General Rules and Guidelines

GENERAL

THERE WILL BE NO PARKING INSIDE THE FAIRGROUNDS STARTING THE EVENING OF AUGUST 8TH THROUGH THE MORNING OF AUGUST 16TH. VEHICLES MUST BE OFF THE FAIRGROUNDS BY 9PM. ALL OTHER RULES AND GUIDELINES ARE EFFECTIVE SATURDAY AUGUST 8TH, 2026 AT 6PM.

Only entries from the five counties of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau will be accepted.

Animal registrations need to be submitted by July 1, 2026.
Non-Animal registrations need to be submitted by July 1, 2026.
There will be NO late registrations accepted. Payment for all entries must be submitted at the time of registration. NO ENTRY FEES WILL BE REFUNDED.

Exhibitors will be charged an entry fee of $1.00 for every classes entered. Exhibit tickets will be issued upon arrival. Special rules are given in each division. Please review department, section, and/or class rules for additional entry guidelines.

Every article or animal upon the fairgrounds will be under the control of the Executive Committee, and every precaution will be taken for their safekeeping but the association will not be responsible for any damage or loss that may occur, and upon this condition entries are received. No unregistered house hold pets will be allowed to be marketed on the fairgrounds.

Dogs camping on the fairgrounds must be kept on a leash no greater than 6 feet in length, under the immediate control of a responsible person and shall not be allowed to disturb any fairgrounds visitors or animals. DOGS MUST BE KEPT IN CAMP AREA OR DESIGNATED DOG AREAS AND BE KEPT ON A LEASH. Service dogs are allowed. The handler of any dog shall immediately remove all droppings and deposit in trash receptacle on fairgrounds.

Minors under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs will be reported to the Sheriff's Department and prohibited from returning to the fairgrounds. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council. Refer to Code of Conduct Policy in the 4-H section of this Premium Book.

Trailers, tents, RVs, and buses must acquire their parking spot from the Camp Host before parking.

General Rules and Guidelines

ALL CAMPER VEHICLES MUST BE PARKED IN NORTH CAMP PARKING LOT OR IN DESIGNATED SIDE LOTS. THERE IS NO PARKING IN PATRON PARKING LOT. Any vehicles NOT in designated areas will be towed at owner's expense.

The fairgrounds are private property operated by a private entity.

There will be no open carry of firearms or carrying of fixed blade knives permitted on grounds.

The fairgrounds are a drug free zone. There will be zero tolerance for the use of any illicit drug including recreational and medical marijuana. Any violator will be immediately removed from property.

Fighting will not be tolerated and can result in being removed from fairgrounds in addition to a one year ban.

NO BIKES ARE ALLOWED ON FAIRGROUNDS.
Kids wandering around after 11pm (curfew) will have consequences.

Violation #1: Escorted back to camp.
Violation #2: Parking lot clean up detail.
Violation #3: Parents and child will have a meeting with the Executive Fair and Executive Livestock Council Boards.

JUDGING
No animal or article deemed unworthy shall be awarded a premium. Where there is but one exhibitor in a class, the animal or article may be awarded any award the judge deems appropriate.

Exhibitors having questions regarding placing should check with the Division Superintendent as soon as the judging is completed.

No exhibitor, unless in the presence of the respective Superintendent, will discuss any placing with the respective judge.

APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS:
An exhibitor compelled to bring a complaint regarding conflict of interest of the judge, disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor; exhibitor or superintendent's behavior, or eligibility of an exhibit shall make formal protest in writing to a Fair Board Executive Committee Member no later than 10 days following the end of fair. All protests shall be referred to a special committee which shall review the protest with interested parties and give parties an opportunity to submit evidence.

General Rules and Guidelines

Protest reports shall be made to the fair board for final decision on the protest 14 days following date protest issuance. The party against whom the protest was filed shall have the right to read the statement of protest. Exhibitor may file appeal to the Department of Agriculture within 45 days of filing the initial complaint if the exhibitor is not satisfied with the association's action.

The Department of Agriculture shall have 60 days after receipt of any appropriately filed appeal to investigate the complaint, and shall issue a finding of fact and notice of department action and any recommended actions for the association.

Ribbons and rosettes will be awarded for all places as listed for each class, unless otherwise specified.

EXHIBITS: NON-ANIMAL
Non-livestock exhibits will be received Saturday, August 8, 2026 between 10am to 2pm. Evelyn Heim Building - 10am to 2pm. Tanner Building - 12pm to 6pm. Please check department rules for exceptions and other instructions.

