

# 2026 JACKSON COUNTY 4-H PRE- FAIR NEWSLETTER



## CONTACT US

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**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY** | **Extension**

Website:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/>

Phone: 517-788-4292

1715 Lansing Ave Suite 257  
Jackson, MI 49202

Open Monday - Friday  
8:00AM - 5:00PM  
Closed: 12:30PM - 1:30PM for lunch





## 2026 4-H Fair Schedule



| Sunday, July 26th                          |                          | Tuesday, August 11th continued   |                              |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Large Animal Set-up                        | 10am                     | Horse & Pony                     | Outside Arena 9am            |
| Small Animal Barn Set-up                   | 10am                     | Cloverbud Show                   | Covered Arena After Hog Show |
| Thursday, August 6th                       |                          | Adult Showmanship                | Covered Arena To Follow      |
| Still Project Judging 4-H Only Gumper Bldg | 4pm-8:30pm               | Wednesday, August 12th           |                              |
| Friday, August 7th                         |                          | Goats                            |                              |
| Rabbit Check-in                            | Sm Animal Tent 5-8pm     | Showmanship                      | Covered Arena 8:30am         |
| Poultry Check-in                           | Poultry Barn 6-9pm       | Market                           | Covered Arena To Follow      |
| Saturday, August 8th                       |                          | Costume                          | Covered Arena To Follow      |
| Dairy Check-in                             | 8am-11pm                 | Horse & Pony                     |                              |
| Horse Check-in                             | 10am-1pm                 | Showmanship Championship         | Covered Arena 3pm            |
| Sheep Check-in                             | 8am-10am                 | Awards Ceremony                  | Covered Arena To Follow      |
| Goat Check-in                              | 9:30am-11:30am           | Large Animal Sweepstakes         | Covered Arena 6pm            |
| Beef Check-in                              | 1pm-4pm                  | Thursday, August 13th            |                              |
| Swine Check-in/Weigh-in                    | 6pm-9pm                  | Large Animal Luncheon            | Covered Arena Noon           |
| Pocket Pets Judging                        | Sm Animal Tent 6 pm      | Lg Animal Auction Registration   | Covered Arena 12:30pm        |
| Sunday, August 9th                         |                          | Large Animal Auction             | Covered Arena 2pm            |
| Rabbit                                     |                          | Swine Load Out                   | 11pm                         |
| Showmanship                                | Covered Arena 8:30am     | Friday, August 14th              |                              |
| Performance                                | Covered Arena To Follow  | Small Animal Sweepstakes         | Covered Arena 6pm            |
| Horse & Pony                               | Outside Arena 10am       | Saturday, August 15th            |                              |
| Dairy Pre Fair Mtg                         | 10am                     | Large Animal Thank You Cards due | 10am-Noon                    |
| Sheep                                      | Covered Arena 1pm        | Sm Animal Auction Registration   | Covered Arena 10:00          |
| Dog Show                                   | Covered Arena 5pm        | Sm Animal Brunch                 | Covered Arena 10:30am        |
| Monday, August 10th                        |                          | Small Animal Auction             | Covered Arena 11:30am        |
| Dairy - 4-H and Open                       |                          | Swine Tear Down                  | 10pm                         |
| Showmanship & Performance                  | Covered Arena 8:30am     | Load Out - Beef/Sheep/Dairy      | 11pm                         |
| Beef                                       |                          | Sunday, August 16th              |                              |
| Showmanship                                | Covered Arena 2pm        | Horse Load Out                   | Ask Superintendents          |
| Market                                     | Covered Arena To Follow  | Check Out                        |                              |
| Rabbit Costume Contest                     | Sm Animal Tent 6pm       | Goats/Poultry/Rabbits            | 9-11am                       |
| Tuesday, August 11th                       |                          | Still Projects (4-H Only)        | 9-11am                       |
| Swine                                      |                          | Pen Tear Down                    |                              |
| Showmanship                                | Covered Arena 8am        | Poultry                          | 8am                          |
| Performance/Breed                          | Covered Arena To Follow  | Goats                            | 9-11am                       |
| Poultry                                    |                          | Rabbits                          | 9-11am                       |
| Quality                                    | Poultry Barn 9am         |                                  |                              |
| Showmanship                                | Sm Animal Tent To Follow |                                  |                              |



