

2026 Calumet County Fair Information Book For 4-H Members & Leaders



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
CALUMET COUNTY

This book is compiled by 4-H Youth Development staff to gather fair information in one location for 4-H members. Fair exhibitors are still responsible for reading and following all Official Fair Rules of the Calumet County Fair Association.

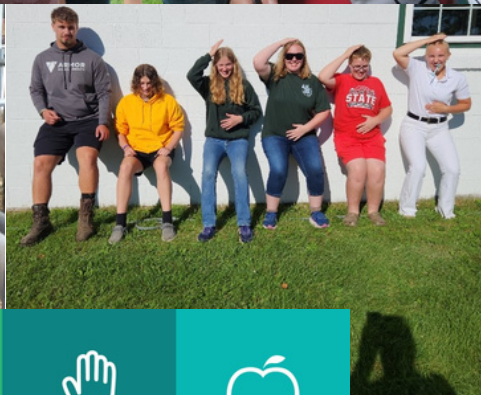
<https://calumetcountyfair.com/exhibitors/>
(See Junior Class Handbook)

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HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

About County Fair

Every summer, thousands of 4-H youth participate in county fairs across the state to showcase the knowledge and skills they've gained throughout the year, and to continue their learning experiences.

The fair is a great opportunity for youth to get feedback and evaluation from registered state judges that can serve as a guide for the youth to further improve their skills. 4-Hers also have the opportunity to share their accomplishments with and educate the public about their subject. They are encouraged to lead visitors on tours of the 4-H buildings and barns as well as conduct workshops and hands-on demonstrations for the public.

County fairs not only make great memories, they help 4-H youth grow into successful adults.

Who is in charge of the County Fair?

In Calumet County, the Fair is run by the Fair Association's Board of Directors. The Board is made up of Calumet County residents who VOLUNTEER their time throughout the year to plan, organize, fundraise and coordinate all aspects of the County Fair. The Board is elected in December at the Fair Association's Annual Meeting. Anyone who has been a Fair Association member for one year can run for election to the board. <https://calumetcountyfair.com/about/board-of-directors/>

Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer

In order for a fair to receive state aid for premiums (prize money), the fair board must follow specific requirements as outlined in Chapter ATCP 160 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, overseen by the state Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP). This includes the hiring of judges from a list of individuals who are registered with DATCP.

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/FairsAndShows.aspx>

UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development

UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development staff support the Fair Board by providing educational resources to youth and adult exhibitors, consulting on best practice in regards to youth development and educational activities, and by providing communication to 4-H members. <https://Calumet.extension.wisc.edu/4h/>



Volunteers Needed!

The county fair (like 4-H events) is run by volunteers, so we do ask that exhibitors/families help do their part to make the fair possible by volunteering for the Calumet County Fair Association which includes helping with set-up, display of exhibits and clean-up.

Many hands make light work, and an affordable fair!

Brantmeier Building Clean-Up

☐ **Monday, August 17—5pm** Help to

carry, clean, wash, and move around displays to prepare for Advanced Judging that is scheduled for Saturday, August 23rd.

Judging Day Assistance/Display of Exhibits

Saturday, August 29rd 9am-2pm or Thursday, Sept 3rd 3-8pm.

Older youth and adult volunteers are needed to record judging results and help display exhibits. Volunteer shifts are 8:45am - 11:45am, 11:30am - 2:30pm or all day (8:45am - 2:30pm) Both of these roles are a lot of fun! Please contact Tami or Carlea if you are interested in volunteering.

Food Stand Clean-up—This will also be done during Advanced Judging on Saturday, August 23rd. Please reach out to our office or Troy Jansen if you are interested.

Foods Auction

Friday, September 4th—The Annual Foods Auction is scheduled to take place on Friday of the Fair starting at 5pm in the Family Entertainment Tent. Only Junior Foods pies, decorated cakes, and cupcakes will be sold during the live food auction. For an exhibitor to receive 75% of their sale proceeds, they must be present to showcase their entries at the auction, or identify your replacement if you have a schedule conflict. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to recruit buyers and send thank-you cards to the buyer of their entry. All other perishable Junior Foods items will be displayed on a table for buyers to purchase via free will donation, much like a bake sale.



We need youth and parents to please help us set up prior to the Foods Auction starting at 4pm or as soon as the previous entertainment is complete.

