

RULES GOVERNING THE OTSEGO COUNTY FAIR

CHANGES & NEW RULES ARE IN **BOLD** last updated 2025

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DISCLAIMER:

The Otsego County Fair is not responsible for printing errors in this premium book. We reserve the right to make corrections where and when printing errors appear and interpret any errors. Corrections will be made the following year. The Fair Board has the final say in any disputes.

SECTION 1: General OCF Rules

1. Exhibitors are responsible for knowing and observing all rules regarding exhibiting at the Fair. Exhibitors should check each Department and Section for more specific rules. This will help avoid misunderstandings, errors, and complaints. When in doubt, ask a Fair Board Member.
2. The Management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, or differences in regard thereto. It further reserves the right to amend or add to these rules as in its judgment. It may determine to withdraw all, pay all, or pay in part premium offerings in all departments should an emergency exist and circumstances demand it.
3. The Management has given area chairpersons the final ruling in all matters in their area during fair week. A member of, or the entire Executive Board will be called upon when the area chairperson cannot settle the question or differences; the Executive Board decision is final.
4. All participants will be governed by all rules and regulations set by the Otsego County Fair Board of Directors. These rules will be strictly enforced. Violators, if contestants, will forfeit all entry fees, premiums, and be removed from the grounds.
5. Every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of exhibits, but under no circumstances will the Fair Association be responsible for personal accidents, loss, theft, injury or damage to an exhibit, by fire, lightning, wind, or any other occurrence beyond our control to such livestock or articles on exhibition or display. Management will use diligence to ensure the safety of livestock and articles to be entered for exhibition or display after their arrival on the grounds. The exhibitor, against all legal or other proceedings, shall indemnify the Fair and Management thereto. Security will be on hand during fair week.
6. A \$50.00 fee will be charged for any check returned from the Bank.

7. Persons starting any arguments or misconduct at the fairgrounds will immediately be removed from the grounds.
8. No smoking in tents, exhibit buildings and animal barns, near the horse stalls, or in the covered grandstand bleachers.
9. No coolers in the grandstand.
10. There will be no refunds of any kind, including cancellations due to inclement weather or any occurrence beyond our control.
11. NO dogs will be allowed in the grandstands, carnival area, exhibit buildings or animal barns unless it is a service dog. All dogs must be kept on a leash.
12. For the safety of everyone, NO bikes, skate boards, roller skates or roller blades will be allowed on the fairgrounds, it is strictly prohibited.
13. No soliciting for donations may be attempted outside of commercial spaces rented for that purpose. Violators of this rule will be asked to leave the grounds and no refunds will be made. All literature is to be passed out from rented booth space only. Any such group or person deemed unsatisfactory will not be allowed.
14. Everyone must have a gate pass or pay the daily gate fee to get on the grounds. If you do not have your pass you will pay the gate fee, NO EXCEPTIONS. A gate pass does not admit the whole family or a car load. A gate pass is for one person ONLY.
15. STATE LAW – Any person who shall wrongfully or maliciously gain admission to the fairgrounds contrary to the rules of said society, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine of not less than one or more than twenty five dollars or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days or such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court before whom the offender may be tried.
16. No animal and/or exhibit will be removed from the Fair before 10 p.m. the last Saturday of fair week. Alternate release time will be on Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon. Please use the Shipp St. gate. Any exhibitor removing their exhibit(s) before the Fair ends will forfeit all premium monies, unless written permission is given by the area chairperson. The exception to this would be for horse haul-ins.
17. No animal or article shall compete for more than one premium, with the exception of horses.

SECTION 2 ~ Age Requirements

1. Exhibitor's age is determined by how old he/she is as of January 1st of the current Fair year.
2. Youth will follow the age requirements of the Otsego County Fair, regardless of your club or group rules.
3. The Fair year that you graduate from high school is the last year you can participate in any youth classes including market classes, regardless of age.
4. Youth under 5 years old as of January 1 of the current fair year may not enter exhibits.
5. The age of a Junior Youth Exhibitor is 5-8 years old.
6. The age of a Junior Youth Animal Exhibitor is also 5-8 years old. For safety reasons there are certain species where the age is limited.
7. Youth 9-18 years old must enter the youth departments. If youth is 19 upon graduation from high school during the fair year they may enter the Youth Department.
8. Youth age for market animals can be found in the market rules for individual species.
9. Open Departments are for adults. Exhibitors must be at least 18 years old and you are not able to participate in the Youth Department (see youth age requirement above).
10. For classes under the Educational Projects, Exhibitors are limited to youth 19 years of age or younger and exhibitors 26 years or younger, who have been determined to be eligible for special education services by the local school district.
11. Senior Citizen's age is 60 years old and up.
12. Youth may only enter youth departments. Youth entered in any open departments will be disqualified. The exception to this rule: youth may enter in Open Horse Show, Open Performance, Reining, which is open to all ages, except 5-8 year olds.