# STILL EXHIBITS



## Tips for 4-H Judging

- Be well groomed. That includes clean hands, hair, and fingernails (fingernail polish is either all on or all off fingers and/or toes).
- Dress professionally, as if for a job interview. No spaghetti straps. No flip-flops.
- Don't chew gum.
- Use good posture. Make sure you sit or stand straight and tall.
- Be polite and use your best manners.
- Shake the judge's hand and introduce yourself when you enter. Shake their hand again and thank them when you leave.
- Be prepared to talk about your project. Know what you did, how you did it, what you learned and what you might do differently the next time.
- When answering the judge's questions, speak clearly and loudly enough for the judge to hear your answers.
- During your interview, look directly at the judge. Give him/her your full attention. Don't be distracted by other people or noises around you.
- Be pleasant and confident. Smile and be enthusiastic!
- Be proud of your accomplishments!! You worked hard to earn them.

All still exhibits will be checked in on

**Thursday August 6th, 4:00pm-8:30pm.**

Members must be present when turning in projects.

## Project Tags

Will be available for pickup on Monday, August 3rd- Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at the MSU Extension Office OR on

Thursday during judging in respective department areas.\*\*Check Fair Entry confirmation email to know which departments to go to\*\*

## Still Exhibit Drop off Parking

Please note that exhibitors dropping off still exhibits need to park on the track next to the Gumper Building. If you have a heavy project, a cart will be available to help transport.

Parents, please do not answer the questions the judges ask your kiddo during judging. Thank You!

## Still Exhibit Pick Up

**Sunday August 16th 9:00am-11:00am**



# ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK



**JACKSON COUNTY 4-H  
FOUNDATION BREAKFAST FOR  
ALL 4-H MEMBERS  
MONDAY - FRIDAY 7AM-9AM**



**GAME NIGHT FOR ALL  
JACKSON COUNTY 4-H  
FAMILIES 5PM-? EACH NIGHT  
UNDER THE SMALL ANIMAL**



**PAINTING ACTIVITY  
MORE INFORMATION TO COME**



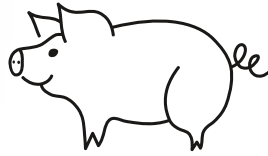
**COOKIE BAKING CONTEST  
FRIDAY AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup> 1PM  
SMALL ANIMAL TENT**

**CHECK-IN: FRI AUG 7, 5-8PM  
CHECK-OUT: SUN AUG 16, 9-11AM  
TEAR DOWN - SUN AUG 16 @ 9AM**

**CHECK-IN: FRI AUG 7, 6-9PM  
CHECK-OUT: SUN AUG 16, 9-11AM  
TEAR DOWN: SUN AUG 16 @ 8AM**

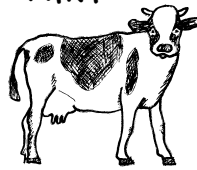
**CHECK-IN: SAT AUG 8, 9:30-11:30AM  
CHECK-OUT: SUN AUG 16, 9-11AM  
TEAR DOWN: SUN AUG 16 @ 9AM**

## SWINE



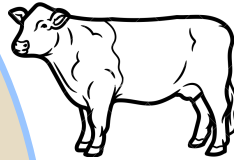
**CHECK-IN/WEIGH-IN: SAT AUG 8,  
6-9PM  
TEAR DOWN: SAT AUG 15 @ 10PM**

## DAIRY



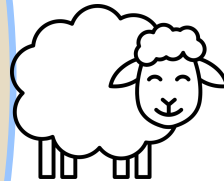
**CHECK-IN: SAT AUG 8, 8AM-11PM  
TEAR DOWN: SAT AUG 15 @ 11PM**

## BEEF



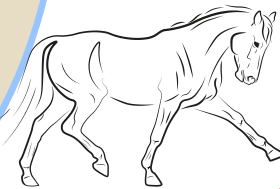
**CHECK-IN: SAT AUG 8, 1-4PM  
TEAR DOWN: SAT AUG 15 @ 11PM**

