

MANISTEE COUNTY 4-H SHOWMANSHIP RULES & GUIDELINES
ALL MEMBERS – ALL SPECIES

1. **All members intending to sell an animal must also show that animal.** However, in the case of poultry, rabbits, and goats, member may show an animal of that species that is not necessarily one they are selling. *(Amended January 2012)*
2. The term “**Showmanship Only**” is used to refer to those 4-H Members who are **only showing** an animal **and do not intend to sell it**. These project animals do not need to comply with the weight and possession dates established for market animals as they are not being sold at Auction. 4-H members who are doing “Showmanship Only” still need to register for appropriate Fair classes and complete the necessary animal health requirements and documents needed for Fair registration. As there are housing needs during Fair Week, these members should also indicate their animals on their **Pen & Stall Count Form** at the time of Fair registration.
3. Pen & Stall fees for 4-H Animals were eliminated in 2005. *(Revised March 2016)*
4. Any health testing/proof of origin required of Market Animals, will also be required of showmanship animals. This currently includes pullorum testing for Poultry, and may include testing for other species, as warranted. *(Revised March 2017)*
5. **Parents, families, and youth exhibitors who are spectating** must refrain from speaking with the judge until the show is over. Anyone making negative/insulting comments out loud during the show will be asked to leave the show area, and if it happens to be a participant – they will be eliminated from the show and will forfeit premiums. *(Amended Nov. 2023)*
6. All show apparel **must** be clean, properly fitted and free of design and advertisements. Clothing with Club names or personal names cannot be worn while showing. The following guidelines are the used when putting a show outfit together:

POULTRY: Members **must** wear a white, button-down, long-sleeved shirt (long sleeves give the finished look to an outfit). Black pants or black jeans should also be worn. Some members choose a simple black tie to complete the look. Boots or shoes are appropriate footwear.

RABBITS: Participants **must** wear a white, button-down, long-sleeved shirt with black pants or jeans. A long white lab coat is also appropriate attire while showing (but not mandatory). Boots or clean, neat shoes should be worn.

GOATS: Apparel for showing goats **must** be a white, button-down, long-sleeved shirt white or black pants. Footwear needs to be boots or good solid shoes. Goat must be shown with a collar (any kind).

SHEEP: Members **must** wear a button-down, long-sleeved shirt with black or dark denim pants. A tie completes the outfit. Boots or good solid shoes may be worn. *(Revised March 2017)*

SWINE: Members **must** wear a button-down, long-sleeved shirt with black or dark denim or dark blue jean pants. Boots or a good shoe should be worn. **Must** have a showing tool (canes, whips, etc.) and brush ready to use. *(Revised Nov. 2023)*

BEEF: Members participating in beef **must** wear black or dark denim jeans, and a button-down, long-sleeved shirt. A tie or vest can be added. Solid boots are to be worn. Steers **must** be shown with a leather steer halter with a chain lead, a show stick, and a comb. *(Revised Nov. 2022)*

DAIRY: Apparel for showing **must** be a white shirt (long-sleeved) with white pants or white jeans and boots.

7. Many judges also pay attention to the member's personal grooming. It is **strongly advised** that members refrain from "loud" make-up. All members should make that the hair is neat and tied back if necessary. **If hair obstructs the back tag, it must be put up.** (*Revised March 2017*)
8. For specific species guidelines – refer to a copy of the "Manistee County 4-H Market Livestock Rules & Guidelines" policy pages.