SECTION 3 ~ Entries

1. The entry fee is \$1.00 per class, with the exception that there is no entry fee for showmanship. Open horse exhibitors will pay \$2.00 per class.
2. Entries will be accepted through August 8, 2025 with no late fee. NO late entries will be accepted.
3. Competition is open to all unless otherwise specified.
4. NO refunds on entry fees.
5. Junior youth animal exhibitors are non-competitive classes. Exhibitors will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
6. Youth 5 to 8 years of age must enter in junior youth classes only, with the exception of 8 year olds in market classes where 8 year olds are included in Youth classes. All other junior youth in the wrong classes will be disqualified.
7. Junior youth 5 to 8 years of age will pay an entry fee for still exhibits and receive a premium.
8. Junior youth animal exhibitors 6-8 years old will pay an entry fee and will receive a premium.
9. In all categories other than animal, antique, or tractor, the exhibitor must be the creator of the article, item, or project.
10. Names, grades, and comments are not allowed on projects or they will be disqualified.
11. No guns, knives, or live ammo to be displayed by exhibitors.
12. Entries must be completed on Fair Entry. Only one (1) entry per class number is allowed, unless otherwise stated. All entry fees must be paid in order to receive the exhibitor packets. No animal or article shall compete for more than one premium, except horses. If paying by cash or check you must attend our office hours to register and make payment.
13. All youth must engage in an interview with the judge about their still exhibits during the evaluation process.
14. Exhibitors pick up their entry tags on Saturday, August 16 at the Fair Office, starting at 9 a.m. Proper entry tags must be on entries. Still exhibit entries must be in the proper buildings no later than 3 p.m. or they will not be judged. Articles and animals incorrectly entered will be disqualified. Disqualified entries will forfeit premiums.
15. Any remaining exhibits not picked up during the designated time on the final Sunday of fair will be disposed of on October 1 after the fair.

SECTION 4 ~ Premiums

1. The Management reserves the right to withdraw all or pay in part premium offerings in all departments should an emergency exist and circumstances demand it or if Fair receipts are insufficient to pay expenses.
2. The Fair Board of Directors reserves the right to withhold premiums in instances where applicable rules and regulation have not been complied with or where fraud or deception is evident. Any person, who attempts to deceive, interferes with the judging, or commits fraud in any way shall forfeit any and all awards won in any and all departments of the Fair.
3. Premium payouts are listed in each Department.
4. Premiums will be designed as follows:

a. First Premium	Blue Ribbon
b. Second Premium	Red Ribbon
c. Third Premium	White Ribbon
5. Junior Youth Animal Exhibitors 6-8 years old will pay a \$1.00 entry fee and premiums will be paid.
6. Premiums will be awarded according to the judges sheets, not necessarily according to the ribbon on the entry.

7. Junior youth exhibitors 5-8 years old in each class will be given blue, red, white, or participation ribbons by the judge. Premiums will be paid for blue, red and white ribbons. The exception is junior youth animal exhibitors (5 years old) are non-competitive and exhibitors will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
8. Open exhibitors in each class; the judge can place up to three awards; under no circumstances does the judge have to award all three places.
9. Premium checks will be mailed as soon as possible after the close of the Fair.
10. All errors in premium statements or checks or omissions must be reported within 14 days after the date on the check. After 14 days no corrections will be made.
11. Exhibitors that have no intention of cashing their premium check can donate their check to the Otsego County Fair by signing the back of the check and returning it to the Otsego County Fair.
12. Premium checks should be cashed immediately after receiving; checks not cashed within 90 days from issue date will be voided and considered a donation back to the Otsego County Fair.

SECTION 5 ~ Judging

1. Absolutely NO judging in advance of or after the Fair judging schedule.
2. No premiums will be awarded unless the judge deems the exhibit worthy.
3. Items not checked in or placing not circled on judges sheet will not be paid a premium, regardless if it has a ribbon attached. We are not responsible for the judge not marking the judge's sheet or marking it incorrectly.
4. Judges have been given the authority to place less than first place on exhibits where only one entry has been made, if in the mind of the judges the exhibit is not worthy of first place.
5. Judges shall not have a management or supervisory role at the fair or exposition. There shall not be an ongoing and direct relationship between the judge and any employee or exhibitor within class or classes being judged.

6. No person is allowed to act as a judge of any class in which he or she is a competitor and no premium will be paid to anyone in any way trying to influence the decision of the judges.
7. No person shall be allowed to interfere with the judge before, during, or after judging.

SECTION 6 ~

2025 Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan

**Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
800-292-3939**

- a. All livestock exhibitors and livestock exhibits must be in compliance with animal health requirements as defined by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.
- b. A copy of the Health Requirements can be obtained from MDARD's website at www.michigan.gov/mdard.

Market Record Books Rules & Judging Guidelines

SECTION 7 ~ Market Record Book Rules:

1. All market animals must have a project book. One for each market animal being brought to the fair.
2. There may only be information on this year's project animal, any information from previous year will automatically give the exhibitor a white ribbon (C).
3. Exhibitors with a white ribbon (C) are ineligible to sell their project animal through the auction.

MARKET RECORD BOOK JUDGING GUIDELINES

Blue Ribbon (A)

The record book information - the exhibitor must have all three pages completely filled out, the answers are correct (believable) and it is legible and/or additional information is added to the binder regarding this year's animal. Examples of additional information: how the animal was purchased, raised, photos, weights throughout the project year, feed, how you came up with what to feed and why feed increases happen, space required for pens for project animals, etc. Exhibitors will have a better chance of competing for the Best of Show ribbon, if they add additional information. Three pages complete will get you a blue ribbon, but not necessarily a best of show.

Red Ribbon (B)

The record book information - the exhibitor must have answered questions correctly (believable) and it is legible. The exhibitor did not leave more than one question blank and has not added any additional information; this project book would be a red ribbon. Then depending on how much additional information is included it could be calculated as bonuses and could put the exhibitor into the blue ribbon category but not eligible for Best of Show.

White Ribbon (C)

The record book information - the exhibitor has very little information and no effort was put into the record book will receive a white ribbon. These exhibitors will not be able to sell their project animal through the auction.

Best of Show

The Best of Show will be chosen from the blue ribbons only, but not the ones that were red ribbons that made blue ribbons because of extra effort. One Best of Show will be given for each species, if it meets the qualifications. A Best of Show does not have to be awarded, if there is not one deserving of Best of Show. The chosen Best of Show will be the book that is exemplary over the competitors in each species, with additional information pertaining to this year's project animal only. Again, there may only be information on this year's project animal in the book.

