

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The words MANAGEMENT, BOARD, and COMMISSION refer to the Flathead County Fair Commission and will be used interchangeably throughout this book.
2. The Fair management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations, to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, connected with or incident to the fair, also to amend or add to these rules as may seem advisable to the management.
3. The Fair management reserves the right to formulate and announce new rules to meet situations that may arise later and/or during the fair, and to adjudicate all matters arising from the fair.
4. The Fair management reserves the right to direct and regulate the parking and travel of all vehicles within the fairgrounds.
5. The Fair management reserves the right to exclude from the fairgrounds any person or persons whom it may deem undesirable, or who shall violate any of the rules laid down by the management, or who shall otherwise become offensive.
6. The Fair management reserves the right to control the use and operation of the fairground's facilities; provided, however, that the legal care, custody, and control of every animal and article upon the grounds shall remain with the owner thereof, subject to the right of the Fair Commission to direct where these animals and articles shall be exhibited.
7. The Fair management will endeavor to carefully guard against extortion in any form practiced on the patrons of the fair. A violation of this rule will cause forfeiture of contract and any money paid, and involve expulsion from the grounds as the management may direct. Any mistreatment or extortion practiced by any employee of the Fair or concessionaire should be reported to the management of the Fair immediately. Do not wait until after the fair is over.
8. The Fair management reserves the right to prescribe the dimensions and regulate the position of all signs, and generally to direct the arrangements of articles on exhibition so far as the same may seem necessary to secure harmony and produce an effective exhibit.
9. The Fair management will not be held responsible for loss of or damage to any entry, or other articles, whether exhibited or not, either during the progress of the fair, or while it is en route to or from the fairgrounds before or after the fair dates, nor will it be held responsible for safe return to its owners, from any and all causes, although due care and caution will be exercised to prevent all loss or damage.
10. No claim of injury to any person or property shall ever be assessed nor suit instituted or maintained against the Fair management, its officers or their agents, or in behalf of any person, firm or corporation or their agents, representatives or servants or employees having license or privilege to exhibit on the grounds or occupying space.
11. The Fair management will be in session daily and reserves the sole and absolute right to construe their own rules and regulations and to determine arbitrarily all matters and differences in regard thereto. In event of conflict of general and special rules, the latter will govern.
12. Each person entering the Fairgrounds must purchase a ticket, provide an authorized credential or qualify for discounted or free admission.
13. **No dogs, other than service animals are allowed within the ticketed areas of the fairgrounds.**
14. Competition in all open departments is open to all persons.

REGISTRATION AND ENTRY OF EXHIBITS

Exhibitors are requested to study the premium book (in print or online) carefully to ensure submitting a complete and accurate entry.

1. **Entries are accepted online at www.nwmtfair.com.** If you lack internet access or need registration assistance, please call or visit the Fairgrounds Office prior to the deadline.
2. **ENTRY DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**
August 1st 4:30 pm **All 4-H exhibits**
 Photography, Crafts, & Fine Arts
 Home Arts & Needlework
 Home Culinary
 Beef & Dairy Cows
 Horses & Minis
 Rabbits & Poultry
 Sheep & Goats
 Llamas & Alpacas

Exhibitor registration only by Aug 1 for the following departments:
Agriculture/Horticulture
Floriculture
Dahlias & Gladiolus

Please refer to the individual department pages as to dates/times when exhibits in these departments are being accepted.

3. Entry tags will be printed for exhibitors in all departments that have an entry deadline of August 1st. Only entries in open Ag/Hort, Floriculture, Dahlias & Gladiolus will use 3-part entry tags. Exhibitors having entries in Open Ag/Hort and Floriculture should obtain sufficient entry tags from the Fair Office. Tags must be completed showing the correct department, section number and class number. All entry tags must have exhibitor's name and correct address plainly printed on them.
4. All exhibits must be in place as specified in the rules of each department. No late arrivals can be accepted.
5. The Fair management reserves the right to refuse exhibits when there is evidence of fraud or attempt of fraud, such as exhibiting entries not owned or grown by exhibitor.
6. Under Open Class departments, age of exhibitor refers to the current age of the exhibitor at judging unless noted otherwise.
7. Exhibits erroneously entered may be transferred at the discretion of the superintendent to the department in which they properly belong if done prior to the judging. Anyone, other than fair officials, caught moving any displays will be disqualified from showing.
8. No entry tags may be detached or removed from an exhibit at any time. The Fair management reserves the right to withhold premium payment unless entry tag is attached to exhibit. Those removing exhibits must leave entry tags with the department superintendent.
9. Exhibits are accepted on various days and times. Please refer to the individual department pages for the correct entry deadlines.
10. The exhibit buildings will close at 8:00 pm Sunday. Exhibitors must claim their property at the close of the Fair, but no exhibits shall be removed or disarranged prior to 6:00 pm Sunday. Exhibitors must present the proper receipt to the superintendent of the department to claim their items. Removal of exhibits will follow the time schedule of the department entered. No exhibit shall be removed from the fairgrounds until the close of the Fair, except by permission of the superintendent of the department in which the exhibit is entered.
11. All ribbons must remain with the exhibit until it is released.
12. All exhibitors, attendants, and concessionaires may obtain tickets at the Fair Office prior to opening day. All exhibitors, attendants, and concessionaires must present proper tickets at the gate before entrance to the Fair will be allowed.
13. The Flathead County Fair Commission will not be responsible for any exhibits left at the fairgrounds after 12 noon on Monday following the close of the fair.

**ATTENTION
LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS**

There will be a mandatory veterinary check before livestock exhibits are admitted into their stalls, pens, or cages. Please refer to the schedule on Page 7 for dates and times.

