

Department 6 - Sheep

Ryan Waltke, Superintendent
Bill Kelley, Assistant Superintendent

1. See www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions.
2. Read and follow "General Exhibitor Livestock Rules" starting on Page 7.
3. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter or exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
4. All Sheep intended for exhibition at the fair must have a USDA scrapie ear tag in order to be unloaded, weighed in June and housed at the fair. All farm tags excluding scrapie tags must be removed prior to June weigh in. Call MDA to register and receive a premises identification number at 888-565-8626 then call USDA to order official tags at 517-324-5290.
5. The exhibitor must own all sheep or have joint ownership within a family corporation and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parent, sibling and/or legal guardian. Exhibitors may tag up to four (4) lambs. All sheep may be cross-tagged between family members living in the SAME primary household. **No leasing of lambs is allowed.**
6. **Possession:** Each 4-H member must remain in possession of their animals after tag/weigh-in and must be housed at the member's home. If an animal is determined to be in violation by Superintendent, that animal will be disqualified unless special permission is granted by Superintendent and/or MSU Extension prior to moving animal elsewhere.
7. All sheep exhibitors are subject to receiving random farm visits conducted by the species Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent.
8. Lambs will be weighed in at time of unloading, no reweighing.
9. All sheep must be weighed-in on Friday, September 12, 2025, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. or Saturday, September 13, 2025, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
10. Lambs weighing less than the 100 lb. required minimum weight will be ineligible for exhibition and will be sent home at weigh-in. **Exception:** Ewes less than 100 lbs. have the option to declare as Breeding Stock or be taken home.
11. **Pen Bedding:** May use natural/dry mulch or shavings.
12. Halters may be used in market lamb classes by exhibitors if desired and approved by Superintendent, and by exhibitors of all ages in breeding stock classes.
13. **Lamb "Check-Off" Fee:** In accordance with the Lamb Promotion, Research & Information Order \$0.007 per pound of live lambs sold will be deducted at the first point of sale.
14. No barn set-up in the sheep barn on Saturday, September 6, 2025, until all carcass weigh-ins are completed.
15. Cool, wet towels may be used to prevent overheating of lambs.
16. Show Order: Showmanship (oldest to youngest), Cloverbuds, Breeding Stock, Market Ewes, Market Wethers (order rotates annually), Home Born & Raised, Champion Drive, and Adult Showmanship.
17. Sheep may only be loaded out on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 5:30 a.m. All stalls must be cleaned after animals are removed from the fairgrounds.

Section A - Evaluation (A, B, C premium table = 2)

1. **Required participation by all exhibitors:** All exhibitors exhibiting any type of sheep project must participate in the 4-H Sheep Project Evaluation. A completed evaluation includes an interview with a judge and answering questions from the sheep skill-a-thon. Failure to complete the appropriate evaluation(s) will result in project animal(s) disqualification from the show(s) and require the removal of their cattle from the fairgrounds.
2. Sheep Project Evaluations will be conducted on an individual basis on **Sunday, September 14, 2025, starting at 8:00 a.m.** at the stall where the exhibitor's sheep project animal(s) are housed.

Class

- 1601 - Market Lamb Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1602 - Best-of-Show in class 1601 (**R**)
- 1603 - Market Lamb Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1604 - Best-of-Show in class 1603 (**R**)
- 1605 - Market Lamb Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1606 - Best-of-Show in class 1605 (**R**)
- 1607 - Breeding Sheep Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1608 - Best-of-Show in class 1607 (**R**)
- 1609 - Breeding Sheep Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1610 - Best-of-Show in class 1609 (**R**)
- 1611 - Breeding Sheep Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1612 - Best-of-Show in class 1611 (**R**)

Section B - Sheep Fitting & Showmanship (Placing premium table = 102)

1. All exhibitors are eligible to compete in Fitting & Showmanship classes. Pre-registration is required.
2. Exhibitors must show own project animal.
3. Classes may be divided at the discretion of the superintendent and/or MSU Extension.