Otsego County Fair Market & Non-Market Livestock Rules

SECTION 8 ~ Large Animal General Rules:

1. Large animals include steer, feeder calf, veal, dairy, breed beef, swine, lamb, and goat.
2. All animal exhibitors and parents must agree to a code of conduct.
3. The following will be agreed to in the Fair Entry system: Code of Conduct, Hold Harmless Agreement, and stall and/or pen reservations.
4. Read all rules and guidelines.
5. Animals are required to stay at the Fair the entire week with the exception of the horse area. See schedule for trailering in and out times. The area superintendent has the authority to give permission on any other exceptions.
6. Junior youth animal exhibitors 5 year olds are non-competitive. Exhibitor will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid for animals only.
7. Junior Youth Animal Exhibitor age is 5-8 years old. For safety reasons there are certain species where the age is limited. All exhibitors must be able to feed, clean pens, and handle the animal or they will be disqualified and the animal will need to be taken home and there will be no refunds.
8. There are competitive animal classes for Junior Youth Animal exhibitors 6-8 years old. For safety reasons there are certain species where the age is limited. Exhibitors will pay an entry fee and premiums will be paid.
9. All cattle, swine, sheep, and goats native and out-of-state entered in exhibitions, expositions, or fairs must follow the MDA Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan.
10. Animal exhibitors MUST attend barn meeting(s). Check the schedule for the time of each meeting. Large Animal, Small Animal, and Horse. i.e. If you have a steer, horse, and rabbit you must attend all three barn meetings.
11. Ownership is required for an exhibitor to show in animal classes. With the exception of sweepstakes and junior youth exhibitors.
12. All market animals must be ear tagged with a tag issued by the Otsego County Fair and any required state ID tags PRIOR to bringing the animal to the Fair. Tagging once entering the barn to unload WILL NOT be permitted.

13. With the exception of veal, all animals must be neutered.
14. Exhibitors will not share animals with another exhibitor; once the animal is shown it cannot be shown by another exhibitor. The exceptions would be junior youth.
15. Exhibitors are expected to maintain full control of their animals at all times.
16. Youth and junior youth exhibitors must be present during judging and must handle the animal or they will be disqualified.
17. No premiums will be paid for showmanship classes.
18. A veterinarian will be on call; but not necessarily on the grounds.
19. There are no refunds on stalls and pens.
20. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their stalls and pens daily.
21. All animals are to be kept clean, fed, and watered by the exhibitor. The cleaning of barns shall be completed at times given in barn meetings, completion no later than 10 a.m.
22. Exhibitors are responsible for their animal care from the purchase date through the conclusion of the Otsego County Fair release of exhibit time described in the official schedule.
23. Exhibitors must sign up for a time slot providing security in each barn they are exhibiting an animal. i.e. if you have a steer and chicken, you would sign up for a slot in the large AND small animal barns. Sign-up sheet will be in the barn.
24. Any animal deemed unworthy will not be awarded a premium.

SECTION 9 ~

Showmanship Ages for Large Animals

Exhibitor ages for showmanship are determined by their age as of January 1 of the current fair year:

- Senior (14 years and older)
- Junior (9-13 year olds)
- Novice (first year and 8 year old, market exhibitors)
- Junior Youth (5-8 year old, non-market exhibitors)

SECTION 10 ~

Large Animal Market Rules

1. Youth do not have to belong to a club to exhibit at the Fair. Youth that have market animals must belong to either Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and will follow their rules pertaining to the animal ONLY. Youth will follow OCF age requirements, regardless of club rules.
2. Youth that are not a member of Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and are interested in having a market animal should reach out to a representative of the Fair for more information.
3. Youth and junior youth market exhibitors must follow all general OCF rules, general large animal rules, all general large animal market rules, and species rules.
4. All large animal market exhibitors must have a Youth Market Contract on file with the Otsego County Fair by June 15 of the fair year. The Youth Market Large Animal Contract is available on the Fair website www.otsegocountyfair.com
5. Read all rules and guidelines.
6. The Fair year a youth graduates from high school is the last year youth can participate in the market animal program, regardless of age.
7. A market livestock member is eligible to show and sell one (1) animal (or pen) in each market class.
8. Market animals must be owned and raised by the exhibitor.
9. For safety reasons junior youth exhibitors may only show in the following market classes: veal, feeder, swine, sheep, and goat.
10. Market livestock exhibitors, it is mandatory that exhibitors show in showmanship and market class the animal(s) they are selling. If the exhibitor does not show in showmanship they will not sell their animal(s).
11. All Otsego County Fair market livestock exhibitors will enter mandatory Market Animal Project Record Sheets in the fair and receive an A (blue) or B (red) ribbon in order to sell their market animal(s) at the auction. Those receiving a C (white) ribbon will not be permitted to market their animal. Project Books must be entered as an entry in Fair Entry, the exhibitor will be paid the appropriate premium.
12. Market animal weigh-in is on Saturday; check the schedule for the time. A family member must be present when your animal is weighed.

