

NEW ENGLAND 4-H PROGRAM - THE BIG E 2026 4-H DAIRY CATTLE SIGNATURE FORM

Check if Alternate _____

This entry is made in accordance with the Agreement of Responsibility and Acknowledgement of Liability and the Rules and Regulations referred to therein governing this program (collectively, the "Rules and Regulations"). Telephone Agriculture Department 800-639-2908 E-mail agininfo@thebige.com PRINT ALL INFORMATION — COMPLETE EVERY LINE

SHOWING/REPRESENTING WHICH STATE? _____

EXHIBITOR NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TEL # _____

E-MAIL _____ SEX _____

BIRTHDATE MO _____ DAY _____ YEAR _____ MEMBER AGE (as of Jan 1, 2026) _____

BREED _____ CLASS ENTERED _____

ANIMAL NAME _____ REG# _____

SIRE NAME _____ REG# _____

DAM NAME _____ REG# _____

ANIMAL BIRTHDATE _____ IS THIS A LEASE AGREEMENT PROJECT? Yes/No _____

IS THIS A BRED AND OWNED ANIMAL? Yes _____ No _____

IS ANIMAL ENTERED IN THE OPEN SHOW? Yes _____ No _____

ATTACH A COPY OF ANIMAL'S REGISTRATION

Please note any accommodation the 4-H member requires to participate in this 4-H program.

The signatures below signify that I and my parent/guardian have read, understand and agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations identified above. These signatures also certify the facts contained in the above to be true and the applicant meets the eligibility qualifications of the Rules and Regulations. The applicant also agrees to participate in all activities and to be present at assemblies of this 4-H Activity. Entrants will be responsible for their animal including any damage occurring to the animal or by the animal while on the grounds.

*Signature of 4-H Exhibitor

*Signature of Parent or Guardian

*Signature of State Office Representative

*ALL signatures must appear here on entry or entry will not be accepted.

NOTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVES: Entries for alternate delegates and/or animals must be submitted at time all other entries are delivered to the Exposition, but such entries must be plainly marked "ALTERNATE" in the upper right hand corner of this application. At the discretion of the State Office Representatives, this entry application form may be used for both the State Show Day and the 4-H Dairy Cattle Show at Eastern States Exposition, providing all signatures appear on this application when it is received by the Exposition. All Signatures **MUST** be completed before entry will be accepted. ENTRIES are DUE August 20 at the STATE OFFICE. Please contact your State Club Leader or visit www.thebige.com/agriculture for additional Entry Application forms.

EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION ONLINE ENTRIES MUST BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 23 AT MIDNIGHT. This deadline will be enforced.

ENTRY BLANK FOR DAIRY CATTLE QUIZ BOWL

Please accept our entry in the [Quiz Bowl Contest](#) to be held at Eastern States Exposition, subject to all rules and regulations governing this contest as contained in the official announcement.

NAME OF ENTRANTS

(Designate alternate by: "ALT")

HOME MAIL ADDRESS

(For news items and photo cut lines)

Please submit application by September 1, even if uncertainties on names exist; then send names when they are available.

Name of 4-H Team _____

Address _____

Head of Department _____

Coach _____

ENTRY BLANK FOR DAIRY GRILLED CHEESE CONTEST

Please accept our entry in the [Grilled Cheese Contest](#) to be held at Eastern States Exposition, subject to all rules and regulations governing this contest as contained in the official announcement.

NAME OF TEAM 1 ENTRANTS

HOME MAIL ADDRESS

(For news items and photo cut lines)

Name of 4-H Team 1 _____

Address _____

Head of Department _____

Coach _____

NAME OF TEAM 2 ENTRANTS

HOME MAIL ADDRESS

(For news items and photo cut lines)

Name of 4-H Team 2 _____

Address _____

Head of Department _____

Coach _____

CATEGORIES

Note: If a state has two teams, each team will compete on only one category. Please write the team number next to the corresponding category. If bringing one team, they may enter in one or both categories.

_____ Traditional: Bread, butter and cheese (anything from those categories)

_____ Non-Traditional: Bread, butter, cheese and... (with 60% of sandwich filling being cheese)

Please include your ingredients lists and recipes with your registration form.

Please submit application by September 1. If uncertainties on names and recipe exist; send full details as soon they are available.

ENTRY BLANK FOR EXTREME 4-H MILK SHAKE CONTEST

Please accept our entry in the [Extreme 4-H Milk Shake Contest](#) to be held at Eastern States Exposition, subject to all rules and regulations governing this contest as contained in the official announcement.

NAME OF TEAM ENTRANTS

HOME MAIL ADDRESS

(For news items and photo cut lines)

Name of 4-H Team _____

Address _____

Head of Department _____

Coach _____

Name of Extreme Milk Shake _____

Provide your ingredients list and recipe below:

Please submit application by September 1. If uncertainties on names and recipe exist; send full details as soon they are available.

OBJECTIVES FOR NEW ENGLAND 4-H PROGRAMS AT THE BIG E

The 4-H program at The Big E is a cooperative effort with the Eastern States Exposition and the Cooperative Extension Systems of the New England States working together toward common objectives. These objectives are:

1. To motivate and recognize the achievements of 4-H members and their volunteer leaders.
2. To give the general public attending The Big E a better understanding of 4-H educational efforts including the organization, program, and accomplishments.
3. To provide educational experiences for 4-H members that are not available in the individual states.
4. To make 4-H programs and activities visible to the general public across the grounds of The Big E.
5. To expand the image of 4-H as a total diverse youth development program.
6. To ensure quality educational activities both for the 4-H participant and the general public.
7. To identify 4-H as an integral part of the Cooperative Extension System and the land grant universities of New England.
8. To involve youth as equal partners in full decision-making roles at all levels of program decision-making.

RULES FOR THE 2026 NEW ENGLAND 4-H DAIRY SHOW

* denotes new or changed in 2026

1. Eligibility The show is open to regularly enrolled 4-H Dairy Club members from New England who are 12 years of age or older on January 1 but have not turned 19 years of age on or before January 1 of the current year and who have completed at least one year of 4-H Club work. Juniors are 12-14 years as of January 1, of the current year and Seniors are 15 years and older as of January 1, of the current year.
2. Open Show Entry and Eligibility Members may enter their 4-H dairy cattle in The Big E's Open Dairy Cattle Show in accordance with the Open Show rules, this includes Holstein, Red and White, Milking Shorthorn and Brown Swiss. 4-H animals may arrive by the 4-H deadline and still show in the open show provided their entry has been received by the livestock office by August 31. If open animals are trucked with 4-H animals the open animals must arrive according to open show rules. **Please check the Official Premium Book or www.thebige.com for scheduled Arrival Times.**
3. Attendance Members and animals must be on the grounds by 4 pm Thursday, September 17. Members and 4-H leaders are advised the responsibility for the supervision of the members extends from arrival until release. The barn must be left in a neat and tidy condition. A copy of animal's health form will be accepted but originals must be available upon request at any time. MEMBERS MAY NOT LEAVE THE GROUNDS DURING THE TIME FRAME OF THE PROGRAM.
4. State Representation If 4-H club membership is held in more than one state, and the same project is taken in both states, the 4-H member must compete and represent the state in which they reside. If the project is only taken in one state, the 4-H member should represent that state.
5. Drinking of alcoholic beverages, smoking and use of drugs by delegates is prohibited. All 4-H delegates are expected to act in an orderly manner. Delegates are expected to respect the general public and answer questions politely. Delegates will abstain from using profanity. Appropriate actions will be taken for violations.
6. Housing and Meals Eastern States Exposition will provide housing and meals for the 4-H Dairy members and authorized leaders at the Moses Dormitory. **All 4-H youth are required to sleep overnight in the dorm for the duration of their 4-H Activity*. 4-Hers may not leave the dorm before 7:00 AM. Any youth leaving the dorm before sunup must be accompanied by a chaperone.**
7. Exhibitor Health Condition Members must obtain from The Big E website a participant form. This document is to be filled out and signed by parents or guardians and turned in upon check-in at the dorm. This procedure gives permission for doctors to administer medical treatment, if necessary to do so.
8. Display Material Policy Please see the Fire Prevention Regulations page.
9. Show Uniform White or khaki pants or skirt and an appropriate white shirt (no tee shirts or tank tops). Whites are preferred. Members will be disqualified if they are wearing clothing advertising

a farm or specific breed, however generic breed belt buckles are allowed, or any other clothing that the superintendent considers inappropriate for the event. Appropriate and sturdy footwear is required. Delegates may not appear barefoot or wearing extremely brief shorts. No cell phones are to be on in the show ring.

10. Entries are limited to 35 animals from each state. Entry for the show MUST be certified (signed by the State 4-H office). ENTRIES NOT SIGNED BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS WILL BE REJECTED. Alternates (cattle and/or delegates) may be submitted with State entries. NO SUBSTITUTIONS ARE ALLOWED AFTER AUGUST 23. **Online entries must be submitted no later than AUGUST 23 at midnight.**
11. Ownership This show is limited to registered females which are registered in the name of the individual member making the entry, or that are entered and accepted in the 4-H Lease Agreement Project in their respective states. All papers pertaining to ownership and health of animals must be filed with the superintendent for inspection purposes upon arrival. All papers will be returned at the close of the show. For all calf or yearling classes, ownership must have existed in the member's name on or before May 1 of the year of the show or have been entered in the Lease agreement project prior to May 1. In all Milking age classes, 2 year olds and up the cow must have been owned/leased on or before May 1, before the animal reached her second birthday.
12. Provisional Registrations will be accepted in those breeds, which allow animals with provisional registrations to compete. Percentage purebred, which can be shown, varies within each breed. Per breed the requirements are as follows:
 - a. Holstein 87% or above
 - b. Brown Swiss: white with a green border is issued for Registered Brown Swiss Females and Certified Identity Enrolled Females (CIE); Brown Swiss Step II Identity Enrollment (IE) animals which have a green Registration paper with a black border may also be shown;
 - c. Ayrshire 87%;
 - d. Guernsey: must have a white Registration Paper and a GR prefix; Effective January 1, 2019, for an undetermined period of time, the standard for showing registered Guernseys at AGA sponsored shows will be lowered to the PR status (BBR 87% and above). The standards for Guernsey Appearance will remain in effect.
 - e. Milking Shorthorn: must be Herdbook Registered and have registry certificates issued by American Milking Shorthorn Society on white paper and cannot have the words 'not eligible to show', 36000, or 37000;
 - f. Jersey: Animals recorded at Generation Count 4 or higher are eligible.
 - g. Any animal identified with only a Red and White Association certificate be able to verify which of the six dairy breed's it will show under and meet the provisional show standards of either Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn.*

For further information, please visit your breed association's website. The rules are effective as of the date of approval of the New England 4-H Council. This packet is current at the time of

publication. If Registration requirements change on a national level, every effort will be made to reflect that in this packet. Changes to national level registration requirements that are made after May 1 will be included the following year. Any animal identified with only a Red and White Association certificate must be able to verify which of the six dairy breed's it will show under and meet the provisional show standards of either Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey or Milking Shorthorn.

