



Youth Department 4-H & FFA

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General Rules and Requirements

Judging of all classes in premium books should be based entirely on the articles exhibited, in order to comply with MI Department of Agriculture Regulation #881.

1. ELIGIBILITY: Entries in Department 18 are open to all duly enrolled members in the Ionia County 4-H Program and FFA members from Ionia and Saranac school districts. 4-H Members, ages from 8 to 19, must be enrolled in 4-H by May 1 of the current year in order to exhibit in the 4-H Department. A member must be actively enrolled in the project in which they are exhibiting.
 2. CLOVERBUD 4-H:
 - a. Youth who are 5-7 years old (4-H age) are eligible to exhibit as "Cloverbud 4-H'ers".
 - b. All Cloverbuds must be enrolled in the Cloverbud project by May 1 of the current year to exhibit. Cloverbud 4-H members may exhibit in the designated Cloverbud class in each department.
 - c. The Ionia County 4-H Cloverbud Policy will apply. Registered members who are aged 5-7 years may exhibit, display, or show in any project area at the Ionia Free Fair in the 4-H Division but they may not compete. 5-7 year olds may take part in all special activities, including Kids Barn, the Cloverbud Ice Cream Social, etc.
 3. Online pre-entry forms are required for all exhibits and will be open on June 1st and due on or before June 25th.
 4. All exhibitors are expected to follow the rules of the division in which they are participating. Violations of the department rules will be evaluated on a case by case basis and may result in discipline including dismissal from the Fairgrounds and/or project area, etc.
 5. Judges decisions will be final.
 6. ACCIDENTS/LOSS: Neither the Ionia Fair Association nor the Ionia County MSU Extension Office will assume responsibility in case of accident or loss of any entry. Each exhibitor will assume all risks in exhibiting any projects at the Ionia Free Fair.
 7. All 4-H members will be expected to be responsible for the total care of their project while on the Ionia Free Fairgrounds.
 8. Each 4-H division must have a minimum of ten (10) participants
- pre-registered in order to hold the divisions' event. If the minimum participation is not met, the event will be cancelled, and the pre-registered participants will be notified the business day following the pre-registration date.
9. Exhibitors must wear appropriate clothing for the event they are participating in. If not dressed appropriately for the project area exhibitors will be asked to change their clothing.
 10. Premiums are no longer issued by the State of Michigan and premium checks will **NOT** be distributed in the county.

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Horse and Pony
Dairy Cattle
Dairy Feeder Steers
Beef Cattle
Sheep
Swine
Dairy Goats
Meat Goats
Poultry
Rabbits
Cavies
Dog Care and Training
Dog Freestyle and Rally
Showmanship Sweepstakes
Arts, Crafts, Hobbies, Photography, Needlework & Etc.
Foods and Nutrition
Horticulture & Floriculture

11. Members are expected to train and help with the care of their project animal(s) prior to fair. Members are responsible for the total care of their animal(s) while at the fairgrounds.
12. The club member taking the exhibit must show all livestock except by special permission from the superintendent.
13. All state sanitary and health regulations must be met.
14. All beef, dairy, and swine animals must be registered in the exhibitor's own name by May 1st or they will be classed as grade animals. All sheep must be registered by May 31st of the current year in the exhibitor's own name.
15. Grade animals will compete in the same class as registered animals. Animals not registered must conform to breed characteristics.
16. Animals of different ages and breeds will be judged separately, and awards given on the merits of the animals.
17. The exhibitor, as directed by the superintendent in charge, must keep all livestock and the area they occupy in order.
18. 4-H and FFA animal entries are due on or before June 25th in fairentury.com

19. Any dispute or complaint concerning a 4-H activity must be made to the 4-H Program Coordinator in writing within 48 hours of the incident. Verbal accusations will not be acted upon.
20. The Ionia County 4-H Program reserves the right to require any animal to be subject to examinations and/ or tests as prescribed to determine if a substance has been administered to an animal to alter its conformation and/or temperament. Administering of said substances will be considered fraud and deception. Should fraud and deception be discovered prior to final placing by the judge, the exhibit will be declared ineligible to show, and the exhibitor will be required to remove the exhibit from the fairgrounds. Should fraud and deception be discovered after an exhibit has been judged, the placing will be voided and the exhibitor required to remove the exhibit from the fairgrounds.
21. Showmanship classes for all Species will be as follows unless otherwise noted.
 - First year exhibitor**-- any age
 - Junior Showmanship**-- 8-11 by Jan. 1st of the current year.
 - Intermediate**-- 12-14 by Jan. 1st of current year.
 - Senior**-- 15-19 by Jan. 1st of current year.
22. First year showmanship participants can choose to show first year or show in their respective age category showmanship class. First year members are considered first year only when they have never showed that project before. If a 4-H member has shown the project in another county, they cannot be considered first year showing that same project in Ionia County.
23. **Project Education Components are due on weigh in day at 6:00 PM to your club leader.** Club leaders will turn in all submissions at the 4-H Headquarters at 7pm, that day.
24. Exhibitors must wear conservative clothing for show and sale. Possible attire includes a button-down shirt, clean with no holes, rips or tears in jeans, and leather shoes or boots (no gym shoes). If not dressed appropriately, the exhibitors will be asked to change their clothing.
25. Animals **MUST** be shown by Ionia County 4-H members in the 4- H shows. If a 4-H member has two animals in one weight class, they can choose another Ionia County 4-H member to show one of those animals. Youth that are not registered Ionia County 4-H members and parents cannot show the animals.
26. The Michigan Department of Agriculture Health Requirements for Livestock exhibited in Michigan will be followed or dismissal from the Fairgrounds will occur.

