

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 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** at the fairgrounds.
6. The Carcass Hog Evaluation will take place on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Bontrager's Custom Meat Processing in Leonidas.
7. Exhibitors participating in this contest must attend the hanging Carcass Hog Evaluation in order to receive a premium and any associated awards or be 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 this certification standards, the member will only be eligible for a participation ribbon.

#### Class

- 1728 - Carcass Hog
- 1729 - Champion Carcass Hog (based on % muscle) (TR)
- 1730 - Reserve Champion Carcass Hog (based on % muscle) (TR)
- 1731 - Carcass Efficiency (T)

## Department 12 - Poultry

*Angie Landis, Superintendent*

*Karrie Landis, Market Chicken Assistant Superintendent*

*Michele Kelley, Turkey Assistant Superintendent*

*Karyn Scheffler, Breeding Stock Assistant Superintendent*

1. See [www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions](http://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. 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.

5. 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 17, 2025, or Monday, August 18, 2025, 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.
6. 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.**
7. 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 12, 2025, 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:** Waterfowl, Pigeons, Eggs, Showmanship, Breeding Stock Chickens, Breeding Stock Turkeys, Market Turkeys (toms then hens), Market Chickens (cockerels then pullets). **The show will be on Sunday, September 14, 2025.**
17. All 4-H breeding stock birds and "live pick-up" market birds will be released Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 11:00 p.m. If they are not picked up Saturday night, they must be picked up between **6:00 - 7:00 a.m.** on Sunday, September 21, 2025.
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 20, 2025, at 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 6:00 a.m. Each member is responsible for the clean-up of their pen and general barn duty.

#### **Section 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. Exhibitors who have both breeding and market poultry will only complete one evaluation of their choice. Failure to complete an appropriate evaluation will result in their poultry project animals' disqualification from the show and require the removal of their birds from the fairgrounds.
2. Poultry Project Evaluations will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis on **Saturday, September 13, 2025, 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**

- 14001 - Market Chicken Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 14002 - Best-of-Show in class 14001 **(R)**
- 14003 - Market Chicken Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 14004 - Best-of-Show in class 14003 **(R)**
- 14005 - Market Chicken Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 14006 - Best-of-Show in class 14005 **(R)**
- 14007 - Market Turkey Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 14008 - Best-of-Show in class 14007 **(R)**
- 14009 - Market Turkey Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 14010 - Best-of-Show in class 14009 **(R)**
- 14011 - Market Turkey Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 14012 - Best-of-Show in class 14011 **(R)**
- 14013 - Breeding Stock Poultry Project Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 14014 - Best-of-Show in class 14013 **(R)**
- 14015 - Breeding Stock Poultry Project Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old

- 14016 - Best-of-Show in class 14015 **(R)**
- 14017 - Breeding Stock Poultry Project Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 14018 - Best-of-Show in class 14017 **(R)**

#### **Section B - Poultry Fitting & Showmanship (Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Open only to those exhibitors exhibiting chickens (Sections 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**

- 14019 - Poultry Fitting & Showmanship, 8-11 **(TR)**
- 14020 - Poultry Fitting & Showmanship 12-14. **(TR)**
- 14021 - Poultry Fitting & Showmanship 15-19 **(TR)**

#### **Section 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 section or Section E (Market Turkeys).
4. Market chickens must be hatched Saturday, July 19, 2025, 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 17, 2025, and Monday, August 18, 2025, 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 pullets will show first in 2025, followed by market cockerels (order rotates annually).
8. The superintendent will determine the number of weight classes utilized.

#### **Class**

- 14022 - Market Pullet
- 14023 - Market Cockerel
- 14024 - Champion Pen Lightweight Market Pullets **(TR)**
- 14025 - Res. Champion Pen Lightweight Market Pullets **(R)**
- 14026 - Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Pullets **(TR)**
- 14027 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Pullets **(R)**
- 14028 - Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Pullets **(TR)**
- 14029 - Res. Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Pullets **(R)**
- 14030 - Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Pullets **(TR)**

- 14031 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Pullets (R)
- 14032 - Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Pullets (TR)
- 14033 - Res. Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Pullets (R)
- 14034 - Champion Pen Lightweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 14035 - Res. Champion Pen Lightweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 14036 - Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 14037 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 14038 - Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 14039 - Res. Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 14040 - Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 14041 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 14042 - Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Cockerels (TR)
- 14043 - Res. Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Cockerels (R)
- 14044 - Grand Champion Pen Market Chickens (PR)
- 14045 - Res. Grand Champion Pen Market Chickens (PR)

#### Section 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 section or Section D (Market Chickens).
4. Market turkeys must be hatched Saturday, May 17, 2025, 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 13, 2025, or Monday, July 14, 2025, 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. The superintendent will determine the number of weight classes utilized.

