

Exhibitor Handbook
Eau Claire County Fair
July 19–26, 2026

<https://FairEntry.com>

<http://eauclairecountyfair.fairentry.com/>

Fair Location: 5530 Fairview Drive Eau Claire, WI 54701

Online entries accepted May 22 - June 5, 2026

Entries will close at 9pm

Eau Claire County Fair

Eau Claire County Friends of the Fair Executive Board:

Steven Erdman - President
Derrick Nelson – Vice President
Danielle Strauss - Secretary
Lisa Vetsch-Treasurer
Heather Erdman- Corresponding Secretary
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Rachel Hart-Brinson - 4-H Program Educator	Margaret Murphy-Horticulture Educator
Ryan Sterry-Regional Livestock Educator	Margo Dieck-Health & Wellbeing Educator
Kristi Peterson- Administrative Specialist II	Kristi Peterson-Office Coordinator
Garret Zastoupil-Community Development Educator	Kristen Bruder Area Extension Director
Sandy Tartar-FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator	
Joy Wiesner-FoodWise Nutrition Educator	http://eauclaire.extension.wisc.edu/
Jael M. Wolf-FoodWise Nutrition Educator	

Fair Location: 5530 Fairview Drive Eau Claire, WI 54701

The Eau Claire County Friends of the Fair reserves the right to interpret all rules and regulations. It is understood that each exhibitor at the Eau Claire County Fair agrees to follow the rules and regulations found in the fair book.

All exhibitors must enter online using <http://eauclairecountyfair.fairentry.com/> (NOT 4-H ONLINE)
If you are a 4-H member, your 4HOnline profile will be imported into Fair Entry and you will sign in using the same ID and password that you use in 4HOnline. Exhibitors from other youth groups need to create a user ID and password in Fair Entry the first time they log in. For more detailed instructions visit:
www.eauclairecountyfair.com

Check department regulations for any specific entry requirements. All entries must be entered into the Fair Entry program. No additional entries will be accepted on the entry drop off day.

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What You Need to Know About Fair Judging

You've worked really hard on a project and done your very best. You enter your item in the fair and eagerly await what the judge thinks of your efforts. Sometimes it's good news; sometimes it's disappointing. Watching the judging process should give you an idea of what you should keep on doing and where you might improve. Exhibitors, parents, and anyone else are always welcome and encouraged to watch the judging; however, please do not interfere with the superintendent, department workers or the judge. A good judge will take the time to explain why he/she is placing a grouping in that order. If you still have questions about the judging, wait until the judge is through and then ask politely if he/she could explain a little further. Remember that the judge's decision is final.

There are four types of judging that take place at the fair:

1. **Danish judging:** is used for most of the departments and classes in the junior division. All the entries in one lot number are arranged together so the judge can decide what placing to give them. Each of the entries will get a placing, but there is a limit to the number of blue, red, and white ribbons a judge can give. For example, if six chocolate cakes are entered, only two can get a blue ribbon. There is a Danish judging chart in this fair book which shows how many placings the judge can give in an area.
2. **Regular judging:** is used when there is an open division and in a few classes in the junior division. This means that only four placings can be given in each lot number - one blue, one red, one white, and one pink. If there were more than four items, the rest of the items would not receive a placing.
3. **Conference judging:** means that the entire group of exhibitors for a specific lot number meet with the judge, and the judge briefly discusses each exhibit with the exhibitors. The judge places each exhibit in the appropriate award group by comparing it to the standard of perfection and the quality of the other exhibits according to the Danish system. A judging system using a discussion about an exhibit in a group.
4. **Face-to-face judging:** means that the exhibitor must be present at the time of judging and talk to the judge about his/her entry. This system is designed to make the fair and judging experience more educational for the exhibitor. The judge places the exhibit in the appropriate award group according to the standard of perfection, or the ideal. Semi-private discussions with the following phases: get acquainted, learn the background of the exhibit, self-evaluation, evaluator comment and parting.

Remember, though, that the most important thing is how YOU feel about your project and what you learned. If you did your best and are satisfied with the final result, then be proud of yourself. Think of the experience you gained and look ahead to the next year.

