51ST ANNUAL MARTIN COUNTY 4-H YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE

Rules and Regulations—2027

> *Notice to Parents and Guardians: As a parent or guardian of a participant in the 2027 Martin County 4-H Youth Livestock Show and Sale, you are required to carefully read and sign stating that you have read, understand, and will abide by these rules set forth by the Martin County 4-H Livestock Steering Committee and Martin County Cooperative Extension Staff.*

GENERAL RULES

1. **Ages of Participants (as of January 1, 2027):**
    - **Cloverbud:** 5–7 years old
    - **Junior:** 8–13 years old
    - **Senior:** 14–18 years old

2. **Eligibility:** With the exception of Cloverbud participants (4-H'ers 5–7 years old as of January 1, 2027), active 4-H members attending school and/or residing in Martin County, or members who have completed an NC 4-H County Change of Intent Form, are eligible to compete. Cloverbud participants will be allowed to show in the "Cloverbud Showmanship Class" in each designated species category and are allowed to show their animals in the "Cloverbud Character Contest." Cloverbuds are required to turn in a project record book, will be awarded a ribbon, and are permitted to sell their animals during the auction sale.

3. **Code of Conduct:** Exhibitors found cheating, misrepresenting, participating in fraud or deception, or acting in an unsportsmanlike manner shall be disqualified and potentially barred from future competitions.

4. **Record Books & Thank You Letters:** ALL 4-H exhibitors must have their project record books up to date on entries. Completed record books may be submitted starting May 3, 2027, with a final deadline of **June 30, 2027**. Along with turning in a completed record book, each exhibitor is required to submit an addressed and stamped "thank you" letter to the buyer of their animal. This letter will be mailed by the Martin County Cooperative Extension staff. Additional thank you letters may be required; participants will be notified of all recipients following the Livestock Show and Sale.

5. **Auction Checks:** Checks for the sale **WILL NOT** be issued to 4-H'ers unless a completed project record book and all required thank you letters have been turned in. Any 4-H'er who has not turned in their record book and thank you letters by June 30, 2027 forfeits their check. Forfeited checks will return to the livestock fund.

6. **Family Participation:** Each family is expected to participate in the set-up, clean-up, or concession stand shifts for the Martin County 4-H Livestock Show & Sale. **Any family not represented at set-up, clean-up, or 2 concession stand shifts will be expected to pay a $50 fee. This fee must be paid before an auction check will be released.**

7. **Inspection:** All livestock to be exhibited must be inspected by Martin County Extension staff, who will certify that entries will make a credible showing.

8. **Premises Requirement:** All livestock to be exhibited must be housed on the participant's farm or premises at least 60 days prior to show day.

9. **Judges' Decisions:** All decisions made by the judge on show day are final.

10. **Sales Commission:** A 5% commission will be charged on all animal sales. Funds collected will be used for event publicity and prizes.

11. **Project Completion:** A participant must complete one livestock project (including submitting a completed record book) before beginning another. Any 4-H'er who forfeits their check is still required to submit a record book in order to compete in future Martin County 4-H Livestock Shows.

12. **Unaddressed Matters:** Any circumstance not specifically covered by these rules will be evaluated and addressed by the Martin County Cooperative Extension Staff and the Livestock Steering Committee.

13. **Animal Fitness & Conduct:** Any animal deemed unruly or unfit for show by the Martin County Cooperative Extension Staff will be asked to leave the ring and barred from the show.

14. **Animal Limits:** Youth may exhibit up to two (2) animals total. This may consist of one animal across two different species or two animals of the same species. **Only one (1) animal will be allowed to sell at the auction, unless one or both animals earn Grand Champion and/or Reserve Champion titles.**

15. **Exhibitor Dress Code:** Sandals, flip-flops, tennis shoes, rubber boots, t-shirts, spaghetti-strap shirts, shorts, torn or ripped clothing, ball caps, sagging pants, and "belly" shirts are strictly prohibited during the show. Appropriate attire for show day and sale includes a button-down shirt or polo collared shirt, khaki or dark pants/jeans (blue or black, without tears or rips), belt, and cowboy or leather boots.

16. **Fitting Rules:** No professional fitters are allowed to fit animals on show day. Violation of this rule exposes the participant to disqualification and exclusion from future competitions.

