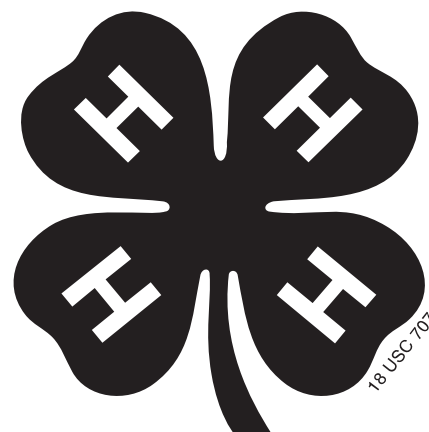


- 1444. Still life.
- 1445. Vehicle, any type.
- 1446. Sporting event.
- 1447. Pets, farm animals.
- 1448. Wildlife: mammals or birds.
- 1449. Other wildlife (fish, insects, reptiles, etc.).
- 1450. Zoo animals.
- 1451. Architectural exterior/interior.
- 1452. Statues and monuments.
- 1453. Designs or patterns (including multi-image, fireworks, etc.).
- 1454. Abstracts.
- 1455. Novelty, humor.
- 1456. Montgomery County historical scene.
- 1457. Montgomery County scene.
- 1458. Montgomery County Fair scene.
- 1459. Nightscape.
- 1460. Skyscape.
- 1461. Animal of the year (Highland Cow).



4-H AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS 10-23

DEPARTMENT 10: 4-H Showmanship
DEPARTMENT 11: 4-H Beef
DEPARTMENT 12: 4-H Dairy
DEPARTMENT 13: 4-H Sheep
DEPARTMENT 14: 4-H Swine
DEPARTMENT 15: 4-H Dog Show
DEPARTMENT 16: 4-H Pet Show
DEPARTMENT 17: 4-H Dairy Goats
DEPARTMENT 18: 4-H Poultry
DEPARTMENT 19: 4-H Rabbit
DEPARTMENT 20: 4-H Horse and Pony
DEPARTMENT 21: 4-H Clover Agricultural
DEPARTMENT 22: 4-H Engineering Events
DEPARTMENT 23: 4-H Meat Goat

GENERAL RULES and REGULATIONS

Entries close July 20, 2025

1. Entries are open to active members enrolled by June 1 of the current year with the Montgomery County 4-H Office and are in good standing in a Montgomery County 4-H Club. In divisions which specify junior, intermediate & senior, the ages are as follows: Junior 8, 9, and 10; Intermediate. 11, 12, and 13; Senior 14 and up. Age calculated by Jan. 1 of current year.
2. Participants must abide by the rules, guidelines, and policies of their respective organizations and program requirements. For 4-H members, these are *the 4-H Code of Conduct and Behavioral Expectations, the UME 4-H Show Ring Code of Ethics, the Code of Animal Science Ethics, the Maryland Pony Rule Book and other 4-H club, county or state guidelines, as appropriate*. In the event that these documents do not cover a specific situation, the superintendent, with approval of the 4-H educator, may look to the AQHA, PDCA, ARBA, AKC, or other species' breed rules for guidance. In the case that the 4-H rules appear to conflict with AQHA, PDCA, ARBA, AKC, or other species' breed rules, 4-H rules take priority.
3. All animal exhibitors and a parent must attend one of the animal exhibitor orientation sessions at the Fairgrounds. Please check with the 4-H Office for times and dates.
4. The Show Superintendent in consultation with the appropriate 4-H educator reserves the right to interpret all rules and regulations and resolve any situations, which may arise and is not restricted by the lack of specific rules or regulations. The Superintendent or 4-H representative may request a meeting of the oversight committee when necessary to review a protest. The decision of the Superintendent, 4-H representative, or the oversight committee is final.
5. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals while on the grounds. Premiums will not be paid to exhibitors who fail to keep the animals and stables clean and attractive at all times. Superintendents reserve the right to take corrective action in situations observed that affect the safety and well being of the animals.