Maximum Placing for State Aid - Danish System

Number of Entries	1st place, no more than	2nd places available	3rd places available	4th places available
1	1	-1	-1	-1
2	2	-2	-2	-2
3	2	1-3	-3	-3
4	2	2-4	-4	-4
5	2	2-4	1-5	-5
6	2	2-4	2-6	-6
7	2	2-4	2-6	1-7
8	2	2-4	2-6	2-8
9	2	2-4	2-6	3-9
10	2	2-5	3-7	3-10
11	2	3-5	3-8	3-11
12	3	3-6	3-9	3-12
13	3	3-6	3-9	4-13
14	3	4-7	3-10	4-14
15	3	4-7	3-11	4-15
16	4	4-8	4-12	4-16
17	4	4-8	4-12	5-17
18	4	5-9	4-13	5-18
19	4	5-9	5-14	5-19
20	5	5-10	5-15	5-20
21	5	5-10	5-15	6-21
22	5	6-11	5-16	6-22
23	5	6-11	6-17	6-23
24	6	6-12	6-18	6-24
25	6	6-12	6-18	7-25
26	6	7-13	6-19	7-26
27	6	7-13	7-20	7-27
28	7	7-14	7-21	7-28
29	7	7-14	7-21	8-29
30	7	8-15	7-22	8-30
31	7	8-15	8-23	8-31
32	8	8-16	8-24	8-32
33	8	8-16	8-24	9-33
34	8	9-17	8-25	9-34
35	8	9-17	9-26	9-35
36	9	9-18	9-27	9-36
37	9	9-18	9-27	10-37
38	9	10-19	9-28	10-38
39	9	10-19	10-29	10-39
40	10	10-20	10-30	10-40

Face-to-Face Judging Schedule

All sign up times will be available at project drop off on Monday July 20, 2026.
All items unless otherwise specified should be dropped off by 8 pm.

Tuesday July 25

Face-to-Face Judging:

- Aerospace-Classes FB-1, FB-2 and FB-3
- Scale Models
- Natural Science with *
- Photography with *
- Computers
- Demonstrations
- Music
- Youth Leadership
- Robotics
- 3-D Printing-with *
- Quilting and Crotcheting
- Garden

Thursday July 27 All Youth Development exhibits come on Thursday at their judging time.

Youth Development (Cloverbud & Exploring) Face to Face Judging. All youth development exhibitors will need to sign up for a judging time via Sign-up Genius found on the Fair's website.

If you have any questions, please contact eauclairefair@gmail.com

Eau Claire County Fair Code of Conduct and Participation Manual

Approved by the Eau Claire County Friends of the Fair

Introduction and Mission

The mission of the Eau Claire County Fair is to effectively support and build a community focused on youth development in leadership, citizenship, and life skills. All participating youth organizations share this goal of fostering positive youth growth, demonstrating responsibility and learning through participation.

In collaboration with youth-serving organizations and county residents, the fair offers opportunities for lifelong learning in agriculture, agribusiness, natural resources, family living, and youth development.

General Expectations for All Participants

The Eau Claire County Fair is a community event built on the values of integrity, learning, respect, and fun. Every person involved plays a role in shaping the experience of others, especially the youth.

All participants—youth, adults, families, and volunteers—are expected to:

- Treat others with courtesy, fairness, and respect.
- Follow all fair rules, policies, and state and federal laws.
- Support a positive and safe environment for all.
- Represent themselves, their organization, and Eau Claire County with pride and integrity.
- Focus on youth learning and personal development rather than awards or competition.

Fairground and Safety Regulations

To maintain a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all attendees, the following regulations apply:

- Exhibit at your own risk. The Eau Claire County Fair is not liable for accidents, injury, or stolen property.
- Substance policy: No illicit drugs, smoking, or vaping on fairgrounds. No alcohol is allowed outside of designated areas.
- Safety first: Everyone is responsible for maintaining a clean, safe environment and for following instructions from fair officials and volunteers.

Part I: Adults and Volunteers

Purpose

Adults—including parents, guardians, volunteers, leaders, and Friends of the Fair members—play a vital role in setting an example for youth participants. Youth are constantly observing adult behavior; therefore, it is the responsibility of all adults to model fairness, sportsmanship, and mutual respect.

Role Model Expectations

- Remember that *kids are watching you today*. They learn from your words and example.
- Winning is not the most important part of the fair; the experience and growth of youth are.
- Focus on effort, learning, and participation, not ribbons or awards.
- Encourage all exhibitors and treat every youth fairly, regardless of project, organization, or achievement level.
- Support and respect all fair volunteers, judges, and staff.

Adult Conduct Standards

All adults and volunteers participating in or attending the Eau Claire County Fair must:

1. Conduct themselves with courtesy, integrity, and professionalism.
2. Abide by all local, state, and federal laws and fair policies.
3. Accept supervision and/or direction from fair staff or designated management volunteers
4. Exhibit good sportsmanship, treat others with respect, and demonstrate appropriate conflict-resolution skills.
5. Make every effort to ensure accessibility and inclusion for all participants regardless of race, color, sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or marital status.
6. Treat all animals humanely and model proper animal care.
7. Refrain from excessive alcohol consumption, smoking, vaping or use of any illicit substances during fair-related activities.
8. Never use their position for personal or financial gain.
9. Report any suspected abuse or neglect immediately to the proper authorities.

