

2. All market hogs must be ear-tagged at one of the countywide tagging days. Owner registration papers must be presented at tagging to participate in purebred classes. If no papers are provided in June, hogs must show in crossbred division.
3. Maximum optimal starting weight as of June 15 is 105 lbs.
4. Purebred market hogs are limited to the following breeds: Berkshire, Chester, Duroc, Hampshire, Hereford, Landrace, Poland China, Spot, Tamworth, Yorkshire.
5. There must be five (5) hogs of the same breed to have an individual breed class. Breeds with fewer than five (5) hogs will be shown in "all other breed" classes by weight.

Class

- 1028 - Purebred Hog
- 1029 - Champion Purebred Market Hog (BR)
- 1030 - Res. Champion Purebred Market Hog (BR)
- 1031 - Supreme Champion Market Hog in classes 1017, 1026, 1029 (Buckle, R)
- 1032 - Reserve Supreme Champion Market Hog in classes 1017, 1018, 1026, 1027, 1029, 1030 (Buckle, R)

Division E - Carcass Hog Contest (Placing premium table = 105a)

1. Entry in this Division is limited to 10 participants. If more than 10 exhibitors submit entry forms, selection of the 10 participants will be based on a combined factor of exhibitor age plus number of years in the project.
2. A member's carcass hog must be one of the market hogs registered in their name.
3. Hogs entered in the Carcass Class must weigh at least 230 lbs. but not more than 320 lbs. at weigh-in for in order to be eligible to compete or be disqualified.
4. Hogs entered in the carcass contest must be in good health, be of sound quality meeting industry standards and MDARD health regulations. No hogs with ruptured navels, excessive limping, prolapse, abscess, or respiratory (upper or lower) concerns will be allowed as determined by the Swine Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendents and MSU Extension staff.
5. Live Hog weigh-in will take place on **Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** at the fairgrounds.
6. The Carcass Hog Evaluation will take place on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing in Leonidas.
7. Exhibitors participating in this contest are required to attend the Carcass Hog Evaluation to receive a premium and any associated awards. College students will be exempt from the Carcass Hog Evaluation **if** approved by MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator by August 15. Any member who fails to meet this requirement will have his/her animal disqualified from the contest.
8. Carcass evaluation judging criteria will include carcass score and quality (color, texture and exudation). Severe cases of PSE will be disqualified based on judge's discretion.
9. Hog carcasses must meet the following certification standards in order to place in the class: carcass length = 29.5" minimum, loin eye area = 4.5 sq. in. minimum, back fat = 0.4" minimum. If an exhibitor's hog does not meet these certification standards, the member will only be eligible for a participation ribbon.

Class

- 1033 - Carcass Hog

- 1034 - Champion Carcass Hog (based on % muscle) (TR)
- 1035 - Reserve Champion Carcass Hog (based on % muscle) (TR)
- 1036 - Carcass Efficiency (P)

Department 12 - Poultry

Angie Landis, Superintendent
Michele Kelley, Turkey Assistant Superintendent
Karrie Landis, Market Chicken Assistant Superintendent
Karyn Scheffler, Breeding Stock Assistant Superintendent
Chase Scheffler, Assistant Superintendent

1. See www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions.
2. Read and follow "General Exhibitor Livestock Rules" starting on Page 7.
3. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter or exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
4. ***NEW for 2026* - Educational Displays will be required for every club.** The superintendent will choose the topic per club and communicate with club leaders. 6 foot tables will be provided. Set-up must be complete by 8:00 p.m. Sunday, September 20. Take-down will be 10:00 p.m. Saturday, September 26.
 - a. 1st place - \$75, 2nd place - \$50, 3rd place - \$25
5. All chickens and turkeys for exhibition must either:
 - a. Originate from a pullorum-typhoid clean flock and have been housed separately from birds of unknown or positive pullorum-typhoid health status. One of the following must accompany your registration form: parent flock National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) certification number, MDA form VS9-2, MDA form VS9-3. **OR**
 - b. Be tested by an authorized educator (a licensed, accredited veterinarian or a Michigan Department of Agriculture certified pullorum tester) within 90 days of the show. There must be **no comingling** of birds with those that are not pullorum tested. A copy of MDA state pullorum test certificate must accompany your registration form.
6. All breeding stock poultry must be in exhibitor's possession by wing/leg-banding date. Breeding stock (chickens, ducks and geese) and pigeons will also be leg-banded on Sunday, August 23, 2026, or Monday, August 24, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Pullorum testing will be available at the wing/leg banding. Exhibitor may register up to two (2) birds for each breeding stock class.
7. Breeding stock poultry age (including chickens, ducks and geese) is defined as: **A "young" bird is one hatched from previous fair, October 1 to current fair September 30. A "mature" bird is one that is 12 months old or older.**
8. **Ownership:** All breeding stock and market poultry must be owned by the exhibitor or have joint ownership within a family corporation and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parent, sibling, and/or legal guardian. Cross-tagging is acceptable among immediate family members only.
8. **Feeding, Watering & Cleaning:** 4-H Poultry Project members are responsible for feeding and watering their birds, plus cleaning the cage(s) their birds are housed in

