

RULES GOVERNING THE OTSEGO COUNTY FAIR

CHANGES & NEW RULES ARE IN **BOLD** last updated January 2017

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DISCLAIMER:

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

SECTION 1 ~ General OCF Rules

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

9. No coolers in the grandstand.
10. There will be no refunds of any kind, if there is a cancellation due to inclement weather or any occurrence beyond our control.
11. NO dogs will be allowed in the grandstands, carnival area, exhibit buildings or animal barns unless it is a service **or therapy dog**. All other dogs must be kept on a leash.
12. For the safety of everyone, NO bikes, skate boards, roller skates or roller blades will be allowed on the fairgrounds, it is strictly prohibited.
13. No soliciting for donations may be attempted outside of commercial spaces rented for that purpose. Violators of this rule will be asked to leave the grounds and no refunds will be made. All literature is to be passed out from rented booth space only. Any such group or person deemed unsatisfactory will not be allowed.
14. Everyone must have a gate pass or pay the daily gate fee to get on the grounds. If you do not have your pass you will pay the gate fee, NO EXCUSES. A gate pass does not admit the whole family or a car load. A gate pass is for one person ONLY.
15. STATE LAW – Any person who shall wrongfully or maliciously gain admission to the fairgrounds contrary to the rules of said society, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine of not less than one or more than twenty five dollars or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days or such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court before whom the offender may be tried.
16. **Exhibit buildings** will remain open daily August 14th from noon until 10p.m. August 15-18, from noon until 11p.m. and August 19th from noon until 10p.m.
17. No animal and/or exhibit will be removed from the Fair before 10p.m. Saturday, August 19th. Alternate release time will be on Sunday, August 20th, from 10am to noon. Please use the Shipp St. gate. Any exhibitor removing their exhibit(s) before the Fair ends will forfeit all premium monies, unless written permission is given by the area chairperson.
18. All Premium book changes must be submitted by January 31st to the Fair Office to be considered for the following year.

SECTION 2 ~ Age Requirements

1. Exhibitor's age is determined by how old he/she is as of January 1st of the current Fair year.
2. **Youth will follow the age requirements of the Otsego County Fair, regardless of your club or group rules.**
3. **The Fair year that you graduate from high school is the last year you can participate in any youth classes including market classes, regardless of age.**
4. Youth under 5 years old as of January 1st of the current fair year may not enter exhibits.
5. The age of a Junior Youth Exhibitor is 5-8 year olds.
6. The age of a Junior Youth Animal Exhibitor is 5-8 year olds. For safety reasons there are certain species where the age is limited.
7. Youth 9 to 18 years of age or 19, if youth graduated from high school during the fair year, youth must enter in the Youth Department.
8. Youth age for market animals can be found in the market rules for individual species.
9. Open Departments are for adults. Exhibitor must be at least 18 years old and you are not able to participate in the Youth Department (see youth age requirement above).
10. For classes under the Educational Projects, Exhibitors are limited to youth 19 years of age or younger and exhibitors 26 years or younger, who have been determined to be eligible for special education services by the local school district.
11. Senior Citizen's age is at least 60 years old.
12. Youth may not enter in any of the odd numbered departments. Youth entered in any of the odd numbered Departments will be disqualified. The exception to this Rule: Youth may enter in Department 15 the Tri County Open Horse Show and Youth may also enter in Department 15, Section 004, Class Number 2706, Reining, which is open to all ages, except 5-8 year olds.

SECTION 3 ~ Entries

1. The entry fee is 25 cents per class, with the exception that there is no entry fee for showmanship and 5 year old animal exhibitors. Open horse exhibitors will pay \$1.00 per class and the Tri County Open Horse Show \$5.00 adult/open classes and \$4.00 youth classes and you cannot PRE-REGISTRATION; see show bill for entry fees.
2. Competition is open to all unless otherwise specified.
3. After the entry deadline there will be a \$10.00 charge on late entry forms.
4. NO refunds on entry fees.
5. Junior Youth Animal Exhibitors 5 years old are non-competitive classes. Exhibitor will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
6. Youth 5 to 8 years of age must enter in Junior Youth Classes only, with the exception of 8 year olds in market classes where 8 year olds are included in Youth Classes. All other Junior Youth in the wrong classes will be disqualified.
7. Junior Youth 5 to 8 years of age will pay an entry fee for still exhibits and receive a premium.
8. Junior Youth Animal exhibitors 6-8 years old will pay an entry fee and will receive a premium.
9. Special Education Educational Projects are non-competitive. Exhibitor will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
10. The Fair Office will not accept additional entries to your entry form once the judge's sheets have been printed.
11. In all categories other than animal, antique or tractor, the exhibitor must be the creator of the article, item or project.
12. Names, grades and comments are not allowed on projects or they will be disqualified.
13. No guns, knives or live ammo to be displayed by exhibitors.
14. Application for entries in all Departments must be made on printed entry forms and must be in full compliance with the printed instructions in this Premium Book. Only one (1) entry per class number can be entered. All entry fees must accompany the entry form. No animal or article shall compete for more than one premium except horses.