Pen Set-up

Tuesday, August 22 at 7pm: This is mandatory for all Market Animal Youth to attend and does not count as an educational meeting.

About County Fair

**PLEASE COME WITH YOUR EXPO ENTRIES
PROPERLY TAGGED AND READY TO GO!**



County Fair Superintendents are happy to help answer questions about signing up for fair, how to enter projects/animals correctly, and other project-specific questions. Superintendents are experts at how their particular Department works! (contact info on last page of book)

- Questions about FairEntry? Contact Clara Hedrich Fair Board Secretary: 920-517-3440 or hedrichc5@gmail.com
- Questions about 4-H Projects? Contact Carlea Liermann, 4-H Program Educator: carlea.liermann@wisc.edu or 920-483-0646

Learn the Fair Lingo:

Exhibit: An item or project entered in the fair to be judged.

EntryForm/FairEntry: The form or online system used to register projects for the fair.

Premium: The monetary prize awarded for placing in a fair class. This will be sent in the mail following the county fair.

Exhibitor: The person who enters a project in the fair (often a 4-H member).

Judge: The person who evaluates exhibits and gives feedback and placings.

Placings: The awards received, such as Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, Blue Ribbon, Red Ribbon, etc.

Superintendent: The volunteer in charge of a specific department or area of the fair.



Exhibit at the Fair

The **Premium Book** lists all items that can be exhibited at the Calumet County Fair, and the premiums (monetary awards) that can be won depending on placing the exhibit receives from a judge (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th place).

- All **Fair Rules** can be found in the premium book, including how to prepare exhibits and exhibitor responsibilities at the fair. Please take time to read general rules and department specific rules carefully, as not following the rules can result in disqualification or a reduction in placing (1st place marked down to 2nd)

Entry Tags

Why do I need entry tags? You must have an entry tag to get your exhibit judged. You will receive one entry tag for each exhibit (individual class) you entered on your entry form. The entry tag identifies each exhibit and who it belongs to.

If you do not have your entry tag, you will not be able to get your exhibit judged. See the Fair Premium book for information on attaching entry tags to exhibits (or for check-in of animals). There is tape and string available for you to use to attach your tags at the fairgrounds during Advanced Judging.

Where do I get my entry tags? Exhibitor packets which include a season pass and entry tags will be available for pick up on Wednesday, August 20, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, the Saturday before the Fair from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm, and Thursday after 12:00 noon in the Fair Secretary's Office.



Release and Pick Up of Fair Exhibits

- All animals will be released on Monday, September 7, Please check with your superintendents to see what time this will be and plan accordingly.
- Other Exhibits are released at 4:00 or according to the Superintendents of each building.
- The State of Wisconsin provides a portion of the premium money and requires exhibits to be on display during the entire fair. If exhibits are removed prior to release time, entire State support may be withheld.
- **Exhibits not claimed on Monday, September 7th, are left at the Exhibitor's own risk.** Exhibits that are not picked up on Sunday will be taken to the Calumet County 4-H Office following the fair.

Judging Times

Judging Times for more complete information please see Fair Premium Book: <https://bit.ly/4k9DFMD>

