

Department 18L
4-H Showmanship Sweepstakes
Karla Wittenbach, Superintendent
616.755.2704

The first place showmanship winners in the 4-H rabbit, cavy, poultry, dog, meat goat, dairy goat, cow, beef, swine, horse and sheep will be given an opportunity to compete in the Showmanship Sweepstakes contest. There will be 3 separate divisions based on age. The **Senior Division** will be ages **15 – 19**, the **Intermediate Division** will be ages **12 – 14**, and the **Junior Division** will be ages **9 – 11**. All ages will be determined by 4-H rules.

Basic Guidelines:

1. An exhibitor who wins their age division for sweepstakes may not compete again until they age into the next division. A participant may only win one time in each age division.
2. In the event a first place winner chooses not to, or is unable to compete, the second place winner in a species will become eligible. If the second place winner is unable to compete the third place winner becomes eligible, and so on until the spot is filled.
3. If an exhibitor qualifies for the sweepstakes in two different species then he/she must decide which species they will represent.
4. All decisions regarding sweepstakes participants must be made and reported to the Showmanship Sweepstakes Superintendent by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday of Fair week.
5. The exhibitor will show their own animal in the species they are representing. They are prohibited from showing their own animal in other species. This means if the exhibitor is representing the beef species but also shows dairy cattle, they cannot show their own dairy cattle in that rotation. They must show another dairy animal.
6. **A mandatory meeting will be held on Tuesday night of Fair week and all participants must attend or send a representative if they are unable to attend. If an exhibitor does not attend the meeting they will forfeit their spot in the sweepstakes competition. Leaders and Superintendents are responsible for telling the youth that qualify about this meeting.**
7. Exhibitors who arrive late for the sweepstakes contest will forfeit the points for that round. They may continue the competition if they wish.

Scoring Guidelines:

1. Each exhibitor will be scored on a basis of one (1) to twenty (20) for each species and their knowledge and showing ability of that species.
2. The exhibitor with the overall highest score in each division will be named the Grand Champion of Sweepstakes. The exhibitor with the second highest overall score in each division will be named the Reserve Grand Champion of sweepstakes.
3. In the event of an overall tie for the championship, there will be a run-off for those contestants that are tied. Exhibitors will answer questions supplied by the judges and/or species superintendents. The answers to those questions will determine the winner of the division.

In the event the Ionia Free Fair closes before the Sweepstakes contest occurs, then a separate contest will take place no later than three weeks later and will be a written test competition. No animals will be shown for this contest and the winner will be determined by their overall knowledge of the species on the written test.