15. All exhibitors must file their entry forms, money and necessary forms with the Fair Office by the deadline, which is printed on the entry form in the back of the book. Make checks payable to Otsego County Fair. Mail entries to: Otsego County Fair, P.O. Box 500, Gaylord, Michigan 49734-0500 or entries can be dropped off at the Fair Office, 124 Shipp Street and in the event that no one is available forms may be put in the black DROP BOX mounted to the building.
16. **NEW this year!! There will be NO interviews with the judge for Youth during the still exhibit judging process.**
17. Exhibitors pick up their entry tags on Sunday, **August 13th** at the Fair Office, starting at noon. Place entry tags on entries and entries must be in the proper buildings no later than 3pm or they will not be judged. Articles and animals incorrectly entered will be disqualified. Disqualified entries will forfeit premiums.
18. Any remaining exhibits after **September 1, 2017** will be disposed of.

SECTION 4 ~ Premiums

1. The Management reserves the right to withdraw all or pay in part premium offerings in all departments should an emergency exist and circumstances demand it or if Fair receipts are insufficient to pay expenses.
2. The Fair Board of Directors reserves the right to withhold premiums in instances where applicable rules and regulation have not been complied with or where fraud or deception is evident. Any person, who attempts to deceive, interferes with the judging or commits fraud in any way shall forfeit any and all awards won in any and all departments of the Fair.
3. Premium payouts are listed in each Department.
4. Premiums will be designed as follows:
 - a. First Premium.....Blue Ribbon
 - b. Second Premium.....Red Ribbon
 - c. Third Premium.....White Ribbon
5. Junior Youth Animal Exhibitors 6-8 years old will pay a 25 cent entry fee and premiums will be paid.
6. Premiums will be awarded according to the judges sheets, not necessarily according to the ribbon on the entry.

7. Junior Youth Exhibitors 5-8 years old in each class will be given blue, red, white or participation ribbon by the judge. Premiums will be paid for blue, red and white ribbons. The exception is Junior Youth Animal Exhibitors (5 years old) are non-competitive and exhibitor will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
 8. Open exhibitors in each class; the judge can place up to three awards; under no circumstances does the judge have to award all three places.
 9. Premium checks will be mailed as soon as possible after the close of the Fair.
 10. All errors in premium statements or checks or omissions must be reported within 14 days after the date on the check! After 14 days no corrections will be made.
 11. **Exhibitors that have no intention on cashing their premium check can donate their check to the Otsego County Fair by signing the back of the check and returning it to the Otsego County Fair.**
 12. Premium checks should be cashed immediately after receiving; checks not cashed within 1 year from issue date will be considered unclaimed. Every effort will be made to contact the holder of the check, if we are unable to contact the holder the money will be turned over to the State of Michigan as unclaimed property.
5. Judges shall not have a management or supervisory role at the fair or exposition. There shall not be an ongoing and direct relationship between the judge and any employee or exhibitor within class or classes being judged.
 6. No person is allowed to act as a judge of any class in which he or she is a competitor and no premium will be paid to anyone in any way trying to influence the decision of the judges.
 7. No person shall be allowed to interfere with the judge during judging.

**SECTION 6 ~
2017 Health Requirements for Livestock
Exhibited in Michigan**

**Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural
Development
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
Animal Industry: 517-373-1077**



- a. All livestock exhibitors and livestock exhibits must be in compliance with animal health requirements as defined by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.
- b. A printed copy of the Health Requirements can be obtained from the Fair Office. You may also get a copy of the Health Requirements from MDARD's website at **www.michigan.gov/mda-exhibitinfo**

SECTION 5 ~ Judging

1. **Absolutely** NO judging in advance of or after the Fair judging schedule.
2. No premiums will be awarded unless the judge shall deem worthy.
3. Items marked N/S (No Show) or placing not circled on judges sheet will not be paid a premium, regardless if it has a ribbon attached. We are not responsible for the judge not marking the judge's sheet or marking it incorrectly.
4. Judges have been given the authority to place less than first place on exhibits where only one entry has been made, if in the mind of the judges the exhibit is not worthy of first place.

Otsego County Fair Market & Non-Market Livestock Rules

SECTION 7 ~ Large Animal General Rules:

1. Large animals to include steer, feeder calf, veal, dairy, breed beef, swine, lamb and goat.
2. All animal exhibitors in the large animal barn must sign a code of conduct.
3. Exhibitors with Large Animals.....The following forms must accompany the signed entry form and payment: Code of Conduct, Hold Harmless, Stall and/or Pen Reservations. Forms will not be accepted without the entry form signed and the above required forms and payment.
4. **Be sure to read the entries, premiums and judging sections.**
5. All animals are required to stay at the Fair the entire week with the exception of open horse; they can trailer in for the show. The area superintendent has the authority to give permission on any other exceptions.
6. Junior Youth Animal Exhibitors 5 year olds are non-competitive. Exhibitor will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid for animals only.
7. Junior Youth Animal Exhibitor's age is 5-8 years old. For safety reasons there are certain species where the age is limited. Exhibitor must be able to feed, clean pens and handle the animal or they will be disqualified and the animal will be taken home and there will be no refunds.
8. There are competitive animal classes for Junior Youth Animal exhibitors 6-8 years old. For safety reasons there are certain species where the age is limited. Exhibitors will pay an entry fee and premiums will be paid.
9. All cattle, swine, sheep and goats native and out-of-state entered in exhibitions, expositions, or fairs must follow the MDA Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan. For the most up-to-date wording refer to www.michigan.gov/mda-exhibitinfo
10. Animal Exhibitors must attend a barn meeting on Sunday. Check the schedule for the time of each meeting Large Animal, Small Animal and Horse. Example: (If you have a steer, horse and a rabbit you must attend all three barn meetings.)
11. Ownership is not required for an exhibitor to show in animal classes other than market classes the exhibitor must be the owner.

12. All market animals must be ear tagged prior to bringing the animal to the Fair.
13. With the exception of veal, all animals must be neutered.
14. Exhibitors will not share animals with another exhibitor; once the animal is shown it cannot be shown by another exhibitor. The exception would be showmanship and horse.
15. **Exhibitors are expected to maintain full control of their animals at all times.**
16. Youth and Junior Youth exhibitors must be present during judging and must handle the animal or they will be disqualified.
17. No premiums will be paid for showmanship classes.
18. A veterinarian will be on call; but not necessarily on the grounds.
19. There are no refunds on stalls and pens.
20. Exhibitors are responsible to cleaning their stalls and pens daily.
21. All animals are to be kept clean, fed and watered by exhibitor. The cleaning of barns shall be done before 9:00 a.m.
22. **Exhibitors are responsible for their animals care from the purchase date through the conclusion of the Otsego County Fair release of exhibits time in the fair premium book.**
23. **Exhibitors must spend at least 2 hours providing security in the large animal barn. Sign-up sheet will be in the barn.**
24. Any animal deemed unworthy will not be awarded a premium.

SECTION 8 ~

Showmanship Ages for Large Animals

Exhibitor ages for showmanship are as follows:

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

SECTION 9 ~

Large Animal Market Rules

1. Youth do not have to belong to a club to exhibit at the Fair. Youth that want to have market animals must belong to either Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and will follow their rules pertaining to the animal **ONLY**. Youth will follow OCF age requirements, regardless of club rules.
2. Youth that are not a member of Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and you are interested in having a market animal should call the Fair Office at 989.732.3811 for more information on how to have a market animal.
3. Youth and Junior Youth Market Exhibitors must follow all of the general large animal market rules, all of the general large animal rules and the species rules.
4. Read all of the age requirements, entries, premiums and judging sections.
5. The Fair year that youth graduates from high school is the last year youth can participate in the market animal program, regardless of age.
6. A market livestock member is eligible to show and sell up to three (3) large market species and sell up to five (5) small market pens, each to be a different species.
7. Exhibitors must be the owner of market animals.
8. For safety reason junior youth exhibitors may only show in the following market classes: veal, feeder, swine, sheep and goat.
9. Market Livestock Exhibitors, it is mandatory that exhibitor shows in showmanship for the animal(s) they are selling, if exhibitor doesn't show in showmanship they will not sell their animal(s).
10. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors will enter a mandatory Market Animal Project Record Sheets in the fair and receive an A or B ribbon in order to sell their market animal(s) at the auction. Do you need a copy of the project record sheets go to our website www.otsegocountyfairgrounds.org or call the Fair Office at 989.732.3811? Project Books must be entered on the entry form and exhibitor will be paid a premium.
11. Market animal weigh-in is on Sunday; check the schedule for the time. A family member must be present when your animal is weighed.
12. Exhibitors must wear appropriate attire. No club or personal names on attire.
13. Market animals that do not make the minimum weight requirement for their species will be disqualified from selling their animal through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction, unless the judge considers it finished.
14. Any animal not eligible for the auction may be sold private transaction after the auction.
15. Youth selling at the auction must fill out a W-9. Youth or parent must turn the W-9 in to the Fair Office. Auction checks will not be written, if we do not have a W-9 on file. The W-9 can be found in the back of the book and can be turned in with your entry form.
16. Youth livestock sellers will have 2½% taken out of their auction check for each animal sold.
17. All exhibitors whether you are self-sponsored or have a sponsor must have a copy of a sponsor contract on file with the Otsego County Fair by June 15th or the sponsor will not be paid and the exhibitor will be responsible for paying back the sponsor.
18. There is a market livestock contract on the Fair's website. If the generic contract is not used the following information must be on your contract the date, tag number, species, exhibitors name, address, phone number, email address, exhibitor and parent signatures; dollar amount you received from your sponsor, sponsor name, sponsor business name, sponsor address, sponsor phone number and sponsors signature.
19. The Otsego County Fair will not be held responsible for any animal that dies before or during the week of the Fair.
20. Parents/guardians and exhibitors remain responsible for the sponsor fee, if project dies, is incomplete and/or not eligible for auction.
21. Exhibitors selling at the Auction with sponsors will have the sponsor fee deducted from their auction and the check will be mailed directly to the sponsor.
22. The majority of the auction buyers do not pay for the animal(s) they purchased the day of the auction. Buyers are invoiced and as soon as the Fair receives payment from the buyer, youth checks will be written and mailed, if we have a W-9 on file for exhibitor.