at fair. Each member will be charged per pen for shavings and feed that are used. **This money will be deducted from the member's livestock check.** Poultry pens must be stripped of all bedding and replaced with fresh bedding each morning. **Cleaning and feeding times are as follows: 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** The 4-H Poultry Project Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendents will inspect pens after these times to determine if feeding, watering and cleaning has been done in accordance with generally accepted animal husbandry practices. Feed and shavings will be locked up except at feeding and cleaning times.

9. Eggs will not be housed at the fair, and must be taken home following judging. Eggs are to be kept in the exhibitors' possession before and after judging. **Do not leave them in the barn. Note:** Best-of-Show will be on display in the still exhibit barn.
10. All market and breeding stock poultry (including pigeons) must be checked in and housed in the 4-H poultry barn at fair on **Friday, September 18, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.** All market poultry must be weighed before being housed. All breeding stock poultry must have leg bands checked before being housed. No class changes will be allowed after the declaration of classes. Pen assignments for all poultry to be handled by the 4-H Poultry Superintendent and/or 4-H Poultry Assistant Superintendents.
11. **4-H Poultry should not be brought to the fair in any size cardboard box.** Birds should be well bedded. At check-in poultry must be **clean and dry**. Care must be given to transport poultry to the fair in cages with adequate bedding, ventilation and drainage. Weigh-in personnel may **refuse** weighing/housing of 4-H poultry until the birds are clean and dry. All poultry must have tags in place at check-in.
12. **No shipping crates, cages or boxes may be stored in the 4-H Poultry Barn during the fair.**
13. The exhibitor is required to supply his/her own cage to transport birds to and from the show arena for show and sale. 4-H fair housing cages may not be used for this purpose.
14. **Exhibitor Dress Code: For showmanship only, black pants, white long-sleeved shirt and leather closed toed shoes.** Proper show attire for all other classes. No hats allowed.
15. An exhibitor may exhibit only once in a given class.
16. **Order of Show:** Showmanship, Breeding Stock (including pigeons and waterfowl), Eggs, Market Turkeys (toms then hens), Market Chickens (cockerels then pullets). **The show will be on Sunday, September 20, 2026 starting at 10:00 a.m.**
17. All 4-H breeding stock birds and "live pick-up" market birds will be released Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 11:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. If they are not picked up Saturday night, they must be picked up at **6:00 a.m.** on Sunday, September 27, 2026.
18. **Poultry and Rabbit Fee:** 4-H members are responsible for paying for the processing fee and associated expenses if their buyer chooses to take advantage of this service. All fees are deducted from the gross sale value.
19. Any problems/illness with poultry needs to be brought to the attention of the superintendent. No medications may be given without permission.
20. Exhibitors are **required** to be present for barn clean-up on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 10:00 p.m. immediately following market loadout and Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 6:00 a.m. Each member is

responsible for the clean-up of their pen and general barn duty. All clubs/members will be responsible for helping power wash pens/barns and return pens to storage.

Division A - Poultry Project Evaluation (A, B, C premium table = 2)

1. **Required participation by all exhibitors:** All 4-H members exhibiting a poultry project must participate in the 4-H Poultry Project Evaluation. A completed evaluation includes an interview with a judge and answering questions from the poultry skill-a-thon. Failure to complete an evaluation will result in their poultry project animal(s) disqualification from the show(s) and require the removal of their birds from the fairgrounds.
2. A completed Poultry Project Record Sheet will be required to submit at the time of evaluation. The record sheet will be available on the website at https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_livestock#poultry by May 23, 2026.
3. Poultry Project Evaluations will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis on **Saturday, September 19, 2026, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.** at the pen where the exhibitor's poultry project animal(s) are housed. Exhibitors must be in line 30 minutes prior to the end of the interview schedule.

