

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council



Policies & Procedures

www.northwestmichiganlivestockcouncil.org

Updated 3-3-2025



The **Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council** (4-H Livestock Council) coordinates and oversees the 4-H Livestock programs exhibiting at the Northwestern Michigan Fair (NWMI Fair). Working closely with Michigan State University (MSU) Extension 4-H Program Coordinators and staff, they bring livestock education to youth from five counties in Northern Michigan: Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Kalkaska, and Antrim.

The Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council works within the guidelines and parameters set forth by MSU Extension 4-H, the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE), and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

4-H Mission Statement: 4-H is a youth development program that involves volunteers in providing positive, experiential educational opportunities for and with youth. 4-H's mission is to create environments, through collaboration, that build strong, healthy youth who are proactive in a complex and changing world.

4-H Motto: "To Make the Best Better"

4-H Colors: Green (representing life, growth, and youth) & White (representing purity and high ideals)

4-H Pledge:

I Pledge:

My HEAD to clearer thinking

My HEART to greater loyalty

My HANDS to larger service

My HEALTH to better living

For my club, my community, my country, and my world

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

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2025 Michigan State University Extension County
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JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							
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LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETINGS

DATE	TIME	DUE
JANUARY 6, 2025	6:30 pm	*Large Beef and Dairy Beef Registrations Due 01/20/25
FEBRUARY 3, 2025	6:30 pm	Swine Registrations
MARCH 3, 2025	6:30 pm	Dairy Feeder, Goat, Junior Beef, Lamb, & Poultry Registrations
APRIL 7, 2025	6:30 pm	
MAY 5, 2025	6:30 pm	Horse, Llama & Alpaca, and Rabbit & Cavy Registrations
JUNE 2, 2025	6:30 pm	Dog Registrations
JUNE 23, 2025	6:30 pm	
JULY 21, 2025	6:30 pm	
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025	6:30 pm	Record Books
OCTOBER 6, 2025	6:30 pm	Thank You Notes
NOVEMBER 3, 2025	6:30 pm	**Annual Meeting**
DECEMBER		NO MEETING

**EDUCATION EXPO
FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

Grand Traverse
Resort and Spa
Education Credits Due: June 30, 2025

2025 WORK BEES

DATE	TIME
MAY 3 rd	9:00 - 10:00 am
	2:00 - 3:00 pm
MAY 15 th	6:00 - 7:30 pm
JUNE 18 th	6:00 - 7:30 pm
JULY 23 rd	6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Northwestern Michigan Fair
August 2 – 10, 2025**

Important Dates - 2025

Species	Registration Date	Possession Date	Birth Date/Age
Dairy Beef	January 20	January 1	< 19 months at weigh in
Dairy Feeder	March 4	March 1	After December 1
Dog	June 2	N/A	At least 6 months old (At least 1 year for agility)
Goat	March 3	May 1	After November 1 (Market Only)
Horse	May 5	N/A	N/A
Junior Beef	March 3	May 15	After January 1
Large Beef	January 20	January 1	< 19 months at weigh in
Lamb	March 3	May 1	After December 1
Llama/Alpaca	May 5	N/A	N/A
Poultry	March 4		
- Cornish Game Hens		June 30-July 5	4 weeks at weigh-in
- Ducks		May 26 - 31	9 weeks at weigh-in
- Geese		April 7-12	16 weeks at weigh-in
- Production Pullets		Oct 15 - Jan 31	6-10 months at weigh-in
- Meat Chickens		June 2 - 7	8 weeks at weigh-in
- Turkey		April 7-12	16 weeks at weigh in
Rabbit/Cavy	May 5		
- Pen of 3		May 1	Bred: April 24 Birth: May 26 Max Age 70 days
- Single Fryer		May 1	Bred: April 24 Birth: May 26 Max Age 70 Days
- Single Roaster		April 17	Bred: January 3 Birth: February 3
Swine	February 3	May 1	After January 1

Market Weight Requirements- 2025

Species	Minimum Market Weight	Maximum Market Weight
Dairy Beef	1,000 lbs.	None
Dairy Feeder	350 lbs.	None
Goat	65 lbs.	None
Junior Beef	300 lbs.	700 lbs.
Lamb	100lbs.	None
Poultry		
- Cornish Game	2 lbs. per bird	3 lbs. per bird
- Ducks	4 lbs. per bird	None
- Geese	8 lbs. per bird	None
- Production Pullets	None	None
- Meat Chickens	5 lbs. per bird	10 lbs. per bird
- Turkey	15 lbs. per bird	None
Rabbit/Cavy		
- Pen of 3	3.5 lbs. per rabbit	5.5 lbs. per rabbit
- Single Fryer	3.5 lbs.	5.5 lbs.
- Single Roaster	5 lbs.	8lbs.
Large Beef	1000 lbs.	None
Swine	225 lbs.	315 lbs.

