

SMALL ANIMAL EXHIBIT RULES

1. All small animal exhibitors must submit a small animal pen reservation for each species and a fair registration form by June 15. For more information, contact the MSU Extension Office
2. All small animal exhibitors must pay a non-refundable \$10.00 per family due on June 15 along with pen registration forms. Make checks payable to Van Buren Youth Fair – SMAC. This money goes to SMAC Treasury for cages and needed supplies. If the \$10.00 fee is not paid, the exhibitor(s) will not be allowed to show.
3. All small animal exhibitors showing auction animals must submit a form W-9 to the Van Buren Fair office by June 15.
4. All small animals entered must be free of infectious diseases. No animals may be in the barn/put in cages until they are inspected by the Superintendent or designee. Animals that do not pass inspection must be taken home. Animals that develop symptoms during fair week must be taken home. Animals that have lice, ticks, mange, external parasites or other disease or unthrifty condition will be sent home.
5. All pens must be labeled with at least exhibitor name. Identification cards will be available at the time of check-in or you may provide your own.
6. Exhibitors must furnish their own feed and water containers and animals must be fed daily and have water continuously.
7. Small animal exhibitors must provide their own sawdust and/or bedding.
8. Pens and exhibit area should be kept clean during the week. Pens must be cleaned and put away before leaving the fair grounds on Sunday at the end of fair week.
9. All exhibitors must attend or be represented at a mandatory Small Animal Exhibitors meeting in the species they are exhibiting as follows: Rabbits, Pocket Pets, Poultry, and/or Goats.
10. Exhibitor must show his/her own animal in showmanship classes.
11. Ownership Deadline: Refer to species rules.
12. **Dress code: Long sleeved white shirt with black pants.** Goat exhibitors must follow rules in the Goat section (Dept. 8 – Goats, page 55). Exhibitors are required to wear show clothes during all small animal classes, for auction pictures, and while selling animals at the SMAC auction. Any exhibitor not in show clothes will not be allowed to participate in the show and/or sell his/her animal(s).
13. Entry time for animals are as follows:
 - a. Pocket Pets 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, July 15
 - b. Rabbits 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saturday, July 15
 - c. Poultry - Pullorum Testing 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. Saturday, July 15
 - d. Poultry - Check-in 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Saturday, July 15
 - e. Goats 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday, July 15
14. Only animals entered in market classes may be sold at the Small Animal Auction. A market pen is any commercial breed raised for market.
15. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Animals must be sold at the auction. All exhibitors may sell their market animals. Any exhibitor that does not wish to sell their market animal(s) must inform the species superintendent by noon on Tuesday, July 18, 2023
16. All market exhibitors are required to be present at the auction. If a conflict arises, the exhibitor must contact the species superintendent by Tuesday, July 18, 2023. All auction decisions are at the discretion of the species superintendent.
17. Release times and cleanup for small animals are Sunday, 6:00 am - 8:00 am. Exhibitors are required to stay until released by their species superintendent.
18. Sunday cleanup is expected to be done by exhibitors or other designated persons. A clean up fee of \$25.00 will be assessed if pens are not cleaned. The fee will be taken from the auction check or be billed to the exhibitor. If the fee is not paid, the exhibitor will not be allowed to show the next year.
19. Small Animal auction checks will be sent to exhibitors as soon as incoming funds are available, but no later than August 31.
20. A thank you card must be filled out and handed to the superintendent at the awards ceremony on Saturday to receive trophies. Cards will be sold during the auction on Wednesday of fair week.
21. All market exhibitors are encouraged to hang a personalized thank you to their buyer(s) and send a personalized thank you.
22. Exhibitors' animals will be selected by the Superintendent for Showmanship Sweepstakes. Any exhibitors not wanting their animal chosen must inform the species superintendent at check-in.
23. Accommodations for Special Needs exhibitors will be provided as needed.
24. Any animal sold through the Small Animal Auction bought by any buyer (including donations received) will be charged a 6% commission fee to the Small Animal Committee account. The 6% commission fee will be deducted from each exhibitor's auction check after the auction photo plaque cost is deducted. The commission fee includes accounting costs, advertising, auctioneer gift cards, office supplies, and printing of sale bill.
25. All exhibitors who participate in the Small Animal Auction are required to submit a stamped thank you card, addressed to their buyer(s), to the appropriate superintendent prior to check out on Sunday.
26. All animals in the small animal classes which are offered for sale and sold at the fair SMAC auction must be properly cared for by the exhibitor throughout the entire period of the fair.
27. Differently Abled exhibitors shall follow all rules according to their species. If they choose to participate in a regular class (instead of the Friday Differently Abled Show which allows for some small market animals), they should enter the Differently Abled Showmanship class for the species to be shown. The exhibit will be shown in the showmanship age class for their species. Differently Abled exhibitors ages 19 to 26 will show their exhibit in the highest senior showmanship class. Superintendents will work with the exhibitor, their family, and the Differently Abled Superintendent to make appropriate arrangements. These arrangements may include showing at a different time, being accompanied by a teen mentor/adult, etc. Differently Abled exhibitors will receive a special showmanship trophy. Differently Abled are not eligible for Small Animal Sweepstakes. Differently Abled exhibitors interested in showing small market animals without exhibiting their own animal throughout Fair week should work with a teen mentor to enter the Friday Differently Abled Show.

