

EXHIBITOR RULES

ALL Exhibitors and ALL Animal Species.

Any animal shown in a market class may not be shown in a breed class, with the exception of beef.

1. Youth who are enrolled members of a registered Van Buren County 4-H Club, FFA Chapter or Boy & Girl Scout organization and all youth 6 years of age up to and including 19 years of age as of January 1, current year may enter at the Van Buren Youth Fair. HRH is open to persons age 6-26 years of age as of January 1st of the current calendar year.

Differently Abled exhibitors may continue to exhibit until the age of 26. Differently Abled exhibitors must be 6 to 26 years of age by January 1 of the fair year who have been determined to be eligible for special education services by the local school district. Exhibitors may participate in classes under the educational projects and demonstration projects. Exhibitors shall follow all rules according to their species/exhibit/class. 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 a different time, being accompanied by a teen mentor/adult, etc. Differently Abled exhibitors will receive a special showmanship trophy. Differently Abled exhibitors (ages 6 to 26) may show in market classes ONLY if the exhibitor owns the market animal to be exhibited.

Any exhibitor entering large livestock (beef and dairy steers, beef and dairy feeders, producing dairy cows, sheep, swine) or a small market animal (market goat, producing dairy goat, poultry, rabbits) will be required to fill out a W-9 Form and turn it in with their June 15th preregistration forms.

- All exhibitors are required to have a Social Security No.

2. All exhibitors that are awarded a trophy, banner, prize or sells an animal during an auction at the Van Buren Youth Fair are required to submit a thank you note for the trophy, banner, prize sponsor or auction buyer by 10:00 p.m. on Saturday of the fair to the 4-H office in the still exhibit building. Failure to submit the thank you note will result in premium and/or auction check being held until thank you note is received.

Thank you notes not received by 10:00 p.m. on Saturday of fair must be taken to the Van Buren County MSU Extension before checks will be released.

3. An exhibitor may earn up to a maximum of \$75.00 in premium money. This does not include the sale of market animals. Youth may enter as many exhibits as each department allows.
4. The exhibitor must have taken an active part in the production of the project from which the exhibit is selected and must be able to submit evidence to this effect if asked to do so. For market livestock, exhibitor must be the owner.
5. ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED BY JUNE 15. All registration forms must be completed online. Go to the Van Buren Youth Fair website: www.vanburenyouthfair.com. See page 6 for instructions.
6. All equine must have a current negative Coggins Test and present it to show officials to enter fairgrounds. A copy of the Coggins test must be given to the Fair Board to be placed on file. All horses must be checked by the veterinarian and have a negative Coggins Test. It is preferred that all haul-in equines be vet checked the Sunday of fair week between 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Equine State health papers issued from a licensed Veterinarian can be used in place of the vet check, this method is not recommended but will be accepted. Equine State health certificates must be valid during fair week.

Equine State health certificates should be submitted before or at the Thursday set-up/cleanup meeting. If a health state certificate is being used in place of the preferred vet check and a pony and/or miniature horse is being exhibited the licensed veterinarian needs to write the actual height as part of the equine description.

7. All exhibits must remain on display Monday through Sunday morning of Fair week to qualify for premiums except for horse exhibits registered for the "Daily Haul-In Option."

8. Exhibit release time:

Still Exhibits: Sunday, July 26, 2026, 6:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Small animals: Sunday, July 26, 2026, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Breeding Stock: Saturday, July 25, 2026, 10:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Breeding animals for dairy, beef, and sheep ONLY.

BEEF, DAIRY, SHEEP, SWINE: Saturday, July 25, 2026 – 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 26.

Trucks loading for slaughter/market haul preferences at loading docks. All other trucks must wait.

Animals shown in the market classes and/or sold through the livestock auction may ONLY leave at this time.

HORSES: Sunday, July 26, 2026- 12:01 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

9. The Fair Association will not be responsible for exhibits left at the fairgrounds after 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26, 2026.

10. There must be an entry tag for each exhibit as required by rules.

11. Each exhibitor will assume all risks in making an exhibit entry.

12. Animal exhibit superintendents and assistant superintendents will act as supervisors of exhibits in their respective divisions.

13. No exhibits other than those provided for in the following premium list will be accepted.

14. The decision of the judge is final in all classes. Any harassment of the judge by a parent or individual

will result in immediate dismissal from the grounds. If the person does not leave voluntarily, he/she will be escorted off the fairgrounds by a Law Enforcement Official.

15. The current Van Buren Youth Fair Board of Directors Judges' Committee contracts all judges for the fair.

16. Ribbons and Rosettes will be awarded as stated in each department.

17. If funding is not available from the State of Michigan, the Fair reserves the right to pro-rate all Premiums.

18. No youth exhibitors except those authorized by Division Superintendents and the Fair Management are permitted to stay overnight in the barns.

19. Exhibit halls close at 11:00 p.m. each day of the fair week.

20. All youth exhibitor passes will be pre-sold. When a youth submits their June 15th Fair Pre-registration they need to pay \$15.00 for their fair pass. Youth will then pick up their pass on Saturday or Sunday after they have entered their exhibit at the Fair.

21. Current 4-H Leaders and 4-H Leader Spouses will be able to purchase their passes on Saturday, July 18 or Sunday, July 19 for \$20 and \$25.

22. Superintendents/Assistant Superintendents are given picture badges to be used as admittance to the Fair. Spouses may purchase a week pass for \$25.00.

23. Posse members are admitted with Sheriff's badges and ID's. Posse spouses may purchase a week pass for \$25.00.

24. Adult Draft Horse Exhibitors may purchase a week pass for \$20.00. Spouses may purchase a week pass for \$25.00.

25. For fire and pedestrian safety, all vehicles parked near buildings and other exhibit areas must be moved to the parking lot by 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. each day.

26. Youth entering a contest of any kind during Fair Week are under the jurisdiction of the Fair Association and do so at his/her own risk.
27. Anyone needing the service of a Veterinarian or a Medical Doctor shall be responsible for cost of services rendered.
28. Posters are not required with notebooks unless specified in the Entry Guidelines for that category.
29. An exhibit that clearly demonstrates two different areas may be judged in both classes. For example, an entomology exhibit – may be judged by entomology (insects) and woodworking (display case). An exhibit that demonstrates two similar crafts or types of needlework cannot be judged twice. For example: A ceramic Santa Clause may not be entered under both “Ceramics” and “Holiday Crafts.”
30. An exhibitor who is unable to present on judging day should attach a short description of how he/she made the exhibit and what he/she learned.
31. An exhibitor is not eligible for a Merit Award or a Best of Show if he/she is not present for the judging of the exhibit.
32. Still exhibit projects must be made during the past year.
33. Showmanship Classes are required for all species, any animal used for showmanship must be entered in a market, breed or exhibition class. The exhibitor must comply on a species basis. If they do not, then they will be deemed ineligible to participate in any and all activities for that particular species, i.e. Market Classes and Auction. Sale Animals must remain housed on the fairgrounds and taken care of by the exhibitor until Sunday AM check out. The removal of the animal at that time is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
34. The Fair Board of Directors shall have complete control of the Youth Fair including all activities, exhibits, rules and shows.
35. All youth exhibiting animals (cats, dogs, draft horses, horses, large livestock, or small animals) at the Van Buren Youth Fair are REQUIRED to have completed an approved educational class to be eligible to exhibit at the Van Buren Youth Fair. Documentation is due by June 15.
36. Superintendents/Assistant Superintendents are appointed annually by the Fair Board of Directors. They are required to sign a contract and have a criminal history check.
37. The Van Buren Youth Fair is committed to the humane, respectful, and ethical treatment of all animals participating in or present at the fair. Animal welfare is a top priority and abuse; neglect or mistreatment of any kind will not be tolerated. What are animal welfare and willful acts of abuse?
- Animal welfare as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association is, “a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, human handling, and when necessary, humane euthanasia.”
- A willful act of abuse is someone hurting an animal on purpose. Abuse could be but not limited to forcefully hitting, inappropriate gate use, inappropriate animal restraint as well as withholding feed and water for long periods of time.
- Any exhibitor that is seen willfully abusing an animal may:
- drop in show placement
 - warning from the judge or show ring officials
 - ejection for the show
 - further action by the Fair Board, if necessary
38. The fair has legal authority to require animal drug testing under the Animal Industry Act, Act 466 of 1988, as amended, in Section 40(3): “A fair exhibition, exposition, or show authority may require additional testing or vaccination of animals before entry and during the fair, exhibition, exposition or show”.
- a. **AT THE FAIR:**
- i. Verify the animal you are about to test, identify any tattoos, ear tags or ear notches that are on the animal. Whenever possible use USDA official identification vs. farm identification. Be sure to include this information on the “Sample Tag.”