Class

- 1201 - Poultry Project Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1202 - Best-of-Show in class 1201 (R)
- 1203 - Poultry Project Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1204 - Best-of-Show in class 1203 (R)
- 1205 - Poultry Project Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1206 - Best-of-Show in class 1205 (R)

Division B - Poultry Fitting & Showmanship (Placing premium table = 102)

1. Open only to those exhibitors exhibiting chickens (Divisions D and F).
2. Entry must be made in showmanship classes.
3. Exhibitors must show their own project animal.
4. If there are too many entries in a class, it may be divided at the discretion of the Superintendent and/or MSU Extension.

Class

- 1207 - Poultry Fitting & Showmanship, 8-11 (BR)
- 1208 - Poultry Fitting & Showmanship 12-14. (BR)
- 1209 - Poultry Fitting & Showmanship 15-19 (BR)

Division C - Market Chickens (Placing premium table = 102)

1. Read and follow "General Exhibitor Livestock Rules" starting on Page 7.
2. Read and follow general 4-H Poultry Project rules.
3. Exhibitor may make one entry in **either** this Division **or** Division E (Market Turkeys).
4. Market chickens must be hatched **Saturday, August 1, 2026, or after.** Hatcheries *normally* hatch on Saturdays or Sundays, and deliver chicks to poultry sale outlets on Monday or Tuesday.
5. Countywide wing-banding and registration of market chickens will take place on Sunday, August 23, 2026, and Monday, August 24, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the

- fairgrounds. Market birds not registered with the MSU Extension office on either of these dates are not eligible for exhibition at the fair. **Birds must be clean and parasite free. Proof of purchase and Pullorum papers must be presented before tagging and they also must be turned in at this time.** All birds may be cross-tagged between family members living in the **SAME** primary household. The first family member may tag up to 8 birds, either turkeys or chickens but not both, with up to 5 additional birds per family member. (Example: a family with three poultry exhibitors can tag a maximum total of 18 birds (8 + 5 +5)).
6. Market pullets must weigh a minimum of 8 lbs./pen and cockerels 9 lbs./pen, or they will not be allowed to exhibit at fair.
 7. Market cockerels will show first in 2026, followed by market pullets (order rotates annually).
 8. All market chickens will be consigned to the Small Animal Auction unless the Livestock Removal Authorization Form is submitted to the 4-H office by 8:00 p.m. on **Sunday, September 20. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion market pens must sell.**
 9. The superintendent will determine the number of weight classes utilized.

Class

- 1210 - Market Pullet
- 1211 - Market Cockerel
- 1212 - Champion Pen Lightweight Market Pullets (TR)
- 1213 - Res. Champion Pen Lightweight Market Pullets (R)
- 1214 - Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Pullets (TR)
- 1215 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Pullets (R)
- 1216 - Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Pullets (TR)
- 1217 - Res. Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Pullets (R)
- 1218 - Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Pullets (TR)
- 1219 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Pullets (R)
- 1220 - Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Pullets (TR)
- 1221 - Res. Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Pullets (R)
- 1222 - Champion Pen Lightweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 1223 - Res. Champion Pen Lightweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 1224 - Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 1225 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 1226 - Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 1227 - Res. Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 1228 - Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 1229 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 1230 - Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 1231 - Res. Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 1232 - Grand Champion Pen Market Chickens (BR)
- 1233 - Res. Grand Champion Pen Market Chickens (BR)

Division D - Market Turkeys (Placing premium table = 102)

1. Read and follow "General Exhibitor Livestock Rules" starting on Page 7.
2. Read and follow general 4-H Poultry Project rules.
3. Exhibitor may make one entry in either this Division or Division D (Market Chickens).