13. Care of Animals 4-H Dairy Cattle will be stabled in the designated 4-H area. It is the responsibility of each state to house and manage their cattle in their designated space as they see fit. To promote safe handling and interaction, no animal shall be permitted to participate in the New England 4-H Dairy Activity with horns in excess of one inch. Animals also entered in the open show MUST be in place on the 4-H line in the designated 4-H area by Thursday at 4pm and remain there under the sole care of the 4-Her until Sunday after release is given to go home.
14. Hay and bedding Shavings- one bag per animal will be furnished by Eastern States Exposition. Hay and straw orders must be approved by the Dairy Superintendent. To help defray costs, any milk check money from 4-H animals will be used towards the ESE Feed Store.
15. 4-H delegates are to work on their own animals unless: a) The delegate is entered in the 4-H Judging or Quiz Bowl contest, and then another 4-H delegate shall feed and/or wash the animal in their absence. b) In cases where a 4-H'er needs assistance, other 4-H'ers may help by providing verbal coaching or holding animals. Under some conditions, members may receive special permission from their state leader for limited participation in other activities. The management assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to livestock, or injury to persons. Areas will be made available when possible for clipping; however, they must be kept clean. Youth needing to go to the barn prior to 7am must be accompanied by a chaperone. No youth or chaperones should leave the dorm before sunup.*
16. Ear Tags There will be no discrimination for large identification/ear tags in the animal's ears.
17. Grievance Procedure If any rules are broken or in question, the infraction will be brought before the 4-H Dairy Activity Grievance Committee for appropriate action. Only the chair, show superintendents or ESE personnel may approach the official judges with questions regarding the placement or negative comments on the show
18. Awards will be made on a Straight Merit System at the discretion of the judge. Placings will be given out 1-10, all others will receive participation ribbons.
19. Passes will be issued through the state office on the basis of one pass for the delegate, one pass for the driver and one pass for the vehicle; additional driver and vehicle pass the driver for his return. The quota for passes shall not exceed the number of persons actually participating in the show.
20. Exhibitors should enter Gate 1 and then Gate 10; report to the superintendent BEFORE UNLOADING. The Superintendent will issue instructions to drivers who will be returning to pick up members and animals. Vehicles have ten minutes to unload or to load; vehicles parked and left unattended will be towed away. After unloading, vehicles may leave the grounds via Gate 10 and park in the satellite parking lot (see attached map). Directions to the satellite office may also be obtained from the dairy superintendent, Superintendent's Office information window or from

www.thebige.com\agriculture. Please follow directions regarding parking your personal vehicle in the Agriculture Lot. You may not park on the river dike.

21. Unloading and Inspection Please check in with a member of the Dairy Activity Committee or the Dairy Superintendent before unloading any animals. 4-H animals will follow the same inspection procedure, rules and regulations as all open show entries. Animal Health papers, registration papers, and lease forms if applicable need to be presented when the animal unloads. Each paper should be in a separate clear plastic sleeve. Please highlight your animals name on the health paper. Original health paper should be available if needed. Copies of registration papers will not be accepted. All animals need to be in accordance with Massachusetts animal identification and RFID requirements for federal transport. For more information, please check the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/animal-health/>
22. Animal Release Upon obtaining official release slip from the superintendent, the delegate delivers such release slip to the driver of the vehicle who may retrieve the vehicle from the satellite lot and bring it to the inner grounds. As soon as loaded, the driver, delegate and vehicle must immediately exit via Gate 10 and Gate 1. Departure times must be adhered to.
23. Exhibitor Tickets may be purchased from the Agriculture Office at a reduced price and may be used for the family of 4-H Dairy delegates. Please call the Agriculture Department at (800) 639-2908 or stop by the Mallary office after August 15.
24. Loss Or Damage All exhibits will be under the direction of Eastern States Exposition Management, who will exercise every reasonable care in the protection of exhibits. In no case will Eastern States Exposition or management be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any loss, injury or damage to any animal; or loss, injury or damage done by or arising from any animal exhibited by him/her and shall indemnify Eastern States Exposition against legal or other proceedings in regard thereto.
25. Overnight Watch Only persons serving in an official capacity, as appointed by state 4-H coordinators, may stay in 4 H barn areas to supervise animals overnight.*

The Cooperative Extension System 4-H Youth Development program prohibits discrimination in education, employment, and in the provision of services on account of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, disabled veteran status, physical or mental disability, mental retardation, [and] other specifically covered mental disabilities, [and criminal records that are not job related].

4-H DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING CONTEST

The 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest will be held in the Coliseum. It is limited to regularly enrolled 4-H Dairy Club members of the six New England states. Each state may designate two teams of four members per team. In the case that a state does not have a full team: states may join to form a complete team. The three highest scores will constitute the team score. 4-H members may participate in the Judging Contest more than one (1) year unless having been a member of a 4-H Dairy Judging team at the National Contest held in Madison, Wisconsin. Once they participate in the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo, they may not again participate in the New England 4-H Dairy Judging Contest at ESE again. A member who is selected for participation in the 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest may not participate in any other activities occurring at the same time as the contest. Members will need to have another 4-H member take care of their animals on Saturday Morning. A mandatory 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Coach's meeting will be held on Friday, September 12 at 6pm near the Milking Parlor in the Mallary Complex.

4-H DAIRY CATTLE FITTING & SHOWMANSHIP

Fitting & Showmanship will not be broken according to breed. All classes will be broken out according to age of participants only, with all breeds showing together. All participants will be listed in birth date order and the Fitting & Showmanship classes will be broken evenly from that list with a maximum of 12 per class. The order for Fitting & Showing will be youngest juniors to oldest juniors to be followed by youngest seniors to oldest seniors. The juniors will then come back and compete for their rotating trophy and the seniors for theirs. Only two people will be placed, the Champion and Reserve Champion. If two showmanship judges and show rings are used, classes will start with the youngest juniors in one ring, and the youngest seniors in the second ring.

[Click here to view the PDCA Showmanship Guidelines.](#)

CLIPPING CONTEST

OBJECTIVE

To promote teamwork among dairy participants, provide a learning experience, be a demonstration for visitors and promote public relations.

- Each state will provide one fitting team per division consisting of three members each; these state teams shall be made up of a Team Leader and two other members.
- The ages of participants who are eligible to compete in the Junior and Senior Divisions will be determined based on entries in showmanship in a given program year.*
- Members are eligible to participate as many times as they wish. If a member has won in a previous year, they may continue to come back and enter the contest as long as the sending state allows the member to participate.

- Each State is responsible for bringing one animal per team. Clipping animals must be a fall calf through summer yearling of any breed that can be handled and has a full coat of hair with its head clipped
- States will retain their own animals for fitting during the contest.
- Clipping contest animals will be stabled at the discretion of the Dairy Superintendents.
- Each state delegation is responsible for the care of their clipping contest animals before and after the contest.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTEST

- Each State team will be notified of a time to set up their equipment in the ring prior to the contest.
- Chutes used by each state will be staggered if possible and identified by a State sign that will be provided.
- Prior to entering the ring, the animal must be clean, dry, and head clipped. Appropriate equipment must be sanitized prior to the start of the contest.
- Animals will be previewed by the judge prior to the contest beginning, then the clipping team will have one hour to fit the animal.
- States will retain their own animals for fitting during for the contest.
- Each team may use any equipment or products they deem necessary to fit the animal. A show halter should be brought to best present the animal.
- PDCA fitting guidelines will be considered in topline height and no artificial or replaced hair will be accepted.
- All clippers and other equipment need to be turned off at time limit end of contest. All work on the animal must stop and team members may begin to put equipment away.
- Two monitors will be in the ring to observe that team participants and spectators. There should be no communication with anyone outside of the ring while the participants are in the contest.
- The judge for the contest will announce placing, and give reasons.
- Immediately after the contest, each state is responsible for removing chutes and equipment.

ESE New England 4-H Dairy Fitting Contest

Points	Category	Comments	Points
20	Teamwork		
10	Teammates are respectful & mindful of each other		
10	Teammates have designated responsibilities & fairly share the work		
30	Technique		
10	Ease of handling equipment		
10	Hair is blended properly (namely topline and belly hair)		
10	Proper use of sprays and adhesives		
10	Organization		
5	Neatness of area		
5	Safety considerations (extension cords, aware of surroundings/animal, etc.)		
20	Knowledge		
10	Ability to breakdown and explain the steps the team took and why		
10	Team exhibits and/or explains strong knowledge of fitting trends and practices		
20	Completeness		
10	Is the heifer fitted to look her best? Consider what the team started with and the end result.		
5	Did the team make the most use of the 1 hour?		
5	Is the heifer show ring ready? (Tail teased, show halter on, ears clean, etc.)		

State:

2026 NEW ENGLAND 4-H DAIRY CATTLE SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS

For 2026: Cows will be bagged for 4:00 PM.

