

**HUNTERDON COUNTY 4-H & AGRICULTURAL FAIR  
GENERAL RULES  
FOR ALL 4-H SHOWS, EXHIBITS, EVENTS & EXHIBITORS**

1. The general rules pertain to all Hunterdon County 4-H Exhibits. (This includes all 4-H members, clubs, animals, vegetables, minerals or other materials at the fair).
2. Each show has its own rules, entry form, procedures and registration deadline. Rules and forms for all county and invitational 4-H shows are available on the county fair website [www.hunterdoncountyfair.com](http://www.hunterdoncountyfair.com). No entries will be taken by phone.
3. Exhibitors will be expected to display their projects as directed by the superintendent and to accept conditions as provided without controversy. 4-H displays are held for educational purposes. Projects and animals must be kept in **show condition** at all times.
4. Show superintendents have the right to question the 4-H staff with any entry in the event if the entry fails to meet any of the requirements, standards or regulations set by Hunterdon County 4-H regulations, general, or show rules. Final decision to deny an entry will be made by the 4-H staff along with the show superintendent.
5. Members must fulfill all 4-H project and club requirements before exhibiting at the fair and must be members in good standing of an official 4-H club in good standing according to the Hunterdon County 4-H club and member requirements (Up to date record book, given a club presentation, attended minimum of 70% of club meetings/activity attendance.) If members fulfil the requirements, they shall be allowed to participate in the Hunterdon County Fair and events held at the fair. Hunterdon County Shows include, County 4-H, Club/Project Invitational Shows and all 4-H events open to Hunterdon County 4-H Members.
  - a. State 4-H Invitational Shows and State 4-H Shows follow the member in good standing of New Jersey 4-H.
6. All Hunterdon County 4-H members are required to have an up-to-date project record book for each project/animal exhibited. **Project Record Books are to be checked by the club leader. Entry forms must be signed by the club leader verifying that the record book is up to date and the member is a member in good standing (see box on entry form).**
7. In order to be judged in any 4-H competitive event, youth must be in 4<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> grade. **Since youth are between grades at the time of the fair, grade refers to the grade completed not the grade entering.** In order to show an animal at a county or state show 4-H members must have their leader's signature on their entry form verifying that they have fulfilled the requirements to be a member in good standing. In order to show at State Show(s) the 4-H Program Assistant must sign the State show entry form(s) and see the 4-H members project record book.
8. All entries must have been prepared, raised, made, or grown by a Hunterdon County 4-H club member enrolled in the project in which he/she is exhibiting and must be the result of the current year's project unless otherwise stated in the individual show rules. (Invitational show entries likewise - but must be the project of a New Jersey 4-H member.)
9. The Danish Classification System is used for judging unless otherwise specified. No premiums or honorariums will be paid.

10. All Hunterdon County livestock and exhibits must arrive by the time designated for the project on Tuesday, or Wednesday, before the fair opens and must be removed no earlier than **5:00 PM** and no later than **6:30 PM, Sunday**. Show superintendents, herdspeople, and the fair committee will not be responsible for any livestock or exhibit left after 6:30 PM.
11. 4-H projects that are for sale may be advertised during the week of the fair. Advertisements must not distract from the animal exhibits and should not exceed 8 ½ X 11. Please contact your barn supervisor to find out the best way to advertise. Some barns allow advertisements on the livestock pens while other have a display board or table for advertisements. Animals sold during the fair, cannot leave the ground until Sunday. Different conditions apply to certain projects.
12. **Responsibility for Accident** - The Fair Committee, 4-H, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension shall not be responsible for any accident that may occur to or as a result of any animal or item exhibited at the fair, and the exhibitors shall hold them blameless and indemnify them against any legal proceedings arising from any such accident.
13. In the event of protest in a judge's decision, the complaint shall be immediately made in writing to the superintendent, accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00. If the complaint is not sustained, the deposit will be forfeited and will be donated to the 4-H Association fair account.
14. **4-H'ers can only bring animals entered in 4-H shows to the fairgrounds.**
15. The 4-H building and barns close at 10:00 PM. All buildings are to be closed to the public and locked and all barn gates are to be closed at that time. The only individuals permitted in the barns after 10:00 PM are the appointed herdspeople and barn parents. Herdspeople are to report for night duties at 10:00 PM and lights out is at 11:30 PM. No one other than official herdspeople appointed by the county 4-H Agent and their parents or assigned chaperones are permitted in the barns after that time.
16. **All youth need to head home at 10:00 PM, only herdspeople are allowed on the grounds after 10:00 PM.**
17. The fair committee will furnish a limited supply of hay and bedding. Grain and feed are to be supplied by exhibitors. Exhibitors must provide proper care for their animals at all times.
18. Sleeping area will be available **only** for Hunterdon County **4-H herdspeople appointed** by the 4-H Agent and "barn supervisors". This area will be policed and located in or near the barns.
19. **Herdspeople must have a completed health form and permission slip on file with the 4-H office no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>, before they can serve as a herdspeople. Photo ID's will be given to each herdspeople and they must wear them at night.**
20. All herds people are required to furnish their own meals and bedding materials. (Funny Money will be provided by the fair association only for the herds people appointed by the Hunterdon County 4-H Program Assistant to serve at the fair for the entire week.)
21. **All animal exhibits and exhibitors must abide by the State Department of Agriculture Health Requirements for NJ Shows and Fairs enclosed in animal show packets.**
  - a. **The required certificate of veterinary inspection is to be presented to the designated livestock inspector, who will give a visual health check to all animals before they will be permitted to unload.**