4. Market turkeys must be hatched Saturday, May 23, 2026, or after. Hatcheries normally hatch on Saturdays or Sundays, with delivery of poults to poultry sale outlets by Monday or Tuesday of the following week.
5. Countywide vaccination, tagging, and registration of market turkeys will take place on Sunday, July 19, 2026, or Monday, July 20, 2026, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Market birds not registered with the MSU Extension office on either of these dates are not eligible for exhibition at the fair. **Birds must be clean and parasite free.** If your turkeys do not get vaccinated on either of these two dates, they will not be allowed to exhibit at the fair. **Note:** All turkeys on your premises must be vaccinated. Proof of purchase and Pullorum papers must be presented and turned in before tagging and vaccinations are administered.
6. All birds may be cross-tagged between family members living in the same primary household. The first family member may tag up to 8 birds, either turkeys or chickens but not both, with up to 5 additional birds per family member. (Example: a family with three poultry exhibitors can tag a maximum total of 18 birds (8 + 5 +5)).
7. Market turkeys must weigh a minimum of 24 lbs./pen for hens or 32 lbs./pen for toms. Pens of market turkeys that weigh less than these minimum weight standards will not be allowed to exhibit at fair.
8. Market toms will show first in 2026, followed by market hens (order rotates annually).
9. All market turkeys will be consigned to the Small Animal Auction unless the Livestock Removal Authorization Form is submitted to the 4-H office by 8:00 p.m. on **Sunday, September 20. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion market pens must sell.**
10. The superintendent will determine the number of weight classes utilized.

Class

- 1234 - Market Hen
- 1235 - Market Tom
- 1236 - Champion Pen Lightweight Market Hens (TR)
- 1237 - Res. Champion Pen Lightweight Market Hens (R)
- 1238 - Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Hens (TR)
- 1239 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Hens (R)
- 1240 - Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Hens (TR)
- 1241 - Res. Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Hens (R)
- 1242 - Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Hens (TR)
- 1243 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Hens (R)
- 1244 - Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Hens (TR)
- 1245 - Res. Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Hens (R)
- 1246 - Champion Pen Lightweight Market Toms (TR)
- 1247 - Res. Champion Pen Lightweight Market Toms (R)
- 1248 - Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Toms (TR)
- 1249 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Toms (R)
- 1250 - Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Toms (TR)
- 1251 - Res. Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Toms (R)
- 1252 - Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Toms (TR)
- 1253 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Toms (R)
- 1254 - Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Toms (TR)
- 1255 - Res. Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Toms (R)
- 1256 - Grand Champion Pen Market Turkeys (BR)
- 1257 - Res. Grand Champion Pen Market Turkeys (BR)

Division E - Breeding Stock Chickens
(Placing premium table = 102)

1. Countywide banding of breeding stock chickens will take place at the fairgrounds on Sunday, August 23, 2026, or Monday, August 24, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. **Birds must be clean and parasite free. Pullorum papers must be presented/or testing done before banding.**
2. Exhibitors may exhibit in a maximum of four classes in this Division.
3. Exhibitors will only be allowed 2 pens at the fair under discretion of the 4-H Poultry Superintendent or 4-H Program Coordinator due to pen availability.
4. Exhibitors will be required to pay \$2.00 per pen for feed/bedding costs at time of check-in.
5. A **“young”** bird is one hatched from previous fair, **October 1 to current fair September 30.** A **“mature”** bird is one that is 12 months old or older.

Class

- 1258 - Young standard male (Young = hatched this year)
1259 - Best-in-Show in Class 1258 (R)
1260 - Mature standard male (Mature = hatched prior to this year)
1261 - Best-in-Show in Class 1260 (R)
1262 - Champion Standard Male, Classes 1259 & 1261 (TR)
1263 - Young standard female
1264 - Best-in-Show in Class 1263 (R)
1265 - Mature standard female
1266 - Best-in-Show in Class 1265 (R)
1267 - Champion Standard Female, Classes 1264 & 1266 (TR)
1268 - Young Bantam male
1269 - Best-in-Show in Class 1268 (R)
1270 - Mature Bantam male
1271 - Best-in-Show in Class 1270 (R)
1272 - Champion Bantam Male, Classes 1269 & 1271 (TR)
1273 - Young Bantam female
1274 - Best-in-Show in Class 1273 (R)
1275 - Mature Bantam female
1276 - Best-in-Show in Class 1275 (R)
1277 - Champion Bantam Female, Classes 1274 & 1276 (TR)
1278 - Grand Champion Breeding Stock Chicken (BR)
1279 - Res. Grand Champion Breeding Stock Chicken (BR)

Division F - Breeding Stock Turkeys
(A, B, C premium table = 2)

1. Must go through all vaccination procedures.
2. May bring up to two (2) turkeys (1 male/1 female)
3. May show a maximum of two (2) classes. May include Heritage Turkeys or Production Turkeys
4. All turkeys shown in Division F MUST be taken home.
5. Exhibitor will be required to pay \$2.00 per pen for feed/bedding costs at time of check-in