SECTION 10 ~ Large Animal Weight

Requirements

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

- **Steers** weigh no less than 900 lbs.
- **Feeder** weighs no less than 350 lbs. with maximum weight of 500 lbs.; over 500 lbs. will not sell at the auction.
- **Veal** weighs no less than 175 lbs. with maximum weight of 400 lbs. Buyers will only be charged for the maximum weight. (Example: If your veal weighs 410 lbs. the buyer will only be charged for 400 lbs.)
- **Swine** weighs no less than 200 lbs. with a maximum weight of 300 lbs. Buyers will only be charged for the maximum weight. (Example: If your hog weighs 310 lbs. the buyer will only be charged for 300 lbs.)
- **Sheep** weighs no less than 90 lbs. with maximum weight of 175 lbs. Buyers will only be charged for the maximum weight. (Example: If your lamb weighs 185 lbs. the buyer will only be charged for 175 lbs.)
- **Goats** weigh no less than 55 lbs.

SECTION 11 ~

Recommended Finish Weights for Large Animals

- Steer 1200 – 1300 pounds
- Feeder 401 – 500 pounds
- Veal 175 – 400 pounds
- Swine 250 – 275 pounds
- Sheep 140 – 160 pounds
- Goat 55 – 75 pounds

SECTION 12 ~ Steer Market Rules

1. **Youth Market Steer Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 11 and these market steer rules.**
2. Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have a market steer is 11 years old as of January 1st of the current Fair year.
3. **Each Exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one Market Steer through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. See Section 9, # 6.**
4. **Steers must be born January 1st or later of the prior year. The recommended starting weight is 600 lbs. and the required possession date is December 1st year prior to fair.**
5. **Steers must be dehorned.**
6. All cattle are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.
7. An official movement certificate is required to be obtained prior to movement of any cattle from any premises in the Modified Accredited zone. Cattle being transported must be accompanied by movement certificate(s) and the movement certificate(s) shall be produced upon request.

SECTION 13 ~ Dairy & Breed Beef Rules

1. **Youth Market Dairy and Breed Beef Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 11 and these dairy and breed beef rules.**
2. **Exhibitor must be 9 on or before January 1st of current Fair year and the dairy/breeding cattle must not weigh more than 600 pounds.**
3. **Exhibitor must be 11 on or before January 1st of current Fair year and the dairy/breeding cattle weighing more than 600 pounds.**
4. **Dairy & Breed Beef must be dehorned.**
5. An official movement certificate is required to be obtained prior to movement of any cattle from any premises in the Modified Accredited zone. Cattle being transported must be accompanied by movement certificate(s) and the movement certificate(s) shall be produced upon request.
6. All cattle are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.

7. Dairy ages are computed as follows:
 - Junior calf born between January 1 and June 30 of current year
 - Senior calf born between July 1 and December 31 of last year
 - Junior yearling born between January 1 and June 30 of last year
 - Senior yearling born between July 1 and December 31 two years prior

SECTION 14 ~

Feeder Market & Non-Market Rules

1. Youth and Junior Youth Market Feeder Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 11 and these market feeder rules.
2. Youth Market and Non-Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market feeder is 9 years old as of January 1st of the current Fair year.
5. Junior Youth Market and Non-Market Exhibitors minimum age to have market feeder is 8 years old by January 1st of the current Fair year.
6. **Each Exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one Market Feeder through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. See Section 9, # 6.**
7. **Project recommended starting weight is 200 lbs. and the required possession date is May 1st of fair year.**
8. **Feeder maximum weight is 500 lbs. market and non-market.**
9. **Feeder can be either sex (steer calves are preferred) or any breed.**
10. **Feeders must be dehorned.**
11. All cattle are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.
12. An official movement certificate is required to be obtained prior to movement of any cattle from any premises in the Modified Accredited zone. Cattle being transported must be accompanied by movement certificate(s) and the movement certificate(s) shall be produced upon request.

SECTION 15~

Veal Market & Non-Market Rules

1. Youth and Junior Youth Market Veal Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 11 and these market veal rules.
2. Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market veal is 9 years old as of January 1st of the current Fair year.
3. Junior Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market veal is 8 years old by January 1st of the current Fair year.
4. **Each Exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one Market Veal through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. See Section 9, # 6.**
5. **Project recommended starting weight is 70 lbs. and the required possession date is May 1st of fair year.**
6. **Veal Maximum weight is 400 lbs. market and non-market.**
7. **Veal can be either sex or any breed.**
8. All cattle are required to have an official radio frequency identification device (RFID) ear tag.
9. An official movement certificate is required to be obtained prior to movement of any cattle from any premises in the Modified Accredited zone. Cattle being transported must be accompanied by movement certificate(s) and the movement certificate(s) shall be produced upon request.

