

GENESEE COUNTY FAIR

Exhibitor Guide

August 19-24, 2025

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GENESEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

2188 W. MT. MORRIS • MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN 48458

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Event Location: 8 Miles East of I-75 on Mount Morris Rd

Entry Deadline: July 1, 2025

GENERAL RULES & POLICIES

- ONLINE EXHIBITOR GUIDE:** Published annually to provide entry information for the Genesee County Fair. These are kept current for the exhibitor to enter their exhibits. Please use current guide.
- EXHIBITOR:** A person who exhibits an object or animal to be judged.
- YOUTH EXHIBITOR:** A youth between the ages of 5 years to 19 years old (age as of January 1, of the current year). Please see specific department for age requirements.
- OPEN CLASS EXHIBITOR:** Any person who has attained the age of 18 years old by the first day of the Fair OR a youth, 5 years of age or older, who is desirous of competing against adults.
- EXHIBIT:** An animal or still object, which the exhibitor brings to be judged and displayed for the Fair. Livestock is **ANY** animal. Still Exhibit (Non-Animal) is anything that is not breathing and is not considered as an animal. All exhibits must be the exhibitor's own work.
- ENTRY FORM / ONLINE ENTRY:** All exhibitors are required to fill out an entry form or make submission through the Fair's Online Exhibitor Portal. Only one exhibitor per entry form / submission per exhibitor will be allowed. There is a different entry form for Youth and Open Exhibitors; please use the Youth form for all Youth classes, and the Open form for all Open classes. Entry form may be duplicated if more than one exhibitor wishes to enter the Fair, or additional pages are needed. All entry forms or online submissions must be received by July 1, 2025, except where late entries may be indicated in specific departments.
- ENTRY FEE: \$15 Exhibitor Fee + Per Class Fees.** (Refer to per class entry fees in individual departments). Online entry submissions will receive a \$5 discount.
- ENTRY TAG:** Still Exhibits **must have an entry tag** for identification; entry tags will be mailed to exhibitors prior to the Fair.
- EXHIBITOR CHECK-IN FORM:** Exhibitors will be assigned an Exhibitor Number by the Fair Office. Exhibitors will receive an Exhibitor Activity Statement and Exhibitor Check-In Form prior to the Fair. Each exhibitor must bring his/her Exhibitor Check-In Form to check-in exhibits. NO exhibits will be allowed to check-in without the Exhibitor Check-In Form. If this sheet is lost an additional copy may be purchased from the Fair Office for a cost of \$5.
- CHECK IN/CHECK OUT:** Exhibitors will check-in with the superintendent(s) upon arrival. See Schedule of Events for specific dates/times of entering and picking up your exhibit(s). Times are strictly adhered to. Non-compliance of proper check-in and release will result in the inability to exhibit, forfeiture of entry fee, and/or forfeiture of premiums. Exhibitors with more than 20 exhibits **MUST** check in at least 1 hour prior to deadline. **No** cars allowed on the interior of Fair to pickup exhibits, bring helpers and/or a wagon to remove exhibits.
- DEPARTMENT:** When filling out the entry form, please make sure to use **all** of the proper Departments & Divisions with each class.
- DIVISION:** It is your responsibility to be sure that the division is listed on the entry tag to ensure proper judging of item.
- CLASS:** Each of exhibitor's exhibits is judged in/by/and/or against that specific class. Only **one** entry per class per exhibitor in still exhibits classes. Classes are available in most areas for Any Not Listed; please enter this class **only** if none of the classes already available are sufficient. **It is the exhibitor's responsibility to enter the correct class for judging. Entering wrong class will cause exhibit not to be judged.** Livestock department rules vary with regard to multiple entries in individual classes; where rules allow more than one entry in a class, the class number must be repeated on the Entry Form:

DEPT.	Division	CLASS
12	3	001
12	2	013
- COMPETITION-YOUTH:** All youth (with the exception of talent competition and Youth Livestock Sprouts) will be judged on the "Danish System". "A"--excellent, "B"--Very Good, "C"--Good. The exhibit (still/animal) is judged only on the merit of the individual exhibitor's effort and age. The talent competition will be judged against each exhibit for competition and placed as 1st, 2nd, etc. Youth Sprouts (5-7 years of age) will receive participant awards for their achievements (livestock).
- COMPETITION-OPEN:** All Open exhibit animal (livestock) and still exhibits will be judged on the "American System" and placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. where indicated in department rules.
- JUDGING:** Judging for each exhibit shall take place at a scheduled time indicated in the Schedule of Events. All livestock animals shall appear in the judging area. The Judge's decision – as provided on the official judging forms – shall be final.
- VETERINARY CHECK:** To ensure the health, safety, and general welfare of the animals, exhibitors, and the public, veterinary checks will be conducted during animal check-in and/or throughout the course of the event as prescribed by the Executive Director, Board of Directors, Fair Veterinarian, and State Veterinarian. The Fair Veterinarian's decision – including any decision to retain or eject animals from the event – shall be final.

18. **PREMIUMS:** All premiums will be mailed and paid by check to exhibitors and will be invalid if not cashed within 60 days from the date thereof. Any changes regarding exhibitor premium money must be made within 30 days from date on check. The Genesee County Agricultural Society reserves the right to pro-rate premiums if funds are insufficient. Checks more than 60 days old and not cashed may be brought to the office and reissued. **PREMIUM CHECKS MUST BE CASHED WITHIN 60 DAYS.** Any premium checks not cashed within two (2) years from issue date shall be considered a donation to the Special Awards Fund of the Genesee County Agricultural Society. The premiums are paid via the Genesee County Agricultural Society.
19. **Exhibits will be in their exhibiting facility as follows:**
Check in:
- Still Exhibits check-in is the Saturday prior to the opening day of the Fair (9AM-2PM).
 - Animal Exhibits see specific department.
Release: Any exhibit removed from designated exhibit facility before release time shall cause the exhibitor to forfeit ALL premium monies and opportunities to return as an exhibitor in the future.
 - All still exhibits will remain in their exhibit area until Sunday, the last day of the Fair at release time (2PM-5PM).
 - Livestock - exhibitors will be required to leave their animals on exhibit in their designated exhibit facility until designated release time as printed in Schedule of Events.
 - Market Animal Exhibits may be released immediately after the market animal auction on Saturday to be taken to the packinghouses. All other animals may be released no earlier than 2PM Sunday, the last day of the Fair.
 - **Release time is 2PM-5PM Sunday, the last day of the Fair for all exhibits unless otherwise specified.**
20. **AWARDS:** Ribbons will be given for participation in each class for Youth Still Exhibits. All other exhibitor awards as indicated.
21. **SOLICITING/SELLING/OR PROMOTING:** It is the policy of the Genesee County Agricultural Society to prohibit any group, organization or individual from distributing information, soliciting funds or persons or any facsimile thereof unless employed by the Society or under contract with the Society or its agents i.e. renting booth or outside space. All selling or promoting is to take place in a designated assigned area and will not become transitory without permission from the Executive Director.
22. **REMOVAL OF EXHIBITS:** Exhibits deemed not worthy of display to the public, will at the discretion of the Fair Executive Director, be removed from the fairgrounds and deemed not worthy of judging or award.
23. **REFUND POLICY:** It is established that anyone may fill out a refund form giving all proper identification and complete reason of refund request. Refunds are made when neglect or injustice is made on the part of management, office, or Fair being responsible for said act. Refunds are not made when fault is on the exhibitor or public i.e.: Forgot your tickets or vehicle broke down. Refund(s) are not made if there is a cancellation or delay of any event of any kind due to inclement weather or any occurrence beyond our control.
24. **PARKING:** The Fair has free gate admission to all fairgoers; parking is \$10 per vehicle, per day. **Exhibitors who enter (AND CHECK-IN) 10 classes will receive one (1) FREE Parking Pass Sunday before fair.** The *Parking Pass* allows entrance of the vehicle and ALL occupants for the entire week. Additional *Parking Passes* will be available at a cost of \$30 (\$25 if purchased on or before July 31).
25. **GRANDSTAND:** Exhibitors who enter 20 classes (AND CHECK IN) will receive one (1) *Fair Fun Pass Sunday before the fair.* Additional *Fair Fun Passes* may be purchased at a cost of \$40 (\$30 if purchased on or before July 31).
26. **SAFETY:** Precautions for safety will be taken, but the Society, Fair, or its employees, agents, management will not be responsible or liable for any injury or damage to exhibits. People entering grounds will do so at their own risk. The board members, directors, and management of the Fair individually are hereby held harmless from any and all costs and expense, including but are not limited to attorney fees, reasonable to investigative and discovery cost, court costs, and any and all other sums which the Fair, its chartered affiliates, agents, servants, and employees may pay or be obligated to pay on account of any and every demand for claim or assertion of liability or any claim or action founded thereon arising or alleged to have arisen out of the use of any of the facilities under the control of the Fair. Rules in this online exhibitor guide and/or its supplement take precedence over any other previously announced regulation.
27. **CONDUCT:** Management reserves the right to withhold any and all premium monies from any exhibitor who participates directly or indirectly in an act of disturbance or destruction to other individuals and/or their property. Management reserves the right to prosecute to the full extent of the law. Individuals found in violation of the aforementioned will be held financially responsible for all damages incurred under said violation.
28. **CAMPING:** Limited to exhibitors only. Camping on grounds will be granted to all exhibitors. See camping rules.
29. **MANDATORY FOR ALL EXHIBITORS:** Once you have read all of the General Rules (above), IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics, GCAS Oversight Committee, MDARD Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan, and the applicable Department, and Class Rules the Exhibitor must read, understand, and agree to abide by these rules. If Exhibitor is under 18 years of age a parent/guardian may be responsible.
30. **MODIFICATION OF FAIR GENERAL RULES & POLICIES:** Executive Director reserves the right to modify these Rules and Policies at any time, and with or without cause or notice.

