

# 2026

## Stark County Junior Fair Cavy Rules



**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN ENTRY!!**

**DEADLINE IS JULY 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
***NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED***

Web Page: [www.starkcountyjrfair4h.com](http://www.starkcountyjrfair4h.com)

FACEBOOK PAGE: Ohio State University Extension - Stark County 4H

## Stark County Junior Fair – OVERALL General Rules for ALL Species

The Stark County Junior Fair operates under the authority of and in conjunction with the Stark County Senior Fair Board. The Junior Fair Board is a department of the Stark County Fair with its own objectives. These objectives in many instances, require rules or guidelines that differ significantly from those of other Stark County Fair Departments.

Any boy or girl enrolled in a Stark County Youth organization is eligible to participate in the Stark County Junior Fair. They must abide by the rules and age limitations of said youth organization (4H, FFA, Grange, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.)

1. To participate in 4H activities, youth must comply with the State 4H membership policy. 4H eligibility begins at age 5 (and in kindergarten as of January 1) and ends December 31st of the year in which they attain the age of 19.
2. Exhibitors in 4H classes must be enrolled in 4H club work in Stark County. Exhibits must be from 4H projects approved by the State or Local Extension office.
3. All members are encouraged to show in open class events.
4. Health rules for the livestock exhibits are the same as those governing all open class exhibits. Health papers must be shown, if requested, to the proper person before an animal is assigned a stall.
5. The Board of Directors of the Stark County Agricultural Society will, to the best of their ability, safeguard persons, livestock and articles on the grounds, but will not be responsible for injury, damage, disease, theft or loss of any kind.
6. Animals released due to illness or injury must have a signed release from the Fair Veterinarian, Junior Fair Coordinator and/or Barn Superintendent. Any animal removed without proper permission will be subject to 1-year suspension for the exhibitor.
7. Members are required to clean stalls or pens daily and maintain a neat and presentable area. Failure to keep the area clean or properly feed and water livestock may result in the committee withholding payment.
8. Anyone assisting with showing another exhibitor's animal must be enrolled as a current 4H or FFA or other youth organization member in Stark County.
9. All animals must remain on exhibit at the fair until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, the last day of the fair.
10. All animals sold remain the property of the member and in the member's care until Fair release time, 4:00 p.m., Monday, the last day of the fair. *Please be advised, some market animals may be released to contracted Livestock Brokers prior to the 4pm release time.*
11. Animals sold are not eligible to be shown again by that exhibitor or any other 4H or FFA member in any Junior Show in the County or State or Independent Fair in the calendar year. All Grand and Reserve Grand Champion market animals are terminal\*\*. \*\*Does NOT apply to the Dairy Beef Feeder project\*\*
12. Exhibitors are responsible for their own veterinary bill.
13. Veterinarians assigned to the Fair for check-in will decide all matters of health, presence of disease and stall release.
14. The Fair Board will provide ribbons and/or appropriate awards. If the budget is exceeded, the Fair Board reserves the right to prorate cash premiums.
15. Eligible youth may participate in both 4-H (clubs) and Vocational Agriculture (FFA) or be members of either organization. However, those involved in both must carry separate and distinct projects, including different animals and/or products, for each organization. Examples of distinct projects include Sheep Breeding, Market Lambs, Pullets, and Broilers. The same or similar animals or products cannot be exhibited in both organizations, even if classified under different projects or programs. Additionally, an animal or product may not be shown in more than one county in 4-H or FFA classes.
16. Stark County youth programs and the Junior Fair Board will not condone the use of alcohol or drugs by any of its members, volunteers or anyone else associated with the Junior fair. The Junior Fair Coordinator, Junior Fair Board advisors, FFA advisors, Extension office and the Senior Fair Board will contact parents or legal authorities to handle individuals caught using or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
17. In the event that a project animal dies after the designated possession date, members will not be permitted to replace the animal for the purpose of exhibition or sale in any Junior Fair event.