2025 Arrival Times, Entry Gates, & Requirements

Species	Arrival times	Entry gate	Required
Swine	6am – 10am	4	840 Tag, Health Record
Large Beef	7am – 11am	4	RFID Tag, 4H Tag, Health Record
Dairy Beef/Feeder	7am – 11am	4	RFID Tag, 4H Tag, Health Record
Jr Beef	7am – 11am	4	RFID Tag, 4H Tag, Health Record
Lamb	10am – 12am	4	Scrapies Tag, 4H Tag, Health Record
Goat (Market)	10am – 11am	4	Scrapies Tag, 4H Tag, Health Record
Goat (Breed)	10am – 11am	4	Tattoo w/ Scrapies Tag or Certificate of Registry, Health Record
Rabbit/Cavy	10am – 2pm	4	Ear Tattoo, Health Record
Poultry	10am – 2pm	4	Proof of Pullorum Free, Health Record
Llama/Alpaca	11am – 2pm	4	Health Record
Horse	Noon – 4pm	4	Coggins, Health Record

- All vehicles enter the main fairground entrance and exit at gate 1.
- Animals walking in must stay on the dirt road...Do NOT walk through the food court area.
- There will be NO PARKING on Blair Townhall Rd during fair week. Do NOT park in the main fairground parking lot as that is for the paying public...You WILL be towed.
- 4-H parking is provided across from the fairgrounds off of Blair Townhall Rd, at Bloxsom Roofing, or behind the campground under the power lines. All livestock trailers must be parked under the power lines.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Youth Members' Responsibility Check List

Pre-Fair:

- Join a registered 4-H Club in Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Antrim, or Kalkaska County
- ENROLL in 4-H via <https://v2.4honline.com>
- Complete 4-H Livestock Council's species-specific ONLINE REGISTRATION no later than the deadline posted for the species. No late registrations will be accepted
- Earn two EDUCATION CREDITS from 4-H Livestock Council and/or MSU approved educational events by June 30th
- Sign up & serve one hour of WORK BEE clean-up at the fairgrounds
- Abide by all rules and responsibilities outlined in the 4-H Livestock Council's POLICIES & PROCEDURES, SPECIES-SPECIFIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES, and the 4-H YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT
- Complete all REGISTRATION PAPERWORK for the NWMI Fair no later than the deadline printed in the NWMI Fair Premium Book

During Fair:

- Attend the FAIR MEETING for all participants of the NWMI Fair, held the first Saturday of the fair
- Attend the BARN MEETING for each barn in which you have an animal
- Properly CARE FOR ANIMALS throughout the week of fair
 - Follow posted feeding & exercise times
 - Clean stall/pen/cage daily and follow disinfection protocols
- Complete BARN DUTY as scheduled for each barn in which you have an animal
- SHOW in the appropriate showmanship, market, and/or breed classes
- Participate in the LIVESTOCK AUCTION, if appropriate
- Pose with your animal(s) for BUYERS' PHOTOS
- CLEAN stall/pen/cage before leaving the fairgrounds

After Fair:

- Youth are required to turn in one completed record book (showmanship or market). If youth are exhibiting in market or in multiple species, you are required to complete the record book for your market project. Examples: Jane shows beef cattle in showmanship and market; Jane completes a record book in beef cattle. John shows swine, horses, and goats, and markets his hog; John completes a record book for hogs. Sally shows chickens, rabbits, and dogs all showmanship only, and decides to complete the record book for rabbits.
 - To be turned in at the September 4-H Livestock Council meeting

- Market Projects: Write a THANK YOU NOTE to the buyer
 - Deliver note and a 5x7 copy of the photo to the buyer
 - Submit a copy of the note to the 4-H Livestock Council at the October meeting

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council

Youth Code of Conduct

Youth participating in any 4-H Livestock Council activity must follow the Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct that each member signs annually through 4-H Online:

Participation in Michigan 4-H programs is subject to the observance of the program rules. Any participant who knowingly violates this Code of Conduct is subject to discipline, up to and including removal from the activity he or she is participating in (at their own expense) or the entire county 4-H program.

Determination of disciplinary action shall be done with input from volunteers and staff overseeing the program or activity. Final decisions about discipline will be made by the MSU Extension staff.

Michigan 4-H members will:

1. Show respect for, and cooperate with, fellow members, volunteers and staff.
2. Follow 4-H policies and procedures (including 4-H Livestock Council procedures) when participating in any 4-H sponsored event.
3. Under no circumstances possess, sell or consume alcohol or possess, sell or use controlled substances at an MSU Extension 4-H youth activity or event.
4. Under no circumstances attend or participate in an MSU Extension 4-H youth activity or event under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances including tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vapes, etc.
5. Under no circumstances bring dangerous or unauthorized materials (such as explosives, weapons or similar items) to an MSU Extension 4-H youth activity or event.
6. Under no circumstances, commit or threaten violence toward any individual, group, the 4-H Livestock Council, or the Northwestern Michigan Fair board.
7. Abstain from harassment or bullying of another participant, volunteer or staff member (either in face-to-face interactions, through social media or other communication venues), particularly when the behavior is disrespectful as regards a person's gender, race, age, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability or appearance.
8. Not cheat or falsely represent efforts related to 4-H project activities.

Any participant who violates the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Youth Code of Conduct is subject to discipline that may include:

1. Removal from the activity/event he or she is participating in.
2. Disqualification from some or all 4-H Livestock Council activities including the livestock auction for the following year.
3. Contact of Law Enforcement authorities if youth are in possession of or under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substance including tobacco, electronic cigarettes, etc.
4. Seniors not being permitted to return the next year & participate in the 4-H Livestock program or auction as a "Super Senior".
5. During the week of fair, the NWMI Fair Board Members have the right to discipline as they see fit in compliance with the NWMI Fair policies and rules as posted and printed in the current year's Premium Book.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council **Youth Members' Rules & Responsibilities**

To be a successful 4-H youth member, a young person needs to:

- Strive to become the best he/she can be, consistent with the ideals expressed in the 4-H pledge and motto.
- Exhibit good character at all times, both within and outside of 4-H activities
- Serve as a positive role model for younger 4-H members
- Respect the rights of the 4-H Livestock Council board, 4-H leaders, parents, and other members
- Exhibit a willingness to learn
- Accept responsibility for your actions
- Strengthen, promote, and support the 4-H program, the 4-H Livestock Council, 4-H clubs, and 4-H members through positive comments and actions

Youth Member Responsibilities:

1. Enroll EACH YEAR as a 4-H member via the 4-H Online Registration process at <https://v2.4honline.com>.
 - a. Enrollment acknowledges that you have read and agree to abide by the 4-H YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT at all times.
2. Be an ACTIVE member in a registered 4-H club by attending all club functions and participating in planning and carrying out of club activities.
 - a. Older members are encouraged to serve as teen leaders and/or club officers and serve as mentors to new/younger members.
 - b. The club leader should be notified if attendance at any club event or activity is not possible.
3. Submit the appropriate ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM by the deadline for each project that will be entered in a 4-H Livestock Council show that year. Registration links can be found on the species-specific pages on the Livestock Council's website.
4. Complete 2 REQUIRED EDUCATIONAL CREDITS for the current year.
 - a. Attend at least 2 educational events to learn about 4-H, raising a livestock animal, or a specific aspect of a 4-H market/show project (selection, nutrition, showmanship, etc).
 - b. Credits must be earned no later than June 30th for the current year.
 - c. All education credits must be approved by a 4-H Livestock Council Board member.
 - d. Dates and times of educational events will be announced at the 4-H Livestock Council's monthly meetings, posted on the Livestock Council's website and on Facebook, and emailed to the 4-H Livestock Council's email list as they become available.
5. Attend 1 hour of a WORK BEE clean-up events at the fairgrounds each year.
 - a. Register for the work bee via the Sign-up Genius system.

- b. Dress appropriately and bring the necessary tools to participate in that work
 - c. bee's activities. Notifications are sent via email as to what is needed.
 - d. Dates and times of work bees are announced at 4-H Livestock Council meetings and printed on the annual calendar. No make-up sessions will be scheduled.
6. Abide by all 4-H market and/or non-market animal requirements as outlined in the NORTHWEST MICHIGAN 4-H LIVESTOCK COUNCIL POLICIES & PROCEDURES including, but not limited to, the proper care of the animal(s) before, during, and after the NWMI Fair.
7. Participate in REQUIRED ACTIVITIES while at the NWMI Fair, including:
- a. Obtain and wear a wristband indicating your participation throughout the week of fair.
 - b. Attend the MANDATORY meeting for all participants of the NWMI Fair
 - c. Properly care for the animal(s) throughout the week of fair:
 - i. Wear protective footwear at all times when working with your animal.
 - ii. Abide by posted feeding and exercise times for each barn.
 - iii. Properly clean the animals' pen/stall/cage(s):
 - 1. Daily as posted in the rules for each barn.
 - 2. Prior to leaving the NWMI Fair's grounds.
 - d. Show in the appropriate 4-H Livestock Council showmanship, market, and/or breed classes and participate in the 4-H Livestock Council's Market Auction if appropriate. Classes and auction line-up will be posted in each barn.
 - e. Fulfill species-specific duties, including barn duty, as scheduled by the species chairperson. Rules and responsibilities to be discussed at the barn's meeting and posted in each barn.
 - f. Pose with your animal(s) for a "Buyer's Photo" to be taken by a professional photographer at the assigned time and location for the species.
 - i. Must occur at the specified location – NOT in the auction or show ring.
 - ii. MANDATORY for ALL MARKET animals.
 - g. Abide by the 11pm mandatory CURFEW for all 4-H youth participants. All youth members need to be at their campsite by curfew.
8. Youth are required to turn in one completed record book (showmanship or market). If youth are exhibiting in market or in multiple species, you are required to complete the record book for your market project. Examples: Jane shows beef cattle in showmanship and market; Jane completes a record book in beef cattle. John shows swine, horses, and goats, and markets his hog; John completes a record book for hogs. Sally shows chickens, rabbits, and dogs all showmanship only, and decides to complete the record book for rabbits.
- a. Record Books: Completed hardcopy Record Books are due at the September NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Those not submitted by the November NWMI 4-H Livestock Council will be suspended from 4-H livestock classes and auction at the

NWMI Fair the following year.

9. Market Projects: Write a THANK YOU NOTE to the buyer and deliver it along with a 5x7 copy of the "buyer's photo" that was taken at the fair to the buyer NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1st of the current year.
 - a. It is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED that the photo be framed and delivered in person to the supporting buyer.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council

Consequences for Violations

- **4-H Livestock Council and Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct** – consequences may include:
 - Immediate disqualification from the 4-H event/activity
 - Disqualification or limitation from participation in 4-H Livestock classes and auction held during the NWMI Fair the following year
 - Illegal activities WILL result in contact with the law enforcement authorities
- **Registration** – Failure to complete the species-specific registration form by the posted deadline WILL result in:
 - Disqualification from participation in that particular species' 4-H shows and the livestock auction at the NWMI Fair for that year
- **Education & Work Bee Requirements** – Failure to complete any of these requirements by the posted deadline WILL result in:
 - Disqualification from participation in 4-H livestock shows and the livestock auction at the NWMI Fair for that year
- **Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Policies & Procedures** – Failure to comply with any and all rules and regulations outlined in the Policies & Procedures, including the proper care of the animals, may result in:
 - Disqualification from participation in the 4-H Livestock Council activities for the current or following 4-H Program year, including participation in livestock shows and the livestock auction at the NWMI Fair
- **Record Books (All Species)** – Completed hardcopy Record Books are due at the September NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Those not submitted by the November NWMI 4-H Livestock Council will be suspended from 4-H livestock classes and auction at the NWMI Fair the following year.
- **Thank You Notes (Market Projects Only)** – Copy of Thank You notes are due at the October NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Those not submitted by the November NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting will be suspended from 4-H livestock classes and auction at the NWMI Fair the following year. Please make sure to deliver a thank you note along with a 5x7 copy of the buyers' photo to the buyer no later than OCTOBER 1st.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council

Youth Members Age Policy

The following age requirements have been established for the 4-H Program in the five counties in our area that participate in the NWMI Fair.

