

Statement of Philosophy for Cooperation Between Fairs and Michigan State University Extension

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Statement of Philosophy for Cooperation Between Fairs and Michigan State University Extension

Annually, thousands of people benefit from exhibiting their projects at fairs and exhibitions throughout the state. For 4-H youth, this is an excellent opportunity to showcase and be recognized for what they have learned in the 4-H program during the year.

Michigan fairs and exhibitions are as different and diverse in their purpose and structure as the communities they represent. This diversity creates the potential for misunderstanding the relationship between fairs and MSU Extension.

To help reduce misunderstandings, Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and MSU Extension have developed the following guidelines to help establish a philosophical base for cooperation:

1. Good communication, cooperation and clear understanding of each other's purpose usually results in strengthening the effectiveness of the fair and MSU Extension in the local community.
2. Exhibiting projects is an educational experience for youth.
3. Fairs and MSU Extension are separate entities. Partnerships between the two needs to be developed locally.
4. Opportunities are provided by both fairs and 4-H. Fairs and exhibitions are not inherently MSU Extension or 4-H educational programs. Specifically, fairs are "more" than 4-H and 4-H is "more" than fairs.
5. The purpose of MSU Extension is to provide objective information and education to the public. In the case of 4-H, this process is carried out through the involvement of staff and volunteers.
6. The role of MSU Extension staff is to be an impartial provider of information and education to help local people make effective decisions. Objectivity is essential for MSU Extension to work effectively with audiences of diverse backgrounds and opinions.
7. MSU Extension staff, in an impartial educational leadership role, can facilitate communication between the Fair Board, volunteers and exhibitors.
8. Partnership and involvement of MSU Extension staff, in an educational leadership role, can enhance the educational quality of a fair or an exhibition.
9. Decisions affecting exhibitors and exhibitions should be made and carried out with the involvement of appropriate leadership from the local community.

Common Questions About 4-H and/or Youth Divisions at Fairs

Questions	4-H Division	Youth Division
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County 4-H program sets eligibility • Fair Board approves • MDARD requires fair to offer comparable classes in Youth or Open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Board sets eligibility • County 4-H program may be invited to make recommendations
Types of Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County 4-H program determines possibilities according to projects offered in the county • Fair Board approves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Board determines based on Reg. No. 811 and/or what the board chooses to support • County 4-H may be invited to make recommendations
Access to Exhibit Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Board determines • County 4-H may make recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Board determines • County 4-H may be invited to make recommendations
Scheduling of Events and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Board determines • County 4-H may make recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Board determines • County 4-H may be invited to make recommendations
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County 4-H program assures program is within state and national 4-H guidelines • Fair board assures program is within fair and MDARD rules 	Fair assures program is within fair and MDARD rules
Reporting (as related to livestock auctions, animal tags, number of exhibitors, etc.)	Submit required data to fair administration for 120 Day Report that fair administration will submit to MDARD	Fair required to submit 120 Day Report to MDARD
4-H Rules Apply	Always the case	May be the case; however, if “4-H rules apply,” they must follow all 4-H exhibition rules
Use of 4-H Name and Emblem General: https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/4-H%20Name%20and%20Emblem%20User%20Guide%202014.pdf 4-H Professionals’ Guidelines: https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/4-H%20Name%20and%20Emblem%20Policy%20Guide%204-H%20Professionals%202014.pdf	Can be used in 4-H division of premium book, in promotions, etc with approval of county 4-H staff	May be used with the approval of County 4-H staff as appropriate

Developed: 1993. Reviewed and updated: December 2000 and September 2016.

General Rules and Regulations Relating to Exhibiting at Fairs

Common Questions	4-H Rules	MDARD Rules	Fair Rules
Age Requirement	State 4-H Office recommends age for youth participation in 4-H. County makes final decision within state 4-H policy parameters.	Defined in Regulation No. 811	Fair Board determines age for all open and youth fair divisions
Residency Requirement	Cannot require residency for 4-H membership	No requirement	Fair Board determines and defines in rules if there are any local requirements
Types of Exhibits	County 4-H program determines possibilities according to projects offered in the county	Defined in Regulation No. 811	Fair Board determines based on Reg. No. 811 and/or what the board chooses to support at fair
Livestock Sale	County 4-H program determines rules, if it is a 4-H sale	No Rules	Fair Board determines rules, if it is an open or youth sale
Membership	County 4-H program membership requirements are in effect	Cannot require membership in an organization to exhibit at fair	Cannot require membership in an organization to exhibit at fair
Volunteers	The MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process is administered by 4-H staff	No Rules	Fair Board determines rules, recommended background check for volunteers
Exhibiting at Multiple Fairs	State 4-H strongly recommends that a member does not take the same project in more than one county*	No Rules	Fair Board determines, setting specific rules at the local level is recommended