In no case shall any article be brought upon the grounds and placed upon exhibition except by and at the expense of their authorized agent.

EXHIBITS: ANIMAL
Please refer to individual departments and sections for additional rules and guidelines.

Exhibitors aged 5-7 years old are required to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult in all show rings in order to participate in the class.

RFID tags are required for all Beef projects & Swine projects & (4-H identification tags are required for all market projects.) Scrapies tags are required for sheep and goats.

Animals will be received Saturday August 8th, 2026, 6:00am to 3:00pm (please refer to your species specific time and will remain on the grounds until Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 6:00am (poultry department refer to department rules). Animals will not be permitted to leave early without appropriate arrangements. Exhibitors will forfeit the premium awarded if animals are removed before times slated. Exercise, feeding, and cleaning times for animals shall be before 9:00am and between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. All barns will be closed by 10:00pm. All barns and animal pens must be ready for public viewing by 9:00am daily.

An accredited veterinarian shall be on-call during the fair. Any individual services and/or disbursement of medication provided by the veterinarian shall be the responsibility of the individual.

General Rules and Guidelines

Sawdust bedding will be furnished for all animals, with exception of fiber animals or waiver by veterinarian. Exhibitors are required to furnish all feed and supplies.

Stalls and pens will be provided for animals and assigned in the order of application. All beef and dairy animals will be secured by a neck tie, and secured by a nylon rope or chain to a secured pipe.

Hay nets/ hay bags will be allowed at the discretion of the barn superintendent. If it poses as a threat to the safety and wellbeing of the animal, the hay net/bag will be removed and returned to the owner. This applies to goats and horses.

Animals occupying stalls and pens must be appropriately entered in the judge's book of the section and shown in competition.

Due to Bio Security, there will be no animals allowed off the trailer until they are inspected by the Superintendent.

Any prescriptions written pertaining to care of, special treatment or use of equipment to feed or supply water to any animal on the fair grounds during the week of fair will be written on an individual basis. No group/family/farm prescriptions will be accepted, i.e. each horse, steer, chicken, etc will have its own individual prescription for care.

Copies of registrations, statement as to breeder, feeding and management of stock will be required from all exhibitors.

All exhibitors must be neat and cleanly dressed and must put the stalls, pens, and floors in a neat and tidy condition by 9:00am daily. Tack will be kept out of walkways. Infractions of these rules or other barn rules directed by the Superintendent in charge may result in dismissal of the exhibitor and their animal from the fairgrounds.

All Animals entered for exhibition must be placed in the department prior to 3:00pm on Saturday, and if not so placed, the owners will forfeit all rights to exhibit or compete for premiums unless relieved from such results or forfeiture by order of the Superintendent of the department in which they are entered.

4-H market animals to be sold in the auction must be weighed on assigned scales only. Market livestock exhibitors are prohibited from entering NWMI Fair if the exhibitor has entered any 4-H market animal at any other fair in this calendar year.

Any animal suspected of being on tranquilizers or other drugs may be subject to testing at the direction of three or more members of the NWMI Livestock Council and NWMI Fair Board.

General Rules and Guidelines

The NWMI Fair may perform livestock testing by an "at random" or "for cause" selection process by following these steps:

1. The initial complaints in writing must be received by the fair board detailing complainant's reason for requesting testing.

2. A written reply from the exhibit owner regarding their response to the complaint must also be received by the fair board.

3. The fair board will review the case and may, at their discretion, request a licensed veterinarian to collect a sample of urine, blood, tissue or other specimen for testing. If the fair board requests a sample be collected, it will be done within 12 hours of the complaint being received by the fair board.

The Northwestern Michigan Fair reserves the right to disqualify any animals, either alive or slaughtered, wherein the exhibitor/owner of the animal entered into competition refuses to allow the animal to be tested, or the drug test is positive for substances not approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture or the Michigan Department of Agriculture. This includes, but is not limited to diuretics, steroids, repartitioning agents, tranquilizers, and analgesics. Exhibitors will notify the fair veterinarian before administering any medications to any animal brought in for competition. The exhibitor will forfeit auction privileges, premiums, and awards. Other animals will not be moved up in placing.

Michigan Department of Agriculture 2026 Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited In Michigan

All livestock exhibitors must be in compliance with the animal health requirements as defined by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development.