The Grapes & Grains Garden

6. The fitting and preparation of all animals for show is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive guidance from immediate family members, other Maryland 4-H youth, and their respective adult club leaders. Violation of this policy could result in immediate disqualification of the exhibitor from all 4-H livestock shows and competitions at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair and dismissal from the grounds.
7. All beef steers must be owned on or before January 1 of the current year, market hogs, market goats, lambs must be owned on, or before, May 31 of the current year. All steers must be tagged and at the first county weigh-in, and market hogs, market lambs, and goats must be weighed and tagged by an official weigh committee in June at the first county weigh-in (Sheep and Swine Field Day).
8. Any 4-H'er exhibiting an animal in a market class on show day will not be able to withdraw from competition once it has started. The animal must complete the show.
9. There are no official classes for Clover 4-H members (ages 5–7) in the County Fair except in the 4-H Clover Agricultural or 4-H Clover Indoor departments.
10. Bona fide enrolled 4-H members may sleep in the barns with their parents' permission if their presence is needed for their animal care. Neither the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc., nor the 4-H Office is responsible for the well being of exhibitors who spend the night in the barns.
11. All entries must be in accordance with the State Health Regulations.
12. Entries must be made using the online entry system available on the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair website (mcagfair.com), or on the regulation 4-H entry blanks furnished by the Montgomery County Ag Center.
13. In order for 4-H exhibits to be shown in the Open Class, separate Open Class entries must be made, and Open Class entry fees must be paid.
14. There will be no entry fees for 4-H exhibits.
15. All 4-H breeding animals must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor, and must have been owned and registered in the name of the owner on or before July 1 of the current year, unless otherwise specified in departmental rules. The Superintendent will check registration papers. Formal leasing arrangements are permissible with performance or breeding animals by June 1 of current year. Contact the 4-H Office for guidelines.
16. Exhibitors will be permitted to substitute one animal for another, either in the same class or in a different class, within the same breed following perscribed rules and superintendent's discretion.
17. All animals must be shown by their owner except where two animals may be shown in a class or in other species shows at the same time, the other animal must be shown by a Montgomery County 4-H member.
18. Exhibitors in 4-H Departments 11 through 17 may not enter more than two exhibits in any one class or take more than two premiums per class. Additional rules for Departments 15, 16, 19 and 20 are listed under respective departments.
19. All livestock exhibits, excluding horses, beef, rabbits, sheep, swine, and goats, must be on the grounds by 10am on Sunday, Aug. 10.
20. See General Rules and Regulations for animal release times. Beef and goats must be on the grounds by noon Sunday, Aug. 10. Sheep must be on the grounds and checked in with the superintendent(s) by 11am on Sunday, Aug. 10. Swine must be on the grounds by noon on Sunday, Aug. 10. Rabbits must be on the grounds and checked in by the superintendent between 3–9pm, Friday Aug. 8.
21. A participation award of \$8 will be paid on dairy, beef and horse exhibits, and \$4 on swine, sheep and goat exhibits, if the entry does not place.
22. **4-H Protest Process** - 1. A protest, must pertain to an observed violation of a Montgomery County Fair rule or 4-H rule, or management of written processes. This includes procedures used for 4-H Livestock sales, weigh-in, tagging, showing, and 4-H events that occur at the Fair. A protest cannot pertain to behavior of 4-H member, volunteer, or family member. Complaints about behavior must be reported directly to the 4-H Educator(s) immediately. Protesting the official placing by a judge is not a rule infraction that is eligible for protest.
2. Eligibility: A 4-H Protest can be submitted by 4-H members,

parents or guardians of Montgomery County 4-H members, superintendents, judges, UME 4-H volunteers, and Fair officials. Members of the general public are ineligible to file a protest. Anonymous protests will not be accepted.

