaway County Fair will take place from **June 20-27**. **All animals except breeding rabbits will move in and weigh on Saturday**, June 20. For traffic control, set up booths, pens and unload all tack and equipment on June 18 & 19.

Quality Assurance curriculum has been updated. The new OH-QA program is required for all market and lactating animal exhibitors. In-Person Quality Assurance training is recommended but on-line YQCA training will be accepted. All certifications must be submitted to the Extension office or sharp.5@osu.edu by April 20 for Honor Club points or no later than May 2 for Jr. Fair eligibility.

- In-Person County options will be available on **March 19, March 24 and April 1**. (A First Year Exhibitor training will not take place in 2026.) RSVP is required for all in-person trainings at least one week in advance. FFA members should check with their advisors to see if a Chapter training will be offered.
- On-line training takes place for a fee through the YQCA program. Youth may complete on-line YQCA training any time from October 1-May 1. **They must complete the correct training for their age as of Jan 1, 2026.**
- There are certified state level in-person programs that offer QA such as QA at Beef Expo, State Swine Clinic, Ohio Poultry Clinic, etc.

Livestock Skillathon Judging is a Junior Fair rule. That means all 4-H and FFA exhibitors must attend for project completion and fair eligibility. As part of project judging and completion, **a record book must be completed in its entirety**, or the member will not be eligible for county or state fair participation in that specie area.

Exhibitors may show a total of 10 animals with a maximum of five of those being market. A maximum of two market animals may be exhibited in each specie area except market poultry which may exhibit one pen of market chickens, one pen of market ducks, or up to two individual turkeys. Swine exhibitors may bring up to four market hogs with a maximum of 2 showing in market barrow/gilt classes. Breeding ducks, and breeding chickens will allow one entry per breed per exhibitor. Breeding rabbits will allow one entry per age class per breed per exhibitor. Horse exhibitors may bring up to three horses.

Schedule Changes: For fair move-in Poultry time is 8-10:00am, Rabbits are 12:00-2:00pm. The Duck show remains on Monday but moved to 1:00pm. The Turkey and Chicken shows have switched days with Turkeys on Tuesday and Chickens on Wednesday. The Dairy Beef Feeder & Beef Breeding Show will start at 3:30pm on Wednesday. The Sheep show will start at 5:00pm on Wednesday.

It is the Exhibitor and their family's responsibility to read and follow 4-H, Jr Fair and ODA rules. Basic rule changes or items of note to date include:

- ODA ownership rule does not allow a junior fair animal, owned or leased, to be shown by anyone but the Jr. Fair member except in the instance of simultaneous classes. This is true for the duration of the project. (Does not include instances when a showmanship judge may have exhibitors switch animals during a class.)
- Non-market animals may be leased with proper paperwork submitted by April 15.
- 4-H members may not add/change projects after March 1. FFA members may not add/change SAE after April 15.
- Animals tagged for a market project may not be used for breeding and vice versa.
- All Equine exhibitors must complete the online EquiSTEP program annually by May 1.
- Items such as MagnaWave devices fall under ODA's Unacceptable Practices rule for animals at fair.
- Market rabbits receive their ID with a market system at the fair. All Market poultry will receive leg bands at the fair. Market rabbits and market poultry will not be able to complete their DUNF until fair weigh-in.
- Exhibitors are required to ID all breeding animals before registering them for fair (April 15-May 15) including breeding poultry which can utilize leg bands, wing bands, etc as is appropriate for the type of poultry.
- DUNF must be completed for all market & lactating animals and also feeder calves (both beef & dairy). A DUNF with incomplete or incorrect drug information will disqualify the animal.

- Maximum storage area for poultry and rabbit exhibitors is 12 x 12 x 12 (milk crate size).
- No bulls.
- Breeding rabbits will continue to show by breed but breed classes with less than 3 entries will show in AOB class. One animal per age class per breed per exhibitor may be entered.
- Breeding ducks/geese and breeding chickens will now show by breed. Breed classes with less than 3 entries will show in AOB class. One pen per breed per exhibitor may be entered.
- Pullets must be hatched after January 1 of show year.
- Market geese will sell as long as the packer approves them.
- Purebred Barrow entries fall under the market hog project. Hogs used as Purebred Barrows must tag and identify as purebred barrows on April 18. Purebred barrow entries count in 10 total animal number and in market animal numbers.
- Per ODA, extra/companion sheep or goats are not permitted at the fair. If an animal is not entered or will not be shown, it may not be brought to the fair.
- Showmanship classes will have 5 age divisions with exhibitors showing by their age only. Ages are as of January 1 and will be: 8-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18 with the winner of each age division competing in the Supreme Showmanship class. Dairy Showmanship will stay at 3 age divisions. Llama/Alpaca Showmanship will stay at 3 age divisions. Horses will stay at 2 age divisions. See the fair book for age categories. The Supreme Showmanship winner for each specie, and the Senior Showmanship winner for Dairy, Llama/Alpaca, and Horses will compete in the Showman of Showmen contest.
- We have a dress code for Junior Fair livestock shows and sales. You must follow it. Members will not be permitted to sell their animals in sports uniforms.
- All Royalty applications will be due by June 1 in the Extension Office. Age requirement for Jr. Fair Princess Contest is 12-14 as of January 1, 2026. All royalty interviews will take place on June 17.