## SHEEP



**CHECK-IN: SAT AUG 8, 8-10AM  
TEAR DOWN: SAT AUG 15 @ 11PM**

## HORSES



**CHECK-IN: SAT AUG 8, 10AM-1PM  
TEAR DOWN: SAT AUG 15 @ 11PM  
HAUL-OUT: SUN AUG 16**

## RABBITS



## POULTRY



## GOATS

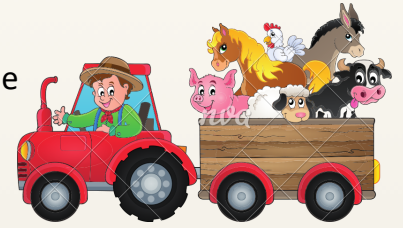


## PEN DECORATIONS

- **MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD & TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH DURING FAIR OFFICE HOURS**
- **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> - FRIDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8AM-8PM**
- **PLEASE ONLY PARK IN THE INFIELD OR ACROSS THE STREET. NO PARKING BY BARNES OR ALONG THE TRACK AS TRAILERS WILL BE HAULING IN.**
- **TACK NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT IN BEFORE OR AFTER CHECK-IN**

## ALL SPECIES LOAD IN INFORMATION

- Keep your animal on the trailer until you are asked to unload!
- Animals must be clean when they arrive. This ensures a more efficient check-in process.
- Goats, Poultry & Rabbits: \$5 per species is due at check in
- You will be required to do barn duty per specie project - Please remember to sign up during check-in.
- Please be patient - load-in is a process even when there's a lot of help.
- 4-H Members/Families will receive their fair passes after your animal has been checked in. The table to pick up these will be outside the milking parlor area.
- Parking for Check in- lot across the street or north end of the infield. Unload then go park. any vehicles without a trailer hauling animals will be allowed in by the barns. They will need to park across the street or north end of infield.
- Load In map on the next page



## 4-H CONCESSIONS

Thank you to all of our 4-H families for volunteering to work a shift at the 4-H concession stand!

The proceeds from the concession stand go right back into Jackson County 4-H & help fund superintendent camping fees during the fair, Exploration Days, Citizenship Washington Focus, purchase requests, workshops, still exhibit judges, & many other 4-H activities & events throughout the year.

A friendly reminder that all 4-H members are encouraged to volunteer, whether or not they are exhibiting an animal at the fair. Volunteering is an important part of the 4-H experience & helps make our fair & programs successful. A Silver-level Volunteer is required to be present with all youth 16 years old & younger. A Silver-level Volunteer present is encouraged but not required for youth 17 & older.

Please arrive on time for your scheduled shift and take a few minutes to read through the instructions at the register before you begin.

- Entrances**
- 1 Livestock Gate
  - 2 Main Gate
  - 3 Ganson-West Gate
  - 4 Blackstone-South Gate
  - 5 Blackstone-North Gate [Ticket Booth]
  - 6 Blackstone Camp Gate
  - 7 North St Gate [Ticket Booth]

- Park Amenities**
- A American One Event Center
  - B Keeley Event Hall
  - C Grandstand
  - D Keeley Plaza
  - E County Parks Office
  - F Gumper Building
  - G Midway

