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

OPEN CLASS GOAT EXHIBITS

Animal Exhibits Registration Deadline:
JULY 1, 2026

OPEN CLASS GOAT EXHIBITS

DEPARTMENT 7 - GOATS

Superintendent - Sherri Forton

DEPARTMENT RULES:

• Please be sure to read through all the general rules at the beginning of this book.
• Registrations must be submitted by July 1, 2026. Late registrations will not be accepted.
• The superintendent(s) reserves the right to adjust or arrange classes as numbers see fit.
• Exhibitors 7 years of age and under can be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult in the show ring. Age computed from January 1st of current year.
• ALL GOATS MUST meet the TB/ Scrapie Guidelines per the MDARD-
NO EXCEPTIONS Official Identification Requirements:
• Tattooing and tagging will NOT be done on fairgrounds at or after check-in—it is the owner's responsibility to have goats tagged/tattooed prior to fair
• Goats with tattoos that cannot be read or do not have valid paperwork will not be allowed on the fairgrounds
• Microchips are allowed; however, a chip reader must accompany the goat to the fair
• Scrapie tags must be either in the ear of the goat or accompany the health check forms with the tattoo numbers visible and legible
• Goat Specific health forms (available on website) must be completed with registration paperwork prior to unloading for check-in.
• Health forms will be kept with the Superintendent. Exhibitors are responsible for picking up at the end of week.
• Horned goats are allowed at the fair all week.
• Fitting—Spot cleaning and touch-ups can be done at Fair. No full body shaving is permitted. Enhancements are permitted for Exhibitors to present their goat(s) in the best of their ability—alterations to change the look of the goat are NOT permitted
• Dress Code for all participants: Plaid or solid color shirt, nice pants/jeans. Work or hiking style boots MUST be worn.
• PREMIUM: 1st- $6.00. 1st-6th place receives rosettes.

OPEN CLASS GOAT EXHIBITS

SECTION 1: SHOWMANSHIP CLASS

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. Advanced Showman 16 years old and up
2. Intermediate Showman 13-15 years old
3. Pre-Intermediate Showman 8-12 years old
4. Beginner Showman 5-7 years old

5. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

SECTION 2: PEEWEE CLASSES (4 & UNDER)

(Exhibitors must have control of goat & adult with them)

Exhibitors in each class are awarded a ribbon and/or prize.

1. Showmanship
2. Breed
3. Wether

SECTION 3: SPECIALITY CLASSES

1. Dam & Daughter

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

2. Game Class

Mystery active game, bring your goat and have some fun!

3. "Family" Class

You'll need a partner and your goat. It can be a family member, friend or anyone who isn't also in the class.

SECTION 4: FIBER BREED DOE

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. Fiber Breed Doe (4-12 months)
2. Fiber Breed Doe (13-24 months)
3. Fiber Breed Doe (> 24 months)

4. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

SECTION 5: DAIRY BREED DOE

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. Junior Dairy Breed Doe (4-12 Months)
2. Yearling Dairy Breed Doe (13-23 Months)
3. Senior Dairy Breed Doe (> 24 Months)

4. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

SECTION 6: MEAT BREED DOE

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. Junior Meat Breed Doe (4-12 Months)
2. Yearling Meat Breed Doe (13-23 Months)
3. Senior Meat Breed Doe (> 24 Months)

4. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

SECTION 7: OVERALL DOE (BEST OF SHOW)

Exhibitors animal are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.

The Grand and Reserve Champion Dairy, Meat and Fiber Doe's will be called back to compete for Overall Doe, Best of Show.

You do NOT register for this class. Grand and Reserve Rosettes are awarded to the winners.

SECTION 8: FIBER BREED BUCK

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. Fiber Breed Buck (4-12 months)
2. Fiber Breed Buck (13-24 months)
3. Fiber Breed Buck (> 24 months)

4. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

SECTION 9: DAIRY BREED BUCK

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. Junior Dairy Breed Buck (4-12 Months)
2. Yearling Dairy Breed Buck (13-23 Months)
3. Senior Dairy Breed Buck (> 24 Months)

4. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

SECTION 10: MEAT BREED BUCK

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. Junior Meat Breed Buck (4-12 Months)
2. Yearling Meat Breed Buck (13-23 Months)
3. Senior Meat Breed Buck (> 24 Months)

4. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

OPEN CLASS GOAT EXHIBITS

SECTION 11: OVERALL BUCK (BEST OF SHOW)

Exhibitors' animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
The Grand and Reserve Champion Dairy, Meat and Fiber Buck's will be called back to compete for Overall Buck, Best of Show.
You do NOT register for this class. Grand and Reserve Rosettes are awarded to the winners.

SECTION 12: WETHER

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. Junior Wether (4-12 Months)
2. Yearling Wether (13-24 Months)
3. Senior Wether (> 24 Months)
4. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

SECTION 13: PACK OBSTACLE

Exhibitors placed 1st-6th in each class awarded rosette ribbons.

1. PeeWee Showman 4 years old & under
2. Beginner Showman 5-7 years old
3. Pre-Intermediate Showman 8-12 years old
4. Intermediate Showman 13-15 years old
5. Advanced Showman 16 years old and up
6. Grand/Reserve Champion (Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do not need to register for this class.)