Class

- 1613 - Sheep Fitting & Showmanship, 15-19 (**TR**)
- 1614 - Sheep Fitting & Showmanship, 12-14 (**TR**)
- 1615 - Sheep Fitting & Showmanship, 8-11 (**TR**)

Section C - Market Ewes & Wethers (Placing premium table = 102)

1. **Registration and Ear-tagging:** All market and carcass lambs must be ear-tagged and registered at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension countywide weigh-in/registration on June 3 or June 5, 2025, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Lambs that are not registered on either of these dates are not eligible to be shown at the fair. Exhibitors may ear-tag and register four market lambs, but may show and sell only two at the fair, and one in the Carcass Lamb Contest if all eligibility requirements are met. All animals may be cross-tagged between family members living in the SAME primary household.
2. Male market/carcass lambs must be "wethered" (castrated) by June 1 of the current project year. No rams can be shown as market lambs.
3. Hair samples will be pulled from all market lambs at the time of weigh-in/tagging in June. Hair samples will also be pulled from the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand

Champion Wethers and Ewes immediately following the Grand Champion Drives.

4. All market lambs must be rough shorn by fair weigh-in.
5. All market lambs will be consigned to the Large Animal Auction unless the Livestock Removal Authorization Form is submitted to the 4-H office by Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. or immediately following the show.
6. Market lambs will be divided into classes based on fair weigh-in weight at the discretion of MSU Extension and/or Superintendent.

Class

- 1616 - Market Ewe
- 1617 - Grand Champion Ewe Drive:
 - 1st Place - Grand Champion Ewe (PR)
 - 2nd Place - Reserve Grand Champion Ewe (PR)
- 1618 - Market Wether
- 1619 - Grand Champion Wether Drive:
 - 1st Place - Grand Champion Wether (PR)
 - 2nd Place - Res. Grand Champion Wether (PR)

Section D - Market Lambs (Home Born & Raised)

1. A 4-H Home Born & Raised Market Lamb must be both birthed and raised by a 4-H exhibitor on the exhibitor's property, or on a superintendent verified site. (The animal must be raised by the 4-H exhibitor at the place of birth.) Exhibitors may only show one animal in this class.

Class

- 1620 - Champion Home Born & Raised Market Lamb (TR)
- 1621 - Reserve Champion Home Born & Raised Market Lamb (TR)

Section E - Carcass Lamb Contest (Placing premium table = 105a)

1. Entry in this section is limited to 10 participants. If more than 10 exhibitors submit entry forms, selection of the 10 participants will be based on a combined factor of exhibitor age plus number of years in the project.
2. Completed entry forms must be received in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by June 5, 2025 in order to be considered. Applicants will be notified by letter regarding the status of their entry.
3. A member's carcass lamb must be one of the market lambs registered in his/her name.
4. To compete in the 4-H Carcass Sheep class, sheep must weigh a minimum of 100 lbs.
5. All lambs entered in the Carcass Lamb Contest must be shorn within two weeks of the weigh-in date or be disqualified.
6. Carcass Lamb weigh-in is at the fairgrounds on **Saturday, September 6, 2025, 10:00 a.m.** Sheep project leaders will coordinate trucking of club carcass lambs.
7. The Carcass Lamb Evaluation will take place on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing in Leonidas.
8. Exhibitors participating in this contest are required to attend the Carcass Lamb Evaluation or be disqualified.
9. Lamb carcasses must meet the following industry standards in order to be placed in the class: Live weight - 100 lbs.; Loin eye area - 2.0; Back fat thickness - .10

min. Any animal that does not meet all of the above requirements will be disqualified.

10. If a carcass animal is disqualified at the live evaluation, the member can request that the animal be shipped with the rest of the carcass animals for butchering, however, the member will be responsible for all processing expenses and the animal will not be entered into the carcass contest. Exhibitor will still be required to attend hanging evaluation for educational purposes.

Class

- 1622 - Carcass Lamb
- 1623 - Champion Carcass Lamb (PR)
- 1624 - Reserve Champion Carcass Lamb (PR)

Section F - Market Lamb Rate-of-Gain (Placing premium table = 105a)

1. All animals that meet eligibility requirements for this section are entered automatically.
2. First place is awarded to the lamb that has the highest average daily rate-of-gain.

Class

- 1625 - Rate-of-Gain (1st T, 2nd T)

Section G - I Breeding Stock Rules (Placing premium table = 102)

1. All breeding stock animals must be registered at the MSU Extension office by August 1, 2025.
2. All purebred breeding stock animals in Section G must be eligible for registry.
3. Exhibitor may exhibit any breeding stock. Exhibitor may exhibit only one in each breeding stock class per section unless otherwise noted in class description.
4. Breeding Stock must go through a basic health requirements check-in with superintendent prior to being housed at the fairgrounds.

