



# 2026 Mecosta County Fair Youth & Adult Still Exhibits

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## General Rules:

- Exhibitors are allowed one entry per class in each department.
  - Cloverbuds may enter a total of 8 items in the Cloverbud Department
  - Differently abled may enter a total of 6 items in the Differently Abled Department.
- All still exhibits must be the original work of the exhibitor and completed/finished by the exhibitor after July 15, 2025 (last year's fair).
- Exhibits may NOT be shown at any other county fair during the current calendar year.
- All entries must stay on exhibit for the entire fair week (except for youth live auction items)
- Any exhibit item improperly entered will be reclassified, if more than 2 items entered in a class you will be asked to remove one – if we are unable to reach you to choose – superintendent will select one to remove or reclassify, if possible.
- No frames with glass – there may be exceptions if item has proper hanging devices – must get approval from superintendent
- Every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of exhibits, but in no case will the management be responsible for loss or damage of exhibits.
- Refer to each department for specific rules.
- See the need for a new category or item to be added? Contact us!!

<b><u>Registration and Deadlines</u></b>	
Registration forms can be found on page 4, on the fair website: <a href="https://www.mecostafreefair.com/">https://www.mecostafreefair.com/</a> , or picked up at the MSU Extension office (14485 Northland Dr., Big Rapids).	
<b>Age groups</b> (as of July 1st of the current year):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clover Buds: ages 5 - 7</li> <li>• Differently Abled Adults/Youth: No age requirements..</li> <li>• Youth: ages 8 - 19</li> <li>• Adult: ages 20 and up</li> </ul> <p><i>NEW FOR 2026: Premiums are given out <u>only</u> to youth Ages 8-19.age group</i></p>	
<b>Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> – Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>10:00am - 4:00pm</b>	<b>Early Registration</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Faster, easier process, strongly encouraged!!</b></li> <li>• Turn in registration forms (and non-perishable items) to the MSU Extension office <b>or</b> email registration form to <a href="mailto:ripkekar@msu.edu">ripkekar@msu.edu</a> by 4:00 pm, Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup> or enter your still exhibit entries via the Fair Entry system.</li> </ul>	
<b>Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>: 8am - 11am</b>	<b>Fair Week Registration</b>
Turn in registration forms <b>and</b> exhibit items at the fairground still exhibit building	
<b>Saturday July 11<sup>h</sup> 11am-</b> Exhibit building closed until 4:30pm	<b>Exhibit Building Judging for Perishable Goods</b>
<b>Sunday &amp; Monday July 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exhibit Building Judging</b>
<b>Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm</b> <b>Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> 9-11am</b>	Items will be released back to exhibitors

## Judging

- Judging will be based on content, workmanship, creativeness, and complexity of exhibit and will reflect the age of the exhibitor.
- All entries will receive an A, B, or C award based on age group (cloverbuds and differently abled departments will receive participation ribbons).
- Exhibit items that do not follow the department rules are only eligible for a B award.
- Entries receiving an A award will be judged for a Best of Division and honorable mention.
- Youth Still Exhibit Department Premiums are: A = \$5.00 B = \$3.00 C = \$1.00
  - **Premiums will not be given out to any adult entries**
- Youth best of division & youth homemaker of the year premiums are \$10.00.
  - There are no additional premiums for honorable mention.
  - **Premiums are not awarded for any adult exhibits.**
- Where there is only one entry in a class/division there will not be a best of division award.
- *\*No guarantee that late registration/exhibits will be judged or receive premiums.*

## Live YOUTH Culinary Arts Auction (does not include Adult/Cloverbud/Differently Aabled departments)

<p><b>When:</b> Saturday, July 11, 2026</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Registration 5:30pm Auction starts at 6:00pm</p> <p><b>Where:</b> Exhibit Building</p>	<p><b>Exhibits for live auction will be on display 1 hour prior to the auction</b></p> <p><i>The exhibit building has limited cold storage and will be reserved for 4-H youth</i></p>
<b>Eligible Department and Divisions</b>	
<p><b>Department 40: Open Youth Culinary Arts</b></p> <p><b>Division A:</b> Baking  <b>Division B:</b> Breads  <b>Division C:</b> Novelty (fudge, honey, maple syrup and molded chocolate only)  <b>Division D:</b> Decorated (<i>excluding dummy cake entries</i>)  <b>Division F:</b> Specialty Foods (<i>excluding dried items</i>)</p>	
<p><b>Auction Rules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One item per youth exhibitor allowed.</b></li> <li>• Items in the live auction will be released to buyers once the auction concludes, and payment is accepted.</li> <li>• Youth exhibitors wishing to participate in the still exhibit live youth auction <b><u>must</u></b> indicate on entry form.</li> <li>• Exhibitors must be present for the auction</li> <li>• All items sold <b><u>must</u></b> be exact duplicates of the project that has been judged.</li> <li>• All food items <b><u>must</u></b> be whole or contain at least a full dozen items and must have an ingredient card attached.</li> <li>• All food items must be properly stored prior to the auction.</li> <li>• <b>If these rules are not followed, the item will not be allowed for auction.</b></li> </ul>	

## Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair 2026 Still Exhibits Entry Form

Return completed form to:  
Mecosta County MSU Extension Office  
14485 Northland Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Or submit via email to [ripkekar@msu.edu](mailto:ripkekar@msu.edu)

Exhibitors are allowed only one entry per class.