Consequences for Misconduct

Failure to uphold these expectations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including:

- Removal from the fairgrounds
- Suspension of privileges or leadership roles
- Loss of future volunteer eligibility

The Friends of the Fair Executive Board retains the authority to suspend or terminate participation if expectations are not met. See Disciplinary Process.

Part II: Youth Exhibitors

Youth Code of Conduct

Junior Fair Exhibitors represent their organizations and the entire Eau Claire County Fair community. Every exhibitor is expected to act with honesty, respect, and sportsmanship. All youth are required to follow the Mutual Respect and Trust Policy, the Dress and Behavior Standards, and all fairground rules.

Dress and Behavior Standards

Junior Fair exhibitors must:

1. Dress appropriately for all judging and showing events. Clothing should be clean, safe, and modest, covering the stomach, chest, back, buttocks, and undergarments.
2. Use respectful language. No swearing or language that could be considered objectionable to exhibitors, families, judges, or fair staff.
3. Follow the substance policy. The use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or vaping products on the fairgrounds is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate loss of all fair privileges.

Consequences for Violations:

- Up to two verbal warnings for inappropriate language; on the third offense, the exhibitor will be asked to leave the show or judging area.
- Any violation of the substance policy will result in immediate forfeiture of premiums, ribbons, and awards, and removal from the fairgrounds.

Mutual Respect and Trust Policy

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Eau Claire County Fair that all individuals—youth and adults—be treated fairly, respectfully, and with dignity. The Fair’s mission is to create a community where learning and personal growth occur in an environment of trust, inclusion, and mutual respect.

Scope

This policy applies to all individuals participating in any fair-related activities, including members of youth organizations (FFA, 4-H, scouting, breed organizations, etc.), volunteers, parents, staff, and visitors. It covers all interactions—face-to-face, written, electronic, and social media communications.

Objectives

- Support the mission of the fair.
- Create positive, fun environments for all.
- Focus on solutions rather than blame.
- Promote collaboration, inclusion, and respect.
- Ensure youth development remains the top priority.

Standards for Conduct

All participants are expected to:

- Demonstrate proper manners and courtesy.
- Use respectful language in all forms of communication.
- Listen actively and consider other perspectives.
- Express disagreements tactfully and privately.
- Show respect for others' ideas, values, and traditions.
- Maintain composure under stress or pressure.
- Empower and trust committees and individuals to fulfill their responsibilities.

Prohibited Behavior

Disrespectful behavior of any kind is unacceptable. This includes but is not limited to:

- Ignoring or dismissing others
- Sarcasm, ridicule, or mimicry
- Rude or condescending language or tone
- Gossiping or negative labeling
- Publicly questioning someone's decisions or actions
- Harassment, discrimination, or any sexually suggestive remarks
- Disrespectful or aggressive behavior on social media

Reporting and Resolution Process

1. **Direct Resolution:** If comfortable, the person experiencing disrespectful behavior should inform the offending individual (verbally or in writing) that the behavior is inappropriate and must stop. If the offender's response is unsatisfactory, or the recipient feels uncomfortable confronting the offender, a grievance can be submitted to the Friends of the Fair.
2. **Grievance Submission:** A written grievance may be submitted to any Friends of the Fair Executive Board Member. Two members of the Executive Board will meet with the parties involved to resolve the issue.
3. **Unresolved Grievance:** If the matter is not resolved by the 2 members of the Friends of the Fair Executive Board, the grievance will be reviewed at a special meeting of the Friends of the Fair Executive Board within 60 days. The meeting will include the parties involved.
4. **Outcomes:** Actions may include mediation, temporary removal from the fairgrounds, or loss of participation privileges. Severe or repeated violations may result in permanent suspension from future fair events.

All grievances and resolutions will be handled with confidentiality and respect for all parties involved.

Equity, Social Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion (ESDI) Policy

The Eau Claire County Fair upholds the principles of equity, social justice, diversity, and inclusion, consistent with Eau Claire County policy.

- Equity ensures fair and just conditions that support every individual's opportunity to thrive.
- Social Justice promotes a fair and equal society where rights are recognized and protected.
- Diversity values the full range of individual and group differences that contribute to a vibrant, dynamic community.
- Inclusion means intentionally engaging all individuals so everyone feels welcome, valued, and able to contribute fully.

Disciplinary Process

The Fair's disciplinary procedures are designed to educate and correct behavior while maintaining safety and fairness. All incidents will be documented in the Fair Office logbook.

Step One: Private counseling with the involved individual(s) to reach understanding and stop inappropriate behavior. Conducted by a superintendent, Friends of the Fair member, or organizational leader.