Section G - Pure Breed

Class

- 1626 - Jr. Ram Lamb, born on or after Feb. 15, 2025
- 1627 - Sr. Ram Lamb, born Sept. 1, 2024 - Feb. 14, 2025
- 1628 - Yearling Ram, under 2 years of age and born before August 31, 2024
- 1629 - Pair of Ram Lambs
- 1630 - One aged Ram, 2 years or older
- 1631 - Jr. Ewe Lamb, born on or after Feb. 15, 2025
- 1632 - Sr. Ewe Lamb, born Sept. 1, 2024 - Feb. 14, 2025
- 1633 - Yearling Ewe, under 2 years of age and born before August 31, 2024
- 1634 - Pair of Ewe Lambs
- 1635 - One aged Ewe age 2 years of age or older
- 1636 - Dam & Daughter, owned by one exhibitor
- 1637 - Champion Ewe (R)
- 1638 - Reserve Champion Ewe (R)
- 1639 - Champion Ram (R)
- 1640 - Reserve Champion Ram (R)

Section H - Commercial Sheep

Section I - Wool Type

(Same Classes and Premiums as Section G)

Section J - Championships

Class

- 1641 - Grand Champion Ewe shown in Sections H-K (PR)
- 1642 - Grand Champion Ram shown in Sections H-K (PR)
- 1643 - Champion Flock (TR)

Department 8 - Goats

Diana Yeager, Superintendent
Tarina Jansen, Assistant Superintendent
Maree Troyer, Assistant Superintendent

1. See www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions.
2. Read and follow "General Exhibitor Livestock Rules" starting on Page 7.
3. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter or exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
4. All Goats intended for exhibition must have a USDA scrapie tag on the animal in the ear (small eared goats must have a collared tag) in order to be housed at the fair. **If tattooed, a copy of the paperwork must be given to the superintendent PRIOR to being housed.** Call MDARD to receive a premises identification number (PIN) at 888-565-8626 then call USDA to order official tags at 866-873-2824.
5. Dairy Market Goat project animals are limited to the following breeds: Alpine, Guernsey, LaMancha, Nigerian Dwarf, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, and Toggenberg. Market Goat may be a "cross" between two or more of these breeds.
6. Meat Goats are any goat that is not included in rule #6 above. Example: Boer, Angora, Fainting, etc. or crossbred with a dairy breed.
7. All market and carcass goats must weigh-in on June 3 or June 5, 2025, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at countywide goat weigh/tag/registration day at the fairgrounds.
8. Any market goat that does not weigh 60 lbs. on the day of weigh-in at fair will be sent home. **Exception:** does less than 60 lbs. have the option to declare as Breeding Stock. All red neck tags numbers MUST be presented at check-in to be eligible for fair.
9. Check in time at fair for all 4-H goats is Saturday, September 13, 2025, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
10. Tying of goats in assigned pens is at the discretion of the exhibitor. Any goat that attempts or does climb or jump over the pen must be tied in the pen once such action is observed.
11. All breeding stock and market project animals must be owned by the exhibitor or have joint ownership within a family corporation and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parent, sibling and/or legal guardian.
12. Exhibitors must have primary responsibility for care and training of their project animal(s) by June 1 of the current project year.
13. All market goats must be dehorned and castrated by June 1. Market goats may be allowed with a maximum one-half (½) inch horn/scur with the discretion of superintendent and assistant superintendent at fair check-in. All breeding stock goats must be dehorned. Meat breeding stock goats may be shown with horns but are not allowed to be in showmanship.

14. No bucks are permitted.
15. Milking on show day is left to the discretion of the exhibitor and leader.
16. Exhibitors should use collars, neck straps or neck chains to aid in controlling the goat.
17. Goats may be either grade or registered, and will compete on an equal basis.
18. **Load-out:** All goats will be released at 5:00 a.m. and must be picked up by **10:00 a.m.** on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their pens after the animals leave.
19. Exhibitor dress code consists of dark pants and dress shirt of exhibitor's choice. No T-shirts. Exhibitors **MUST** wear dark colored closed toe footwear. Dairy exhibitors may choose to wear white pants and a white shirt.
20. All goat pens must be cleaned down to the cement and re-bedded with fresh **pine shavings only** a minimum of one time during the fair week.
21. Dairy goats and meat goats will show in separate rings with separate judges, but will run the same show order: Showmanship (oldest to youngest), Cloverbuds, Market, Breeding Stock, Home Born & Raised, County Bred & Born, Pet class.
22. No barn set-up in any goat barn on Saturday, September 6, 2025 until all carcass weigh-ins are completed.

