

What is the Junior Livestock Auction?

Each August, during the Clark County Fair, kids in 4-H and FFA Market Animal Programs take one final opportunity to show off their animals as they enter the auction ring. The culmination of a year's worth of hard work, these market animals embody a wide variety of lessons learned.

The kids in 4-H and FFA who have cared for the animals have a deep personal understanding of how many resources and how much effort goes into raising them. They also know that they are living creatures who are now on their way to folk's dinner tables.

The auction starts at 11:00 a.m. on the second Saturday in August, at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Ridgefield, Washington. With amusement rides whirling in the background, the youth bring their sheep, goats, beef, rabbits, poultry and pigs into the arena one by one. The audience, composed of local farmers, politicians, business owners, youth families, and other happy fair-goers, sits at the ready with their bidder numbers and check books.

After the bidding is done, the animals will return to their stalls to spend a final day in the barns, and will be taken to the meat processor on Sunday. Once they have been slaughtered, packages of locally grown, natural beef, sheep, pork, rabbit, poultry and goat will be picked up by those high bidders from the Saturday auction.

Obviously, this is a very intense project. It is also perhaps one of the most powerful ones we have in our current 4-H and FFA Programs. Unlike many, these kids know exactly where their hamburger comes from. They understand why things like mad cow disease and hoof and mouth cause panic. They know that farmers and ranchers are working extremely hard, under intense financial pressures, to keep food on our tables. And they accept that there are standards of behavior that are non-negotiable when dealing with living creatures and our environment - that raising livestock is not just about the bottom line, but is also about quality of life for all elements involved.

We feel this project touches on the idea of community, healthy youth development, rural life, food security, locally raised meat, healthy lifestyles, agricultural and environmental sustainability, and of course, down home fun at the auction. Can we interest you in meeting us at the Fair?

For more information on how to participate as a bidder you may contact Roxanne Martin at (360) 518-3068.

Our Junior Livestock Auction is set for the second Saturday in August at 11:00 a.m. at the Clark County Fairgrounds. This year we'll have goats, pigs, sheep, rabbits, poultry and beef in the auction ring. Here is your chance to buy naturally, humanely, locally grown meats for your freezer! Proceeds from the sale go directly to the youth who have raised the animal through the Market Animal Project.



**Local Youth
Quality Livestock**