- ii. Present the container for examination to the animal representative/exhibitor, making sure to verify with the animal representative that the security seal has not been previously broken. If the sample container is rejected for any reason, use another container, and return the defective one to the laboratory. *NOTE: The animal representative must remain with the animal at all times during the sample collection process.*
 - iii. Record the seal# in the top right box of the "Sample Transmittal Packing List."
 - iv. Open the container by pressing upward on the tab marked open, breaking the seal.
 - v. Place the container in the catching stick; fold the lid back and anchor it under the metal finger welded on the handle.
 - vi. If a urine sample cannot be obtained, a Michigan Licensed Veterinarian/Veterinarian Technician may collect five tubes of blood from the animal. Each tube of blood must be identified with one of the six small sticker tags provided on the "Sample Tag." Place the five labeled blood tubes inside a plastic sample container and seal as described below.
 - vii. After collecting the sample, close the lid and snap it completely shut. Loop the barbed plastic strip on the sample container through the two holes in the container tabs and pull snug. Apply a short piece of evidence tape across that protruding end of the plastic barbed strip and also across the lid and down sides of the container.
 - viii. Complete the information on a "Sample Tag" substituting the name of the fair for "Track", the name of the animal (Grand Champion Steer, Reserve Champion Swine, etc.) for "Horse" and ear tag number or other unique identification number for "Tattoo". After the animal representative has watched the sample collection and sealing, they must sign under "Witness" on the sample tag. The person collecting the sample must sign under the "Sample By" and the "Sample Tag".
 - ix. Place one completed large sticker tag from the top of the "Sample Tag" on the top of the sample container over the evidence tape and the other completed large sticker tag on the side of the container. The remaining portion of the completed "Sample Tag" must be kept and NOT returned to the lab.
 - x. Lock the sealed and labeled sample container in a metal can. *NOTE: Once the can is locked it cannot be opened until it reaches the lab.*
 - xi. Samples must be held secure and cold until transferred to the laboratory. *NOTE: Urine may be frozen. Blood must be kept refrigerated and never frozen.*
 - Any discarded needles should be placed in an approved "Sharps" container by the veterinarian/veterinarian technician.
 - When all sample collection has been completed, fill out the "Sample Transmittal Packing List." The packing list must identify the tag number of all samples included in the case.
 - Enclosed the completed "Sample Transmittal Packing List," any unused supplies and regenerated/refrozen freezer packs in the case and seal it with the provided intact case seal.
- b. **AFTER SAMPLE COLLECTION IS COMPLETED:**
- i. Transport samples to the lab either in person or by overnight express. Arrange samples to arrive at the lab during normal business hours (7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday) The lab is located on the campus of Michigan State University at: 1615 South Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.
 - ii. Collect and retain signed Animal Certification Forms and the remaining portion of the completed "Sample Tag". *NOTE: Both of these documents should be kept in a secure place for cross-reference when sample results are received. In the event of a positive result these documents must be kept as evidence.*
- Any and/or all expenses incurred regarding drug testing will be the responsibility of the exhibitors. If a claim regarding the drug testing is found to be false, the person that filed the complaint will be responsible for expenses incurred.

39. Complaint and Appeals Procedure: 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 behavior
- Eligibility of the exhibit.

The complaint must be accompanied by a \$75.00 fee payable to the Van Buren Fair Board Association within ten (10) days after the end of the fair. The Fair Board Association will review, investigate, and issue a notice of findings and recommended actions within ten (10) days of the date of the filed complaint. If the exhibitor is not satisfied with the Fair Board Association's decision they may make an appeal to the Michigan Department of Agriculture within forty-five (45) days of filing the initial complaint with the Fair Board Association. The Michigan Department of Agriculture shall have sixty (60) days after receipt of any appropriately filed appeal to investigate the complaint and shall issue a finding of fact and notice of department action and any recommended actions for the Association. If the complaint is found to be a false accusation, the \$75.00 filing fee will remain with the Fair Board Association. If the complaint is found to have merit, the exhibitor filing the complaint will be refunded the \$75.00 filing fee. The person whom the complaint was filed against will be responsible for any and/or all expenses incurred.

40. Late Entry Appeal Process

Youth Responsibility

Step 1-

If a youth misses a deadline they have 3 days to contact the current person in charge of fair registrations at forms.vbyf@gmail.com. All emails must be received by 11:59 p.m. on the third day to be eligible for step 2. Subject line: Late Entry. Email must include youth's name, parent/guardian names, phone number. If there are multiple children from the same family, all names must be listed.

Step 2

Youth (if age and ability allows) or, parent or guardian must email a letter to forms.vbyf@gmail.com explaining why they missed the deadline and a brief explanation of why they feel

they should be allowed to exhibit; the letter is due by 11:59 p.m. on the date listed in the chart below. If the letter is not received, the youth is not able to appeal on the stated date. Each youth is expected to provide their own age appropriate, signed letter even if the entire family is appealing a missed deadline.

Step 3

The appeal committee will meet on the dates in the chart each year. Youth and parent/guardian must attend. Youth will need to speak to the committee; this will be based on age and ability. It could be stating their name and project they hope to exhibit, or it could be the youth introducing themselves and providing the details of their appeal.

Other important information

- The appeal committee will notify the youth within 24 hours of the meeting with their decision. The decision made by the committee is final, no other appeals will be entertained by the VBYP Board or its sub-committees.
- Youth need to bring a person to also speak on their behalf, this is in addition to their parent/guardian. (i.e., 4-H leader, teacher, family friend, fair superintendent, etc.)
- Each appeal will have 10 minutes to speak to the appeal committee. Approximately 3 minutes per person. The committee reserves the right to extend the time to ask and have answered any lingering questions that may arise.

Completion of the appeal process does not guarantee the appeal will be approved and the youth will be able to exhibit at the Van Buren Youth Fair.

Deadline Date	Step 1- Email deadline	Step 2- letter	Step 3- Appeal meeting
December 31	January 3	January 5	January 7
May 1	May 4	May 6	May 8
June 15	June 18	June 20	June 22

LARGE LIVESTOCK EXHIBIT RULES

Barn Superintendent: Nick Mead (269) 655-5145

Assistant Barn Superintendents:

Cody Shannon (269) 808-9033

Kaeleb Mead (269) 436-0072

Exhibitors shall observe the following rules for all market and breed livestock species.

All animals will be checked by the Veterinarian appointed by the Fair Board before entering the Fair. The Veterinarian will make the determination if the animal's health meets the standards and are not showing clinical signs of disease.

1. Tagging of all livestock shall be done by ownership deadlines using the tag numbers assigned to the individual families. Each exhibitor will sign a statement agreeing to follow the rules set forth in the Fair Book, and that they are the owners of the tagged animals.

Species	Tagged	Entered	Weight
Beef Breeding	RFID tag	1 per class	
Beef, dairy or cross Market Animal	Total of 4, one must be a dairy steer	Any combination up to 2 live steers and 1 carcass	1000# and up
Feeder calf- Beef, dairy or cross	3 (beef, dairy or cross)	Any combination up to 2	250#-676#
Sheep Breeding	Scrapies tag	1 per class	
Market Lambs	Total of 4	2 live sheep and 1 carcass	84# and up
Market Swine	Total of 4	2 live and 1 carcass	220#-300#

Tagging deadlines:

December 31- Market Beef and Van Buren County Born & Raised

May 1- Beef Breeding, Feeder Calves, Sheep Breeding, Market Lambs, Market Hogs and Dairy Ownership Record

*See Rule 7 regarding information on finished/unfinished animals.

2. Advanced entries for all animal exhibits shall be made on or before June 15th. All registration forms must be completed online. Go to the Van Buren Youth Fair website: www.vanburenyouthfair.com. See page 6 for instructions.
3. Any exhibitor entering large livestock (Beef/Dairy Market Animal, Beef/Dairy Feeders, Swine, Sheep, and Producing Dairy Cows) will be required to fill out a W-9 Form and turn it in with their June 15th Pre-registration forms. A 1099 will be mailed to all exhibitors who earn more than \$2,000.00 as required by the IRS.
4. All exhibitors in the large livestock areas will be assessed a \$20.00 exhibit fee per animal exhibited. This includes beef, feeders, swine, sheep, dairy and breeding stock for all species. The \$20.00 exhibit fee will be collected as follows:
 - a. All animals sold through the auction will have the \$20.00 per animal deducted from the auction checks along with the 3% commission and other fees as stated in the Fair Premium Book. If an exhibitor chooses the option not to sell through the auction, the \$20.00 exhibit fee is required to be paid no later than the stated deadlines for choosing the option not to sell as stated in the Livestock Exhibit Rules #12.
 - b. Dairy exhibitors will have the \$20.00 exhibit fee deducted from the "Gallon of Milk" auction check. The total number of dairy animals exhibited times \$20.00 will be deducted from the auction proceeds before the profits are distributed according to the schedule stated in the Fair Premium Book.
 - c. Breeding stock in all species will be required to pay the \$20.00 exhibit fee per exhibitor per animal.
5. Animals exhibiting any of the following conditions, symptoms, or behavior shall not be permitted to enter the shows.
 - a. Animals (Steers, Beef Breeding, Feeders Calves, Dairy Jr. Calf and older and sheep) shall have no

