

# BY-LAWS OF THE EASTERN MICHIGAN FAIR

## LAPEER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY - Imlay City, Michigan *Adopted at the Annual Meeting October 10, 1963*

The name of this Society shall be "The Lapeer County Agricultural Society," Imlay City, Michigan, sponsors of the Eastern Michigan Fair, an Educational, Agricultural and Industrial Exposition, organized under the laws of the State of Michigan.

### **SECTION I – BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

This Society shall have nine (9) Directors who shall constitute a Board of Management of the Society.

### **SECTION II – TERMS OF OFFICE**

At the annual meeting of the Society there shall be elected from the membership three (3) Directors for a term of (3) years and three (3) Directors each year thereafter for the same term. The term of office of all Directors shall commence on the first day of November, except the Directors first elected shall take office immediately.

### **SECTION III – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The Directors shall be elected by secret ballot at the annual meeting of the Society. Only one nomination will be allowed each member and there must be at least two nominations for each position to be filled.

### **SECTION IV – ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in Imlay City on the 3rd Wednesday of October at 7:00 PM. Special meetings may be called by the President at any time and shall be called by him upon written request of five (5) members of the Society. Notice of such special meeting shall be published in a newspaper, printed, published, and circulating in the County of Lapeer at least once and at least five days before the date of said meeting. Such special meeting shall transact only such business as is specified in the notice thereof.

### **SECTION V – QUORUM**

- (a) Quorum of Members. A quorum shall be defined as those members in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting providing notice of said meeting is given 30 days prior to the meeting. This definition shall apply to the annual meeting and special meetings of the Society.
- (b) Quorum of Directors. A majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum.

### **SECTION VI – DUTIES OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

- (a) The Board of Management shall control and regulate all the affairs of the society, make or authorize to be made all necessary contracts, purchases and expenditures, engage, direct and discharge employees and servants, including a Manager to whom they may delegate authority and duties, enforce all Bylaws and Rules, and shall have such other and further powers as are usually inherent to a Board of Management and as may be provided for in the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.
- (b) The Board of Management shall have full control of all fairs and exhibitors, and the determination of the scope or extent thereof. The awarding of premiums, the making of suitable rules and regulations, the appointments of department superintendents, and all committees and subagents for the proper and efficient conduct thereof. The said Board of Management shall have the power to determine where the place of various exhibits or demonstration, or entered by premiums, or in contest, or as concessions or amusement, and may enlarge, change or diminish the space allotted any person or persons at any time as it may deem proper advisable.

The Board of Management shall hold regular monthly meetings. At the regular meeting in November the Board of Management shall elect from their own number a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The term of such offices shall be for one (1) year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

- (a) Special meetings of the Board of Management may be called by the President at any time and shall be called by him upon the written request of two or more members thereof.
- (b) The Board of Management shall have power to adopt such rules for the conduct of the Society and its members as it may from time to time deem necessary, provided such rules are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.
- (c) In the event that a vacancy shall occur on the Board of Management or among its elected officers, or in the event that any member of the board or officer shall, illness, incapacitation, miss three (3) consecutive meetings, or other causes become unable or unwilling to discharge the duties of the office to which he was elected or appointed, then the Board of Directors may declare such office or position vacant and proceed to fill such vacancy by appointment, and the officer or member so appointed shall hold the office until the next succeeding election. Power, authority of duties of such appointee may, however, be limited, restricted or terminated by the Board of Management at any time while such person is serving under appointment.

## **SECTION VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- (a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and all meetings of the Board of Management shall perform all other duties usually incident to the Board of Management from time to time.
- (b) The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Society and meetings of the Board of Management and shall dully account for and pay to the Treasurer all money which may at any time come into his hands belonging to said Society and shall perform all duties customarily incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties as the Board of Management may assign from time to time.
- (d) The Treasurer shall be charged with the collection and custody of the funds and with their disbursement under the direction of the Board of Management. He shall make a report at every regular meeting showing his receipts and disbursements to the Management. His accounts shall be audited annually and shall be open to the examination of the President and the Board of Management.
- (e) The Manager shall perform all duties customarily incident to the office of the Manager and such other duties as the Board of Management may assign from time to time and shall duly account for and pay to the Treasurer all money which may at any time come into his hands belonging to said Society and shall make a report at every regular meeting.