1. **4-H Market & Showmanship** – To participate youth must be between eight (8) and nineteen (19) years of age on or before January 1st of that calendar year. For safety reasons, to participate in the 4-H market steer and/or heifer project, youth must attain the age of thirteen (13) or older on or before January 1st of that calendar year OR twelve (12) with two years of prior market cattle experience.
2. **Cloverbud Showman** – To participate in the 4-H Cloverbud program, the youth must be between five (5) and seven (7) years of age on or before January 1st of that calendar year.
3. **Super Senior Showman** - Super Senior is a term used with the 4-H Livestock Council for youth who have graduated from high school and in 4-H age they are still eligible to participate in our local fair with an animal project a year after graduation. Super Seniors may not be able to participate in selecting species due to overcrowding in the barns.
4. **Differently Abled** - Members of the Differently Abled 4-H Program may take part in 4-H activities through the age of 26. Adults with disabilities over the age of 26 may be able to participate at the discretion of the county 4-H program coordinator.

No youth or adult will be discriminated against, excluded from, nor denied benefits of any MSU Extension program or activity on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council

Youth Member's Registration

Registration Forms:

1. Registration MUST be submitted online NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT on the day of the posted deadline. Registration links can be found on the Livestock Council's website:

January

Large Beef
Large Dairy
Beef

February

Swine

March

Dairy Feeder
Goat
Jr Beef
Lamb
Poultry

May

Horse Llama/Alpaca
Rabbit/Cavy

June

Dog

2. It is important submitted forms are complete and accurate.

Registration Regulations:

1. Members may only register one (1) MARKET animal.
2. If a member wishes to drop after registration, he/she must communicate with the appropriate species chair as soon as possible. Once dropped, registration will not be reinstated.
3. Registration with the 4-H Livestock Council does NOT constitute registration with the NWMI Fair. Members must still register for the fair via the online Premium Book.
 - a. All online forms must be filled out completely and submitted to the NWMI Fair no later than the posted deadline.
 - b. Members must register for ALL classes including 4-H and Open. No additions to classes will be allowed following the registration deadline.
4. Registration with the 4-H Livestock Council and the NWMI Fair PROHIBITS market livestock participants from participating in any other market program at any other fair the same calendar year. Violation of this rule WILL result in suspension for the 4-H Livestock Council and the NWMI Fair the following year.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council

Animal Project Requirements

General Requirements for ALL Animal Projects:

1. The 4-H member must be the primary caregiver of the animal from possession date until the end of the fair.
2. Cloverbud showmen who are 5-7 years of age must be always accompanied by parent, guardian, or Gold level volunteer when feeding, working with, or showing an animal. The member must be able to work with and handle the animal him/herself. The adult is present to provide support and guidance should a problem occur.

Market Project Requirements:

1. Members may only register one (1) MARKET animal/project.
2. Registration with the 4-H Livestock Council and the NWMI Fair PROHIBITS market livestock participants from participating in any other market program at any other fair the same calendar year. Violation of this rule WILL result in suspension from the following year's 4-H Livestock auction.
3. All market animals must be ear tagged according to MDARD standards. Ear tags must be fully intact in order to unload at the fair.
4. All market animals are weighed on the first Saturday of the fair on annually certified scales. Weights at that time are the official sale weight for the auction.
5. Showmanship requirements for market projects:
 - a. In order to market a large animal (beef, Jr beef, dairy beef/feeder, swine, lamb) the exhibitor must use the same animal in their 4-H showmanship class as they will show in their market class for placement in the livestock auction.
 - b. In order to market a small animal (goat, poultry, rabbit) the exhibitor must show an animal that they own in a 4-H showmanship class from that species.
 - c. In order to sell a market animal on 4-H auction day, the 4-H member must be present and show in the appropriate showmanship and market classes, except by permission of the Executive Officers of the 4-H Livestock Council and the respective species chair. This permission will be clear and in writing and filed in the respective county 4-H office.
6. All market participants MUST have a professional photo taken of them with their animal while at the fair. Photos taken in the show and/or auction ring do NOT count. In extenuating circumstances, show photos may be used upon approval of the species chair and executive board.
7. Market Project Fees:
 - a. All fees will be deducted from the sale check before it is presented to the participant.
 - b. Commission – Each participant will be assessed a commission of 4% of the gross sale price, up to \$400 received at the auction sale. This money goes to the 4-H Livestock Council and is used to cover the cost of the council including: the buyer luncheon, advertising, educational events, resources, and necessary supplies. The commission shall cover all fees including buyer photos, trucking, mandatory livestock promotion fees, etc.
 - c. Buyers' Photos – Additional copies can be purchased from the photographer directly.
 - d. National Beef, Pork, and Lamb Promotion – These are nationally required fees for the sale of beef, pork, and lamb. These fees are

subject to change.

- e. Trucking – All 4-H auction animals going on a processing truck have a trucking cost which is paid for by the 4% commission. Non-auction animals can be shipped to processing for the following fees: \$50 per lamb or goat, \$75 per swine, or \$100 per large cattle.
8. Post Fair Requirements:
 - a. **Record Books (All Species)** – Completed hardcopy Record Books are due at the September NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Those not submitted by the November NWMI 4-H Livestock Council will be suspended from 4-H livestock classes and auction at the NWMI Fair the following year.
 - b. **Thank You Notes (Market Projects Only)** – Copy of Thank You notes are due at the October NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Those not submitted by the November NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting will be suspended from 4-H livestock classes and auction at the NWMI Fair the following year. Please make sure to deliver a thank you note along with a 5x7 copy of the buyers' photo to the buyer no later than OCTOBER 1st.
9. Market checks will be issued at the October NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Checks must be cashed within 90 days. If the participant is delinquent in cashing the check, a \$25.00 reprocessing fee will be added. The original check must be presented when the new check is received. If the check has been misplaced, an additional \$35.00 fee will be assessed to stop payment on the original check.
10. If a large animal market project (lamb, cattle, swine) dies during the project, the participant should notify the species chair and the respective county 4-H Program Coordinator. Permission to replace the animal may be granted by the species chair in conjunction with the executive board of the 4-H Livestock Council. No replacements will be considered after June 1st, except for Jr. Beef projects which will be considered until July 1st.