Exhibitors may access requirements at:

https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-ACT-466-OF-1988

4-H DOG EXHIBITS

Animal Exhibits Registration Deadline:
JULY 1, 2026

4-H DOG EXHIBITS

DEPARTMENT 20 – 4-H DOGS

Species Chair – Gretchen Sauvage

DEPARTMENT RULES:

• Exhibitors can obtain a copy of Agility for 4-H Guide from your local 4-H office, the local 4-H website or the Northwest Michigan Livestock Council website.
• No females in season may show.
• Open to youth who belong to a 4-H group.
• All dogs to be exhibited at the Fair must be kept on a leash or crated. All leashes need to be 6 feet in length to show in obedience, made of leather or solid fabric. No chain leashes.
• Copies of DHLPP or DHPP and Rabies shot records need to be current for all dogs 6 months and older which must be given to the 4-H specie person prior to showing.
DEPARTMENT RULES CONTINUED:
• Members may only show in ONE obedience, showmanship, agility, and rally class. Member may use no more than 2 dogs. No two participants may show the same dog in obedience, showmanship, agility, or rally with the exception of Cloverbuds.

- • Any clothing which draws undue attention to one's self, or clothing that distracts other handlers, spectators, or judges, is unacceptable (Example: blue jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, halter tops, low cut blouses or sweaters or shorts). Shorts may be worn for agility and rally only and must be mid-thigh length- no exceptions. Skirts need to be knee length. Flat shoes such as tennis shoes should be worn. No sandals, boots, or high heels allowed. Long hair, should be tied back. No clothing with club name and/or personal identification will be allowed. Exhibitors not adhering to dress code will be asked to change or be disqualified.

• Dogs with aggressive behavior or lameness may be excused from showing. Dogs with a physical disability (ex. Loss of an eye or leg) will be allowed to show if a statement of fitness is provided from the veterinarian and should be sent with the vaccination records and registration.
• Cloverbud 4-H members, ages 5-7 years, will have their own class in showmanship, obedience, agility, and rally and they will participate non-competitively. They will not compete beyond these classes.
• Showmanship- First place winners in each class (except Cloverbud) will compete for Grand and Reserve Champion Showmanship. Grand and Reserve Rosettes.
• Rules not listed, the judge will adhere to 4-H and/or AKC rules for all events.

4-H DOG EXHIBITS

SECTION 1: 4-H DOG SHOWMANSHIP

• Species Chair reserves the right to split or combine classes as the numbers see fit.
• Exhibitors placed 1st – 6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.

1.Cloverbud Showmanship: Ages 5-7 Exhibitors receive cloverbud ribbons
2.Junior Showmanship Class A: Ages 8-11:
A-Division is for youth beginning or having one previous year of showmanship
3.Junior Showmanship Class B: Ages 8-11:
B-Division is for youth beginning their third or more years of showmanship experience in the venue.
4.Intermediate Showmanship Class A: Ages 12-15:
A-Division is for youth beginning or having one previous year of showmanship
5.Intermediate Showmanship Class B: Ages 12-15:
B-Division is for youth beginning their third or more years of showmanship experience in any venue.
6.Senior Showmanship Class A: Ages 16-19:
A-Division is for youth beginning or having one previous year of showmanship
7.Senior Showmanship Class B: Ages 16-19:
B-Division is for youth beginning their third or more years of showmanship experience in any venue
8.Platinum Level must have two years of showing experience and to have placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd three times with no less than 4 exhibitors in class.

SECTION 2: 4-H DOG OBEDIENCE

• Species Chair reserves the right to split or combine classes as the numbers see fit.
• Exhibitors placed 1st – 6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.
• "A" is for members and dogs that will be competing in their first year. "B" is for members who have competed in "A" previously, or a new handler with a dog who has competed in Obedience previously.
• Qualifying Score- comprised of scores of more that 50% of the available points in each exercise and a final score of 170 points or more.
• In the case of ties, it will be left up to the judge on how he/she wants to break the tie.
• First and second place dogs will qualify for High Scoring Dog Trophy (Grand only) and Grand and Reserve Rosettes.
• Pre-Novice will be on leash with choke, martingale or snap collar.
1. Cloverbud Obedience: Ages 5-7 Exhibitors receive cloverbud ribbons.
Classes 2 & 3: Pre-Novice : Traditional Obedience
2. Pre-Novice A – New dogs and new handler age 8 and older in first year of 4-H dog project.
3. Pre Novice B – Handler and/or dog that have competed in Pre-Novice A previously.
Classes 4 & 5: Beginner Novice: Obedience with rally signs (Dog shall not have won any AKC Titles, Pre-Novice, Begin ner Novice, or a CD)
4. Beginner Novice A – Dog and handler in first year at Beginner Novice.
5. Beginner Novice B – Experienced dog and/or handler who have competed in Beginner Novice A. Members with or without qualifying scores in Pre-Novice may compete in this class.
6. Novice A – Handler and/or dog that have received 3 qualifying scores (4-H or other) in Pre-Novice or Beginner Novice. A dog that is owned or co-owned by a person who has previously handled or regularly trained a dog that has won a CD title may not enter in the Novice A Class, nor may a dog be handled in this class by such a person. This class involves on/off leash exercise.
7. Novice B – Handler and/or dog that have competed in the Novice-A previously.
8. Graduate Novice A – Handler and/or dog that have competed the Novice level and have received 3 qualifying scores (4-H or other).
9. Graduate Novice B – Handler and/or dog that have experience in Graduate Novice A.
10. Open A – Handler and dog who have completed Graduate Novice and/or received a CD in competition.

