



DEPARTMENT DAIRY

CONTACT INFORMATION

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IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

Event:	Date & Time:	Location:	Additional Information:
Animal Identification Form Due	June 6, 2026 6:00 pm.	Animal identification forms can be emailed to sanilac4hfair@gmail.com or dropped off at the Fairboard office.	Electronic applications are available at fair.sanilacfair.org . Paper applications are available at the Fairboard office.
Barn Setup	Sunday, July 19th, 2026 1:00 p.m.	Dairy Barn	All exhibitors must be present.
Animal Check-In (Non-Milking Cows)	Sunday, August 9th, 2026 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Dairy Barn	
Dairy Production Award & Dairy Achievement Award Applications	Monday, August 10th, 2026 1:00 p.m.	Drop off at the Fairboard office.	Electronic applications are available at fair.sanilacfair.org . Paper applications are available at the Fairboard office. Advance registration is not required to participate.
Animal Check-In (Milking Cows)	Wednesday, August 12th, 2026 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Dairy Barn	
Dairy Skills Contest	Wednesday, August 12th, 2026 3:00 p.m.	Dairy Barn	Open to all exhibitors. Advance registration is not required to participate.
Dairy Show	Thursday, August 13th, 2026 9:00 a.m.	Dairy Barn	
Project Released	Sunday, August 16, 2026 1:00 a.m. *PENDING Fair board Approval	Dairy Barn	
Barn Cleanup	Immediately following the release of animals	Dairy Barn	All exhibitors must be present.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. Exhibitors' expectations for cleanliness see Rules Affecting Animal Exhibitors #19.
2. **Please Bed with Straw.**
3. All exhibitors are expected to be present at and participate in the barn setup before the fair. If you are unable to attend for any reason, you must contact one of the superintendents before the setup. Failure to do so may result in a deduction from an exhibitor's premium. All deductions are at the discretion of the Dairy Superintendents.
4. Animals do not need to be owned by the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors may exhibit one animal for each year completed in the dairy project, **not to exceed** a maximum of four animals. No exhibitor may show more than four animals.
6. No exhibitor may show more than one animal in each heifer class, except for multiple births. When the animal reaches lactation and has been previously shown by the exhibitor or registered as an alternate, the exhibitor may enter more than one cow in the same class.
7. All animals shown must be a straight dairy breed; a crossbreed will not be allowed in the dairy classes.
8. All animals shown in the dairy classes must be born on or before May 13, 2026.
9. 6 and 7-year-old exhibitors are only eligible to compete in their showmanship class, not in the dairy classes. They may bring their own heifer calf or show one already on the grounds (pending Fair board approval). They must register for their showmanship class in Showman.app and submit an Animal Identification form (if choosing to bring their own heifer) by the deadline listed above.
10. All animals are required to have an RFID tag. Tags must be in an animal's ear before arriving on the fairgrounds. Animals without an RFID tag will **NOT** be allowed to check in and/or exhibit.
11. 6, 7, and 8-year-olds and first-year exhibitors may exhibit one calf or yearling heifer, not to exceed 18 months of age at the beginning of the fair.
12. All Exhibitors are to wear a white shirt (No tank tops) and white pants or a skirt for the Dairy Show. Leather shoes/boots are to be worn.
13. Exhibitors may be asked to participate with their animal in a dairy judging activity during the fair.
14. Sportsmanlike conduct is required at **ALL** times during the fair. Dairy superintendents reserve the right to disqualify an exhibitor from individual classes and/or the entirety of the show if their behavior is determined to be blatantly unsportsmanlike.
15. The Dairy program will have a dairy basket that will be auctioned off in the Livestock Sale on Friday. All exhibitors must be present during the sale of the dairy basket. Proceeds will be divided as follows:
 - A. Overall Grand Champion – 25%
 - B. Overall Reserve Champion- 15%
 - C. Overall Junior Grand Champion- 15%
 - D. Overall Junior Reserve Champion- 10%
 - E. Retained for future expenses of the dairy Program – 35%

1001 - DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

Dairy superintendents retain the right to divide further the outlined age divisions into smaller classes, depending on class size. In the case that this occurs, a runoff will be held between the 1st and 2nd place winners in each affected class to determine the age division Grand and Reserve Champion Showman. The Grand Champion Showman from each of the Senior, Intermediate, and Junior age divisions will be allowed to represent the Dairy Program in the Large Animal Sweepstakes competition on the Saturday of the fair, so long as they meet eligibility requirements.