Class

- 1280 - Tom
1281 - Best-of-Show in Class 1280 (R)
1282 - Hen
1283 - Best-of-Show in Class 1282 (R)
1284 - Champion Breeding Stock Turkey (TR)
1285 - Reserve Champion Breeding Stock Turkey (R)

Division G - Egg Production
(A, B, C premium table = 2)

1. Exhibitors may exhibit in a maximum of three classes in this Division.
2. Members own birds must produce eggs.
3. Eggs must be graded, cleaned, free from defects and placed in a clean carton provided by the exhibitor.
4. Egg judging takes place on **Sunday, September 20, 2026.**
5. Best-of-Show dozen eggs will be auctioned at the small animal auction.

Class

- 1286 - 1 dozen white standard chicken eggs
1287 - 1 dozen brown standard chicken eggs
1288 - 1 dozen other color standard chicken eggs
1289 - 1 dozen bantam chicken eggs
1290 - 1 dozen duck eggs
1291 - Best-of-Show in Egg Production (TR)

Division H - Pigeons
(Placing premium table = 102)

1. Pigeons must be registered at the countywide tagging on Sunday, August 23, 2026, or Monday, August 24, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
2. Exhibitors may exhibit in a maximum of two classes in this Division.
3. Exhibitors will be required to pay \$2.00 per pen for feed/bedding costs at time of check-in.

Class

- 1292 - Show-Type - Female
1293 - Show-Type - Male
1294 - Best-in-Show Show-Type Pigeons (R)
1295 - Tumblers/Rollers/Homers - Single male or female
1296 - Best-in-Show Tumbler/Roller/Homer Pigeons (R)
1297 - Champion Pigeons (TR)

Division I - Ducks
(Placing premium table = 102)

1. Ducks must be registered at the countywide tagging on Sunday, August 23, 2026 or Monday, August 24, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
2. Exhibit must be a pair (1 male, 1 female).
3. Exhibitors may exhibit in a maximum of two classes in this Division.

Class

- 1298 - Pair of Young Standard Ducks (Young = hatched this year).
1299 - Best-in-Show Young Standard Ducks (R)
1300 - Pair of Mature Standard Ducks (Mature = hatched prior to this year).
1301 - Best-in-Show Mature Standard Ducks (R)
1302 - Champion Standard Ducks (TR)
1303 - Pair of Young Bantam Ducks
1304 - Best-in-Show Young Bantam Ducks (R)
1305 - Pair of Mature Bantam Ducks
1306 - Best-in-Show Mature Bantam Ducks (R)
1307 - Champion Bantam Ducks (TR)

Division J - Geese
(Placing premium table = 102)

1. Geese must be registered at the countywide tagging on Sunday, August 23, 2026, or Monday, August 24, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
2. Exhibit must be a pair (1 male, 1 female).
3. Exhibitors may exhibit in a maximum of two classes in this Division.

Class

- 1308 - Pair of Young Geese (Young = hatched this year).
1309 - Best-in-Show Young Geese (R)
1310 - Pair of Mature Geese (Mature = hatched prior to this year).
1311 - Best-in-Show Mature Geese (R)
1312- Champion Geese (TR)

Department 14 - Rabbits

Nancy Mangus, Superintendent
Jennifer Brooks, Assistant Superintendent
Makenna Henderson, Assistant Superintendent
Sydney Kirby, Assistant Superintendent
Kaley Thornburgh, Assistant Superintendent

1. See www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions.
2. Read and follow "General Exhibitor Livestock Rules" starting on Page 7.
3. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter or exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
4. **Ownership:** The exhibitor must own all breeding stock and market rabbits or have joint ownership within a family corporation and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parent, sibling, and/or legal guardian.
5. All members are required to participate in the Rabbit Project Evaluation (Division A).
6. **COUNTYWIDE TATTOOING: Sunday, August 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** at the fairgrounds. Exhibitors must attend one of these dates and have their rabbits tattooed and registered with the MSU Extension office to be eligible to show at fair.
7. **Family Tagging: MARKET RABBITS ONLY. Each member may tattoo up to six (6) rabbits. All rabbits may be cross-tagged between family members living in the same primary household.**
8. **All 4-H exhibitors can exhibit in three (3) classes** from Divisions C - H and can exhibit in both market and breeding stock classes (one [1] market pen and up to two [2] breeding stock rabbits). **Breeding stock rabbits cannot be in the same class.**
9. All members are encouraged to participate in Fitting and Showmanship (Division C), Market Kindling Report (Division K), and Rabbit Science (Department 69 - Sciences, Division H).
10. All market and breeding stock rabbits will be weighed, checked in and housed in 4-H Rabbit Barn on **Friday, September 18, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.** All rabbits must be weighed before being housed. The 4-H Rabbit Project Superintendent assigns pens.