Exhibitor may enter one animal in one of the following classes:

- CLASS 1 SPRING CALF
Born on or after March 1, 2026, over 4 months
- CLASS 2 WINTER CALF
December 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026
- CLASS 3 FALL CALF
September 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025
- CLASS 4 SUMMER YEARLING HEIFER
June 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025
- CLASS 5 SPRING YEARLING HEIFER
March 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025
- CLASS 6 WINTER YEARLING HEIFER
December 1, 2024 to February 29, 2025
- CLASS 7 FALL YEARLING HEIFER
September 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024; not in milk, yearlings which have calved will show in Class 10.
- CLASS 8 JUNIOR CHAMPION
Winners of Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 ROSETTE
- CLASS 9 RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION
Winners of classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (except Junior Champion) and second place winner in the Junior Champion's class ROSETTE
- CLASS 10 JUNIOR TWO YEAR OLD HEIFER
March 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024; may or may not have calved at least one time.
- CLASS 11 SENIOR TWO YEAR OLD HEIFER
September 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024; may or may not have calved at least one time.
- CLASS 12 THREE YEAR OLD COW
September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023
- CLASS 13 FOUR YEAR OLD
September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022
- CLASS 14 FIVE YEAR OLD AND OLDER
Born before August 31, 2021
- CLASS 15 DRY COWS

- CLASS 16 SENIOR CHAMPION
Winners of Classes 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 ROSETTE
- CLASS 17 RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION
Winners of Classes 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 (except Sr. Champion) and second place winner in the Senior Champion's class) ROSETTE
- CLASS 18 GRAND CHAMPION
Winners of Classes 8 and 16 ROSETTE
- CLASS 19 RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
Winner of Classes 8, 9, 16 and 17 (except Grand Champion) and second place winner in Grand Champion's class. ROSETTE
- CLASS 20 SUPREME HEIFER ROSETTE
- CLASS 21 SUPREME COW ROSETTE
- CLASS 22 STATE HERD- NOT A LEAD OUT CLASS – Each state shall bring a list of the animals in their state herd as well as their placing to the desk for tabulation. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony. Points are assigned 15-1, with 1st getting 15; 2nd getting 14 and so on. For tie breakers, 1 point will be added for Sr Champion and 1 point will be added for Jr Champion.

Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Jersey or Milking Shorthorn State Herds shall consist of three animals from one state and at least one animal must be from classes 1 to 7.

Holstein State Herd shall consist of five animals from one state and at least two animals must be from classes 1 to 7.

EASTERN STATES 4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL RULES

The Dairy Bowl is a contest where teams of 4 members compete against each other. Competition points are awarded for correctly answering questions about the dairy industry and closely related areas.

Competition in the 4-H Dairy Bowl encourages a 4-H member to develop a more complete knowledge of dairy animals and related subjects. This contest provides an educational dairy program for all dairy project members, including those who may not own a dairy project animal, and provides a way to develop alertness and self-confidence.

Eligibility

1. Each state may enter one team. A team will have 4 members and a coach. Teams of fewer than 4 members may compete but will do so at a disadvantage in the written portion of the contest. One or more alternates may be entered as substitutes in any phase of the contest. Youth may participate as many years as their state allows, but once they participate in the National 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest at NAILE, they may not participate in the New England 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest at ESE again.
2. Team members and alternates must be registered for the Dairy Bowl Contest by September 1. Registration forms are included in this packet. Completed forms need to be returned to Eastern States Exposition. All entries must be authorized by a State 4-H Leader State Dairy Extension Specialists. [Click here to jump to the entry form.](#)

All teams should name a team captain.

Dairy Bowl Teams

Contestants must be at least 12 years of age by January 1 of the current year but must not have turned 19 years of age on January 1 of the current year. Any member of a winning quiz bowl team from any previous year may participate again in this contest; unless, they compete at the national contest in Louisville. Contestants may attend a college beyond high school. However, club members who enroll in or audit a Dairy Science or Animal Science course prior to the fall term are not eligible for the contest. Also, any club members who enroll in a Dairy Science or Animal Science short course or satellite course eligible for credits towards a college degree prior to the fall term are not eligible for the contest.

Dairy Bowl Rules - Conduct

1. Teams will compete in a series of one-on-one elimination contests until the top team is chosen. The teams will be assigned to the first round of competition based on the results from the written portion of the contest. Some teams may be awarded a Bye during the elimination as part of the assignment process.
2. Competition between teams will be in 3 phases:
 - a. Phase A – All participants must take the General Knowledge Exam given Thursday evening. From this test, 5 questions will be designated as "Phase A" for each round of competition. The same 5 questions will be designated for both teams but each group of 5 questions will be used for only 1 round (example: 1-5 - Round 1, 26 - 30 Round 6). Each correct answer will be worth 5 points. A total possible score for a team in any round will be 100 points (4

team members x 5 questions each x 5 points/correct answer). No points will be lost for incorrect answers or blanks. Points earned by each team will be announced at the end of the match and combined with scores from Phases B and C to determine the winners of a match.

- b. Phase B – Team questions. Each team will be asked 3 questions. Answers are to be given by a team captain, but assistance may come from any team member. Correct responses are worth 10 points. A question may be repeated only once. Answers must be started within 20 seconds. Partial credit may be given at the discretion of the judges. After one team has been questioned, the other team will enter the contest room and be asked the same five questions.
- c. Phase C - Toss-up round – a total of 15 individual questions will be asked
 - i. The first contestant to signal will answer the question within 5 seconds after being acknowledged by the judge or lose 10 points. Any member answering a question without having a light lit or being acknowledged will lose 10 points. If an incorrect answer is given, the other team has the opportunity to answer the question immediately without having it reread, except for true/false, either/or, and yes/no type questions. If an incorrect answer is given in these types of questions, the question will be replaced with a tiebreaker question, and given points to the other team. No points are deducted for an incorrect answer. Team members are not allowed to discuss the answers in this phase. No partial credit is available in Phase C, except for bonus questions.
 - ii. If neither team is able to offer an answer to the question within 10 seconds, the moderator will give the answer. This question will be dropped and neither team will forfeit points.
 - iii. When a signal is pushed before the question is completely read, the moderator shall stop reading the question when the light goes on. After being acknowledged that person may answer the question. If correct, the team will receive credit. The judge may not ask the contestant to explain their answer. If the answer is incorrect, the question shall then be completely reread and the other team will have the opportunity to answer it.
 - iv. Bonus questions may be earned in the toss-up round. In order to receive a bonus question, 3 different team members must correctly answer a toss-up question. Bonus questions are not passed to the other team, nor are points deducted for an incomplete or incorrect answer to a bonus. Bonus questions will be asked whenever three team members have answered toss-up questions correctly with the count kept individually or both teams within a match. Eligibility for bonus questions does not carry over to another match. The only discussion allowed between team members will be on bonus questions and in Phase B. Answers must come from the team captain. Only the number of answers required by the bonus question will be accepted. Example: If the bonus has a four-part answer, the first four answers given by the team captain will be accepted. The bonus answers must be started within 20 seconds and completed within 60 seconds.

- v. All questions correctly answered will be worth 15 points in Phase C, except for bonus questions which are worth 20 points each.
3. Questions will cover feeds/feeding, milk quality, herd health, udder health, breeding and genetics, marketing, dairy foods, calf raising, and other areas of dairy knowledge. Suggested references are Hoard's Dairyman, the most current issues of each topic. The American Dairy Assn and Dairy Council will be used as the primary references on dairy foods and dairy topics. Dairy Herd Management and review the Virginia Tech website www.dasc.vt.edu/youth/bowlmat.html.
4. Participating state coaches must email a minimum of 50 fully referenced questions to the contest coordinators prior to August 1. Please have these questions worded two different ways to aid in clarification. **Submitted questions shall not be shared with state team members!**
5. The highest total score from phase A, B, and C will determine the winning team. In the event of a tie, the two teams will be asked an additional five Phase C questions. No bonus questions will be awarded during the tie breaking procedure.
6. Answers and interpretations of questions will be the sole responsibility and final recall of the judges. A team member will have the privilege to ask the judge's panel to verify an answer he/she feels is correct. If a coach challenges the judge's decision, the coach must call "time out" immediately (before the next question is read). A decision made by the judges after the answer is verified will be final.
7. The 4-H Dairy Bowl Committee will rule on any question/area not covered by these rules. All decisions are final.
8. Any hand gestures, talking or cell phone activity during the quiz bowl that is observed will be evicted or disqualified by any member of the committee. The rules of sportsmanship will be enforced.
9. Cell phones and smart devices will be collected from all participants, parents, and attendees upon entry.
10. A double elimination process will determine final team placing in the contest. Each team will have an opportunity to compete in at least two rounds. The first round will be against another team that has not previously played. The second round will be against either a winning team or a losing team, depending on the first contest. A second loss eliminates a team from continuing competition. In case of a team receiving a bye in the first round, the team will play a winning team from the first round and advance either to the next winners or losers round.
11. Any team 15 or more minutes late for a match will forfeit the match.

GRILLED CHEESE CONTEST

Objective: To promote teamwork among 4-H participants, provide an interactive and fun learning experience around food preparation and food safety, be a demonstration for visitors and promote public relations around 4-H science programs

Teams of 3 4-H youth will compete. There are 2 categories: Traditional and Non-Traditional. Teams may compete in just one or both categories. In both categories, the cheese must be the star of the show so judges can taste cheese as the main ingredient.

- Traditional: Bread, butter and cheese (anything from those categories)
- Non-Traditional: Bread, butter, cheese and... (with 60% of sandwich filling being cheese)

Rosettes for the top six placings in each division will be presented during the awards ceremony.

General:

- All competitors must wear the grilling hats, aprons and gloves per board of health regulations. When handling foodstuffs, all competitors WILL wear sanitary, disposable gloves. All members of the team will need to wear gloves and maintain a safe food environment.
- Grilling will take place in the tent and start in increments. As teams finish they will be sent into judges in the farmers market to present. There is a 15 minute maximum time limit for grilling, but teams may finish early and present early.
- State signs will be provided.