JUNIOR CLASS

-2-

Fair Year: 2026

CALUMET COUNTY FAIR ENTRY & JUDGING SCHEDULE

Friday, September 4 - Monday, September 7, 2026

Junior Class Departments	Entry Day and Time	Building	Judging
001 – Dairy Cattle	Friday before 5:00 pm	Seybold / Moehrke Building	Saturday 9:00 am
002 – Beef	Thursday weigh in 9:00 am	Seybold Building	Friday 12:00 pm
003 – Swine	Thursday weigh in 11:30 am	Harder / Goeldi Building	Friday 8:00 am
004 – Sheep	Thursday weigh in 2:00 pm	Harder / Goeldi Building	Friday 2:30 pm, following beef
005 – Goats	Market Goats Thursday weigh in 2:00 pm	Harder / Goeldi Building	Friday following market sheep
005 – Goats Meat	Friday by Noon	Goat Barn	Friday following market goats
005 – Goats Dairy	Friday before 5:00p.m.	Goat Barn	Saturday 3:00 pm following dairy
006 – Horse	Friday before 5:00 p.m.	Horse Barn	Saturday following Open Class, approximately 11:00 am
007 – Poultry	Thursday, or before 10:00 am on Friday	Rabbit / Poultry Barn	Friday Noon, starting with Showmanship
008 – Rabbits	Thursday or Friday before 5:00pm	Rabbit / Poultry Barn	Saturday 8:30 am
009 – Dogs	TBD	Farm Progress Pavilion	Sunday (8/23) 3:00 pm
010 – Animals and Vet Science	Vet Science & Animal Science	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
	Small Animals	Farm Progress Pavilion	Saturday (8/29), 12:30 pm
011 – Exotic Animals	Thursday/Friday (depending on species)	TBD	TBD
013 – Cat and Kittens	Saturday (8/29), 12:30 pm	Farm Progress Pavilion	Saturday (8/29), 12:30 pm
014 – Plant & Soil Science	Thursday (9/3) 3:00-8:00 pm	Exposition Building	Thursday (9/3) 3:00-8:00 pm
015 – Flowers & Houseplants	Thursday (9/3) 3:00-8:00 pm	Exposition Building	Thursday (9/3) 3:00-8:00 pm
016 – Natural Sciences	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
017 – Cloverbuds & Exploring	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
018 – Cultural Arts	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
020 – Photography	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Stanelle Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
021 – Computer Technology	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier or Stanelle	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
022 – Woodworking	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
023 – Electricity	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
024 – Mechanical Sciences	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
025 – Foods & Nutrition	Meal Day (TBD)	TBD	TBD
	Thursday (9/3) 3:00-8:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Thursday (9/3) 3:00-8:00 pm
026 – Clothing & Textiles	Clothing Review (TBD)	TBD	TBD
	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
027 – Knitting & Crocheting	Knitting/Crocheting Revue (TBD)	TBD	TBD
	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
028 – Home Furnishings	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
029 – Family & Child Development	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
031 – Communications	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
032 – Group Entries	Booths – Tuesday, Wednesday	Brantmeier Building	Thursday (9/3) 3:00
	Scrapbook/Banner – Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
	Flower Planter – Thursday (9/3) 3:00-8:00 pm	Exposition Building	Thursday (9/3) 8:00 pm
033 – Youth Leadership / Self Determined	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm
034 – Health / Service / Learning / Citizenship / International	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm	Brantmeier Building	Saturday (8/29) 9:00-2:00 pm

Judging Information

Junior Face-to-Face Judging

Face-to-face judging is a fun way for you to show off your project and talk directly with the judge about it! Instead of your project being compared to everyone else's, the judge looks at your project all on its own and learns about the work you put into it. When you arrive in the Brantmeier Building, take one number that corresponds with your Department. We will call your number when it's your turn!



Here's how it works:

You bring your project to the judge when it's your turn.

You have a quick chat with the judge and tell them about what you made, how you made it, and what you learned.

The judge will ask some questions and share ideas to help you do even better next time.

You'll earn a ribbon based on how well you did and what you know about your project—plus you'll get a prize (called a premium) for participating!

In Calumet County, we use face-to-face judging for **non-animal projects** at the fair. Every project gets judged on its own, so it's all about your hard work and learning—not about beating someone else.

General Face-to-Face Questions You May Be Asked:

- Why did you choose to make/do this project?
- What is your favorite part of your project?
- What was the hardest part?
- How did you solve any problems you faced?
- What did you learn while working on this?
- If you could do it again, what would you change or improve?
- Did anyone help you? How did they help?
- What skills did you use or learn while working on this?

For Craft/Art/Food Projects:

- What materials did you use?
- How long did it take you to make this?
- Did you try any new techniques or tools?
- What inspired your design or idea?



Judging Information

For Science/Animal/Plant Projects:

- How did you care for or raise your animal/plant/project?
- What do you feed it or how do you maintain it?
- What's one interesting fact you learned?
- Did you keep any records or track anything over time?

“Think Ahead” Questions:

- What would you like to do next year with this project?
- What advice would you give someone who wants to try this project for the first time?