Step Two: If needed, disciplinary action may include restricted privileges, apologies, or additional duties. Parents or guardians will be notified for youth participants.

Step Three: For serious or unresolved issues, two members of the Friends of the Fair Executive Board will review the incident and determine appropriate actions, which may include:

- a. Removal from the fairgrounds
- b. Suspension or loss of premiums, ribbons, or awards
- c. Suspension or loss of auction proceeds
- d. Loss of future show privileges
- e. Restriction from entering fair property

If an infraction poses immediate risk or severe disruption, temporary removal may be enforced until a formal meeting can be held.

Acknowledgment and Compliance

Participation in the Eau Claire County Fair constitutes agreement to abide by all policies contained in this manual, including the Code of Conduct, Mutual Respect and Trust Policy, and ESDI Policy.

By entering an exhibit, volunteering, or attending as a representative of a participating organization, each individual verifies understanding of and commitment to these policies and accepts the consequences outlined for any violations.

Tips for Exhibitors – Eau Claire County Fair

Judging & Exhibits

- **Face-to-Face Judging**–Be present in departments that require it. Watch for communication regarding signing up for time slots.
- **3x5 Cards**: Check department instructions to see if a 3x5 card is REQUIRED. If you cannot attend judging, you may use a 3x5 card to share special details (methods, materials, techniques).
- **Poster Size**: All posters must be **14” x 22”**, **except for Youth Development**.
- **Work Must Be Yours**: All entries must be the exhibitor’s own work and completed since the last fair unless otherwise specified.
- **Exhibit Check-In**: Exhibits must be checked in by the department’s specified deadline. Late exhibits = ribbon only, no premium or champion eligibility.

Entry Rules

- **FairEntry Deadline**: All entries must be completed online in **FairEntry by the published deadline** to receive premiums.
 - **Late Entries**: Ribbon only, no premiums.
 - **No Exceptions**.
- **Premise ID Required**: Must be included in FairEntry for **Beef, Dairy, Goats, Horse, Poultry, Sheep & Swine**.
- **Special Contest Deadlines**:
 - Food Revue, Clothing Revue – see 4-H newsletter/other mailings.
 - Carcass Contest & Livestock Projects – must be entered in FairEntry or you forfeit premiums & championships.

Exhibitor Eligibility

- Open to **youth ages 8–20** as of January 1 of the fair year.
- **Explorers/Early Childhood**: Ages 5–9 under ATCP 160.65.
- Any youth exhibiting in the Junior Division at the Eau Claire County Fair may not exhibit in the Junior Division of any other county fair—either before or after the Eau Claire County Fair—within the same calendar year. Choosing to exhibit at another county fair will result in forfeiture of all premiums and/or proceeds earned from the Eau Claire County Fair. If your situation falls outside these guidelines, you may request approval from the Friends of the Fair on a case-by-case basis. Exhibitors who are already established with the Eau Claire County Fair do not need to seek additional approval.
- Exhibitors must belong to a recognized youth organization with an educational component.
 - Includes: 4-H Clubs, FFA chapters, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Poultry Association, Jr. Livestock Group, breed associations, Wisconsin Show Pig Association, Farmers Union, Boys & Girls Club, homeschool, and church groups.
- **Exhibitor Expectations** must be met. *****NEW THIS YEAR***** Failure to meet expectations will result in the loss of future eligibility.

Fees

- **Entry Fee:** \$20 per exhibitor (Youth Development & Explorers \$10). Paid in FairEntry by credit card. Late Fee last week of entry is \$50.
- **Animal Entry Fees:**
 - \$2 – Poultry/Rabbit cage
 - \$3 – Swine, Sheep, Goat, Exotic
 - \$5 – Dairy or Beef animal
 - \$6 – Cow/calf pair
 - \$6 – Cow
 - **Showmanship = No fee**

Entry & Exhibit Rules

- Only **one exhibit per lot number** allowed per class/department (no competing against yourself).
- **No pre-entry** required for Best Fitted, President's Class, or championship classes.
- Changes after the deadline = Ribbon only (unless approved by Friends of the Fair).
- **Entry Tags:**
 - Distributed mid-July (watch for details).
 - Must be attached to exhibits/cages.
 - Double-check that department number, lot number, and description match your exhibit.
- **Wrong Class:** Exhibits entered incorrectly will be judged in the correct class and be ribbon only. This means given a ribbon, but will not receive premiums, or be eligible for champion awards.
- **Failure to Follow Instructions:** Missing 3x5 cards, wrong poster size, or missing requirements = loss of one ribbon place and no champion eligibility.
- **General Rules:** See each department's special rules.

