

REGULATIONS

General:

1. The Cooper County Fair is an opportunity for members of organized youth groups to display their projects or other accomplishments. Exhibitors must be a member of FFA or enrolled with active status in the online Cooper County 4-H program.
2. An exhibit tag must accompany all exhibits. This tag may be secured from vocational agriculture instructors, 4-H leaders, or University Extension staff.
3. Articles must have been constructed since September of last year. Only numbered, listed classes in the Cooper County Fair Book will be point classes, valued as shown.
4. Livestock members will receive an arm band to wear during the fair for gate entry. Some events will require all ages to pay at the gate. 4-H and FFA members do not pay but must wear the arm band to be eligible for entry. If the arm band is not on your wrist, you will be expected to pay entry fees at the gate.
5. Members are required to attend a MSQA meeting or participate in the
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7. online class with a certificate to prove completion in order to show livestock, hams or bacon project at the Cooper County Fair. Community service requirements: attend one clean up before and one clean up after the fair to be eligible to receive point money for fair entries.
8. State 4-H rules allow 4-H members to enroll in multiple projects. The Exploring 4-H project does not include the exhibition of project animals or hams/bacon. To show/exhibit animals or hams/bacon, the member must be enrolled in that project. Only members 8 years of age by January 1 of the current year are allowed to show any livestock, ham/bacon entry, Lots 1-8.
9. Protest/Grievances shall be handled by a committee of three. Members will be chosen from fair board members. A fee of \$20 will be required to bring the protest to the committee. That fee will be returned if the committee decision is in the favor of the protestor. The fee becomes the property of the Cooper County Fair if the board is favored. Protests/Grievances must be brought to the committee by the member or his/her family or guardian within 24 hours of the event. Awards, ribbons, placement in a class and premiums can be withdrawn in the event the protest is upheld by the committee. Decisions of the judges are final, and no appeals will be considered unless the violation is of the rules governing the exhibit.
10. Disqualifications for rule infractions will be at the discretion of the fair board.
11. Golf carts & similar vehicles driven only by licensed drivers with speed limit less than 5 mph. \$10 registration fee & signature of responsibility required at the fair office. Fair Board reserves the right to limit use that causes hazards during the events.
12. No companion animals will be allowed with livestock projects. Only animals being shown in a pre-registered class are allowed.
13. Dogs on a leash will be allowed on the grounds. Owner will be responsible for cleaning up after the dog and dogs should be kept away from the livestock. Dog owner can be asked to remove the dog if necessary.

Hams/Bacon:

1. To sell a ham/bacon in the livestock sale, all ham/bacon project participants are required to either: show a livestock project at the fair, participate in shooting sports minimum requirements, or have at least 3 exhibits for judging in addition to a ham/bacon project submission, excluding open shows. Professionally trimmed or otherwise commercially prepared hams/bacon are prohibited from 4-H & FFA competition. Only USDA inspected hams/bacon of blue or red ribbon quality with hams weighing a minimum of 12 lbs. and a maximum of 30 lbs. are allowed to be sold. Bacon must be in full slabs.

All Livestock Species:

1. SMQA certification is required to compete in animals & ham/bacon projects at the Cooper County Fair. Participants are responsible to check and provide a copy of their own status and will be disqualified if not current by June 1st. Participants under 13 are required to have 2 sessions and have a qualifying date on their eligible SMQA card. Participants at age 14 are required to complete another session which qualifies the member until he or she is too old to participate in the 4-H or FFA programs.
2. Mandatory pre-enrollment of horses, livestock, and ham/bacon entries completed with all requested information due by June 15. \$10 late entry fee applies after July 1.
3. To sell livestock and/or hams, member must comply with Federal tax requirements. The W9 form shall be included with registration forms due June 15 to the Cooper County Fair Board. The Fair Board reserves the right to declare NO SALE if required W9 is not on file.
4. Livestock exhibits must be owned/leased and cared for by the exhibitor.
5. The following dates are established for youth groups to show at the Cooper County Fair:
Steers—February 24
Dairy Cattle, Breeding Beef Cattle, Rabbits, Goats, and Market Lambs —June 1
Bucket Calves --March 1 to May 1- must be owned and on the bottle before two weeks of age.
Sheep Breeding Animals—June 15
Gilts—90 days prior to fair; Market Barrows – May 1
Horses—May 1
Poultry and Fowl –8 to 10 weeks prior to show
6. Exhibitors must comply with the Missouri Department of Agriculture Health requirements listed in the state fair guide.
7. Members enrolled in more than one county program 4-H and/or FFA will be eligible to sell in only one county sale. A participant of the Cooper County Fair auction cannot have participated in or have sold items at any other county fair auction in that calendar year.
8. Rules printed in the Cooper County Fair regulations will stand as printed. 4-H & FFA shows will be eligible to participants the age of 8 or older. Exception: will be the open bucket calf show with participant ages 5 to 7 as of January 1st of the calendar year and the pee wee shows. If no printed rule is in place and the committee believes the situation warrants, they may refer to the Missouri State Fair Book, to state and national rules of the 4-H & FFA organization, as well as consult with Ag advisers and extension staff for existing 4-H & FFA rules to make any final determinations.
9. There will be a exhibitor meeting for each species following the weigh-in, times to be announced. If the exhibitor is not present, a representative must be present in their place. Intent to sell cards will be used to plan the sale. Superintendents will have cards for market sale members.

10. Livestock entries must be in place by their assigned times and cannot be removed until Saturday 07-27-2024 at 8 a.m. All other exhibits must be entered per scheduled times and removed after the 1p.m. completed fairgrounds clean up, Sunday 7-28. Members are encouraged to keep their animal in place until assigned removal times for the fair patrons to enjoy the display. Early removal will result in forfeiture of premium sale money, point money, ribbons, & trophies
11. Any animal that appears unhealthy or becomes sick during the fair will be removed from the fair grounds.
12. No more than two animals or two groups of animals may be entered and shown by an individual in any one class i.e. C121a Purchased Beef Steer, C182a Individual geese male. Exception: horse participant can show only one horse per each class. Calves born in year of current fair may show in one additional class i.e. C125ag Cow/Calf
 - All species limited as specified, regardless of membership in one or both FFA & 4-H
 - Rabbits maximum 12 rabbits for entire show and pen of 3
 - Goats limited to 2 animals in a breed per class, 12 animals total for the entire show.
 - Poultry & Fowl maximum 12 birds for entire show and pen of 3
 - Swine limited to 6 entries
13. Members must have been enrolled in the project and have shown an animal in the species show to enter that species showmanship show
14. All tack and equipment must remain out of the barn aisles at all times. Exhibitor provides own feed, and equipment. Bedding will be provided in 2024. Water available on the grounds.
15. Tethered animals will not be left unattended and must be supervised by the owner or family member. Member would face disqualification with forfeiture of point money and awards.
16. Exhibitors must exhibit their animals. The Superintendents may permit another (Cooper County) junior exhibitor to show an animal in case of illness or physical handicap of the member. In cases where a member has more than one animal in a class, another (Cooper County) junior exhibitor may show the second animal. Only exhibitors will be allowed in the show ring with staff and judges. No other persons are allowed.
17. The Cooper County Fair Livestock Committee shall have the authority to tie up or send home any animal that is uncontrollable or not broken to lead
18. No physical abuse of animals will be tolerated. No ice, ice water, alcohol, nor any stimulants or depressants may be used externally or internally on animals. The board reserves the right to test for drugs in any suspect animal. If defect is detected the price of the drug test will be assessed to the animal's owner. The board further reserves the right to remove point money, trophies, and ribbons. Member and family would be responsible for refund to the buyer and be disqualified from future shows.
19. Livestock exhibitors must clean pens and complete cleaning tasks throughout the fair. Final cleanup under the direction of the livestock committee will be done Sunday, 7-28, at 1 pm. Members will participate or face penalty of loss of premium.
20. Only livestock exhibitors and chaperons are allowed overnight with livestock. Any group with members on the grounds overnight must have an adult chaperon with them. Curfew is 12:30am.
21. Each species will have a showmanship competition with Junior ages 8-12, Intermediate ages 13-16, and Senior ages 17 & older Divisions. In the absence of a participant in any age group the award will be forfeited.