Class #:	Class Name:	Eligibility:	Award:
0001	Senior Showmanship	16-19 Years Old	1 st -6 th place, Rosette Senior Grand & Reserve Grand Champion, Rosette.
0002	Intermediate Showmanship	12-15 Years Old	1 st -6 th Place, Rosette Intermediate Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Rosette
0003	Junior Showmanship	8-11 Years Old	1 st -6 th Place, Rosette Junior Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Rosette
	Overall Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Showman	Grand and Reserve Grand Champion showman from the Senior, Intermediate, and Junior age divisions.	Overall Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Showman Award.
0004	Chester Campbell Memorial Award	Open to all first-year dairy exhibitors ages 8 to 12. Exhibitors who have previously shown in the 6–7-year-old class are still considered to be a “first-year exhibitor.” Exhibitors must not have shown previously in any other county dairy shows. Please contact the superintendent with any questions or concerns regarding eligibility.	Trophy
0005	Novice Showmanship	6-7 years old (Note: must be registered to participate)	1 st -6 th Place, Ribbon

DAIRY BREED CLASSES

1st-6th place animals in each class will receive rosettes. The awarding of Champion and Grand Champion for a small number of animals of a specific breed class will be left to the discretion of the judge. The Overall Grand Champion, Overall Reserve Champion, Overall Junior Grand Champion, and Overall Junior Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded a cash prize from the sale of the dairy basket.

	Holstein 1002	Jersey 1003	Ayrshire 1004	Brown Swiss 1005	Guernsey 1006	Dutch Belted 1007	Milking Shorthorn 1008
Junior Heifer Calf 3-1-26 to 5-13-26	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Intermediate Heifer Calf 12-1-25 to 2-28-26	1001	1001	1001	1001	1001	1001	1001
Senior Heifer Calf 9-1-25 to 11-30-25	1002	1002	1002	1002	1002	1002	1002
Summer Yearling Heifer 6-1-25 to 8-31-25	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003
Junior Yearling Heifer 3-1-25 to 5-31-25	1004	1004	1004	1004	1004	1004	1004
Intermediate Yearling Heifer 12-1-24 to 2-28-25	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005
Senior Yearling Heifer 9-1-24 to 11-30-24	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006
Breed Junior Grand & Reserve Grand Champions	1 st - and 2 nd -place winners from the previous seven classes, by breed.						Breed Junior Grand & Junior Reserve Grand Champion, Rosette
2-year-old Cow (not in milk) 9-1-23 to 8-31-24	1007	1007	1007	1007	1007	1007	1007
2-year-old Cow (in milk) 9-1-23 to 8-31-24	1008	1008	1008	1008	1008	1008	1008
3-year-old Cow 9-1-22 to 8-31-23	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009
4-year-old Cow 9-1-21 to 8-31-22	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010
5-year-old and Older Cow	1011	1011	1011	1011	1011	1011	1011
Dry Cow	1012	1012	1012	1012	1012	1012	1012
Breed Senior Grand & Reserve Grand Champions	1 st - and 2 nd -place winners from the previous seven classes, each breed.						Breed Senior Grand & Senior Reserve Champion, Rosette
Breed Grand & Reserve Grand Champions	Senior Grand & Senior Reserve Grand Champions, each breed. Junior Grand & Junior Reserve Grand Champions, each breed.						Overall Grand & Reserve Champion, & 3 rd overall award

