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 RABBIT/ CAVY EXHIBITS

Animal Exhibits Registration Deadline:
JULY 1, 2026

OPEN RABBIT & CAVY EXHIBITS

DEPARTMENT 13 – OPEN RABBITS & CAVIES

Barn Superintendent: Sonya Youker

DEPARTMENT RULES:

- All animals brought to the fair must be entered and shown with registration fees paid.
- All animals showing signs of disease will be removed from the grounds.
- All animals must be tattooed/tagged and nails properly trimmed before entering the grounds. No animal will be tattooed or tagged while at the Fair.
- Bred Does (Rabbits) & Sows (Cavies) may not be shown.
- All animals will be judged by ARBA Standard Of Perfection.
- All Rabbit Exhibitors (Breed and Market) are required to enter and participate in Rabbit Showmanship.
- All Cavy Exhibitors are required to enter and participate in Cavy Showmanship.
- OPEN Rabbits & Cavies cannot be shown in 4-H Classes.
- CAVY ONLY - If you are bringing your own cage, it must have an escape proof lid. No Aquariums.
- If you have any questions about classes please reach out to the Species Chair.
- Premium Payouts will be $2.

SECTION 1: OPEN BREED RABBIT - 6 CLASS BREEDS (FRENCH LOP, NEW ZEALAND, SATIN, ETC.)

- Rabbits will be shown by Breed. These are the classes within each breed.
- Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
- Exhibitors placed 1st–3rd in each class will be awarded A, B, or C ribbons.

1. Senior Buck (over 8 months)
2. Senior Doe (over 8 months)
3. Intermediate Buck (6-8 months)
4. Intermediate Doe (6-8 months)
5. Junior Buck (3-6 months)
6. Junior Doe (3-6 months)

7. Best Opposite Of Breed - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. Do NOT register for this class.

8. Best Of Breed - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. Do NOT register for this class.

SECTION 2: OPEN BREED RABBIT - 4 CLASS BREEDS (MINI LOP, HAVANA, POLISH, ETC.)

- Rabbits will be shown by Breed. These are the classes within each breed.
- Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
- Exhibitors placed 1st–3rd in each class will be awarded A, B, or C ribbons.

1. Senior Buck (over 6 months)
2. Senior Doe (over 6 months)
3. Junior Buck (under 6 months)
4. Junior Doe (under 6 months)

5. Best Opposite Of Breed - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. Do NOT register for this class.

6. Best Of Breed - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. Do NOT register for this class.

OPEN RABBIT & CAVY EXHIBITS

SECTION 3: BREED RABBIT CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

- The Best of Each Breed Will Compete- Exhibitors are determined by the judge.
- **You do not need to register for these classes.**
- Rosette awarded to winners.

1. Grand Champion Breed Rabbit
2. Reserve Champion Breed Rabbit

SECTION 4: OPEN BREED CAVY CLASSES

- Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
- Exhibitors placed 1st–3rd in each class will be awarded A, B, or C ribbons.

1. Senior Boar (over 6 months or over 32 ounces)
2. Senior Sow (over 6 months or over 32 ounces)
3. Intermediate Boar (4-6 months or 22-32 ounces)
4. Intermediate Sow (4-6 months or 22-32 ounces)
5. Junior Boar (under 4 months or 12-22 ounces)
6. Junior Sow (under 4 months or 12-22 ounces)
7. Best of Breed & Reserve Breed – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.
8. Grand Champion & Reserve Champion of Breed – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

4-H RABBIT & CAVY EXHIBITS

Animal Exhibits Registration Deadline:
JULY 1, 2026

4-H RABBIT & CAVY EXHIBITS

DEPARTMENT 16 – 4-H RABBITS & CAVIES

Species Chair – Tristyn Klockziem

DEPARTMENT RULES:

- All animals brought to the fair must be entered and shown with registration fees paid.
- All animals showing signs of disease will be removed from the grounds.
- All animals must be tattooed/tagged and nails properly trimmed before entering the grounds. No animal will be tattooed or tagged while at the Fair.
- Bred Does (Rabbits) & Sows (Cavies) may not be shown.
- All animals will be judged by ARBA Standard Of Perfection.
- All Rabbit Exhibitors (Breed and Market) are required to enter and participate in Rabbit Showmanship.
- All Cavy Exhibitors are required to enter and participate in Cavy Showmanship.
- 4-H Rabbits & Cavy cannot be shown in Open Classes.
- CAVY ONLY - If you are bringing your own cage, it must have an escape proof lid. No Aquariums.
- If you have any questions about classes please reach out to the Species Chair.

SECTION 1: 4-H RABBIT 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.
- Exhibitors placed 1st – 6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.

1. Senior Rabbit Showmanship: Ages 17-19
2. Advanced Rabbit Showmanship: Ages 15-16
3. Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship: Age 14
4. Beginner Rabbit Showmanship: Age 13
5. Pre-Beginner Rabbit Showmanship: 12
6. Junior Rabbit Showmanship: Age 11
7. Novice Rabbit Showmanship: Age 10
8. Pre-Novice Rabbit Showmanship: Ages 8-9
9. Cloverbud Rabbit Showmanship: Ages 5-7 Exhibitors will receive a Cloverbud ribbon.

