

4-H Animal Exhibitor Handbook 2026 Cornish Fair

August 21, 22 & 23, 2026



www.cornishfair.org

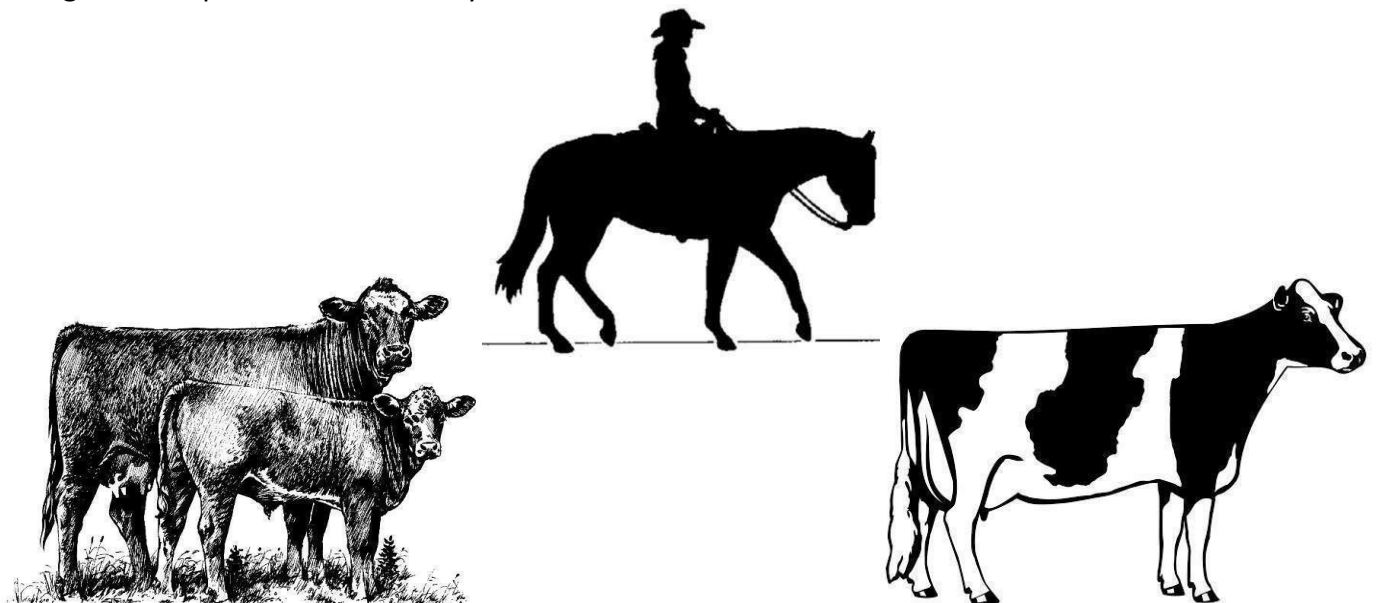
MASTER - Revised May 2025



4-H LIVESTOCK SHOWS

4-H GENERAL RULES

1. Premiums listed are being offered to 4-H members exhibiting from Sullivan County unless otherwise noted. Depending upon the species there may be space limitations for entries. Sullivan County entries will be given first priority, entries from other counties (as noted) will be accepted on a first come first serve basis until full.
2. Juniors are members ages 8 – 13. Seniors are members ages 14 and older.
3. Products and articles exhibited must represent 4-H work done since by the 4-H member. September of the previous year
4. **All 4-H members must reach the Fairgrounds between 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Thursday. Exhibits must remain in place until 6:00 pm Sunday, or premiums will be forfeited.**
5. 4-H products or articles not making a satisfactory exhibit or improperly labeled may be rejected or moved to the appropriate class.
6. 4-H exhibits are to be shown at the 4-H member's own risk.
7. Premiums may be withheld from 4-H members not complying with any rule or regulation in any youth class.
8. Judges will consider the difficulty of the project and the years of enrollment in the project, the age of exhibitor, specific project requirements, and rules for exhibiting.
9. Best in Show Rosettes may be awarded at the judges' discretion and include a \$2.00 premium bonus.
10. In addition to the premiums listed, each 4-H exhibit receives a ribbon based on the Danish System of judging: blue, red, or white.
11. Friday is **"4-H Day"**, and Sullivan County 4-Hmembers can get into the Fair **free** if they wear a 4-H member tag obtainable from their 4-H club organizational leader.
12. All 4-H animal exhibitors must gather for a Mandatory Meeting on Thursday evening at 7:30pm. The meeting will take place under the dairy tent.