Judging:

- Four judges will officiate.- Two judges will observe teams in the 4-H Activity Tent during the Food Preparation portion of the contest. Two additional judges will score the presentation and tasting portion of the contest in the ESE Farmer's Market Presentation Kitchen.
- Contestants will be judged on sanitizing stations before, during and after competing.
- Food handling and safety will be considered during all portions of the contest.
- Youth must as a group present one display sandwich and a quartered sandwich to the judges, give explanation of their dish and be prepared to answer any questions during cooking and the presentation.
- The panel of judges will score teams by the following breakdown:

Judged in the Tent

Cleanliness	10 Points
Food Handling/Safety	20 Points
Teamwork	20 Points

Judged in the Farmer's Market

Creativity	10 Points
Group Presentation to Judges	20 Points
Taste	20 Points

Each team must supply the following:

- Mandatory cookware:

- Skillet and hot plate OR an electric frying pan or electric griddle. NO element that cooks 2 sides at once such as deep fryer, George Forman Grill type device or Panini Press, or a toaster oven can be used.
- Spatulas, knives, other utensils; hats, aprons, cutting boards, hand sanitizer, disposable gloves, Safe Food Handling Information Sheet, and table cloth.
- A small plate is required to place the quartered sandwich on for the judges.

Supplies cannot be borrowed or added once the setup starts at the beginning of the contest, this includes supplies from other teams, parents or spectators. You must be prepared.

Food product:

- Teams will need to bring any and all supplies and ingredients necessary to make 2 sandwiches for judges: 1 Purely for display to the judges and 1 cut up in 4 pieces. Please leave 2 of the cut up pieces for the judges in the tent.
- All preparation of ingredients must occur at The Big E, including cutting of garnishes. Ingredients are items in which the participants have NOT previously heated. All ingredients must be from a vendor authorized to sell food items in one of the New England States. This is to avoid food borne illness stemming from items being prepared in non licensed kitchens.
- The judges will determine whether any item listed in the ingredients is considered a pre-cooked or pre-prepared food or an acceptable ingredient.
- No alcoholic beverages may be used in the preparation of recipes. Kitchen cooking wine is not considered an alcoholic beverage.
- PLEASE NOTE: Any perishable items MUST be kept in a cooler with ice and be stored at safe temperatures (below 45F), and all foodstuffs must be stored off of the ground, at least 6". Please be sure to label your bags/coolers with your name. Judges may check temperature.

Teams:

- States may enter 1 team in Traditional and 1 team in Non Traditional. Teams will consist of 3 members. One adult supervisor per team must be present for safety precautions but cannot assist or provide direction to the team unless it relates to safety and the preparation of food in any manner. **IF A STATE HAS TWO TEAMS, EACH TEAM WILL COMPETE IN ONLY ONE CATEGORY.**

Teams must be registered by September 1. Recipes are to be submitted at that time. [Click here to jump to the entry form.](#)

THE NEW ENGLAND EXTREME 4-H MILKSHAKE CONTEST

What is an extreme milkshake? It is a giant, drippy milkshake stacked with everything from whole slices of cake and brownies to cookies, chocolates and other sweets. In 2026, New England 4-H Dairy youth will have the opportunity to develop their own Extreme 4-H Milkshake.

RULES:

1. The Milkshake Team will be comprised of two 4-H youth ages 12-18 years old as of January 1st of the current year. Teams must register for the contest by September 1. [Click here to jump to the entry form.](#)
2. The milkshake must be made from cow's milk, NO non-dairy milk is allowed such as Almond milk, Soy milk, etc. A2 milk is allowed.
3. Time allocated – 10 minutes maximum prep and 3 minutes for presentation. If you do not need all the time, we will attempt to have you present as you finish.
4. 16oz Mason Jar Mug is to be used to display the milkshake. Only one milkshake creation per team. States may send one team for this contest. Each team shall provide 5-8oz paper cups for the judges to sample milk shakes in after they have judged appearance in mason jar.
5. Team will supply their recipe with all the ingredients listed. Most use posters to write out their recipe and the name of their shake.
6. Team will supply their own blender, ingredients, mug and other supplies needed to produce the milkshake.
7. Design, taste and presentation will be main criteria for judging.
8. You can create a milkshake with embellishments such as cookies, candies, whip cream, sprinkles, etc. Let your creative juices flow or in this case, milk.
9. Rosettes will be awarded to the top six teams.

JUDGING BREAKDOWN:

Judged in the Tent:

Teamwork:	10 points
Food Handling/Safety:	10 points

Judged in the Farmers Market:

Taste:	10 points
Creativity:	10 points
Promotion Plan:	10 points

Total: 50 Points



State: _____	Date: _____
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ESE Raymond Huling 4-H Dairy Herdsmanship Scorecard – maximum points 100

Topic/possible points	Actual score	Comments
<p>a. General appearance of assigned aisle/area - 20 points _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drains kept clean and floor is dry • Alleys swept clean, free of dirt and bedding • Trash picked up and area free of clutter • Appropriate state signage 	_____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 800px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>b. Cleanliness of stalls and storage area – 20 points _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedding adequate, dry, clean and in place, no manure behind animals • Manure hauled out regularly and deposited in proper place • Feed pans, extra feed, miscellaneous gear and clothing stored in in tack area • Hoses, electrical cords and other tools hung in a safe manner 	_____	
<p>c. Arrangement of exhibits – 20 points _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed tubs in front of animals only at feeding time • Stall cards easy to ready and decorations appropriate • Show boxes are lined up in a neat and orderly way for animal accessibility 	_____	
<p>d. Animals – 20 points _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals clean and manure free • Tied in a safe manner • Have adequate hay and water available 	_____	
<p>e. 4-Hers – 20 points _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courteous, cooperative and helpful to others • Attentive and not using cell phones and other electronic devices • Able to visit with and answer fair goer questions 	_____	
<p>TOTAL _____</p>		

*One score card per state per judging session. Judging will at least occur once daily, if time is allowed herdsmanhip judging will occur twice daily. Committee is aware of other events are going on; however, 4-H youth should continue to keep barn alleys presentable during those times.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2026 NEW ENGLAND 4-H DAIRY SHOW

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

12 noon – 4 pm	4-H members and cattle may arrive at The Big E via Gates 1 and 10. Report to Superintendent in Mallary Complex, then register at 4-H Headquarters in Horace Moses Building.
12 pm	First Meal served 4-H Dining Hall - Moses Cafeteria
6:30 pm	Chaperones Meeting
7:30pm	General Knowledge Exam – Mallary Parlor Bleachers – Quiz Bowl Teams – Mallary Arena 1
Directly after Exam	Opening Ceremonies – Mallary Arena 1– Members and Leaders
Following Ceremonies	Orientation Assembly -Mallary Arena 1 – Members and Leaders
Following Orientation	Ice Cream Social – Mallary Arena 1 <u>2026 Committees</u> Bowls, Napkins and Spoons – ME & CT Gloves & Plastic Table Coverings -- VT Ice Cream – NH Whipped Cream -- RI Toppings -- MA Scoops – CT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9 am	Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest – Moses Building 3:00 PM Milkshake & Grilled Cheese Contests – 4-H Activity Tent with Presentations in the Farmer’s Market Kitchen
5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Clipping Contest – Mallary Arena 1 (Junior Division to start at 5:30, Senior Division to Follow)
6pm	Mandatory 4-H Dairy Judging Coach’s Meeting – Mallary Milking Parlor Bleachers

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

6:45 am	Dairy Judging Contest - Coliseum
2 pm – 7 pm	Judging of Breeds for Type - Mallary Arena 1. <i>Cows to be bagged for 4 PM</i> Awards Ceremony – Mallary Arena 1

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 am	4-H Dairy Fitting & Showing, Junior and Senior divisions all breeds - Mallary Arena 1
2 - 4 pm	Release of Cattle <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2 pm VT and ME▪ 3 pm NH, RI and Southeast MA▪ 4 pm CT and the rest of MA

All 4-Her’s not traveling with their animals should be picked up at the above release times.

PDCA Showmanship Guidelines

Appearance of Exhibitor & Equipment

Apparel

- Wear white pants, a white collared shirt, and a belt.
- Wear hard-toe, hard-sole shoes or boots. No sneakers.
- Wear pants over boots. Do not tuck pants inside boots.
- Wear a properly fitting show harness to display your backtag number.
- Be neat and clean in overall appearance.
- Minimize accessories or anything that draws attention to you instead of your animal.

Behavior

- Maintain good posture and move confidently.
- Strike a balance where you appear to be relaxed and enjoying yourself, while maintaining a competitive intensity and interest.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship before, during and after the show.
- Be comfortable with the animal you are showing, demonstrating you have worked with your animal many times before.
- Be ringside before your class begins and enter promptly when your class is called. Do not be late.
- A showman should never strike their animal, and should adhere to all PDCA Code of Ethics guidelines.

Knowledge

- Know important facts about the animal that could aid the judge in making their placing decision, such as her birthdate, calving date and lactation number.
- Know the animal's faults and how to move your animal in ways that minimize their appearance.

Halter

- Use a leather dairy show halter that is clean and shined.
- Fit the halter with nose band midway between the animal's eyes and nose.
- Have snap of the halter's chain open to the outside, so the clasp is facing you and not into the animal's jaw.
- Your left hand or part of the hand is under the chain and around the ring, but fingers are not through the ring. Hold the lead strap in the left or right hand (which ever gives you the most control) using approximately three small loops (not tightly coiled or looped and fastened) so that the lead strap does not rub the animal's eye or is visible from the right side.

Appearance of Animal

Cleanliness

- Animal is clean (including hooves, tail, and inside ears) and dry.
- White spots are as white as possible, demonstrating the animal was washed regularly.
- Muzzle is wiped clean.

Condition

- Animal is in good health and condition – neither too fat or too thin.
- Hooves are trimmed.
- Animal is dehorned.

Grooming

- Animal is completely clipped within a few days of show.
- Varying clipped hair lengths are well-blended.
- Topline hair is blown up on heifers.
- Tail switch is brushed and fluffed.

Behavior

- Animal is well-trained to lead and poses quickly.
- Animal is alert, but calm when touched or around distractions.
- Animal responds well to your desired actions.
- Animal is size appropriate for the exhibitor.