Only one participant per form.  
(If more space is needed, fill out another form.)

**Early Registration Encouraged June 22-July 2**  
**Same day registration July 11**

**Please Check One (age as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026)**

- Differently Abled
- Cloverbud (age 5-7) Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- Youth (age 8 – 19) Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- Adult (Age 20 and up) Age: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club Name (if member): \_\_\_\_\_

Department	Division	Class	Description of item <i>Example: red bracelet, horse (drawing), cow print (blanket)</i>	Check if selling at Youth Culinary Auction Department 40	Is exhibit from a kit? (Check if yes)
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**FORM MUST BE SIGNED** – As a condition of your signature, photos taken of you and/or your exhibit(s) at the 2026 Mecosta County Fair (MCF) become property of the MCF for non-profit promotional tools. The owner of exhibit(s) releases the MCF from any liability for loss or damage to exhibits, or other property while such property is on the Mecosta County fairgrounds. Items not picked up within 7 days of the end of the fair MCF and may be disposed of. I have read and understand the rules and regulations in the Still Exhibit Fair Book.

Exhibitors Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

## DEPARTMENT 39

### Open Cloverbud and Differently Abled Still Exhibits

- Cloverbud age is 5 - 7 as of July 1st of the current year.
- There are no age restrictions for differently able individuals.
- This department is non-competitive, exhibits are not judged and do not receive premiums.
  - Exhibits will receive a participation ribbon.
- A total of 8 items (1-2 exhibits per class) per exhibitor will be allowed.
- This department is not eligible for Still Exhibit Youth Culinary Arts Auction
- Please refer to Open Youth departments for guidance.
  - Rules for this department are relaxed.

Class	Details
3901. Artwork	Refer to department 42 for guidance and ideas
3902. Collection	A collection of 10 related items
3903. Craft Item	Any craft items, refer to department 41 for guidance/ideas
3904. Culinary Arts Item	Refer to department 40 for guidance/ideas
3905. Educational Project	Refer to department 47 for guidance/ideas – topics can be outside the scope of what is listed
3906. Farm Crop	3 specimens or a bundle. Refer to department 46 for guidance.
3907. Fruit or Vegetable	3 specimens on paper plate. Refer to department 46 for guidance.
3908. Plant or Flower Arrangement	Live or Silk. Refer to department 45 for guidance/ideas, rules do not need to be strictly followed
3909. Needle work item	Refer to department 43 for guidance/ideas
3910. Pet Project	Refer to department 48 for guidance/ideas
3011. Photography	4x6 or 5x7 photos matted on cardstock or construction paper, no frames or glass

# OPEN YOUTH STILL EXHIBITS

## DEPARTMENT 40: Open Youth Culinary Arts

- Food items cannot be kits or store-bought mixes.
- Baked goods must be attractively presented on plastic or Styrofoam plates/trays or cardboard cut to size and in a plastic re-sealable bag when possible.
- Novelty exhibits should be placed on candy paper, or in an appropriate display container.
- A 3 x 5 or 4 x 6 index card with a complete ingredient list (recipe is not required) **must** accompany the food item. This includes frosting and toppings.
- No refrigeration will be provided for food exhibits. (Except for youth live auction items)
- Required numbers of products for entry are shown in parentheses. The first number indicates the number/amount required for judging. The second is the number of items or size needed to sell at the youth live auction.
- Exhibit items may be smaller for cakes, pies, & bread. If the exhibit item is full size, a portion must be left on display, and the remainder may be taken home after judging.
- Decorated Cakes:
  - Dummy cake forms are allowed, judging on decoration only.
  - Exhibits may not be bigger than 20"x 20" and no more than 2 tiers.
- Canning & Preserves (*not eligible for youth culinary arts auction*)
  - Jars must be clean, dated, and identified.
  - Must be canning jars. Sealed with 2-piece vacuum caps with ring on.
  - Product of the current or previous season.
  - Jars will not be opened for judging.

