
Welcome! Open Fair Exhibitors

We are thrilled to welcome you to the Northern Wisconsin State Fair! Exhibitors of all ages are invited to participate. Exhibitors under the age of 19 may enter only if they are not members of a Youth Organization and are not competing in the Junior Fair. We cannot wait to see your exhibits on display!

1. **Exhibit Guide Availability**

- a. The Exhibit Guide is usually released by April 15 each year.
- b. You may view it online at no cost or pick up a printed copy at the NWSFA Volk Administration Office or the Chippewa Falls Public Library.
- c. If you would like a copy mailed to you, a \$5.00 fee—covering printing and postage—must be paid in advance.

2. **Method of Registration**

- a. **Online registration is required** and must be completed using MasterCard or Visa. Assistance is available — email dtotzke@nwsfa.com to schedule an appointment or visit our website for Exhibit Department office hours.
- b. **Full payment is due at the time of registration. A registration worksheet is available on the website or from the NWSFA Volk Administration Office.**
- c. **ShoWorks software terminology:** Department, Division, Class.
- d. **Animal exhibitors: All animals must be registered by the deadline.** Any required health or identification paperwork must be in the hands of the Department Leader prior to unloading.
- e. **The NWSF reserves the right to reject any entries.**

3. **Perks of Registering**

- a. **Showcase your talents** to Fair visitors and participate in a vibrant community event.
- b. **Receive one (1) gate admission armband** (a \$30 value), providing access to the fairgrounds for the entire event.
- c. **Purchase up to four (4) additional discounted admission armbands** for family members at \$25 each when completing your registration.

4. **Exhibit Tags**

- a. **Pickup:** Exhibit tags are available at the office Mon.–Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning June 1.
- b. **Mailing Option:** Tags can be mailed for a \$1 fee if requested during registration. Mailings begin June 1 and continue until the day after registration closes.
- c. **Non-Animal Exhibits:** Tags must be attached as required by the department, preferably before arriving at the fairgrounds.
- d. **Animal Exhibitors:** Display a printed information card over each stall or pen used for your animals. Some items which fair-goers may want to know include the name, breed, and age of each animal.
- e. **Claim Tickets:** Keep the claim ticket portion of each tag—it **must be presented when picking up non-animal exhibits.** Removal dates are listed on page 1.
- f. **Exhibit Declarations:** Any items or animals shown at other Wisconsin fairs that receive state aid must be declared at registration. No item or animal may receive premiums more than once per calendar year.

5. **Registration: Changes, Additions, Substitutions and Refunds.**

- a. **Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring accuracy.** Double-check all entries before submitting. You may review your registration details using the ShoWorks Passport App at <https://passport.fairwire.com/>.
- b. **Department Leaders may recommend changes** after the registration deadline, including on bring-in day.
- c. **Incorrectly registered exhibits may be disqualified** or, at the judge's discretion, judged for ribbon only (no premium).
- d. Cancellations must be submitted at least five (5) days prior to the show date or the opening day of the Fair. No refunds will be issued for cancellations made after this deadline.

