

**Midland Fair Office**

6905 Eastman Avenue • Midland, MI 48642

Phone (989) 835-7901 • Fax (989) 835-2336

info@midlandfair.net

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Midland County Fair Announces Expanded Youth Age Eligibility and Plans for Livestock Program Growth

Beginning with the 2027 Midland County Fair, the maximum age for youth exhibitors will increase from 19 to 20, giving young people an additional year to exhibit, build their skills, and participate in agricultural learning opportunities.

Eligibility is determined by the exhibitor's age as of December 31 of the exhibition year. Youth may exhibit during the calendar year in which they turn 20. Anyone turning 21 during that year is no longer eligible to compete as a youth exhibitor, even if their birthday falls after the Fair.

Working Together to Grow Our Livestock Program

The Midland Fair Board will also work closely with the Midland Youth Livestock Auction Council in the future to examine the option of a gradual open-county livestock sale that would potentially welcome eligible youth from neighboring counties.

Declining participation has prompted the Board to look closely at how to strengthen the program for the future. Expanding participation offers an opportunity to welcome more agricultural families, support youth education, and maintain a strong livestock program here in Midland.

The Board recognizes that this potential change matters deeply to the families, buyers, and volunteers who have built and supported the program over many years. Preserving that support and creating meaningful opportunities for Midland County youth will remain important considerations throughout the planning process.

While an expanded sale is still being explored, with consideration being given to participation requirements, sale guidelines and timing, along with other factors, these will be examined through collaboration with the Midland Youth Livestock Auction Council and additional information will be shared when any plans take shape.

Our goal is to honor the agricultural traditions that built this program while creating opportunities to keep it strong for the next generation.