<p><b><u>Division A: Baking</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4000. Bars (3 + 24)            4001. Brownies (3 + 24)            4002. Cake (1 + 1)            4003. Cookies (3 + 24)            4004. Cupcakes (3 + 12)            4005. Pie (1 + 1)            4006. Other - Baking</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Breads</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4010. Biscuits (3 + 12)            4011. Muffins (3 + 12)            4012. Quick/Sweet Bread (1 + 1)            4013. Rolls (3 + 12)            4014. Yeast Bread (1 + 1)            4015. Other - Breads</p> <p><i>Breads: 4" x 6" foil pan size or similar is acceptable</i></p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Novelty</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4020. Fudge (4 + 20pcs.)            4021. Honey            4022. Honeycomb            4023. Maple Syrup            4024. Molded Chocolate (4 + 20)            4025. Other -Novelty</p>
<p><b><u>Division D: Decorated</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4030. Decorated Cake            4031. Decorated Cookies (3 + 6)            4032. Decorated Cupcakes (3 + 6)</p> <p><i>NOTE: Box cakes, scratch cakes or a false base may be used for this division.</i></p>	<p><b><u>Division E: Canning &amp; Preserves</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4040. Jar of Fruit            4041. Jar of Jam            4042. Jar of Jelly            4043. Jar of Pickles            4044. Jar of Relish            4045. Jar of Salsa            4046. Jar of Vegetable (includes tomatoes)            4047. Other Canning/Preserves</p> <p><b><i>Division not eligible for auction</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>Division F: Specialty Foods</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4050. Summer sausage (3 slices + 1 log)            4051. Jerky (3 Sticks + ½ lb.)            4052. Meat Sticks (3 sticks + ½ lb.)            4053. Any Dried Fruit            4054. Any Dried Vegetable            4055. Any Dried Meat</p>

## DEPARTMENT 41: Open Youth Creative Crafts

- The exhibitor is responsible for ensuring a secure wire to exhibits designed to hang.
- If the item is from a kit – It must be identified in registration form.

<p><b><u>Division A: Indoor Crafts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4100. Basketry            4101. Bead Work/Jewelry            4102. Candle Making            4103. Ceramics            4104. Macrame/Paracord            4105. Sand Art            4106. Sculpture            4107. Soap Making            4108. Stained Glass/Sun catcher            4109. Weaving</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Metalworking</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4110. Abstract Art Design            4111. Metal Article Formed/Forged            4112. Metal Craft/Sculpture            4113. Welded Article            4114. Other Metalworking</p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Outdoor Crafts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4120. Birdhouses            4121. Fishing Lures            4122. Leather Crafts            4123. Taxidermy            4124. Tied Flies            4125. Wreath</p>
<p><b><u>Division D: Paper Crafts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4130. Calligraphy            4131. Cards            4132. Collage            4133. Origami            4134. Paper Art            4135. Scrapbook, 1 page            4136. Other paper craft</p>	<p><b><u>Division E: Woodworking</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4140. Furniture Creating            4141. Furniture Refinishing            4142. Wood Art            4143. Wood Burning            4144. Wood Carving            4145. Other Woodworking</p>	<p><b><u>Division F: Other Crafts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4150. Creative Writing            4151. Lego or model (kit)            4152. Lego or model (non-kit)            4153. Poetry            4154. Recycled Craft            4155. Stamping            4156. Other Creative craft</p>

## DEPARTMENT 42: Open Youth Fine Arts

- All pictures (with exception of oil or canvas paintings) must be matted on a firm surface or in a frame (matting board, cardstock, foam board, stiff poster board, etc.)
  - Matting should be 1-inch larger than the actual artwork.
- Framed items must be wired to accept the weight of the item on a pegboard hook.
  - **No frames with glass allowed**
  - Any items showing signs of falling will be removed from display and stored.
- Maximum size for artwork will be 48" in any direction.
- All work must be original, No wet paint, No tracing.

<p><b><u>Division A: Drawings</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4200. Charcoal            4201. Marker            4202. Mixed            4203. Pen            4204. Pencil</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Painting</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4210. Acrylic            4211. Mixed            4212. Oil            4213. Pastels            4214. Watercolor</p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Other Medium</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4220. Crayon            4221. Finger paint            4222. Multiple/mixed mediums            4223. Textiles            4224. Any Other</p>
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## DEPARTMENT 43: Open Youth Needlework

- Clothing entered should be on a hanger.
- Quilts must be finished in the last year.
- Wearable (Any clothing type)
- Non-wearable (tablecloth, napkin, placemat potholder, etc.)