10. Grand & Reserve Champion Rabbit 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 2: 4-H MARKET RABBIT

- Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
- Final placings within the classes will determine the auction line-up.
- Ribbons will be rewarded in each class. Exhibitors placed 1st - 6th receive rosettes and those placed 7th-15th receive straight ribbons. All the remaining exhibitors receive participation ribbons.

1. Market Single Fryer
2. Market Single Roaster
3. Market Pen of 3 Rabbits

4. Grand & Reserve Champion Market Rabbit – The Grand & Reserve from each class will compete. 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.

4-H RABBIT & CAVY EXHIBITS

SECTION 3: 4-H BREED RABBIT - 6 CLASS BREEDS (FRENCH LOP, NEW ZEALAND, SATIN, ETC.)

- Rabbits will be shown by Breed. These are the classes within each breed.
- Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
- Exhibitors placed 1st–3rd in each class will be awarded A, B, or C ribbons.

1. Senior Buck (over 8 months)
2. Senior Doe (over 8 months)
3. Intermediate Buck (6-8 months)
4. Intermediate Doe (6-8 months)
5. Junior Buck (3-6 months)
6. Junior Doe (3-6 months)

7. Best Opposite Of Breed - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. Do NOT register for this class.
8. Best Of Breed - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. Do NOT register for this class.

SECTION 4: 4-H BREED RABBIT - 4 CLASS BREEDS (MINI LOP, HAVANA, POLISH, ETC.)

- Rabbits will be shown by Breed. These are the classes within each breed.
- Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
- Exhibitors placed 1st–3rd in each class will be awarded A, B, or C ribbons.

1. Senior Buck (over 6 months)
2. Senior Doe (over 6 months)
3. Junior Buck (under 6 months)
4. Junior Doe (under 6 months)

5. Best Opposite Of Breed - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. Do NOT register for this class.
6. Best Of Breed - Exhibitors are determined by the judge. Do NOT register for this class.

SECTION 5: BREED RABBIT CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

- The Best of Each Breed Will Compete- Exhibitors are determined by the judge.
- **You do not need to register for these classes.**
- Rosette awarded to winners.

1. Grand Champion Breed Rabbit
2. Reserve Champion Breed Rabbit

SECTION 6: 4-H PET RABBIT

- This Class is for Rabbits that are of Mixed Breed or those that do not meet Breed Standards.
- Rabbits entered may not compete in any Breed Class.
- This Class will be judged based on the health, condition, and temperament of the animal.
- Exhibitor's animals will be awarded A, B, or C ribbons at the discretion of the judge.
- The judge will pick one rabbit to be the Grand Champion Pet. The exhibitor will receive a rosette.

1. Pet Rabbit

SECTION 7: 4-H CAVY 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.
- Exhibitors placed 1st – 6th in each class receive rosette ribbons.

1. Senior Cavy Showmanship: Ages 16-19
2. Intermediate Cavy Showmanship: Ages 14-15
3. Junior Cavy Showmanship: Ages 12-13
4. Novice Cavy Showmanship: Ages 10-11
5. Beginner Cavy Showmanship: Ages 8-9
6. Cloverbud Cavy Showmanship: Ages 5-7 Exhibitors will receive a Cloverbud ribbon.
7. **Grand & Reserve Champion Cavy 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.**

4-H RABBIT & CAVY EXHIBITS

SECTION 8: 4-H BREED CAVY CLASSES

- Exhibitor's animals are placed in each class at the discretion of the judge.
- Exhibitors placed 1st–3rd in each class will be awarded A, B, or C ribbons.

1. Senior Boar (over 6 months or over 32 ounces)
2. Senior Sow (over 6 months or over 32 ounces)
3. Intermediate Boar (4-6 months or 22-32 ounces)
4. Intermediate Sow (4-6 months or 22-32 ounces)
5. Junior Boar (under 4 months or 12-22 ounces)
6. Junior Sow (under 4 months or 12-22 ounces)

7. Best of Breed & Reserve Breed – Exhibitors are determined by the judge. You do NOT need to register for this class. Rosettes are awarded to winners.

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

SECTION 9: 4-H RABBIT & CAVY SPECIAL 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 rosette ribbons.
- Poster Classes - Posters must be educational based on the species selected.

1. Rabbit Skillaton - Teams of 3-4 will be assigned before the Skillaton Starts
2. Rabbit Agility - This class is open to all 4-Hers.
3. Rabbit Poster Senior - Ages: 16-19
4. Rabbit Poster Intermediate - Ages: 12-15
5. Rabbit Poster Junior - Ages: 8 - 11
6. Rabbit Poster Cloverbud - Ages: 5-7
7. Cavy Poster Senior - Ages: 16-19
8. Cavy Poster Intermediate - Ages: 12-15
9. Cavy Poster Junior - Ages: 8 - 11
10. Cavy Poster Cloverbud - Ages: 5-7

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.