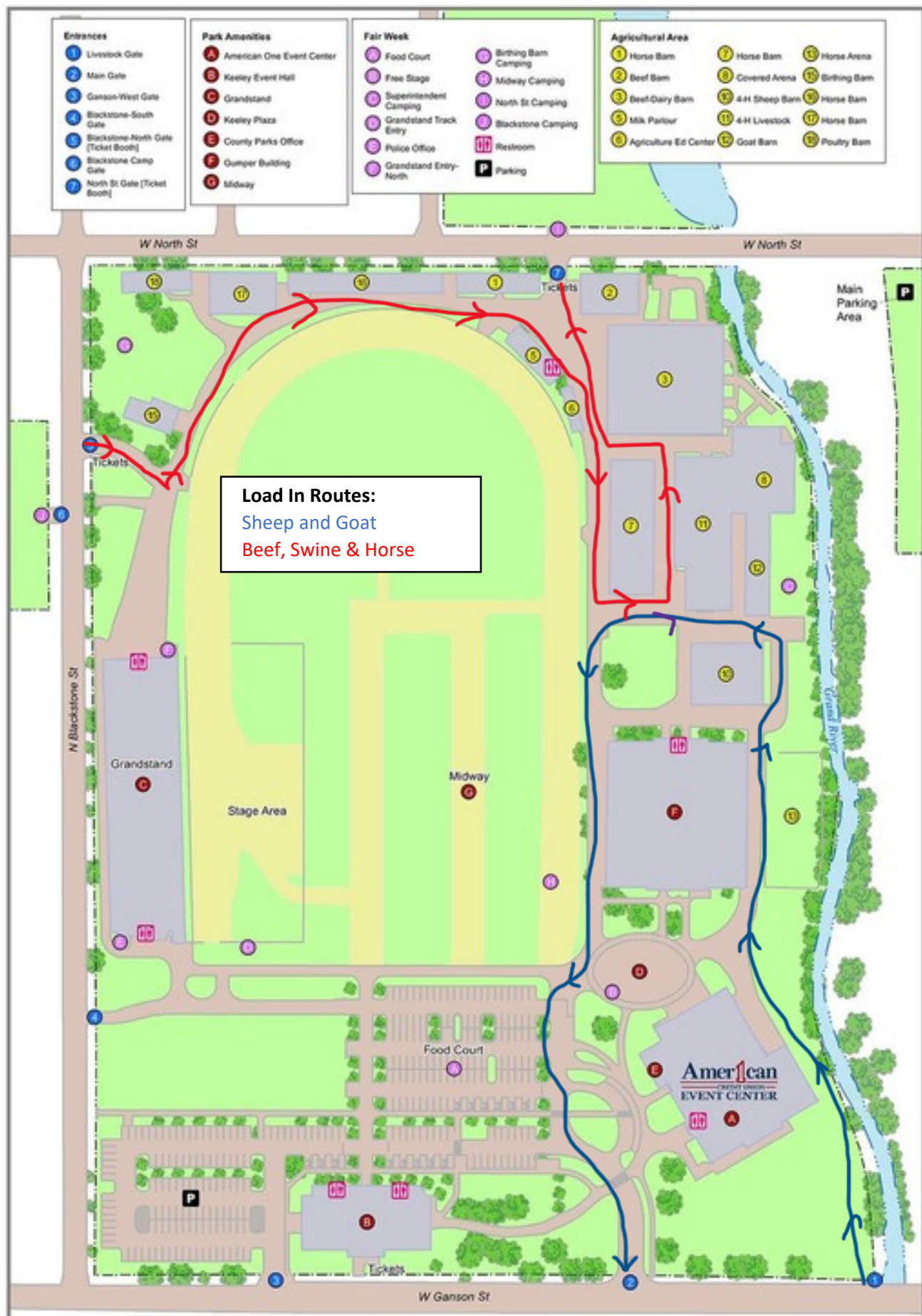
- Fair Week**
- H Food Court
  - I Free Stage
  - J Superintendent Camping
  - K Grandstand Track Entry
  - L Police Office
  - M Grandstand Entry-North
  - N Birthing Barn Camping
  - O Midway Camping
  - P North St Camping
  - Q Blackstone Camping
  - R Restroom
  - S Parking

- Agricultural Area**
- 1 Horse Barn
  - 2 Beef Barn
  - 3 Beef/Dairy Barn
  - 4 Milk Parlour
  - 5 Agriculture Ed Center
  - 6 Horse Barn
  - 7 Covered Arena
  - 8 4-H Sheep Barn
  - 9 4-H Livestock
  - 10 Goat Barn
  - 11 Horse Arena
  - 12 Birthing Barn
  - 13 Horse Barn
  - 14 Horse Barn
  - 15 Poultry Barn

**Load In Routes:**

Sheep and Goat

Beef, Swine & Horse



jacksoncountyparks.org



# **Jackson County Fair** at KEELEY PARK

200 W Ganson St, Jackson, MI 49201  
Entrance Coordinates: 42.255° N, -84.405° W



Map prepared by Jackson County GIS on 7/12/2022

# Stay Connected!

## BAND



Download the BAND App to get specie notifications, updates during show day, & the ability to message superintendents.