<p><b><u>Division A: Clothing</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4300. Accessory            4301. Apparel            4302. Recycled/Enhanced</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Crocheting</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4310. Blanket/Afghan            4311. Non-Wearable            4312. Wearable</p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Knitting</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4320. Blanket/Afghan            4321. Non-Wearable            4322. Wearable</p>
<p><b><u>Division D: Quilts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4330. Appliqued (machine or hand)            4331. Group Made Quilt            4332. Hand Pieced Quilt            4333. Machine Pieced Quilt            4334. Quilted Pillow or Wall Hanging            4335. Quilt Tied off            4336. Other Quilt</p>	<p><b><u>Division E: Other Needlework</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4340. Cross-stitch            4341. Embroidery            4342. Fleece Article            4343. Latch Hook            4344. Rugs            4345. Toys (bear, doll, doll clothes, etc.)            4346. Tye-Dye            4347. Other Needlework</p>	

## DEPARTMENT 44 Open Youth Photography

- All single pictures must be 8 x 10.
- Related Series of 6 can be 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 photos, mounted on a foam board.
- Photography must be matted and have a wire or heavy cord securely fastened and ready to hang. Frame is optional, no glass allowed. Duct tape is not a secure fastener.
- If your item does not have proper hanging, exhibit building staff will apply a plastic hanging tab that may cause damage to backing when removing.
- All photography must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- **NO NUDE PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

<p><b><u>Division A: Color</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4400. Action            4401. Animal            4402. Farm Scene            4403. Nature            4404. Portrait (person, face or head and shoulders)            4405. Special Effects/Digitally Enhanced            4406. Still Life            4407. Structure (<i>equipment, auto, building, etc.</i>)            4408. Related Series: 6 photos on one board            (must include title to series)</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Black and White (includes Sepia)</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            4410. Action            4411. Animal            4412. Farm Scene            4413. Nature            4414. Portrait (person, face or head and shoulders)            4415. Special Effects/Digitally Enhanced            4416. Still Life            4417. Structure (<i>equipment, auto, building, etc.</i>)            4418. Related Series: 6 photos on one board            (must include title to series)</p>
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## DEPARTMENT 45 Open Youth Floriculture

- Cut flower division: Exhibitors must grow their own floriculture.
- Flower arrangements may be home grown, wild, or purchased.
- An index card with common name, variety, and type (home grown, wild, or purchased) must accompany live flower exhibits.
- No plants from Michigan protected list allowed.
  - See: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/species/plants>
- Cut flowers and bouquets should be clear container or vase.
  - Do not remove foliage/greenery from stems above the waterline or add an extra stem of foliage.
- Flowers and plants must be free of disease, insect damage and in a healthy condition.
- Similar variety, bloom, and stem length should be chosen.

<b><u>Division A: Cut Flowers</u></b>	<b><u>Division B: Live Flower Arrangements</u></b>	<b><u>Division C: Silk Flowers</u></b>
<b>Class</b> 4500. Annual Flower 4501. Gladiolus 4502. Hydrangeas 4503. Perennial Flower 4504. Rose 4505. Other Cut Flower	<b>Class</b> 4510. Bouquet 4511. Corsage 4512. Dried Flowers 4513. Green Foliage 4514. Table/Centerpiece 4515. Other Live Flower Arrangement	<b>Class</b> 4520. Bouquet 4521. Corsage 4522. Table/Centerpiece 4523. Wall Hanging 4524. Other Silk Flower
<b><u>Division D: Flower Gardening</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dish gardens/terrariums must contain at least 3 different plants. No artificial plant materials allowed.</i></li> <li>• <i>Plants must be the property of the exhibitor for at least three months.</i></li> <li>• <i>Accessories are allowed in terrariums.</i></li> <li>• <i>Exhibitors should plant their project and begin caring for it by April 15<sup>th</sup>.</i></li> </ul> <b>Class</b> 4530. Dish Garden/Terrarium 4531. Hanging Plant/Basket 4532. Houseplant Arrangement (foliage or bloom) 4533. Patio Planter (at least 4 types) 4534. Succulents or Cacti 4535. Other Flower Garden		

## DEPARTMENT 46 Open Youth Agriculture and Horticulture

- Corn stalks must be tied and with husks:
- Herbs should be 1-inch diameter bunch and tied.
  - Fresh cut bunches in water containers
  - Herbs should not be exhibited in full bloom.

<p><b><u>Division A: Farm Crops</u></b> <b>Class</b></p> <p>4600. Corn, 5 ears (any variety)          4601. Corn, 3 stalks (any variety)  <i>(with husks, must be tied)</i>          4602. Forage, bundle          4603. Gourd, 3-5 specimens          4604. Grain, bundle or 1qt jar  <i>(Bundles must show seeds)</i>          4605. Haylage, gallon bag          4606. Silage, gallon bag          4607. Sunflower, 3-5 specimens          4608. Other Farm Crop</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Fruits</u></b> <b>Class</b></p> <p>4610. Blueberries, 1 pint          4611. Cherries, 1 pint          4612. Raspberries, 1 pint          4613. Strawberries, 1 pint          4614. Other Fruit, 1 pint</p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Vegetables</u></b> <b>Class</b></p> <p>4620. Cabbage, 1 specimen          4621. Cucumbers, 3 specimens          4622. Eggplant, 3 specimens          4623. Lettuce, 1 specimen          4624. Onions, 3 specimens          4625. Peppers, 3 specimens          4626. Radishes, 6 specimens          4627. String beans, 6 specimens          4628. Summer squash, 3 specimens          4629. Sweet corn, 3 specimens          4630. Potatoes, 3 specimens          4631. Basket (6 or more, assorted)          4632. Other Vegetable</p>
<p><b><u>Division D: Herbs (Dried or fresh)</u></b> <b>Class</b></p> <p>4640. One Herb          4641. Three Types of Herbs          4642. Six types of Herbs</p>	<p><b><u>Division E: Container Garden</u></b> <b>Class</b></p> <p>4650. Container Garden with one vegetable          4651. Container Garden with two or more vegetables</p>	