Non-Market & Breed Projects:

1. A 4-H member may register as many non-market and breed animals as they can adequately care for at home and handle at the fair. When registering multiple animals, consider the possibility of overlapping show schedules.
2. Breed animals may NOT be shown in market classes.
3. All non-market and breed animals MUST be ear tagged or tattooed to meet MDARD standards.
4. All participants with a non-market or breed animal project MUST show in the appropriate showmanship class for that species.
5. Participants with a non-market or breed project may be required to complete a project record book. Youth are required to turn in one completed record book (showmanship or market). If youth are exhibiting in market or in multiple species, you are required to complete the record book for your market

project. Examples: Jane shows beef cattle in showmanship and market; Jane completes a record book in beef cattle. John shows swine, horses, and goats, and markets his hog; John completes a record book for hogs. Sally shows chickens, rabbits, and dogs all showmanship only, and decides to complete the record book for rabbits.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Club Leaders' Responsibility Check List

MSU Extension 4-H Volunteers are adults who have successfully completed the MSU Extension 4-H Volunteer Selection Process and have maintained their status as an MSU Extension 4-H volunteer with their respective county MSU Extension office.

Pre-Fair:

- Maintain your 4-H Club's active status in Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Antrim, or Kalkaska County
- Maintain MSU Extension 4-H volunteer status
- Remind all members to enroll in 4-H online
- Provide all club members with information to complete 4-H Livestock Council species-specific online registrations and communicate all deadlines posted for each species. No late registrations will be accepted
- Provide information to all club members about how to earn 2 EDUCATION CREDITS from 4-H Livestock Council and/or MSU Extension approved educational events
- Provide information about Fairground Work Bee clean-up dates and times to all club members, so they may complete 1 hour of required clean-up
- Ensure that all club members are aware of all rules and responsibilities outlined in the 4-H LIVESTOCK COUNCIL'S POLICIES & PROCEDURES, SPECIES-SPECIFIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES, and the 4-H YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT
- Make sure your members complete their online registration for the NWMI Fair no later than the deadline printed in the NWMI Fair Premium Book. Provide all club members with registration deadlines and information on how to obtain a Premium Book.

During Fair:

- As a club, attend the FAIR MEETING for all participants of the NWMI Fair; held the first Saturday of the fair
- Remind all club members to attend the BARN MEETING for each barn in which they have an animal
- Ensure that all club ANIMALS ARE BEING PROPERLY CARED FOR throughout the week of fair
- Provide information to all club members about schedule commitments such as showmanship, market, and/or breed CLASSES and BARN DUTY
- Ensure that all market participants from the club pose with their animal(s) for BUYERS' PHOTOS
- Ensure that all club stalls/pens/cages are CLEAN before leaving the fairgrounds

After Fair:

- Remind all members of the importance of completing RECORD BOOKS. **Record Books (All Species)** – Completed hardcopy Record Books are due at the September NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Those not submitted by the November NWMI 4-H Livestock Council will be suspended from 4-H livestock classes and auction at the NWMI Fair the following year.

- **Thank You Notes (Market Projects Only)** – Copy of Thank You notes are due at the October NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Those not submitted by the November NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting will be suspended from 4-H livestock classes and auction at the NWMI Fair the following year. Please make sure to deliver a thank you note along with a 5x7 copy of the buyers' photo to the buyer no later than OCTOBER 1st.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council **Leader Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the code of conduct is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants. Leaders in the 4-H Livestock Council must abide by the Michigan State University Extension Code of Conduct that each Volunteer has signed in Volunteer Central. Please review the current code of conduct here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/volunteer-code-of-conduct>

It is expected that all MSU Extension volunteers comply with the Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with any component of the code or participation in other inappropriate conduct as determined by MSU Extension representatives may lead to dismissal as a volunteer from the MSU Extension program.

The Role of a 4-H Leader

As an **ORGANIZER**, the 4-H Leader:

- Maintains a 4-H club's active status and encourages all 4-H families, youth members, and volunteers to enroll in the 4-H online system
- Remind members of the deadlines for submitting species-specific online registrations
- Secures educational project resources.
- Keeps members and parents informed of 4-H events and activities and encourages families to participate.
- Involves parents in all the club's activities. Please keep in mind that unless adults are a current Gold level volunteer, they should only work with their own children.
- Serves as the liaison between the club and the 4-H Livestock Council and the county MSU Extension office.

As a **FACILITATOR**, the 4-H Leader:

- Helps members choose their projects and guides them in their learning.
- Works with club officers to plan the club's annual program as well as plan and conduct each club meeting.
- Guides committee members who are planning club activities and special projects.
- Explains and guides teen leaders in their duties. For example, helps teens arrange tours and other club events to help 4-H members learn.
- Helps members see how they can become active in improving their community.

As a **TEACHER**, the 4-H Leader:

- Sets an example that teaches positive values and behaviors such as punctuality, responsibility, respect for others, the dignity of work, etc.
- Teaches subject matter related to the specific project chosen by members.
- Keeps abreast of developments in the project area.
- Helps members plan and present demonstrations.
- Conducts tours and other club events to reinforce what members have learned.
- Encourages record keeping.

Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council

Leaders' Rules & Responsibilities

1. Register/re-enroll your club with the MSU Extension office each fall by attending an annual update meeting through MSU Extension and turn in all required annual club paperwork to your respective County 4-H Program Coordinator by November 1st. Remind each club member/family to enroll/re-enroll in 4-H Online 2.0 system.
2. Club leaders must maintain a MSU Extension Gold level volunteer status and ensure they have enough Gold level volunteers in their club to have at least 1:8 adult to youth ratio. Cloverbuds should have a ratio of 1:6 adult to youth.
3. Attendance will be taken at Council Meetings with roll call of clubs.
4. It is highly recommended leaders, or another adult from the club, attend as many educational clinics as possible and ALL of the 4-H Livestock Council monthly meetings, especially June (2 meetings), July, and September. Check the yearly calendar or the 4-H Livestock Council website for dates, times, and locations. www.northwestmichiganlivestockcouncil.org
5. It is the leaders' responsibility to provide information to all club members about properly registering their projects with the 4-H Livestock Council. Online registration must be COMPLETED and submitted NO LATER THAN THE DEADLINES posted on the website. Registration links can be found on the species-specific pages of the Livestock Council's website.
6. Ensure that all members have possession, are properly tagged, and meet all other project-specific deadlines.
7. Provide all members with information about Fairground Work Bees so they can complete the required 1 hour of work. Leaders are asked to attend at least 1 work bee to help supervise 4-Hers.
8. Provide information to all members about how to earn 2 education credits by the June 30th deadline. Education credits must be earned at a 4-H Livestock Council event, MSU educational event, or another educational event that receives approval from the species chair before the event.
9. All club administrative leaders are required to serve on one committee of the 4-H Livestock Council. If the leader fails to sign up for a committee by the March meeting, the executive board will assign them to one.

10. Leaders are required to hold a minimum of six 4-H club meetings per year, with an educational focus. These meetings should include opportunities to learn about the specific species in the club. If leaders need help gathering information to be taught, they should contact the MSU Extension office or the appropriate species chair.
11. Leaders are responsible for providing all members with NWMI Fair registration information, including deadlines and how to obtain a Premium Book. No late registrations will be accepted.
12. After the fair, leaders are responsible for reminding all members to turn in their species-specific record book and send an appropriate thank you note and buyers' photo to their buyer.

Record Books: Completed hardcopy Record Books are due at the September NWMI 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Those not submitted by the November NWMI 4-H Livestock Council will be suspended from 4-H livestock classes and auction at the NWMI Fair the following year.

Market Projects: Write a THANK YOU NOTE to the buyer and deliver it along with a 5x7 copy of the "buyer's photo" that was taken at the fair to the buyer NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1st of the current year.

- b. It is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED that the photo be framed and delivered in person to the supporting buyer.

Tips & Things to Know for Fair Week

Prior to Fair:

1. Have 4-H club shirts made for members, leaders, and parents to wear during the week of fair. Many clubs will wear these on auction day and when they have their buyers' photos taken. NOTE: It is NOT appropriate for members to wear their club shirts during a show or for an adult that is officially helping with the show to wear their shirt.
2. Leaders are encouraged to order a name tag to wear during fair week. Contact an executive board member prior to the June meeting during one of the 4-H Livestock Council meetings to order.
3. Help recognize your high school seniors by getting the appropriate species chair a photo and bio about your senior members. Photos are often displayed at the end of the barn and the bios are read during their show.
4. Obtain the official final copy of the fair week schedule so that you can ensure everyone is where they need to be at the appropriate times. Final schedules are handed out at the July 4-H Livestock Council meeting and posted on the website and on Facebook. You will know that it is the final and official schedule because it will be printed on green paper.
5. Pen/Stall Set-Up:
 - Ensure that club decorations and signs do not block airflow to your animals or those around you.
 - No lights, of any type, are allowed as part of the decorations.
 - All pens must display a 4-H Livestock Council provided "Pen Card" with youth and animal information. White signs are for market animals and green signs are for Cloverbud and/or show only animals.
 - Have pens/stalls filled with sawdust and ready for the animals before arrival day. Plywood or stall mats may be required under the sawdust, refer to species-specific requirements.
6. Plan for what supplies your club will need:
 - Transportation – Be sure that every club member has a safe way to transport their animal to the fair.
 - Animal Supplies – Wheelbarrows, shovels, feed bins, water buckets, cleaning & grooming supplies...These will all have to be stored at your campsites so sharing can be beneficial. Make sure that all items are labeled with the member's or club's name.
 - Personal Items – Northern Michigan weather is unpredictable... Remind members to plan for all sorts of weather. Also be sure that every member that is working with an animal has the appropriate footwear. Boots are highly recommended at all times when working with large animal projects.
 - Camping – The fair board will assign a time and location for each camper to be brought in prior to fair. All campers are required to have a sign indicating who is staying in that camper. Camping is the responsibility of the NWMI Fair, and all policies should be adhered to.

- Be sure to get all supplies to your camp area before fair begins. There are NO vehicles allowed on the grounds after the first Saturday evening. Plan accordingly!
7. Members are NOT required to stay at the fairgrounds throughout the week; however, they are still responsible for their animals. Make sure arrangements have been made so that all club animals are being cared for while members are off grounds.