Section A - Goat Evaluation (A, B, C premium table = 2)

1. **Required participation by all exhibitors:** All exhibitors exhibiting any type of goat project must participate in the 4-H Goat Project Evaluation. A completed evaluation includes an interview with a judge and answering questions from the goat skill-a-thon. Failure to complete the appropriate evaluation(s) will result in their goat project animal(s) disqualification from the show(s) and require the removal of their goats from the fairgrounds.
2. Goat Project Evaluations will be conducted on an individual basis on **Sunday, September 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.** at the pen where the exhibitor's goat project animal(s) are housed.

Class

- 1301 - Market Goat Project Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1302 - Best-of-Show in class 1301 (R)
- 1303 - Market Goat Project Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1304 - Best-of-Show in class 1303 (R)
- 1305 - Market Goat Project Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1306 - Best-of-Show in class 1305 (R)
- 1307 - Breeding Stock Goat Project Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1308 - Best-of-Show in class 1307 (R)
- 1309 - Breeding Stock Goat Project Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1310 - Best-of-Show in class 1309 (R)
- 1311 - Breeding Stock Goat Project Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1312 - Best-of-Show in class 1311 (R)

Section B - Goat Fitting & Showmanship
(Placing premium table = 102)

1. All exhibitors are eligible to compete in Fitting & Showmanship classes.
2. Entry must be made in showmanship class.
3. Exhibitors must show their own project animal.
4. Showmanship animals **must** be shown in a market or breeding stock class.
5. A class may be divided at the discretion of the Superintendent and/or MSU Extension.
6. Exhibitors may show in **EITHER** (not both) dairy goat or meat goat showmanship class.

Class

- 1313 - Dairy Goat Fitting & Showmanship, 15-19 (TR)
- 1314 - Dairy Goat Fitting & Showmanship, 12-14 (TR)
- 1315 - Dairy Goat Fitting & Showmanship, 8-11 (TR)
- 1316 - Meat Goat Fitting & Showmanship, 15-19 (TR)
- 1317 - Meat Goat Fitting & Showmanship, 12-14 (TR)
- 1318 - Meat Goat Fitting & Showmanship, 8-11 (TR)

Section C - Market Goats
(Placing premium table = 102)

1. Market goats must have milk teeth present at fair check-in and are suggested to be born on December 1, 2024 or after. Does and/or wethers are eligible for market class.
2. **Registration and Ear-tagging:** All market and carcass goats must be ear-tagged and registered at the St. Joseph County MSU Extension countywide weigh-in/registration on June 3 or June 5, 2025, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Goats that are not registered on either of these dates are not eligible to be shown at the fair. Exhibitors may ear-tag and register three market goats, but may show and sell only two at the fair, and one in the Carcass Goat Contest if all eligibility requirements are met. All animals may be cross-tagged between family members living in the SAME primary household.
3. All market goats **MUST** have a scrapie tag in the ear, or on the collar for earless goats only, at the June weigh-in to be eligible for fair.
4. Male market goats must be "wethered" (castrated) by June 1 of the current project year. The only methods of castration that will be accepted are surgical cut or banding.
5. Market goats will be divided into classes based on fair weigh-in weight at the discretion of the Superintendent and/or MSU Extension.
6. Exhibitors showing two individual goats will sell their higher placing goat in the Small Animal Sale. The second animal will be sold at support price or can be taken home upon completion of the goat removal authorization form.
The form must be completed and returned to the 4-H office by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. In the event both goats place as Dairy/Meat Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion both animals must be sold in the 4-H Small Animal Sale.

Class

- 1319 - Dairy Market Goat
- 1320 - Champion Lightweight Dairy Market Goat (TR)
- 1321 - Res. Champion Lightweight Dairy Market Goat (TR)
- 1322 - Champion Mediumweight Dairy Market Goat (TR)
- 1323 - Res. Champion Mediumweight Dairy Market Goat (TR)
- 1324 - Champion Heavyweight Dairy Market Goat (TR)
- 1325 - Res. Champion Heavyweight Dairy Market Goat (TR)

- 1326 - Grand Champion Dairy Market Goat (PR)
- 1327 - Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Market Goat (PR)
- 1328 - Meat Market Goat
- 1329 - Champion Lightweight Meat Market Goat (TR)
- 1330 - Res. Champion Lightweight Meat Market Goat (TR)
- 1331 - Champion Mediumweight Meat Market Goat (TR)
- 1332 - Res. Champion Mediumweight Meat Market Goat (TR)
- 1333 - Champion Heavyweight Meat Market Goat (TR)
- 1334 - Res. Champion Heavyweight Meat Market Goat (TR)
- 1335 - Grand Champion Meat Market Goat (PR)
- 1336 - Res. Grand Champion Meat Market Goat (PR)

Section D - E
Breeding Stock Rules
(Placing premium table = 102)

1. All breeding stock animals must be registered at the MSU Extension office by August 1, 2025.
2. Breeding Stock must go through a basic health requirements check-in with superintendent prior to being housed at the fairgrounds.

