

Deciding what to show at County Fair

Freestone County 4-H

Erin Davis

Market Animal Options

- Market Lamb
- Market Goat
- Market Swine
- Broilers
- Market Rabbits

Market Lamb

- Can be either a female (ewe) or a
- castrated male (wether)
- Cost \$500 +/-
- Minimum weight at fair 70lbs
- Should be 6+ months old at county fair (November born would be ideal)
- Breed: Suffolk, Hampshire or a cross between the two
- Not many breeders close to Freestone County
- Must tag in April 1st 7-9am at Fairgrounds
- 20 make the sale Last year there were 31



Market lamb supplies needed

- Clip on feeder
- Water bucket
- Halter



- Pen size (20 square feet per lamb) should be at least 42 inches tall, so they don't jump out and have a covering or shade
- Exercise area for walking/running

Market Goat

- Can either be a female (doe) or a castrated male (wether)
- Cost \$600 +/-
- Minimum weight at fair 55lbs
- Should be 5-6 months old at county fair (December or January born) No older than October Born
- Breed: Boer
- Many breeders located close to Freestone County
- Must tag in April 1st 7-9am at Fairgrounds
- 30 make the sale last year there were 44



Market goat supplies needed

- Clip on feeder
- Water bucket
- Halter
- Show chain



- Pen size (15 square feet per goat) should be predator proof and at least 42 inches tall, so they don't jump out and have a covering or shade
- Exercise area for walking/running

Market Swine



- Can either be a female (gilt) or a castrated male (barrow)
- Cost: \$450 +/-
- Minimum weight 220 lbs, maximum weight 295 lbs
- Should be no older than mid October born (November born is ideal)
- Breed: Hampshire, Yorkshire, Crossbred
- Would require some travel to locate
- Must tag in April 1st 7-9am at Fairgrounds
- 35 make the sale last year there were 61

Market swine supplies needed

- Clip on feeder
- Automatic waterer
- Show stick



- Pen size (30 sq feet per pig), should be covered, should have both concrete and dirt if you can

- Larger pen for exercise and showmanship

Practice



Broilers

- Everyone must order from the Fair (more details on this will come later)
 - Provided by Texas A&M Poultry Department
- Cost per pen (25) is around \$44
- Can order as many pens as you'd like
- Can only show 3 at county fair
- *Must be diligent with feeding and water and temperature control*
- Receive chickens last week of April (have them for 6 weeks)
- 10 make the sale last year there were 15



Broiler supplies needed

- Temperature controlled environment
*Very Important



- Automatic feeder
- Automatic waterer
- Cage for transportation
- Portable scale (optional)-to manage weight gain and feed conversion
- No validation necessary, pens based on wing band numbers at pick up

Market Rabbits



- List of breeders available
- Cost \$20 +/- per rabbit
- Need to contact breeder in February so they can breed for our Fair
- Show best 3 at fair, but need to purchase at least 5
- Each rabbit must weigh between 3 to 5.5lbs
- Breed: Must be a market breed; Californian, New Zealand
- Validation dates will posted at a later date (Mid May)
- 10 make the sale last year there were 32

Market Rabbit supplies needed



- Cage for all or separate cages for each rabbit
- Automatic waterer
- Feeder
- Fan and/or Air conditioner
- Temperature controlled environment *very important*
- Portable scale with ounces (to check weight)



Breeding Animals

- All Breeding sheep, swine and goats must be validated. At the same time as market animals April 1st 7-9am at Fairgrounds Any female: sheep, goat or swine can be shown in both the Breeding show and the Market show
- No Breeding rabbit show—NEW: Single Fryer Show (best single market rabbit that is not part of your pen of 3)
- No breeding chicken show
- No Halter horse show
- Heifers: Can be registered or non-registered to show at county fair, Must own by April 1st.

Project Clinics & important dates

- Freestone County Classic Steer & Heifer Show-May 20th at the Fairgrounds in Fairfield
- Swine Clinic: TBD
- Sheep/Goat Clinic: April 2nd 4pm at the Fairgrounds (Will count as the Fairfield 4-H meeting on this date)
- Check 4-H minute for updates
- Contact Erin at 903-389-3436 if you need help finding a project
- Erin will conduct Project visits prior to county fair-sign up for help!
- Lots of Handouts and resources available
- Will be posting weekly Livestock project resources via Remind

Fair Information

- Can be found at: <https://www.fcfar.org/>
 - Fair Entry information will be coming out soon!
 - Updated rule book will be coming out soon!
 - Market & breeding sheep, goat, swine tag in April 1st 7-9am at Fairgrounds
 - Order Broilers in March (be on the lookout for date)
 - Rabbit Validation will be Mid May (be on the lookout for the exact date)
 - All entry fees for breeding and market entries are \$25 per entry for 2023.
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- Any Questions?