## DEPARTMENT 47 Open Youth Educational Projects

**GOAL:** Encourage youth to explore, investigate, and experience new events/topics through improving their skills and knowledge related to area of study.

**Learning Objectives:** Youth will be able to demonstrate and share knowledge of exhibits.

### Exhibits should:

- Clearly identify the topic and explain what the exhibitor learned.
- Explain the importance and benefits to people, animals, community, environment, etc.
- A list of resources used. (articles, interviews, etc.)
- Exhibit should be a “display” constructed or collected to tell an appropriate story as learned from the project or activities and may consist of one or more of the following:
  - Poster 24” x 36” depicting some aspect of learning in the project area.
  - Notebook with collection of information learned in the project.
  - Three-dimensional display (size maximum 16” x 16” x 16”)
  - Model (i.e., Lego Connex, Pinewood Derby Car, etc.)
  - Item made by exhibitor.

<p><b><u>Division A: Natural Resources/Conservation</u></b>  <i>Objective: Learn what natural resources are, how and why they exist, and how they connect with each other, the environment, and people</i>  <b>Class</b>            4700. Conservation (Wildlife, water, soil, forest, etc.)            4701. Entomology (insects)            4702. Natural Resources (wildflowers, ecology, rocks, and minerals, bee keeping, etc.)            4703. Other Natural Resources/Conservation</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Mechanics &amp; Technology</u></b>  <b>Class</b>            4710. Automotive            4711. Electrical Science            4712. Pinewood Derby Car            4713. Small Engines/Motors            4714. Tractor            4715. Other Mechanics &amp; Technology</p>
<p><b><u>Division C: Animal Science</u></b>  <b>Class</b>            4720. Basic Anatomy            4721. Physiology            4722. Sanitation and/or cause of disease &amp; immunology            4723. Other Animal Science</p>	<p><b><u>Division D: Other Sciences/Technology</u></b>  <b>Class</b>            4730. Computer            4731. Crop Science            4732. Genealogy            4733. Human Biology            4734. Nutrition            4734. Other Science &amp; Technology</p>

## DEPARTMENT 48 – Open Youth Pet/Animal Project

General Rules:

1. **Share and show off your pet/animal on a posterboard size display.**
  - a. Must include 4 Photos (4 x 6) of pet/animal (various ages, activities, etc., one photo should include you and your pet/animal)
  - b. Poster can be a foam board (encouraged) or general poster board (no three dimensional or tri-fold boards).
2. **Required Pet Information**
  - a. Name, breed, age.
  - b. What is a fun fact about this type of pet/animal?
3. **History of pet (answer at least 3)**
  - a. How old was your pet/animal when you got it?
  - b. Why did you get this type of pet/animal?
  - c. How/why did you pick your pet/animal's name?
  - d. What do you feed them?
  - e. What are their favorite treats?
  - f. How does your pet/animal stay clean?
  - g. Have you learned anything from your pet/animal?
4. **Fun stuff**
  - a. What tricks can your pet/animal do?
  - b. Do they have any favorite toys/hiding spots?
  - c. What is your favorite thing about your pet/animal?
5. Can be a current pet/animal or a pet/animal that has crossed the rainbow bridge.

### Division A Youth Pet/Animal Project

#### **Class**

- 4800. Dog or Cat
- 4801. Aviary (Birds)
- 4802. Fish & Reptiles
- 4803. Small animal (rabbit, guinea pig, gerbils, etc.).
- 4804. Large animal (livestock)
- 4805. Other Pet

## Department 49 – Jr. Homemaker of the Year

The Jr. Homemaker of the year will be awarded to a young individual who demonstrates and showcases community service, leadership and skills Still Exhibits department

Exhibitors must complete a still exhibit entry form and exhibit a total of 4 items from at least 3 of the Open Youth Still Exhibit departments (2 items may be from the same department). These are not additional still exhibit entries.

Jr. Homemaker application and questions are due by **Friday July 2<sup>th</sup>** and emailed to [Ripkekar@msu.edu](mailto:Ripkekar@msu.edu) or dropped off to the Extension office. **Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>** is exhibit building set-up at the fairgrounds, all items not already turned in must there by 11am.

Judging is based on department awards, neatness, detail & creativity of exhibits, and questions.