Additional Notes

- Articles previously exhibited at the Eau Claire County Fair may not be re-entered.
- Items not listed in the Fairbook cannot be exhibited.
- Fundraising proposals must be approved by Friends of the Fair **before the fair** or will not be permitted.
- Only exhibitors with completed FairEntry are allowed to exhibit.

Live Animal Exhibits – Eau Claire County Fair

Eligibility & Ownership

- Animals must be under the **daily care** of a youth exhibitor.
- Animals must be **owned by the exhibitor** or shown under a **Managerial Agreement** (signed and submitted by May 1).
 - Agreement forms are available at www.eauclairecountyfair.com and must be emailed to eauclairefair@gmail.com.
- **Ownership date:** May 1 unless specified otherwise.
- Exhibitors must be **age 8 or older** during the current project year.

Care & Responsibility

- Exhibitors must provide their own **feed, bedding, water containers, hoses, and equipment**.
- **No hay, straw, or equipment** may be stored in stalls without the superintendent's permission.
- Drinking/watering cups are not allowed. Water tubs used inside the barns must be secured so they are not able to be dumped by animals. Common waterers are not allowed.
- Pens must be **cleaned before animal release on Sunday (except animals that load out Monday morning)**, with manure placed in designated areas.
- Animals must be **fed and watered by 9:00 am each morning**. Pens, aisles, and tack must also be presentable for the public by that time.
- **Failure to properly care for animals:**
 - Warning issued → 2 hours to correct the problem.
 - Failure to correct = forfeit of premiums.
 - The Superintendent and Fair Veterinarian will be notified.
- All animals are exhibited at the **owner's risk** and remain until **4:00 pm Sunday** unless otherwise approved.

Animal Health & Handling

- Carefully read the health rules for each species in the departments you are exhibiting.
- Entry tags and check in forms must be presented to the superintendent before unloading.
- Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring animals arrive to the **judging ring on time**.
- Unruly or dangerous animals may be removed from the grounds.

Animals deemed uncontrollable and unsafe to exhibit will be dismissed from the show ring and/or the Eau Claire County Expo Center. The three-strike rule is in effect if an animal gets away three times in the show ring. Show Management/staff retains the right to warn the exhibitor and dismiss any animal deemed unsafe or uncontrollable at any time prior to the three-strike rule. No premium money will be awarded if an animal is dismissed and will be ribbon only.

- **No animals may be housed with offspring** unless a class is provided.
- Only exhibitors, judges, fair officials, superintendents, and approved ring help are allowed in the show ring.
- **Fitting equipment and chutes** must be removed from aisles after the show.

Showing Rules

- Animals must be shown by the **youth exhibitor listed in FairEntry**, or another Eau Claire County Fair youth exhibitor if approved by the superintendent and/or Friends of the Fair.
- Animals may not be released for other shows during the fair unless approved in advance by **DATCP**.
- All beef entered in purebred classes must have proper registry papers available.
- **Fitting** (clipping, grooming, product use) may only be done by:
 - The exhibitor,
 - Another Eau Claire County Fair youth exhibitor, or
 - Immediate family (parent, step-parent, guardian, sibling, or step-sibling).
- **YQCA Certification** is required for all exhibitors of beef, swine, dairy, sheep, goats, rabbits, exotics, and poultry before entering in FairEntry.

Eau Claire County Bred & Owned

- Highlights animals **bred and raised by the exhibitor**.
- Exhibitor's name must be on the registration certificate as **owner/co-owner and breeder/co-breeder**.

The junior exhibitor's name must be currently listed on the registration certificate as an owner or co-owner of the entry, and also as the original breeder or co-breeder. (State Fair Rules)

Showmanship Rules

General

- **Must be entered in FairEntry** – cannot be added at the fair.
- Danish System of Judging will be used.
- Exhibitors must show their own entry in a regular class.
 - If an animal poses a safety risk, alternative options may be considered (consultation required with superintendent and/or Friends of the Fair).
 - Exhibitors choosing to show another animal without consultation = ribbon only.
- Showmanship classes are held **after regular judging**.

Auction Requirement

- All **Livestock Market Project exhibitors must participate in showmanship** in order to sell at the Livestock Auction.
- The animal sold must be of the **same species** as shown in showmanship.

Rules & Regulations – Eau Claire County Fair

General Oversight

- The **Friends of the Fair** provide overall supervision of the grounds and exhibitions.
- Final interpretation of any rule rests with the Friends of the Fair.