#### Class

- 14046 - Market Hen
- 14047 - Market Tom
- 14048 - Champion Pen Lightweight Market Hens (TR)
- 14049 - Res. Champion Pen Lightweight Market Hens (R)
- 14050 - Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Hens (TR)

- 14051 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Hens (R)
- 14052 - Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Hens (TR)
- 14053 - Res. Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Hens (R)
- 14054 - Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Hens (TR)
- 14055 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Hens (R)
- 14056 - Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Hens (TR)
- 14057 - Res. Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Hens (R)
- 14058 - Champion Pen Lightweight Market Toms (TR)
- 14059 - Res. Champion Pen Lightweight Market Toms (R)
- 14060 - Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Toms (TR)
- 14061 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Mediumweight Market Toms (R)
- 14062 - Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Toms (TR)
- 14063 - Res. Champion Pen Mediumweight Market Toms (R)
- 14064 - Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Toms (TR)
- 14065 - Res. Champion Pen Light-Heavyweight Market Toms (R)
- 14066 - Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Toms (TR)
- 14067 - Res. Champion Pen Heavyweight Market Toms (R)
- 14068 - Grand Champion Pen Market Turkeys (PR)
- 14069 - Res. Grand Champion Pen Market Turkeys (PR)

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

1. Countywide banding of breeding stock chickens will take place at the fairgrounds on Sunday, August 17, 2025, or Monday, August 18, 2025, 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 section.
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

- 14070 - Young standard male (Young = hatched this year)
- 14071 - Best-in-Show in Class 14070 (R)
- 14072 - Mature standard male (Mature = hatched prior to this year)
- 14073 - Best-in-Show in Class 14072 (R)
- 14074 - Champion Standard Male, Classes 14071 & 14073 (TR)
- 14075 - Young standard female
- 14076 - Best-in-Show in Class 14075 (R)
- 14077 - Mature standard female
- 14078 - Best-in-Show in Class 14077 (R)
- 14079 - Champion Standard Female, Classes 14076 & 14078 (TR)
- 14080 - Young Bantam male
- 14081 - Best-in-Show in Class 14080 (R)
- 14082 - Mature Bantam male
- 14083 - Best-in-Show in Class 14082 (R)
- 14084 - Champion Bantam Male, Classes 14081 & 14083 (TR)
- 14085 - Young Bantam female
- 14086 - Best-in-Show in Class 14085 (R)
- 14087 - Mature Bantam female
- 14088 - Best-in-Show in Class 14087 (R)
- 14089 - Champion Bantam Female, Classes 14086 & 14088 (TR)

- 14090 - Grand Champion Breeding Stock Chicken (PR)  
 14091 - Res. Grand Champion Breeding Stock Chicken (PR)

**Section 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 Section G 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**

- 14092 - Tom  
 14093 - Best-of-Show in Class 14092 (R)  
 14094 - Hen  
 14095 - Best-of-Show in Class 14094 (R)  
 14096 - Champion Breeding Stock Turkey (TR)  
 14097 - Reserve Champion Breeding Stock Turkey (R)

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

1. Exhibitors may exhibit in a maximum of two classes in this section.
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 14, 2025.**
5. Best-of-Show dozen eggs will be auctioned at the small animal auction.

**Class**

- 14098 - 1 dozen white standard chicken eggs  
 14099 - 1 dozen brown standard chicken eggs  
 14100 - 1 dozen other color standard chicken eggs  
 14101 - 1 dozen bantam chicken eggs  
 14102 - 1 dozen duck eggs  
 14103 - Best-of-Show in Egg Production (TR)

**Section H - Pigeons**  
**(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Pigeons must be registered at the countywide tagging on Sunday, August 17, 2025, or Monday, August 18, 2025, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
2. Exhibitors may exhibit in a maximum of two classes in this section.
3. Exhibitors will be required to pay \$2.00 per pen for feed/bedding costs at time of check-in.

**Class**

- 14104 - Show-Type - Female  
 14105 - Show-Type - Male  
 14106 - Best-in-Show Show-Type Pigeons (R)  
 14107 - Tumblers/Rollers/Homers - Single male or female  
 14108 - Best-in-Show Tumbler/Roller/Homer Pigeons (R)  
 14109 - Champion Pigeons (TR)

**Section I - Ducks**  
**(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Ducks must be registered at the countywide tagging on Sunday, August 17, 2025 or Monday, August 18, 2025, 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 section.