## **SECTION VIII – PUBLICATION, BYLAWS AND RULES**

A copy of these Bylaws and all rules and regulations made and adopted by the Board of Management for the control and conduct of the annual fair and exhibition shall be published in the annual premium list and catalog of the Society.

## **SECTION IX – MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) Lapeer County Agricultural Society Memberships will be available for purchase until 12:00 Noon the second day of the fair. The price of a \$25.00 membership fee will entitle members to vote at the Annual Meeting of that year (and shall entitle the member to vote at all meetings of the Society during their membership). Members must be 18 years of age or older.
- (b) All applications shall be turned over by the Secretary to the Board of Management at the first meeting of said Board succeeding receipt of the application, will be added to the membership of the Society.
- (c) Except for the first meeting of members of the Society following the adopting of these Bylaws, members to be eligible to election to the Board of Management must have been members in good standing for a period of not less than two (2) successive years prior to said election date.
- (d) There shall be obtained, at least ninety (90) days prior to the first annual meeting after the adoption of these Bylaws, a minimum of 50 members and the membership shall be maintained at no less than 50 members, if, initially, 50 members shall not be obtained, or if at any time the membership shall become less than 50, the Society will be operated under Act 80 of 1855.

## **SECTION X – EXPULSION**

- (a) Whenever the conduct or character of any member shall injure, or be likely to injure the welfare, interest, or character of the Society he may be expelled there from.
- (b) The Board of Management of its own motion may, upon the complaint in writing of three (3) members, enter a resolution upon its records for the Investigation of charges against any member which shall specify the charges and fix a time and place for hearing of the same.
- (c) Elected officers and any member of the Board of Management may be removed from office for cause by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present in person at any regular or special meeting of the Society, notice of the proposed action having been mailed to all members and to the affected officer or member of the Board of Management twenty (20) days previous to the meeting, which notice to the affected officer or member of the Board of Management shall contain a statement of the cause of removal to be determined at said meeting. Voting on the question of removal shall be by secret written ballot. Should such office be declared vacant, it shall be filled by the Board of Management at its first regular or special meeting thereafter, and the person appointed shall serve until the successor is elected and qualified. Employees and servants hired by the Board of Management shall not be within the scope of this section (c).

## **SECTION XI – CONTRACTS**

Except as otherwise specified by the Board of Management, all contracts relating to the business of the Society shall be executed in behalf of the Society by the President and Secretary, provided in the event of the absence or disability of the President or Secretary, the Board of Management may authorize the execution of specific contracts by any officer of the Society in the place and stead of the absent or disabled officer.

# **Rules Governing Entries, Exhibits and Awards**

## **SECTION 1 – GENERAL**

1. The Fair Management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto. It further reserves the right to amend or add to these rules.
2. Disregard of any rules may result in rights and privileges being forfeited without recourse.
3. The management will use diligence to ensure the safety of livestock and articles entered for exhibition or display after their arrival on the grounds but under no circumstances will they be responsible for loss, injury or damage by fire, lightning, wind or by any other agency, to such livestock, or article on exhibition or display and the Fair and management thereof shall be held harmless by the exhibitors against all legal or other proceedings relating thereto.
4. Exhibitors must place all exhibits under the direction of the Fair Management.
5. Exhibitors will be permitted to bring into the grounds only a limited amount of feed, hay or baled straw, and the management reserves the right to refuse admission of such, if in their judgment there is an excessive amount. The space in the barns and tents is for exhibition purposes and not for storage of feed.
6. In the event of conflict between the general rules and the special rules governing the various departments, the general rules will take precedence.
7. The Fair Management reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding eligibility of all entries registered to participate in the Eastern Michigan State Fair.
8. Unless otherwise specified, Championship Classes, Best of Show Classes and Sweepstakes Classes will consist of ONLY the 1st place of the stated eligible classes.
9. All pen and/or stall sheets are due at time of registration.

