

GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION

GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION

**Topsfield Fair and The Essex Agricultural Society are not responsible for changes to or omissions from any contest rules, regulations, and/or guidelines.

Exhibitors must adhere to all rules as they apply to individual departments as well as the following regulations:

1. The Essex Agricultural Society is a member of the Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs Association. The rules and regulations of this organization will apply where applicable.
2. Drinking of alcoholic beverage is prohibited on fairgrounds, except where permitted.
3. No smoking allowed in buildings.
4. No exhibit shall be removed before the close of the fair, without the express consent of the department head and fair management. Please refer to individual department for specific pickup times.
5. Department designated 4-H and youth are restricted to boys and girls 9 through 19 years of age as of January 1, 2024 unless otherwise stated in department rules.
6. All reasonable precautions will be taken by the Society for the sake keeping of animals and articles entrusted to its care, but all exhibits for any reason. Exhibitors, contestants, and/or participants agree to be solely responsible for any loss, injury to, damage done, occasioned by or arising from any exhibit, equipment, animal or person to defend and indemnify the Society and the management thereof against all claims and liability in regard thereto. In view of this understanding, exhibitors, contestants, and/or participants may deem it advisable to obtain appropriate liability insurance.
7. No person will be awarded premium checks without providing the Fair office with his/her social security number, if necessary.
8. Please remember to wash hands after touching animals!

DEPARTMENT ENTRY DEADLINES

- **4-H Club Exhibits and Contests:** August 23rd, 2024
- **4-H and Youth Dairy Goat Show:** September 22nd, 2024
- **4-H and Open Youth Horse Show:** October 4th, 2024
- **ADGA Open Senior & Junior Doe Shows:** October 7th, 2024
- **Beekeeping & Honey Show:** September 25th, 2024; Division 4: October 1st, 2024
- **Canning Exhibit:** September 3rd, 2024
- **Cattle:** October 5th, 2024
- **Christmas Tree Exhibit:** October 3rd, 2024
- **Crafts Exhibit:** September 2nd, 2024
- **Draft Horse Show:** September 20th, 2024
- **Farm Photography Contest:** August 30th, 2024
- **Fine Arts Division - Amateur & Professional :** September 2nd, 2024
- **Flower Show:** September 30th, 2024
- **Foods Department:** Weekend Contests: October 3rd, 2024; Topsfield Fair Fall Harvest Baked Sweet Treat Contest: October 6th, 2024; King Arthur Baking Company Favorite Muffins Contest: October 8th, 2024; Topsfield Fair Apple Pie Contest: October 9th, 2024; Parent & Child Cookie Contest: October 10th, 2024
- **Fruit Exhibit:** October 3rd, 2024
- **Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off:** September 20th, 2024
- **Grange Exhibit:** September 13th, 2024
- **Horse & Oxen Pulling Contest:** October 3rd, 2024
- **Junior Fruit, Vegetable & Decorative:** September 20th, 2024
- **Junior King & Queen Pageant:** October 4th, 2024
- **Mrs. Essex County Pageant:** October 10th, 2024
- **Open Sheep Show:** September 15th, 2024; Yarn Show: October 3rd, 2024
- **Poultry Exhibition:** September 20th, 2024
- **Rabbit & Cavy:** September 23rd, 2024
- **Sheep Dog Trial:** September 27th, 2024
- **Stock Farm Tractor Pull:** October 11th, 2024
- **Vegetables Exhibit:** September 27th, 2024; Section E: October 2nd, 2024
- **Winemaking:** September 15th, 2024