**Class**

- 14110 - Pair of Young Standard Ducks (Young = hatched this year).  
 14111 - Best-in-Show Young Standard Ducks (R)  
 14112 - Pair of Mature Standard Ducks (Mature = hatched prior to this year).  
 14113 - Best-in-Show Mature Standard Ducks (R)  
 14114 - Champion Standard Ducks (TR)  
 14115 - Pair of Young Bantam Ducks  
 14116 - Best-in-Show Young Bantam Ducks (R)  
 14117 - Pair of Mature Bantam Ducks  
 14118 - Best-in-Show Mature Bantam Ducks (R)  
 14119 - Champion Bantam Ducks (TR)

**Section J - Geese**  
**(Placing premium table = 102)**

1. Geese must be registered at the countywide tagging on Sunday, August 17, 2025, or Monday, August 18, 2025, 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 section.

**Class**

- 14120 - Pair of Young Geese (Young = hatched this year).  
 14121 - Best-in-Show Young Geese (R)  
 14122 - Pair of Mature Geese (Mature = hatched prior to this year).  
 14123 - Best-in-Show Mature Geese (R)  
 14124 - Champion Geese (TR)

**Department 14 - Rabbits**

*Emily Redmond, Superintendent*  
*Kayla Irelan, Assistant Superintendent*  
*Nancy Mangus, Assistant Superintendent*  
*Kaley Thornburgh, Assistant Superintendent*  
*Diane Zinsmaster, Assistant Superintendent*

1. See [www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions](http://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. 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 (Section A).

6. **COUNTYWIDE TATTOOING: Sunday, August 10, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 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 sections 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 (Section C), Market Kindling Report (Section K), and Rabbit Science (Department 69 - Sciences, Section H).
10. All market and breeding stock rabbits will be weighed, checked in and housed in 4-H Rabbit Barn on **Friday, September 12, 2025, 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 2025:** Cloverbuds, Showmanship, Breeding Stock, Market (kindled by member then purchased).

## Section 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. Exhibitors who have both breeding and market rabbits must complete an interview for each. Failure to complete the appropriate evaluation(s) 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 13, 2025, 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

- 1501 - Market Rabbit Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1502 - Best-of-Show in class 1501 **(R)**
- 1503 - Market Rabbit Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1504 - Best-of-Show in class 1503 **(R)**
- 1505 - Market Rabbit Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1506 - Best-of-Show in class 1505 **(R)**
- 1507 - Breeding Stock Rabbit Project Evaluation - exhibitors 8-11 years old
- 1508 - Best-of-Show in class 1507 **(R)**
- 1509 - Breeding Stock Rabbit Project Evaluation - exhibitors 12-14 years old
- 1510 - Best-of-Show in class 1509 **(R)**
- 1511 - Breeding Stock Rabbit Project Evaluation - exhibitors 15-19 years old
- 1512 - Best-of-Show in class 1511 **(R)**

## Section 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

- 1513 - Rabbit Fitting & Showmanship, 8-11 **(TR)**
- 1514 - Rabbit Fitting & Showmanship, 12-14 **(TR)**
- 1515 - Rabbit Fitting & Showmanship, 15-19 **(TR)**

## Section 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 13, 2025**, 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 rabbit must weigh a minimum of 3 lbs. with a minimum total pen weight of 9 lbs. and maximum total pen weight of 17 lbs. Pens weighing less than 9 lbs. or more than 17 lbs. **will be ineligible for show and sent home immediately.**
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 Emily Redmond, Rabbit Superintendent, if you are unsure whether a breed qualifies.
9. Exhibitors may make one entry in either Section D or E.

#### **Class**

- 1516 - Market Rabbits Kindled from Exhibitor's Own Breeding.
- 1517 - Champion Lightweight Pen. (TR)
- 1518 - Reserve Champion Lightweight Pen. (TR)
- 1519 - Champion Light-Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1520 - Reserve Champion Light-Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1521 - Champion Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1522 - Reserve Champion Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1523 - Champion Heavyweight Pen. (TR)
- 1524 - Reserve Champion Heavyweight Pen. (TR)

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

1. Read and follow rules in Section D.

#### **Class**

- 1525 - Purchased Market Rabbits.
- 1526 - Champion Lightweight Pen. (TR)
- 1527 - Reserve Champion Lightweight Pen. (TR)
- 1528 - Champion Light-Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1529 - Reserve Champion Light-Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1530 - Champion Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1531 - Reserve Champion Mediumweight Pen. (TR)
- 1532 - Champion Heavyweight Pen. (TR)
- 1533 - Reserve Champion Heavyweight Pen. (TR)

#### **Section E - Championship Market Rabbits**

1. To be chosen from the winners of Classes 1516-1524 and 1525-1533.

#### **Class**

- 1534 - Grand Champion Pen Market Rabbits. (PR)
- 1535 - Reserve Grand Champion Pen Market Rabbits. (PR)