SECTION 16 ~

Swine Market & Non-Market Rules

1. **Youth and Junior Youth Market Swine Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 11 and these market swine rules.**
2. Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market swine is 9 years old as of January 1st of the current Fair year.
3. Junior Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market swine is 8 years old by January 1st of the current Fair year.
4. **Each Exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one Market Swine through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. See Section 9, # 6.**
5. **Project recommended starting weight is 60 lbs. and the required possession date is May 1st of fair year.**
6. **Swine can be a barrow or gilt.**
7. All swine shall be uniquely identified with individual ear tag identification or other identification approved by the MDA.
8. All swine for exhibition must be free of infectious and contagious disease.
9. Native swine are not required to be vaccinated against hog cholera.
10. No swine shall be presented for exhibition purposes, which have originated from any garbage feeding premises or that are in quarantined area for the prevention of the spread of vesicular exanthema. A quarantined swine should not be on the premises for any reason, except under a permit for the Director of Agriculture or his authorized agent.

SECTION 17 ~

Lamb Market & Non-Market Rules

1. **Youth and Junior Youth Market Lamb Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 11 and these market & non-market lamb rules.**
2. Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market lamb is 9 years old as of January 1st of the current Fair year.
3. Junior Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market lamb is 8 years old by January 1st of the current Fair year.
4. **Each Exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one Market Lamb through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. See Section 9, # 6.**
5. **Project recommended starting weight is 50 lbs. and the required possession date is June 1st of fair year**
8. **Lambs can be a wether or ewe.**
9. All lambs moved within Michigan shall be identified with official USDA scrapie program identification tags prior to movement off the farm. Contact the USDA at 866-873-2824 for ear tags. Do not remove the scrapie tags prior to weigh-in or showing. It is illegal to remove the official USDA individual animal identification.
10. The date for computing the age of a lamb is September 1.
11. No muzzles on lambs at any time.
12. Pens to be bedded with natural material (wood shavings, straw, etc.), no carpet.
13. While in the show ring the lamb is to be shown with all four feet on the ground or ring surface.
14. Humane handling practices of sheep at all times.
15. No liquid feeding of lambs.
16. Tail docking length specifications for lambs has been determined. The tail can be lifted from the exterior. Tails that do not meet this requirement will result in the animal being disqualified from the exhibition.

SECTION 18 ~

Goat Market & Non-Market Rules

1. **Youth and Junior Youth Market Goat Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 11 and these market goat rules.**
2. Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market goat is 9 years old as of January 1st of the current Fair year.
3. Junior Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age to have market goat is 8 years old by January 1st of the current Fair year.
4. **Each Exhibitor is allowed to show and sell only one Market Goat through the Otsego County Fair Youth Livestock Auction. See Section 9, # 6.**
5. **Project recommended starting weight is 45 lbs. and the required possession date is June 1st of fair year.**
6. **Goats can be a wether or doe.**
7. All goats moved within Michigan shall be identified with official USDA scrapie program identification tags prior to movement off the farm. Contact the USDA at 866-873-2824 for ear tags.
8. Do not remove tags prior to weigh-in or showing. It is illegal to remove the official USDA individual animal identification.
9. All goats for exhibition must be free from infectious and contagious disease.

SECTION 19 ~ Poultry & Waterfowl

General Rules

1. Exhibitors with Poultry & Waterfowl.....The following forms must accompany the signed entry form and payment: Hold Harmless and Cage Reservations. Forms will not be accepted without the entry form signed and the above required forms and payment.
2. **Read all of the age requirements, entries, premiums and judging sections.**
3. The Fair year that you graduate from high school is the last year you can participate in the market animal program, regardless of age.
4. Junior Youth Exhibitors (5 year olds) are non-competitive classes and will receive a participation ribbon only. Exhibitors will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
5. Junior Youth Animal Exhibitor: The age is 5-8 year olds. For safety reasons there are certain classes where the exhibitor's age is limited.
6. Junior Youth 8 year olds as of January 1st of the current fair year will be allowed to show and sell market pens of poultry and waterfowl.
7. Junior Youth Exhibitors 6-8 year olds are competitive classes and will receive a blue, red or white ribbon. Exhibitor will pay an entry fee and will be paid a premium.
8. Exhibitors can find the Market Pen Rules for poultry and waterfowl in **Section 23.**
9. Exhibitor will not share their poultry or waterfowl with another exhibitor. Once it has been shown it cannot be shown by someone else. The exception would be that it can be shown in showmanship.
10. All poultry and waterfowl native and out-of-state entered in exhibitions, expositions, or fairs must follow the MDA Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan. For the most up-to-date wording refer to **www.michigan.gov/mda-exhibitinfo**
11. All exhibitors must attend the small animal barn meeting on entry day.
12. Each exhibitor entered in the fair must work at least one shift of barn duty during fair week or forfeit premiums. Sign-up for barn duty will be at the Small Animal Barn Meeting on entry day.
13. A youth exhibitor must be present and bring their entry to the judging table. If anyone other than the exhibitor brings and puts an entry on the judging table the entry will be disqualified.
14. All poultry must be pollorum free before entering the barn. Testing will be done on Sunday from 9am to noon.
15. All poultry and waterfowl exhibits must be examined on Sunday, from 9am to noon by the barn superintendent or designee before entering the barn.
16. Exhibitors are responsible for providing their own feed.