**\*NEW\***

Group Name: JCF 4-H Updates

The official source for 4-H during fair week on announcements, updates, and alerts. Managed by MSU Extension.

Rabbit

Invite Link: <https://band.us/n/a1ac08C7P9m8q>  
JCF Rabbits

Sheep

Group Name: Jackson County Fair Sheep

Swine

Group Name: Jackson County Fair Swine



## FACEBOOK

**\*Jackson County 4-H Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksoncounty4h>

**\*Jackson Co. 4-H Small Animal Assoc. Facebook Page:**

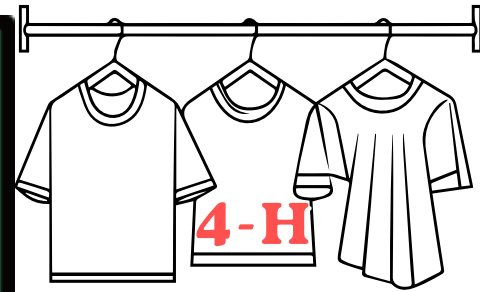
<https://www.facebook.com/JacksonCountySmallAnimal/>

**\*Jackson County 4-H Livestock Assoc. Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/JacksonCountyLargeAnimal/>

**\*Jackson County Horse Council Facebook Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232601997473213>



## CLOSET

### NEED SHOW CLOTHES?

**IF YOUR 4-H EXHIBITOR IS IN NEED OF SHOW CLOTHES, STOP BY THE 4-H CLOSET LOCATED IN FRONT OF HAYLEY AND JESSICA'S CAMPER BEHIND THE GOAT BARN. YOU'RE WELCOME TO BROWSE AND TAKE WHAT YOU NEED!**

**DONATIONS OF CLEAN SHOW CLOTHING AND OTHER SHOW-RELATED ITEMS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED. TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP MAKE SURE EVERY EXHIBITOR HAS WHAT THEY NEED TO SHINE IN THE SHOW RING!**





# ACTIVITIES PRESENTED BY THE JACKSON COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

CALLING ALL JACKSON COUNTY 4-H  
YOUTH AND FAMILY!



## 2026 4-H GOOSECHASE AT THE JACKSON COUNTY FAIR

Goosechase is an interactive app youth can download for a week long scavenger hunt during the Jackson County Fair. The top 3 youth with the most points at the end of the week wins some 4-H Swag!

JOIN CODE  
R99QRG



## GAME NIGHT

All week long under the small animal tent come play card & board games with your friends and family. Maybe your club leader will join in on the fun!

5pm - 9pm

Please put games away when you are done - thank you!

## Painting Activity with The Painted Owl

More info to come!



## 4-H COOKIE BAKING CONTEST

Calling All 4-H Cookie Bakers!  
Think your cookies are blue-ribbon worthy? Bring your already baked homemade cookies and let the judging begin! Whether they're chewy, crispy, chocolatey, or packed with creative flavors, we want to see your best batch.

Friday August 14<sup>th</sup> at  
1pm under the Small  
Animal Tent.





# 4-H/FFA Auctions



## JACKSON COUNTY



### 4-H/FFA

### LARGE ANIMAL AUCTION

SALE ORDER (SWINE, DAIRY  
BASKET, BEEF, SHEEP)

**Thursday, August 13, 2026  
2:00pm**

Jackson County Fairgrounds  
Covered Livestock Arena  
200 W. Ganson Street  
Jackson, MI 49201