## Department 49 Mecosta County Fair Jr. Homemaker of the Year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules:**

- Must be Youth (age 8 – 19), as of July 1, 2026.
- You must be a resident of Mecosta or Mecosta County 4-H club member and exhibited at the Mecosta County Fair last year.
- Exhibitors must complete a still exhibit entry form and must exhibit a total of 4 items from at least 3 of the Open Youth Still Exhibit departments (2 items may be from the same department).
  - These are not additional items to your 1 per class

**Please list the classes you are entering as part of this contest.**

Department	Division	Class	Description of Item

**Must answer the following:**

1. Describe your involvement in the Mecosta County Fair during the past year. Include awards won and volunteer tasks you performed at the fair.
2. Describe other volunteer participation/activities you have been involved in outside the fair (school, community, church, other organizations).
3. What do you enjoy most about “homemaking” activities
4. What do you like best about the Mecosta County Fair and why?

# OPEN ADULT STILL EXHIBITS

## DEPARTMENT 50: Open Adult Culinary Arts

- Food items cannot be kits or store-bought mixes.
- Baked goods must be attractively presented on plastic plates, Styrofoam plates or cardboard cut to size and in a plastic re-sealable bag.
- Novelty exhibits should be placed on candy paper, or in an appropriate display container.
- A 3 x 5 or 4 x 6 index card with a complete ingredient list (recipe is not required) must accompany the food item. This includes frosting and toppings.
- Required numbers of products for entry are shown in parentheses.
- Exhibit items may be smaller for cakes, pies, & bread. If the exhibit item is full size, a portion must be left on display, and the remainder may be taken home after judging.
- Decorated Cakes:
  - Dummy cake forms are allowed, judging on decoration only.
  - Exhibits may not be bigger than 20" x 20" and no more than 2 tiers.
- Canning & Preserves
  - Jars must be clean, dated, and identified.
  - Must be canning jars. Sealed with 2-piece vacuum caps with ring on.
  - Product of the current or previous season.
  - Jars will not be opened for judging.

<p><b><u>Division A: Baking</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5000. Bars (3)            5001. Brownies (3)            5002. Cake            5003. Cookies (3)            5004. Cupcakes (3)            5005. Pie            5006. Other Baking</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Breads</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5010. Biscuits (3)            5011. Muffins (3)            5012. Quick/Sweet Bread            5013. Rolls (3)            5014. Yeast Bread            5015. Other Bread</p> <p><i>Breads: 4" x 6" foil pan size or similar is acceptable</i></p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Novelty</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5020. Fudge            5021. Honey            5022. Honeycomb            5023. Maple Syrup            5024. Molded Chocolate            5025. Other Novelty</p> <p><i>4 pieces for judging</i></p>
<p><b><u>Division D: Decorated</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5030. Decorated Cake            5031. Decorated Cookies (3)            5032. Decorated Cupcakes (3)</p> <p><i>NOTE: Box cakes, scratch cakes or a false base may be used for this division.</i></p>	<p><b><u>Division E: Canning &amp; Preserves</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5040. Jar of Fruit            5041. Jar of Jam            5042. Jar of Jelly            5043. Jar of Pickles            5044. Jar of Relish            5045. Jar of Salsa            5046. Jar of Vegetable (includes tomatoes)            5047. Other Canning/Preserves</p>	<p><b><u>Division F: Specialty Foods</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5050. Summer Sausage (3 slices)            5051. Jerky (3 Sticks)            5052. Meat Sticks (3 sticks)            5053. Any Dried Fruit            5054. Any Dried Vegetable            5055. Any Dried Meat</p>

## DEPARTMENT 51: Open Adult Creative Crafts

- All work exhibited must be completed by the exhibitor.
- The exhibitor is responsible for ensuring a secure wire to exhibits designed to hang.
- If the item is from a kit – It must be identified.

<p><b><u>Division A: Indoor Crafts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5100. Basketry            5101. Bead Work/Jewelry            5102. Candle Making            5103. Ceramics            5104. Macrame/Paracord            5105. Sand Art            5106. Sculpture            5107. Soap Making            5108. Stained Glass/Sun catcher            5109. Weaving</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Metalworking</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5110. Abstract Art Design            5111. Metal Article Formed/Forged            5112. Metal Craft/Sculpture            5113. Welded Article            5114. Other Metalworking</p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Outdoor Crafts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5120. Birdhouses            5121. Fishing Lures            5122. Leather Crafts            5123. Taxidermy            5124. Tied Flies            5125. Wreath</p>
<p><b><u>Division D: Paper Crafts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5130. Calligraphy            5131. Cards            5132. Collage            5133. Origami            5134. Paper Art            5135. Scrapbook, 1 page            5136. Other paper craft</p>	<p><b><u>Division E: Woodworking</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5140. Furniture Creating            5141. Furniture Refinishing            5142. Wood Art            5143. Wood Burning            5144. Wood Carving            5145. Other Woodworking</p>	<p><b><u>Division F: Other Crafts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5150. Creative Writing            5151. Lego or Model (kit)            5152. Lego or Model (non-kit)            5153. Poetry            5154. Recycled Craft            5155. Stamping            5156. Other Creative Craft</p>