4-H GOAT EXHIBITS

Animal Exhibits Registration Deadline:
JULY 1, 2026

4-H GOAT EXHIBITS

DEPARTMENT 10 – 4-H GOATS

Species Chair – Robin Gildner

Assistant Species Chair – Chad Gildner

SECTION 1: 4-H DAIRY GOAT BREED

• Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.

• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.

• Exhibitors placed 1st–6th in each class receive ribbons.

1. Dairy Doe (4-12 months)
2. Dairy Doe (13-24 months)
3. Senior Dairy Doe (> 24 months)

4. Grand & Reserve Champion Dairy Doe – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

SECTION 2: 4-H MEAT GOAT BREED

• Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.

• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.

• Exhibitors placed 1st–6th in each class receive ribbons.

1. Meat Breed Doe (4-12 months)
2. Meat Breed Doe (13-24 months)
3. Meat Breed Doe (> 24 months)

4. Grand & Reserve Champion Meat Breed Doe – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

SECTION 3: 4-H FIBER GOAT BREED

• Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.

• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.

• Exhibitors placed 1st–6th in each class receive ribbons.

1. Fiber Breed Doe (4-12 months)
2. Fiber Breed Doe (13-24 months)
3. Fiber Breed Doe (> 24 months)

4. Grand & Reserve Champion Fiber Doe – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

SECTION 4: OVERALL DOE (BEST OF SHOW)

• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.

• The Grand and Reserve Champion Dairy, Meat and Fiber Does will be called back to compete for Overall Doe, Best of Show.

• You do NOT register for this class. Grand and Reserve Rosettes are award to the winners.

SECTION 5: 4-H WETHER

• Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.

• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.

• Exhibitors placed 1st–6th in each class receive ribbons.

1. Wether (4-12 months)
2. Wether (13-24 months)
3. Wether (> 24 months)

4. Grand & Reserve Champion Wether – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

SECTION 6: 4-H BRED & OWNED DOE

• Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.

• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.

• Exhibitors placed 1st–6th in each class receive ribbons.

• The doe must have been bred by, born on and currently owned by the exhibitor/exhibitor's family farm.

1. Doe (4-12 months)
2. Doe (13-24 months)
3. Doe (>24 months)

4. Grand & Reserve Bred & Owned Doe - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

4-H GOAT EXHIBITS

SECTION 7: 4-H SPECIALTY CLASSES

• Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.
• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
• Exhibitors placed 1st–6th in each class receive ribbons.

1. Dam & Daughter
2. Talent & Costume Parade – Non-judged event

SECTION 8: 4-H GOAT MARKET

• Classes are determined by weight and the Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.
• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
• Ribbons are not awarded in the individual weight classes.
• Final placing determines the auction line-up, not the individual weight class placing.
• In the final placings, Grand & Reserve Champions and exhibitors placed 3rd - 6th receive rosettes and those placed 7th-15th receive straight ribbons. All the remaining exhibitors receive participation ribbons

1. Market Goat
2. Grand & Reserve Champion Market Goat – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners. The Grand Champion also receives a medal.

SECTION 9: 4-H GOAT SHOWMANSHIP

• 4-H age is used as a guide to arrange classes. Species Chair reserves the right to split or combine classes as the numbers see fit. In some cases, exhibitors may be moved based on their experience if necessary to accommodate class sizes.
• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
• Exhibitors placed 1st – 6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.

1. Senior Goat Showmanship: Ages 16-19
2. Intermediate Goat Showmanship: Ages 13-15
3. Beginner Goat Showmanship: Ages 8-12
4. Cloverbud Goat Showmanship: Ages 5-7 Exhibitors will receive a Cloverbud ribbon.
5. Grand & Reserve Champion Goat Showmanship – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners. The Grand Champion also receives a medal.

SECTION 10: MY GOAT & ME

• A poster documentary including pictures, drawings, stories, and information about you and your adventures with your goat. BE CREATIVE!! (This is NOT an entry for your record book and will be displayed at fair.)
• Exhibitors will be asked to present their project during a one-on-one interview at fair. The Specie Chair will assign you a time slot and location for the interview. Please hold on to your project until your scheduled interview and be sure to dress appropriately.
• Ribbons will be awarded for 1st-3rd place for each age division. Cloverbuds will receive cloverbud ribbons.

1. Senior: Ages 16-19
2. Intermediate: Ages 13-15
3. Beginner: Ages 8-12
4. Cloverbud: Ages 5-7

SECTION 11: 4-H PACK GOAT OBSTACLE COURSE

• Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.
• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
• Exhibitors placed 1st–6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.

1. Advanced Pack Obstacle (Goat experience: 2 years +)
2. Intermediate Pack Obstacle (Goat experience: 1-2 years)
3. Beginner Pack Obstacle (Goat experience: < 1 year)
4. Cloverbud Pack Obstacle (Youth Ages 5-7)
5. Pack String (2 goats or more strung together, completing the course at the same time.)
6. Grand & Reserve Champion Pack Goat Obstacle Course – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

SECTION 12: 4-H DRAFT GOAT OBSTACLE COURSE

• Species Chair reserves the right to arrange classes as numbers see fit.
• Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
• Exhibitors placed 1st–6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.

1. Advanced Draft (Goat experience: 2 years +)
2. Intermediate Draft (Goat experience: 1-2 years)
3. Beginner Draft (Goat experience: < 1 year)
4. Multi-Hitch Draft (2 intermediate and/or advanced goats, harnessed to pull a cart)
5. Grand & Reserve Champion Draft Goat Obstacle Course – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

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.