

ERIE COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR GENERAL RULES

1. The Junior Fair is open to any youth enrolled in Boy or Girl Scouting, FFA, FHA or 4-H. Exhibitors must be eight years of age and in the third grade through eighteen years of age. Age is determined as of January 1. FFA exhibitors may be entered only if the school from which the exhibitor graduates is in Erie County. Any youth age 19 as of January 1 who is enrolled as a senior in any Erie County School and active in an FFA Chapter will be allowed to show in the fair immediately following his/her senior year.
2. 4-H enrollment is due on April 15. FFA fair entries are due on May 1st.
3. All animals, except horses, should enter the fairgrounds through the north gate. The fair veterinarian or his representative will check all animals during the check in process.
4. All livestock trailers must be removed from the fairgrounds after animals are unloaded. No trailers are to be left on the fairgrounds.
5. The official fair veterinarian is an official of the Department of Agriculture and is under no responsibility to treat your animals while on the fairgrounds. Treatment services for your fair animals will be billed to you.
6. Projects made in connection with school work (example: industrial arts or vocational Family & Consumer Science or agriculture) are not to be shown in 4-H Classes.
7. FFA exhibitors may be entered only if the school from which the exhibitor graduates is in Erie County. EHOVE students can be exceptions with fair board approval.
8. A small projects auction will be held at the Erie County Fair. Projects eligible for auction will include: market rabbits, market poultry, select Family and Consumer Science, select Food, select Clothing and select Still projects. A percentage of the sale proceeds will go to a sale fund for promotion, etc.
9. Remember, the Erie County Fair should be a learning experience. We realize it is harder to learn how to be a gracious loser, but we always have more losers than winners. Enjoy the fair and have fun.
10. All livestock exhibitors will be interviewed by judges to determine their grade. Members must bring their project book and records to the interview. Project books will be judged on neatness, accuracy and completeness. Exhibitors will be ineligible to show if Project Book is incomplete. Each exhibitor will be asked questions pertaining to their project.
11. Every exhibitor of a market, dairy, or breeding animal MUST attend an approved Quality Assurance program with his/her parent or legal guardian to be eligible to bring the animal(s) to fair to exhibit, show, or sell. There are no exceptions.
12. Grooming/fitting of animals at the Erie County Fair should primarily be done by the Junior fair exhibitor, with limited help from other Erie County Junior Fair exhibitors, immediate family, and/or that exhibitor's 4-H club advisor or that exhibitor's FFA advisor. The exhibitor must be actively engaged in the grooming.

13. Every exhibitor must show his or her own project animal/s unless an exception is permitted by the appropriate committee. In this case, the animal/s must be shown by another Erie County Junior Fair Exhibitor.

14. **SHOWMANSHIP**—All livestock and small animal areas will hold showmanship classes for exhibitors. Appearance should be neat, clean, respectful and appropriate for their species. Exhibitors may be dismissed from the class if they do not meet the proper guidelines as to dress. Junior Showmanship classes are for exhibitors 11 years and under, Intermediate Showmanship classes for 12-14 years of age and Senior Showmanship classes will be for exhibitors 15 years and older. **All ages are as of January 1 of the current year. Some species may offer a beginner showmanship class, for exhibitors showing the species for the first time. Divisions may be limited due to numbers. Exhibitors should always compete in their age class as of January 1, even if they have previously won the class. Winners are NOT required to sit out a year before competing in the same class.

Showman of Showmen—Each project area will have a Showman of Showmen class on their show day, typically following the completion of all the showmanship classes. Eligible participants include the 1st place winners (Champions) of the Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Beginner (if offered) classes. If the Champion is not able to compete, the 2nd place winner (Reserve Champion) may compete. No other substitutes are permitted. The winner of the Showman of Showmen class will represent the project area in the Super Showmanship Contest.

Super Showmanship—A Super Showmanship Contest will be held. The contest is open to the following project areas: Horses, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Rabbits, Llamas and Poultry, unless there are less than 5 exhibitors for any one area. For each area the winner of the Showman of Showmen class will represent that project area. If the Champion is not able to compete, the 2nd place winner (Reserve Champion) may compete. If one exhibitor wins the Showman of Showmen class in more than one area, he/she must designate which area they will represent. Exhibitors are not restricted on the number of times they can compete in or win the Super Showmanship Contest.

16. Eligible youth may be members of both 4-H and Vocational Agriculture (FFA) Chapters, or either group. In all cases, separate and different projects (different animals and/or products) must be carried in 4-H and in Vocational Agriculture by a member belonging to both organizations.

17. Willful neglect or abuse of an animal will constitute immediate removal of the animal from the fair and the member banned from all livestock projects at the fair for five (5) years. Decisions will be made by the committee members and extension personnel with support of the Senior Fair Board. All decisions are final.

18. All fair projects (with the exception of livestock for medical reasons) leaving early before the end of the fair on Sunday will pay back premiums and forfeit the right to exhibit at next year's fair. Exceptions to this rule require the signature of an adult supervisor and a fair board member.