- horns or any growth on head more than 3/4" long or they will be sent home.
- b. All male livestock, except for breeding bulls calves, must be castrated. This includes swine, beef, dairy, beef/dairy feeders, and sheep. Male livestock born during the current fair may remain for fair week.
 - c. External parasites, lice, ticks, mange or other obviously disease or unthrifty animals (all species) bleeding, open sores & wounds will not be allowed to enter.
 - d. Failure to lead or be handled by the exhibitor in or out of the show ring (all species at halter, collar or lead strap).
6. As part of the entry process, exhibitors shall report to the species superintendent upon arrival at the arena or stabling area. The Beef, Feeder, Swine, Sheep and Dairy Superintendents shall be responsible for ruling on qualifications of animals to be entered in their respective divisions. An exhibitor wishing to challenge a superintendent's decision shall do so in writing to the Fair Management before 10:00 p.m. Monday of fair.
 7. At weigh in a panel consisting of large livestock superintendents shall identify the market animals not eligible to sell in the finish market animal sale and explain their reasons to the exhibitor.
 8. Market and Non-Market Livestock Record Books shall be turned into Division Superintendents. All interviews will be held on Friday.
 9. All Beef, Sheep and Dairy need to be stabled or penned on Saturday, July 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Swine and exhibitors participating at the Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE) will check in on Sunday, July 19 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. MLE exhibitors must provide proof of participation at MLE. MLE Exhibitors must complete the additional paperwork due on June 15 with entry forms.

Swine that have been exhibited at MLE or any other exhibition that has occurred less than 14 days prior to swine check-in will not be permitted to exhibit at the Van Buren Youth Fair.

10. All State Health and Sanitation requirements must be met by all exhibitors. Refer to Health Regulations website at www.michigan.gov/mda-exhibitinfo.
11. All market animals will be weighed upon arrival at the designated times:
 - Beef/Dairy Market Animal, Feeders and Sheep: Saturday, July 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - Dairy Cows and Heifers: Saturday, July 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - Swine and MLE Exhibitors: Sunday, July 19 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. All pure bred market swine MSUT show registration paperwork to qualify at check-in.
 - All market sheep must be shorn between June 15 and check-in.
 - All covers must be removed at weigh-in to allow the vet easy access to check the animals.
 - Wool breeding sheep must be shorn for the last time by April 1.

All animals will be weighed one time only. If all of an exhibitor's animals do not make weight, the exhibitor may choose one of their animals to show in showmanship provided there is space available, but they will not be allowed to participate in market classes or Large Livestock Auction.

The first two animals of each species per exhibitor that make weight will be the animals that stay on the fairgrounds. Any other animals of that species brought by that exhibitor will not be weighed.

12. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Animals (Beef/Dairy Market Animal, Lamb, Swine) must be sold at the Market Livestock Fair Auction. All other eligible exhibitors with Market Livestock shall have the option to sell or not sell. They must notify and turn in the Non-Market Animal Form with the exhibitor's fee to the respective superintendent no later than Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. except for sheep. Sheep must notify the superintendent and turn in the Non-Market Animal Form no later than Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. if they choose not to sell. If any exhibitor chooses to sell at the auction, the animal becomes the property of the buyer at the time the auctioneer recognized the buyer. Any animal pulled from the sale will become

the responsibility of the exhibitor to arrange for necessary trucking.

The exhibitors of beef, swine, sheep and beef/dairy feeders or gallon of milk sold through the Livestock Auction bought by any buyer (including exhibitor buy backs) is required to pay a \$20.00 exhibitor's fee and a 3% commission fee to the Large Livestock Auction. The commission fees will be deducted from the gross amount of each exhibitor's auction check. The commission fee includes accounting costs, advertising, awards, auctioneer gift cards, large livestock scholarships, herdsmanship awards, office supplies, printing of sale bills, and trucking. In addition, the following items will be deducted from each exhibitor's auction check: Chuck Wagon, Beef, Lamb, and Swine check-off and photographs, amounts to be determined.

All auction bills are expected to be paid in full within 60 days of July 23, 2026. After that date, a fee of 2% will be added monthly to unpaid balances and financial collection proceedings will be sought.

Failure of any buyer to make payment in full, including accrued interest, by June 1, 2027, will result in ineligibility to participate in the 2027 auction.

All out of state buyers must provide a Bank Letter of Credit or have payment approved by the fair prior to the commencement of the auction.

A maximum of one re-sale is permitted per animal.

A gallon of milk will be sold during the auction. The profits will be divided as follows:

- 25% goes to the Grand Champion Dairy Cow
- 15% goes to the Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Cow
- 10% goes to the Grand Champion Heifer
- 5% goes to the Reserve Grand Champion Heifer
- 42% will be divided with the non-champion dairy animals with 3% going to the Milk Exhibitor's Fund. If there are less than 9 non-champion animals, each animal will receive 4% with the remaining amount being donated to the Milk Exhibitor's Fund.

If there is no exhibitor in the above categories, the amount will be donated to the Milk Exhibitor's Fund, which is used to purchase supplies and milking equipment.

13. Exhibitor must be 9 years old to exhibit a mature beef or dairy female. No animals other than those shown in the market classes shall be sold at the Fair Auction.
14. All animals in the livestock classes must be properly cared for throughout the entire period of the Fair. All morning chores will be completed by 9:00 a.m. Animals need to be fed in the evening between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., with the exception of the dairy cattle, who will determine their schedule based on the milking schedule. All evening chores should be completed by 7:00 p.m. Exhibitors must wear appropriate foot attire during chores and when working with their animals.
15. TB Testing for cattle is to meet the movement requirements in the State of Michigan as per the current MDA Health Regulations. Information can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdaexhibitorinfo.

All Sheep are required to have a USDA Ear Tag or Tattoo.

All bovine and swine must have a RFID ear tag before entering the VBYF. The animal will not be allowed off the trailer without a RFID tag being present in the animal's ear.

16. Native Michigan swine are not required to have a pseudorabies test to exhibit at the fair. Out of state swine—see the current MDA health regulations on file in the computer office.
17. Livestock checks will be sent out as soon as incoming funds are available, but no later than August 31st. Sunday Clean-Up is expected to be done by the exhibitors or a superintendent approved representative. Exhibitors or representative must be at the livestock barn at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. A clean up charge of \$25.00 per animal will be charged to any exhibitor who fails to assist with the barn and grounds cleanup as recorded by the species superintendents.

18. Showmanship classes are required for all species, any animal used for showmanship must be entered in a market or breed class. The exhibitor must show the animal tagged in their name for the showmanship class. The exhibitor must comply on a species basis. If they do not, they will be deemed ineligible to participate in any and all activities for that particular species. i.e., Market Classes and Auction Sales.
19. All animals must remain housed on the fairground and shall be taken care of by the exhibitor until the scheduled exhibit release times as outlined in rule #29. The removal of the animal at the time is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
20. Showmanship Age Divisions are: (Age as of January 1 of the current calendar year)
 Pee Wee I Division - 6 to 7
 (born 7/1-12/31) years old
 Pee Wee II Division - 7
 (born 1/1 – 6/30) to 8 years old
 Young I Division - 9 to 10 years old
 Young II Division - 11 to 12 years old
 Junior Division - 13 to 14 years old
 Senior I Division - 15 to 16 years old
 Senior II Division - 17 to 19 years old
21. Exhibitor must be present during grooming unless they are actively showing.
22. All animals shown at the Van Buren Youth Fair must be properly cared for or the premium money will be withheld. This includes animals being fed and watered at least twice a day. The stall and animals should be kept clean. If the requirements are not met, there will be two warnings issued. After the third warning, the exhibitor will be asked to remove the animal from the fair and the exhibitor will not be allowed to show the following year. Final dismissal shall rest with the Species Superintendent, Barn Superintendent, and the Large Livestock Committee. This process will be documented with the exhibitor's signature as acknowledgement. The exhibitor will be asked to leave if he/she refuses to sign.
23. During livestock shows, there MUST BE AT LEAST TWO AND NOT MORE THAN FOUR ADULTS in the show ring (not the parents of the exhibitor), unless determined by the species superintendent more are needed for safety reasons. As a safety precaution the superintendents are requesting the following:
 Swine: The superintendents would like all parents to sit in the stands and not be in the staging area.
 Beef: The superintendents would like one adult per animal in the staging area. Then once the exhibitor and animal are in the ring, we ask that the adults meet the exhibitor and animal at the exit gate to go back to the barn.
 Feeders: The superintendents would like to have one adult in the staging area with exhibitors, especially the Pee Wee Classes. Then please meet your exhibitor at the exit gate to help return the animals to the barn.
 Sheep: The superintendents will notify parents if they need to leave the staging area.
 Dairy: The superintendents will notify parents if they need to leave the staging area.
24. The following "age" rules shall apply for all Market Livestock:
 a. Market Lambs: Born Dec.1 or after the year of fair.
 b. Market Beef: under 24 months of age at fair time. If female, there will be a vet/superintendent administered blood test at check-in to determine if pregnant (at no cost to the exhibitor). If the pregnancy test is positive, the animal will not be allowed to show as a market animal.
 c. Beef & Dairy Type Feeder Calves: 250# to 676#
 d. Swine: 220# to 300#
25. Breed or weight classification champion rosettes, trophy, or banners will not be awarded when in the opinion of the judges the exhibit animal does not merit the award.
26. No youth exhibitor, except that authorized by Division Superintendents and the Fair Management, is permitted to stay overnight in the barn.
27. Exhibit release times for all animal exhibits are:
 BEEF/DAIRY MARKET ANIMAL, FEEDERS, SHEEP & SWINE: Saturday, July 25 from 11:00 p.m. to Sunday at 3:00 a.m.
 BEEF, DAIRY, SHEEP BREEDING ANIMALS: Saturday, July 25 from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 BUYER PICK UP: Sunday, July 26 from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