Overall Junior Grand & Reserve Grand Champions	Junior Grand & Reserve Grand Champions, each breed.	Overall Junior Grand and Junior Reserve Grand Champion Award
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Overall Grand & Reserve Grand Champions	Grand & Reserve Grand Champions, each breed.	Overall Grand & Reserve Grand Champion, Award
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1009 - OTHER DAIRY CLASSES

Class #:	Class Name:	Eligibility:	Award:
1700	Exhibitor's Herd	Three animals, any age, owned by one member. Animals must have been shown in individual classes.	Rosettes
1701	Produce of Dam	Two female offspring of a project animal. All animals shown in this class must be shown by the same exhibitor.	Rosettes
1702	Daughter of Dam	Dam must be a project animal and her own daughter, any age, three months or over. Judged on basis of improvement of daughter over dam. All animals shown in this class must be shown by the same exhibitor.	Rosettes
1703	Club Herd	Three animals, any age, can be mixed breed, owned by three different members of the same club.	Rosettes

DAIRY PRODUCTION AWARDS

Our dairy program strives to recognize exhibitors' animals not just on show day, but on what is happening in the barn every other day of the year through an award that directly recognizes an animal's milk production. To align with industry standards, animals' production will be evaluated based on total pounds of Energy Corrected Milk (ECM) produced.

Dairy Production Award Information & Eligibility:

F. ECM will be calculated from the animal's production data. Production data can be provided from any accredited dairy program that the exhibitor utilizes (D.H.I.A., PCDART, Dairy Comp, etc.) The following formula will be used for calculation:

$$ECM = (0.327 \times \text{milk lbs.}) + (12.95 \times \text{fat lbs.}) + (7.2 \times \text{protein lbs.})$$

G. Animals must be at least two years old and milking for 40 days to be considered for a Dairy Production Award. For animals three years and older, ECM will be based on the last completed lactation. For two-year-olds who have not completed a lactation, ECM will be based on projected 305ME or the best available information.

H. Exhibitors must have owned the animal for the entire lactation period.

To enter your animal for award consideration, please submit the Dairy Production Award application and production data for your animal(s) to the Fairboard office by 1:00 p.m. on the Monday of the Fair. Exhibitors may enter as many of their lactating animals being exhibited as they choose. Electronic applications are available at fair.sanilacfair.org. Paper applications are available at the Fairboard office. Advance registration is not required to participate; all exhibitors who submit the required application and production data by the deadline will be considered.

Placing:	Award:
First	Award, Certificate, & Monetary Prize
Second	Certificate & Monetary Prize
Third	Certificate & Monetary Prize

DAIRY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Two scholarships will be awarded to exhibitors who have shown extraordinary leadership and dedication to education, their communities, agriculture, the dairy industry, and this Dairy Program.

Dairy Production Award Information & Eligibility:

1. Exhibitors must be current participants in the Sanilac County Youth & 4-H Dairy Program.
2. Exhibitors must have completed a minimum of six years in the Dairy Program.
3. Exhibitors must not have previously received the Dairy Achievement Award. An exhibitor may only win this award once during their show career.

To enter yourself for award consideration, please submit the Dairy Achievement Award application to the Fairboard office by 1:00 p.m. on Monday of the Fair. Award recipients will be selected by an uninvolved third party to ensure fairness. Electronic applications are available at fair.sanilacfair.org. Paper applications are available at the Fairboard office. Advance registration is not required to participate; all exhibitors who submit the required application by the deadline will be considered.

Award Name:	Award:
Dairy Achievement Award	Certificate & Scholarship

DAIRY SKILLS CONTEST

Participants will have the opportunity to showcase their dairy knowledge through a variety of fun competitions covering Dairy Judging, Feed Identification, and General Dairy Knowledge. This contest is open to all dairy exhibitors, and no advanced registration is required. Arrive at the show arena in the dairy barn at the contest start time. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three participants in each age division.

Age Division:	Award:
Junior, 8-11 years old	1 st -3 rd Place, Cash Prize
Intermediate, 12-15 years old	1 st -3 rd Place, Cash Prize
Senior, 16-19 years old	1 st -3 rd Place, Cash Prize