3. Judging: Livestock Shows and related judging procedures will not be interrupted or delayed for pending protests.

4. Process:

a. A written protest form must be handed in to the Executive Director, Fair President and/or the Fair Chairman within 12hrs of the observed violation with a \$250 USD protest fee in cash only. The fee will be refunded if the complaint is held legitimate. If the protest is determined without foundation, the protest filing fee is forfeited to the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Protest forms can be found in the Fair Office.

b. The Executive Director, President and/or Fair Chairman will notify the Extension Educator or Designee of the filed protest as soon as possible.

c. The Extension Educator, Executive Director, President of the Fair Board of Directors, Fair Chairman, and the superintendent or department chairperson will determine if the protest has merit and worthy of additional consideration.

d. If determined that the protest has merit, a Protest Review Committee will be convened by the President that will include, but not be limited to; the Executive Director, Fair Chairman, President, Extension Educator or designee, 4-H department superintendent, and others as might be appropriate.

e. The Protest Review Committee will review all relevant Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, 4-H Division, and Department rules and processes, the content of the protest, and evidence supporting or refuting the protest claim. The Committee will review documentation relevant to the protest and interview individuals who witnessed the protested activity or may have relevant knowledge and expertise.

f. Once the Protest Review Committee has reviewed the claim and rules, processes, and policies, Montgomery County 4-H faculty and staff, including, but not limited to, the Educator(s), Area Extension Director, or designee(s) will make the final decision.

g. A written response will be provided to the individual who submitted the protest.

h. Copies of all records related to the protest will be kept in the Fair Office and the 4-H Extension Office for no less than 2 years.

i. All written and verbal discussion pertaining to the claim(s) are confidential and not for distribution.

j. Montgomery County Agricultural Fair leadership reserves the right to take additional action outside of the 4-H protest response, as appropriate.

23. Scheduled shows will occur as planned and will not be postponed or cancelled to adjudicate a protest.

24. All 4-H entries must be housed in space designated.

25. Any questions arising from the above rules and regulations will be reviewed by a Montgomery County Extension Educator or Department Superintendent.

26. Where there is but one exhibitor in a class, the judges will award only one premium, the highest, or a low one, as may be determined by the judges, who will in no case award a premium where there is no merit.

27. Exhibitor should check the Rules and Regulations of each department for rules specific to the department.

ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

1. All 4-H Exhibitors of Livestock must follow the Maryland Department of Agriculture 2025 Fair and Show Requirements for Livestock Exhibition including a completed CVI and "Livestock Exhibitor's Self-Certification of Animal Health" document (located at www.mda.state.md.us).

2. New Federal and State animal ID requirements: All animals except rabbits and dogs must have "Official Identification" to enter exhibitions. In most cases, this means the animal will have to be identified using an official USDA or MD tag that is associated with a registered premise. Official information can be found at <http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>.

- Exhibitors of livestock will be required to send in a copy of their approved Maryland show/ Interstate CVI paper(s) or, if entering online, exhibitors must provide official health paper number and bring the original and a copy for the department upon arrival for each species exhibited with their registration for the event(s) in which they plan to participate. All animals that are to be exhibited must be listed on a health paper.
- The Superintendent of the event will collect the health paper copies from the data processing office as the registrations are processed, and have them on location the day of the event. Exhibitors will still be required to bring their original health papers with them to the event.
- Exhibitors will be allowed to unload and place the animals upon arrival. If time allows, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) inspectors will, as in the past, arrive at the event at the beginning of check-in time. However, if there are other events occurring and/or this Fair has multiple day check-ins (different species classes, open classes, etc.) the inspector(s) will arrive as soon as possible to begin inspections. In this situation the inspector(s) will check in with the superintendent to see if there are any known problems, do a random check on the health papers and, then, visually check the animals.
- No animal may be given any substance other than feed and water without a veterinarian's approval and supervision while on the Fairgrounds.
- By authority of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 15.11.14.06, Exhibitor Requirements, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Program now require that ALL cattle and swine exhibited during the 2023 Maryland Fairs and Shows Season must have Official United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Ear Tags. For Open Class questions contact Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5810. For questions with 4-H contact Catherine Savage, 301-590-2813.