18. **All Entries are Due at midnight By or July 24th - NO EXCEPTIONS - No Changes will be permitted after entry deadline.**

19. A junior livestock show exhibitor shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior livestock show. An exhibitor may receive assistance in the care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the junior livestock show, provided that the assistance shall be limited to explanation or demonstration provided by the following: Family members (as identified in OAC Rule 901-19-31); Household members; Advisors or adult volunteers of 4-H or FFA in the exhibitor's club or county; Agricultural education instructors; County extension agents; Department representatives; Veterinarians; Members of the exhibitor's 4-H club, FFA chapter, or other youth organizations; and Guest speakers of the 4-H, FFA, or other youth organizations. Additionally, a current Stark County Junior Fair exhibitor may assist. This rule applies to all projects entered in the Stark County Junior Fair show during the Stark County Fair from September 1, 2026, to September 7, 2026. Violation of this rule will result in the animal being ineligible for sale. \* Any person not specified in paragraph (B) of OAC Rules 901-19-31 who provides assistance to a junior livestock show exhibitor shall register in writing with the sponsor. The responsibility to register rests with the exhibitor. An assistant may register for more than one exhibitor. Failure to register constitutes grounds for disciplinary action against the exhibitor. Assistance shall be limited to explanation and minimal demonstration.

20. No one may handle a Junior Fair exhibitor's animal(s) without the exhibitor's permission, except in an emergency. Committee members are permitted to handle animals as part of their regular duties, including during the show, sale, weigh-in, photos, loading, and unloading.

21. **Judges' Decisions are Final.**

22. Any Medical/School excuses must be submitted in writing to Committee Chair and Junior Fair Coordinator.

23. **ALL Junior Fair Exhibitors are REQUIRED to attend a QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) CLINIC by JUNE 1 before the fair. Exhibitors who do not complete this requirement will be ineligible to show at the fair or bring a carcass.**

24. **Exhibitors must complete an online DRUG USE NOTIFICATION FORM (DUNF) for all market and lactating animals before the show. Failure to comply WILL result in disqualification from showing. This requirement is mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture under Ohio Revised Code 901-19-06 and 901-19-07. All Junior Fair livestock must be free of drug residues on the first day of the fair unless otherwise noted on the DUNF. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their market animals until the fair concludes, the drug withdrawal period ends, or if the animal is placed under quarantine.**

**Junior Fair Coordinator**

Julie Pinter

[jrfair@starkcountyfair.com](mailto:jrfair@starkcountyfair.com)

330.455.7856

**Junior Fair Livestock Barn Superintendents (Subject to Change)**

Beef	Amber Shoemaker	Danny Schmucker/Justin Durkin
Dairy	Justin Durkin	Dan Farnham/Ashley Royer
Goat	Jill McNeil	Mikayla Durkin/Dave Stock
Horse	Mikayla Durkin	Dan McCracken/Justin Durkin
Poultry	Julie Nicholas	Justin Durkin/Ashley Royer
Sheep	Dave Stock	Jill McNeil/Drew Kissel
Swine	Mikayla Durkin	Sarah Yungen/Julie Nicholas
Rabbit/Cavy	Jill Sterling	Drew Kissel/Mikayla Durkin

(Please refer to the Fair Book for contact information or leave a message at [office@starkcountyfair.com](mailto:office@starkcountyfair.com))

