DEPARTMENT 4
BEEF CATTLE
Superintendent – Lisa Shilling 269-209-0045
Assistant Superintendents – Rachel Hall 616-902-7630

Judging Tuesday at 9:00 am

GENERAL RULES

1. Livestock exhibitors must be in compliance with animal health requirements as defined by the department. Please refer to the MDARD web site www.michigan.gov/mdard and Exhibition Requirements for Livestock. At the time of check in all cattle must be identified with radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags. RFID tags must match the same RFID tag numbers provided for tag in and fair entry, when animal is checked in at fair or the animal will not be permitted to show.
2. All animals will be health checked off the trailer at Fair check in. Once animals pass health check they will be allowed in stall. (Health checks may include temperature checks)
3. Animals showing any signs of ringworm, warts, foot rot, pink eye, sore mouth, breathing problems, pneumonia or any other contagious or infectious disease, cannot be exhibited. You must take it home. Superintendents should be notified of any animals with illness during the week.
4. Beef Cattle will be judged Tuesday morning starting at 9:00am.
5. Pen fee of $7.00 per animal and barn space ($5.00 for manure, $2.00 for barn account). Barn Space Form and fees are due June 1st to Superintendent.
6. For Current Tag-in information, for all Species, please refer to the Eaton County Fair website – Tag in Information
7. Exhibitors are allowed to tag in up to 5 Market Beef .
8. Youth are limited to exhibiting 5 breeding animals, (2 market beef steers and/or heifers, 2 feeders and 1 carcass steer or heifer) per exhibitor.
9. All Beef will be weighed in and have tags/tattoos checked on Sunday, July 12, 2026 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
10. All Market Beef must be castrated and healed by Fair check-in.
11. All Market Beef must be dehorned or have horns 2" or less in length.
12. Market Beef are not required to sell unless they are Champion or Reserve Champion Market Animals.
13. Market Beef Steers must weigh 900 lbs. and Market Beef Heifers must weigh 800 lbs. If underweight they will be put in the Heavyweight feeder class and will not be able to sell in the ECYLO auction.
14. When entering feeder or market cattle, indicate the section but no class number. This will be determined after animals are weighed.
15. Market Classes will be decided by weight of animal at weigh in and will be assigned to a weight class by the superintendent.
16. Beef shown in a market class cannot be shown in a breeding class.
17. Both registered and commercial (non-registered) heifers can be Shown. **All heifers will be shown by date of birth**. **Registered Heifers must provide papers at checked in stay in breed class or they will be considered crossbred.**
18. All registered breeding heifers entered in the show must be registered with the official breed association in the name of the exhibitor prior to May 1st of the current year. All non-registered breeding animals must be owned by the exhibitor or co-owned with immediate family by May 1st of the current year. Registration and transfer papers must be approved by the superintendent at check-in time. Animals that are not registered or whose registration papers are not approved will show in the commercial class.
19. Showmanship age as January 1st of the current year.
20. There will be a peewee showmanship class. Registration prior to Fair is not required. Peewee showmanship will follow exhibitor showmanship. Peewee's need to be accompanied into the ring by an older exhibitor or adult.
21. Each exhibited is responsible to care for his or her market animal until release time.
22. Grooming chutes are to be set up in designated area.
23. No unethical fitting or procedures of animals will be allowed, not limited to but including fake hair, String, Yarn, oxygen under skin, injecting of any other material under the skin, and pumping. Animals will be disqualified for any unethical fitting or procedures. Exhibitor will forfeit placements, ribbons, or trophies for that exhibit and will NOT be allowed to enter exhibits the following year.
24. Club/Group aisle duty is the responsibility of individual clubs/groups to assign youth in that club/group.
25. No water buckets/barrels will be allowed to be left under or next **to water sources**. "NO Barrel Drums cut in Half will be Permitted in Stalls.
26. Exhibits removed by any person or persons prior to release without permission and early release form signed by superintendent and fair board liaison will forfeit placements, ribbons or trophies for that exhibit and will not be allowed to enter exhibits the following year.
27. All exhibitors must feed AND water their cattle daily.
28. All Exhibitors must walk their cattle daily.
29. All exhibitors must have their cattle tied with both a halter AND a necktie. Necktie must be separate from halter.
30. All exhibitors must tie their water up to avoid the cattle from knocking it over.
31. All exhibitors must have their pens cleaned by 8:30 am every day.
32. All exhibitors must maintain their pens throughout the day and add clean bedding as needed.
33. Generators can be removed the morning following the show or sale to protect them from inclement weather by 8 am.
34. All cattle RFID tags must match all 3; fair tag in, the fair entry, and in the animals RFID tag in its ear or the animal will be **disqualified**. RFID tags must match the same RFID tag numbers provided for tag in and fair entry, when animal is checked in at the fair or the animal will not be permitted to show.
35. Cattle with testicles or portions of testicles will be disqualified.
36. Cattle shoots can be removed the morning following the sale by 8 am.
37. In order to foster a positive and respectful competitive environment, any form of negative behavior exhibited by leaders, exhibitors, or parents will not be tolerated during fair. This includes but is not limited to: verbal abuse, physical aggression, intimidation, disrespect, discrimination, or any actions that undermine the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship. Violations of this rule may result in warnings, penalties, or immediate ejection from the fairgrounds, as determined by the fairboard and superintendents. The focus of the fair is on healthy competition, skill development and mutual respect among all participants.