General Rules for Livestock Exhibitors

CATTLE (Beef and Dairy)

1. Cattle with clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease shall be removed from the fair, exhibition, exposition, or show or, by permission of the director, shall be isolated on the premises.
2. **All cattle moving to a show, sale, or exhibition are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.** Exhibitors may call Michigan Department of Agriculture 866-870-5136 to order RFID tags at a cost of \$2.00 per tag. For questions, please call the Ionia County MSU Extension office at: 616-527-5357.

GOATS

1. Goats with clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease shall be removed from the Fair, exhibition, exposition, or show or, by permission of the director, shall be isolated on the premises.
2. All goats moved within Michigan shall be identified with official USDA scrapie program identification prior to movement off the farm. Contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at 866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824) for ear tags.
3. Do not remove tags prior to weigh-in or showing. It is illegal to remove official USDA individual animal identification.

SHEEP

1. Sheep with clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease shall be removed from the fair, exhibition, exposition, or show or, by permission of the director, shall be isolated on the premises.
2. All sheep moved within Michigan shall be identified with official USDA scrapie program identification prior to movement off the farm. Contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at 866USDA-TAG (866-873-2824) for ear tags.
3. Do not remove tags prior to weigh-in or showing. It is illegal to remove official USDA individual animal identification.

SWINE

1. Swine with clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease shall be removed from the fair, exhibition, exposition, or show or, by permission of the director, shall be isolated on the premises.
2. All swine shall be uniquely identified with individual **ear tag** identification or other identification approved by MDA.
3. Swine shall not enter any Fair, exhibition, exposition, or show facility unless it can be demonstrated that the swine presented for exhibition or exposition meet at least **one of the following conditions**:
 - a. Originate as a direct movement from a swine premises located in a pseudo rabies Stage IV or higher area or region or other equivalent low prevalence area as recognized by the director,

OR

 - b. Originate directly from a pseudo rabies qualified-negative herd as defined in *Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations*,

which proof may consist of a copy of a valid certificate issued by the department stating that the herd meets the requirements for a pseudo rabies qualified-negative herd,

OR

- c. Unless the swine are piglets nursing a pseudo rabies negative sow, present an official swine test report that indicates the swine have been tested for pseudo rabies within 45 days before exhibition and have tested negative.
4. Swine that have remained on the grounds longer than 72 hours shall be moved directly to a livestock auction market or slaughter facility premises for disposition in accordance with applicable laws.

POULTRY (chickens, guinea fowl, turkeys, waterfowl, pigeons, doves, peafowl, and game birds)

1. Poultry with clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease shall be removed from the fair, exhibition, exposition, or show or, by permission of the director, shall be isolated on the premises.
 2. All poultry except waterfowl, pigeons, and doves shown at public exhibition in this state shall meet one or more of the following requirements:
 1. Originate directly from a U.S. pull rum-typhoid clean flock as defined in *Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations*, and all amendments to that publication thereafter adopted pursuant to rules that the director may promulgate,
- OR
2. Have a negative official test for salmonella pull rum-typhoid within 90 days before the fair, exhibition, exposition, or show facility and remain segregated from all poultry of unknown or positive salmonella pull rum-typhoid test status.
 3. Individual birds originating from non-National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) qualified flocks may be tested at the show or exhibition prior to being caged and housed with other poultry and if negative, be allowed to participate in the show or exhibition.
 4. Documentation of birds originating from a certified NPIP flock must be presented at the show or exhibition (parent flock NPIP certification number, VS9-2, VS9-3, or Michigan Department of Agriculture state pull rum test certificate).

RABBITS & CAVY

1. Rabbits with clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease shall be removed from the Fair, exhibition, exposition, or show or, by permission of the director, shall be isolated on the premises.

HORSES

1. Horses with clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease shall be removed from the Fair, exhibition, exposition, or show or, by permission of the director, shall be isolated on the premises.