11. Rabbits must be clean and dry when presented for check-in. **All rabbits must pass a health inspection in order to enter the barn. Each member needs to bring their own towel or carpet square for the table during the health inspection/weigh-in of their rabbits.** Weigh-in personnel may refuse weighing/housing rabbits until the animals are in acceptable condition. The Superintendent will make the final decision.
12. No toys, blankets, etc. may be placed in cages.
13. A resting platform may be used for breeding stock only.
14. Hay/roughage may be supplied to your rabbits to prevent diarrhea. This is the only allowable supplemental feed.
15. **Wheelbarrow and shovel are no longer provided for chores.**
16. Exhibitor must furnish clean heavy plastic or ceramic crock water dishes as follows: Each pen of **market** rabbits must have **one 7" diameter dish/crock**. Each pen of **breeding stock** rabbits must have **one 5" or larger crock/hard plastic dish** for water. Rabbits will not be housed until the correct size dishes or crocks have been furnished.
17. 4-H rabbits must be transported to the fair and to/from the 4-H Rabbit Show and the 4-H Small Livestock Sale in standard metal rabbit transport cages and bottom wire must be off the ground. No "pet taxi" carriers, clothes baskets, or cardboard boxes allowed. (Reason: ventilation and keeping rabbits out of their own urine.) **4-H rabbits will not be allowed entry in non-appropriate cages.**
18. No cages may be stored in the rabbit barn during the fair.
19. **Poultry and Rabbit Fee:** 4-H members are responsible for paying for the processing fee and associated expenses if their buyer chooses to take advantage of this service. All fees are deducted from the gross sale value.
20. Dress code for rabbit showmanship: white long-sleeved shirt, black pants and closed toed shoes. Dress code for Market & Breeding Stock classes: **long-sleeve shirt**, dark colored pants and closed toed shoes. **No hats or jewelry allowed.** Exception: If a member is showing another animal a white lab coat may be worn over other clothes.
21. **Show order for 2026:** Cloverbuds, Showmanship, Breeding Stock, Market (kindled by member then purchased).
22. For 2026, Burr Oak, Happy Herdsman, and Barnyard Buddies are responsible for preparation of the rabbit barn and unloading shavings.
23. Market rabbits will be loaded on the processing truck on Saturday, September 26, at 10:00 p.m. For 2026, Leonidas Do-Best, Countryside, Farmtastic, Lucky, and Sunshine Hills 4-H Clubs are responsible for load-out of rabbits destined for processing and clean-up of cages following load out. All 4-H breeding stock rabbits and "live pick-up" market rabbits will be released Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 11:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. If they are not picked up Saturday night, they must be picked up between **5:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.** on Sunday, September 27, 2026.
24. Cleaning of the barn and power washing cages will be done by Mendon Green Clovers, Howardsville, and Rolling Clovers 4-H Clubs on Sunday, September 27, at 5:30 a.m.

**Division A - Rabbit Project Evaluation
(A, B, C premium table = 2)**

1. **Required participation by all exhibitors:** All 4-H members exhibiting any type of rabbit project must participate in the 4-H Rabbit Project Evaluation. A completed evaluation includes an interview with a judge and answering questions from the rabbit skill-a-thon. Failure to complete the evaluation will result in their rabbit project animal(s) disqualification from the show(s) and require the removal of their rabbits from the fairgrounds.
2. Rabbit Project Interviews will be conducted on an individual basis on **Saturday, September 19, 2026, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.** at the cage where the exhibitor's rabbit project animal(s) are housed. Exhibitors will sign up at check-in.

Class

- 1401 - Rabbit Project Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1402 - Best-of-Show in class 1401 (R)
- 1403 - Rabbit Project Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1404 - Best-of-Show in class 1403 (R)
- 1405 - Rabbit Project Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1406 - Best-of-Show in class 1405 (R)

**Division B - Rabbit Fitting & Showmanship
(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. All exhibitors are eligible and encouraged to compete in Fitting & Showmanship classes.
2. Entry must be made in showmanship class.
3. Exhibitors must show their own project animal.
4. If there are too many entries in a class, it may be divided at the discretion of the Superintendent and/or MSU Extension.