Occasionally an exhibitor will have more than one animal in a class. When this happens, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to have another Pickaway Junior Fair member ready to assist. This includes breeding and pen of 2 poultry.

A Pickaway PAS show will **not** take place in 2026. Exhibitors who would like to try out at one or two PAS shows may do so with the proper paperwork signed by the Extension Office in advance. No releases for PAS during fair will be granted.

Reminders: The county raised classes require animals to be Bred, Born and Raised in-county. Please read the rules on this before declaring your animal for this class.

All fair market, breeding, and showmanship livestock entries take place through the Sale Committee's on-line registration website. The site will be open April 18-May 15. Following May 15, advisors will receive a list for review and corrections before June 1. Any late entries made between June 1 and the first Saturday of fair will include a \$25 late fee per entry except showmanship. Absolutely no entries will be accepted after the first Saturday of fair.

During fair all pens must be cleaned by 9:00am daily. At the conclusion of fair, all pens must be cleaned by time listed in the fairbook or the member/club/chapter will be charged \$50 per pen.

State Fair:

Market animals can only be entered through the state fair on-line system. State Fair does not except late entries for market or breeding animals. Reminder: Members must be enrolled and complete each project at the county level that they wish to exhibit at the state fair. For example, if a member wants to exhibit a breeding hog project, they must be enrolled in the breeding hog project, complete the project book, and complete Skillathon Judging for that project.

2026 PICKAWAY FAIR SCHEDULE – approved 11/10/25

LOCATION	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HERITAGE HALL-NORTH	<p>Move in 8-10:00am Poultry will weigh & turn in Pullorum papers as arrive</p> <p>8-11:00am Sheep, Goats, Cattle, Hogs.</p> <p>12-2:00pm Rabbits & weigh as arrive.</p> <p>12-4:00pm Horses & Llama/Alpacas (lower drive)</p>	<p>1:00 Breeding Rabbit Show & Rabbit Showm.</p>	<p>8:30 Market Hog & Purebred Barrow Showmanship</p> <p>1:00 Duck Show – Market, Breeding, Showmanship</p> <p>6:00 Goat Show (no dairy)</p>	<p>8:30 Turkey Show – Market, Breeding, Showmanship</p> <p>(Lactating Dairy Cows arrive by 11am)</p> <p>1:00 Dairy Show – Dairy Cattle & Dairy Goats</p> <p>6:00 Market Hog & Purebred Barrow Show</p>	<p>8:30 Chicken Show – Market, Layers, Fancy, Showmanship</p> <p>5:00 Sheep Show</p>	<p>8:30 Market Rabbit Show</p> <p>(1:00 Perfect People)</p> <p>5:00 Livestock Judging Contest</p> <p>7:00 Contest results</p> <p>9-2:00 4-H Food & Creative Arts Judging</p> <p>3:00 4-H Awards</p> <p>9:00 Horse Show</p> <p>6:30 Jr Fair Fun Event</p> <p>(4:00 set up, 5:00 practice) 6:00 4-H Style Review</p>	<p>6-9:00am Take Home (except hogs) & all breeding released **</p> <p>8:30am Swine Bred/Born/ Raised Show, Pee Wee Hog Showm, Old Timers & Fun Show</p> <p>2:00 Showman of Showmen</p> <p>9:00 Dog show</p>	<p>6:30-8:00am Take Home Hogs</p> <p>9:30am Jr. Fair Livestock Sale</p>
HERITAGE HALL-SOUTH	<p>Weigh in & meetings</p> <p>Cattle: 1:30 meeting, 2:00 weigh cattle barn</p>	<p>5:00 Visiting Royalty event</p>			<p>9-2:00 4-H Special Interest Judging</p> <p>4:00 4-H Awards</p>			
PAVILION	<p>Sheep/goats: 2:30 meeting, 3:00 weigh hog barn</p> <p>Rabbits & Poultry: 3:00 meeting HH</p>		<p>9:00 Horse show</p>	<p>9:00 Horse Show</p>	<p>8:30 Llama & Alpaca Show</p> <p>3:30 Dairy Beef Feeders & Beef Breeding Show</p> <p>7pm Market Beef</p>			<p>Horse Fun Show (morning)</p>
AMPITHEATER	<p>Horses: 5:00 barn meeting</p> <p>Market Hogs & Purebred Barrows: 5:30 meeting HH, 6:00 weigh hog barn</p>	<p>(5:00 set up) 6:30 Open Fair! -Ribbon Cutting -Pie/cake auction -King/Queen</p>						
GRANDSTAND			<p>Jr. Fair Outhouse Race</p>		<p>1:00 Rocket Launch</p>			

Booths – Set up Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8:00am-9:00pm. All booths must be 8 feet wide by 4 feet deep. Height between 6-8 feet high. All booths must be free-standing and self-supporting. Please measure your booths to make sure they are the correct size.

Horses and Llamas/Alpacas released Saturday 11pm-1am and Sunday 8am-noon. Sunday: Booths/still projects removed. Pens cleaned – see rules and reverse page for requirement times for final clean-out.

**Breeding and Take Home animals that are used in Showman of Showmen contest are permitted to stay until conclusion of Showman of Showmen contest.