
Fairground Rules and Regulations for LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS:

1. Open Show is open to all ages and from any local. To compete in the Junior Fair Division, the exhibitor must be at least 8 years old and not yet 21 years old as of January 1, 2026.
2. All entries in Open and Jr. Open Divisions must be turned in at the Fair Office **by 2 pm on Sunday July 19, 2026 or online by midnight**. No entries or changes will be accepted after that date. Receipts and tickets for entries mailed in must be picked up at the fair office by Tuesday preceding the fair. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE, FAX OR EMAIL**. Entrants earning \$600 or more must provide a social security number to pick up premium checks. **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU REGISTER ONLINE!**
3. Use a separate entry page for each different department being entered. Additional entry pages can be found on our website (www.mchenrycountyfair.com) or at the McHenry County Fair Office.
4. ALL REGISTERED LIVESTOCK MUST BE ENTERED IN THE OWNER'S NAME. NO EXCEPTIONS!
5. See Department Pages for Check-in times.
6. **Livestock release times are 4:00 pm on the last day of the fair for Auctioned Animals and 6:00 pm on the last day of fair for all other Livestock exhibits.**
7. All cattle must be double-tied, a halter and neck rope and under the control of the owner at all times.
8. Animals will only be allowed to walk to and from shows and to the wash racks. Livestock is to remain in Livestock areas.
9. Each exhibitor is responsible for his/her own feed, bedding, feeders, pails, and manure clean up. Manure is to be put in containers provided by the Fair. Feed and supplies may be brought in between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 am Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday via the East Gate with a limit of 30 minutes for parking. Vehicles there longer will be towed at the owner's expense.
10. After 8:00 am there is **NO PARKING** in or around tents and buildings, including the 4-H Building. Unauthorized vehicles in these areas will be towed at owner's expense! NO EXCEPTIONS.
11. **Livestock Exhibitors will only receive ONE parking pass per Family. This allows each family to have closer parking to the barns in the Exhibitor Parking Lot, located North of Exhibitor Camping, instead of being in the Main Parking Lot.**
12. Pedigrees and/or certificate of ownership will be checked before any animal can show.
13. Special rules relative to specific exhibits will be listed at the beginning of each department.
14. There will be no persons under the age of 19 allowed to stay in the barns at night (except dairy exhibitors). There will be an adult staying in the dairy barn responsible for all overnight dairy exhibitors.
15. No premiums will be awarded or paid for any animal or article unworthy of competition, if any animal or exhibit is removed prior to listed dismissal times, and/or if there are any issues with the Code of Conduct. If Code of Conduct is broken the exhibitor and their exhibits will be asked to leave the grounds.
16. Superintendents have the right to reject entries that are unworthy of competition such as unclean, unmanageable, or otherwise unsuitable to compete. The superintendents' ruling is final. Furthermore, the superintendent may designate the requirements for any animal.
17. Judges have been carefully selected. All persons making entries accept these judges and agree to abide by their decisions. Protest upon any other grounds, or against other than judges, must be made in writing no later than 6:00pm on the day of the show and shall be given to the Superintendent of the department concerned, who shall present such protest to the Fair Officials. The decisions of the Superintendents and Fair Officials shall be final.
18. Premiums will be pro-rated if, because of weather or other cause, receipts are insufficient to pay necessary expenses.
19. **Premiums will be paid by the Fair Association. Checks will be available Sunday afternoon from your livestock superintendent. All checks must be picked up no later than the Friday following the Fair and the premium statement must be signed at that time. Any individual entrant receiving a check for \$600.00 or more MUST provide their Social Security Number before they will be given their check. Checks MUST be cashed within 60 days from the date issued to be valid. Checks will not be reissued. Checks will not be mailed under any circumstance. Checks not cashed will be considered a donation back to the fair association.**

20. Anyone entering livestock in Open or Junior Open shows must pay stall or pen rent unless it is stated otherwise under the individual department rules. If entering both the Open and Junior open show with the same animal or animals the stall or pen rent is only paid once. The Superintendent reserves the right to assign number of pens and location according to space available. There will be no refunds of pen/stall rentals.
 21. All special awards, such as banners, trophies, plaques etc. shall be awarded during the Fair. No special awards will be ordered after the Fair is completed.
 22. Exhibitors or agents making or causing any false statement regarding animals or articles or interfering with the judge or superintendent shall be excluded from any further competition and any premiums awarded shall be forfeited. All entries must be made in the name of the bona fide owner.
 23. **All Exhibitors are required to purchase a weeklong pass.**
 24. **While exhibiting on the McHenry County Fairgrounds, owners of animals in need of additional nutritional supplements or medical attention must let the superintendent know immediately AND have the Fair Veterinarian fill out and sign off on the Veterinarian Treatment Form. Any forced substances used on breed or market animals while on fairground property, must be approved by the Fair Veterinarian. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
-

NEW THIS YEAR: CURFEW ENFORCED

Quiet time and curfew is 12 Midnight – 5:00 am.

All exhibits are closed. This includes grandstand, midway, barns and campgrounds.

Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult during these times.