**Buyer Lunch : 12:00 pm**

**Buyer Registration: 12:30 pm**

## Jackson County 4-H Small Animal Association Presents

### 4-H & FFA SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION AT THE JACKSON COUNTY FAIR

**Saturday August 15th, 2026**

Registration : 10:00 am

Buyer Brunch : 10:30am

Auction : 11:30 am



**Auction Order: Dog Basket, Horse  
Basket, Goats, Poultry Rabbits**

## THANK YOU CARDS

**LARGE ANIMAL: SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**10-12PM UNDER THE SMALL**

**ANIMAL TENT**

**SMALL ANIMAL: BLANK CARDS AT**

**THE THANK YOU TABLE AT THE**

**BACK OF THE AUCTION.**

10 Tips for writing a better buyer's letter

4-H Animal Project Marketing Resources



# NEW THIS YEAR & FRIENDLY REMINDERS!



- CLOVERBUD SHOWMANSHIP WILL BE ALL TOGETHER FOR THOSE THAT SIGNED UP ON TUESDAY AFTER THE SWINE SHOW.
- YOU WILL BE RECEIVING AN EMAIL FROM THE OFFICE BEFORE FAIR WITH MORE DETAILS

4-H Cloverbuds



- YOUTH NEED TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT DURING THE FAIR, AND THIS IS NOT YOUR CLUB LEADERS RESPONSIBILITY
- ALL COMPLAINTS TO THE 4-H OFFICE NEED TO BE EMAILED AFTER THE FAIR UNLESS IT IS AN EMERGENCY AND OR WELFARE CONCERN OF ANIMALS OR YOUTH



- PARKING AT THE ARMORY IS FREE!!
- GATES WILL OPEN EARLY FOR AUCTION ATTENDEES
- NO COOKING/CROCKPOTS/ETC NOR EATING IN THE BARN
- NO DOGS ON THE FAIRGROUNDS
- NO SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, BIKES, ETC. ON THE FAIRGROUNDS
- NO WATER FIGHTS!



**SMALL ANIMAL AWARD RECIPIENTS!  
TURN IN YOUR THANK YOU CARDS  
THURSDAY FROM 9-11:30AM UNDER  
THE SMALL ANIMAL TENT.**

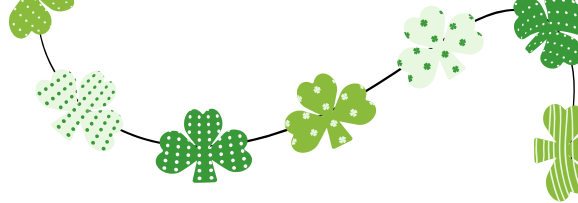


- PLEASE KEEP YOUR CLUB AREA, WASH RACKS, ARENA & BLEACHERS CLEAN! IF YOU SEE A PILE OF MANURE, PLEASE CLEAN IT UP!

**TAKE A LOOK AT THE JACKSON CO MSU EXTENSION WEBSITE FOR FAIR FORMS, AUCTION FLIERS  
AND BROCHURES, SPECIE EXPECTATION PACKETS, PROXY FORMS, FAIR BOOK AND MORE!**

**[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/JACKSON/4-H/JACKSON-COUNTY-FAIR](https://www.canr.msu.edu/jackson/4-h/jackson-county-fair)**

Jackson County 4-H Families,



As we get ready for another exciting fair season, we want to thank all of our 4-H members, volunteers, and families for the time, effort, and dedication you've put in all year. Fair week is a chance to show off your hard work, learn something new, make memories, and enjoy the experience together.

As you're walking through the barns, in the show ring, or visiting with friends and families, remember that you're representing 4-H. Be kind, respectful, and encouraging to everyone you meet. Treat other people's animals and belongings with care, lend a hand when you can, and remember that a little kindness goes a long way.

Win or lose, good sportsmanship matters. Celebrate your accomplishments, cheer on others, and remember that everyone has worked hard to get here. One of the best parts of 4-H is supporting each other along the way.

Our older 4-H youth and volunteers set the tone for everyone else. Younger members are watching, so thank you for leading by example and showing what 4-H is all about.

Finally, please remember that all members, volunteers, and families are expected to follow the 4-H Code of Conduct throughout the fair. It helps create a safe, welcoming, and positive environment where everyone can have a great fair experience.

Thank you for everything you do to make our county fair a success. We hope you have a fun, safe, and memorable week, and we wish all of our exhibitors the very best of luck!

--Hayley and Jessica