Entries & Exhibits

Judges & Judging Procedures

- Impartial judges will be selected.
- **Danish Judging System** is used.
- **Face-to-Face Judging:**
 - Exhibitor brings the exhibit to the judge.
 - Judge discusses the exhibit with the exhibitor.
 - Exhibit is placed in an award group according to the judge's standard of perfection.
- **Conference Judging:**
 - All exhibitors in a class bring exhibits together.
 - Judge discusses quality with exhibitors.
 - Exhibits placed in award groups by comparison to the judge's standard of perfection and to each other.
- **Attendance:** Exhibits will not receive premiums if the exhibitor is absent during face-to-face or conference judging (unless excused by department superintendent for scheduling conflict).

Awards & Premiums

- **Champions** may only be chosen from among blue ribbon exhibits, awarded at the judge's discretion.
- Exhibits must follow **specific instructions** in each class. Failure means loss of ribbon placing.
- **Wrong Category/Department:** Exhibits may be judged ribbon only. They may be moved down in place but not up.
- **Large Classes (16+)** may be split into equal groups; each judged as its own class.

Conduct & Fairness

- Attempts by exhibitors or family members to influence a judge's decision may result in disqualification of that exhibit.
- Only **Fair Staff, Superintendents, and assistants** may handle judging sheets until all placings are recorded.
- Grievances must be submitted **in writing** to the Eau Claire County Friends of the Fair.

Grounds Regulations

- **Driving:** Careless driving on or near fairgrounds is prohibited by law.
- **Closing Time:** Fairgrounds close at **11:00 PM** daily.
- **Sleeping in Barns:** Prohibited.

- **Substance Policy:**
 - No illegal drugs, tobacco, or vaping allowed.
 - No alcohol consumption except:
 - During open class wine & beer judging event, or
 - In designated entertainment areas.
- Exhibitors and visitors are expected to follow the **Eau Claire County Fair Code of Conduct** for disciplinary processes.

Eau Claire County Fair Camping Rules

Registration & Permission

- Camping is only allowed if **registered through FairEntry** or with **specific permission** from the Friends of the Fair President or Camping Director.
- **Registration opens** with FairEntry.
- **Fee:** \$100 per site (Wednesday through Sunday).
- Camping space is **limited** and assigned on a **first-come, first-serve basis**.

Camping Schedule

- Camping runs **Wednesday through Sunday, 4:00 PM** of fair week.
- Campers can be dropped off starting Sunday at 5 pm.
- All campers, tents, and equipment must remain on the grounds until **Sunday at 4:00 PM**.

Facilities & Restrictions

- **No electricity or water hookups available.**
- **No generator use** during quiet hours.
- **No sewage disposal** of any kind allowed on the grounds.
- **Cooking:** Only LP gas grills are permitted. Charcoal grills are not allowed.
- **No Fires.**
- **No personal ATV, UTV,** or any motorized recreational vehicle.

Quiet Hours & Barn Access

- **Quiet/curfew hours:** 11:00 PM – 5:00 AM, enforced by Friends of the Fair.
- No one may enter the **barns between 11:00 PM – 5:00 AM** under any circumstances.

Grounds Conduct

- **No littering** – garbage must be disposed of properly.
- **Smoking prohibited** at all times on fairgrounds.
- **Alcohol** is only allowed in the designated beer garden.
- **Pets are not allowed** on the fairgrounds.

Adult Supervision

- Each campsite must have an **adult (21+) responsible** for all campers and equipment.
- This adult must **stay overnight** at the site each night of camping.

Ag 5.07 Judging Regulations

- Judging shall be done at county and district fairs by individuals who are registered with the department and who have knowledge, training or experience in the specific class or classes to be judged as determined by the department. Judging shall be done in accordance with the requirements of Chapter ATCP 160. In no case shall any person who is an officer or director of a fair be eligible to judge exhibits at such fair; nor shall any person interested directly or indirectly in exhibits shown in any department of a fair be eligible to judge articles or animals in that department.
- Each judge can find Department classes in the Fair Book found at: www.eauclairecountyfair.com
- No animal or article, irrespective of the number of entries in the class in which it is entered, shall be awarded a higher rating than its merit would entitle it to in comparison to the standard of perfection in the class.
- No state aid will be paid on premiums awarded under the Danish system in any classes except in the junior and educational departments.
- (a) When classes in the junior and educational departments are judged according to the Danish system, 4 group placings shall be awarded in any class. When there are less than 8 exhibitors in the class, there shall not be more than 2 in the first group, not more than 4 in the first 2 groups and not more than 6 in the first 3 groups. If there are 8 or more entries in the class, there shall not be more than 25% in the first group, not more than 50% in the first 2 groups, and not more than 75% in the first 3 groups. The number of awards in the last group placing may be increased to the extent necessary to give awards to all exhibitors.