17. Cages will be provided. There are no refunds on cages.
18. Anyone displaying a dozen eggs must also exhibit a laying hen or duck.
19. Padlocks will not be used on cages.
20. For assistance in classifying your poultry breed, visit "The American Poultry Association" at www.amepoultryassn.com

SECTION 20 ~ Showmanship Ages for Poultry & Waterfowl

Exhibitor ages for showmanship are as follows:

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

SECTION 21 ~ Poultry & Waterfowl Market Pen Quantity and Age Requirements

Chickens:

- 3 – Roasters (8-16 weeks old)

Turkeys:

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

Ducks & Geese:

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

SECTION 22 ~ Poultry & Waterfowl Minimum Weight Requirements

- Pen of 3 Chickens (18 pounds)
- Turkey (16 pounds)
- Turkey (24 pounds)
- Heritage Turkey (16 pounds)
- Pen of 3 Ducks (15 pounds)
- Pen of 3 Geese (30 pounds)

SECTION 23 ~ Poultry & Waterfowl

Market Pen Rules

1. Youth do not have to belong to a group or club to exhibit at the Fair. Youth that would want to have a market animal must belong to either Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and will follow their rules pertaining to the animal ONLY. Youth will follow OCF age requirements, regardless of club rules.
2. Youth that are not a member of Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and you are interested in having a market animal should call the Fair Office at 989.732.3811 for more information on how to have a market animal.
3. All small animal market exhibitors must have a Youth Market Intent to Sell contract on file with the Otsego County Fair by June 15th. There is a Youth Market Intent to Sell a pen of small animals contract on the Fair's website www.otsegocountyfairgrounds.org
4. Youth and Junior Youth Market Poultry & Waterfowl Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 6, Section 19 through Section 22 and these market poultry & waterfowl pen rules.
5. Junior Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age is 8 years old by January 1st of the current Fair year. For safety reason exhibitors may only show and sell in the following market classes: chicken, turkey, duck and geese.
6. Exhibitors must wear appropriate attire. No club or personal names on attire.
7. Market Livestock Exhibitors, it is mandatory that exhibitor shows in showmanship for the animal(s) they are selling, if exhibitor doesn't show in showmanship they will not sell their animal(s).
8. All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors will enter a mandatory Market Animal Project Record Sheets in the fair and receive an A or B ribbon in order to sell their market animal(s) at the auction. Do you need a copy of the project record sheets go to our website www.otsegocountyfairgrounds.org or call the Fair Office at 989.732.3811? Project Books must be entered on the entry form and exhibitor will be paid a premium.
9. A market livestock member is eligible to show and sell up to three (3) large market species and sell up to five (5) small market pens, each to be a different species.

10. **Youth small animal sellers will have 2½% taken out of their auction check for each pen of animals sold.**
11. Market chicken pen of 3 roasters must be a meat breed or will be disqualified by the judge and will not sell at the Auction.
12. Market turkey pen of 1 roaster must be a meat breed or will be disqualified by the judge and will not sell at the Auction.
13. Market duck pen 3 roasters must be a meat breed or will be disqualified by the judge and will not sell at the Auction.
14. Market geese pen 3 roasters must be a meat breed or will be disqualified by the judge and will not sell at the Auction.
15. Market pens **MUST** be weighed on entry day.
16. Exhibitors must register on the entry form for a market pen or exhibitor will not be allowed to sell.
17. Uniformity of sex, color and weight within a pen is desirable.
18. Pens may not be split for the auction. Small animals are sold as a unit.

SECTION 24 ~ Pocket Pet Rules

1. All animals must be pet type, domesticated non-poisonous and able to be handled.
2. Exhibitor must furnish their own secure covered cage appropriate for each exhibit.
3. Exhibitor must have possession and care of the animal before May 1 of current year.
4. Exhibits considered at risk to the public will not be allowed at the Fair.
5. Pocket pets can be brought to the fairgrounds one hour prior to judging and exhibits must be taken home after judging.