## **SECTION 2 – ENTRIES**

1. Application for entries in all departments must be made on official Eastern Michigan State Fair entry forms. The right is deserved to reject any entry offered.
2. All entries must be made in the name of the bona fide owner. Each exhibitor will be required to present a certificate of registration for entries when called upon to do so by the Superintendent in charge of each Department.
3. All exhibitors are requested not to invite or permit judges to examine their animals in stalls or pens before they enter the showing.
4. Misrepresentations as to breeding or ownership of animals and irregularity or violation of rules in showing may result in loss of standing and/or being barred from exhibiting at the Eastern Michigan State Fair for a period of 1 year.
5. Entries are to be made only in items listed in the Fair Book.
6. When all stalls are filled, the Fair Management may close further entries in said classes.
7. No wristbands will be issued until the animal or project has been brought in for display.
8. The same article or animal may NOT be entered in more than one class within a section except for Championship Classes, Best of Show Classes, Sweepstakes Classes, Horse Divisions where specified, Get of Sire Classes, Produce of Dam Classes, Dam and Daughter Classes, Herd Classes, Flock Classes, Pen Classes, Pair Classes, showmanship Classes, and Dairy Goats-Does in Milk Classes.
9. All produce exhibited must be grown by the exhibitor in the State of Michigan. All articles entered must have been made by the exhibitor making the entry. All livestock must be owned by the exhibitor at least two months before making entry unless otherwise specified.

Age brackets are as follows (Age is determined on January 1<sup>st</sup> the year of fair):

- Sprout - 5 - 7 years of age
- Junior - 8 - 10 years of age
- Intermediate – 11 - 13 years of age
- Senior – 14 - 16 years of age
- Advanced Senior – 17 - 19 years of age

Any person enrolled in a secondary school the same calendar year as fair is eligible to participate.

## **Registration Dates and Times**

1. The Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds office will be open for registration on: June 1st and close registration June 21<sup>st</sup> through FairEntry.
2. Late entries will be accepted until July 15th. An additional late processing fee of \$50.00 per individual must be paid along with the entry fees.
3. Any admission or privilege passes issued by the fair management are subject to verification by fair personnel at any time and must be verified with picture identification. Any exhibitor abusing their privilege, such as allowing someone else free entrance with their pass, both parties will be escorted off the fairgrounds and the pass retained.
4. Once the entry has been accepted by the Fair Management, on the specified entry dates, it may not be changed for any reason.

### **SECTION 3 – FEES & CAMPING**

Exhibitor Fee is \$10.00. All checks must be payable to: EASTERN MICHIGAN STATE FAIR

1. Trailer or Camper Rent – A camping application must be filled out at the time of registration. Payment **MUST BE MADE** to reserve a space for the duration of the Fair or any part thereof. Registration is due by the last Saturday in June. **Primitive campsites only. No electricity or water hook-ups.**
2. Camping fee for trailers 28 ft and under - \$150.00; 28 ft to 40 ft - \$200.00; 41 ft and over - \$250.00
3. The camping fee includes one adult week pass.
4. Vehicles parked in campgrounds not associated with registered camper will be towed.
5. Campers must show a valid fair pass (i.e., wristband, week-pass, or handstamp) with ID to enter fair.
6. Only registered campers or fair participants authorized by fair management may enter campgrounds.
7. No camping permits will be issued after lots are filled.
8. No one will take up more space than allowed for each lot.
9. If there are minors residing on a campsite, there must be at least one parent or legal guardian in attendance on the campsite.
10. No open fires or charcoal fires will be allowed in the camping area.
11. Curfew, all children and registered participants in the fair must be at their campsite by 12:00 midnight unless accompanied by a parent.
12. Please keep your area clean from litter.
13. A dump station for waste is available at the conclusion of the fair.
14. The Campground Director oversees lot assignments.
15. Campers will be accepted: Friday, pre-fair, 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. Saturday, pre-fair, 9:00 am until 1:00 pm
16. Campers will report to the Campground Director for placing.
17. No Dogs permits in campground area or on fairground.
18. Generators must be turned off at midnight.
19. Only registered campers are allowed in campground after 11:00 pm.