Showing Animal to its Best Advantage

Entering the Showring

- Enter the ring walking forward on the animal's left side with the halter in the left hand while pulling throat with your right hand.
- Position your body to keep slightly ahead of the animal's nose, away from the animal's shoulder.
- The left arm should be comfortably positioned; not too straight and the elbow should not be too high.
- As the judge is evaluating the class, present the animal in her best form; maintaining a fluid motion, awareness of where the judge is and control of your animal.

Circling in the Showring

- Walk at a smooth even pace - not too fast or too slow. Try to walk in step with your animal, so when she steps with her left front leg, you step with your left foot, and vice versa.
- Never cross your feet to walk sideways. You should always be walking forward or backwards as appropriate.
- Hold the animal's head up at a comfortable level, where she looks her best, never with nose in air. The nose should be pointed slightly toward the center of the showring.
- Keep approximately 3 to 5 feet behind the animal in front of you and 5 feet between you and the outside of the ring.
- Keep in an even line with the other animals in front and in back of you while circling. Do not let your animal move too far inward or outward compared to the others.
- When on parade always provide the judge with a side profile of your animal.
- Your attention should be focused, keeping one eye on your animal and one eye on the judge. Spend about half the time looking at your animal and the other half watching the judge. You must also maintain awareness of everything going on in the showring.
- Stop and set up your animal appropriately upon request of the judge.
- Whenever stopped in the ring, the animal should be posed with front feet square. Rear legs should be positioned differently for heifers and milking cows.
 - Heifers - position the rear leg nearest the judge back.
 - Cows - position the rear leg nearest the judge forward.
- Respond to questions from the judge confidently, and instructions from the judge quickly.
- If your animal lays down in the ring during the class, gently get her to stand up, quickly wipe off any loose or hanging material using two to three strokes of your hand, and continue to show her.
- Recognize your animal's faults and try to minimize their appearance.
 - If the animal carries extra flesh on her neck, pull the animal's throat with your right hand to make her appear cleaner in the neck.

- If the animal arches her topline, pinch it down to make her appear straighter across her top.
- If the animal weakens in her loin, slightly push her weight back using halter pressure.
- If the animal puts her tail up, tuck the tailhead down.
- If you are asked by the judge to switch animals with another exhibitor, do so in a timely fashion, which may include a *quick* assessment of the animal you are taking control of to evaluate her major strengths and weaknesses. When taking your own animal back you should not inspect your animal. You should only make sure the animal is set up correctly.

Entering the Lineup

- Enter the lineup in the order you were called.
- Turn and walk forward smoothly into line, never running with your animal.
- When walking into line, showmen should take care not to obstruct the judge's view of other animals still on parade.
- When you approach the line, turn around and walk backwards into line. Then set up your animal in the desired, posed position.
- Keep your animals topline straight from head to tail, perpendicular to the designated line.
- Line up with other animals in an even line, leaving no more than one foot between animals. Be careful not to bump other animals.
- Keep a straight line by lining up the shoulder of your animal with the shoulder of the animal in front of you in the lineup.

Posing in the Lineup

- Setting up your animal should be completed in one or two steps without too much overworking and movement.
- Legs should be comfortably beneath the animal. Do not get her legs too far under her body (appearing scrunched) or too far back and out from under her (appearing stretched out).
- Front feet should be lined up evenly. To move her front feet, use halter pressure, and a slight touch with your foot if needed.
- Train animal to back up by touching her shoulder combined with halter pressure, so when rear legs need repositioning, do so without using your feet. You should never use your feet to help position your animal's rear legs.
- When showing a heifer, your position in the lineup determines how the animal's rear legs should be positioned. Once your animal is set up properly, you should not switch the position of her rear legs, even if the judge walks back and forth.
 - The first person in line should set their animal up as if the judge was on the leadsperson side of the animal.
 - The last person in line sets their animal up as if the judge were opposite the leadsperson.
 - The rest of the class sets their animal up so they looked balanced with one rear leg forward.
- If you have a cow, you must move her rear legs each time the judge changes sides in the lineup.
- When the judge comes to the front of the animal, turn to face the judge presenting the front end of the animal for inspection. Do not cover up the person next to you, and do not move to the left side of the animal.
- After the judge motions for you to circle out from the lineup, keep showing your animal while the judge makes his final assessment. Once the judge has moved his attention further down the line, you can walk forward again when pulling her into the final line-up.

PDCA Showmanship Evaluation Card (Revised 2025)

It is important that participants in showmanship ensure that their animal is in proper body condition and growth based on the age of the animal. Horns are to be removed at an appropriate age to provide a safer environment for the leadsperson. Feet should be properly trimmed to promote ease of movement for the animal. These practices will show good husbandry skills of the participant as well as a positive image for the dairy industry.

PDCA recommends the following levels of discrimination in the judging of showmanship competitions.

Slight Discriminations

Exhibitor

- Inappropriate halter (beef, nylon, rope)
- Lead strap tightly looped
- Failure to enter the ring walking forward at a smooth, efficient pace
- Has stiff outstretched arm
- Has poor posture – either overly stiff or slumped, sloppy
- Improper head carriage, animal's nose is too high
- Calf's head is not turned slightly toward judge when hide is felt
- Stepping on or kicking at the animal's front feet. (Note that a slight touch to move animal's front feet is allowed and should not be discriminated against)
- Inappropriate size of calf for competitor

Animal

- Minor instances of animal not handling well
- Is not alert
- Muzzle is not wiped clean
- Switch is not brushed and fluffed
- Clipping lines not properly blended*

Moderate Discriminations

Exhibitor

- Not wearing white clothing or show-approved professional attire
- Inappropriate or unprofessional attire that draws attention to the exhibitor
- Wearing clothing with farm or commercial advertising/logos
- Does not know birth date, fresh date, breeding date, due date
- Unable to recognize type faults of the animal*
- Halter not fitting or put together properly
- Holding the halter in the right hand
- Holding the lead strap too far from the halter
- Has fingers in ring of the halter
- Failure to hold throat when needed
- Improper head carriage, animal's head held too low
- Unable to show animal to best advantage
- Slow response to judge or ring official
- Inattentiveness
- Watching the judge too intently
- Over-showing
- Leading too slowly

- Has elbow or hands up
- Is too far to outside or inside of ring
- Incorrect spacing to the animal in front when on parade
- Sidesteps when leading calf
- Doesn't turn and walk forward quickly into line
- Failure to stop and set up your animal appropriately at the judges request. (Heifers: place rear leg nearest the judge back, Cows: place rear leg nearest the judge forward)
- Front legs not squarely positioned
- Does not keep animal straight from head to tail in lineup
- Crowding or bumping other animals when pulled in line
- Leaving extra space in line
- Failure to maintain a straight lineup
- Moves excessively in line
- Unable to back up animal
- Chewing gum

Animal

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legs not clipped | <input type="checkbox"/> Clipping too early; hair appears too long |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt/dust in hair coat | <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete clipping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt/wax in ears | <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive clipping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feet not cleaned | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive use of hair sprays, powder and other fitting products | |

Serious Discriminations

Exhibitor

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead strap looped & fastened | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor instances of unsportsmanlike conduct |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Striking the animal | <input type="checkbox"/> Is late to class |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Positioning animal's rear legs by stepping on rear feet | <input type="checkbox"/> Wearing inappropriate shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fusses with or moves calf to the extreme | <input type="checkbox"/> Chewing tobacco |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Carries or talks on a cell phone |

Animal

- Animal causing disturbances to others

Disqualification

- Violations of PDCA Show Ring Code of Ethics
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Repeated striking of the animal

Recommendation for the evaluation of topline:

- Topline is groomed, doesn't distract from the animal's overall appearance, conforms to the guidelines of the PDCA Showring Code of Ethics.*

*Expectations should be age appropriate and at some shows, these fitting criteria may be significantly downplayed at the discretion of show management and with appropriate communication to exhibitors.

4-H CAMPER POLICY

1. Camper spaces are reserved for those serving in an official capacity with their state 4-H program during The Big E. Three camper spots are allotted per state per animal activity.
2. A 4-H Extension Official from each state will email aginfo@thebige.com to confirm the number of campers required **per activity** on or before June 1 of the program year. Information including camper length, dates needed, the names of those who will be utilizing these spaces, and their relationship to the 4-H Activity is not required at this time. **Please note: This information must be disclosed through an email to aginfo@thebige.com. No other forms of communication will be accepted.**
3. Each state is required to fill out the Mallery Camping Reservation Form for 4-H Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, and Sheep activity campers using the livestock camping reservation request system, which will open on Friday, May 30, 2026, at 8 a.m., and close on Monday, June 30, 2026, at midnight. Use the “Special Requests, Accommodations, or Notes” box to indicate the reason for this individual’s need for a 4-H Camper. ESE reserves the right to use these spaces for other purposes if they are not requested by the deadline.
4. Spaces reserved for the 4-H Horse Committee in the Horse Show Camper Lot will be allocated by the 4-H Horse Committee Chair.
5. Camper spaces in the Mallery Agriculture Complex area and the area designated for the 4-H Horse Committee are assessed a \$25/Day. Once your reservation has been received, you will receive a link to pay online or request an invoice.
6. No cars, trucks or other non-camper vehicles are allowed to be used as overnight accommodations on the grounds of Eastern States Exposition. Any vehicles used in this manner will be towed.
7. No tents are allowed in the Mallery Agriculture Complex parking area.
8. Any persons using canvas-sided/pop-up/tent-type campers will be required accept all responsibility for any theft, safety and/or personal liability
9. More information is available regarding the availability of camper parking spaces for parents and non-official personnel in Lot 9. For specific information regarding public parking camping and pricing, please contact The Big E Admissions at 800-639-2908.
10. **Management reserves the right to refuse access, and is not responsible for accidents or personal loss, injury or damages to any property.**

EVACUATION PLAN FOR ANIMALS ON EXHIBITION AT EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

If an event should occur on the Exposition Grounds that would require the evacuation or removal of animals being exhibited or shown under the control of the Agriculture and Education Department of the Eastern States Exposition (ESE), the following guidelines should be implemented to assist in the timely and orderly evacuation of these animals.