All animals shown in the market classes and/or sold through the livestock auction may NOT leave at this time. Animals are to be released only with Superintendent's continued approval and acknowledgement. All sale destinations are final at noon on Saturday. No exceptions.

28. All calves must be off the cow by June 15th and tagged by May 1st.
29. Gates between feeder calves are optional. Gates will be required for dividing clubs.
30. When showing more than 1 animal in a class, the person assisting the exhibitor must be a current exhibitor at the Van Buren Youth Fair.
31. All exhibitors are responsible for making sure their market animals meet the acceptable withdrawal deadlines to avoid drug residue.
32. Generators will not be allowed around the livestock barn unless specifically approved by the Fair Board.
33. Appropriate show attire, i.e.: Dress type shirt or blouse. No midriff and/or cleavage showing. Dark or light-colored dress pants or dark jeans with no holes. No shorts or sweat-pants. Leather or safety type shoes are required. No Hats. Fair volunteers are welcome but are expected to set an example regarding dress code and foot attire.
34. All animals must be clearly identified with a sign above the pen before Monday morning of fair week. Exhibitors can obtain an identification sign at weigh-in or from a superintendent. All signs must remain above the pen until Sunday at 6:00 a.m. during cleanup of the barn.
35. The Fair has legal authority to require animal drug testing under the Animal Industry Act, Act 466 of 1988, as amended in Section 40(3): "A fair, exhibition, exposition, or show authority may require additional testing or vaccination of animals before entry and during the fair, exhibition, exposition or show."
See complete rules and instructions under "Exhibitor Rules" Item 37.

36. Exhibitors or immediate family will be given a flyer with important rules and information at educational meetings, club meetings, or via email before check in. The flyer will also be posted in the Large Livestock Barn during fair week. Exhibitors are responsible for reading the flyer and following the rules.
37. Exhibitors shall be advised the fair environment can lead to increased disease susceptibility. Please read the attached MSU Extension bulletin #2841 entitled Biosecurity for Livestock Exhibitors. The Fair Board recommends the suggestions found in this bulletin be utilized for the benefit of both exhibitors and the general public.

Livestock Project Evaluation

Friday, July 24, 2026 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Youth will demonstrate livestock knowledge by selecting, maintaining care, and feeding and exhibiting a finished livestock project.

Beef, Dairy, Sheep & Swine Livestock Project Evaluations will be held Friday, July 24, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Exhibitors should be in the barn by their animals. The Livestock Project Evaluation process is an educational program. It will be based on the following outline:

Interview: 35 Points

Exhibitor will have a short (3-5 minute) interview with the judge. Young exhibitors will be asked questions about caring for their animal(s). Questions for older exhibitors will be more difficult.

Possible topics include:

~Care of the Animal ~ Profit/Loss ~ Retail Meat Cuts ~ Rate of Gain ~ Breeds ~ Health Care/Diseases ~ Feed Efficiency ~ Genetics ~ Animal Industry Trends

Record Book: 35 Points

Exhibitors should present their record book to the judge at the time of the interview. Livestock record books will be judged on:

Completeness ~ Neatness ~ Accuracy of Information

Animal: 35 Points

The live animal will be judged at the time of the interview. The judge will look for:
Evidence of exhibitor's care for the animal ~
Cleanliness

105 Total Points

RATING:

- A. 105-80 Points
- B. 79-45 Points
- C. 44-0 Points

*Record books are available from the Extension Office.

Livestock Exhibitors (ages 6-8) use Pee Wee Record Books
Livestock Exhibitors (ages 9-19) use the Michigan 4-H Animal Market Project Record Book:
Three Age Divisions – 9 to 12, 13 to 15 and 16 to 19

Breeding Stock use 4-H Animal Non-Market Project Record Books:
Three Age Divisions – 9 to 12, 13 to 15 and 16 to 19

Large Livestock Showmanship Sweepstakes

Friday, July 24 - 4:00 p.m.

Sweepstakes Superintendent-

Bev Rajzer (269) 808-2910

Asst. Superintendent -

Taylor Shannon (269) 655-6026

1. There shall be two divisions in the Showmanship Sweepstakes:
Junior - 9 to 14 years of age during the current calendar year.
Senior - 15 to 19 years of age during the current calendar year.
Class 175 Senior Showmanship Sweepstakes
Class 176 Junior Showmanship Sweepstakes
2. The following species shall participate in Showmanship Sweepstakes: (Beef, Dairy, Goats, Horse, Sheep, Swine & Feeder Calf). Exhibitors shall be selected from the Young and Junior age groups for the Junior Sweepstakes and from the Senior I and Senior II age groups for the Senior sweepstakes.
3. In each Sweepstakes Division, contestants will show all seven species: Beef, Dairy, Goat, Horse, Sheep, Swine, Feeder Calf
4. A short-written test will be administered to all contestants on Friday at 9 a.m. The results of this test will be used in the event of a "tie" in judging. Animals to be used for sweepstakes will be assigned to contestants as they enter the show arena on Friday afternoon.
5. If an exhibitor wins more than one species showmanship run-off, the first-place exhibitor may choose which species to represent. The second-place winner will then represent the species the first-place exhibitor does not wish to represent. In the event there is no alternate showman for a species then the first-place showman must represent that species. Species representatives must inform the Sweepstakes Superintendent of which species they will represent by 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday. For example: George wins first-place with his hog, and Mary wins second place. George wins first-place with his feeder, and Karen wins second place. George decides to represent feeders in the Showmanship Sweepstakes Contest. Mary would then represent swine in the competition.
6. Each sweepstakes contestant shall show competitively against the other six contestants in each respective livestock division and may not show any of their own animals in any classes.
7. All animals to be used in sweepstakes will be chosen by a committee of superintendents and turned into the Sweepstakes Superintendent by 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
8. Species will be shown in the following order:
1. Horses 2. Goats 3. Swine 4. Lambs
5. Dairy 6. Beef 7. Feeder Calf
Sweepstakes Superintendents reserve the right to change the show order.
If there are not enough animals to be shown in a particular species during the sweepstakes contest, that particular species will be eliminated. The exhibitors of the eliminated species will still be allowed to participate in the rest of the contest.

9. The Sweepstakes Contests shall be held on Friday at 4:00 p.m. in the Large Livestock Arena. Exhibitors are to report to the Superintendent no later than 3:45 p.m. The Sr. exhibitors will show first followed by Jr. exhibitors in each species. Judges and showman will have designated seating areas in the makeup area of the Large Livestock Show Arena. All parents and bystanders will be asked to sit in the bleachers.

(Parents, bystanders and/or any other spectator will not be permitted to view the show from rail or fence area of the Large Livestock Arena)

10. Appropriate show attire: official sweepstakes showmanship shirt, if provided. If no sweepstakes showmanship shirt is provided, a dress type shirt or blouse (with collar). No midriff showing. Jeans with NO HOLES. No shorts, sweatpants, or hats. You must wear leather or safety-type shoes.

11. Scoring in each division contest shall be as follows:

- Points shall be awarded contestants based on their placing in each ring. First place will receive 1 point; 2nd place 2 points, etc.
- The contestant scoring the lowest total points in each division shall be declared the Sweepstakes Champion. The next lowest point will be declared the Sweepstakes Reserve Champion.
- In the event of a "tie" at the conclusion of the contest, the test results previously administered will be used to determine the winner.

12. Winners shall be announced at the end of the sweepstakes contest rather than after each species. A trophy will be presented to the champion in each division and all contestants shall receive placing rosettes.

13. At the conclusion of the program, any contestant who wishes to know their judging results, may get them from the Superintendent. These results will be given to the contestants only and individually.