4-H DOG EXHIBITS

SECTION 3: 4-H DOG AGILITY

• Species Chair reserves the right to split or combine classes as the numbers see fit.
• Exhibitors placed 1st – 6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.
• Each class is divided into A and B class. A is for members who will be competing at a level for the 1st year. B is for members who have competed in the A division previously or have not received their title or are competing with a new dog in this class.
• At no time during competition is the handler allowed to touch the dog or equipment without being faulted.
• The dog must be at least a year old.
• The dog must wear a buckle collar without tags.
• First and second place dogs will qualify for Grand and Reserve rosettes.
• For safety reasons, the handler and dog must have gone through agility classes in order to compete in the agility events.

1. Cloverbud Agility: Ages 5-7 Exhibitors receive cloverbud ribbons.
2. Beginners A – A new dog and/or handler in their first year of the 4-H dog project ages 8 or older. All dogs are to be on lead. Vertical jump height for this class shall be 8" and broad jump 16". Dogs under 9" may do vertical jump of 4" and broad jump of 8". Handlers will be allowed to jump over the jumps with their dog.
3. Beginners B – Second year dog or handler and dogs who have not obtained a qualifying score in a higher agility level. Vertical jump height for this class shall be 8" and broad jump 16". Dogs under 9" may do vertical jump of 4" and broad jump of 8". Handlers will be allowed to jump over the jumps with their dog.
4. Intermediate A – Fist year handler at this level. The maximum vertical jump height is 12" and the maximum broad jump is 24" See chart below for dogs less than 11" at withers. Handlers will not be allowed to jump the jumps with their dog. The course will include dog walk and six weave poles (dogs must complete weave poles- no faults for several attempts).
5.Intermediate B- Second year or handler that has not recieved qualifying scores at te intermediate level.
6. Advanced Agility – For dogs that have received their intermediate agility title. This level is done off lead with additional obstacles and jump heights as follow:

Dogs Height at Wither ->	**Over 20"**	**20"-14"**	**14"-11"**	**11"-9"**	**9" & Under**
Jump Height	20"	16"	12"	8"	4"
Long Jump Lengths	40"	32"	24"	16"	8"
Max Table Height	16"	16"	12"	8"	8"
Tire Jump Height	16"	16"	12"	8"	4"

4-H DOG EXHIBITS

SECTION 4: 4-H DOG RALLY OBEDIENCE

• Species Chair reserves the right to split or combine classes as the numbers see fit.
• Exhibitors placed 1st – 6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.
• Dogs must be 6 months of age at time of competition.
• First and second place dogs will qualify for Grand & Reserve rosettes.

1. Cloverbud Rally Obedience: Ages 5-7
Exhibitors receive cloverbud ribbons.
2. Novice A – First year handler and/or dog in Rally.
3. Novice B – Second year dog or handler and dogs who have not obtained a qualifying score in a higher level of Rally Obedience.
4. Intermediate A – Any dog who has Novice Rally Title in 4-H or any other registry. 1st year at this level.
5. Intermediate B – Any dog who have Novice Rally Title and does not have Intermediate Rally Title in 4-H or any other registry.
6.Advanced- Any dog who has an Intermediate Rally Title and does not have Advnaced Rally Title in 4-H or any other registry.
7. Excellent – Dogs who have an Advanced Rally Title in 4-H or any other registry.
8. Master – Dogs who have Excellent Rally Title in 4-H or any other registry.

NWMI FAIR REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Paper registrations are no longer accepted.

Please follow the link on our website or scan the QR code to complete registrtion.