13. All animals entering the barns must be free of infectious and/or contagious disease.
14. Exhibitors must wear appropriate attire.
15. Market animals that do not meet the minimum weight requirement for their species will be disqualified from selling their animal through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction, unless the judge considers it finished.
16. Any animal not eligible for the auction may be sold in a private transaction after the auction.
17. Youth selling at the auction must complete a W-9. Youth or parents must submit the W-9 in Fair Entry. Auction checks will NOT be written, if there is not a W-9 on file. The W-9 can be found on the fair website.
18. Youth livestock sellers will have 2.5% withheld from their auction check for each animal sold.
19. All exhibitors, whether you are self-sponsored or have a sponsor, must have a copy of a sponsor contract on file with the Otsego County Fair by June 15.
20. There is a market livestock contract on the Fair website. If the generic contract is not used the following information must be on your contract: date, tag number, species, exhibitors name, address, phone number, email address, exhibitor and parent signatures, dollar amount received from sponsor, sponsor name, sponsor business name, sponsor address, sponsor phone number, and sponsor signature.
21. The Otsego County Fair will not be held responsible for any animal that dies before or during the week of the Fair.
22. Parents/guardians and exhibitors remain responsible for repaying the sponsor fee, if the project dies, is incomplete, and/or not eligible for auction.
23. The Otsego County Fair will not be responsible for returning sponsor funds directly to the sponsor. Exhibitors selling at the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction will NOT have the sponsor fee deducted from their auction check. The exhibitor will be responsible for refunding the sponsor.
24. Auction buyers are expected to pay for the animal(s) they purchased at the conclusion of the auction.

SECTION 11 ~ Large Animal Weight

Requirements Weigh-in is Saturday of Fair and animals not meeting the minimum weight requirement will not sell at the Youth Livestock Auction, unless the judge considers the animal finished for its breed.

- **Market Beef** weigh no less than 900 lbs.
- **Feeder Calf** weighs no less than 350 lbs., with a maximum weight of 500 lbs. Buyers will only be charged for the maximum weight. (Example: If your feeder weighs 510 lbs., the buyer will only be charged for 500 lbs.)
- **Veal** weighs no less than 175 lbs. with a maximum weight of 400 lbs. (Example: If your veal weighs 405 lbs., the buyer will only be charged for 400 lbs.)
- **Swine** weighs no less than 200 lbs. with a maximum weight of 300 lbs. Buyers will only be charged for the maximum weight. (Example: If your hog weighs 310 lbs., the buyer will only be charged for 300 lbs.)
- **Sheep** weighs no less than 90 lbs. with a maximum weight of 175 lbs. Buyers will only be charged for the maximum weight. (Example: If your lamb weighs 185 lbs. the buyer will only be charged for 175 lbs.)
- **Goats** weigh no less than 55 lbs.

SECTION 12 ~

Recommended Finish Weights for Large Animals

- Beef 1200 – 1300 pounds
- Feeder 400 – 500 pounds
- Veal 175 – 400 pounds
- Swine 250 – 275 pounds
- Sheep 140 – 160 pounds
- Goat 55 – 75 pounds

SECTION 13 ~ Beef Market Rules

1. Youth Market Beef Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 12 and these market steer rules.
2. Youth market exhibitor's minimum age to have market beef is 11 years old as of January 1 of the current fair year.
3. Each exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one market beef through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction.
4. Beef must be born January 1 or later of the prior year. The recommended starting weight is 600 lbs. and the required possession date is December 1 of the year prior to fair.
5. Cattle must be dehorned.
6. All cattle are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.
7. An official movement certificate may need to be obtained prior to movement of any cattle if deemed necessary by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

SECTION 14 ~ Dairy & Breed Beef Rules

1. Youth market dairy and breed beef exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 12 and these dairy and breed beef rules.
2. Exhibitors must be 11 on or before January 1 of the current fair year and the dairy/breeding cattle weighing more than 600 pounds.
3. Dairy and breed beef must be dehorned.
4. An official movement certificate may need to be obtained prior to movement of any cattle if deemed necessary by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)..
5. All cattle are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.
6. Dairy ages are computed as follows:
 - Junior calf born between January 1 and June 30 of current year
 - Senior calf born between July 1 and December 31 of last year
 - Junior yearling born between January 1 and June 30 of last year
 - Senior yearling born between July 1 and December 31 two years prior

SECTION 15 ~

Feeder Market & Non-Market Rules

1. Youth and Junior Youth Market Feeder Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 12 and these market feeder rules.
2. Youth market and non-market exhibitor's minimum age to have market feeder is 8 years old as of January 1 of the current Fair year.
3. Each exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one market feeder through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction.
4. Project recommended starting weight is 200 lbs. and the required possession date is May 1 of fair year.
5. Feeder maximum weight is 500 lbs. market and non-market.
6. Feeder can be either sex and any breed.
7. Feeders must be dehorned.
8. All cattle are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.

8. An official movement certificate may need to be obtained prior to movement of any cattle if deemed necessary by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

SECTION 16~

Veal Market & Non-Market Rules

1. Youth and junior youth market veal exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 12 and these market veal rules.
2. Youth market exhibitor's minimum age to show and sell a market veal is 8 years old as of January 1 of the current Fair year.
3. Each exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one market veal through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction.
4. Project recommended starting weight is 70 lbs. and the required possession date is May 1 of fair year.
5. Veal maximum weight is 400 lbs. market and non-market.
6. Veal can be either sex and any breed.
7. All cattle are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.
8. An official movement certificate may need to be obtained prior to movement of any cattle if deemed necessary by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). Cattle originating from a herd located in the remaining counties in the TB Free Zone do NOT need a moving permit.

6. All swine shall be uniquely identified with individual ear tag identification or other identification approved by the MDARD.
7. Native swine are not required to be vaccinated against hog cholera.
8. No swine shall be presented for exhibition purposes, which have originated from any garbage feeding premises or that are in a quarantined area for the prevention of the spread of vesicular exanthema. A quarantined swine should not be on the premises for any reason, except under a permit for the Director of Agriculture or his authorized agent.