In the **Danish system of judging** all the entries in one class are brought together so the judge can compare the items to a “standard” and to the



other entries. This system is typically used for animal exhibits in Calumet County. Every entry can receive a ribbon and premium but the number of blue (1st place), red (2nd place), white (3rd place), and pink (4th place) ribbons a judge hands out in each class depends on the number in entries in the class. For example, if there are 10 entries in a class, the judge can give only 2 blue, 3 red, 2 white, and 3 pink ribbons. The judge does not have to give the maximum number in each placing depending on the quality of exhibits. In the example of 10 entries, if the judge does not feel there are any that are worthy of a blue ribbon (1st place), the judge may choose to give up to 5 red ribbons (2nd place) instead.

Regular Judging is used in the Open Class (Adult) Division, typically for non-animal exhibits. The judge can select only one first place, one second, one third, and one fourth-place exhibit among the items in that class, depending on whether the judge feels the exhibits are worthy.



Judging Information

Blue Ribbon Youth

It is important to recognize that judging is a personal opinion and that evaluation will vary among judges. Graciously accepting constructive criticism of one's work is a life skill. Let's strive to recognize that **4-H YOUTH** are more important than **4-H projects**. A blue ribbon 4-H member with a white ribbon chicken is more desirable than a white ribbon member

with a blue ribbon chicken!



If you've done your best work on your project, it's disappointing not to get the rating you were expecting. Just remember – the judge's opinion is simply one person's opinion. A different judge might have given you a different placing. But even if you don't agree with the judge, it's worth paying attention to what he or she has to say about your project. You could get some great ideas for how to do even better next time.

Tips for Accepting Feedback

- Pay attention to what the judge liked instead of getting upset about what they didn't like. Even if there were some negative comments, there were probably just as many positive ones!
- Don't be nervous about face-to-face judging. Relax so you can be your friendly, natural self when the judge meets with you. And if you don't understand something they say, be sure to say so.
- Think about how you can use the judge's feedback. What can you do differently if you intend to keep working on this kind of project? What will you want to do the same way?



Fair Booths

4-H clubs making their plans for the 2025 4-H booth should keep in mind that the 4-H theme for this year is **“4-H Leaders aren’t born, they’re grown.”**

The fair booth size is 5’ wide by 4’ deep by 8’ high. Some have an electrical outlet. Remember: each club wishing to reserve a booth must submit a fair entry by the July 31st deadline.

Important: No staples will be allowed.

PLEASE REMEMBER: 4-H booths are a youth entry, so ONLY 4-H members, not parents or leaders, should be putting the booth in place. We ask for all clubs’ cooperation on this guideline, to make it a youth-center learning experience.

Please see the Fairbook (Department 032) for a list of criteria that the booth will be evaluated on.

Booths may be put up on **Mon, 8/31, Tues, 9/1 or Wed 9/2**
from 4-8pm.

What if an Exhibitor cannot be present for judging?

It is preferred that the exhibitor prepares a 3x5” card that describes the exhibit, what they did and what they learned. Another exhibitor, parent, or leader may sit in for brief judges’ comments. There is no automatic penalty for exhibitors who are not present for their judging. It is up to each judge to determine how the exhibitor’s absence will affect the placing awarded.

Fair Awards

Numerous trophies and awards will be presented at the Calumet County Fair. If you receive such an award, please remember to send that sponsor a “Thank-you” note. A pat on the back and a word of thanks can go along way in fostering feelings of goodwill toward the 4-H program and you. Help keep the community support we’ve been receiving for the Fair and the 4-H program...say “Thank You!” Contact the Extension Office for the address of your award/trophy sponsor if you’re not sure where to send the letter of thanks.

ALL BARN Exhibitors

Fair Set-up

The county fair (like 4-H) is run by volunteers, including year-round planning, fair set-up and clean-up, so we do ask that exhibitors/families help do their part to make the fair a positive experience for everyone, which includes helping with tasks like pen/cage set-up. Many hands make light work, and an affordable fair!



One person from each club/group should contact the Superintendent for your animal area with the correct number of animals you are bringing to the fair. We need an accurate count for pen/cage set-up and to assign barn locations to clubs (exhibitors/animals are grouped by club/group).

Barn Decorations

Allexhibitors are encouraged to participate with their 4-H club to decorate their animal area in the barn. Decorations help the public identify 4-H groups and individual exhibitors. Including educational information about your animal/project helps teach about agriculture and farming in Calumet County. Decorating can begin after pen/stall/cage set-up.