SECTION 25 ~ Rabbit & Cavy General Rules

1. Exhibitors with Rabbits.....The following forms must accompany the signed entry form and payment: Hold Harmless and Cage Reservations. Forms will not be accepted without the entry form signed and the above required forms and payment.
2. **Be sure to read the age requirements, entries, premiums and judging sections.**
3. The Fair year that you graduate from high school is the last year you can participate in the market animal program, regardless of age.
4. Junior Youth Exhibitors (5 year olds) are non-competitive classes and will receive a participation ribbon only. Exhibitors will not pay an entry fee and no premiums will be paid.
5. Junior Youth Animal Exhibitor: The age is 5-8 year olds. For safety reasons there are certain classes where the exhibitor's age is limited.
6. Junior Youth 8 year olds as of January 1st of the current fair year will be allowed to show and sell market pens of poultry and waterfowl.
7. Junior Youth Exhibitors 6-8 year olds are competitive classes and will receive a blue, red or white ribbon. Exhibitor will pay an entry fee and will be paid a premium.
8. Exhibitors can find the Market Pen Rules for rabbits in Section **28**.
9. Exhibitor will not share their rabbit with another exhibitor. Once it has been shown it cannot be shown by someone else. The exception would be that it can be shown in showmanship.
10. All rabbits native and out-of-state entered in exhibitions, expositions, or fairs must follow the MDA Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan. For the most up-to-date wording refer to **www.michigan.gov/mda-exhibitinfo**
11. All exhibitors must attend the small animal barn meeting on entry day.
12. Each exhibitor entered in the fair must work at least one shift of barn duty during fair week or forfeit premiums. Sign-up for barn duty will be at the Small Animal Barn Meeting on entry day.
13. A youth exhibitor must be present and bring their entry to the judging table. If anyone other than the exhibitor brings and puts an entry on the judging table the entry will be disqualified.

14. All rabbit exhibits must be examined on Sunday, from 9am to noon by the barn superintendent or designee before entering the barn.
15. Exhibitor displaying wool/fiber from a rabbit must also display the rabbit.
16. Cavy (Guinea Pig) can be brought to the fairgrounds one hour prior to judging and exhibits must be taken home after judging.
17. Exhibitors are responsible for providing their own feed.
18. Cages will be provided. There are no refunds on cages.
19. Padlocks will not be used on cages.
4. Junior Youth Market Exhibitor's minimum age is 8 years old by January 1st of the current Fair year. For safety reason exhibitors may only show and sell in the following market class: rabbits.
5. **Youth and Junior Youth Market Rabbit Exhibitors should read and must follow all of the rules in Section 1 through Section 6, Section 25 through Section 27 and these market rabbit pen rules.**
6. **Exhibitors must wear appropriate attire. No club or personal names on attire.**
7. **Market Livestock Exhibitors, it is mandatory that exhibitor shows in showmanship for the animal(s) they are selling, if exhibitor doesn't show in showmanship they will not sell their animal(s).**

SECTION 26 ~

Showmanship Ages for Rabbits

Exhibitor ages for showmanship are as follows

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

SECTION 27 ~ Rabbit Market Pen Quantity and Age Requirements

Rabbits:

- 3 – Fryers (8-12 weeks old)

SECTION 28 ~ Rabbit Market Pen Rules

1. **Youth do not have to belong to a group or club to exhibit at the Fair. Youth that would want to have a market animals must belong to either Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and will follow their rules pertaining to the animal ONLY. Youth will follow OCF age requirements, regardless of club rules.**
2. **Youth that are not a member of Otsego County Youth Livestock Program (OCYLP) or Otsego County 4-H and you are interested in having a market animal should call the Fair Office at 989.732.3811 for more information on how to have a market animal.**
3. **All small animal market exhibitors must have a Youth Market Intent to Sell contract on file with the Otsego County Fair by June 15th. There is a Youth Market Intent to Sell a pen of small animals contract on the Fair's website www.otsegocountyfairgrounds.org**
8. **All Otsego County Fair Livestock Market Exhibitors will enter a mandatory Market Animal Project Record Sheets in the fair and receive an A or B ribbon in order to sell their market animal(s) at the auction. Do you need a copy of the project record sheets go to our website www.otsegocountyfairgrounds.org or call the Fair Office at 989.732.3811? Project Books must be entered on the entry form and exhibitor will be paid a premium.**
9. **A market livestock member is eligible to show and sell up to three (3) large market species and sell up to five (5) small market pens, each to be a different species.**
10. **Youth small animal sellers will have 2½% taken out of their auction check for each pen of animals sold.**
11. Market pen of 3 roasters must be a meat breed or will be disqualified by the judge and will not sell at the Auction.
12. Market pens MUST be weighed on entry day.
13. Exhibitors must register on the entry form for a market pen or exhibitor will not be allowed to sell.
14. Uniformity of sex, color and weight within a pen is desirable.
15. Pens may not be split for the auction. Small animals are sold as a unit.

SECTION 29 ~

Horse Exhibitor Age Categories

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

- Senior, 14 year olds and older

- Junior, 9-13 year olds

- Novice, 9 year olds and older are eligible for this class. This division will be walk/trot only.

- Pony, 56" and under, Exhibitors 9-13 year olds

- Junior Equine Exhibitors 6-8 year olds will pay an entry fee and receive a premium.