1. The ESE Director of Agriculture will notify the Public Safety Department that a situation exists that would require the evacuation of some or all of the animals on the Exposition grounds.
2. Upon notification from the ESE Director of Agriculture, a Seasonal Police supervisor will be dispatched to the Agriculture and Education Department office located in the Mallery Complex, or other location as directed, to act as a liaison between the Seasonal Police and the ESE Director of Agriculture.
3. This supervisor at the direction of the Agriculture and Education Department will establish a central location where the Agriculture and Education Department exhibitors will standby to be transported or escorted off grounds to off grounds parking so vehicles to be used to transport the animals off grounds may be rapidly returned to the Exposition grounds to be loaded out.
4. If the animals need to be removed immediately from the buildings, they are to be housed in the Coliseum. The Public Safety Department will provide officers to secure the route to this location and assist in isolating the Coliseum once the animals are moved. Removal of animals from the building will proceed under the direction of the West Springfield Fire Department.
5. The Public Safety Department shall provide all available vehicles to transport drivers or escort vehicles to retrieve trailers from off ground locations.
6. A Seasonal Police supervisor shall accompany the vehicles to the off grounds location to assist in assembling a convoy of vehicles to be escorted back to the Exposition grounds for loading.
7. Should the disposal of animal remains be necessary the ESE Director of Agriculture will work with R G Webster Enterprises and the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources (MDAR) to assure that this is done in a timely manner.
8. All operations shall continue until directed by the ESE Director of Agriculture to suspend the operation.

QUARANTINE PLAN FOR ANIMALS ON EXHIBITION AT EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

Should the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources (MDAR) determine that a mass quarantine needs to take place at Eastern States Exposition, the ESE Director of Agriculture will follow all directives issued by MDAR, and, acting with the assistance of the Seasonal Security personnel, will secure the quarantine area and proceed to set up care for all quarantined animals.

EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION 4-H ACTIVITY EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS (SEE SPECIFIC LOCATIONS)

FAIRGROUNDS

In the case of a major emergency on the fairgrounds, all 4-H members, leaders and chaperones are to report to the front lawn of their respective state buildings along the Avenue of States and remain there until released by the Moses 4-H Dormitory Supervisor. In the case of an active shooter seek safety immediately until instructed to do something else by an official security detail. Upon all clear please report to the Moses 4-H Dormitory or Mallary Complex, whichever one you are closest to.

MALLARY COMPLEX

In case of emergency on the fairgrounds, all 4-H members, leaders and chaperones participating in activities in the Mallary Complex should follow the instruction of Eastern States Exposition personnel or staff given through announcements and if possible stay in a group with their volunteer leaders.

NEW ENGLAND CENTER

In the case of a major emergency on the fairgrounds, all 4-H members, leaders and chaperones participating in the New England Center are to report to the front lawn of their respective state buildings along the Avenue of States and remain there until released by the Moses 4-H Dormitory Supervisor.

EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- 413-205-5011 Agriculture Department
- 413-205-5185 Moses Dormitory Office
- 413-205-5555 ESE Police
 - Hours of Operation:8:00 am-10:00 pm
- **Call 911 if an emergency occurs outside of ESE Police hours of operation**

OFFICE OF
THE
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



44 VAN DEENE AVENUE
Tel: (413) 263-3220
Fax: (413) 736-0087

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01089

Updated February 2026

2026 Fire Prevention Regulations for Agricultural Events

The West Springfield Fire Department Office of Fire Prevention shall conduct on-site inspections prior to the start of Agricultural events. Below is a list of rules and regulations in accordance with CMR 527 1.00, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Code.

1. No Smoking is allowed in or adjacent to any buildings, tents, or temporary structures.
2. When permitted, live vegetation shall be balled and kept watered.
3. Fine bark mulch and corn stalks are not allowed for display material. Large wood chips or coarse bark mulch may be used in barns but shall be kept damp at all times.
4. Flammable liquids and gases (propane cylinders) are not allowed in the buildings. Non-flammable gas cylinders shall be supported by metal stands and/or chains.
5. Devices utilizing open flame(s) are not permitted inside any building or tent.
6. Motorized gas or diesel vehicles are not permitted inside buildings, barns, and tents (including scooters, UTVs, golf carts).
7. Battery electric vehicles, scooters, and bicycles are prohibited inside tents, buildings, and structures. The exception to this is mobility equipment for persons with disabilities, which must be properly maintained and in good condition.
8. Hay and straw indoors should be kept to a minimum, not to exceed the amount needed for a single day. Hay and straw should not impede egress, should not block any aisles or exits, and if deemed unsafe may need to be moved upon inspection.
9. Feed and bedding material is not permitted on the floor of any aisle for display purposes, (including wood shavings, sawdust, peat moss, loose straw).
10. No excessive accumulation of litter or rubbish is allowed.
11. Aisles and stalls should not have any coverings over the top of them, as this would impede sprinkler activation and flow. Decorations are allowed, but should not impede safe egress.
12. All exits shall remain free and clear at all times.
13. All fire lanes and fire department access roads shall remain free and clear at all times.
14. All fire alarm pull stations and other fire protection equipment such as extinguishers / sprinkler systems, shall be free and clear of obstructions and readily visible / accessible.

OFFICE OF
THE
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



44 VAN DEENE AVENUE
Tel: (413) 263-3220
Fax: (413) 736-0087

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01089

15. All aisles shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet in width and shall remain free and clear at all times. Aisle display widths are not to exceed thirty (30) inches from each side of the main aisle and twenty four (24) inches from each side of the side aisles.
16. Any materials used to decorate / customize the space should not increase the fuel load and should not produce toxic fumes/vapors in the event of a fire.
17. No signs, decorations, or other products shall be attached to any part of any sprinkler system.
18. All decorations, fabrics, and/or coverings must be non-flammable as certified by a National Testing Laboratory or, when permitted, rendered non-flammable by a topical flame retardant finish. Burlap is not permitted.
19. Furniture with foam upholstery/padding/cushioning is not permitted in barns or tents (couch, sofa, recliner, etc.). These pieces of furniture contribute greatly to the fuel load of the space, the rapid development of fire, and produce extremely toxic gases when involved in fire.
20. All lights and electrical mechanisms must have a UL label. Electrical devices shall not be permitted to be in direct contact with combustible materials such as wood chips, hay bales and decorations.
21. Extension cords must be UL-listed, in good condition, of appropriately substantial gauge, and not overloaded with electrical devices. Extension cords should be rated for outdoor or all-weather use. Extension cords shall not be covered by any combustible material such as carpet, wall coverings, plywood, wood shavings.
22. Electrical devices shall not be left unattended, i.e., displays utilizing lights and electrical mechanisms shall be unplugged at the end of the show or before retiring for the evening.
23. Any appliances used must be clean and in good condition, UL-listed, should not be plugged into surge protectors, and should be connected directly to an outlet or to substantially-sized rated extension cords with as few devices/cords/connections as possible between the appliance and the electrical outlet.
24. All extension cords, appliances, and electrical components are subject to inspection.

We thank you for your continued cooperation on providing our citizens, visitors, staff, and animals with a safe and enjoyable experience at the Eastern States Exposition.

OFFICE OF
THE
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



44 VAN DEENE AVENUE
Tel: (413) 263-3220
Fax: (413) 736-0087

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01089

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Link'.

Robert Link
Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention
(413) 263 - 3384 direct
fireprevention@townofwestspringfield.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.J. Bartone #820'.

Christopher Bartone
Chief
(413) 263 - 3226 direct
cbartone@townofwestspringfield.org

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Department of Agricultural Resources

100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114

www.mass.gov/agr



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Ashley E. Randle
Commissioner

Avian Influenza (HPAI) Notices:

Due to the continuing US outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in domesticated and wild birds and in dairy cattle, Animal Health Officials from all six New England States are united in advising the following for agricultural fairs, competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps, or other in-person events that encourage the gathering or co-mingling of birds and/or cattle:

Avian species

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of domestic and wild waterfowl species and may recommend delaying or canceling domestic fowl or poultry shows. If events are held, best practices for biosecurity should be implemented. Waterfowl exhibitions are currently banned in MA through April 30, 2026, which may be extended.

Bovine species

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of any bovines, including both dairy and beef cattle, that have been present in any state at the time that state had a current outbreak of HPAI in cattle. Bovines that have been shipped from currently affected states in 2026 should not be allowed on the premises of New England fairs or shows. Moving to or from an affected state for any reason will void any New England Fair and Show Season Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVIs) that have been issued for such cattle for the remainder of the 2026 season.

The USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Livestock issued on April 24, 2024, remains in effect. It can be found on the USDA website: www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf

General Rules for All Animals:

See M.G.L. c, 128 §2C, 129 §2

Continue to next sections for additional, specific rules for Cattle, Poultry, Goats, Camelids, Swine, Sheep, Equines, Rabbits, and Dogs and Cats.

1. All animals must be:
 - a. In proper physical condition
 - b. Properly identified
 - c. Free of visual evidence of infectious, contagious, or parasitic disease at time of arrival
 - a. Animals of any species with open or draining wounds will not be approved for entry.