- b. The Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair will be following the recommendation of the NJ Department of Agriculture. \*\*A mammalians including goat, sheep, horse, cattle, alpaca, swine and llama which will be exhibited at the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair must be vaccinated for rabies. The vaccination must be recorded on your CVI by the veterinarian. Any livestock who is not vaccinated will not be allowed on grounds.**
22. In the event an animal exhibits any sign of illness at the time of check in/inspection or at any time during the fair, even if the owner cannot be located, the project leader or appointed livestock inspector is authorized to call a veterinarian to attend to the animal at the owner's expense.
23. Final determination as to whether any animal meets the requirements for eligibility for exhibition in NJ shall be made by individuals assigned to the exhibit and by the county 4-H Program Assistant.
24. All animals on exhibit at the fair **MUST** be entered in a show. There is limited space in **ALL** barns. No animal should be on the grounds without a purpose.
25. **Barn/Building Rules for all 4-H members, parents, and leaders.** Every 4-H'er, family member, and volunteer is responsible for abiding by and enforcing the 4-H rules at the fair. Please pay careful attention to the rules that follow and make sure your family and friends are aware of them.
- a. Smoking is prohibited in or near the barns and buildings.
  - b. Possession/consumption of alcohol or drugs is prohibited in or near the barns and 4-H buildings.
  - c. No one is permitted to stay overnight in the barn(s), except appointed herds people and barn parents. In the case of invitational shows, 4-H members from other counties who need to stay at the fair to care for their animals, must be under the direct supervision, in the physical presence, of their parent or an adult designated by their parent and must be accompanied by completed health forms and parent permission form. Each adult may be responsible for no more than 5 youth. Superintendents of invitational shows must maintain a complete list of all individuals staying overnight at the fair. A copy of this list must be given to the 4-H Program Assistant before they stay at the fair. Any 4-H'er in possession or under the influence of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages will be sent home for the remainder of the fair. All awards will be forfeited. Livestock belonging to the 4-H'er will be sent home. 4-H'er may also be subject to suspension from future 4-H events.
  - d. The 4-H buildings and barns close at 10:00 PM. All buildings are to be closed to the public and locked and all barn gates are to be closed at that time. The only individuals permitted in the barns after 10:00 PM are the appointed herds men. **NO 4-H member should be on the grounds after 10:00PM, unless they are herdspeople.**
  - e. Herdspeople must have a signed parent permission form and a completed health form on file with the 4-H Program Assistant prior to the start of the fair and must be recommended by their club leader and appointed by the Program Assistant. Herds people must attend the herds person orientation meeting prior to the fair.
26. All 4-H'ers and their families and guests are expected to abide by the **4-H Code of Ethics** at 4-H events and activities as follows:
- a. **NO DRUGS, NO ALCOHOL:** Any 4-H'er under the influence of or in possession of drugs, alcohol, or any other intoxicating substance will be immediately sent home and

suspended for the remainder of the activity and future 4-H participation may be restricted or prohibited.

- b. **NO SMOKING:** Smoking is prohibited at all 4-H events and activities.
- c. 4-H members and friends are not permitted to stay overnight at the fair. **Overnight camping is NOT permitted on the fair grounds.**
- d. **DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION:** Exhibit dignified and restrained actions in expressing affection.
- e. **GENERAL CONDUCT:** Respect the individuality of all persons. Treat others with dignity and kindness. Consider their needs as well as your own. Be a good steward of the environment and all living things. Treat all forms of life with respect and care.
- f. **LANGUAGE:** Language must be controlled and appropriate for a 4-H member. Foul or abusive language is not appropriate.
- i. **4-H is a CHARACTER COUNTS** organization. 4-H members, siblings, and parents are expected to exemplify trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship at all times.
- g. Being a 4-H'er is a privilege and a responsibility; your behavior should reflect this. You are a 4-H Ambassador!

6/2016; 6/2017. 1/2018, 3/2019, 06/2021, 1/2022, 6/2024