Class

- 1407 - Rabbit Fitting & Showmanship, 8-11 (BR)
- 1408 - Rabbit Fitting & Showmanship, 12-14 (BR)
- 1409 - Rabbit Fitting & Showmanship, 15-19 (BR)

**Division C - Market Rabbits:
Kindled from Exhibitor's Own Breeding Stock
(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Read and follow the rabbit rules.
2. All market rabbits must be in exhibitor's possession, tattooed (looking at the rabbit from behind) in the left ear with a pre-assigned St. Joseph County number, and registered in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by **August 12, 2026**, to be eligible for the St. Joseph County Fair.
3. It is recommended that market rabbits be 10-12 weeks of age at fair time.
4. Exhibit shall consist of three rabbits, any sex.
5. **Only three rabbits may be presented for weigh-in/check-in at fair. Selection of the three best rabbits to combine as a "pen" must be made prior to arriving at check-in table.**
6. Each market pen must weigh a minimum total pen weight of 10 lbs. and maximum total pen weight of 20 lbs. Pens weighing less than 10 lbs. or more than 20 lbs. **will be ineligible for show and sent home immediately.** There is no minimum weight requirement per rabbit, but 3lbs. is recommended. Pens will weigh all 3 rabbits at the same time.

7. The criteria for judging a commercial market rabbit are: meat type, condition, uniformity, and fur.
8. Market pens must be commercial breeds that are raised primarily for meat consumption per ARBA (i.e. Californian, New Zealand, Silver Fox, etc.). Contact Nancy Mangus, Rabbit Superintendent, if you are unsure whether a breed qualifies.
9. All market rabbits will be consigned to the Small Animal Auction unless the Livestock Removal Authorization Form is submitted to the 4-H office by 8:00 p.m. on **Sunday, September 20. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion market pens must sell.**
10. Exhibitors may make one entry in either Division D or E.

Class

- 1410 - Market Rabbits Kindled from Exhibitor's Own Breeding.
- 1411 - Champion Lightweight Pen. (TR)
- 1412 - Reserve Champion Lightweight Pen. (TR)
- 1413 - Champion Light-Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1414 - Reserve Champion Light-Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1415 - Champion Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1416 - Reserve Champion Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1417 - Champion Heavyweight Pen. (TR)
- 1418 - Reserve Champion Heavyweight Pen. (TR)

**Division D - Purchased Market Rabbits
(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Read and follow rules in Division D.

Class

- 1419 - Purchased Market Rabbits.
- 1420 - Champion Lightweight Pen. (TR)
- 1421 - Reserve Champion Lightweight Pen. (TR)
- 1422 - Champion Light-Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1423 - Reserve Champion Light-Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1424 - Champion Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1425 - Reserve Champion Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1426 - Champion Heavyweight Pen. (TR)
- 1427 - Reserve Champion Heavyweight Pen. (TR)

Division E - Championship Market Rabbits

1. To be chosen from the winners of Classes 1410-1418 and 1419-1427.

Class

- 1428 - Grand Champion Pen Market Rabbits. (BR)
- 1429 - Reserve Grand Champion Pen Market Rabbits. (BR)

**Division F - Crossbred Breeding Stock Rabbits
(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. All breeding stock rabbits must be in exhibitor's possession, identified by a legible tattoo in the left ear, and registered in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by **August 12** of the current project year. Exhibitors may tattoo **only six** breeding stock rabbits.
2. Crossbred rabbits that meet American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) breed standards may be moved to show as Purebred Rabbits at the judge's discretion.
3. **BREEDING STOCK RABBITS MUST BE PICKED UP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, BY 8:00 A.M.**

Class

- 1430 - Senior Doe, 7 months of age or older.