17. **Record Book Judging:** Official 4-H Project Record Books will be judged on accuracy, neatness, and completeness. Ribbons will be awarded, and winning record books will be submitted to the State 4-H Project Book Awards Competition. This does not apply to livestock record books, only the official 4-H Project Record Books.

MARKET HOGS

1. Exhibitors may exhibit 2 species (e.g., 1 hog, 1 goat) or 2 animals of the same species. Each exhibitor is allowed to tag-in and show a maximum of 2 animals.

2. Crossbred or purebred barrows or gilts may be exhibited.

3. Hogs must be on the farm or premises by January 31, 2027.

4. **Notification of Loss:** Martin County Cooperative Extension Staff must be notified IMMEDIATELY if a hog dies. Replacement hogs must be approved by the Livestock Steering Committee and Martin County Cooperative Extension Staff.

5. **Check-in:** Hogs must be delivered to the Senator Bob Martin Agricultural Center between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM the day before the show.

6. **Weight Classes:** Hogs will be shown according to ending weight and broken into weight classes as needed during weigh-in the day before the show.

7. **Fitting:** No professional fitters are allowed on show day. Violators risk being barred from the show and future events.

8. **Hair Length:** Hogs must have at least 1/2 inch of hair. Hogs clipped shorter than 1/2 inch will be disqualified from market classes (though exhibitors may still participate in showmanship). No clipping is permitted after check-in.

9. **Champion Selection:** The 1st place animal from each class will return for the Grand Champion Drive. After the Grand Champion is selected, the 2nd place animal from the class from which the Grand Champion emerged will join the remaining 1st place animals to select the Reserve Champion.

10. **Weight Requirements:** All hogs must meet the minimum weight requirement of 180 pounds. Entries failing to meet this weight cannot compete in individual market classes, but may participate in showmanship classes and the auction sale. *(Note: Weight minimums do not apply to Cloverbud participants.)*

11. **Auction Rules:** Exhibitors may sell ONE hog at auction; the second hog will be sold at support price. If an exhibitor wins both Grand and/or Reserve Champion, both animals will be sold in the auction. Sale order (other than Grand and Reserve Champions) is determined at random.

12. **Removal:** Hogs entered in the show MUST leave show grounds with the 4-H participant or go to slaughter viatransportation arranged by Extension staff.

Market Hog Class Premiums & Showmanship Awards

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
$50	$45	$40	$35	$30

- **Grand Champion & Reserve Champion Market Hogs will each receive an award.**
- **Junior Showmanship (Ages 8–13): 1st ($50 & Belt Buckle), 2nd ($45 & Award), 3rd ($40), 4th ($35), 5th ($30)**
- **Senior Showmanship (Ages 14–18): 1st ($50 & Belt Buckle), 2nd ($45 & Award), 3rd ($40), 4th ($35), 5th ($30)**

MARKET LAMBS

1. Exhibitors may exhibit 2 species or 2 animals of the same species (maximum 2 animals tagged-in and shown).

2. Lambs may be wethers or ewes. Rams are strictly prohibited.

3. Lambs must be on the farm or premises by January 31, 2027. Extension staff must be notified IMMEDIATELY if a lamb dies. Replacement lambs must be approved by the Livestock Steering Committee and Martin County Cooperative Extension Staff.

4. **Check-in:** Lambs must be brought to the Senator Bob Martin Agricultural Center between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM the day before the show. Lambs will not be accepted on show day.

5. **Shorn & Mouthing:** All lambs must be shorn prior to the show. Lambs will be mouthed at check-in. Lambs showing permanent tooth growth, are ineligible for market classes but may participate in showmanship and sale. Pregnant or lactating lambs will not be allowed to participate.

6. **Fitting & Showing:** No professional fitters on show day. Lambs will be shown according to end weight (broken into classes at weigh-in) and may be shown with or without a halter.

7. **Champion Selection:** The 1st place animal from each class will return for the Grand Champion Drive. After the Grand Champion is selected, the 2nd place animal from the class from which the Grand Champion emerged will join the remaining 1st place animals to select the Reserve Champion.