6. **Exhibit Arrival / Drop-Off**

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- a. **Non-Animal Exhibits:** Arrival dates and times are listed on page 1 of the guide.
 - b. **Animal Entries:**
 - All required health records must be in the hands of the Department Leader **before unloading**.
 - Animals must be clearly identified by name, number, or ear tag.
 - c. **Junior Fair has additional requirements.**
7. **Judging**
- a. **Judging Time:** Judging times are subject to change based on exhibit counts and judges' schedules. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to arrive promptly. Late arrival may result in disqualification.
 - b. **Judging Style: Traditional 4 places may be offered in each class.**
 - c. **Class Adjustments:**
 - Classes may be combined due to low entry numbers. For more information on ATCP 160.07(1), visit: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/atcp/140/160/i/07#.
 - Large classes may be divided into heats or additional classes. Classes with consistently high numbers of exhibits over multiple years may be split to better accommodate exhibitors.
 - d. **Judging Finality:**
 - Judges' decisions are final.
 - Premiums are paid **only** as listed on signed judges' award sheets, not based on ribbons.
 - Award books may not be altered.
 - Judges may not judge any class in which they are competing.
 - Abuse or threats toward judges or officials will not be tolerated.
 - e. **Awards & Exhibit Limits:**
 - First-place winners are eligible for Champion, Best of Show, or other top awards.
 - **Non-Animal Exhibits:** Limited to one entry per class number.
 - **Animal Exhibits:** Must follow department-specific guidelines.
 - No exhibit may receive multiple premiums unless part of a herd, collection, or special award.
 - Special awards, such as Best of Show, are listed within the departments that offer them.
 - f. Junior Fair has additional requirements for qualification for the State Fair.
8. **Premiums & Ribbons**
- a. **Ribbons:** Exhibitors may donate ribbons back to the NWSF by returning them to the office.
 - b. **Premiums:** Premium payments may be donated back to the NWSF by notifying the office.
 - c. **Premium Amounts:** Premium amounts are listed in the guide and vary by division, department, and class.
 - d. **Premium Checks:**
 - Available for pickup starting the Thursday after the Fair
 - **Mailing Option:** To have a premium check mailed on the Friday after the Fair, a \$1 mailing fee must be paid during registration.
 - **Check Validity:** Checks are valid for 90 days after issuance. No re-issues will be provided after this period.
 - **Errors or Missing Checks:** Must be reported within one month after the fair ends. No corrections or re-issues will be made after that time.
 - e. **Deductions from Premiums:** The NWSF reserves the right to deduct amounts due to early exhibit removal, fraud, or outstanding fees.
9. **Parking & Entry to the Grounds**
- a. **Gate Hours:** The Main Gate opens to the public at 9:00 a.m. The East Gate is staffed beginning at 7:30 a.m.
 - b. **Entry Requirements:** All individuals entering the fairgrounds must have a valid ticket, pass, or wristband.
 - c. **Trailer Parking:** Trailers may **not** be parked on-site. After unloading animals, all trailers must be moved to the designated off-site parking lot.
 - d. Vehicle access to the NWSFA Agricultural Campus: Follow traffic flow patterns during animal drop off and pick up. During the Fair vehicles may only access the Agricultural Campus during designated times.
 - e. **Towaway Zones:** Vehicles parked in the following areas will be towed:
 - Cemetery roads

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- Fire Lanes Behind Barns
 - Posted no-parking zones (designated for emergency or administrative use only)
 - Handicapped parking without a valid permit
 - Unauthorized overnight parking
- f. **Respect for Neighboring Properties:** Please be considerate of surrounding homes, businesses, and grounds.
- g. **Parking Options:**
- **Inside the Fenced Area:** Daily parking passes may be purchased at the Main Gate.
 - **Free Parking:** Available outside the fairgrounds near the cemetery and at the Chippewa Hockey Arena. A shuttle service is available—visit our website for hours and details.
- h. **General Parking Rules:** Follow instructions from parking lot attendants and drive slowly while on the fairgrounds.
10. **Removal of Exhibits**
- a. **Early Removal Penalty:** Removing exhibits, equipment, or decorations before the scheduled release time may result in penalties as determined by the Fair Board. Consequences may include loss of awards, loss of premiums, or disqualification from future competitions.
- b. **Animal Exhibits:** Exhibitors must keep their animals on display until the posted release time. The Fair remains open to the public through Sunday afternoon.
- c. **Non-Animal Exhibits:** Exhibits must be picked up according to the schedule listed on page 1. Unclaimed exhibits will be disposed of one month after the Fair; perishable items will not be returned.
- d. **Cleanup of Barns, Stalls, and Displays:** Exhibitors must thoroughly clean their animal areas and cages before release. Manure must be disposed of in designated dumpsters. All signs, decorations, nails, tacks, staples, and construction materials must be removed. Exhibitors are responsible for leaving their space as they found it, **“Leave No Trace.”**
11. **Camping**
- a. **General Rules:** Sleeping in the barns is strictly prohibited by state and local fire codes. Camping is available **only** to Livestock Exhibitors due to limited space. Camping is not permitted in unauthorized areas of the Fairgrounds.
- b. **Reservations & Payment:**
- Reservations open on **April 15 at 9:00 a.m.** and are filled in on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - To reserve a site, print the reservation form from our website and submit it to the NWSF Volk Administration Office with payment.
 - Rates are subject to change; check the website for current pricing.
 - Payment is required at the time of the request. If the campground is full, payments will be refunded.
 - Checks are recommended, as they can be held until sites are assigned and returned if no spot is available.
 - Camping spaces will be assigned **a few weeks before the fair.**
- c. **Campground Regulations:**
- A camping permit will be issued and must be displayed on the camper.
 - No generators or campfires are permitted.
 - Water hook-up is not available.
 - Picnic tables are not provided.
- d. **Supervision & Conduct:**
- Minors must always be supervised by a responsible adult.
 - Alcohol must be secured and kept away from minors.
 - Violations may result in loss of future camping privileges.
 - All state and local laws must be followed.
- e. **Cleanup & Responsibility:**
- Campers must clean their area before leaving.
 - Failure to do so may result in loss of future camping privileges.
12. **Leadership Structure:** The NWSF is led by a combination of the NWSFA Board of Directors, Fair Administration Staff, Volunteers, the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DTCAP), and recommendations of the Wisconsin Association of Fairs (WAF) and International

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Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE). If you have questions, please contact the NWSFA Executive Director, Brian Maki, at bmaki@nwsfa.com.

