

Department 66 – Youth Agriculture

- Entries close August 1, 2026 –

NO MAIL-IN ENTRIES

Superintendent: Deb Geuns (517) 230-9129

Assistants: Mark & Elizabeth Delcamp (248) 535-6342 and Jaycee Brown

ARRIVAL TIMES:

Youth Exhibits: Monday, August 31st 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm
Tuesday, September 1st 8:00 am until 10:00 am
Must be in place by 10:00 am on Tuesday, September 1st.

DEPARTURE TIMES:

Youth Exhibits: Monday, September 7th at 5:00 pm until 6:00 pm. **MUST BE OUT BY 6:30 PM.**
If you are unable to pick up at scheduled times, you MUST make arrangements with the superintendents.
Please call Deb Geuns (517) 230-9129 to make arrangements.
Exhibits left after Monday, September 7th at 6:00 pm without other arrangements will be disposed of.
Vehicles will not be allowed to drive up to the Agriculture Building until after 6:00 pm on the last day of the fair.

Judging Schedule:

Tuesday, September 1st, 1:00 p.m.
Building will be closed until judging is completed.

FEES:

Youth Entry fees: \$15.00 entry fee for youth, which covers up to ten (10) entries. **Any additional Youth entry over 10: \$1.00 for each additional entry.** Youth: Age for youth are 7 through 20 years of age as of January 1 of the current year.

If Youth is entering BOTH Open and Youth Classes, fees must be paid for both Open and Youth.

An entry fee will not be refunded if the entry is cancelled or not exhibited.

Parking: \$15.00 per weekend (Pass allows access behind the building after Thursday, September 3.)

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SHOW

Youth Exhibitor: Must be seven (7) years of age, but not over twenty (20) years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Date of birth must be on entry form. **Open to Michigan youth only.** The same item cannot be exhibited in Youth and Open.

1. Agriculture Exhibitor Entry Form and current W-9 form (W-8 Canadian) must be filled out and returned.
2. **Fees must accompany your entry.**
3. All entries must be made in accordance with general terms and conditions. Please go to: www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com and enter online.
LATE ENTRIES: Entries received between August 2, 2026, and August 7, 2026, will incur a \$50.00 Late Entry Fee.
4. **CAMPING.** Camping **MUST BE** registered for **SEPERATELY**. Please use this link to apply:
<https://www.eventeny.com/events/applications/application/?id=8661>
5. A maximum of two (2) entries per class per exhibitor, except for entries in Apiary. Apiary entries will be limited to one (1) entry per class per exhibitor and two (2) entries per class per household. **EXHIBITOR CANNOT ENTER THE SAME ITEM IN MORE THAN ONE CLASS.**
6. Exhibits must be grown as a project of the exhibitor. Previously entered items and displays are ineligible.
7. Exhibitors must leave the Agriculture Building during judging.
8. All entries in this department must stay the entire length of the Fair. The superintendent will remove and dispose of any unsightly produce or exhibits considered to be unworthy of exhibition by the judge.
9. **RIBBONS AWARDED TO THIRD PLACE.** Only current Michigan State Fair LLC Ribbons may be displayed with exhibits. All others will be removed.
10. Exhibits cannot be sold in the Agriculture Building.
11. To keep exhibits fresh, spoiled produce will be disposed of at the discretion of the superintendent.
12. Judges shall not award prizes to unworthy exhibits, whether there is competition or not.

*****Making Entries for the Michigan State Fair indicates acceptance of the Michigan State Fair Code of Conduct, which is found in the General Rules.*****

Field Crops – Section Y1

All grain and bean samples must be exhibited in a basket furnished by exhibitor.