Eau Claire County Livestock Project

2025–2026 Rules & Regulations

Project Leader: Letecia Papke

Secretary & Treasurer: Heather Erdman

Email: eccountylivestockproject@gmail.com

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Eligibility

- Any youth exhibiting in the Junior Division at the Eau Claire County Fair may not exhibit in the Junior Division of any other county fair—either before or after the Eau Claire County Fair—within the same calendar year. Choosing to exhibit at another county fair will result in forfeiture of all premiums and/or proceeds earned from the Eau Claire County Fair. If your situation falls outside these guidelines, you may request approval from the Friends of the Fair on a case-by-case basis. Exhibitors who are already established with the Eau Claire County Fair do not need to seek additional approval.
- Must be in at least 3rd grade the year before the fair to exhibit, and 4th grade to show a steer.
- Complete the *Livestock Project Acknowledgment of Expectations* and turn in to the Livestock Project Secretary by January 1.

Fees & Family Requirements

- All fees are non-refundable.
- Exhibitor fee of **\$10 (\$40 family max)** must be paid by **January 1**. Non-payment makes exhibitors ineligible.
- Each exhibitor is required to help with **one set-up** and **one clean-up** shift at the fair. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a **5% deduction**.
- Tag fees are **\$5 per tag** (beef, sheep, goat, swine). Poultry are subject to band fees.
- Transportation fees:
 - Beef – **\$40**
 - Swine, Goats, Sheep, & Poultry – **\$20**
- All families must participate in a committee assignment, sign up must be before Jan 1. See the attached Committee Options sheet.
- College or Military exemptions must be submitted before **January 1**.
- Even with an exemption, you must still complete **5 seller contacts** and submit a **Bio Letter**.

Educational & Point System

- **10 Points** required to sell one animal; **18 Points** to sell two animals.
- At least **4 points** must come from livestock educational meetings.
- **All points are due by July 1**. Points earned after July 1 apply to the following year.
- **YQCA certification** required by **April 1, 2026** (not worth points).

Seller Contact & Bio Letters

- **Five (5)** buyer contact forms and Bio Letters are required to sell one animal; **ten (10)** for two animals, must include **business name, signature, and date**.
- Provide a **Bio Letter** sample to the Livestock Project by **July 15**.

Recordkeeping & Fair Participation

- Feed and cost records are required for **each animal** from weigh-in to fair.
- Records due **Thursday by 8 PM** (fair week) or incur a **5% commission penalty**.
- Participation in **showmanship for the species being sold** is mandatory to sell.

Auction Rules

Exhibitors may sell up to **two animals** (one large and one small).

- **Large:** Beef & Swine
- **Small:** Sheep, Goat, & Poultry
 - Animals must meet **both grade and weight requirements** to be sold.
 - All animals that go directly to the locker from the fair will be a part of the carcass contest.
- If you want to take your animal to another fair, you must submit a letter to the Livestock Project.

Health & Safety

- All animals must meet **state and federal health requirements**. State health requirements require all Swine to have health certificates.
- All paperwork and certificates must be **completed prior to unloading** at the fair.

Conduct & Rule Interpretation

- Violations may result in **disqualification** or **suspension** from next year's sale.
- Questions go to the **Livestock Committee**, then **Friends of the Fair**.

Awards & Banquet

- All members must attend the **Livestock Project Awards Ceremony**.
- If unable to attend, submit a **written request for approval** before the fair ends.
- **Unexcused absences** result in a **5% deduction** from the exhibitor's check.

Sales & Commission

- **5% commission** applies to all sales to cover project costs.
- Transportation Fees:
 - \$40 – Beef
 - \$20 – Swine, Sheep, Goats, & Poultry
- Buyers will only pay up to **300 lbs for swine**.

Species Guidelines

Each species has a separate weigh-in date, tag rules, and minimum/maximum weights. See the chart below for details.

Species Information Chart

Species	Weigh-In or Tag Due Date	Location	Recommended Start Weight	Weigh-In Requirements	At Fair Weight Requirements
Beef	Dec 13, 2025 (8–10 AM)	Equity Livestock Auction Barn	500–700 lbs (Beef), 800–900 lbs (Dairy Steers)	Must be haltered, castrated before weigh-in , and dehorned; born in 2025	1,100 pounds & 1.5 lbs ADG
Sheep	Apr 11, 2026 (8–10 AM)	Expo Center FOF Shed	40–70 lbs Born after 12/1 of the current year	Must be haltered and castrated before weigh-in	100 pounds
Goats	Apr 11, 2026 (8–10 AM)	Expo Center FOF Shed	50+ lbs	Born after Dec 1, 2025 ; must be haltered and castrated before weigh-in	
Swine	Tag info & pictures due May 1, 2026	—	40–50 lbs	No weigh-in; must have two ear tags	230 Pounds
Poultry	Possession by July 1, 2026	—	Hatched after Jan 1, 2026	Must meet Market Class requirements	

Heads-up: Swine is a **terminal show**. Confirm processor info with Extra Animal form and trucking fees by July 1.