SECTION 17 ~

Swine Market & Non-Market Rules

1. Youth and junior youth market swine exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 12 and these market swine rules.
2. Youth market exhibitor's minimum age to show and sell market swine is 8 years old as of January 1 of the current Fair year.
3. Each exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one market swine through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction.
4. Project recommended starting weight is 60 lbs. and the required possession date is May 1 of fair year.
5. Swine can be a barrow or gilt.

SECTION 18 ~

Lamb Market & Non-Market Rules

1. Youth and junior youth market lamb exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 12 and these market & non-market lamb rules.
2. Youth market exhibitor's minimum age to show and sell a market lamb is 8 years old as of January 1 of the current Fair year.
3. Each exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one market lamb through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction.
4. Project recommended starting weight is 50 lbs. Required possession date is June 1 of the Fair year.
10. Lambs can be a wether or ewe.
11. All lambs moved within Michigan shall be identified with official USDA scrapie program identification tags prior to movement off the farm. Contact the USDA at 844-820-2234 for ear tags. Do not remove the scrapie tags prior to weigh-in or showing. It is illegal to remove the official USDA individual animal identification.
12. The date for computing the age of a lamb is September 1.
13. No muzzles on lambs at any time.
14. Pens to be bedded with natural material (wood shavings, straw, etc.), no carpet.
15. While in the show ring the lamb is to be shown with all four feet on the ground or ring surface.
16. Humane handling practices of sheep at all times.
17. No liquid feeding of lambs.

SECTION 19 ~

Goat Market & Non-Market Rules

1. Youth and junior youth market goat exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 12 and these market goat rules.
2. Youth market exhibitor's minimum age to show and sell a market goat is 8 years old as of January 1 of the current Fair year.
3. Each exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one market goat through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction.
4. Project recommended starting weight is 45 lbs. and the required possession date is June 1 of fair year.
5. Goats can be a wether or doe.
6. All goats moved within Michigan shall be identified with official USDA scrapie program identification tags prior to movement off the farm. Contact the USDA at 844-820-2234 for ear tags. Do not remove tags prior to weigh-in or showing. It is illegal to remove the official USDA individual animal identification.

SECTION 20 ~ Poultry & Waterfowl General Rules

1. The following will be agreed to in the Fair Entry system: Code of Conduct, Hold Harmless Agreement, and cage and/or pen reservations.
2. Read all rules and guidelines.
3. The Fair year that you graduate from high school is the last year you can participate in the market animal program, regardless of age.
4. Junior youth exhibitors (5 year olds) are non-competitive classes. Exhibitors will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
5. Junior youth animal exhibitor: The age is 5-8 year olds. For safety reasons there are certain classes where the exhibitor's age is limited.
6. Junior youth 8 year olds as of January 1 of the current fair year will be allowed to show and sell market pens of poultry and waterfowl.
7. Junior youth exhibitors 6-8 year olds are competitive classes and will receive a blue, red, or white ribbon. Exhibitors will pay an entry fee and will be paid a premium.
8. Exhibitors can find the Market Pen Rules for poultry and waterfowl in Section 24.
9. Exhibitors will not share their poultry or waterfowl with another exhibitor. Once it has been shown it cannot be shown by someone else. The exception would be that it can be shown in sweepstakes.
10. All poultry and waterfowl native and out-of-state entered in exhibitions, expositions, or fairs must follow the MDARD Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan. For the most up-to-date information refer to www.michigan.gov/mdard
11. All exhibitors MUST attend the small animal barn meeting on entry day.
12. Each exhibitor entered in the fair must work at least one shift of barn duty during fair week or forfeit premiums. Sign-up for barn duty will be at the Small Animal Barn Meeting on entry day.

A youth exhibitor must be present and bring their entry to the judging table. If anyone other than the exhibitor brings and puts an entry on the judging table the entry will be disqualified.

13. All poultry and waterfowl must be free of infectious and/or contagious disease before entering the barn.
14. All poultry must be pullorum free before entering the barn. Testing will be done on the day of entry. Please see schedule for time details.
15. All poultry and waterfowl exhibits must be examined on the day of entry by the barn superintendent before entering the barn. Please see schedule for time details.
16. Exhibitors are responsible for providing their own feed.
17. Cages will be provided. There are no refunds on cages.
18. Anyone displaying a dozen eggs must also exhibit a laying hen or duck. Eggs will be displayed in the Exhibit Building.
19. Padlocks will not be permitted on cages.
20. For assistance in classifying your poultry breed, visit "The American Poultry Association" at www.amerpoultryassn.com

SECTION 21 ~ Showmanship Ages for Poultry & Waterfowl

Exhibitor ages for showmanship are as follows:

- Senior (14 years and older)
- Junior (9-13 year olds)
- Novice (first year exhibitors and 8 year olds by Jan 1 of current fair year only)
- Junior Youth (5-8 year old, non-market exhibitors)

SECTION 22 ~ Poultry & Waterfowl Market Pen Quantity and Animal Age Requirements

Chickens:

- 3 – Roasters (6-12 weeks old)
- 3 - Layers (18-30 weeks old)

Turkeys:

- 1 – Roaster (16-19 weeks old)
- 1 – Roaster (20-24 weeks old)

Ducks & Geese:

- 3 – Ducks (3-6 months old)
- 3 – Geese (3-6 months old)

SECTION 23 ~ Poultry & Waterfowl

Minimum Weight Requirements

- Pen of 3 Chickens 6-12 weeks (18 pounds)
- Turkey 16-19 weeks (16 pounds)
- Turkey 20-24 weeks (24 pounds)
- Heritage Turkey (16 pounds)
- Pen of 3 Ducks (15 pounds)
- Pen of 3 Geese (30 pounds)