LIVESTOCK

1. Every animal and article on the grounds shall be under the control of the Fair Commission, but while every precaution will be taken for the safekeeping of the same, neither the Fair Commission, its officers nor agents will be responsible in any case for any loss or accident which may occur.
2. **Animal Health, Brand & Import Regulations:** Every animal participating in the Fair shall be clean and free of disease. In compliance with the USDA, all sheep and goats must have Scrapie tags or other official ID. For further information call 1-866-873-2824 or visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/downloads/FAQ%20about%20the%20Scrapie%20Program.pdf
3. Fair management, including department superintendents, or judges have the right to call a veterinarian should a situation arise. The cost of veterinarian services shall be the exhibitor's responsibility. All animal owners/exhibitors are required to familiarize themselves with all the rules and regulations governing health, brand and import regulations. Regulations for out of state animals can be found on the web site of the Montana Department of Livestock.
4. No animals may be bred during the fair.
5. All cattle and horses must be tied with not less than a one-half inch rope in good condition in addition to a good rope or leather buckled halter.
6. Exhibitors must furnish their own feed, care for their livestock, and keep all alleys swept clean of debris and straw. The first bedding will be provided.
7. Animal care is the concern and responsibility of the exhibitor. If another exhibitor or superintendent deems care is required, the exhibitor will be contacted and must respond as requested.
8. Livestock exhibits may be removed after 6:00 pm Sunday unless otherwise noted in individual departments.
9. No animal or exhibit shall be removed from the fairgrounds until the close of the fair except by written order of the superintendent of the department in which the animal or exhibit is entered, or where otherwise stated. Exhibitors who violate any part of No. 7 under Livestock will forfeit any earned premiums.
9. All exhibitors must present proper tickets before entrance will be allowed. Vehicles will be towed if left unattended in the barn area.
10. No livestock exhibit shall be permitted to leave the livestock area during the duration of the fair. (You may not walk animals in the food concession, carnival or parking areas).
11. Any protest or complaint against any fairground official must be made in writing to the fair management and must be signed and filed at the fair office within ten (10) hours after the protest or complaint is first made.

SUPERINTENDENTS

1. Superintendents will have charge of the department assigned them, and shall be on duty no later than 9:00 am each day of the fair. No department shall be unattended while the Fair is open to the public.
2. Each superintendent shall make sure all entries are judged at judging time. They shall check to see that all entry/judging tags have been collected and that results and materials are returned to the Fair Office.

PREMIUMS

Premiums are paid by check and will be available for pick-up at the Fairgrounds Office beginning Sept 24th.

1. Premiums will be paid according to the official judge's submissions and not by ribbons. The judge's records are final.
2. In special circumstances, where superintendents have accepted multiple entries from one exhibitor in a single class, only one premium – the highest – will be paid.
3. Premiums close on December 31, 2018. Premium checks will not be valid after December 31, 2018.

JUDGES AND AWARDS

1. Judges must not award prizes to an unworthy exhibit. It is the intention of the management that no premium or distinction of any kind shall be given to any animal or article that is not deserving. This rule must be strictly adhered to whether there is competition or not.
2. Where there is just one exhibit competing for a premium, the judge, keeping in mind Section 1 of this rule, may recommend no premium, third, second, or first premium as merit may warrant, and may make the award with or without the cash premium, as he/she may elect.
3. The decision of the Fair veterinarian or any of his/her designees assigned to the Fairgrounds and the judges, shall be final as to soundness of any livestock exhibit.
4. FFA and 4-H livestock receiving blue ribbon ratings are eligible to enter in Open Class competition, however, PRE-REGISTRATION is required and livestock owners must present a certificate of registration to the division or barn superintendent upon entering Open Class competition. ID number on the registration and exhibitor tag must be the same as the number on the animal being shown.
5. No premium shall be awarded, nor will any premium be paid on any animal or article not mentioned or classified in this premium list. New classes may be added at the discretion of the superintendent during judging if there are 3 or more like entries. If a new class is added, it will compete for ribbons only for that year.
6. Protest on awards made by judges must be made in writing and accompanied by a deposit of \$25 which shall be forfeited if protest is not sustained. Such protest to the Fair management must state plainly the cause of complaint or appeal, and must be filed with the Fair Office within five hours after the award is made. Parties interested will be duly notified of the time and place for considering protests, and given the opportunity to submit evidence.
7. Any exhibitor who publicly expresses disapproval in the arena or on the grounds concerning a decision of the judges, or who, by act or interference, shall be guilty of conduct unbecoming an exhibitor shall forfeit the premium and be excluded from further competition.
8. THE FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIR COMMISSION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SPECIAL AWARDS PRINTED IN THE AWARDS SECTIONS OF THIS BOOK. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DONOR TO ENSURE PRESENTATION TO THE EXHIBITOR.

DOES YOUR CHILD WANT TO TRY MUTTON BUSTIN'?

OPEN TO BOYS & GIRLS, AGES 5—7 YEARS AND WEIGHING NO MORE THAN 55 POUNDS. STOP BY MURDOCHS, WESTERN OUTDOOR OR CHS TO FILL OUT A SIGN-UP SHEET. NO ENTRY FEE, JUST THE LUCK OF THE DRAW!

THE DRAWING FOR CONTESTANTS WILL BE HELD THE END OF JULY. LUCKY WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE.

WINNERS OF THE DRAWING WILL TRY THEIR SKILLS AT THE BEGINNING OF ONE OF THE THURSDAY, FRIDAY OR SATURDAY EVENING PRCA RAM RODEOS.