31. **COMPLAINT POLICY:** Any Exhibitor may file a complaint regarding conflict of interest of the judge; disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor; exhibitor, group leader, or superintendent behavior; or the eligibility of the exhibit. This complaint shall be submitted in writing within 10 days after the end of the fair. The Genesee County Agricultural Society Oversight Committee and/or the Genesee County Agricultural Society Board of Directors shall review the complaint, conduct necessary investigation, and issue a notice of findings and recommended actions within 40 days after the end of the fair.
32. **Appeals:** Any Exhibitor who has filed a complaint to the Genesee County Agricultural Society Oversight Committee and/or the Genesee County Agricultural Society Board of Directors and is not satisfied with the action taken may appeal to the Michigan Department of Agriculture in writing within 45 days of the original complaint. The Department of Agriculture shall have 60 days after receipt of any appropriately filed appeal to investigate the complaint, and shall issue a finding of fact and notice of action and any recommended actions for the Fair.

IAFE CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/iafe/website/documents/ShowRingCodeofEthics.pdf>

MDARD Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions>

GCAS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

An Oversight Committee, appointed by the rules of the GCAS (Code of Ethics Committee), will include the General Superintendents of said departments and/or Superintendents of species unless a Superintendent is the exhibitor or related to the exhibitor in question. If the latter part is true, an alternate would be selected by said committee. The Oversight Committee will be established for the purpose of reviewing violations of "The National Show Ring Code of Ethics", or to accompany already existing policies that individual fairs and livestock expositions have in place to recommend appropriate action.

- The President of the fair or livestock show board will also sit on the committee; this individual will serve as an ex-officio, with non-voting status.
- A quorum for the Oversight Committee will require five to nine members to be present and minutes of the Oversight Committee will be recorded.
- Legal Counsel for the fair or livestock show will be available for interpretation of any laws or liabilities that may be in question by the Oversight Committee. Violations of the policies contained with the "National Show Ring Code of Ethics" will result in the following immediate actions carried out by the Oversight Committee.
 1. Exhibitor will be disqualified for the fair or livestock show.
 2. Exhibitor will forfeit any and all awards, premiums or auction proceeds.
 3. Exhibitor will be ineligible from further participation in any fair or livestock show in the U.S. if implicated or found in violation. The International Association of Fairs and Expositions, The American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers Association, and The Western Fairs Association will be notified to inform their participating fairs and livestock shows of the action.
 4. If exhibitor's actions are deemed to be illegal, or inhumane to livestock, the proper authorities will be notified for further investigation by those agencies for possible prosecution and/or civil penalties.
 5. The decision of the Oversight Committee will be final!