SECTION 24 ~ Poultry & Waterfowl

Market Pen Rules

1. Youth do not have to belong to a club to exhibit at the Fair. Youth that have market animals must belong to either Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and will follow their rules pertaining to the animal ONLY. Youth will follow OCF age requirements, regardless of club rules do not have to belong to a group or club to exhibit at the Fair. Youth that would want to have a market animal must belong to either Otsego County Youth Livestock Program.
2. Youth that are not a member of Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and are interested in having a market animal should reach out to a representative of the Fair for more information.
3. All small animal market exhibitors must have a Youth Market Intent to Sell contract on file with the Otsego County Fair by June 15. There is a Youth Market Intent to Sell a pen of small animals contract on the Fair's website.
4. Youth and junior youth market poultry and waterfowl exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 7, Section 20 through Section 23 and these market poultry and waterfowl pen rules.
5. Junior youth market exhibitor's minimum age is 8 years old by January 1 of the current Fair year. For safety reasons exhibitors may only show and sell in the following market classes: chicken, turkey, duck and geese.
6. Exhibitors must wear appropriate attire.
7. Market livestock exhibitors, it is mandatory that exhibitors show in showmanship the animal(s) they are selling, if the exhibitor does not show in showmanship they will not sell their animal(s).

In an instance where an exhibitor is marketing both a pen of meat birds and a pen of laying birds, all animals must be entered into the appropriate judging classes and earn an A or B ribbon to sell.

In regard to showmanship in this situation, to satisfy this requirement that an animal being shown in showmanship, the exhibitor must show one animal from their pen of meat birds.

8. All Otsego County Fair livestock market exhibitors will enter mandatory Market Animal Project Record Sheets in the fair and receive an A (blue) or B (red) ribbon in order to sell their market animal(s) at the auction. Those receiving a C (white) ribbon will not be permitted to market their animal. Project Books must be entered as an entry in Fair Entry, the exhibitor will be paid the appropriate premium.
9. Market Poultry & Waterfowl Exhibitors, it is mandatory that exhibitors show in showmanship and market class the animal(s) they are selling. If you are selling a pen containing more than 1 animal, you must select one animal from that pen to use in showmanship. If the exhibitor does not show in showmanship they will not sell their animal(s).
10. A market livestock member is eligible to show and sell one (1) animal (or pen) in each market class.
11. Market animals must be owned and raised by the exhibitor.
12. Youth small animal sellers will have 2.5% withheld from their auction check for each pen of animals sold.
13. Market chicken pen of 3 roasters must be a meat breed or will be disqualified and will not sell at the Auction.
14. Market turkey pen of 1 roaster must be a meat breed or will be disqualified and will not sell at the Auction.
15. Market duck pen 3 roasters must be a meat breed or will be disqualified and will not sell at the Auction.
16. Market geese pen 3 roasters must be a meat breed or will be disqualified and will not sell at the Auction.
17. Market laying hen pen of 3 must be an egg laying breed or will be disqualified.
18. Market laying duck pen of 3 must be an egg laying breed or will be disqualified.
19. Market pens MUST be weighed on entry day. Market animal weigh-in is on Saturday; check the schedule for the time. A family member must be present when your animal is weighed
20. Exhibitors must register in Fair Entry for a market pen or exhibitors will not be allowed to sell.
21. Uniformity of sex, color, and weight within a pen is desirable.
22. Pens may not be split for the auction. Small animals are sold as a unit.

23. Poultry or waterfowl may not be outside of their cage unless the animal is being shown.

SECTION 25 ~ Pocket Pet Rules

1. All animals must be pet type, domesticated, non-poisonous, and able to be handled.
2. Exhibitors must furnish their own secure covered cage appropriate for each exhibit.
3. Exhibitors must have possession and care of the animal before May 1 of the current year.
4. Exhibits considered at risk to the public will not be allowed at the Fair.

5. Pocket pets can be brought to the fairgrounds one hour prior to judging and exhibits must be taken home after judging.

SECTION 26 ~ Rabbit & Cavy General Rules

1. Exhibitors with rabbits; The following forms must be agreed to in Fair Entry: Code of Conduct, Hold Harmless, and Cage Reservations. These are available on the Fair website.
2. Read all rules and guidelines.
3. The Fair year that you graduate from high school is the last year you can participate in the market animal program, regardless of age.
4. Junior youth exhibitors (5 year olds) are non-competitive classes and will receive a participation ribbon only. Exhibitors will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
5. Junior youth animal exhibitor: The age is 5-8 years olds. For safety reasons there are certain classes where the exhibitor's age is limited.
6. Junior youth 8 year olds as of January 1 of the current fair year will be allowed to show and sell market pens of poultry and waterfowl.
7. Junior youth exhibitors 6-8 year olds are competitive classes and will receive a blue, red or white ribbon. Exhibitors will pay an entry fee and will be paid a premium.
8. Exhibitors can find the Market Pen Rules for rabbits in Section 29.
9. Exhibitors will not share their rabbit with another exhibitor. Once it has been shown it cannot be shown by someone else. The exception would be that it can be shown in sweepstakes.
10. All rabbits native and out-of-state entered in exhibitions, expositions, or fairs must follow the MDA Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan. For the most up-to-date wording refer to www.michigan.gov/mdard
11. All exhibitors must attend the small animal barn meeting on entry day.
12. Each exhibitor entered in the fair must work at least one shift of barn duty during fair week or forfeit premiums. Sign-up for barn duty will be at the Small Animal Barn Meeting on entry day.
13. A youth exhibitor must be present and bring their entry to the judging table. If anyone other than the

exhibitor brings and puts an entry on the judging table the entry will be disqualified.