- Junior Equine Exhibitors 5 year olds are non-competitive and will not pay an entry fee and will not be paid a premium.

SECTION 30 ~ HORSE AREA RULES:

1. Horse check-in on Sunday from 9 to noon, there may be a vet on site to do vet checks.
2. A copy of your negative coggins test is required for all horses entering the fairgrounds.
3. **Exhibitors with horses must sign a code of conduct.**
4. Exhibitors with Horses.....The following forms must accompany the signed entry form and payment: Code of Conduct, Hold Harmless, Stall and/or Pen Reservations. Horse exhibitors must also have a coggins for each horse they are bringing to the Fair. Forms will not be accepted without the entry form signed and the above required forms and payment.
5. Animals may be sent home for illness, disease, unsafe behavior or animal welfare concerns. NO refunds will be provided under these circumstances.
6. Leaders will be given a copy of the "Otsego County Fair Horse Rules" or pick up a copy at the Fair Office.
7. The Michigan Department of Agriculture highly recommends that all equine have rabies vaccines.
8. The following forms must accompany the signed entry form and payment: Code of Conduct, Hold Harmless, Horse Stall Reservation and a Coggins for each horse. Forms will not be accepted without the signed entry form and payment.
9. Novice exhibitors may only show in novice classes.
10. Junior Youth 8 and under category – exhibitors may be involved with an animal on a halter or lead. They may be directly assisted or supported by an adult volunteer or parent who is on the ground holding the animal's halter or lead. Parent or guardian must be on the grounds, and in the arena for a child to show.
11. All equine native and out-of-state entered in exhibitions, expositions, or fairs must follow the MDA Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan. For the most up-to-date wording refer to **www.michigan.gov/mda-exhibitinfo**
12. No professional groomers.
13. Exhibitor may only show in one age category.
14. Exhibitors may share horses. Horses may not be shown by multiple exhibitors in the same class number, with the exception of showmanship.
15. No premiums paid for showmanship, the exception is the Tri County Open Horse Show, which pays premiums for showmanship classes.
16. The open horse show takes place at the same time as the youth show.
17. Open Exhibitors must be 18 years old or older. If exhibitor is showing in the Youth Horse Show they cannot show in open horse, the exception is class number 2706, which is open to all ages except 5 year olds.
18. Show schedule subject to change, schedule to be posted fair week. Absolutely no changes to the schedule without the permission of the horse area superintendent.
19. Exhibitor may be denied the privilege of showing for any safety concerns, for abusive treatment of horse or unsportsmanlike behavior.
20. **NEW – Youth with Horse and Pony Record Books will be able to add their project book to the entry form. There is a fee of 25 cents and you will be paid a premium.**
21. Exhibitors, parents and leaders will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct before they are allowed to participate at the shows. The Code of Conduct can be found in the back of the Premium Book and must be returned with the signed entry form, coggins paperwork, stall reservation, hold harmless and payment.

22. To reserve a horse stall the following is required: horse stall reservation form, number of stalls, a copy of coggins paperwork for each stall reserved and payment. NO stalls will be reserved without the coggins. Example: If three stalls are being reserved then three coggins must accompany reservation form. If only two coggins accompany then you will only get two stalls. There are no refunds on horse stalls except for those that are in the lottery for a stall.
23. Horse stalls will be reserved in the following order: Youth, Mounted Division, and Youth Parents, followed by other Adults. Youth will be given one tack stall for every four to five horses; if they want a tack stall and provided they are available. Club or Exhibitor will be charged for tack stalls. If there are not enough stalls after Youth, Mounted Division and Youth Parents have been placed; the order will be by lottery (names drawn for stalls). All stalls must be paid for in order to reserve; if you reserved a stall and your name is not drawn from the lottery a refund will be given.
24. Tack Stalls are for tack ONLY; if tack stall is used for anything but tack, you will lose the stall. The stall will go into the lottery and no refund will be given for the tack stall.
25. The Youth/Open Horse Show will follow the rules and regulations and be judged in accordance with Michigan State 4-H Horse Show Rules with the exception of helmet requirement which is strongly recommended but not required for adults in the Open Horse Show. Another exception being handlers and riders of stallions must be 18 years old and older.
26. Stalls and areas MUST be left in the same condition that you found them. Clean up fees of \$20 will be assessed for messy areas and stalls. The fee will be deducted from your premium check should your area and stall be left dirty.
27. An "excessive damage" fee of \$50.00 will be assessed to horses causing damages to stalls such as holes larger than 2 foot by 2 foot area.
28. WARNING – Under the Michigan Equine Activity Liability Act, an equine professional or event sponsor, Otsego County Fairgrounds are not liable for an injury to or death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of the equine activity.

SECTION 31 ~ Camping Rules

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

SECTION 32 ~

Livestock/Equine Drug Testing Protocol

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

SECTION 33 ~ Complaint / Appeals Process

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

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

The following must be included in the written complaint:

- Name
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number
- Complaint Fee of \$25.00
- Describe in Detail the Nature of the Complaint

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

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