Section D - Dairy Goats (All Breeds)

Class

- 1337 - Junior Doe Kid, born on or after April 1, 2025
- 1338 - Intermediate Doe Kid, born March 1 - March 31, 2025
- 1339 - Senior Doe Kid, born January 1 - February 29, 2025
- 1340 - Junior Yearling Doe, born May 1 - December 31, 2024 (not in milk).
- 1341 - Senior Yearling Doe, born January 1 - April 30, 2024 (not in milk.)
- 1342 - Champion Junior Doe (TR)
- 1343 - Reserve Champion Junior Doe (TR)
- 1344 - Yearling Milker, under 2 years
- 1345 - Junior Milker, 2 years and under 3
- 1346 - Intermediate Milker, 3 years and under 5
- 1347 - Senior Milker, 5 years and over
- 1348 - Champion Senior Doe (TR)
- 1349 - Reserve Champion Sr. Doe (TR)
- 1350 - Grand Champion Doe (PR)
- 1351 - Reserve Grand Champion Doe (PR)
- 1352 - Best Udder, judged on udder only (TR)
- 1353 - Dam and Daughter (any dairy or dairy cross breed)
- 1354 - Champion Dam and Daughter (TR)
- 1355 - Reserve Champion Dam and Daughter (R)
- 1356 - Dairy Goat Junior Herd - herd to consist of a dam and two female offspring, or three female offspring of one female
- 1357 - Champion Dairy Goat Junior Herd (TR)
- 1358 - Reserve Champion Dairy Goat Junior Herd (TR)

Section E - Meat Goats

Class

- 1359 - Doe Kid, under 1 year
- 1360 - Yearling Doe, 1 year and under 2 years
- 1361 - Jr. Doe, 2 years and under 4 years
- 1362 - Sr. Doe, 4 years or older
- 1363 - Champion Doe (TR)
- 1364 - Reserve Champion Doe (TR)
- 1365 - Dam and Daughter (any meat/meat cross breed)
- 1366 - Champion Dam and Daughter (TR)
- 1367 - Reserve Champion Dam and Daughter (R)
- 1368 - Meat Goat Junior Herd - herd to consist of a dam and two female offspring, or three female offspring of one female
- 1369 - Champion Meat Goat Junior Herd (TR)

Section F - Carcass Goat Contest
(Placing premium table = 105a)

1. Entry in this section is limited to 10 participants. If more than 10 exhibitors submit entry forms, selection of the 10 participants will be based on a combined factor of exhibitor age plus number of years in the project.
2. Completed entry forms must be received in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by June 10 of current year in order to be considered. Applicants will be notified by letter regarding the status of their entry.
3. A member's carcass goat must be one of the market goats registered in his/her name.
4. To compete in the 4-H Carcass Goat class, goat must weigh a minimum of 60 lbs. at carcass class weigh in, if the animal does not make the minimum weight, it will be disqualified.
5. Live Goat weigh-in is at the fairgrounds on **Saturday, September 6, 2025**. Goat project leaders will coordinate trucking of club carcass goats.
6. If a carcass animal is disqualified at the live evaluation, the member can request that the animal be shipped with the rest of the carcass animals for butchering, however, the member will be responsible for all processing expenses and the animal will not be entered into the carcass contest. Exhibitor will still be required to attend hanging evaluation for educational purposes.
7. The Carcass Goat Evaluation will take place on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing in Leonidas.
8. Exhibitors participating in this contest are required to attend the Carcass Goat Evaluations or be disqualified.
9. Carcass Goats ONLY may have a maximum horn/regrowth of 2 inches.

Class

- 1371 - Carcass Goat
1372 - Champion Carcass Goat (PR)
1373 - Reserve Champion Carcass Goat (PR)

Section G - Market Goat Rate-of-Gain
(Ribbon Class Only)

1. All animals that meet eligibility requirements for this section are entered automatically.
2. First place is awarded to the goat that has the highest average daily rate-of-gain.

