Montcalm County 4-H Fair
GENERAL RULES and REGULATIONS
All exhibitors and club leaders must read and carefully follow all rules and regulations listed in current fairbook. All 4-H forms are available online at https://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/info/montcalm and/or www.montcalmcountyfairgrounds.com.

FAIRGROUNDS
1. The Montcalm County Fair Association and/or 4-H Fairboard will not be responsible for any injury, loss, or damages whatever the reason incurred while camping/visiting on the fairgrounds, including responsibility for personal accidents or loss or injury to an exhibit, although precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of exhibits.
2. Unauthorized animals and/or pets are not allowed on the fairgrounds at any time, with the exception of dogs. Dogs are allowed in the camping area ONLY and MUST BE LEASHED/TIED or CAGED AT ALL TIMES. Exhibiting dogs are allowed in their assigned areas during show times.
3. Exhibition and other authorized animals must be properly caged, penned, stalled, or under the direct control of their handler and remain in the assigned areas for their species.
4. An 11:00 p.m. curfew on the fairgrounds will be enforced unless accompanied by a parent or leader.
5. Quiet hours, 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., are to be observed.
6. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES ARE PERMITTED ON THE FAIRGROUNDS, including in the entire camping area and parking areas.
7. Any exhibitor or person showing disrespectful and/or unsportsmanlike behavior, as deemed by the Fairboard, may be asked to remove themselves, or be removed, from the area or from the fairgrounds and/or not return and forfeit all premiums and awards.
8. Golf Carts or utility vehicles must register with the fair office. Proof of insurance and a $40 registration fee will be required to be licensed for use during fair week. These vehicles are to be operated ONLY by licensed drivers and only on roads or parking areas of fairgrounds.
9. BICYCLES are NOT allowed on the fairgrounds.
10. Overnight camping and tents are permitted in designated camping areas ONLY, and must follow campground rules issued with their camping assignment.
11. No roaming solicitors allowed on the fairgrounds.

YOUTH EXHIBITS
1. Any project, animal or still exhibit that might jeopardize the safety of the exhibitor, other exhibitors, or the public will be dismissed from the grounds.
2. The Superintendent, and 4-H Program Coordinator, and a member of the Fairboard will handle controversies or conflicts. It is the intent of the Fairboard to deal promptly and decisively on all issues at the time of the incident. A complaint/appeals process is listed.
3. Classes are open to all youth age 9 – 18 as of January 1st of the current year.
4. Youth ages 5 – 8, as of January 1st of the current year, may participate in Cloverbud Classes, which are NOT eligible for competitive placing.
5. Entry forms will be available at the MSU Montcalm Extension office, online or from your club leader.
6. Exhibitors may enter only one (1) exhibit in each class, unless otherwise stated. Check department rules for exceptions or restrictions.
7. All projects must be exhibited in the owner’s name and shown by the owner, with the exception being that of a properly leased animal. OWNERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL MARKET ANIMALS. Exhibitors of Market Rabbits must have the sire or dam in their possession by April 1st of the current year.
8. Project animals or still exhibits may NOT be shown in a youth class at any other Fair during the current calendar year.
9. Recommended dress for showing livestock is white shirt, dark pants (black dress pants), and leather shoes/boots unless specifically listed in project area. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to learn the expectations of standard dress, if applicable, or safety requirements.
10. No animal may be shown by more than one (1) exhibitor, except Cloverbuds, when required under Cloverbud rules.
11. Still projects (non-animal) must be the original work of the exhibitor and completed by the owner since last year’s fair.
12. Resource information for youth projects can be located in the 4-H Bulletins and all exhibitors are expected to be able to tell the judge about their project and what they have learned.
13. The MSU Montcalm Extension office will pre-assign 4-H/FFA club members and youth exhibitor numbers, to be sent to club administrative leaders. All other exhibitors will be assigned a number upon receipt of entries.
14. Administrative Club Leaders need to provide by June 1st an estimated need for exhibit space and participation in terms of animal pens and stalls needed to the MSU Montcalm Extension office.
15. Placing is at the discretion of the judge. Judge’s decisions are FINAL.
16. The judge will select projects for additional honors in each division. From this honor group, outstanding ribbons may be awarded. Best in Show may be selected from the outstanding projects.
YOUTH EXHIBITS (CONTINUED)

17. Early release of animals or exhibits, prior to the stated dismissal time, must have written pre-approval by Department Superintendent, MSU Montcalm Extension office and Montcalm County Fair Association Fairboard by June 1st. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of all ribbons and awards and a one year probation from showing that species at the Montcalm County 4-H Fair.

18. Exhibits will be released as of 6:00 a.m. the Sunday ending fair. All exhibits must be picked up by 11 a.m.

MONTCALM COUNTY 4-H FAIR CODE OF CONDUCT and DRESS CODE

Exhibitors, leaders, and spectators are asked to abide by the following guidelines while at the Fair. We are proud of your individuality and sense of style, but wish to remind you that you represent the public image of the Fair and 4-H in Montcalm County.

1. Profanity and vulgar suggestions (including displayed on clothing) are NOT permitted and may result in removal of an exhibitors, leader or parent from the area or grounds.

2. Clothing promoting or advertising alcohol or illegal drugs, or dealing with death, destruction or suicide will NOT be permitted.

3. Exposed undergarments are NOT permitted. Pants or shorts must be appropriately fitting and be worn around the waist (no sagging or exposure).

4. Conspicuously thin garments, bare midriffs, swimsuits or halter tops are NOT permitted in exhibiting areas.

5. Professionally tailored sleeveless clothing will be appropriate in the show ring or sale ring.

6. Appropriate leather footwear is required. No open style such as sandals, flops, etc. Tennis shoes appropriate in some areas.

7. 4-H/FFA theme or logo t-shirts or polo’s are allowable including in the auction ring. Showmanship clothing attire is also allowed.

8. Cell phones are NOT permitted in the show ring or sale ring.

9. ALL parents, club leaders and superintendents are asked to support and encourage proper conduct.

COMPLAINT/APPEALS PROCESS

Exhibitors may not file a complaint or appeal on judging results. All judging results are final.

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

1. Conflict of interest of the judge.
2. Disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor.
3. Exhibitor, group leader or superintendent behavior.
4. Eligibility of exhibit.

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

1. Exhibitors are allowed to file a written complaint within 10 days after the end of the fair.

2. Any exhibitor who wishes to file a complaint/appeal shall obtain a complaint/appeal form from the Fairboard.

3. The form must be returned to the Fairboard office or mailed to “MONTCALM COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 513, GREENVILLE MI 48838”.

4. The Fairboard will notify the exhibitor in writing upon receipt of the complaint/appeal form.

5. The complaint/appeals committee shall consist of the Montcalm County Fair Association Executive Committee.

6. The committee shall meet within 15 days of receipt.

7. The committee shall investigate on a per case basis by contacting all parties involved to ask questions and clarify details, as well as reviewing the rules and pertinent documentation.

8. 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.

9. The exhibitor may make an appeal to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development within 45 day of filing the initial complaint/appeal, if the exhibitor is not satisfied with the Montcalm County Fair Association’s action. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development 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 recommended actions for the Montcalm County Fair Association.