Youth Livestock Rules

1. Must indicate plans to "sell" or "not sell" upon weigh-in. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Market livestock must sell. If Grand Champion or Champion is from a "pen", exhibitor can indicate to sell other animal by end of show day (refers to sheep & swine pen classes).
2. Maximum tagging per exhibitor is 6 beef, 6 sheep, and 6 swine.
3. All tags need to be removed, with the exception of TB, scrapie, RFID and Genesee County Fair tags, from market animals. See MDARD Health Requirements regarding details.
4. Exhibitors may not show animals previously shown as market animals at another fair or livestock show, regardless of ownership change (progressive level shows excluded). Misrepresenting an animal's age or falsely claiming ownership to compete in a class or event is prohibited.
5. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to prepare their animal for the show. Exhibitors may receive assistance, particularly in tasks that require more than one person or specialized skills. However, the exhibitor must remain actively involved in the care, grooming, and presentation of their animal at all times.
6. Dress Code – Members shall wear proper attire (long pants, Dress Shirt, Proper Footwear) in the show ring. This includes show day. No hats or medals/awards may be worn. No commercial clothing.
7. Exhibitors cannot stay overnight in exhibition areas with their animals.
8. Homegrown Livestock must be born and raised on the exhibitor's farm. The exhibitor's farm is defined as property owned by the youth or the youth's immediate family, including parents, siblings, and/or grandparents.
9. Class divisions will be grouped at the sole discretion of the Superintendent of each respective department.
10. Animal must be shown in Market Class, with a minimum of a "B" rating, to be eligible for Livestock Auction.

11. Exhibitors of sale animals must aid in the loading of their animals when being shipped. Exhibitors are responsible for their sale animals, until they are removed from the premises by the buyer.
12. **All exhibitors of sale animals will be required to write their thank-you to their buyers and provide a copy or their auction check will be withheld.**
13. Livestock sale date (See Schedule of Events). A 5% (percent) commission will be assessed per animal, to the exhibitor to help cover sale costs.
14. Showmanship for all species is mandatory to participate in the auction.
15. Minimum weight for sale animals is 900 lbs. for steers; 220 lbs. for swine; and 85 lbs. for sheep. Exhibitors may auction a maximum of 2 steers, 2 sheep, and 2 swine.
16. Sale order is as follows: To Be Determined.
17. Sprouts are not required to enter their own livestock animal; they are permitted to borrow another exhibitor's animal.
18. **Sprouts MUST be accompanied by an adult while in the show ring.** *A maximum weight for Sprouts Beef Steers is 500 lbs.
19. If an exhibitor cannot be present for a class they have entered, they will forfeit their place premium and awards for that class.
20. Any "No Sale" livestock exhibit must be accompanied by all final destination and final transportation information as well as all applicable payment(s) at time of fair check-in/weigh-in.

MASTER SHOWMANSHIP: (no premiums in this division)

1. **Eligibility & Competition Rotation**
 - The Senior Division Top Showman will compete in the Senior Division Master Showmanship (see Schedule of Events).
 - The Top Intermediate and Top Junior Showman will compete in a runoff for the Junior Division Master Showmanship (see Schedule of Events).
 - A person may only win Master Showmanship every other year and may not compete the following year, except when moving from Junior to Senior Division after qualifying as a Senior Showman.
2. **Judging & Scoring**
 - Judges for each species will be selected by the Master Showmanship Committee.
 - The score table will include one representative each from Dairy, Goat, Livestock, Small Animal, and Equine, who may not be related to any participant.
 - In the event of a tie, the Master Showmanship Committee will determine the winner based on total species points or, if needed, judge's discretion.
3. **Animal Selection & Handling**
 - The **champion showmanship animal** from each division will be used for competition.
 - Eligible species: Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Dairy Feeder, Poultry, Rabbit, Cavy, and Horse. All animals must have been exhibited at the Fair.
4. **Dress Code**
 - Participants must wear long pants, button-down shirts, and closed-toe footwear appropriate for handling livestock.
 - Sandals, athletic sneakers, and club shirts are not permitted.
5. **Conduct & Communication Restrictions**
 - Participants may only communicate with fellow contestants during the contest.
 - The only exception is speaking with the Master Showmanship Chairperson when necessary.
 - Coaching or outside assistance will result in disqualification.
6. **Performance Review Option**
 - Upon request, exhibitors may schedule a private review of their ratings and performance after the contest.