Class

- 1374 - Rate-of-Gain (1st T, 2nd T)

Section H - Market Goat County Bred & Born
(No premiums - ribbon only)

1. A 4-H County Bred & Born Market Goat must be both bred and birthed in St. Joseph County. Exhibitors may only show one animal in this class.
2. County Bred & Born forms must be filled out at countywide weigh-in/registration in June.

Class

- 1375 - County Bred & Born Dairy Goat (1st R, 2nd R)
1376 - County Bred & Born Meat Goat (1st R, 2nd R)

Section I - Pet Goats
(No premiums in this section - ribbon only)

1. All goats must be at least one (1) year old and can be a doe or wether of any breed with or without horns.
2. All Goats intended for exhibition must have a USDA scrapie tag on the animal in order to be housed at the fair. See "General Goat Rule" #4 for more information.
3. Must have a collar and leash or halter. No spike collars allowed.
4. Goats do not have to be shaved but need to be clean, have trimmed hooves, and be show presentable.
5. Goats in this section may not be registered or shown in any other class, i.e., showmanship, market or breeding stock.
6. It is at the discretion of the Goat Superintendent, Goat Assistant Superintendent, 4-H Coordinator, and/or Goat Judge to dismiss any goat from participating in the class if the animal is deemed unruly and/or unsafe for the handler, other youth or other goats in the ring.

Class

- 1377 - Pet Goat

Department 10 - Swine

Kevin Yeager, Superintendent
Brady Littlefield, Assistant Superintendent
Rick Gould, Assistant Superintendent

1. See www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions.
2. Read and follow "General Exhibitor Livestock Rules" starting on Page 7.
3. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter or exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
4. The exhibitor must own all swine or have joint ownership within a family corporation and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parent, sibling, and/or legal guardian.
5. **Registration and Ear-tagging:** All market and carcass hogs must be ear-tagged and registered with the St. Joseph County MSU Extension on Tuesday, June 10, or Wednesday, June 11, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Hogs that are not registered with the MSU Extension office are not eligible to be shown at the fair. Exhibitors may ear-tag and register four hogs, but may show and sell only two at the fair, and one in the Carcass Hog Contest if all eligibility requirements are met. All animals may be cross-tagged between family members living in the **SAME** primary household.
4. **Ear Tags:** St. Joseph County Fair 4-H tags will be used for identification. In accordance with **state law**, **all exhibition hogs must also have an official form of ID**, such as an 840 or NUES tag. If they do not already have official ID when purchased, it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure hogs are tagged with an official ID tag by the date of tagging. A premises identification number (PIN) is required to purchase tags. Exhibitors can call MDARD at 888-565-8626 to obtain a PIN.
6. MSU Extension staff, 4-H Swine Superintendent or Assistant Superintendents, will handle all shipping arrangements for market hogs to processing. No private trucking of market hogs is allowed.

7. **Swine Sale "Check-Off" Fee:** In accordance with the National Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act; 0.35% (.0035) of the sale value will be deducted at the first point of sale.
8. **Weigh-In Process:** Hogs must be delivered to the fair on Friday, September 12, 2025, 3:30 - 7:30 pm **or** Saturday, September 13, 2025 8:00 - 11:00 am. Weigh-in will take place at time of unloading. Hogs can be weighed only once - NO reweighing. The exhibitor, or immediate family member must accompany their market hogs through the weigh-in process. Hogs must be **clean and tags legible** or they will be turned away until they are clean. All hogs must have an 840 or NUES tag in place to be unloaded.
9. Hogs weighing less than 230 lbs. **or** more than 320 lbs. are disqualified and will be sent home immediately.
10. **Show Equipment:** Swine Project member may take into the show arena building, including the time in a holding pen, a brush and show instrument. This rule covers the entire time the member is in the show arena. The Swine Department will furnish water bottles to be put in each holding pen for the use of each showman. These provided water bottles must remain in the holding pen area only.
11. The judge and volunteers assisting with the 4-H Swine Show are the only people allowed in the show ring and holding pen area during the show. Parents may not accompany their child.
12. **Club Wash Rack/Runway Duty:** Each 4-H Swine Project club will be assigned specific wash rack(s) to keep clean during the week. ANYONE can use the wash racks. Clubs will be responsible for their assigned wash rack(s) to clean and will be checked daily. **Absolutely no feeding of hogs or cleaning of equipment in the wash rack!**
13. All pigs that are clipped must have at least 3/8 in. of hair. There will be no painting allowed during the grooming and fitting process.
14. Swine pens MUST be stripped of all bedding and replaced with fresh bedding EACH morning. **Only pine shavings may be used as bedding.** Cleaning and feeding times are as follows: morning, 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. and evenings, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
15. All market livestock will be consigned to the Large Animal Auction unless the Livestock Removal Authorization Form is submitted to the 4-H office by Monday, September 15, at 8:00 p.m. The Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Barrow and Gilt must be consigned to the 4-H Large Animal Sale.
16. **Show Order:** Showmanship (oldest to youngest), Market Gilts, Market Barrows, Cloverbuds, Grand Champion Drive - Gilts, Grand Champion Drive - Barrows.
23. **Load-out:** All hogs will be released at 5:30 a.m. and must be picked up by **10:00 a.m.** on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their pens after the animals leave.