14. The Van Buren Youth Fair is committed to the humane, respectful, and ethical treatment of all animals participating in or present at the fair. Animal welfare is a top priority and abuse; neglect or mistreatment of any kind will not be tolerated.

What are animal welfare and willful acts of abuse?

Animal welfare as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association is, "a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, human handling, and when necessary, humane euthanasia."

A willful act of abuse is someone hurting an animal on purpose. Abuse could be but not limited to forcefully hitting, inappropriate gate use, inappropriate animal restraint as well as withholding feed and water for long periods of time.

Any exhibitor that is seen willfully abusing an animal may:

- drop in show placement
- warning from the judge or show ring officials
- ejection for the show
- further action by the Fair Board, if necessary

Large Livestock Record Book Contest

To recognize outstanding achievement in record keeping for large livestock projects, the Van Buren County Farm Bureau will present awards to the top three exhibitors in the Beef, Sheep, Swine, and Dairy Division.

Record books will be reviewed and judged by a committee with representatives from the Farm Bureau, the Large Livestock Committee, and the Fair Board. Judging will be based upon completeness, accuracy, and neatness of the record Book.

***Record books are available from the Extension Office.**

Livestock Exhibitors (ages 6-8) use Pee Wee Record Books

Livestock Exhibitors use the Michigan 4-H Animal Market Project Record Book:

Three Age Divisions - 9 to 12, 13 to 15, and 16 to 19

Breeding Stock use 4-H Animal Non-Market Project Record Books:

Three Age Divisions - 9 to 12, 13 to 15, and 16 to 19

Prizes will be awarded in the four age groups for each of the species below.

	1 st place	2 nd place	3 rd place
Beef	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Sheep	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Swine	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Dairy	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Feeders	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00

Livestock Herdsmanship

Judges will review the barns daily (Monday through Friday) between the hours of 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. Winners will be announced Saturday afternoon. First-Third place awards will be given in each species. Herdsmanship will be judged for Beef, Swine, Dairy, Sheep, and Feeders. The judging will be based on clean well-fitted animals, clean aisle, stall, and tack areas. Judged also on eye appeal of exhibit and identification of your group.

Herdsmanship Awards: (to be paid by Large Livestock Committee)

1st place - \$20.00 check 2nd place - \$15.00 check
3rd place - \$10.00 check

“Ag Olympics”

Information about the Ag Olympics contest will be announced during fair week.

Superintendent – Leah Pillar

Assistant superintendent – Lori Alexander

Susan Melvin Memorial Sr. Swine Showmanship Trophy

To honor the memory of Susan Melvin, Bloomingdale, 1977 Fair royalty Queen and Senior I Swine Showmanship winner, a trophy will be presented to the winner of the Senior Swine Showmanship competition. The exhibitor may keep the trophy in his/her possession until the following year, at which time it is to be returned to the Swine Superintendent. A permanent trophy will be presented to each annual winner thereafter.

Carcass Rules

Live Weigh-In: Sunday, July 12 - 5:00 to 6:20 p.m.
at Van Buren Youth Fairgrounds

Carcass Judging: Tuesday, July 14 - 6:00 p.m. at
Pease Packing

Superintendent:

Carisa Hostetler (269) 377-9998

Asst. Superintendent:

Dan Hostetler (269) 377-9262

For All Species (Market beef, sheep, swine, goats)

1. All animals must be weighed in from 5:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. on the day of the live evaluation at the fairgrounds.
2. One animal per species may be entered.
3. The show will start at 6:30 p.m. in the following order: Swine, Sheep, Goats and Beef.
4. Show attire must be worn for live and hanging evaluation. Jackets/Sweatshirts are permitted after pictures at the hanging evaluation. No flip flops are allowed.
5. Judging will be 100% judged on hanging score for all species.
6. Exhibitors must be present for both the live and hanging evaluations. (Unless approval has been given by the fair board.)
7. Grand and Reserve placing for all species will be sold at the Large Animal Auction at the Fair. Goat Carcasses will be sold at the Small Animal Auction.
8. Exhibitors are responsible to pay all processing expenses for their animals (except for Grand and Reserve Champion placings). All animals must be processed at Pease Packing.
9. All carcass exhibitors must exhibit at the fair with a breeding or market animal in the species they are showing a carcass animal in.
10. There is a \$10 fee per animal for transporting to the processing plant. This will be collected at the time of the live show at the fairgrounds. Grand and Reserve

Champions will be given their fee back after the awards presentation.

11. All Beef animals must be broke to lead, clipping them is optional. Sheep must be shorn, and Goats must be clipped.
12. Exhibitors will receive Placing Rosettes (1-5 place). First and Second place exhibitors will receive Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Trophies and Banners in each species.

Swine Requirements

1. Carcasses will be measured at the 10th rib for Loin Eye Area. Any LEA measuring less than 4.5 square inches will result in disqualification.
2. Carcasses will be measured for fat depth, which can be no less than .2" and no more than 1.25". Any measurements outside this range will result in disqualification.
3. If the 10th rib fat measurement is less than 0.40" it will be entered into the equation at 0.40" giving no advantage to leaner carcasses.
4. If the judge determines that the carcass is PSE this will also lead to disqualification.

Sheep Requirements

1. Fat Thickness will be measured at the 12th rib, which can be no less than .1". Any measurement less than .1" will result in a disqualification.
2. Any measurement less than 2.10 square inches for the rib-eye area will also result in a disqualification.

Beef Requirements

1. Carcasses ranked by best combination of yield and quality grades.
 - a. Minimum quality grade for Yield grade 1, 2, & 3 carcasses is Choice-. All carcasses achieving the minimum Choice- quality grade and 3.99 yield grades will be ranked by yield grade.
 - b. Select+ quality grade 1 & 2 carcasses ranked next by yield grade.
 - c. Choice- Yield grade 4 carcasses ranked next by yield grade.
 - d. Select- and lower quality carcasses and yield grade 5 carcasses ranked by judge's discretion.

Rate of Gain

Superintendent: Karen Kubisak (269) 254-4085

Asst. Superintendent:

Marcia Sieber (269) 501-0600

For All Species (market beef, sheep, swine, feeder calves):

1. Participation in "Rate of Gain" is encouraged.
2. Official beginning weights will be recorded at the Van Buren Fairgrounds on
 - a. Saturday, December 13, 2025 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 - b. Saturday, April 25 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 - c. Sunday, April 26 - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - d. Exhibitors attending the Winter Beef Show at MSU may use those recorded weights as beginning weights but MUST text a picture of their class sheet with weight to the Superintendent (269-254-4085) no later than December 31, 2025.
3. Tagging will be offered for FREE, but exhibitor is responsible to pay the tag fee.
4. Official ending weights will be determined at weigh-in for the species that have completed the requirements and are exhibited at the fair.
5. Rate of Gain Awards will be announced during fair week.

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.
2. All small animal exhibitors must pay a non-refundable \$10.00 per *exhibitor* due on June 15 along with pen registration forms. Payable at the time of online entries. 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 completed W-9 at the time of online entry.
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 diseases or unthrifty condition will be sent home.
5. All pens must be labeled with at least the exhibitor's 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 areas should be kept clean during the week. Pens must be cleaned and put away before leaving the fairgrounds 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 and close-toed shoes. Goat exhibitors must follow rules in the Goat section (page 90). 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 - Saturday, July 18 – 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - b. Rabbits -Saturday, July 18 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - c. Poultry - Pullorum Testing/Enter Poultry Saturday, July 18 -7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
 - d. Goats- Sunday, July 19 – 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
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 21, 2026.
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 21, 2026. All auction decisions are at the discretion of the species superintendent.
17. Release times and cleanup for small animals are Sunday, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. 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. All market exhibitors are required to hang a personalized thank you to their buyer(s) and send a personalized thank you.
21. 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.
22. Accommodations for Special Needs exhibitors will be provided as needed.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.

26. All SMAC animals must be entered in an exhibition, market or production class.

Goat Rules

Market Pictures: Sunday, July 19

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mandatory barn meeting will be held 15 minutes following the completion of check-in.

1. Goats must be in the exhibitor's possession by May 1 of the current year, except for kids born to a doe owned by the exhibitor.
2. All Goats are required to have a U.S.D.A. Ear Tag or tattoo verified by registration papers and/or physical tag. There will be a mandatory market goat tag verification on May 2nd from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
3. No horns allowed on Market goats, Pet wethers or Dairy breed class goats. Non-dairy breed class goats may show in horns. Market goats and pet wethers having more than 1" scurs will be turned away at check-in. No open wounds, lice or mites on animals allowed. Animals shall appear clean and in good healthy weight.
4. Exhibitors will enter and show only Does or Wethers – no Bucks or Buck Kids over 4 weeks of age permitted. Buck kids are not allowed to be shown in the goat show.
5. Does entered in classes 820-821 must have freshened in the current year. Does two years old that have never freshened are not eligible to be entered or shown in the goat show.
6. Exhibitors may enter only one (1) market goat per market class. Market goats are to be born on or after December 1 prior to the current fair year but must be at least 8 weeks of age by enter day. Goats weighing less than 50 pounds will be sent home at time of weigh-in unless also are pre-signed up for an age-appropriate Pet Wether or Doeling class. Goats shown in classes 809-810, 812-813, and 815-816

may be sold at the Small Market Animal Auction (at the discretion of the exhibitor.) Please notify the goat superintendents by noon on Tuesday of Fair Week if you do not want to sell your goat at auction. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion market goats shown in classes 811, 814, 817 and 853 (Carcass Class) must be sold at the SMAC auction.