# CAVY RULES 2026

## I. CAVY RULES

1. Project animals must be purebred animals according to American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA). Contact a member of the Rabbit & Cavy Committee for help in finding purebred Cavies.
2. Cavy projects must be taken in order, regardless of the number of Cavies exhibitor is showing at the fair. Projects should not be repeated. Only ONE (1) Cavy Project may be taken per year. All youth with Cavy projects should participate in the Cavy Show.
3. All Cavies exhibited must be permanently earmarked by a tag in the left ear before arrival at the fair. (See enclosed calendar for date & time of Tattoo & Tag Clinic.) All tags must be done by the final July Entry Clinic Free (only exception is Juniors) or there will be a \$5.00 fee per cavy.
4. Cavies exhibited must be clean, free of parasites and in good health. The superintendent may send any animal home at their discretion.
5. Exhibitors are responsible for caring for their project animal daily through the last day of the fair. Care includes checking in or out, cleaning pens, feeding and watering. Any failure to fulfill these requirements will result in forfeiture of premium money. No early Departure. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing their own feed and bedding. (Bedding will be provided the first day of the fair only.)
6. No locks may be placed on cages. Zip ties are permitted.
7. All animals sold in any Junior Fair Show throughout the state, may not be shown or sold in any other Junior show within the same year.
8. There must be a minimum of 5 Cavies in a breed and 2 exhibitors for exhibitors to be eligible for awards. Rosettes will be awarded if there are less than 5 animals.
9. Exhibitors winning an award must turn in an addressed, stamped thank you note to a Stark County Junior Fair Rabbit & Cavy Committee member by Saturday of Fair by 4pm. The Rabbit & Cavy Committee will give out sponsors' name and address after the show.
10. In the event a project animal dies after the designated possession date, members will not be permitted to replace that animal for the purpose of exhibition or sale. Members may, however, replace the animal for the purpose of completing the project, showmanship and/or skill-a-thon. Exhibitors should report the death of any animal immediately to a committee member.
11. All exhibitors will receive a \$5.00 premium per cavy project registration.
12. *Parents or Advisors need to contact a member of the Rabbit & Cavy Committee if they have a participant with a learning or physical disability.*
13. Each exhibitor should attend the Jr. Fair Cavy Show and show their own cavy(s). If this is not possible, you must notify the committee and you must find another Junior Fair exhibitor to show for you.

***IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL YOUTH WISHING TO EXHIBIT CAVIES AT THE JUNIOR FAIR ATTEND THE JULY PRE-REGISTRATION ENTRY CLINIC. FOR FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR MEMBERS IT IS MANDATORY TO ATTEND THE SPRING EDUCATIONAL CLINIC.***

The Junior Fair Cavy Show is under the supervision and direction of the Junior Fair Rabbit & Cavy Committee. The committee will supervise all shows and activities at the fair. Any questions regarding the rules, procedures etc. will be decided by a majority vote of the committee membership. The decision of the Judge is final.

## **II. PURCHASING/POSSESSION CAVY**

All project Cavies must be in the possession of the exhibitor by **May 25th** to be able to show at the Stark County Junior Fair. EXCEPTION: Intermediate or Junior Aged animals which are raised by exhibitor must have the sow by **May 25**. Project Animals must be of American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) standard breeds.

## **III. CHECKING IN / CHECKING OUT**

- All Cavies must be checked in with the Jr. Fair Show Secretary, in the Rabbit Barn on Monday, August 31, between 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. All Cavies must be checked in and out with the Junior Fair Show Secretary. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- **All Cavies will remain on exhibit until 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the fair**, except for sold animals, which are released at 2:00 p.m. **NO CAVIES will be released except through the Jr. Fair Show Secretary.** If an animal is removed from the fair early without checking with a committee member or junior fair secretary, the junior fair member will not be permitted to show at the fair next year!

## **IV. CAVY FAIR CLASSES**

1. Senior Boars and Sows- Over 6 months of age or weight over 32 ounces
2. Intermediate Boars and Sows- Up to 6 months of age, OR weight over 22 ounces and maximum weight of 32 ounces.
3. Junior Boars and Sows- Up to 4 months of age, minimum weight of 12 ounces maximum weight of 22 ounces.

### **CAVY EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS**

**CAVY I                   First year exhibitors** – may exhibit **TWO** pens of the **SAME BREED**.

\*\*Exhibitor is to complete the beginner section of the new Ohio Cavy Book, member project guidelines, one-page report and record section of project book.

**CAVY II                   Exhibitors who have completed Cavy I** – may exhibit **FOUR** pens with up to **TWO BREEDS**.

\*\*Exhibitor is to continue in the Ohio Cavy Book, do member project guidelines, one-page report, and record section of the project book. \*\*

**CAVY III                   Exhibitors who have completed Cavy II** – may exhibit **SIX** pens with up to **THREE BREEDS**.