### **SECTION 4 – ADMISSIONS**

1. Exhibitor's Ticket: See Section 3, Rules 1 & 2.  
All exhibitors will be issued a wristband, which **MUST** be attached properly to the wrist to insure admission to the fairgrounds during the Fair. Replacement of wristbands after initial issue due to loss, damage, or any other reason will incur a charge of \$10.00 per wristband with proof of registration of entries and return of damaged wristband. This wristband is your privilege for participating in the Fair. Any exhibitor abusing their privilege, such as allowing someone else free entrance with their wristband will be escorted off the fairgrounds and the wristband will be retained.
2. The gates of the Fair will open Tuesday through Saturday fair week, at 8 am and close at 12 am, midnight, at which time all persons not connected with the Fair will be required to leave the grounds.
3. All delivery trucks furnishing supplies to concession stands must make deliveries prior to 10 am.
4. Any person who shall wrongfully or maliciously gain admission the fairgrounds, contrary to the rules, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine of not less than One or More than Twenty-five Dollars.

### **SECTION 5 – REFUND POLICY**

1. It is established that anyone may fill out a refund form giving all proper identification and complete reason of refund request. Fair Management will receive all requests and their decisions will be final.
2. Refunds are not made when fault is on the exhibitor or public, i.e.: Forgot your tickets or vehicle broke down.
3. Refund(s) are not made if there is a cancellation or delay of any event of any kind due to inclement weather or any occurrence beyond our control.

### **SECTION 6 – HOURS**

1. Exhibit buildings will be open: Tuesday thru Saturday of fair: 12 – 9 pm.
2. For Fair Office hours, please call (810) 724-4145.
3. Merchant buildings will be open to exhibitors ½ hour before starting times.

### **SECTION 7 – BRINGING IN OF EXHIBITS**

1. All Skill Exhibits will be brought to the fairgrounds on Saturday from 10 am – 1 pm, minimum of 3 projects per person or on Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. After they are judged they must remain here. They will be displayed for the public to see.
2. Livestock Exhibits to be brought in Sunday Pre-Fair:
  - Swine, 7 – 9 am
  - Poultry, 9 – 11 am
  - Dairy Heifers, 12 – 3 pm
  - Rabbits, 12 - 4 pm
  - Sheep, 12 – 5 pm
  - Goats, 1 – 3 pm
  - Beef, 3 - 5 pmMonday Pre-Fair:
  - Dairy Cows, 6:30 pm

3. All exhibits, including animals MUST remain on display for the duration of the Fair unless approved by the Manager. If an exhibit is removed before the specified time, may result in loss of standing and/or being barred from exhibiting at the Eastern Michigan State Fair for a period of 1 year.
4. Entry tags or stickers MUST be attached to each exhibit. Said tag or sticker MUST contain the Exhibitor's Number.
5. NOTICE: Record books are encouraged when you bring your animal on Sunday or Monday depending on when they are weighed in. Record book should be completed before you bring it to fair, except for minor additions of animal weights.

#### **SECTION 8 – RELEASE OF EXHIBITS**

1. No animals will be released before 6 am Sunday. Animals will be released Sunday, immediately following fair, beginning at 6 am unless the Fair Manager approves the change.
2. Market animals will be released at 6 am on Sunday, post fair. See general livestock rules or animal species for specific rules.
3. All animals must be removed by noon or will be considered abandoned and will become property of the Eastern Michigan State Fair.
4. All skill exhibits will be released beginning at 9 am until 11 am, Sunday, immediately following fair only.
  - The Management will not be responsible for any properties or exhibits not removed by the time stated.
5. Any article not removed will be considered abandoned and will be disposed of by Management.

#### **SECTION 9 – JUDGES**

1. Judges will be chosen by the area superintendents.
2. All animals must be shown in competition in the show ring when called for. If the exhibitor and animal do not appear within two minutes of being called for, all placings will be forfeited.