Sheep & Goats:

1. Health papers must be presented at time of unloading for sheep and goats. Member is to remain with animal until checked in by veterinarian or superintendent. Health certificate must have been written within 30 days of exhibition.
2. Market sheep & goats will have a mandatory weigh in. All market sheep & goats that are to be shown at the county fair will be present at the county weigh-in. or by special arrangements when attending a qualifying show, but ineligible for rate of gain at Cooper County Fair. Event will be held May 4, 9 a.m. at the fairgrounds.

Poultry:

1. Poultry inspected by the state veterinarian on the grounds before placing in display cages.

Horses:

1. Horses must have negative Coggins Test.

Swine:

1. Swine exempt from health papers per state fair. NOTE: Inspection on site for warts and ringworm.

Rabbits:

1. Rabbits exempt from health papers per state fair. NOTE: Inspection on site for warts and ringworm.

Beef:

1. Intrastate beef exempt from health papers per state fair. NOTE: Inspection on site for warts and ringworm.
2. Halter and neck rope is required for all Beef animals.
3. Beef animals will be allowed to tie out only after 8 p.m. and return before 8 a.m. in the south lot of the fairgrounds with required halter and neck rope. The animal will be the responsibility of the owner/exhibitor.
4. The tie out area is to be cleaned by exhibitor before leaving the grounds.
5. During all other times all livestock should be on display in the barn areas.
6. The Fair or the Fair Board members are not responsible, expressed or implied for any animal displayed at the Cooper County Fair.
7. All steers and market heifers that are to be shown at the county fair will be present at the county weigh-in. or with special arrangements when attending a qualifying show, but ineligible for rate of gain at Cooper County Fair. Each will be state fair tagged. If the tag is lost, member must notify Cooper County Extension staff. If the tag is not in the animal at the time of the fair, the animal will not be allowed to show in the absence of prior notification of the loss of the tag

Grooming Rules: In an attempt to decrease the amount of outside assistance exhibitors are receiving for care & fitting of their livestock entries, while retaining the educational & fun process of learning to fit show animals, rules have been put in place by the state fair & adopted by the Cooper County Fair Board.

- The Exhibitor & parent or legal guardian of Exhibitor must sign the entry forms certifying that they have read these general regulations and that the Exhibitor has been advised of the code of ethics, & has been cautioned regarding sabotage, tampering, prohibited substances, unethical fitting & agrees to observe & abide by all rules & regulations.
- The signature of the 4-H County extension agent, or FFA advisor of the Exhibitor on the entry form is required to confirm that the entry is a bona fide project of the 4-H or FFA program; that they as well as the Exhibitor has read the regulations; that the member is in good standing; that the animal is owned/leased & in the continuous possession of the Exhibitor.
- The Exhibitor, immediate family, or any active Cooper County 4-H or FFA member can assist in the care & grooming of the animal.
- No needles are allowed at the Cooper County Fair livestock barns or in tie out areas. Any medication needed must be administered by the Fair Veterinarian or with the approval of the Fair Veterinarian.

Cooper County Fair Diversity and Inclusivity Statement. The goal of the Cooper County Fairgrounds is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing, and collaboration for our youth involved in agriculture and our community. We welcome people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic, family status and individuals with disabilities. The Cooper County Fair Board actively strives to support its local youth and community. No person shall be denied admission to any event or activity based on any legally prohibited discrimination.

The Cooper County Fair Board will use every reasonable precaution to safeguard the public, exhibitors, and exhibits. The Cooper County Fair Board further reserves the right to continue, discontinue or cancel the Fair due to bad weather, unfavorable world events, or unavoidable conditions. No refunds will be made. The Cooper County Fair and/or its board members, fair officials or judges will not be responsible to any animal, article, vehicle, person, individual, corporation, or association for any loss by fire, theft, damage, accident, mistake, or personal injury sustained by anyone through the negligence of any person or group of persons, exhibits, or exhibitors. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS.