DEPARTMENT 4
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Superintendent – Crystal Kebler 517-667-8087
Assistant Superintendents – Lisa Shilling 269-209-0045, Rachel Hall

CLEAN UP RULES

1. All clubs/groups must have at least 1 representative in the cattle barn at 6:00am on Sunday when clean up starts
2. All exhibitors/adults must be helping if in/around the cattle barn.
3. All decorations in the cattle barn must NOT be torn down until 6:00am on Sunday.
4. All cattle being shipped to stockyards or processors must leave the grounds before clean-up/teardown occurs.
5. **All remaining cattle not sold in the sale must not leave the barn until 6:00 am on Sunday after all shipped cattle have left the property.**

SECTION 57 - SHOWMANSHIP
Ribbons

Classes will be divided by age. Show order - oldest to youngest.
Class
600. All Beef Showmanship
609. Novice Showmanship
610. Champion and Reserve Champion Showman

SECTION 59 - HEREFORD
Ribbons

Class
612. Junior Heifer Calf (calved after 1-1-26)
613. Late Senior Heifer Calf (calved 11-1-25 through 12-31-25)
614. Early Senior Heifer Calf (calved 9-1-25 through 10-31-25)
615. Late Summer Yearling Heifer (calved 7-1-25 thru 8-31-25)
616. Early Summer Yearling Heifer (calved 5-1-25 thru 6-30-25)
617. Late Jr. Yearling Heifer (calved 3-1-25 through 4-30-25)
618. Early Jr. Yearling Heifer (calved 1-1-25 through 2-29-25)
619. Senior Yearling Heifer (calved 9-1-24 through 12-31-24)
620. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Heifer

SECTION 60 – SHORTHORN
Ribbons
Classes same as in Section 59

SECTION 61 – ANGUS
Ribbons
Classes same as in Section 59

SECTION 62 – ALL OTHER REGISTERED BREEDS
Ribbons
Classes same as in Section 59

SECTION 63 – COMMERCIAL AND CROSSBRED
Ribbons
Classes same as in Section 59

SECTION 64 – ALL BREEDS
Ribbons

Class
621. Junior Bull Calf (calved after January 1ST this year)
622. Cow with natural calf of current year (not eligible for champion)
623. Supreme and Reserve Champion over all Breeds (female)

SECTION 65 – BRED & OWNED FEMALES
Ribbons

Class
624. One Bred & Owned Heifer (Heifer bred and raised on exhibitor's family farm). Proof must be provided at check in.

SECTION 66 – PROSPECT BEEF
GENERAL RULES
Ribbons

1. A prospect beef calf (feeder calf)is an immature bovine animal ,usually not over seven months of age that has been raised on a diet of milk, milk replacers, grain and/or roughage.
2. As part of the calf's diet, calf may receive milk from cow (run off cow), but must be weaned by fair time.
3. A male prospect calf needs to be castrated and dehorned and fully healed before the fair to be exhibited, If there are signs of horns, only 1 inch maximum will be allowed. No swelling, signs of decay, trauma, drainage, no hanging, etc. allowed.
4. **Prospect beef will not be sold at the Livestock Auction.**
5. Prospect beef can be shown in Showmanship, only if the exhibitor does not have a steer or heifer.
6. Prospect beef will be weighed in on Sunday from 2:00pm – 6:00pm. **The Maximum weight is 700 lbs.**
7. Exhibitors will show animal like a steer.
8. Prospect calves must be a beef
9. Classes will be divided at the discretion of the superintendent.
10. An RFID tag must be in the animal's ear.
11. Prospect beef will be shown along with Breeding Stock during the beef show.

Class
625. Lightweight Prospect Beef
626. Heavyweight Prospect Beef
627. Premier Prospect Beef

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SECTION 67
MARKET & FEEDER CATTLE (All Breeds)
Ribbons

Class
629. Beef Market Steer
630. Beef Market Heifer
631. Champion and Reserve Champion Market Beef & 3rd, 4th, & 5th Placements
632. Lightweight Feeder
633. Heavyweight Feeder
634. County Bred Market Beef - Calves bred in the county and purchased by a county exhibitor also includes calves bred and raised by the family of the exhibitor. Proof of ownership should be submitted in the form of a bill of sale, registration paper, or in the case of a family-owned herd, a letter with animal ID, signed by member, parent and leader

SECTION 68
FUN CLASSES
Date & Time to be determined

Class
635. Costume
1. The animals must be dressed up, participants may Dress up as well.
2. May work as individuals, pairs, or groups
3. Animal does not have to be owned by exhibitor
4. Costume must be safe for animal and exhibitors to walk safely around the arena

636. Team Fitting
1. Teams must consist of two beef exhibitors
2. There will be two divisions:
   Junior (13 years and younger)
   Senior (14 years and older)
   Based on your fair age
3. The age division be determined by the oldest member of the team. Juniors may advance into senior division but seniors may not move down to juniors.
4. The competition is open to all BEEF exhibitors at the current year's fair.
5. Any beef animal may be used for the contest.
6. Animals will be fitted in the ring.
7. Animals must be clean with no product in their hair, partially fitted animals will be disqualified.
8. You will have 20 minutes to complete the calf and stop when time is called. There will be a 10, 5, and 2-minute warning.
9. Clippers, Blowers and generators will not be allowed.
10. All fitting materials will be placed in a bucket prior to the start of the event for each team. Each team will be handed their buckets when the clock starts for their fitting team.