



DATE: May 23, 2018
TO: Potential Youth Livestock Exhibitors at 2018 State Fair of Virginia
FROM: Scott Greiner, Extension Specialist

Plans are taking shape for the state youth livestock shows at the State Fair of Virginia in Doswell this fall and we hope that you will plan to join us! This letter contains important information and updates on fair rules and policies, as well as details of the nomination schedule for market lambs/commercial ewes, market goats/commercial does, and market beef/commercial heifers, and swine. Please share this information with any new exhibitors, particularly those in your club or county. More information pertaining to the fair can be found on the Youth Livestock web site at www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock or at the State Fair website (www.statefairva.org).

Updates for 2018

- 1) Dates: – All beef, sheep, swine and meat goats will show October 5 – 7, 2018; the second weekend of the State Fair. Note there have been a few changes to the show schedule, please see enclosed draft.
- 2) All market lambs/commercial ewes, market goats/commercial does, and market beef/commercial heifers must be nominated using the mid-late June nomination sites. All swine must be nominated using the process that is outlined in the enclosed informational letter entitled “State Fair of Virginia Hog Nomination Requirements”.
- 3) **Show Rules/Policy Updates (please see Rules posted online for complete details):**
 - a) Schedule- see enclosed schedule for significant changes that have been made.
 - b) Swine- A division for purebred market hogs (barrows or gilts) is being added (any registered breed). The market hog show will not be terminal this year (sending swine to slaughter will be an option, exhibitors required to designate sale animals at the fair). Breeding gilt classes (commercial and registered) will be offered, and market barrows and gilts will show separately. Exhibitors must designate market vs. breeding gilts at nomination.
 - c) All commercial heifers must be nominated using the mid to late June nomination sites. Similar to 2017, the beef department will host a Prospect Division. This division is open to prospect steers and prospect heifers (to include both breeding and market heifers). Steers and heifers will be shown separately. Prospect breeding heifers and prospect market heifers will be shown together. A maximum weight limit is set for this division and an animal exceeding this weight will be disqualified from the show. Exhibitors not wanting to nominate heifer may show in the prospect division provided they meet the weight and age guidelines. These heifers will not be eligible for the heifer supreme champion scholarship.
 - d) Registered heifers must be owned and registered in a single youth’s name who plans to show the animal.
No joint ownership or farm names will be allowed.
- 4) Entries: All entries for State Fair must be submitted online; entry information will be available in July at www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock. All beef, sheep, swine and meat goats will be required to be entered by August 15th!
- 5) Complete details of the show schedules, judges, policies and rules for each species will be posted at the youth livestock homepage (www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock). Please check this site for important changes and updates!

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Invent the Future

Swine Nominations & Show

All swine (market and breeding) must be nominated and identified using the instructions provided in the enclosed “State Fair of Virginia Hog Nomination Requirement” information letter. Designation of market vs. breeding gilts will be required at nomination. Identification and nomination must be completed and submitted by August 1, 2018 to be eligible for exhibition at the State Fair of Virginia (tags need to be requested not later than July 15).

Market Lamb/Commercial Ewe, Market Goat/Commercial Doe, and Market Beef/Commercial Heifer Nominations (see enclosed schedule)

Market lambs, commercial ewes, market goats, commercial does, market beef (steers and heifers) and all commercial heifers must be nominated and identified at an official site by July 1, 2018 to be eligible for exhibition at the State Fair of Virginia. All commercial heifers born September 1, 2016 to April 30, 2018 must be nominated at the mid-late June nomination site. Prospect heifers (both breeding and market heifers) born after January 1, 2018 are not required to be nominated. All prospect steers are NOT required to be nominated. Any prospect heifer not nominated will be ineligible for the supreme breeding heifer scholarships. All exhibitors are still eligible for the premier exhibitor scholarships.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. I hope you have a great summer!

Enclosure