\*\*Exhibitor is to continue in the Ohio Cavy Book, do member project guidelines,

one-page report, and record section of the project book. \*\*

**CAVY IV** **Exhibitors who have completed Cavy III** – may exhibit **EIGHT** pens with up to **FOUR BREEDS**.

\*\*Exhibitor is to continue in the Ohio Cavy Book, do member project guidelines, one-page report, and record section of the project book. \*\*

**CAVY V & UP** **Exhibitors who have completed Cavy IV** – may exhibit **TEN** pens with **UNLIMITED BREEDS**.

\*\*Exhibitor must complete Advanced section of the Ohio Cavy Book, member project guidelines, one-page report, and record section of the project book. \*\*

## **V. SKILLATHON = PROJECT COMPLETION**

The Junior Fair Rabbit & Cavy Committee has determined that each exhibitor must complete a Skillathon for project completion.

Divisions are:	Senior	15 years and up
	Intermediate	12-14 years
	Junior	8-11 years

1. Bring completed project book to **Showmanship** on August 22. Your one-page report needs to be separate from your book and be in a SHEET PROTECTOR. The one-page report topic this year is, in your own words “TALK ABOUT FAULTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS.”

If unable to attend Showmanship, books and reports must be turned into a committee member or the Junior Fair Office before Saturday, AUGUST 22, 2026. If books and reports are not turned in by deadline, your animal will not compete for any awards. Your animal will be judged at the end of the class for COMMENTS ONLY.

2. Skill-a-thon will consist of 4 stations at the All-Species Skillathon (9am-2pm) on Saturday, May 16, 2026 in the Art Hall. Study Guides will be available in March.

## **VI. CAVY SHOWMANSHIP**

1. SHOWMANSHIP IS **MANDATORY** FOR FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR EXHIBITORS and Showmanship is highly recommended for all other exhibitors. Exhibitors entering Showmanship must sign in. You must have the tag number of the animal you will be using.
2. Exhibitors must show his/her OWN project animal, which is entered on their entry form. (See exception, Cavy Rule #10 and contact a committee member as soon as possible). Anyone not doing so will be removed from the competition and forfeit any awards. In case of a tie, all exhibitors involved must be present. Any exhibitor not present will forfeit.

3. Exhibitors should have a good understanding of what is expected of themselves and their Cavy before entering Showmanship classes. ***Attend the Spring Clinic for this information.***
4. Exhibitors must be properly dressed. Wear a long-sleeved shirt or jacket, which can be removed after judging and will protect exhibitor's arms and clothing. This jacket need not be a show coat or white shirt. NO hats, jewelry, or nail polish should be worn. NO gum and hair should be pulled back.
5. Showmanship Classes are determined by exhibitor's age as of January 1, current year.

SENIOR	15 years and up
INTERMEDIATE	12 – 14 years
JUNIOR	8 – 11 years

6. All awards and score sheets will be awarded at the completion of all the showmanship classes.
7. **An exhibitor may win only once in a Showmanship class.** These exhibitors may compete in Champion of Champion Showmanship while waiting to move into the next Showmanship class.
8. Any member, whose enrollment form was received after the March 15 deadline, may compete for remarks only, not awards.

## **VII. CHAMPION OF CHAMPION CAVY SHOWMANSHIP**

1. Winners of Cavy Showmanship classes (see list above) and any other exhibitors who have won or participated in Champion of Champions in the past but are not eligible to move into the next class yet may participate in Champion of Champions.
2. Champion of Champion Cavy Showmanship will be held on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> after the Showmanship Championships of the age divisions. The order of competition will be decided by a drawing held before the competition.
3. The winner of Champion of Champions will participate in the Showman of Showman Contest. If the Champion does not wish to participate, the Reserve Champion may go in his/her place.

The winner of Champion of Champions may return to defend the title each year until they advance to the next division. Then they must start over again.

