

4-H Premium Livestock Ribbon Auction

Participating in the 4-H Premium Livestock ribbon auction can be daunting for new members and families. Over 30 years of tradition has been built into our local 4-H auction. Originally designed as a way for 4-H members to sell their animals to local buyers, the auction has seen many changes over the years. As the auction has changed many times, it has stayed true to its core values. The auction is a ribbon only auction, meaning the ribbon – blue, red, or white – is sold, **NOT** the animal.

The purpose of the premium ribbon auction is to:

- Encourage growth of the entire county 4-H program
- Encourage 4-H livestock project participation
- Maintain livestock members in the county
- Provide training in the livestock marketing
- Encourage improved livestock quality
- Provide livestock scholarship funds to youth who have shown livestock for more than 3 years
- Acquaint the public with 4-H livestock projects

ELIGIBILITY

The Premium Livestock Ribbon Auction is open to:

1. All regularly enrolled 4-H members that have **completed 3rd grade and up** in a live animal science project – Beef, Dairy, Goat, Horse, Llama, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, or Swine – who have received a blue, red, or white ribbon during their respective shows. **ONLY ONE LOT PER EXHIBITOR**
2. All animals going through the auction **MUST** be properly identified according to the MN 4-H guidelines

SUPPORT THE 4-H PROGRAM

It is a statewide mandate that 20% of all auction proceeds be retained for the local Lac qui Parle County 4-H program. The 20% earned at the auction stays with LqP County 4-H and is used to help with programs such as Project Bowl, LQA&E, youth leadership opportunities, livestock scholarships, animal science workshops, state fair registration fees and more.

EXPECTATIONS

4-H members participating in the auction are expected to:

1. **Sign up for the auction** no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday (1st day of the fair) during weigh-in or the 4-H office (after weigh-in is complete) and what species ribbon you want to sell.
2. **Prepare yourself and your animal for the auction.** Take the auction as seriously as you would the show. You should wear neat attire, similar to your show clothes. Animals should be clean and presentable. The most important thing to wear is a smile 😊
3. **Be on time!** The auction begins at 4 p.m. on the Saturday of the fair in the Gehant Arena. The auction will go on without you. It's a great idea to be there a half hour before to prepare. YOU are responsible for being at the arena with your animal ready when it's your turn. The livestock volunteers are in the barns to assist BUT not to get you ready.
4. **Thank your auction ribbon buyer.** Don't rush off after the auction is over. Personally go up to the person who bought your ribbon after the auction and give them a handshake, smile, and BIG thank you! You will also get a buyer sign to put up in your pen and a thank you card to be written by you and mailed in a timely manner to the buyer – you can never give enough thank yous! Bidders donate a large sum of money to help you and 4-H so they deserve a nice written thank you!
5. **What to take into the ring** – The 4-Her, the one animal and one ribbon – blue, red, or white. No trophies or champion ribbons should be brought into the ring.