Section A - Swine Project Evaluation (A, B, C premium table = 2)

1. **Required participation by all exhibitors:** All 4-H members exhibiting a swine project must participate in the 4-H Swine Project Evaluation. A completed evaluation includes an interview with a judge and answering questions from the swine skill-a-thon. Failure to complete the appropriate evaluation(s) will result in their swine project animals' disqualification from the show and require the removal of their hogs from the fairgrounds.

2. Swine Project Evaluations will be conducted on an individual basis on **Sunday, September 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** at the pen where the exhibitor's swine project animal(s) are housed.

Class

- 1701 - Swine Project Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1702 - Best-of-Show in class 1701 **(R)**
- 1703 - Swine Project Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1704 - Best-of-Show in class 1703 **(R)**
- 1705 - Swine Project Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1706 - Best-of-Show in class 1705 **(R)**

Section B - Swine Fitting & Showmanship (Placing premium table = 102)

1. All exhibitors are eligible to compete in the Fitting & Showmanship classes. Entry must be made in Showmanship class.
2. Exhibitors must show their own project animal.
3. Classes may be divided at the discretion of the Superintendent and/or MSU Extension.

Class

- 1707 - Swine Fitting & Showmanship, 8-11 **(TR)**
- 1708 - Swine Fitting & Showmanship, 12-14 **(TR)**
- 1709 - Swine Fitting & Showmanship, 15-19 **(TR)**

Section C - Market Gilts & Barrows (Placing premium table = 102)

1. Read and follow General Swine Rules.
2. All market/carcass hogs must be ear-tagged at one of the countywide tagging days.
3. Maximum optimal starting weight as of June 15 is 105 lbs.

Class

- 1710 - Market Gilt
- 1711 - Champion Lightweight Market Gilt **(TR)**
- 1712 - Res. Champion Lightweight Market Gilt **(TR)**
- 1713 - Champion Mediumweight Market Gilt **(TR)**
- 1714 - Res. Champion Mediumweight Market Gilt **(TR)**
- 1715 - Champion Heavyweight Market Gilt **(TR)**
- 1716 - Res. Champion Heavyweight Market Gilt **(TR)**
- 1717 - Grand Champion Gilt **(PR)**
- 1718 - Reserve Grand Champion Gilt **(PR)**
- 1719 - Market Barrow
- 1720 - Champion Lightweight Market Barrow **(TR)**
- 1721 - Res. Champion Lightweight Market Barrow **(TR)**
- 1722 - Champion Mediumweight Market Barrow **(TR)**
- 1723 - Res. Champion Mediumweight Market Barrow **(TR)**
- 1724 - Champion Heavyweight Market Barrow **(TR)**
- 1725 - Res. Champion Heavyweight Market Barrow **(TR)**
- 1726 - Grand Champion Barrow **(PR)**
- 1727 - Reserve Grand Champion Barrow **(PR)**

Section D - Carcass Hog Contest (Placing premium table = 105a)

1. Entry in this section is limited to 10 participants. If more than 10 exhibitors submit entry forms, selection of the 10 participants will be based on a combined factor of exhibitor age plus number of years in the project.
2. A member's carcass hog must be one of the market hogs registered in their name.

3. Hogs entered in the Carcass Class must weigh at least 230 lbs. but not more than 320 lbs. at weigh-in for in order to be eligible to compete or be disqualified.
4. Hogs entered in the carcass contest must be in good health, be of sound quality meeting industry standards and MDARD health regulations. No hogs with ruptured navels, excessive limping, prolapse, abscess, or respiratory (upper or lower) concerns will be allowed as determined by the Swine Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendents and MSU Extension staff.
5. Live Hog weigh-in will take place on **Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** at the fairgrounds.
6. The Carcass Hog Evaluation will take place on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing in Leonidas.
7. Exhibitors participating in this contest must attend the hanging Carcass Hog Evaluation in order to receive a premium and any associated awards or be disqualified from the contest.
8. Carcass evaluation judging criteria will include: carcass score and quality (color, texture and exudation). Severe cases of PSE will be disqualified based on judge's discretion.
9. Hog carcasses must meet the following certification standards in order to place in the class: carcass length = 29.5" minimum, loin eye area = 4.5 sq. in. minimum, back fat = 0.4" minimum. If an exhibitor's hog does not meet this certification standards, the member will only be eligible for a participation ribbon.