2. An animal will be rejected from entry if:
 - a. There is evidence of infectious, contagious, or parasitic disease or open or draining wounds
 - b. Failure to produce the necessary documents for certification, vaccination, or testing
 - c. **THE INSPECTOR'S DECISION IS FINAL**
3. Any surgical procedure or injection of foreign substance or drug, or the application of any substance which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance is prohibited.
 - a. Irritants, counterirritants, or similar substances that affect the animal's performance, contour, conformation, or appearance is prohibited.
 - b. Exceptions include:
 - a. External applications of substances to the hooves or horns of animals that affect appearance only are permitted.
 - b. Surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the animal are permitted.
4. Official Identification (ID):
 - a. All livestock must have proper official, individual ID as required and approved by the USDA and accepted by the fair or show for the species such as official metal ear tags, tattoos, scrapie tags, or microchips.
 - b. Registration forms must accompany health certificates when used as part of official identification, e.g. with breed registry tattoos or microchips.
5. **Health Certificates: New England Animals Showing in New England States**
 - a. One Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) may be allowed for animals of the same species to be exhibited at fairs or shows in any of the New England States when submitted with an itinerary of the dates and locations of the events at which the listed animals are expected to be shown. Only animals that are healthy at the time of shipment may be moved.
 - b. For the 2026 Show and Fair season, OCVIs being used for the full season must meet all the requirements detailed in the 2026 New England Fairs and Shows memo issued jointly by the state veterinarians of CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT (attached at the end of this document). This memo may be updated at any time during the fair season in response to animal health outbreaks.
6. **Health Certificates: General Rules for All Animals**
 - a. Multiple animals of the same species may be listed on one health certificate with appropriate individual IDs and descriptions. Animals of different species may not be listed on the same official health certificate.
 - b. An itinerary of the names and locations of each New England fair or show at which the owner expects to show the listed animals and the dates when each animal is expected to be on each site must be prepared by the owner and presented to the veterinarian at the time of the OCVI is written.
 - a. A copy of this planned itinerary must be attached to the official health certificate (import and export) for it to be used for more than one fair or show.
 - b. That proposed list should be signed by the veterinarian and the owner/exhibitor and reference the relevant OCVI number(s).

- c. The name and address of the first show or fair where the listed animal will be exhibited is to be used as the “destination” on the OCVI form.
 - a. “See attached list” or similar statement directing Animal Health Official or Fair Inspectors to the attached proposed itinerary must be included.
- d. Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were present on show or fairgrounds. This record must be available to fair inspectors at each inspection and check-in.
- e. Any animal listed on an OCVI that becomes sick must remain home. If the animal is refused entry to any exhibition during 2026 for health reasons, it must have a new health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the next interstate movement.
- f. Any New England state may end their participation in this agreement and revert to the standard published requirements for livestock imports in the state at any time, in the event of foreign animal disease outbreak or changes to state legislation.

Cattle Specific Information

See M.G.L c. 129 §§2, 39 and 330 CMR 4.04(2).

Bovine species- Special Notice 2026

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of any bovines, including both dairy and beef cattle, that have been present in any state at the time that state had a current outbreak of HPAI in cattle. Bovines that have been shipped from currently affected states in 2026 should not be allowed on the premises of New England fairs or shows. Moving to or from an affected state for any reason will void any New England Fair and Show Season Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVIs) that have been issued for such cattle for the remainder of the 2026 season.

The states currently affected by HPAI in cattle can be found on the USDA website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/hpai-confirmed-cases-livestock>

The USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Federal Order Requiring Testing for and Reporting of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Livestock issued on April 24, 2024, remains in effect. It can be found on the USDA website:

www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf

A plan for managing lactating dairy cattle (LDC), including the handling of milk collected at the exhibition facility, should be in place for all fairs and shows where LDC will be on the premises.

1. Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from [TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States](#) (which can be found at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/status-eradication-programs>) and from in-state animals. If the exhibitor’s state is not TB-Accredited or Brucellosis-Free, then the exhibitor must call the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health for entry requirements (617-626-1795 or 857-348-3922). All animals must be free of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pinkeye, ringworm, warts, cowpox, and open or draining wounds.
2. While not required, it is strongly recommended that all cattle be currently vaccinated against rabies.

3. Note: The Big E is requiring RFID official identification tags for all cattle entering The Big E Fairgrounds premises in 2026. Other fairs may add this requirement. Contact the fair office with questions.

Poultry Specific Information

See M. G. L. c. §§2, 129, and 330 CMR 5.02

Important: *Waterfowl may not be exhibited, shown, or otherwise gathered or co-mingled at in-person events in Massachusetts until April 30, 2026, unless extended by the Director of Animal Health, per MDAR Order 1-17-AHO-25.*

1. No poultry will be admitted to a fairground until it has been individually inspected.
2. All poultry must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: infectious bronchitis, coryza, pullorum-typhoid, fowl-pox, external parasites, and laryngotracheitis.
3. Each bird must be accompanied by written proof (ID card or test report) that the breeding flock was blood-tested negative for pullorum-typhoid within one year prior to entry date.
4. Birds from quarantined states will not be permitted entry.
5. All birds over 16 weeks of age as of January 1, 2026, shall be individually leg banded with a state leg band. This includes out-of-state exhibitors.
6. No bird vaccinated for laryngotracheitis within thirty (30) days of the fair will be admitted.

Goat Specific Information

See M. G. L. c. 129 §§2, 9 CFR 79.6 and Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06.

1. Tuberculosis (TB) and brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/status-eradication-programs>) and in-state animals being exhibited in MA.
2. All goats and kids presented, regardless of age, must be individually listed and identified on the health certificate.
3. All goats must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions:
 - a. Foot rot, mage, pinkeye, ringworm, warts, pox, and open or draining wounds.
 - b. All goats must also be free of soremouth and scrapie exposure.
4. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP), goats and sheep of any age or sex brought to a show or exhibition from either out of state or within state must possess a USDA official individual identification tag or registry tattoo accompanied by current registration papers consistent with the requirements of the FSEP and the Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHP-06. Information is available from USDA-APHIS at 508-363-2290.

Camelid Specific information

See M.G.L. c. 129 §2, M.G.I. c. 131, §23, 321 CMR 9.02.

1. Tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States and from in-state animals. If the exhibitor's state is not TB-Accredited or Brucellosis-Free, then the exhibitor must call the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health for entry requirements (617-626-1795 or 857-348-3922).

Swine Specific Information

See M.G.L. c. 129 §14E, 330 CME 11.4(2). 9 CFR 71.19

1. All swine must be identified by an official ear tag or registration.
2. Swine must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: erysipelas, atrophic rhinitis, mange, and open or draining wounds.
3. Exhibited swine may not have been fed raw garbage.
4. No person shall import into Massachusetts from outside the state any swine which have been pseudorabies vaccinated. M.G.L. c. 129 §14E.
5. All swine shall originate from qualified pseudorabies-free herds or herds in qualified pseudorabies-free states only.

Sheep Specific Information

See 9 CFR 79 and Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06

1. No sheep will be allowed entry from flocks in which Scrapie has been diagnosed or in which animals are under surveillance for Scrapie during the previous 18 months. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP), goats and sheep of any age or sex brought to show or exhibition from either out of state or within state must possess a USDA official individual identification tag or registry tattoo accompanied by current registration papers consistent with the requirements of the FSEP and the Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06. Information is available from USDA-APHIS at 508-363-2290.
2. No sheep will be permitted entry from flocks in which soremouth has existed or in which soremouth vaccine had been administered in the previous sixty (60) days.
3. Sheep must be free from visual evidence of foot rot, soremouth, pinkeye, ringworm, and open or draining wounds.
4. While not required, it is strongly recommended that sheep be currently vaccinated against rabies.

Equine Specific Information

See M.G.L. c. 128 §§2C. 44. 330 CMR 16.05

1. All equines entering a Massachusetts (MA) fairground originating from both within or outside Massachusetts must be accompanied by a valid health certificate and have a record of negative EIA (Coggins) test within the last 12 months.
2. All equines must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: mange, ringworm, soring, strangles, and open or draining wounds.
3. While not required, it is strongly recommended that all equines be vaccinated for rabies, tetanus, EEE and NV within one year of the fair.

Dog and Cat Specific Information

See M.G.L. c. 129 §39G

1. All dogs and cats must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: kennel cough, distemper, hepatitis, parvo, ringworm, and mange.
2. All dogs and cats must be accompanied by a valid or current vaccination certificate for rabies.

Contact the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health at 857-348-3922 or 617-626-1795 for further information.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Accredited Veterinarians
Exhibitors and Show Inspectors

FROM: New England State Veterinarians

CT	Dr. Thamus Morgan	NH	Dr. Mark Prescott
MA	Dr. Lorraine O'Connor	RI	Dr. Scott Marshall
ME	Dr. Taryn Pearson	VT	Dr. Kaitlynn Levine

SUBJECT: **2026 New England Fairs and Shows**

DATE: March 27, 2026

Avian Influenza (HPAI) Notices:

Due to the continuing US outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in domesticated and wild birds and in dairy cattle, Animal Health Officials from all six New England States are united in advising the following for agricultural fairs, competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps, or other in-person events that encourage the gathering or co-mingling of birds and/or cattle:

Avian species

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of domestic and wild waterfowl species and may recommend delaying or canceling domestic fowl or poultry shows. If events are held, best practices for biosecurity should be implemented. Waterfowl exhibitions are currently banned in MA through April 30, 2026, which may be extended.

Bovine species

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The states currently affected by HPAI in cattle can be found on the USDA website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/hpai-confirmed-cases-livestock>

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www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dairy-federal-order.pdf

A plan for managing lactating dairy cattle (LDC), including the handling of milk collected at the exhibition facility, should be in place for all fairs and shows where LDC will be on the premises.

All species

- **Animals of all species susceptible to HPAI** are potentially subject to quarantine as ordered by the State Veterinarian if HPAI is detected on a premises where the animal is or was exhibited.
- **If HPAI is detected in cattle in any New England State**, the Agreement between the New England State Veterinarians to allow the use of a single, fair and show season OCVI for New England animals being exhibited in New England will be voided. All exhibited animals would need to be accompanied by an OCVI issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of being checked in at the show premises and/or other state import requirements.
- Best biosecurity practices for all species should be implemented.

Contact the state where animals will be exhibited for the latest updated information.

2026 Fair and Show New England Health Certificates

For the 2026 Show and Fair Season, domesticated animals from New England states (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT) may be exhibited at fairs and shows in New England throughout the fair and show season using a single Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) that meet the requirements outlined in this memo.