*Specifically in livestock projects, the following is recommended:

The same animal species should not be entered in more than one fair. For example, if sheep are exhibited in a 4-H division at a county fair, sheep should not be entered in a 4-H division at another fair or exhibition. This is true regardless if it is the same animal or a different animal.

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Common Questions About 4-H Fundraising Partnerships and Activities

4-H clubs and groups may choose to partner with a fair or exhibition through fundraising activities. These partnerships can be mutually beneficial to both groups and strong communication is key. Local partnerships can help create venues where other 4-H events can be held. It is important that all fundraising activities that involve 4-H include educational components. It is also critical that all publicity and signage for the fundraiser clearly state that the funds raised will be donated to the partnering entity and not remain with 4-H.

Questions	Requirements	Prohibited
What is the purpose of fundraising?	It must support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational and 4-H club or group goals • 4-H participation fees • Local partners while providing an educational opportunity for 4-H members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising to support one individual • Fundraising to support personal causes
Do I need approval to have a 4-H fundraiser?	It must be reviewed and approved by the 4-H program coordinator before the activity can be held.	Conducting a 4-H fundraising activity without prior approval from 4-H staff
How can 4-H partner to raise funds for another organization?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H staff and appropriate local committees and/or councils approve the effort • All publicity and signage at the fundraising event must clearly state that the funds raised will be donated to the organization • The fundraising event must include intentional educational and skill-building experiences for youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the fundraiser is not clearly stated on all materials and promotions • There is no educational component
What are appropriate fundraising activities that involve 4-H?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person fundraising that may include provision of a service (for example, car washes) • Youth led, third-party fundraisers (for example, pizza or cookie dough sales) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of <i>GoFundMe</i> and other online crowdfunding sites • Anything that involves alcohol, raffles, bingo and games of chance (for example, <i>Millionaire Parties</i>, <i>Texas Hold'em</i> tournaments, etc.)
How can a 4-H club raise money at the fair?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project explained and permission received for fundraising from fair administration • All 4-H requirements above apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No knowledge of fundraiser by fair administration • Conducting an unapproved fundraiser

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Appropriate Uses for Funds Raised in the Name of 4-H for Use at Fairs

All money generated using the 4-H name and emblem must be used to support educational programs, activities and workshops or supplies that support learning of 4-H youth. While the event does not need to be sponsored by 4-H, it must provide an educational experience for 4-H members. This chart depicts appropriate uses of funds, but does not provide recommendations for use. Decisions should be made locally.

Circumstance	Appropriate Use of 4-H Funds	Inappropriate Use of 4-H Funds
Registration fees for 4-H events including 4-H divisions at fairs	Clear, written process in place for selecting participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal agreement • No clear, written selection process in place
Registration fees for non 4-H events including fair classes	Event is educational and a clear, written process is in place for selecting participants and allocating funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For events or activities that are not educational • If no selection process in place • Funds would be used by non-4-H members
Purchasing equipment or supplies	Equipment or supplies are issued to 4-H members enrolled in a 4-H division using a clear, written process	Equipment or supplies would be issued to or used by non-4-H members
Improving facilities or grounds not owned by 4-H	4-H funds can only be used to improve facilities, grounds or equipment owned by MSU Extension, 4-H youth development	Inappropriate use of 4-H funds. Could consider partnering for fund-raising efforts
Purchasing awards	Issued to 4-H members enrolled in a 4-H division	Any other circumstance
Premiums (monetary awards)	Issued to 4-H members enrolled in a 4-H division	Any other circumstance
Payment of judges	For 4-H members enrolled in a 4-H division	Any other circumstance
Barn decorations for fair	Used by 4-H members or a 4-H group enrolled in a 4-H division and that promotes 4-H club/group efforts	Used by non-4-H members or groups

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