Class

- 1728 - Carcass Hog
- 1729 - Champion Carcass Hog (based on % muscle) (TR)
- 1730 - Reserve Champion Carcass Hog (based on % muscle) (TR)
- 1731 - Carcass Efficiency (T)

Department 12 - Poultry

Angie Landis, Superintendent

Karrie Landis, Market Chicken Assistant Superintendent

Michele Kelley, Turkey Assistant Superintendent

Karyn Scheffler, Breeding Stock Assistant Superintendent

1. See www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions.
2. Read and follow "General Exhibitor Livestock Rules" starting on Page 7.
3. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter or exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
4. All chickens and turkeys for exhibition must either:
 - a. Originate from a pullorum-typhoid clean flock and have been housed separately from birds of unknown or positive pullorum-typhoid health-status. One of the following must accompany your registration form: parent flock National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) certification number, MDA form VS9-2, MDA form VS9-3. **OR**
 - b. Be tested by an authorized educator (a licensed, accredited veterinarian or a Michigan Department of Agriculture certified pullorum tester) within 90 days of the show. There must be **no comingling** of birds with those that are not pullorum tested. A copy of MDA

state pullorum test certificate must accompany your registration form.

5. All breeding stock poultry must be in exhibitor's possession by wing/leg-banding date. Breeding stock (chickens, ducks and geese) and pigeons will also be leg-banded on Sunday, August 17, 2025, or Monday, August 18, 2025, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Pullorum testing will be available at the wing/leg banding. Exhibitor may register up to two (2) birds for each breeding stock class.
6. Breeding stock poultry age (including chickens, ducks and geese) is defined as: **A "young" bird is one hatched from previous fair, October 1 to current fair September 30. A "mature" bird is one that is 12 months old or older.**
7. All breeding stock and market poultry must be owned by the exhibitor or have joint ownership within a family corporation and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parent, sibling, and/or legal guardian. Cross-tagging is acceptable among immediate family members only.
8. **Feeding, Watering & Cleaning:** 4-H Poultry Project members are responsible for feeding and watering their birds, plus cleaning the cage(s) their birds are housed in at fair. Each member will be charged per pen for shavings and feed that are used. **This money will be deducted from the member's livestock check.** Poultry pens must be stripped of all bedding and replaced with fresh bedding each morning. **Cleaning and feeding times are as follows: 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** The 4-H Poultry Project Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendents will inspect pens after these times to determine if feeding, watering and cleaning has been done in accordance with generally accepted animal husbandry practices. Feed and shavings will be locked up except at feeding and cleaning times.
9. Eggs will not be housed at the fair, and must be taken home following judging. Eggs are to be kept in the exhibitors' possession before and after judging. **Do not leave them in the barn. Note:** Best-of-Show will be on display in the still exhibit barn.
10. All market and breeding stock poultry (including pigeons) must be checked in and housed in the 4-H poultry barn at fair on **Friday, September 12, 2025, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.** All market poultry must be weighed before being housed. All breeding stock poultry must have leg bands checked before being housed. No class changes will be allowed after the declaration of classes. Pen assignments for all poultry to be handled by the 4-H Poultry Superintendent and/or 4-H Poultry Assistant Superintendents.
11. **4-H Poultry should not be brought to the fair in any size cardboard box.** Birds should be well bedded. At check-in poultry must be **clean and dry**. Care must be given to transport poultry to the fair in cages with adequate bedding, ventilation and drainage. Weigh-in personnel may refuse weighing/housing of 4-H poultry until the birds are clean and dry. All poultry must have tags in place at check-in.
12. **No shipping crates, cages or boxes may be stored in the 4-H Poultry Barn during the fair.**
13. The exhibitor is required to supply his/her own cage to transport birds to and from the show arena for show and sale. 4-H fair housing cages may not be used for this purpose.
14. **Exhibitor Dress Code: For showmanship only, black pants, white long-sleeved shirt and leather closed**