

## What is a Steer Pool?

- x A Steer Pool is a great way for interested participants to experience the market steer project. Participants will purchase their steer from a pool of uniform steers and complete the market steer project in 4-H or FFA. Periodic check-ins and resources will be provided to ensure participants are on the right track and have an opportunity to succeed.

## How does the Steer Pool work?

- Participants can attend an informational meeting on August 23 to learn about the program and have the chance to ask questions. A representative from Farm Credit Mid-America will be there to discuss financing options for those interested.
- Interested participants will then complete a registration form **by September 1, 2022** to hold their spot in the program.
- Denny Ruff with Muskingum Livestock will source a uniform group of steers in early fall based on the number of interested participants.
- Participants will meet in mid-late October to select their project animal. Participants will be put in a randomized order and will be given a few minutes to view the steers and make their selection. At this time, the steers will be paid for upfront or short-term financing will be available from Farm Credit Mid-America.
- Steers will be tagged & weighed on selection day. This begins the Market Steer Project.
- Participants will complete the market steer project by: 1) Enrolling in the project through 4-H/FFA by April 1, 2023 completing the required record book, attending 4-H/FFA meetings and exhibiting at the Muskingum County Fair. Skillathon, Quality Assurance and Showmanship will all be highly recommended if not already required.
- Frequent check-ins and meetings will be held in order to support the participants, ensure they have access to resources and answer any questions they may have about the Market Steer Project.
- In order to keep things fair, Steer Pool participants will show against each other in a separate class/classes during the regular Market Steer Show. They will then sell based on placing order within the Market Steer Sale.

## Who is eligible to participate in the Steer Pool?

- Anyone who is eligible to participate in Muskingum County 4-H or FFA is eligible to participate in the Steer Pool Program. NO experience is required!

## What are the requirements for participating in the Steer Pool?

- Participant must be eligible to participate in Muskingum County 4-H or FFA
- Participant must have adequate facilities to house a market steer and understand the basics such as proper feeding, care & halter breaking. *(Recommended facilities include a 30-40 sq.ft. stall and a 400-600 sq.ft. exercise lot. Please refer to the Beef Resource Handbook for full recommendations.)*

- Participant must be willing to complete the market steer project in its entirety – this includes participating in regular check-in's/meetings, Skillathon, Quality Assurance, exhibiting and selling at the Muskingum County Fair etc.
- Participants must be willing to reach out with questions or if they need help with their project!

### **Is there a maximum number of participants?**

- At this time, there is no maximum number of participants for the steer pool. However, we are setting a minimum number of participants – if there are less than 5 interested participants then we will not hold the program this year.

### **How much will the steers cost?**

- Steers will be priced close to market price. We expect steers to cost **ROUGHLY** \$1,000. This price may be higher or lower, based on the weight of the steers and current market price.
- Participants will pay for their steers on selection day (mid/late October) or utilize short-term financing provided by Farm Credit.
- Other out-of-pocket costs for the project include: feed, hay, show supplies, etc.

### **Can I show/sell a Steer Pool Steer *and* a Market Steer?**

- No – the Steer Pool is the same as the Market Steer Project. Participants will sign up for the Market Steer Project through Muskingum County 4-H/FFA using their steer pool steer.
- *However, an exhibitor can register a steer pool market steer AND another market steer for purposes such as having a back-up steer or registering a steer for the state fair with the understanding that only **ONE** market steer can be shown/sold at the fair.*
- Please review the Junior Fair Market Steer & General Livestock Rules for current rules.

### **Who do I reach out to if I need help with my project?**

- If you have any questions during the project, please reach out to your 4-H club volunteer, FFA chapter advisor, or the steer pool committee (Allison Scott, Kelsey Ault, Trevor Tom or Jim Porter) and we will be happy to help!

### **Still have questions?**

- Feel free to contact the Steer Pool Committee:  
Allison Scott – 740-221-9990  
Kelsey Ault – 740-586-9955  
Trevor Tom – 740-221-7141  
Jim Porter – 740-819-9839
- Or email us at: [muskco.steerpool@gmail.com](mailto:muskco.steerpool@gmail.com)