During Fair:

1. Remember all 4-H members, leaders, and parents are ambassadors for 4-H, the 4-H Livestock Council, and the NWMI Fair throughout the entire week of the fair. Greet visitors, be friendly and helpful and answer questions visitors may have. Visitors will walk away with an impression of the entire 4-H program and the NWMI Fair. Positive attitude and demeanor are important!!!
2. All 4-H members and siblings are given a wristband that they must wear throughout the week. This will serve as their gate pass should they need to leave the grounds. Leaders and parents should consider purchasing a weekly or annual pass if they intend to come and go from the grounds. Wristband questions should be directed to a NWMI Fair Board Director.
3. Attend the daily Leaders' meeting to stay informed on issues and events that are taking place throughout the week.
4. Be sure to check the posted show schedules early in the week. If you believe there is a problem with the schedule as posted, contact the appropriate species chair as soon as possible. NOTE: Postings should reflect all classes the members signed up for. Classes can NOT be added once registration has closed.
5. Show Etiquette:
 - Parents and other spectators should not talk to 4-H members while in the show ring.
 - It is inadvisable to talk to the judge before or during the show. If you have a question for the judge, respectfully approach them after the show is complete and the results have been announced.
6. Curfew for 4-H youth members is 11:00 pm each evening; youth members need to be at their campsite by curfew.

Saturday – Check In Day

1. Be sure all animals are CLEAN and groomed before arrival at the fair.
2. Refer to the green colored fair week schedule for the following:
 - a. Arrival times: Ensure that all animals are checked in within the provided window for that species.
 - b. Gate assignments: Traffic through the fairgrounds during check-in times is controlled for safety. Enter through the assigned gate based on what species is being dropped off and follow traffic flow signage.
 - c. Health Records: Ensure that all members have the appropriate species-specific health record with them when they check-in.

- d. Weigh-in: All market animals must weigh in on certified scales at their assigned time on Saturday. Swine will weigh in as they unload from the trailers.
 - e. Barn Meetings: All barns will have a meeting to ensure that the youth know what is expected of them throughout the week. This will include times that the animals can be fed and exercised.
3. Attend the meeting held in the grandstands Saturday evening.

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday

1. Refer to the printed green schedule for both 4-H and Open show days and times.
2. Ensure pens are being cleaned and animals are exercised at the posted times in each barn.
3. Encourage club members to show their support by attending other members' shows.
4. Buyer pre-registration is Wednesday evening. Encourage your market members to stay near their animals as many buyers will be walking through the barn looking to talk to the 4-H youth.

Thursday – Auction Day

1. While your members are in the auction ring:
 - a. Cheer them on...Crowd enthusiasm can be infectious
 - b. Watch for the location of the buyer and take note of the appropriate name
 - c. After the animal has been returned to the barn, have members find their buyer to personally thank him/her/them for the support.
 - i. Please remember if you are offering a gift to your buyer at this time it needs to be manageable as the buyer will have to carry gifts back to the front parking lot.
2. Lunch is provided for all market 4-H members on Thursday as well as all registered buyers. Other 4-H youth and family members may purchase a lunch.
3. Be sure all market youth have had their picture taken by the professional photographer. This is REQUIRED. (NOTE: Refer to the green schedule for species-specific times which may fall on a different day. If a member has missed their scheduled photo, check with the photographer to see when they can reschedule)

Friday

1. MORE SHOWS
2. Reduced rates on carnival rides for all 4-H members.
3. A dance is held in the evening for 4-H members and 1 guest complete with a DJ and refreshments. Refer to the green schedule for dance times based on age.

Saturday

1. Morning Award Ceremony: High school seniors and grand & reserve champions are recognized. Other special awards are presented at this time and there are always LOTS of prizes to be handed out as well.
2. Showmanship Showdown: The overall showmanship champion will be determined following a "Round Robin" competition in which all grand champion showman will compete for the top honor.
3. Reduced rates on carnival rides for all 4-H members.
4. Fair Queen Pageant: Support 4-H and community candidates at the final stage of the competition for the crown.
5. Games: Encourage your members to compete with other 4-H youth for fun and prizes. Water balloons, eggs, tug-o-war (for barn bragging rights), and more.

Sunday – Load Out Day

1. All animals must be checked out of the barn by the species chair before loading.
2. Processing trucks will begin loading at 5:45am. Be sure that all animals are fed, and the youth are available to help load their animals BEFORE 5:45am. The earliest animals can leave the grounds on a processing trailer is 5:45am. The poultry and rabbit barns will open at 7am so that those animals can be prepped for processing or removed from the grounds. All self-pick-up animals can't start loading until 9am and they have until 12pm.
3. All animals and stalls cleaned by 12pm
 - a. NOTE: The process of loading the animals can be difficult for all those involved; please be available to help wherever and whenever possible.
4. Pen cards must remain visible until the animal has been loaded on the truck.
5. After the animals have been loaded, ensure that all club members fully clean their pen/stall area. If the pen/stall is not cleaned out once the barn is empty, you may be called to return to the barn/fairgrounds to clean it up.
6. It is highly recommended that all equipment and supplies used to care for animals be cleaned and thoroughly disinfected prior to taking them home.
7. Campers can begin leaving at 6am. Please ensure that everyone moves slowly and cautiously as there will be lots of people and animals moving about.