## DEPARTMENT 52: Open Adult Fine Arts

- All pictures (with exception of oil or canvas paintings) must be matted on a firm surface or in a frame (matting board, cardstock, foam board, stiff poster board, etc.)
  - Matting should be 1-inch larger than the actual artwork.
- Framed items must be wired to accept the weight of the item on a pegboard hook.
  - **No frames with glass**
  - Any items showing signs of falling will be removed from display and stored.
- Maximum size for artwork will be 48" in any direction.
- All work must be original, No wet paint, No tracing.

<p><b><u>Division A: Drawings</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5200. Charcoal            5201. Marker            5202. Mixed            5203. Pen            5204. Pencil</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Painting</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5210. Acrylic            5211. Mixed            5212. Oil            5213. Pastels            5214. Watercolor</p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Other Medium</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5220. Crayon            5221. Finger paint            5222. Multiple/mixed mediums            5223. Textiles            5224. Any Other</p>
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## DEPARTMENT 53: Open Adult Needlework

- Clothing entered should be on a hanger.
- Quilts must be finished in the last year.
- Wearable (Any clothing type)
- Non-wearable (tablecloth, napkin, placemat potholder, etc.)

<p><b><u>Division A: Clothing</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5300. Accessory            5301. Apparel            5302. Recycled/Enhanced</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Crocheting</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5310. Blanket/Afghan            5311. Non-Wearable            5312. Wearable</p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Knitting</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5320. Blanket/Afghan            5321. Non-Wearable            5322. Wearable</p>
<p><b><u>Division D: Quilts</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5330. Appliqued (machine or hand)            5331. Group Made Quilt            5332. Hand Pieced Quilt            5333. Machine Pieced Quilt            5334. Quilted Pillow or Wall Hanging            5335. Quilt Tied off            5336. Other Quilt</p>		<p><b><u>Division E: Other Needlework</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5340. Cross-stitch            5341. Embroidery            5342. Fleece Article            5343. Latch Hook            5344. Rugs            5345. Toys (bear, doll, doll clothes, etc.)            5346. Tye-Dye            5347. Other Needlework</p>

## DEPARTMENT 54: Open Adult Photography

- All single pictures must be 8 x 10.
- Related Series of 6 can be 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 photos, mounted on a foam board.
- Photography must be matted and have a wire or heavy cord securely fastened and ready to hang. Frame is optional, no glass please. Duct tape is not a secure fastener.
- All photography must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- **NO NUDE PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

<p><b><u>Division A: Color</u></b></p> <p><b>Class</b>            5400. Action            5401. Animal            5402. Farm Scene            5403. Nature            5404. Portrait (person, face or head and shoulders)            5405. Special Effects/Digitally Enhanced            5406. Still Life            5407. Structure (<i>equipment, auto, building, etc.</i>)            5408. Related Series: 6 photos on one board            (Must include title to series)</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Black and White</u></b> (includes Sepia)</p> <p><b>Class</b>            5410. Action            5411. Animal            5412. Farm Scene            5413. Nature            5414. Portrait (person, face or head and shoulders)            5415. Special Effects/Digitally Enhanced            5416. Still Life            5417. Structure (<i>equipment, auto, building, etc.</i>)            5418. Related Series: 6 photos on one board            (Must include title to series)</p>
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## DEPARTMENT 55 Open Adult Floriculture

- Cut flower division: Exhibitors must grow their own floriculture.
- Flower arrangements may be home grown, wild, or purchased.
- An index card with common name, variety, and type (home grown, wild, or purchased) must accompany live flower exhibits.
- No plants from Michigan protected list allowed.
  - See: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/species/plants>
- Cut flowers and bouquets should be clear container or vase.
  - Do not remove foliage/greenery from stems above the waterline or add an extra stem of foliage.
- Flowers and plants must be free of disease, insect damage and in a healthy condition.
- Similar variety, bloom, and stem length should be chosen.