13. Ethics for Non-Animal Exhibits (Open 14–28 & Junior 10–33)

- a. **Original Work:** All non-animal exhibits, except for antiques, must be created or produced by the exhibitor.
- b. **Misrepresentation:** Misrepresenting the origin of an item constitutes fraud and will result in forfeiture of all awards.
- c. **Premium Forfeiture:** If a premium is found to have been obtained through false evidence, misrepresentation, or violation of any rules listed above, the premium will be withheld by the NWSF.

14. Guidelines for Livestock Exhibits — Open (01–11) & Junior (01–13)

- a. Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall always conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship.
- b. **Animal Health & Biosecurity:**
 - Biosecurity for exhibitors and Fairgoers: Exhibitors are aware that their animals carry germs that can make people sick. Exhibitors should set a good example for Fairgoers by not eating or drinking in the animal barns. Encourage Fairgoers to wash their hands after touching with the animals on exhibit.
 - Any animal appearing ill or injured must be examined by a veterinarian—at the exhibitor's expense—before unloading or participating. Vaccination for shipping fever in dairy and beef animals is recommended.
 - Health Documentation: Health records must be provided to the Exhibit Department or Department Leaders before unloading animals. All animals must be identified by registration name/number or ear tag. Interstate health certificates for animals originating outside Wisconsin must be submitted for inspection and kept on file.
 - Transport Cleanliness: Animals must arrive and depart in clean, disinfected trailers, trucks, or transport vehicles.
 - Animal Health Measures: The NWSF enforces specific measures to address animal health risks associated with large gatherings. All exhibitors must comply with these requirements.
 - Read and follow the Animal Health Regulations and the ATCP 160 rules by visiting <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents2/FairRulesFinal.pdf>
- c. **Competition & Judging**
 - Judging Schedule: Exhibitors are responsible for knowing their class times. Animals must be in the ring promptly after being called. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. The schedule is available on page 1 of the Exhibit Guide or on the competition's website.
 - In the Show Ring: Each animal must be shown to the judge's full satisfaction. Only the judge, Department Leaders, and essential attendants may be in the ring during judging.
 - Animal Handling: Cattle, horses, mules can enter the ring only under halter and in the charge of the exhibitor. Sheep and swine only in charge of the exhibitor. Livestock will not be permitted to run at large at any time.
 - Exhibitor Age: Open Fair exhibitors may be of any age. Exhibitors showing livestock must be at least eight (8) years old, as of January 1 of the current year. Exhibitors who are part of an Approved Youth Organization should register for the Junior Fair.
 - Purebred Animals: Exhibitors of purebred animals must provide registry names and numbers, along with registration information, to the Department Leaders upon request.
 - Breeding Animals: Exhibitors must submit satisfactory evidence (affidavit or similar documentation) that breeding animals four years and older have produced a living offspring within the past two years. Reproductive soundness will be considered during judging. No awards will be given to animals with questionable transmissible unsoundness.
- d. **Barn Management**
 - Electrical Items: Only fans are permitted. No other electrical appliances may be used in the barns.
 - Extension Cords: Only outdoor-rated extension cords in good working condition may be used.
 - Exhibit Placement: Exhibitors may not change their assigned exhibit space without prior approval from the Department Leaders. Unauthorized changes may result in forfeiture of premiums.

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- Display a printed information card over each stall or pen used for your animals. Some items which fair-goers may want to know include the name, breed, and age of each animal.
- Livestock Sales: No animals may be posted for sale during the Fair.

e. Liability & Care:

- The NWSF will take reasonable precautions to safeguard exhibits but is not responsible for damage, loss, or accidents involving animals or property.
- Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals and for any damage or accidents caused by their animal exhibits.
- NWSF is not responsible for non-animal items left after 6 p.m. on the Monday following the Fair.