#### **Section 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 13** 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 21, 2025, BY 8:00 A.M.**

#### **Class**

- 1536 - Senior Doe, 7 months of age or older.
- 1537 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1538 - Champion Crossbred Doe. (TR)
- 1539 - Reserve Champion Crossbred Doe. (TR)
- 1540 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1541 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1542 - Champion Crossbred Buck. (TR)
- 1543 - Reserve Champion Crossbred Buck. (TR)
- 1544 - Grand Champion Crossbred Rabbit. (PR)
- 1545 - Reserve Grand Champion Crossbred Rabbit. (PR)

#### **Sections 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 13** 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 21, 2025, BY 8:00 A.M.**

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

#### **Class**

- 1546 - Senior Doe, 7 months of age or older.
- 1547 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1548 - Champion Fancy Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1549 - Reserve Champion Fancy Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1550 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1551 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1552 - Champion Fancy Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1553 - Reserve Champion Fancy Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1554 - Grand Champion Fancy Purebred Rabbit. (PR)
- 1555 - Reserve Grand Champion Fancy Purebred Rabbit. (PR)

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

#### **Class**

- 1556 - Senior Doe, 7 months of age or older.
- 1557 - Junior Doe, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1558 - Champion Commercial Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1559 - Reserve Champion Commercial Purebred Doe. (TR)
- 1560 - Senior Buck, 7 months of age or older.
- 1561 - Junior Buck, 6 months of age and younger.
- 1562 - Champion Commercial Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1563 - Reserve Champion Commercial Purebred Buck. (TR)
- 1564 - Grand Champion Commercial Purebred Rabbit. (PR)
- 1565 - Res. Grand Champion Commercial Purebred Rabbit. (PR)



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

**Educational Objective:** To show knowledge gained throughout Kindling Project.

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

- 1566 - Exhibit completed 4-H Market Rabbit Kindling Report and 11" x 14" poster containing six photographs  
1567 - Best-of-Show Mkt. Rabbit Kindling Report. (TR)

## Department 16 - Horses & Ponies

*Jo Jo Campbell Torrey, Superintendent*  
*Racheal Hartman, 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#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 Seat, Competitive Trail, Jumping, Classical Dressage, Bareback and at all practice events. The helmets must meet the American Society for testing and Materials (ASTM) testing standards, must be manufactured and distributed by a participant in the certification program of the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) and must bear the SEI certification label. (See 4-H Bulletin "[Michigan 4-H Horse and Pony Project Rules and Regulations](#)".)
  9. All exhibitors are required to wear the number assigned by 4-H Horse Council (HC) for each corresponding horse/exhibitor combination while being judged in any 4-H class at the St. Joseph County Fair.
  10. **All animals must be checked in by exhibitor or immediate family member unless prior arrangements are made in writing and filed at the MSU Extension office 24 hours in advance of check in times at the fair.**
  11. All horses and ponies must be checked-in and stalled at the fairgrounds **by 5:00 p.m. Saturday, September 13, 2025**. HC Executive Board will do a walk through from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Horses must remain in their stalls during this time. Horses and ponies may arrive **Friday, September 12, 2025 per leader permission**.
  12. All requests for trailering in are to be made in writing to the 4-H Horse/Pony Project Superintendent, or in their absence to the Assistant Superintendent. For a copy of the form see [www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_horse\\_and\\_pony#Forms](#).
  13. Each club member will be responsible for filling at least one stall at fair. Equine to be stalled must be on file in the county registration book and have a negative Coggins.
- ### Health Requirements
14. See [www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/exhibitions](#).
  15. Michigan law requires that all equine entered in exhibitions, expositions or fairs must test negative to an official Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test (**Coggins Test**) within the calendar year, or the previous 30 days, and be able to present proof in the form of an official EIA laboratory report (Coggins Test Report). Proof of testing will be required as follows:
    - A. A copy of the Coggins Test Report for each horse/pony to be exhibited at fair must be attached to the exhibitor's Horse Fair Entry Form.
    - B. The exhibitor must have the original Coggins Test Report on-site at the fairgrounds and must be prepared to produce the test report upon request.
  16. All 4-H project animals intended for exhibition at fair must be physically able to be stalled at the fair for the entire week.
  17. Exhibitors who remove their project animal(s) from the fairgrounds without approval will forfeit their related premiums and will not be allowed to exhibit in any remaining fair classes. Once removed, project animal will not be allowed on fairgrounds the remainder of the week. See your leader or Horse Council Board member if removal is needed, as a vet check may be required. Fee for the veterinarian is only assessed if care is provided.
  18. All horses and ponies must be fed, watered, and exercised daily.