8. **Weight Limits:** Lambs must weigh between 60 pounds and 145 pounds. Entries outside this range cannot compete in individual classes and may be sold at non-support prices, but may participate in showmanship and auction. *(Does not apply to Cloverbuds.)*

9. **Auction & Removal:** Exhibitors may sell ONE lamb at auction (unless winning both Grand & Reserve Champion). Sale order is random. Lambs must leave with the participant, go to slaughter, or be picked up by a third- party buyer that is pre-selected by the Martin County Cooperative Extension Staff.

Market Lamb Class Premiums & Showmanship Awards

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
$50	$45	$40	$35	$30

- **Grand Champion & Reserve Champion Market Lambs will each receive an award.**
- **Junior Showmanship (Ages 8–13): 1st ($50 & Belt Buckle), 2nd ($45 & Award), 3rd ($40), 4th ($35), 5th ($30)**
- **Senior Showmanship (Ages 14–18): 1st ($50 & Belt Buckle), 2nd ($45 & Award), 3rd ($40), 4th ($35), 5th ($30)**

MARKET GOATS

1. Exhibitors may exhibit 2 species or 2 animals of the same species (maximum 2 animals tagged-in and shown).

2. Goats may be wethers or does. Bucks are strictly prohibited.

3. Goats must be on the farm or premises by January 31, 2027. Extension staff must be notified IMMEDIATELY in the event of animal death. Replacement goats must be approved by the Livestock Steering Committee and Martin County Cooperative Extension Staff.

4. **Check-in:** Goats must be brought to the Senator Bob Martin Agricultural Center between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM the day before the show. Goats will not be accepted on show day.

5. **Mouthing & Condition:** Goats will be mouthed at check-in. Goats with permanent tooth growth, or those that are pregnant/lactating, are ineligible for market classes but may participate in showmanship and sale.

6. **Fitting & Showing:** No professional fitters on show day. Goats will be shown by weight class with a collar, chain, or halter.

7. **Champion Selection:** The 1st place animal from each class will return for the Grand Champion Drive. After the Grand Champion is selected, the 2nd place animal from the class from which the Grand Champion emerged will join the remaining 1st place animals to select the Reserve Champion.

8. **Weight Limits:** Goats must weigh between 30 pounds and 120 pounds. Entries outside this range cannot compete in individual classes and may be sold at non-support prices, but may participate in showmanship and auction. *(Does not apply to Cloverbuds.)*

9. **Auction & Removal:** Exhibitors may sell ONE goat at auction (unless winning both Grand & Reserve Champion). Sale order is determined at random. Goats must leave with the participant, go to slaughter, or be picked up by a third-party buyer that is pre-selected by the Martin County Cooperative Extension staff.

Market Goat Class Premiums & Showmanship Awards

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
$50	$45	$40	$35	$30

- **Grand Champion & Reserve Champion Meat Goats will each receive an award.**
- **Junior Showmanship (Ages 8–13): 1st ($50 & Belt Buckle), 2nd ($45 & Award), 3rd ($40), 4th ($35), 5th ($30)**
- **Senior Showmanship (Ages 14–18): 1st ($50 & Belt Buckle), 2nd ($45 & Award), 3rd ($40), 4th ($35), 5th ($30)**

N.C. Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity institution and prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics; sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, and pregnancy or related conditions; age; disability; genetic information; religion; veteran's status or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT & SIGNATURES

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have carefully read, understand, and agree to abide by all rules and regulations set forth in the 2027 Martin County 4-H Youth Livestock Show & Sale guidelines.

We understand and acknowledge the following specific commitments:

- **Code of Conduct & Dress Code:** The exhibitor will maintain sportsmanship and adhere to all dress code requirements during the show and sale.
- **Record Books & Thank You Letters:** Completed project record books and buyer thank you letters must be submitted by June 30, 2027, to receive auction proceeds and remain eligible for future shows.
- **Family Participation Requirement:** Our family agrees to complete required set-up, clean-up, or two concession stand shifts, or pay the $50 fee before auction checks are released.
- **Premises & Inspection:** Animals must be housed on our farm/premises at least 60 days prior to show day and pass inspections by Extension staff.

4-H Youth Participant

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Age (as of January 1, 2027): _____

Parent or Legal Guardian

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____