ALL BARN Exhibitors

Fair Check-in

- **Animals must be brought to the fair according to the entry day and time listed in the fair book schedule, and can be found here on [page 3](#).**
- There will be a veterinarian on the ground every day of the fair.
- Superintendents will be responsible for checking animals in. If any questions or issues arise concerning an animal, the veterinarian will have the final decision.
- Read Animal Health Regulations in Premium Book available online: <http://www.Calumetcountyfaironline.com/> Make sure you know what health papers/tests are required for your animal. If you have questions—contact the Superintendent for your area (see contact info at back of book)

Care of Animals/Facilities

- Exhibitors must give personal attention to their animals at the fair. Animals are to be fed and watered daily. Animals, stalls, pens and cages should be kept clean at all times. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at the fair.
- The Fair Board will **not** be providing shavings for exhibitors to use in the animal pens/stalls. The Fair Association will provide shavings for show ring only. Please plan accordingly so your areas have adequate bedding.
- Wash racks are located on the West sides of the dairy building. Please do not leave buckets, soap, hoses, and other equipment lying around. The wash rack is very visible to the public.

WEIGH-IN DAY

No animals are allowed in barn pens prior to being weighed in.

Beef: Thursday, 9:00 am

Swine: Thursday, 11:30 am

Sheep and Market Goats: Thursday, 2:00 pm or immediately after Swine weigh in

Rabbits & Poultry: Thursday, 6:30-8:30 pm

All large market animals will be subject to ultrasound scanning and those measurements will be used to determine the sale eligibility of the animal.

Each large animal that meets the minimum weight requirement for that species and is intended for sale at the Calumet County Fair will be subject to a carcass ultrasound. Thus, a scanning fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's sale check and is subject to change based on scanning prices each year.

4-H Activities

Every day of the fair, Calumet County 4-H will have some hands-on activities for all youth to participate in for free. These will be located in the Brantmeier Youth Building.

Check out the schedule of Activities!

Date	Time	Activity
Friday, Sept 4th	2-3pm	
Saturday, Sept 5th	2-3pm	
Sunday, Sept 6th	2-3pm	
Sunday, Sept 6th	3-4pm	
Monday, Sept 7th	1-2pm	
Monday, Sept 7th	2-3pm	



JOIN THE CHASE



STEP 1

Download the App

It's FREE!



STEP 2

Join the Game

Enter the code below to find the game:

TQCT1E



STEP 3

Complete missions

Join a team
or create
your own!



Behavior Expectations

As a 4-H member, leader or parent your actions throughout fair not only reflect on you, but on the 4-H program overall. We expect that you are going to have fun and relax after all your hard work on your projects, teaching others or supporting your child. However, your fun shouldn't infringe on the rights of others.

4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,
my **HEART** to greater loyalty,
my **HANDS** to larger service,
and my **HEALTH** to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country, and my world.



4-H Members and Leaders sign a Code of Conduct in 4HOnline during enrollment annually. For example, **Youth agree to:** *

- adhere to program/facility rules, curfews, dress codes and policies
- conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner, use appropriate language, exhibit good sportsmanship, and be a positive role model
- comply with local, state and federal laws

Parents are expected to role model the Code of Conduct for their child.

Behavior expectations for Leaders apply whenever you're in a youth exhibit building and/or acting in your role as a 4-H Volunteer.

For example, **Volunteers agree to:** *

- not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances
- operate motor vehicles and other equipment in a safe and reliable manner...comply with all motor vehicle related state regulations and laws.
- treat animals in a humane manner and teach program participants to provide appropriate animal care and management.

Be aware that being courteous and respectful of others is expected at all times, as you are a role model for our youth and our community. **Refer to your 4HOnline profile or contact UW-Extension for the complete list of expectations.*

Community Events There are several community events that happen at the Fair that are popular for 4-H families to participate in that are **NOT 4-H** events (Dairyland, Market Animal Sale, Kiddie Tractor Pull, etc).

UW-Extension staff have no authority over these events, event coordinators are not certified 4-H volunteers (or not working in their capacity as a 4-H volunteer).

Parents should make their own decision about the risk of the activity and their family's participation in these events, just as you would with any other event you might attend in your community. **Be safe and have fun!**

Calumet County UW-Extension Office



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
CALUMET COUNTY



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