

2024 Goat, Swine and Lamb MQP Information

Entries for the 2024 Fairfield County Jr. Fair Goat, Swine, and Lamb MQP programs will be accepted beginning March 1. Again this year all MQP entries will be accepted on-line.

To be considered for a spot in any of these programs, a completed application must be received on-line by the end of day on April 15, 2024. As in the past, the Swine and Lamb MQP applications will also include submitting an essay.

New this year is that gilts may be entered into MQP in addition to barrows. Returning last year to the scoring for Swine MQP was a performance component that requires the pigs be weighed at the beginning of the contest. Pigs will be harvested and processed at Bay Packing in Fairfield County at the conclusion. In order to accommodate such a large harvest and process the pork in a timely fashion, participants or those who have purchased the freezer pork from the participants, must agree to pick up their fresh/frozen pork prior to the Fair at a time to be announced. Cured product, such as bacon or ham, will be available for pick-up at a time yet to be determined after the fair.

Lambs will also be harvested at Bay Packing. Likewise with the freezer pork, in order to be able to accommodate such a large harvest and process the lamb in a timely fashion, participants or those who have purchased the freezer lamb from the participants must agree to pick up their fresh/frozen lamb prior to the Fair at a time yet to be announced.

The Goat MQP program will conclude with harvest at Bay Packing in late August. Similar to the swine and lamp programs, the processed goats must be picked up at Bay Packing in a timely fashion after processing is complete.

The application process being required that includes an essay for the Swine and Lamb MQP projects is intended to allow the Show Committees the opportunity to clearly communicate in a timely fashion to participants where they rank on the participant list. The subjective and age-appropriate evaluation of the Swine and Lamp MQP essays by several 'judges' will serve as the basis for that ranking that will be completed and announced as soon as possible after the application portal closes on April 15, 2024. This year, Goat MQP participants are not asked for an essay.

The Fairfield County's Swine, Lamb, and Goat MQP programs will operate under the following guidelines:

1. Applications for the 2024 Swine, Lamb, Goat MQP program must be received through the on-line portal by the end of the day on April 15, 2024. The online application links are available on the Fairfield County OSU Extension website under livestock forms at go.osu.edu/mqp.
2. When submitting the swine and lamb applications, an essay, not to exceed 300 words, must be uploaded through the portal. This year, Goat MQP participants are not being asked for an essay. The title of the swine and lamb essays may be either, "***Why I want to participate in a livestock project that's focused on efficiently producing high quality pork/lamb that meets the consumer's demand***" or "***What I have learned by participating in a livestock project that's focused on efficiently producing high quality pork/lamb that meets the consumer's demand***"

3. The essays will be scored and ranked by an independent panel of judges. Only the author's age, **not** their name, will be revealed to the judges. Swine and lamb applicants will receive notice as soon as possible after April 15 of their ranking on the participants list. It's intended that up to 25 Goat MQP applicants that apply will be accepted into the program on a first come first served basis.
4. If a participant must withdraw from the program, he/she must agree to notify the OSU Extension office immediately in order that participants that may be ranked below them may be moved up on the list.
5. MQP goats must be in the exhibitor's possession by May 18, 2024 and will be weighed/tagged in at the Fairgrounds between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. on May 18, 2024. The **live MQP goats** must be delivered to the Fairgrounds for the conclusion on **Sunday, August 25**, at a time yet to be determined.
6. MQP pigs must be in the exhibitor's possession by June 29, and tagged and weighed at the Fairgrounds at a time in the morning yet to be announced on June 29, 2024. The **live MQP pigs** must be delivered to the Fairgrounds for the conclusion on **Sunday, September 8**, between 1 and 2 p.m.
7. MQP lambs must be brought to the Fairgrounds for tag confirmation and weighing on June 29, and the **live MQP lambs** must be delivered to the Fairgrounds for the conclusion on **Sunday, September 1**, between 12:30 and 1 p.m.
8. Freezer goat, pork lamb cutting/processing sheets must be submitted when the animals are delivered to the Fairgrounds for the conclusion of their respective contest. These sheets will be made available to exhibitors in advance.
9. Immediately following delivery on their respective dates and following any live evaluations that may occur, the Show Committees will transport the animals to Bay Packing for harvest on the following morning.
10. Carcass data for each contest will be collected at Bay's and the scoring of the contests will be conducted under the direction of OSU specialists or their designees.
11. The fresh frozen freezer goat, pork and lamb must be picked up at times to be determined. The fresh pork cuts will likely be available prior to the Fair and smoked/cured pork product will be available after the Fair.
12. A concluding educational program where the placings will be announced will be scheduled at times and places yet to be determined.

We are privileged to have a local packing house such as Bay Packing who is willing and able to help facilitate the Fairfield County MQP programs by harvesting and processing up to 30 pigs and 25 goats and lambs. We also appreciate the effort of faculty and students in the OSU Animal Science Department who are willing to help score and facilitate this unique program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the OSU Extension office, Goat MQP Superintendent Nathan Crook or Lisa Ruff, Swine MQP Show Superintendent Sean Malone, or Lamb MQP Show Superintendent Kris Doyle.

Applications can be found on the Fairfield County website under Livestock Information and Resources:

go.osu.edu/mqp