14. All rabbit exhibits must be examined on entry day by the superintendent. See schedule for times.
15. Exhibitors displaying wool/fiber from a rabbit must also display the rabbit.
16. Cavy (Guinea Pig) can be brought to the fairgrounds one hour prior to judging and exhibits must be taken home after judging.
17. Exhibitors are responsible for providing their own feed.
18. Cages will be provided. There are no refunds on cages.
19. Padlocks will not be used on cages.
20. Rabbit/cavy may not be out of their pen unless they are being shown.

SECTION 27 ~ Showmanship Ages for Rabbits

Exhibitor ages for showmanship are as follows

- Senior (14 years old and older)
- Junior (9-13 year olds)
- Novice (first year exhibitors and 8 year old market exhibitors only)
- Junior Youth (5-8 year olds non-market exhibitors)

SECTION 28 ~ Rabbit Market Pen Quantity and Age Requirements

Rabbits:

- 3 – Fryers (8-12 weeks old)

SECTION 29 ~ Rabbit Market Pen Rules

1. Youth do not have to belong to a group or club to exhibit at the Fair. Youth that would want to have market animals must belong to either Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and will follow their rules pertaining to the animal ONLY. Youth will follow OCF age requirements, regardless of club rules.
2. Youth that are not a member of Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and you are interested in having a market animal should call the Fair Office for more information on how to have a market animal.
3. All small animal market exhibitors must have a Youth Market Intent to Sell contract on file with the Otsego County Fair by June 15. There is a

Youth Market Intent to Sell a pen of small animals contract on the Fair website.

4. Junior youth market exhibitor's minimum age is 8 years old by January 1st of the current Fair year. For safety reasons exhibitors may only show and sell in the following market class: rabbits.
5. Youth and junior youth market rabbit exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 7, Section 26 through Section 28 and these market rabbit pen rules.
6. Exhibitors must wear appropriate showmanship attire. No club or personal names on attire.
7. Market rabbit exhibitors, it is mandatory that exhibitors show in showmanship for the animal(s) they are selling, if the exhibitor does not show in showmanship they will not sell their animal(s).
8. All Otsego County Fair livestock market exhibitors will enter a mandatory Market Animal Project Record Sheets in the fair and receive an A (blue) or B (red) ribbon in order to sell their market animal(s) at the auction. Project Books must be entered on the entry form and the exhibitor will be paid a premium.
9. A market livestock member is eligible to show and sell one (1) animal (or pen) in each market class.
10. Youth small animal sellers will have 2.5% taken out of their auction check for each pen of animals sold.
11. Market pens of 3 roasters must be a meat breed or will be disqualified and will not sell at the auction.
- 12. Market pens MUST be weighed on entry day.**
13. Exhibitors must register in Fair Entry for a market pen or exhibitors will not be allowed to sell.
14. Uniformity of sex, color, and weight within a pen is desirable.
15. Pens may not be split for the auction. Small animals are sold as a unit.

SECTION 30 ~

Horse Exhibitor Age Categories

Youth Equine Exhibitors must be 9 years of age or older by January 1 of the current year to participate in all youth equine classes.

- Senior, 14 years old and older
- Junior, 9-13 year olds
- Novice, 9 year olds and older are eligible for this class. This division will be walk/trot only.
- Pony, 56" and under
- Junior Equine Exhibitors 6-8 year olds (walk/trot only) will pay an entry fee and receive a premium.
- Junior Equine Exhibitors 5 year olds (walk/trot only) are non-competitive and will not pay an entry fee and will not be paid a premium.

SECTION 31 ~ HORSE AREA RULES:

1. Fair Entry registration will not be accepted without agreeing to/submitting the following:
 - Payment
 - Code of Conduct
 - Hold Harmless
 - Current Coggins testing documentation for each horse
 - Stall Reservations
 - Tack Stall Reservations (if desired)
2. See schedule for horse check-in, there may be a vet on site to do vet checks.
3. All horses must be free of contagious and/or infectious disease before entering the grounds.
4. Animals may be sent home for illness, disease, unsafe behavior, or animal welfare concerns. NO refunds will be provided under these circumstances.
5. Horse area safety rules for fair week shall be posted at the announcer's booth, and copies shall be available if requested.
6. Exhibitors in the junior youth 8 and under category may be directly assisted or supported by an adult volunteer or parent who is on the ground holding the animal's halter or lead. Parents or guardians must be on the grounds and in the arena for a child to show.
7. Exhibitors may only show in one age category e.g. if showing Bareback Novice you may not enter Cloverleaf Senior. Discretion of horse area staff may allow change of division if a safety issue arises.

8. Except for junior youth, horses may not be shown by multiple exhibitors in the same class type, e.g. a horse may not compete in both Cloverleaf Senior and Cloverleaf Junior.
9. Open age requirements can be found under Section 2.
10. Show schedule subject to change, schedule to be posted fair week. Absolutely no changes to the schedule without the permission of the horse area superintendent.
11. Exhibitors may be denied the privilege of showing for any safety concerns, abusive treatment of horse, or unsportsmanlike behavior. This information should be reported to the horse area superintendent, a final decision will be made by the Fair Board.
12. Tack stalls are for tack ONLY; if tack stalls are used for anything but tack, you will lose the stall.
13. The Youth/Open Horse Show is judged in accordance with Michigan State 4-H Horse Show Rules except for the helmet requirement which is strongly recommended but not required for adults in the Open Horse Show.
14. Stalls and areas MUST be left in the same condition that you found them. Clean up fees of \$20 will be assessed for messy areas and stalls. The fee will be deducted from your premium check should your area and stall be left dirty.
15. An "excessive damage" fee of \$50.00 will be assessed to horses causing damages to stalls such as holes larger than 4 square foot area.
16. WARNING – Under the Michigan Equine Activity Liability Act, an equine professional or event sponsor, Otsego County Fairgrounds are not liable for an injury to or death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of the equine activity.