<b><u>Division A: Cut Flowers</u></b>	<b><u>Division B: Live Flower Arrangements</u></b>	<b><u>Division C: Silk Flowers</u></b>
<b>Class</b> 5500. Annual Flower 5501. Gladiolus 5502. Hydrangeas 5503. Perennial Flower 5504. Rose 5505. Other Cut Flower	<b>Class</b> 5510. Bouquet 5511. Corsage 5512. Dried Flowers 5513. Green Foliage 5514. Table/Centerpiece 5515. Other Live Flower Arrangement	<b>Class</b> 5520. Bouquet 5521. Corsage 5522. Table/Centerpiece 5523. Wall Hanging 5524. Other Silk Flower
<b><u>Division D: Flower Gardening</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dish gardens and terrariums are to contain a mixture of at least three different plants. No artificial plant materials allowed.</i></li> <li>• <i>Plants must be the property of the exhibitor for at least three months.</i></li> <li>• <i>Accessories are allowed in terrariums.</i></li> <li>• <i>Exhibitors should plant their project and begin caring for it by April 15<sup>th</sup>.</i></li> </ul> <b>Class</b> 5530. Dish Garden/Terrarium 5531. Hanging Plant/Basket 5532. Houseplant Arrangement (foliage or bloom) 5533. Patio Planter (at least 4 types) 5534. Succulents or Cacti 5535. Other Flower Garden		

## DEPARTMENT 56 Open Adult Agriculture and Horticulture

- Each exhibitor must be the producer.
- Corn stalks must be tied and with husks.
- Herbs should be 1-inch diameter bunch, tied and should not be in full bloom.
  - Fresh cut bunches in water containers

<p><b><u>Division A: Farm Crops</u></b>  <b>Class</b>          5600. Corn, 5 ears (any variety)          5601. Corn, 3 stalks (any variety)              <i>(with husks, must be tied)</i>          5602. Forage, bundle          5603. Gourd, 3-5 specimens          5604. Grain, bundle or 1qt jar              <i>(Bundles must show seeds)</i>          5605. Haylage, gallon bag          5606. Silage, gallon bag          5607. Sunflower, 3-5 specimens          5608. Other Farm Crop</p>	<p><b><u>Division B: Fruits</u></b>  <b>Class</b>          5610. Blueberries, 1 pint          5611. Cherries, 1 pint          5612. Raspberries, 1 pint          5613. Strawberries, 1 pint          5614. Other Fruit, 1 pint</p>	<p><b><u>Division C: Vegetables</u></b>  <b>Class</b>          5620. Cabbage, 1 specimen          5621. Cucumbers, 3 specimens          5622. Eggplant, 3 specimens          5623. Lettuce, 1 specimen          5624. Onions, 3 specimens          5625. Peppers, 3 specimens          5626. Radishes, 6 specimens          5627. String beans, 3 specimens          5628. Summer squash, 3 specimens          5629. Sweet corn, 3 specimens          5630. Potatoes, 3 specimens          5631. Basket (6 or more, assorted)          5632. Other Vegetable</p>
<p><b><u>Division D: Herbs (Dried or fresh)</u></b>  <b>Class</b>          5640. One Herb          5641. Three Types of Herbs          5642. Six types of Herbs</p>	<p><b><u>Division E: Container Garden</u></b>  <b>Class</b>          5650. Container Garden with one vegetable          5651. Container Garden with two or more vegetables</p>	

## Department 57 - Adult Open Class Homemaker of the Year

A homemaker is an individual that resides in Mecosta or adjoining counties, who successfully manages their life in a way that benefits both their family and their community. They effectively manage their household, create a home where they celebrate their creativity, skills, and work ethic, and provide inspiration and guidance to others. They contribute to society by performing community service that reflects their values and beliefs.

Exhibitors must complete a still exhibit entry form and must exhibit a total of 4 items from at least 3 of the Open Adult Still Exhibit departments (2 items may be from the same department). These do not need to be in addition to still exhibit entries.

Homemaker application and questions must be completed by **Friday July 2<sup>th</sup>** and emailed to [Ripkekar@msu.edu](mailto:Ripkekar@msu.edu) or dropped off to the Extension office. Non-perishable items can be turned in at this time as well. **Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>** is exhibit building set-up at the fairgrounds, all items not already turned in must there by 11am.

On Tuesday of fair week, homemaker displays will be arranged for all participants. This class will then be judged to determine the 2026 Homemaker of the year.

Judging will be based on initial department awards, neatness, detail & creativity of exhibits, and questions answered on application.

## Mecosta County Fair Homemaker of the Year Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules:**

- You must be a resident of Mecosta County or exhibited at the Mecosta County Fair the previous 3 years.
- Exhibitors must complete a still exhibit entry form and must exhibit a total of 4 items from at least 3 of the Open Adult Still Exhibit departments (2 items may be from the same department).
  - These are not additional items to your 1 per class items.

**Please list the classes you are entering as part of this contest.**

Department	Division	Class	Description of Item

**Must answer the following:**

1. Have you ever participated in the Mecosta County Fair                      Yes                      No  
     If yes, in what capacity?
2. Briefly describe what is most important to you in your life.
3. What are some of the aspects of homemaking that you enjoy?
4. What are your hobbies?
5. What goals have you accomplished that you are most proud of and have given you the most satisfaction?
6. What is your involvement in social organizations, community programs or volunteer services?
7. Explain why you think the Mecosta County Fair is important to the community. (as you perceive it).