Premiums	1	2	3
	\$10	\$8	\$6
Class			
1	Barley (1 peck)		
2	Beans (1 peck)		
3	Oats (1 peck)		
4	Wheat (1 peck)		
5	Shelled Corn (1 peck)		
6	Soybeans (1 peck)		
7	Rye (1 peck)		
8	Clover Seed (4 quarts)		
9	Speltz (1 peck)		
10	Wheat – sheave		
11	Oats – sheave		
12	Barley – sheave		
13	All other Sheaves		
14	Soybean Stalks – 3 stalks		
15	Corn – 10 ears		
16	Sugar Beets – 3 beets (3 uniform beets, properly cleaned with leaves, petioles and roots removed. Beets must be exhibited on a wire.)		
17	Dry Bean Plants		
18	Corn Stalks – 3 stalks – bound and cut off at soil level		

Vegetables – Section Y2

Tray Classes

Premiums	1	2	3
	\$5	\$4	\$3

Class

- 1 Squash – 2 specimens
- 2 Cantaloupe – 2 specimens
- 3 Red Tomatoes – 3 specimens
- 4 Pink Tomatoes – 3 specimens
- 5 Yellow or Orange Tomatoes – 3 specimens
- 6 Cherry Tomatoes – 6 specimens (any variety, no small Cherry allowed)
- 7 Carrots – 5 specimens
- 8 Cabbage – 2 specimens
- 9 Beets – 5 specimens
- 10 White Potatoes – 3 specimens
- 11 Cucumbers – 3 specimens
- 12 Sweet Potatoes – 3 specimens
- 13 Purple Potatoes – 3 specimens
- 14 Sweet Green or Bell Peppers – 3 specimens
- 15 Long Green Sweet Peppers – 3 specimens
- 16 Hot Peppers – 3 specimens
- 17 Watermelon – 1 specimen
- 18 Radishes – 6 specimens
- 19 Onions – 6 specimens
- 20 Green Pod Beans – 8 specimens
- 21 Wax Pod Beans – 8 specimens
- 22 Eggplant - 2 specimens
- 23 Fruit any variety – 3 specimens
- 24 Nut any variety – 6 specimens

Unusual Specimens

Class

- 25 Largest Pumpkin (any variety not entered in Giant Pumpkin Contest)
- 26 Largest Sunflower Head
- 27 Tallest Sunflower – cut off at soil level
- 28 Largest Gourd
- 29 Oddest Shaped Gourd
- 30 Oddest Shaped Potato
- 31 Longest Cucumber
- 32 Tallest Corn – cut off at soil level
- 33 Oddest Shaped Tomato
- 34 Largest Tomato
- 35 Longest Zucchini

Entries 25 through 35 must have a tag giving weight, length or height (except for Class 33).

Herbs – Section Y3

The following exhibits must be displayed in pots. **No more than 12 inches in height and 12 inches in diameter.**

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$5	\$4	\$3

Class

- 1 Plants Curly Parsley
- 2 Plants Basil
- 3 Plants Marjoram
- 4 Plants Thyme
- 5 Plants Sage
- 6 Plants Oregano
- 7 Plants Chives
- 8 Plants any other herb not listed above
- 9 Plants Ornamental Peppers with fruit, any variety
- 10 Mint
- 11 Rosemary
- 12 3 Large Stalks Dill (mounted on board or cardboard)

Vegetable – Section Y4

Artistic Display

Class

1 Bushel Basket Display

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$80	\$70	\$60

An interesting display of horticulture crops and products flowing out of a bushel basket container, arranged in an area approximately 30" x 30". This exhibit may include such items as honey, flowers and other interesting farm products as well as fruits, vegetables and home canned items. Fruits and vegetables should be the principal produce and will be judged on quality and attractiveness. Bushel containers to be provided by the exhibitor.

Class

2 Peck Basket

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$50	\$40	\$30

An attractive display of fruits and vegetables; consisting of up to 10 different varieties in a peck basket. Flowers may be used for decoration only and are not included in the 10 different varieties. A peck basket to be provided by the exhibitor.

Class

3 Wheelbarrow Load of Farm Produce

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$80	\$70	\$60

This exhibit may include such items as honey, flowers and other interesting farm products as well as fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables should be the principal produce, and will be judged on quality and attractiveness. The wheelbarrow to be provided by the exhibitor.

Class

4 Patio Pot of Vegetables

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$55	\$45	\$35

Patio Pot will be a minimum of 12 inches. This exhibit will have at least three (3) different specimens. Vegetables will be judged on quality and attractiveness. The patio pot to be provided by the exhibitor.