#### **SECTION 10 - AWARDS**

1. The award of placings will be designated as follows:
 

a. First - Blue	d. Fourth - Pink
b. Second - Red	e. Fifth - Yellow
c. Third - White	f. Sixth – Green
2. No monetary premiums will be paid on entries to the Eastern Michigan State Fair.

#### **SECTION 11 – GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES**

1. All market animals entered in the Eastern Michigan State Fair must be owned by the exhibitor. If the animal is owned by a co-op or owned by the exhibitor's family member, that ownership must be declared to the superintendent at the time the animal is registered/tagged. Any other ownership arrangements must be disclosed in writing and must receive approval from both the Superintendent and the Fair Management.
2. Animals are to be weighed according to the posted schedule.
3. Animals are to be tagged upon weighing at the fairgrounds. All tags not required by Eastern Michigan State Fair must be removed before weigh in.
4. All animals entered will be placed by the judge and sold at the livestock auction in the order created by animal area superintendent.
5. All animals must meet the requirements stated in Rules for Livestock Divisions B-J.
6. Exhibitors are required to provide care (feed, water, cleaning of stalls) for their animals each day while at the fair. Exhibitors who do not fulfill this requirement will be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day for each day the requirement is not met, including watering, feeding and care of animals while in Champion Pens. Fines must be paid to fair office prior to auction check being distributed.
7. All Grand and Reserve Champion market animals must be sold. If a member has 2 animals, which receive Grand or Reserve Champion, both must be sold at auction.
8. Exhibitors showing any market animal must show in the corresponding showmanship class. Exceptions at discretion of superintendent.
9. On weigh-in day, show day, auction day and release day, exhibitor or their representative must be present.
10. Market animals will be released at 6:00 am on Sunday, post fair. See animal species for specific rules.
11. Grand and Reserve Champion Market Animals will be on display in their designated "Champion Area" (pen, cage, stalls, etc.) within two hours of their show and daily thereafter by 10:30 am and removed from pens between 10-10:30 pm every night of fair.
12. Each exhibitor of champion/reserve animals will be responsible for daily cleaning of their own pen or pens and around the area in the champion barn. Failure to comply will result in a \$50.00 fine will be assessed. Fines must be paid to fair office prior to auction check being distributed.

## **SECTION 12 – LIVESTOCK INSPECTION**

1. The Board of Management reserves the right to refuse admission to any animal or animals originating from a herd whenever the status of health of the herd is questionable or suspicious.
2. Health requirements for Livestock Exhibits are set up by the State Department of Agriculture and will be strictly enforced. See Michigan Department of Agriculture Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan.
3. All horses brought onto the Fairgrounds must have current negative Coggins certificate.
4. All animals will have USDA required tags including: Beef – RFID tags, Sheep & Goats – Scrapie tags, Swine – USDA 840 tags
5. The General Livestock Superintendent or his representative will inspect all animals according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Current Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan, before they are unloaded from trailers, trucks, or cars.
6. Fair Management has the sole and exclusive right to request any exhibit, animal or otherwise to be removed from Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds and denied ability to exhibit.

## **SECTION 13 – PROTESTS & APPEALS**

1. Appeals and Complaints: An exhibitor compelled to bring a complaint regarding conflict of interest of the judge, disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor, group leader or superintendent's behavior, or eligibility of an exhibit, exhibitor shall in the order listed below.
  - Discuss the issue with the area Superintendent.
  - Discuss the issue with the General Livestock Superintendent.
  - Submit the complaint in writing to the Fair Office.
2. If a resolution is not reached, protests shall be referred to the Fair Board, which shall review the protest at the next scheduled Fair Board meeting with interested parties and give parties an opportunity to submit evidence. The party against whom the protest was filed shall have the right to read the statement of protest.
3. The Fair Board shall issue an opinion within 2 weeks of the fore-mentioned scheduled meeting.
4. An exhibitor may file an appeal to the Department of Agriculture within 45 days of filing the initial complaint if the exhibitor is not satisfied with the Association's action. The Department of Agriculture shall have 60 days after receipt of any appropriately filed appeal to investigate the complaint and issue a finding of fact and notice of department action and any recommended actions for the Association.