Small Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes

Thursday, July 20, 2023
Judging begins at 10:00 a.m.

Superintendent: Denise King (269) 271-5052
Asst. Superintendent: Megan Vasquez – (269) 655-6200

1. There shall be two divisions in the Small Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes: Juniors: 13-14 years of age during the current calendar year and Seniors: 15-19 years of age during the current calendar year.
2. First place individuals in each species will be eligible to compete.
3. If an exhibitor wins more than one species for the showmanship, he/she may choose what species he/she will represent. The next place showmanship winner will represent the species that he/she chooses not to show.
4. An exhibitor must inform the superintendent if he/she chooses not to participate in the Sweepstakes. The next placing will then move into the contest.
5. The following species shall participate in the Small Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes: Chickens, Other Poultry, Rabbits, Cavies, and Lab Animals.
6. In each Sweepstakes division contestants will show all five species.
7. There will be a mandatory meeting on Wednesday during fair week at 12:00 p.m. at the 4-H Office with all contestants or their proxies present.
8. The Sweepstakes contest will be held on Friday, July 21, 2023 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Participants should be at Barn #7 no later than 4:30 pm. The Juniors and Seniors will show in a "round robin":
9. All contestants must wear show clothes during the competition: Long sleeve white shirt with black pants.
10. Scoring in each division contest is as follows:
 - a. Points shall be awarded to contestants based on their placing in each species. First place will receive one point, second place two points, etc.
 - b. After showing all five species, the contestant scoring the lowest total points shall be declared Small Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes Champion for the Junior and Senior Class.
 - c. In the event of a tie at the conclusion of the contest, the contestants involved will be asked to answer the breaking

questions selected randomly from a list prepared in advance by the judges/superintendents. The winner will be chosen based on the Judges' decision. The Judge's decision is final.

11. Winners will be announced at the end of the Sweepstakes contest, rather than after each species. A trophy and rosette will be presented to the Champion in each division. Second through fifth place will receive placing rosettes.



2019 Van Buren Youth Fair - Small Livestock Sale Buyers

Grand Champion Market Rabbits - Travis & Kristy Gumpert
Reserve Champion Market Rabbits - Southwestern Michigan Feed
Grand Champion Market Turkey - Jim & Audrey King + The Buckham Agency-Farm Bureau
Reserve Champion Market Turkey - Joyce deJong-Monroe
Grand Champion Market Chickens - Baylor's Buddy Jon + Septic Service
Reserve Champion Market Chickens - Full Moon Farms
Grand Champion Market Waterfowl - Mobile Network Solutions
Reserve Champion Market Waterfowl - Sell Farm
Grand Champion Dairy Market Goat - Dr. Jonathan & Angela Krauss
Reserve Champion Dairy Market Goat - Decatur Feed LLC
Grand Champion Market Goat - Paw Paw/South Haven Chiropractic Clinic + Mortimore Farms
Reserve Champion Market Goat - Decatur Feed LLC
Grand Champion Dairy Goat - Decatur Feed LLC
Reserve Champion Dairy Goat - Four Star Veterinary Services

Tammy Dykstra
Ron & Kandy Dixon
Tractor Supply - Paw Paw
Upper Meadow Farm and Gardens
Midwest Energy + Communications
Jeff & Dorothy Malcolm
Miller Mechanical - Jimmy Miller
TNT Farms
Brad Greene
Dirk A. Adam
Gary Consford
Golden Plain Farm
Janet Tripp
Scott Flick Concrete Construction
Shoemaker's Garage
Adriana Lennen
Burke Turkey
Dave & Joyce Deines
Dillon Guminski
Field Plumbing & Heating
Gene Sahr Farm
Henderson Power
Hostetler Crazy Acres
Jarred Dykstra & Bridgett Bush
Lindsey Yankauskas
Marvin Henderson
Midway Electric
Paul DeYoung
Phoenix Farm Market
Pursley Farms
Rex and Jennifer DeVries
Sauder Feeds
State Farm - Mike May
Titus DeRose