- 1431 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1432 - Champion Crossbred Doe. (TR)
- 1433 - Reserve Champion Crossbred Doe. (TR)
- 1434 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1435 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1436 - Champion Crossbred Buck. (TR)
- 1437 - Reserve Champion Crossbred Buck. (TR)
- 1438 - Grand Champion Crossbred Rabbit. (BR)
- 1439 - Reserve Grand Champion Crossbred Rabbit. (BR)

**Divisions G and H - Purebred Breeding Stock Rabbits
(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. All breeding stock rabbits must be in exhibitor's possession, identified by a legible tattoo in the left ear and registered in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by **August 12** of the current project year. Exhibitors may tattoo **only six** breeding stock rabbits.
2. Purebred rabbits must meet American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) breed standards to be eligible. No papers required.
3. Consult American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) "Standard of Perfection" guide to determine which class (Junior or Senior) a given rabbit should be entered in.
4. **BREEDING STOCK RABBITS MUST BE PICKED UP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, BY 8:00 A.M.**

**Division G - Fancy Breeding Stock Rabbits
(Placing premium table = 102)**

Class

- 1440 - Senior Doe, 7 months of age or older.
- 1441 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1442 - Champion Fancy Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1443 - Reserve Champion Fancy Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1444 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1445 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1446 - Champion Fancy Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1447 - Reserve Champion Fancy Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1448 - Grand Champion Fancy Purebred Rabbit. (BR)
- 1449 - Reserve Grand Champion Fancy Purebred Rabbit. (BR)

**Division H - Commercial Breeding Stock Rabbits
(Placing premium table = 102)**

Class

- 1450 - Senior Doe, 7 months of age or older.
- 1451 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1452 - Champion Commercial Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1453 - Reserve Champion Commercial Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1454 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1455 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1456 - Champion Commercial Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1457 - Reserve Champion Commercial Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1458 - Grand Champion Commercial Purebred Rabbit. (BR)
- 1459 - Res. Grand Champion Commercial Purebred Rabbit. (BR)

**Division I - Market Rabbit Kindling Report
(A, B, C premium table = 2)**

Educational Objective: To show knowledge gained throughout Kindling Project.

1. This Division is optional and open to exhibitors who kindled their pen of 4-H market rabbits from their own breeding stock (see Division D).

2. Exhibit two (2) 11" x 14" posters with six (6) 4" x 6" photographs and captions of the following: one photograph each of housing facility, buck, and doe. Three photographs showing the progress and growth of litter. (Poster board available at St. Joseph County MSU Extension office.)

Class

- 1460 - Exhibit completed 4-H Market Rabbit Kindling Report and 11" x 14" poster containing six photographs
- 1461 - Best-of-Show Mkt. Rabbit Kindling Report. (TR)

Department 16 - Horses & Ponies

*Rebecca Houk, Superintendent
Julie Bruce, Assistant Superintendent*

General Rules and Information

1. Horse Project members and their parents/guardians are responsible for knowing and obeying the rules governing the exhibition of horses and ponies in the youth Horse Department at the fair including the [Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project Show Rules & Regulations](#). Members may be disciplined by loss of privileges including, but not limited to, loss of fair premium monies and awards; dismissal from a given class(es), and removal of project animal(s) from the fairgrounds. For current year horse project rules and patterns see www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony.
2. All project animals must be registered in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by May 1 of the current project year. All exhibitors may only show animals signed up in exhibitor's name at the St. Joseph County fair. Members are responsible for supplying the following information, on registration forms, regarding each project animal: name, sex, age, breed, **3 1/2" x 2 1/2" FULL BODY sideview color photo**.
3. Exhibitors may register and show up to six project animals at the fair.
4. **Exhibitors may enter only one exhibit per class.**
*Attention: If you choose to show a given 4-H project animal in **BOTH** a Fitting & Showmanship class and a Horsemanship class, the animal must be shown in the same type of Fitting & Showmanship and Horsemanship classes (i.e., a horse shown in a Gymkhana Fitting & Showmanship class would need to be shown in the corresponding (based on exhibitor age) Gymkhana Horsemanship class, etc.)*
5. Exhibitors will not be allowed to enter or exhibit in this species department if exhibited at another county fair during the current year.
6. Stallions may not be shown/exhibited at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair.
7. A pony is any animal 56" and under. A miniature is any animal 38" and under. The pony/minature must be measured and registered with a St. Joseph County Pony ID number. See current pony measurement list at www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_horse_and_pony.
8. The exhibitor must wear appropriate footwear (i.e., riding boots or approved riding shoes with heels) whenever he/she is mounted on a horse. Exhibitor must also wear an approved ASTM-SEI helmet for the following disciplines: Ridden Gymkhana classes and Hunter classes (including any classes where the exhibitor rides "hunt style"), Saddle