15. ETHICS for livestock exhibits Open 01-11 & Junior 01-13

- a. Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall always conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship.
- b. Conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and integrity to promote the advancement of education in agriculture.
- c. All livestock exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair. Exhibitors must provide and use only their own utensils and water buckets when caring for livestock
- d. (Junior Fair Only)
- e. Failure to comply with these behavioral expectations and with the National Code of Show Ring Ethics (as established by the International Association of Fairs & Expositions), will result in progressive disciplinary action as outlined below:
 - A verbal warning, with written documentation maintained on file
 - A written warning, maintained on file
 - A third (3rd) infraction may result in further disciplinary action, up to and including a request for resignation or possible separation from the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, at the discretion of the Executive Director
- f. Exhibitors and/or family members, who display retribution to this action either verbally and/or written may be disqualified for the upcoming show/sale season.
- g. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, and responsible persons who violate this rule and code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and may be prohibited from future exhibitions.
- h. As adopted by the IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) Code of Show Ring Ethics, "Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada." <https://fairsandexpos.com/document/iafe-show-ring-code-of-ethics>
- i. An NWSF Junior & Open Fair Leadership Team member, Fair Administration, or pre-designated representative will monitor Barn areas during the exhibitions. Violations of this ethics rule will need to be witnessed in person by two individuals non-related to the incident, or a member of the Junior & Open Fair Leadership Team, or Fair Administration, for consequences to be given. Repetitive violations may result in expedited consequences.

16. NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

The Northern Wisconsin State Fair Board has adopted the following IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHIC RULES, and as supplemented were deemed necessary by the Fair Board, which shall be applied to all exhibitors of the Northern Wisconsin State Fair.

- **By registering to exhibit at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair you agree that you have read and understand, and in consideration for being permitted to exhibit at this event agree and consent to abide by the rules of competition, including the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics as stated in the premium list of this event.**

International Association of Fairs and Expos CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

- A. Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs

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and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

- B. All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. **Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.**
- C. The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:
1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership, and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
 2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
 3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.
 4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations, and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the laboratory, to which it is sent, is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise. At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
 5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animals performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
 6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited. There is a zero tolerance of mistreatment of animals and exhibitors will result in loss of premiums and a ban from future showing at the NWSF.
 7. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair, and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
 8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such an individual to disciplinary action.

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9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.
10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expos and any special notices to members.
11. The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities

17. Liability Information

- a. General Liability Disclaimer: The Northern Wisconsin State Fair Association, Inc., the Northern Wisconsin Fairgrounds, Inc., and all respective officers, directors, and employees (collectively, "NWSFA") are not responsible for any loss, damage, theft, injury, or death—whether caused by disease, accident, or any other circumstance—affecting any property or person while on the Fairgrounds. NWSFA assumes no responsibility for any accident, injury, or mishap affecting exhibitors, attendees, property, or members of the fair-going public.
- b. Security & Property Protection: NWSFA is not responsible for losses or for the security of property or merchandise belonging to license holders, exhibitors, concessionaires, exhibit tag coupon holders, reserve seat holders, or admission ticket holders anywhere on the Fairgrounds.
 1. General grounds security is provided only during the week when the Fair is open.
 2. License holders and exhibitors are responsible for taking their own precautions to prevent theft or damage.
 3. Any loss or damage should be reported to both the Chippewa Falls Police Department and the NWSFA Administration Office.
- c. Waiver of Claims by Licensees & Exhibitors: Licensees and exhibitors waive all claims against NWSFA for liability arising from any damage to their concession, exhibit, products, equipment, or property, regardless of cause. All risks associated with operations, installations, acts, errors, or omissions of the licensee—or their employees or agents—on the Fairgrounds rest solely with the licensee. Licensees shall not seek contribution, damages, or indemnification from NWSFA for any such loss.
- d. Assumption of Liability for Accidents & Operations: Licensees and exhibitors assume full liability for all injuries to persons (including death) and all damage to property resulting from movement, setup, teardown, or operation of their exhibit or concession. Licensees and exhibitors release NWSFA from all liability related to injuries sustained by their employees while on the Fairgrounds, including any claims that might otherwise be pursued by workers' compensation insurance carriers.
- e. Indemnification Requirement: Licensees and exhibitors must indemnify and hold harmless NWSFA—with legal counsel acceptable to NWSFA—from all damages, claims, costs, liabilities, fines, penalties, and expenses, including attorney fees, accounting fees, and court costs. This indemnification applies to all actions, errors, omissions, movement, setup, teardown, and operation of the licensee's or exhibitor's exhibit, concession, support equipment, or services provided on the Fairgrounds.
- f. Insurance Coverage: If licensees, exhibitors, or others with property on the Fairgrounds desire protection against loss, damage, or injury from fire or any other cause, they are solely responsible for obtaining and paying for such insurance. NWSFA does not provide insurance coverage for the benefit of any licensee or exhibitor. NWSFA is not responsible for any articles left on the Fairgrounds after their arrival and set up, including any non-animal items left after 6:00 p.m. on the Monday following the final day of the Fair.
- g. **NWSFA Photo Release:** By attending this event, you authorize the use of your image in pictures, audio, and video productions for advertising and marketing needs of the NWSF, Sponsors, or Vendors of the Fair.

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