7. Show ring and auction dress code will follow breed standard. Dairy: Black/white pants, white collared, long or short sleeve shirt. NO GRAPHICS
Market: Black/Dark jean pants, Button up long or short sleeve shirt. NO GRAPHICS.
8. Goats within three weeks of kidding will not be allowed.
9. All Market Goats shall have collars. Dairy Goats may be handled in the show ring with COLLARS ONLY. Collars or Halters are permitted on Non-Dairy breed goats.
10. All goats must be broke to lead and be manageable by the exhibitor in and out of the show ring. Unmanageable goats will not be permitted in the show ring.
11. All exhibitors are required to bring bedding, hay and grain and other supplies (buckets, hay feeders, feed dishes, etc.) to care for animals during the week.
12. No parents are allowed past the show ring, the entrance to the show ring, or the show tables. Only approved show help with tags may enter the show area.
13. Grand Champion Milk Bucket will be sold at the SMAC auction with proceeds going to the exhibitor winning Grand Champion of the Senior Dairy Doe class.

Poultry Rules

Market Poultry Interviews-

Sunday, July 19 -12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Market Pictures: Sunday, July 19

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

General Poultry Rules

1. A Mandatory Poultry Meeting will be held prior to the show.
2. Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) requires all poultry (except waterfowl, pigeons, and doves) to originate from pullorum-typhoid clean flock or have a negative official test within 90 days before fair. Proof of Negative Pullorum Test must be shown at check-in. Exhibitors are encouraged to have their birds tested before they arrive at the fair. Birds that arrive untested at check-in will be tested in a designated area outside the poultry barn.
3. No exhibit is to be placed in the building until it has been examined by the Superintendent or representative. Per MDA health rules, All Birds Must be free of Disease, MITES, and LICE. Birds with parasites and/or symptoms of disease will be sent home.
4. All Birds must come into the barn clean on entry day. Dirty, unhealthy, unthrifty, underweight, and overweight birds will not be allowed to enter and will be sent home.
5. Each exhibitor is required to show in only one showmanship and in at least one of the production, market, or exhibition classes.
6. Dress clothes are required for the show and the auction. Long sleeved white shirt and black pants.
7. Twice daily cleaning, feeding, and watering are the responsibilities of the exhibitor. Exhibitors are responsible for their own feed and bedding.
8. All Market Poultry are required to submit a Market Record Sheet by 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 19th, and a W-9 to be eligible to auction market birds. Forms should be submitted at the time of registration.

9. Exhibitors are required to assist with barn clean-up on Sunday morning. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of premiums.
10. Spurs cannot be altered within 10 days of check-in.
11. Market Poultry Interviews are mandatory. If an interview is not completed, the exhibitor will not receive their premium. Completed Market Records can be turned in at this time.
12. No poultry that have been vaccinated against Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) will be allowed to exhibit at fair. Check with producer and ask for paperwork if buying chicks.
13. No shipping or transport crates or cages will be allowed to be stored in the barn or exhibition area.
14. Showmanship will follow Michigan State 4-H Fitting & Showing Guidelines.
15. Exhibitor must use their own bird in showmanship.

Egg Production

1. Shown in pairs and pair must be the same breed.
2. Laying chickens judged mainly on health, color of skin, comb color, distance between pin bones, and uniformity.
3. Pullets must be 3 months old and fully feathered.

Market Poultry

1. A market record must be completed for each market class entered.
2. All market poultry will be banded check-in,
3. Judged mainly on conformation, finish, and uniformity.
4. All Commercial poultry must be hatched after January 1st of the current year.

Exhibition Poultry

1. Classes will be judged according to the American Poultry Association Standard of Perfection Guidelines.

2. Must be at least 3 months of age and fully feathered.

Dozen Eggs

1. Exhibitors are limited to one dozen and must be exhibiting a poultry project.
2. Each entry will be judged on the consistency of color, shape and size of eggs, and the quality and effectiveness of notebook and egg presentation.

Rabbit Rules

Mandatory Meeting: Sunday, July 19 - 11:30 a.m.

Market Pictures: Sunday, July 19

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

1. Rabbit exhibitors may sign up six single and a market pen of three rabbits. Rabbit exhibitors will be allowed to show four single entries and a market pen of three rabbits.
2. All rabbits entered must be free of disease. Animals with signs of illness will be sent home. Rabbits must be clean with nails trimmed prior to check in.
3. All exhibitors must show in a showmanship class. The showmanship rabbit must be one of the single entries or one of the market rabbits.
4. Dress code: black pants with long-sleeved white shirt.
5. Breed class rabbits must be owned by the exhibitors by May 1 preceding the fair.
6. Rabbit market pens shall weigh 3 ½ to 5 ½ lbs. per rabbit at 69 days of age or younger as of show day. Market pens must be a commercial breed and owned by the exhibitor by June 15 preceding the fair. Underweight and overweight rabbits will not be allowed to enter.
7. Rabbit judging will be based on the A.R.B.A. Standard of Perfection. Showmanship judging will follow Michigan State 4-H Rabbit Fitting and Showing Guidelines.
8. All Breed rabbits are to be tattooed. Market rabbits will be identified by the superintendent at check-in on Saturday.

9. No Crossbred rabbits will be allowed to enter.
10. Padlocks on cages are recommended. The Van Buren Youth Fair, superintendents, leaders and S.M.A.C. are not responsible for lost, escaped, or stolen rabbits.
11. Rabbit exhibitors must provide food and wood shavings during fair week.

Pocket Pet Rules

Mandatory Meeting: Saturday, July 18 - 3:00 p.m.

1. A mandatory pocket pet MEETING will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, the day of check-in.
2. Cavies and lab animals must be owned by exhibitor by June 1 preceding fair.
3. Dress code: black pants with long-sleeved white shirt.
4. All pens must be labeled with exhibitor name, age, club, & breed.
- 5.
6. Exhibitors may not enter more than eight cavies and no more than six lab animals.
7. Showmanship is a required class.
8. Exhibitor must show his/her own entry in showmanship class.
9. Cavy judging shall be based on ARBA Cavy Standards of Perfection.
10. All cavies must have a tattoo or ear tag. Lab Animal Judging will be based on ARMA Standards of Perfection and the American Hamster Association Standards of Perfection.
11. Showmanship judging will follow Michigan State 4-H Cavy Fitting and Showing Guidelines.
12. Sow and Boars shall be caged separately.
13. Mixed Breed animals may be shown. They should be placed in the Breed Class they most closely resemble.
14. Age/wt. groups are to be according to A.R.B.A. standards for cavies.
15. All cages must be locked. The Van Buren Youth Fair, superintendents, leaders and S.M.A.C. are not responsible for lost, escaped or stolen animals.
16. Lab animal exhibitors must provide their own cage, bedding, and feed during fair week.
17. A pair of lab animals may be either a male & female or two of the same sex.
18. Cavy exhibitors must provide bedding and feed during fair week.

Small Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes

Friday, July 24 - 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 showmanship run-off, the first-place exhibitor may choose which species to represent. The second-place winner will then represent the species the first-place exhibitor does not wish to represent. In the event there is no alternate showman for a species then the first-place showman must represent that species. Species representatives must inform the Sweepstakes Superintendent of which species they will represent by 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

For example: George wins first-place with his rabbit, and Mary wins second place. George wins first-place with his chicken, and Karen wins second place. George decides to represent chickens in the Showmanship Sweepstakes Contest. Mary would then represent rabbits in the competition.

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.

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 Fairgrounds 4-H Office with all contestants or their proxies present.
8. The Sweepstakes contest will be held on Friday, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Participants should be at Barn #7 no later than 9:30 a.m. 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.

12. The Van Buren Youth Fair is committed to the humane, respectful, and ethical treatment of all animals participating in or present at the fair. Animal welfare is a top priority and abuse; neglect or mistreatment of any kind will not be tolerated. What are animal welfare and willful acts of abuse?

Animal welfare as defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association is, “a human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, human handling, and when necessary, humane euthanasia.”

A willful act of abuse is someone hurting an animal on purpose. Abuse could be but not limited to forcefully hitting, inappropriate gate use, inappropriate animal restraint as well as withholding feed and water for long periods of time.