4-H ANIMAL EXHIBITOR EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

- A. **4-H Entry Deadline: July 20th.** Each 4-H member entry must also include an Activity Expectation, Permission & Release Form.
- B. Animals must be in place by **7:00am Friday and remain until 6:00pm Sunday** or be released by a show superintendent.
- C. **ELIGIBILITY:** Youth classes are open to 4-H members who have pre-registered by the deadline date and have included a signed Activity Expectation, Permission & Release Form. Due to limited space, the horse, poultry, sheep, and working steer shows are only open to specified N.H. counties, see corresponding section below. Depending upon the species there may be space limitations for entries. Sullivan County entries will be given first priority, entries from other counties (as noted) will be accepted on a first come first serve basis until full.
- D. **Exhibitor Age:** All youth exhibitor ages are calculated as of January 1 of the current year. No youth under age 8 is permitted to exhibit a large animal in a 4-H livestock show.
Novice member: Age 8 or youth in their first year of showing and under 14 years of age.
Junior member: youth ages 9 - 11
Intermediate: youth ages 12 - 13
Senior: youth ages 14 - 18
NOTE: Junior and Intermediate age divisions may be combined depending on the number of exhibitor entries received.
- E. 4-H members are the sole responsibility of their parent or guardian during the entire duration of the fair.
- F. 4-H members and their parents or guardians shall conduct themselves appropriately, reflecting positively on the Cornish Fair.
- G. 4-H members shall represent 4-H and their project to the general public in a positive way, helping to inform them about 4-H projects and agriculture. Actions must reflect the highest standards of honor and integrity and the best practices relating to their animal project. No type of animal abuse or neglect shall be tolerated.
- H. 4-H members shall not use or possess alcoholic beverages, tobacco, vape items or controlled substances.
- I. All judges and fair/show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect. No person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them. Direct criticism or interference with the judge or fair/show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited.
- J. 4-H members are solely responsible for showing and handling their animal in the ring. The 4-H member must prepare their animal to be shown.
- K. Participating in Fit and Show is required. 4-H members must show their own project animal in the appropriate Fit and Show class. They must use an animal they will also exhibit in a type, performance, or market class during the 4-H show.
- L. **Appropriate Dress:** It is expected 4-H youth will wear appropriate attire when they are exhibiting in a 4-H show. The 4-H attire of white collared shirt, solid colored white or Khaki pants (No blue jeans) unless otherwise specified. Exceptions: Working Steer & Poultry green pants; Beef Exhibitor jeans (No ripped jeans); Equine attire-riding clothes appropriate to their seat (boots with heels required) as well as a properly fitted and approved helmet worn at all times when mounted. If skirt is worn instead of pants, it must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee. Safe shoes or boots must be worn (laces must be tied.)
NO flip-flops or open-toed shoes in barn areas or show rings. Corporate/farm sponsorship is unacceptable at 4-H shows.
4-H Horse Show participants will also follow the rules in the NH supplement to the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules and Guidelines.
- M. 4-H project animals are shown at the risk of the owner or lessor. Any damages to persons or property are the legal and financial responsibility of the 4-H member and the family who owns and leases the animal. All large animal exhibitors (beef, dairy, horse) will be required to submit a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 in the name of the person listed on the entry form.
- N. All animals or groups of animals shown must be owned or leased by the 4-H member. Animals to be exhibited must be appropriately named on a current, valid entry form and corresponding lease agreement if applicable.
- O. **Age of animal** - Any animal that will be shown in a 4-H class must have been born by and listed on the entry form by the specified date for that species.
- P. Exhibitors are responsible for presenting the required credentials for their project animal(s). Original registration papers, approval forms, and lease agreements must be presented at the proper time for their show.
- Q. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to know what class they are supposed to be in and when that class will take place. Exhibitors who miss their class will not be allowed to exhibit in a class designated for another group. Exhibitors who miss their showmanship class may exhibit in the rest of the show but will receive no premiums. Exhibitors missing a breed or market class will not receive premiums in the class missed.
- R. **Animal Health:** all 4-H exhibitors must adhere to the health regulations for 2025 N.H. Fairs and shows and any additional requirements outlined in the open show section of this premium book. **In addition to current health standards, all animals exhibited must be immunized for rabies at least 30 days prior and within one year of the event.**
- S. **Animal Care:** Exhibitors are responsible for the care and feeding of their animals. Animals are to be kept neat and presentable. Sawdust and water will be provided by the fair. Exhibitors must provide their own feed (hay/grain) and straw for bedding.
- T. **Final Cleanup:** Exhibitors are expected to clean out the area in which animals were housed. Premiums will be forfeited if not done. Breakfast for 4-H livestock exhibitors will be furnished by the fair on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings. You must have a special ticket, which will be distributed by show superintendents at check-in. **Adult volunteers will be needed to help prepare and serve breakfast, please see your species Superintendent.**
- U. **Camping** in designated areas only. You must submit the correct camping form to the fair, spaces available at a fee on a "first come - first served" basis. Limited electricity with paid sites. No water hook up available. No use of awnings, generators or air conditioning units permitted.
- V. Laser pointers are prohibited from use on fairgrounds.