General Requirements (all NE states):

- A single OCVI from the animals' home state may be completed for travel to and from the New England states in which the animals will be exhibited.
- Multiple animals of the same species may be listed on one OCVI with appropriate individual IDs and descriptions.
- Animals of different species may not be listed on the same official health certificate.
- An itinerary of the **names** and **locations** for each New England fair or show at which owner expects to show the listed animals and the **dates when each animal is expected to be on each site**, must be prepared by the owner and presented to the veterinarian at the time the OCVI is written.
 - A copy of this planned itinerary must be attached to the OCVI (import and export) for it to be used for more than one fair or show.
 - That proposed list should be **signed by the veterinarian and the owner/ exhibitor** and reference the relevant OCVI number(s).
 - Electronic OCVIs **must include this list of exhibition names, addresses, and dated in the "remarks and comments" section**
- The **first show or fair** where the listed animals will be exhibited will be the **Consignee** on the OCVI, as shown here:
 - New England Fair Season**
 - Street address of first fair or show
 - See Exhibition List

- Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were physically on show/fairgrounds. This record must be available to fair inspectors at each inspection and check-in.
- **Any animal listed on an OCVI that becomes sick must remain home.** Any animal that is **refused entry** to any exhibition during 2026 for health reasons must have a new OCVI issued by an accredited veterinarian **within 30 days** of the next fair or show where it will be exhibited.
- Any New England state may end their participation in this agreement and revert to the standard published requirements for livestock imports in the state at any time, in the event of foreign animal disease outbreak or changes to state legislation.

State-specific requirements:

- **CT**
 - Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
 - An importation permit for exhibition animals is required for cattle, camelids, goats, sheep, and swine
 - Testing and vaccinations are required for some species
 - Contact CT Dept. of Agriculture for permits and requirements at 860-713-2504 or AGR.SVCS@ct.gov
- **MA**
 - Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 through October 31, 2026
 - Contact MDAR at 857-348-3922 or 617-626-1795 with questions
- **ME**
 - Fair and Show OCVIs may be issued and used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
 - An importation permit for exhibition animals is required for some species
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_health/livestock_importation.shtml
 - Contact ME State Veterinarian's Office at 207-287-3701 with questions
- **RI**
 - Fair and Show OCVIs may be used between January 1 and October 31, 2026
 - Contact the RI State Veterinarian's Office at 401-537-4281 with questions
- **NH**
 - Fair and show OCVIs may be issued on or after April 1, 2026, and used for participating NH fairs and shows from July 1 through October 31, 2026
 - Contact NH State Veterinarian's Office (603) 271-2404 for permits
- **VT:**
 - Fair and show OCVIs may be issued on or after April 1, 2026, and used for participating VT fairs and shows from May 1 through October 31, 2026
 - Contact the VT Animal Health Office at 802-828-2421 for specific import requirements and permits

Sick or exposed animals may not be shipped anywhere.

IAFE (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS)

CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

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

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.

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 absolutely 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 animal's 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.
- 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 individual to disciplinary action.
- 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 or not 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 with jurisdiction over such infractions.

TO BE INCLUDED ON FAIR ENTRY FORM

EXHIBITOR ENTRY STATEMENT

I 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 (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) National Code of Show Ring Ethics as stated in the premium list of this event.

Date: _____

Exhibitor (owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer,
or absolutely responsible person)

Date: _____

Guardian or Parent of the above Signator



The Big E 4-H Show Award Donations

Thank you for supporting 4-H youth activities at **The Big E**. Your generous contribution will aid us in our mission to promote agriculture, education, industry, and family entertainment while preserving our New England heritage. Here at Eastern States Exposition, we believe Agriculture is Our Culture, and agricultural fairs like **The Big E** provide producers with a national stage from which to showcase their accomplishments while entertaining and educating the public.

Please send your donation no later than **June 1** to allow time for purchasing awards prior to the show. Orders placed after June 1 may not arrive on time for the event.

We hope that you can come to enjoy the New England 4-H Activities taking place at The Big E this year, September 18 through October 4, 2026. This year's 4-H schedule is listed below:

September 18-20, 2026	4-H Dairy	Mallery Complex
September 20-22, 2026	4-H Poultry*	E Barn*
September 20-22, 2026	4-H Rabbit*	E Barn*
September 24-25, 2026	4-H Horse	E Barn
September 25-28, 2026	4-H Beef	Mallery Complex
September 28, 2026	4-H Beef Auction	Mallery North Arena
October 2-3, 2026	4-H Dairy Goat	Mallery Complex
October 2-4, 2026	4-H Sheep	Mallery Complex
October 2-4, 2026	4-H Dog	Mallery North

*New 4-H Activities in 2026

If you would like to pay by cash or check, please fill out the attached form. Checks should be made payable to **New England 4-H Council***. Please include the **4-H Activity** you are supporting in the memo line.

***4-H Beef Donations** should be made out to **New England 4-H Beef**

Mail form and payment to: Eastern States Exposition Ag & Ed Department
1305 Memorial Avenue, W. Springfield, MA 01089

Note: Donations sent without a form or a 4-H Activity designated in the memo line will be treated as a donation to the general 4-H fund.

To pay online, please scan the QR Code or visit: [New England 4-H Activity Award Donations](#)



Please note: this form is for **4-H Activity** donations only. For donations toward open shows at The Big E, email agininfo@thebige.com to request a copy of the Livestock Donor Form.





2026 4-H Show Donation Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Company Name* _____

**Written as you would like it to appear in the Show Catalog. If this field is blank, we will use your first and last name from above.*

I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my Donation of: \$ _____

4-H Activity You are Supporting (please circle 1 per form):

Beef

Dairy

Dog

Goat

Horse

Poultry

Rabbit

Sheep

I would like to donate toward the following class or event: _____

Please use my donation as needed.

I will bring an award to present on the day of the show

My Donation is in Memory of (Optional): _____

Donation Collected by 4-H Member, State (Optional): _____

Make Checks Payable to **New England 4-H Council*** and write the **4-H Activity** you are supporting on the Memo Line.

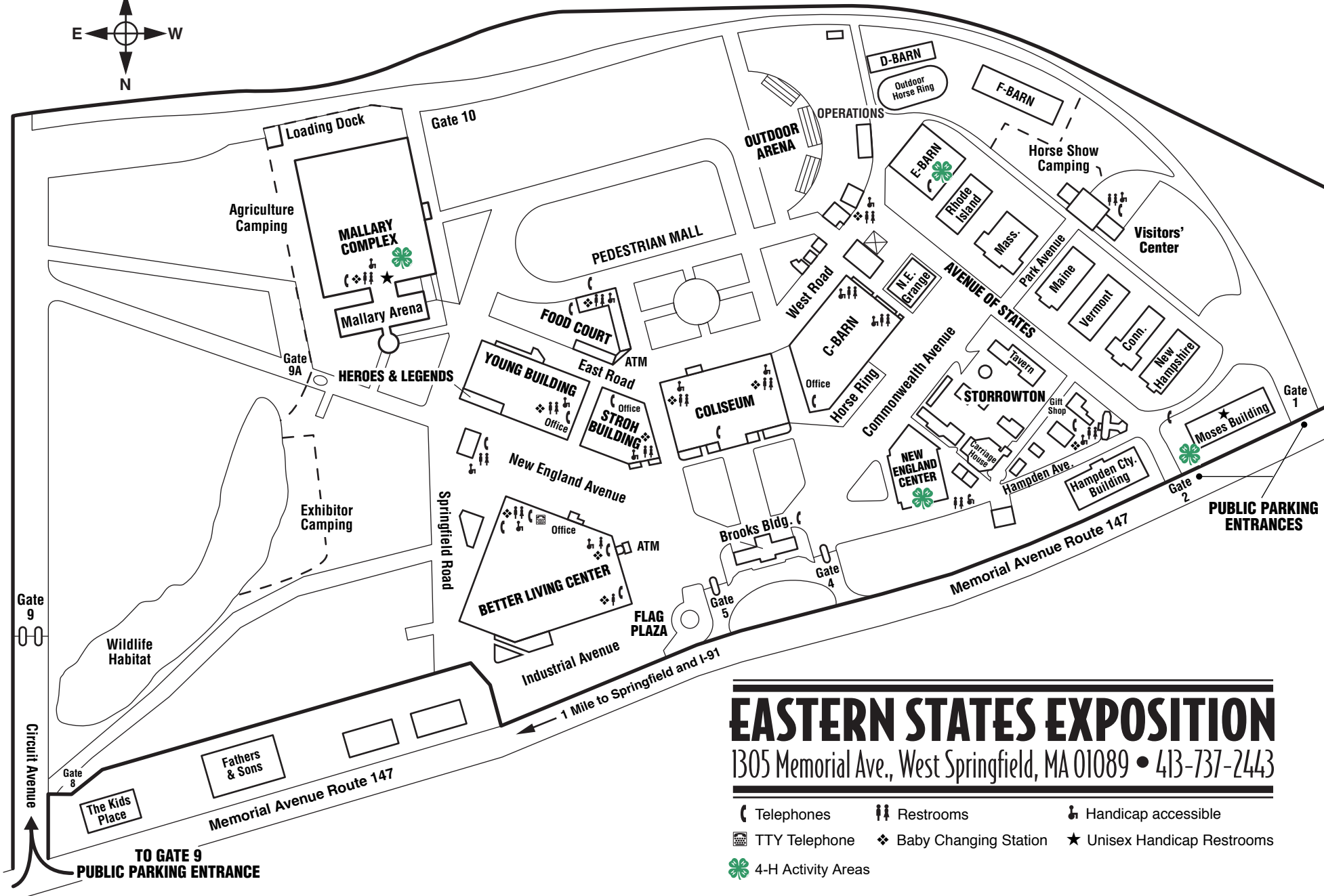
***4-H Beef Donations** should be made out to **New England 4-H Beef**

Please mail this form with your payment by June.



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EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089 • 413-737-2443

- ☎ Telephones
- ♿ Restrooms
- ♿ Handicap accessible
- ☎ TTY Telephone
- 👶 Baby Changing Station
- ★ Unisex Handicap Restrooms
- 🌿 4-H Activity Areas

**TO GATE 9
PUBLIC PARKING ENTRANCE**

**PUBLIC PARKING
ENTRANCES**

1 Mile to Springfield and I-91