The Role of a 4-H Parent

The parents of 4-H members can contribute greatly to their child's learning experience. To make 4-H most meaningful, the parents can:

1. Support their child by providing "Shadow Leadership", whereby they offer guidance, but stand aside to ensure the project stays the **child's** project.
2. Attend club meetings and participate in club activities; consider completing the 4-H Volunteer Selection Process. A parent can only work with their own children unless they are a current Gold level volunteer.
3. Attend monthly 4-H Livestock Council meetings and monitor emails often to stay informed. The 4-H Livestock Council Facebook page is also available.
4. Read and refer to the 4-H Livestock Policies & Procedures for details regarding the program in general as well as species-specific requirements.
5. Support the 4-H leaders' efforts.
6. Keep communication lines open with the club's leaders and other parents.
7. Ensure their child completes the requirements of the project, including the livestock record book, the two educational sessions, and the required two hours of clean-up at the fair; dates and times of the latter will be announced at 4-H Livestock Council meetings and printed in the minutes.
8. Be informed of the ending weight requirements of the animal the member is raising; understand that under-weight and/or over-weight animals (per official weigh-in) are not eligible to be marketed in the 4-H auction.
9. Understand the parent and/or the 4-H'er has full financial responsibility for the animal from the time of possession until the animal is loaded on the truck at the fair (or the new owner has physical possession). This includes medication & vet expenses.
10. At the Fair, ensure their child is where they are supposed to be – and on time.
11. At the Fair, assist before/during /after any events their child is involved in, from moving chairs to putting up fencing to cleaning up afterwards, etc.
12. Assist with their child's species events throughout the week.
13. After fair, ensure child has sent the buyer a thank-you note and official fair picture.



Appendix

www.northwestmichiganlivestockcouncil.org

2025 Committees of the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council

Everyone's help is needed to provide a wide range of quality learning experiences for 4-H members. It is important that 4-H volunteers, teen leaders, members, and parents volunteer to serve on one or more of the 4-H Livestock Council committees.

It's required for 4-H club administrative leaders to serve on a committee. If they do not choose one by March 1st, they will be appointed to a committee by the Executive Board.

The current committees of the 4-H Livestock Council and the assigned responsibilities are:

Annual Meeting Committee - Works with the executive board and MSU Extension in planning, executing, and running the Annual Meeting in November. They also help set up and teardown the Annual Meeting.

Auction Committee – Headed by the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of the Livestock Council. It has a CORE Committee that consists of 10 people and a Volunteer Committee that helps with miscellaneous items and the auction. Their responsibilities are to keep the computer information up to date and accurate with all of the 4-H members' Livestock Registration Sheets, handle weigh-ins, placings, auction packets, auction day, and trucking reports. They also help prepare the 4-H member checks for distribution, accept the Thank you notes, hand out checks to 4-H members, and place the thank you ad in the local paper.

Auction Refreshments - Coordinate clubs to serve the buyers in and outside the arena.

Auction Snack Gathering – Coordinates 4-H clubs to bring donations of snacks and beverages to serve to buyers on auction day.

Auction Ring Setup and Teardown- Assists with setting up and tearing down of auction arenas in the Rosa and Haberlein arenas.

Awards Ceremony - Helps with organizing and distributing awards/ribbons on show days and the award ceremony.

Buyers Luncheon - Secure catering and work with the catering company to serve our buyers and 4-H members food on auction day. Ideally, two clubs work together -- one in charge & one in training; the latter takes over the next year if necessary.

Can Drive Pick-up and Return- Placement of can barrels; responsible for collecting all of the cans from locations on the Fairgrounds daily; return cans at the end of the fair for deposit and gives money the Livestock Council Treasurer

Cherry Festival Parade – Register along with NWMI Fair with the Cherry Festival for the parade. Organize and coordinate entry if doing float, tractors, animals, etc. Work with the executive board to get banners, etc. for the festival. Communicates to the membership the details of the entry, i.e. theme, needs of decoration, expectations, along with staging location and timeframes.

Education - Assist educational clinics with the species chairs for members covering all the livestock species. Will also assist the Executive Board, Livestock Council Board and MSU Extension with the Education Expo.

Friday 4-H Dance - Host the dance in Rosa Arena on Friday night, including hiring a DJ, securing donations, set-up, clean-up, and securing chaperones.

Fair Week Activities – Coordinate activities for youth several nights of fair week.

Fair Set Up - Work with Livestock Council Board in setting up the Livestock Council part of the fair and assist the fair board on any jobs that must be done.

Fair Take Down - Work with Livestock Council Board in tearing down the Livestock Council part of the fair and assist the fair board on any jobs that must be done.

Fun Saturday - Coordinate kids' games for all the 4-H members on Saturday in the Haberlein Arena. Seeks donations and organizes prizes.

Fun Classes - Planning and organizing and executing Fun Classes on Friday. Secure donations of prizes awarded.

Photography - Coordinate pictures of animals and their 4-H owner. Contact photographers, set-up date, time, price, etc. Choose an area for photos and set up backdrops. Pick up pictures from the photographer(s) and coordinate distribution at the September 4-H Livestock Council meeting. Deliver any pictures that are not picked up at the GT County MSUE office.

Pizza Party- Coordinate pizza party after the mandatory meeting on the first Saturday of Fair. Setup and cleanup.

Work Bees – Guided by the Executive Board and Fair Board. Each 4-H member is required to work a 1-hour work bee on the fairgrounds prior to the fair to participate. Everyone working must bring equipment to work. This committee determines what clean-up, repair, tasks, etc. need to be done before fair. Chairperson will organize and track requirements being fulfilled. **No electronics allowed during work bees.**

Exhibit Barn - Assist MSU Extension staff with the exhibit part of the Tanner Building and activities inside.

Cloverbud Fair Week Activities - Assist MSU Extension staff with Cloverbud activities throughout Fair week.

Showmanship Showdown - Coordinate the competition on Saturday in the Haberlein Arena with each Grand Champion Showman. Secure donations for prizes.



Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Policy



INCLEMENT WEATHER

- ◆ If Northwest Education Services (formerly TBA-ISD) is closed due to weather, the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Executive Board will notify the council if the meeting takes place that night or move to a Zoom Meeting by 3:00 p.m. via Email to Leaders, Facebook, and Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council webpage.