Any exhibitor that is seen willfully abusing an animal may:

- drop in show placement
- warning from the judge or show ring officials
- ejection for the show
- further action by the Fair Board, if necessary

DOG RULES

If you are signing up as a differently abled exhibitor, please contact the Superintendent for special accommodations when Fair forms are turned in.

Dog Care and Training Rules

1. All dogs to be exhibited at the fair must be kept on leash or crated except when in the show ring. Exhibitors must present the dog's current Rabies and DHLPP record and license or tag to 4-H Club Leader prior to the show date. Bordatella-Kennel Cough vaccination is highly recommended. Exhibitors must bring a copy of these records to the registration table at the fair.
2. All Dog Registrations must be received by May 1st. Completed forms can be emailed to forms.vbyf@gmail.com by 11:59 p.m. on May 1 or mailed and received or dropped off to the fairgrounds by 7 p.m. on May 1.
3. Exhibitors should dress appropriately for the show and appear neat and clean in the show ring. Flat shoes are required, no sandals, high heels, or boots. Long hair should be tied back. Slacks are acceptable for showmanship and encouraged for obedience, agility, and rally. For girls' showmanship – skirts, culottes, dresses no shorter than fingertip length recommended. For boys, dress slacks and shirt/tie recommended, jacket/suits optional. Halter tops, low-cut blouses, spaghetti straps, shorts, hats, miniskirts, denim, and bare midriffs are NOT acceptable. Judges will be made aware of the dress code before judging.
4. If the exhibitor is showing an animal not their own, they must have had access to the dog for training from March of the fair year.
5. Exhibit dogs will be kept at the fair one day only, Saturday. All dogs must have a crate available during the show and stay within the designated dog show area.
6. Exhibitors may exhibit one dog in each class.
7. All judge's decisions will be final.
8. If there is only one exhibitor in a particular class, he must make 50% of the TOTAL SCORE to qualify for a trophy.
9. If an exhibitor has advanced, he may not drop back to a lower class with the same dog(s).
10. An exhibitor may remain in the same class for a maximum of three years, except Sub-Novice A and Novice A exhibitors who must move up to Sub-Novice B and Novice B the following year. The exceptions are: if the exhibitor receives a score that is less than 170 for all classes except Sub-Novice A and Novice A. The exhibitor is responsible for keeping their score sheets from the past years for verification by the Superintendent.
11. Any dog or exhibitor showing excessive aggression, determined by show officials, shall be removed from show, and shall not exhibit.
12. Exhibitors will need to check-in with the Superintendent at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday to receive an exhibitor number and final show instructions.
13. Female dogs in season may not participate in the show. If you expect that your dog may come into season at fair time, check with your vet, there is a shot available to prevent the season from starting. If your dog is in season, another dog may be substituted at the fair with proof of required vaccinations and verification the exhibitor has trained this animal. The exhibitor must inform Superintendent as soon as aware.
14. A dog may be shown by only one exhibitor in Obedience classes.
15. Any dog/handler team with an obedience title earned by January 1 of the current year must exhibit in the next highest class or Title Holder's Class. A dog who has earned one or two legs in AKC or UKC obedience competition may compete in that class. Inexperienced Handler/Titled dog should start in Novice A (this is an exception to the Sub-Novice rules). Experienced handler/Titled dog start at the next highest class or Title Holder's Class.
16. Scoring will be done on a point system as suggested by AKC and 4-H Dog Care and Training Project.

17. Show Committee will inspect all dogs prior to entry into the show for health and disposition.
18. In obedience classes a dog must have a slip or buckle collar and a six-foot leather or web lead.
19. Exhibitors must enter a showmanship class.
20. Dogs must be a minimum of 6 months by June 15, current year.
21. Exhibitors entering in Class 692 must be enrolled in either Leader Dogs for the Blind or Paws with a Cause. They must enter a showmanship class. The dog may not enter any other Obedience classes.
22. Questions regarding compliance of these rules should be directed to the Superintendent.
23. Level A classes are for members who will be competing at a level for the first year. Level B classes are for members who have competed in the "A" class previously.
24. An exhibitor can show up to two dogs, but he/she may not have more than one entry per class.
25. Set-up and tear down of the Dog Show is a required part of the completion of the project; eligibility for premiums and high points is at the discretion of the Superintendent.
26. Differently Abled exhibitors may continue to exhibit until the age of 26. Exhibitors shall follow all rules according to their species. They should enter the showmanship age class for their species. Differently Abled exhibitors ages 19 to 26 should continue in the senior showmanship class. Superintendent 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.

Dog Agility Rules

1. In Agility classes, buckle collars without tags only. Leashes must not be greater than 6'. Leashes must be made of leather or web only.
2. Agility exhibitors must have a minimum of 6 months obedience training with exhibiting dog before the current fair year date and be entered in any obedience class with exhibiting dog to participate in any agility class.
3. Agility exhibitors must be familiar with Agility equipment.
4. Agility walk-through without dog will be done at the beginning of each class.
5. Agility will be scored according to State 4-H Agility rules.
6. For complete guidelines contact the MSU Extension Office.
7. The exhibitor must currently be in or have participated in obedience training.
8. Dog jump height information should be included on the Small Animal Entry form and exhibitors should show their jump height card at Dog Show registration.
9. An experienced handler/new dog or new handler/experienced dog must enter in Beginner B or higher classes.
10. Exhibitors may show only one dog in each class.

Rally Rules

1. Rally exhibitors must have a minimum of six months obedience training before the current fair year date and be entered in any obedience class to participate in any Rally classes.
2. Rally exhibitors must be familiar with rally signage and equipment.
3. Rally walk-through without dog will be done at the beginning of each class.

4. Rally will follow AKC Rally regulations and will use AKC signs. Go to www.akc.org for signs, rules, and regulations.
5. The exhibitor must currently be in or have participated in obedience training.
6. An experienced handler/new dog or new handler/experienced dog must enter in Novice B or higher classes.
7. Exhibitors may show only one dog in each class.

CAT RULES

If you are differently abled, please contact the Superintendent for special accommodations when Fair Forms are turned in.

Cat/Kitten Exhibitor Rules

1. A cat may not be shown by more than one exhibitor for breed class. An exhibitor can show up to two cats/kittens, but he/she may not have more than one entry per class. If an animal is used for more than one showmanship class, the youngest exhibitor must show first.
2. Harnesses with identification tags are mandatory. Collars are appropriate but cat must also be on harness.

For Breed Class, Cats must be in the exhibitor's possession by May 1st. All Cat Registration Forms must be received by May 1st. Completed forms can be emailed to forms.vbyf@gmail.com by 11:59 p.m. on May 1 or mailed and received or dropped off to the fairgrounds by 7 p.m. on May 1.

3. Cats/Kittens must be entered in both Section B & Section C.
4. The exhibitor must be present while judging takes place.
5. An exhibitor's attire should be neat and clean. The show dress code includes a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark colored pants or jeans. Flat shoes are required, no sandals, long hair should be tied back.
6. Class Definitions:
 Cat - older than 12 months on the date of the show.
 Kitten - 4-12 months old on the date of the show.
 Purebred - Conforms to the standard of the breed.
 Registration papers are not required.
 Household - Mixed Breed.
7. Cats/kittens must be checked in at the show area by a superintendent between 3:30-3:45 p.m. on Monday.
8. No obviously pregnant females or kittens less than 4 months of age are eligible to show. No cats in season

are allowed to be shown. All cats should have their nails clipped or be declawed for the protection of the judge and exhibitors.

*NOTE: This is a youth event. Do not have the cat declawed if you plan to enter other shows. This will be a disqualification at some cat shows.

showmanship age class for their species; exhibitors 19+ years, should continue in the senior showmanship class. Superintendent will work with the exhibitor, their family, and the Differently Abled Superintendent to make appropriate arrangements. These arrangements may include showing a different time, being accompanied by a teen mentor/adult, etc. Differently Abled exhibitors will receive a special showmanship trophy.

9. Exhibitors must present the cat's current certificates stating that they have had the following inoculations - rabies and distemper/calias/ rhinotrach (Feline 30in01). Rabies must be veterinarian certified; Feline 3-in-1 can be veterinarian certified or must have accompanying documentation including date of purchase, receipt, and bottle labels proving inoculation. It is highly recommended that cats also have feline leukemia and pneumatic inoculations. No feline leukemia positive cats are allowed to show at the fair.
10. Cats infected with lice, fleas, or ear mites will automatically be marked down.
11. Cats must be brought to the show in a carrier on the day of the show and kept under control at all times. Cats will not be kept at the fairgrounds overnight.
12. Animal Science notebooks will be judged on Saturday and must be displayed throughout the fair week. Notebooks are listed in Dept. 72.
13. For cage decorations, exhibitors will use their own cages/carriers and the decorated cage must fit on the table provided. Cage decorations will be judged on creativity, originality, and youth's description of how decorations and/or costumes were personally designed and created.
14. Cat products will be judged on creativity, originality, workmanship, and exhibitor's product design created by them. Scoring occurs in the following categories: Creativity, Originality, Workmanship, Exhibitor Participation, Business Plan, Financials, Promotion, Interview, and Age Consideration.
15. Exhibitors are encouraged to bring a towel or carpet square for their cat to rest on during breed classes.
16. Differently Abled exhibitors may continue to exhibit until the age of 26. Exhibitors shall follow all rules according to their species. They should enter the

HORSE & PONY RULES

Horse Registration Forms due May 1st by 7:00 p.m.