SECTION 32 ~ Camping Rules

1. The Otsego County Fair Association assumes no responsibility for any injury, damage, loss of trailer or contents while on the fairgrounds.
2. All camping reservations are dated upon receipt of payment. No other method will reserve a spot. To assure that you get the site you want, register for camping in Fair Entry and complete payment. No reservations are taken until the fair entry is available.
3. One unit per site and proper size must be registered for.
4. No more than two vehicles allowed per campsite. You will be given two vehicle passes that must be displayed from your rearview mirror. You will not be allowed to go to the campground with a vehicle that does not have a vehicle pass. If you are unable to get two vehicles on your campsite you must find an alternate place to park.
5. All campsites are numbered. Do not set-up until you contact the camping chairperson or co-chair for your site number.
6. Horse trailers must be parked in designated areas, unless you are using it as a camper. This must be noted on the registration form. Once the horse trailer has been parked in the designated area for horse trailer, it will not be considered a camper.
7. QUIET TIME - Keep noise down from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. in the campground and around the arena.
8. Limited power is available, no air conditioners may be used. Campers may be subject to loss of power, if air conditioners are used.
9. No generators in the campground or horse arena, campers with generators will be asked to park in the north parking lot.
10. There is no dump station on the Fairgrounds.
11. No alterations to campsites without permission from the camping chairperson.
12. No horses allowed on campsites.
13. Camping fee does not include gate entry fee.
14. All campers are responsible for their trash. Trash MUST be taken to the dumpster daily. Trash can liners will be provided.
15. Campfires must be elevated and protected. Do not empty your campfires on the ground; dispose of them properly. ABSOLUTELY NO GROUND FIRES!

SECTION 33 ~

Livestock/Equine Drug Testing Protocol

1. The initial complaint must be received in writing detailing the complainant's reason for requesting testing. A written reply from the owner must also be received by the fair board.
2. The fair board will review the case and may, at their discretion, turn the matter over to a licensed veterinarian. A licensed veterinarian or authorized representative will conduct the testing. The test will be administered within 12 hours of the accusation. The fair board will ensure that the exhibitor, parent, and a fair board member will accompany the animal at all times during the collection procedure.
3. Any animal, either alive or slaughtered, found to be in violation of the use of drugs, chemicals, or feed additives will be disqualified and removed from the grounds.
4. The cost of testing will be covered by the owner if the animal tests positive for drugs, chemicals, or feed additives. If the animal tests negative for drugs, chemicals, or feed additives, the cost of testing will be covered by the complainant.
5. Chain of custody will be remanded to the veterinarian in charge with samples being sent to a certified lab of his/her choosing.
6. The use of any drug or chemical compound that is not approved by the Food & Drug Administration for use in meat animals constitutes unethical fitting. The illegal administration of approved drugs and compounds is also prohibited. All animals entered in the Youth Division are subject to blood, urine and tissue tests by the Fair Board, FDA and USDA for illegal and substances that exceed the acceptable levels established by the United State Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database and the Environmental Protection Agency. A positive test will result in disqualification of the animal and may forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit at any future Otsego County Fair and forfeit any premium monies, trophies, special awards, youth livestock sales, and/or other considerations earned. The exhibitor shall assume full responsibility for any violation of regulations related to drugs and medications to include withdrawal times and the condemnation of carcasses due to drug rule/regulation violations.

SECTION 34 ~ Complaint / Appeals

Process Any exhibitor may file a written complaint regarding any of the following:

- Conflict of interest of the judge
- Disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor
- Exhibitor, group leader, or superintendent's behavior
- Eligibility of exhibit
- Leader, parent, or exhibitors may not file a complaint or appeal on judging results. All judging results are final.

The following must be included in the written complaint:

- Name
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number
- Complaint Fee of \$25.00
- Describe in detail the nature of the complaint

The procedure for filing such a complaint/appeal shall be as follows:

1. In accordance with the annual appropriations act, exhibitors are allowed to file a written complaint within 10 days after the end of the fair, dropped off at the Fair Office or by mailing it to the Otsego County Fair, P.O. Box 500, Gaylord, MI 49734-0500, accompanied by a complaint fee of \$25.00, which is non-refundable.
2. The exhibitor will be notified in writing by the Otsego County Fair of receipt of his/her complaint/appeal.
3. The complaint/appeals committee shall consist of the Executive Board and the area superintendent, or Chairperson of the Otsego County Fair.
4. The committee shall meet to review all written complaints/appeals within 15 days of receipt.
5. The committee shall investigate on a per case basis by contacting all parties involved to ask questions and clarify details of the stories, as well as reviewing rules and pertinent documentation.
6. The committee shall meet within 15 days of the review meeting to discuss information obtained through the investigation process and will make a final decision regarding the complaint/appeal. The exhibitor will be notified in writing of the committee's decision within 5 days of this meeting.
7. The leader, parent, or exhibitor may make an appeal to the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Department of Fairs, Exhibitions, and Racing, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909 within 45 days of filing the initial complaint/appeal if the exhibitor is not satisfied with the Otsego County Fair's decision. The department shall have 60 days after receipt of any appropriately filed complaint/appeal to investigate the complaint/appeal, and shall issue a finding of fact and notice of department action and pay recommended actions for the Otsego County Fair.