



2009
HOWARD COUNTY FAIR
4-H RATE-OF-GAIN REQUIREMENTS
Market Lambs, Beef Steers, Market Swine, Market Goats

It is important for 4-H'ers to realize that the goals of 4-H market projects are to provide high quality meat for consumers. There are many factors that influence this including feed, housing, health care, and animal selection. For several years we have had market lambs, pigs and steers that gained virtually nothing from weigh-in to the Howard County Fair. This is not good for the consumer who purchases the animal or for the impact it has on the 4-H program.

Howard County Fair **market lambs, steers, pigs and goats** must meet a minimum rate-of - gain from the initial weigh-in/tag day to the weigh-in for county fair to **SHOW** at the Howard County Fair.

BEEF STEERS - 2.0 POUNDS PER DAY

From weigh-in 1/10/09 to 8/9/09 - 234 days (468.0 lbs.)

MARKET LAMBS - .40 POUNDS PER DAY (25.6 lbs.)

From weigh-in 6/6/09 to 8/8/09 - 64 days

MARKET PIGS - 1.50 POUNDS PER DAY (97.5 lbs.)

From weigh-in - 6/6/09 to 8/9/09 - 65 days

MARKET GOATS - .20 POUNDS PER DAY (12.8 lbs.)

From weigh-in - 6/6/09 to 8/8/09 - 64 days

To calculate this, you subtract your beginning weight from your ending weight and divide by the number of days.

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

1. You must meet the minimum rate-of-gain on the animal to show the animal in market classes.
2. Animals not meeting Rate-of Gain requirements **may only show in Showmanship**. If they show in Showmanship they cannot go home on Sunday (weigh-in day).
3. Market animals not meeting the rate-of-gain requirements may go home immediately on Saturday or Sunday (weigh-in day) or may stay to the end of the week if it makes caring for them easier.
4. Animals not meeting the minimum rate-of-gain cannot be sold in the livestock sale.

Maryland Cooperative Extension 4-H programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.