Set up- Thursday, July 16 - 6:00 p.m.

Fair Check-in Time - Sunday, July 19

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm

Senior Rides/Meet and Greet - Sunday, July 19

4:00 p.m.

Awards/Fun Activity - Saturday, July 18 - 12:00 p.m.

Fair Check-out Time – Sunday, July 26

12:01 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

All Horse Registration Forms must be received by May 1st. Completed forms can be emailed to forms.vbyf@gmail.com by 11:59 p.m. on May 1 or mailed and received or dropped off to the fairgrounds by 7 p.m. on May 1.

1. All equine exhibitors must read and follow the EXHIBITORS RULES in the Fair Book and the current VBYF Horse and Pony Rules.
2. A negative EIA (Coggins) test that is valid through fair week should be presented to the check-in veterinarian prior to admission to the fairgrounds. An additional copy of this Coggins along with your digital Emergency Card must also be provided, preferably at the pre-Thursday fair set-up meeting. No equine will be admitted unless their Coggins copy is provided no later than check-in. It is preferred that all haul-in equines be vet checked the Sunday of fair week between 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Equine State health papers issued from a licensed Veterinarian can be used in place of the vet check, this method is not recommended but will be accepted. Equine State health certificates must be valid during fair week. Equine State health certificates should be submitted before or at the Thursday set-up/cleanup meeting. If a health state certificate is being used in place of the preferred vet check and a pony and/or miniature horse is being exhibited the licensed veterinarian needs to write the actual height as part of the equine description.
3. Stallions will be allowed only during the year foaled.
4. Exhibitors shall lead their animals unless in exercise and show areas. Exhibitors are the only ones allowed to ride their animals. Exercise times are from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Pee Wee exhibitors must be

accompanied by a responsible adult during exercise time.

5. All exhibitors must participate in a showmanship class; and all equine over 3 years of age must show in an equitation/horsemanship class. In-Hand jumping meets the requirements for In-Hand exhibitors. Consequences for missing either class will be loss of premium, no further classes may be entered, and the equine must remain until 12:01 a.m. Sunday with proper care and exercise. We will do our best to work with you if there is a conflict due to showing other species.
6. The Fair Board's CODE OF CONDUCT will be strictly enforced. Unsportsmanlike conduct or other objectionable behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the horse complex. Also, exhibitors may lose state selection, points, and/or trophies.
7. The veterinarian and/or judge may determine if an equine should be permitted on the fairgrounds or in the show arena. If they are unable, a horse superintendent will locate an alternate qualified person to assist in the decision. The following conditions will be assessed:
 - a. Horses shall not show any signs of contagious disease.
 - b. Horses shall not show obvious lameness.
 - c. Horses shall not be infested with external parasites, fleas, ticks, rain rot or be otherwise obviously diseased or unthrifty.
 - d. Horses shall not be underweight. They need to be in proper condition to undergo the stresses of fair week. Please be sure your horse is being fed properly before, during, and after fair.
8. Any protests or complaints shall follow the guidelines in the Fair Book under "Exhibitor's Rules: Complaint and Appeals Procedure."

Special Awards

4-H High Point Revolving All Around Horse Trophy
4-H High Point Revolving Gymkhana Trophy
4-H High Point Revolving English Horse Trophy
4-H High Point Revolving Western Horse Trophy
4-H High Point Revolving English Pony Trophy
High Point In-Hand Pee Wee Award

High Point In-Hand Junior Award
High Point In-Hand Senior Award
High Point Walk/Trot Award
High Point Junior Award
High Point Senior Award
High Point Ranch Award

Special Memorial Awards

Abby Baker Memorial Revolving Trophy

This is in memory of Abby Baker who died from a brain tumor at the age of 15 in 1988. Abby loved to ride and show her pony for several years prior to her illness. 4-H activities and showing at the fair were an annual highlight. This trophy for High Point Western Pony is sponsored by her family.

Afton Newton Memorial All Around Pony Trophy

Afton's parents want to sponsor this revolving trophy in the loving memory of their daughter who enjoyed riding ponies and helping children. Showing at this fair brought Afton great joy. During her years of showing from 1989 – 2001, she won the overall high point, grand champion equitation, and other awards all while riding a pony. Afton also rode on the Pony of Americas circuit, where she excelled and won many state, national, international, and world championships. Afton's parents want to encourage and reward exhibitors who ride a pony at the fair. They hope other children will enjoy showing their pony as much as Afton.

Jessica Branch Memorial Sportsmanship Award

Each 4-H club nominates one 4-H exhibitor and submits the name to the show superintendent by Friday at noon. All nominated 4-h exhibitors will receive a rosette.

ADULT DRAFT HORSE RULES

1. All draft equines must have negative Coggins test and must provide a copy to be filed at fair board office.
2. All draft equines that will be stabled at the fairgrounds must be preregistered no later than June 15. All registration forms must be completed online. Go to the Van Buren Youth Fair website: www.vanburenyouthfair.com. See page 6 for instructions.
3. Draft equines are to be stabled on Sunday at the beginning of fair week. (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
4. All draft equines will be checked by the veterinarian before entering the fairgrounds. It is highly recommended that all draft equines receive the tetanus, encephalitis, and flu vaccination before being brought to the fair.
5. Draft equines must be Michigan owned and must be stabled on the grounds the week of the fair in order to be shown.
6. All draft equine exhibit owners must be a member of the Van Buren Draft Club in order for their draft equines to be stabled at the fair.
7. All exhibitors/owners must abide by the Van Buren Draft Club's current guidelines and the Van Buren Youth Fair Association's Code of Conduct.
8. All draft equines stabled in the draft horse barn must have a minimum of 50% bloodline of a recognized draft horse or draft pony breed.
9. Draft ponies must be a minimum of 49" at maturity (5 years and over).
10. Base date of age of animal is January 1 of current year.
11. No stallions allowed after year foaled.
12. Draft equines that are not of suitable body condition will not be permitted to be stabled at the fairgrounds.
13. Entry fee for classes 1802-1822 is \$3.00 per class.

14. Classes may be combined at the discretion of the Superintendent.
15. Fun shows for all ages will be announced with minimal entry fees payable at the time of the show. Youth showmanship classes will immediately follow adult halter classes. Youth harness and riding classes will follow the respective classes of the adult classes. (i.e., adult cart classes, youth cart classes, adult two-horse hitch classes, youth two-horse hitch classes.)
 1. Classes are open for either draft horses or draft ponies unless otherwise specified.
 2. Draft mules and draft pony mules may be shown in classes specified for either draft mules or draft pony mules.

YOUTH DRAFT HORSE RULES

1. All draft equines must have negative Coggins test and provide a copy to be filed at the fair board office.
2. Draft equines must be stabled on Sunday at the beginning of fair week. (8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
3. All draft equines will be checked by the veterinarian before entering the fairgrounds. It is highly recommended that all draft equines receive the tetanus, encephalitis, and flu vaccination before being brought to the fair.
4. All exhibitors/owners must abide by the Van Buren Draft Club's current guidelines and the Van Buren Youth Fair Association's Code of Conduct.
5. All draft equine exhibit owners must be a member of the Van Buren Draft Club in order to be stabled at the fair.
6. Draft equines stabled in the draft horse barn must have a minimum of 50% bloodline of a recognized draft horse or draft pony breed.
7. Draft ponies must be a minimum of 49" at maturity (5 years and over).

8. No stallions allowed after year foaled.
9. Draft equines that are not of suitable body condition will not be permitted to be stabled at the fairgrounds.
10. Showmanship is a required class for all exhibitors. Halter classes are optional. One adult is to be within easy access to animal of a Pee Wee exhibitor.
11. Limit of 1 exhibitor per horse per showmanship class.
12. All exhibitors must complete and exhibit a "draft equine notebook."
13. All exhibitors must fulfill a daily work schedule during fair week.
14. Exhibitors will show in casual or dress pants, nice top or shirt, leather type boots or shoes.
15. There must be an adult with youth whenever an animal is taken into the arena or is hitched for any reason.

Harness Class

1. Youth must have an adult on vehicle and must have a header at ringside.
2. Horse must be hitched to a suitable vehicle for each class section.
3. No Pee Wee Exhibitors

Riding Class

1. No Pee Wee Exhibitors.
2. Judged at the walk and trot.