Livestock Project Deadline Checklist

Task	Due Date	Completed (✓)
Exhibitor Fee (\$10, \$40 family max)	Jan 1, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waivers (college/military)	Jan 1, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
YQCA Certification	Apr 1, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swine Info Forms & Pictures	May 1, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Managerial Agreement (if applicable)	May 1, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poultry Possession/Leg Band	July 1, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extra Animal Form & Trucking Fees	July 1, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seller Contact Letters (5 or 10)	July 15, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bio Letter Sample	July 15, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swine Health Papers	Upon arrival at the grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed & Cost Records Due	Thursday of Fair, 8 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibit Sheets Posted	Thursday of Fair, 8 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buyer Name Added	Saturday of Fair, 10 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend Livestock Awards Ceremony	Date TBD	<input type="checkbox"/>

Committees

Each family will need to provide: 1 adult or a 16+ member to be on a committee. Below is a list of available committees.

- **Awards Banquet:** This committee will be responsible for planning the banquet meal, selecting a venue, and organizing a special banquet for exhibitors after the fair. (5 people)
- **Buyer Appreciation:** This committee's role is significant. They will plan and implement the bidder/buyer meal, decide on the timing of the meal, and curate a menu to ensure that our buyers feel appreciated. They will work with the treasurer to set/maintain a budget. (5 people)
- **Picture:** This committee's responsibilities will include finding a professional photographer, designing a backdrop, purchasing and organizing buyer picture frames, printing photographs, and arranging for the youth to sign them before the auction. (2 people)

- **Auction Set-up:** This committee will coordinate the setup times and ensure that exhibitors attend the auction setup. Note: all exhibitors are expected to help with set up- This committee member will oversee organizing and communicating set-up times with exhibitors. (1 person)
- **Auction:** This committee is entrusted with significant responsibility. They will organize the sale, including coordinating meat lockers, and securing auctioneers and MCs. They will also collect fun fact cards about each exhibitor before the auction. (5 people)
- **Auction Paperwork:** This committee will create sale flyers, programs, auction slips, and all other paperwork that is necessary for the auction. (3 people)
- **Trucking and Loading:** This committee will arrange for the transportation of animals from the Fairgrounds to the lockers and assist with the loadout process. (4 people)
- **Loadout Paperwork:** This committee gathers and organizes all necessary paperwork for transporting animals from the fairgrounds to lockers. They are also responsible for marking animals for specific lockers. (4 people)
- **Education:** This committee is tasked with creating engaging and informative educational presentations, events, games, or demonstrations to be presented at all monthly Livestock meetings. (3 people)
- **Bidder/Buyer Check-In:** This committee will oversee sending out bidder/buyer information packets before the auction. They will organize the check-in table by staffing the table and updating buyer information. (2 people)
- **Awards:** This committee will work with Friends of the Fair to put thank you cards on awards, sort awards, and distribute them to correct places during the fair. (5 people)
- **Thank You:** This committee will coordinate and set up the Thank You station, Sunday of the fair. You will need to help with addressing envelopes, etc. (4 people)
- **Herdsmanship:** This committee oversees facilitating herdsmanship awards, including finding the public to judge the barns, collecting forms, and returning them to Friends of the Fair. (1 person)

Eau Claire County Fair – Use of Ractopamine

Background

Ractopamine-free swine production is now a **market requirement** throughout much of the U.S. pork industry.

- **Ractopamine** (also marketed as *Paylean*® and *Engain*®) is a feed additive that alters how pigs use nutrients and energy, increasing lean muscle deposition and decreasing fat.
- While **approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**, ractopamine is banned in many countries that import U.S. pork. To meet global market demand, many pork processors no longer accept animals fed ractopamine.

Fair Policy

The Eau Claire County Fair Committee **prohibits the use of ractopamine** in all swine project animals exhibited at the Fair.

- **Exhibitors and families must check feed tags** carefully to ensure that ractopamine is not included in any rations provided to project animals.
- **Random testing protocols** will be implemented to confirm compliance.

Violations

- Animals testing positive for ractopamine will result in:
 - **Exhibitor responsibility** for all testing costs.
 - **Replacement of the carcass** for any animal sold through the Eau Claire County Fair Auction.
- Exhibitors found in violation may also be declared **ineligible for future participation** in the Livestock Project and/or Eau Claire County Fair.

Educational Purpose

An integral part of the Livestock Project is learning how to market animal products responsibly and to understand what consumers and industry partners demand. This policy ensures that the Eau Claire County Fair provides a product that meets **current industry standards and consumer expectations**.