Class

5 Sculptured and/or painted pumpkin / gourd

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$55	\$45	\$35

Pumpkin / gourd may **not** be cut. Any material may be used. Exhibit will be judged on creativity and attractiveness.

Class

6 Grapevine Wreaths

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$55	\$45	\$35

Exhibit must be made and decorated by Exhibitor. Must be 2 feet in diameter and no larger than 3 feet in diameter. Made and decorated with any Michigan grown, natural products. No artificial products may be used.

Class

7 Artistic Design / Display of Seeds

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$55	\$45	\$35

Minimum display size of 10" x 13" and maximum display size of 13" x 20". Exhibit will be judged on creativity and attractiveness.

Class

8 Birdhouse Gourd

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$40	\$30	\$20

Birdhouse must be able to hang. Any material may be added – ie. Paint, die or stain. Exhibit will be judged on creativity, attractiveness and usefulness.

Class

9 Two Gourd Products – things made out of gourds. Gourds may be different. May be painted or sculptured.

10 Charm Strings of Dried Gourds. 2' to 3' long. Any number of gourds can be used. Must have a hook to hang.

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$10	\$8	\$6

Bird house must be able to hang. Any material may be added – ie. Paint, die or stain.

Maple Products – Section Y5

Maple – Sugar Cakes, Cream and Candy

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$7	\$6	\$5

Class

- 1 Maple Sugar Cakes in 1 LB. commercial package
- 2 Maple Cream in ½ lb. commercial package
- 3 Maple Candy in ½ lb. commercial package

Maple candy shall consist only of pure maple except that nuts may be added if mixed.

Score Card

Flavor	45%
Color	25%
Consistency	25%
Appearance	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

Flavor

All samples are scored in order of best to poorest flavor. One-quarter to one-half point is deducted from the score of each sample presenting less desirable color than the one preceding it.

Color

All samples are scored in order of best to poorest in color. One-quarter to one-half point is deducted from the score of each sample presenting less desirable color than the one preceding it.

Consistency

Not Uniform...Not Smooth...Grainy...Separating

Appearance

Package in Poor Condition...Stained...Soiled...Undesirable Commercial Package

Maple Syrup

Premiums	1st	2nd	3rd
	\$7	\$6	\$5

Class

- 4 Maple Syrup, quart in commercial glass container

EXPLANATION OF CUTS

Flavor

Weak...Maple...Buddy...Brackish...Molasses...Stale...Musty...Metallic...Foreign Taste...Objectionable Taste.

All samples are scored in order of best to poorest in flavor. One-quarter to one-half point is deducted from the score of each sample presenting less desirable flavor than the one preceding it.

Color

Full score is given to the lightest colored sample. All samples are scored in order of color, light to dark. One-tenth to one-quarter point is deducted from the score of each sample darker than the one preceding it.

Density

Two points is subtracted for every one-half degree below 66 degrees Brix. One point off is subtracted for every one-half degree above 66 degrees Brix.

Clarity

Frothy...Nitrate...Sediment.

Appearance

Stained...Old...Dirty...Undesirable Commercial Package.

Educational Projects – Section Y6

Learning Objective: Exploring, investigating and experiencing with your knowledge and skills for a greater appreciation of the world around us.

Competition is open to Youth not less than seven (7) years of age by January 1, 2026 and not older than twenty (20) years of age by January 1, 2026.

The exhibit may be made by an individual or a group.

The exhibit area is 4 feet wide, 4 feet height and 2 feet deep. Models, charts and graphs may be used.

Photographs are taken each year of all displays.

Premiums	1	2	3
	\$15	\$10	\$5

Class

- 1 Individual Educational Project
- 2 Group Educational Project

Scarecrow

Limit 2 per exhibitor.

Scarecrows must be created in current year.

All scarecrow exhibits must be between 4 feet and 5 feet tall and between 2 feet and 3 feet wide. Each entry must stand alone on its own base.

Exhibits will be judged on creativity, uniqueness or originality, attractiveness and good use of materials.

Premiums	1	2	3
	\$30	\$25	\$20

Class

- 3 Scarecrow