## **VIII. CAVY SALES**

Exhibitors wanting to put their Junior Fair Cavies up for sale may do so after the Cavy Show, by entering the information in the Junior Fair Cavy Sales Book. A 10% Sales Commission will be taken from all Cavy checks to be used for Junior Fair Rabbit & Cavy Committee expenses.

## **2025 JUNIOR FAIR CAVY CHAMPIONS**

Grand Champion: Lily Mackey

Reserve Champion: Jordan Butcher

Twitchers Rabbit & Cavy 4H

Twitchers Rabbit & Cavy 4H

# 2026 CAVY DATES TO REMEMBER

February 21	Stark County Rabbit & Cavy Breeders Sanctioned Open & Youth Show - All are encouraged to attend and show
February 22	Summit County Rabbit & Cavy Breeders sanctioned show (Stark County Fairgrounds)
April 19	Educational Clinic – Stark County Fairgrounds - Art Hall 1-3pm <b>**MANDATORY clinic for First- and Second-Year Members to exhibit at the fair and highly encouraged for all others to attend**</b>
May 16	All-Species Skillathon 9am-2pm in Exhibition Hall
May 25	Exhibitor MUST have their Cavy in their possession. Exceptions: Junior/Intermediate Aged Cavies (MUST HAVE MOTHER)
July 18	Pre-registration Clinic – Stark County Fair Grounds - 9 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. <i>Must bring all animals that will be exhibited. This will be the only day to get your animals pre-registered for the fair.</i> <i>This will be the last chance to have your animals tagged for free. After the July clinic the charge will be \$5.00 per animal.</i>
July 24	<b>Stark County Junior Fair entries due ONLINE</b>
August 22	Showmanship – Stark County Fairgrounds Begins at 9 a.m. Sign-In begin at 8:30 a.m. Showmanship Classes Senior begins at 9 am (must be signed in by 8:50 a.m.) Intermediate and Junior Class to follow Showmanship will continue until all classes are finished. <b><u>**You must have your cavy's tag number with you for showmanship sign-in &amp; the one that you have entered for 2025 fair**</u></b> Champion of Champion will be immediately following the Showmanship Championship of Age Divisions.
August 31	Stark County Fair Check In – 12pm to 8 p.m. <b>Check in with the Junior Fair Rabbit Show Secretary</b>
Sept 1 – Sept 7	<b>Stark County Fair</b>
September 3	Cavy Show – 9 am
September 4	Scavenger Hunt Rabbit & Cavy Barn (9am-8pm) Pick up sheet at 4-H desk
September 5	Rabbit & Cavy Costume Contest – 3pm Poultry Tent
September 7	Check out day 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. - <b><u>Must check out with Jr. Fair Show Secretary</u></b> Clean your pens before you leave!
September 9	Pen Tear-Down/Barn Cleanup; 5pm till finished <b>**Need Jr. Fair Helpers, if available! **</b>

## **2026 RABBIT & CAVY COMMITTEE**

Theresa Young	Canton 44706	330-312-0239
Earline Hermann	N. Canton 44720	234-425-9954
Marie Richards	E. Canton 44730	330-488-6046
Laurie Brennan	Massillon 44647	330-417-0218
Taylor Jordan	Massillon 44647	330-417-4542
Caryn Arbogast	Louisville 44641	330-495-2418
Joann Gazdacko	Hartville 44632	330-907-9132
Marie Brennan	N. Lawrence 44666	330-309-7417
Kathy Hoffman	Canal Fulton 44614	330-312-3417
Melanie Fouse	Waynesburg 44688	330-619-0959
Erika Bodollo	Massillon 44647	330-705-4466

## **2026 OFFICERS**

Chairman	Laurie Brennan
Vice Chairman	Theresa Young
Secretary	Caryn Arbogast
Treasurer	Joann Gazacko
Webmaster/Auction Assistant	Caryn Arbogast

Advisory Committee Representative: Theresa Young

Auction & Promotions Committee Representatives: Earline Hermann, Caryn Arbogast, Joann Gazdacko

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