FITTING AND SHOWING CLASSES

- Showmanship classes will be judged on showmanship, knowledge and presentation of the animal.
- Showmanship exhibitors should check the Fitting and Showing/ Showmanship rules of each specific department.
- Fitting and Showing classes will be as follows according to the following departments:
 - Dog department:** First Year Novice, Novice, Open, Dean's Champion Challenge.
 - Dairy, Sheep and Goat departments:** First Year, Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), and Senior (14-18).
 - Beef department:** First Year, Junior and Intermediate (8-13), First Year Senior (14-18), Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), and Senior (14-18).
 - Horse and Rabbit departments:** Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13) and Senior (14-18).
 - Swine department:** 1st year, (8-9), (10-11), (12-13), (14-15) and (16 and up).
- Master Showman classes are offered in Beef, Dairy, and Swine departments. Class includes current year and past year champions. Challenge of Champions class is offered in the Sheep Department. Class includes past years' Grand Champions only. See each department for additional rules. Former Achievement Trophy Winners are not eligible to compete in the same department again.
- A 4-H club member cannot participate in a Fitting and Showing contest unless he or she is wearing a prescribed uniform as follows: (midribs must be covered in all cases).

BEEF EXHIBITOR

- Boys: Khaki or green trousers, khaki or white collared shirt, and black or green tie.
- Girls: Khaki or green skirt or slacks, khaki or white collared shirt, and black or green tie or neckpiece.
- No tennis, athletic shoes, or crocs. Closed toe shoes only.

DAIRY, DAIRY GOATS AND DAIRY STEERS

- Boys: 4-H—black or white slacks, white collared shirt with green or black tie.

- Girls: 4-H—black or white skirt or slacks, white collared shirt with green or black tie or neckpiece.
- No shorts or split skirts above the knees are allowed.
- No crocs, closed toe shoes only.

DOG EXHIBITOR

Proper professional looking ring attire should be worn for Fitting and Showmanship. No sandals, flips flop, crocs or clogs. No open toes shoes.

HORSE AND PONY EXHIBITORS

- Suitable riding attire.
- Hard hats are required.
- No crocs, closed toe shoes only.

SHEEP, SWINE and MARKET GOAT EXHIBITORS

- Boys: Khaki trousers, white collared shirt and black or green tie.
- Girls: Khaki slacks, white collared shirt and black or green tie neckpiece ribbon.
- No tennis, athletic shoes, or crocs. Closed toe shoes only.

PROMOTION CLASSES

- Promotion classes are meant to be fun classes for the participant and educational to the public. 4-H members and their animal dress in coordinating or complementary costumes. Animals need not be owned by the exhibitor, but must meet health regulations for that species to show.
- Each exhibitor must prepare a script or narration to accompany his or her exhibit. The script is limited to one page double space (12 pt.). The script should promote the species or 4-H and its connection to the costume's theme. Participants name, age, and costume title should appear at top of script.
- Each exhibitor is permitted only one entry. That entry will be evaluated on the basis of its ability to promote 4-H or its ability to promote the species, breed, or products of the project animal. Promotion score sheets will be available.
- Cross entering costumes and scripts between species is not acceptable.
- Costumes to be created by the 4-H member.
- Promotional classes are to be pre-entered via the online entry system or paper entry forms to the Fair Office by July 20, 2025. Scripts for these classes are due to appropriate superintendent(s) as follows:
 - Dairy & Dairy Goats—8pm Monday
 - Sheep & Swine—4pm Tuesday
 - Horse, Dog and Pets—at check-in time for show
- Clovers are officially ineligible to participate in promotion classes.
- By entering and participating in a 4-H show you agree to abide by all rules and regulations detailed in the most current edition of the Fair catalog for each specific Department, as well as 4-H rules, 4-H Club rules and those indicated in the General Rules and Regulations.
- To show in market classes and sell in any of the 4-H market sales, an exhibitor must be in good standing in their respective 4-H market club and have fulfilled all requirements that are indicated in the published rules for each individual 4-H market club, as determined by the 4-H Club leader (s).
- Violations of these rules could result in consequences and/or sanctions as might be determined by 4-H and/or Fair leadership.
- Montgomery County 4-H member in good standing and have completed all eligibility requirements as determined by the Montgomery County 4-H Program.