

August 5, 2020

Dear Junior Livestock Exhibitors at the 2020 Walworth County Fair,

The 2020 Meat Animal Sale has been finalized. As you read this, remember there were many things to consider and many avenues were researched and discussed. This decision was not made without thought and due process. We had to consider you, the exhibitor, the buyer, the locker plants, and all impacted by COVID in varying forms and degrees. Although it is not perfect, it is as close to normal as we can get in these times, and is still workable within the parameters and constraints we are under. If you are unhappy with this decision, please remember how fortunate we are as some exhibitors in other counties (Kenosha, Jefferson, and Dane too name a few) did not get an opportunity to show or sell.

The sale will be virtual, it will be held on the The Show Circuit Online Sales platform. sconlinesales.com The sale will provide the opportunity for both bidding on the animal to buy (to put the meat in the freezer or ship to market) and the option to provide support/ donation to you, the exhibitor. The sale will open on-line on Wednesday Sept 2nd and close on Friday, Sept 4th as it did in our past sales. Additional details and closing times for the sale will be determined and communicated to you and the buyers. The sale will group animals by species and will have staggered racehorse style closing by species. The closing order will be beef, sheep and then swine. The support portion of the sale will remain open for an additional day to allow buyers that may have money left over in their budget to contribute to the exhibitors as they see fit.

We think it is important for you to get the majority of the information quickly so you can plan and make decisions.

You will be able to sell two animals that you have tagged and entered for the Walworth County Fair.

Here is the link that you will need to use to upload your name, contact information, animal species, tag #, picture with the animal, and if the animal has a locker date or not and what locker. If your locker date is known at the time you upload, please put that in. When the buyer is bidding on your animal, they will know the destination; they will not be able to designate. You, the seller, have designated what locker by obtaining a locker date. **The hard deadline for this is August 14th for uploading your information.** I would encourage you to enter and upload your information as soon as you determine the destination for your animal so the sale can be finalized and put up online well ahead of our sale dates. Link: https://showcircuit.formstack.com/forms/walworth_co_wi.

Now here is where the wrinkles start. Understand that the local lockers do not have the room or capacity to process 600 animals, nor have they in the past. We are doing it this way because it is impossible to fill a quota for animals at a locker during a sale. Not all of you are going to be able to obtain a locker date for your animal and you will have the opportunity to make use of our offering to truck animals to market. If you cannot get a locker date and must ship, you can still be in the sale. Will it help to yell and cause a scene at a locker plant to get a date? No, they are at capacity and have been nice enough to save space, even though they could have filled it 10 times over. If the Committee hears a report from a locker that someone becomes emotional and disrespectful, you will be removed from the sale. It is what it is this year; please appreciate your opportunities. You can still sell your animal in the sale even if it has been shipped. Some buyers want to support you, they do not want the meat. Everyone

knows before, during and after the sale the status of your animal--you, the buyers, and the locker plants. It is possible the date for your animal will be the end of September, and in that case you are responsible for the continued care and feeding of the animal after the shows and sale until your locker date comes up, you will be responsible to deliver it to the locker plant. If you cannot do that, we suggest shipping the animal and removing your animal from the locker list. Some of you may decide to not be in the sale, and that is your prerogative. You do not have to be. According to last year's sale data, 60% of the buyers chose to ship their animals to market.

The support option is there for people and buyers to donate to you a minimum of \$25 with no max. The donors could be family, friends and buyers that, due to the economy have a smaller budget, and still want to support you, the exhibitors. It is important that you include this option in your buyers' letters.

Once the sale is posted, I would suggest contacting your buyers again to give them your specific lot numbers as there may be close to 600 lots in this sale.

The Meat Animal Sale is not going to deduct the 4.5% this year. The exhibitor will have \$12.50 per animal withheld from their check to cover the cost of putting the animals up in the sale. Your lot or picture in the support portion of the sale is being posted by SOnline for free.

Locker Plant Status

- Lake Geneva Meats currently full on all species
- Country Pride Meats currently full on all species
- Wilson Meats currently full on all species
- Sorg's Farm Pack currently full on steers and sheep, a few dates are available for barrows in October November. If you choose to take a date here in Oct Nov, you will need to communicate that date to the buyer. You will need to feed that animal and provide bedding for 60 to 80 days after the sale. All things to consider when deciding.
- Olague Farm Meats in Harvard no hogs, 1 steer a week through December, and all the sheep you want to book. Make sure you tell them Walworth County Fair
- Hanson's in Franksville may have room. I have not reached out to them.

Keep in mind that you are going to have to communicate to your buyer the date that the animal is scheduled at the locker, and the buyers need to contact the locker with any instructions for cutting and processing.

Show information

Beef

August 24

4pm-6pm--weigh-in and heifer check-in, but heifers do not have to be there until Tuesday

August 25

9am--exhibitor meeting

10am--show

Madaus Trucking will have a truck there after the show on Aug 25 to go to Market.

Swine

August 27

Load into barn and weigh-in TBD

August 28

8 am--show.

One pig from a premise needs to be Rope tested for PRRS. (One pig tested per farm, not all pigs.

Example: 4 exhibitors from different families at in one barn at Farm XYZ, one pig from that group needs to be tested and those exhibitors share the cost.) This show is not a terminal show; animals will be returning home and state law mandates the Rope test. Those who want to take them home are allowed to after the show. Those who choose to send animals to MARKET stay overnight.

August 29 any animals going to MARKET MUST BE IN BARN BY 7am.

Madaus Trucking will haul to Pork King that day.

Sheep

August 29

7am-9am--weigh-in

10am--show

The market truck will be available to Pinn-Oak Farms after the show.

With the change in show dates, the increased cost for barrows with the Rope test, (\$100 per barn), and COVID 19, the committee decided the exhibitor does not need to show to participate in the sale. We don't pretend to know what your personal situation is in regards to above. It is the Meat Animal Sale Committee's intent to provide a few days of "normal" to exhibitors that chose to show and care for livestock, to buyers that want a little normal, and to support you the exhibitor.

I know that was a lot to digest. If you have questions, you can email me at mspeth@ddschools.org or call my cell at 262-745-2759. Let me leave you with this thought. Take a step back, reread the information. Yes, this is different. Yes, it's not a neat and easy decision in some cases. You still have the opportunity to exhibit your animal and compete. You still have the opportunity to be in a Meat Animal Sale. Kids in how many counties throughout the United States did not get either opportunity.

Sincerely,

Marty Speth

Chair Walworth County Meat Animal Sale Committee

**This is not a 4-H endorsed program opportunity. 4-H members and volunteers participate at their own risk and without Extension liability or 4-H Youth Member Accident insurance.*