

GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION

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****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, 2025 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, 2025
- **4-H and Youth Dairy Goat Show:** October 3rd, 2025
- **4-H and Open Youth Horse Show:** September 26th, 2025
- **ADGA Open Senior & Junior Doe Shows:** October 6th, 2025
- **Beekeeping & Honey Show:** September 24th, 2025; Division 4: September 30th, 2025
- **Canning Exhibit:** September 2nd, 2025
- **Cattle:** October 4th, 2025
- **Christmas Tree Exhibit:** October 2nd, 2025
- **Crafts Exhibit:** September 1st, 2025
- **Draft Horse Show:** September 19th, 2025
- **Farm Photography Contest:** August 29th, 2025
- **Fine Arts Division - Amateur & Professional:** September 1st, 2025
- **Flower Show:** September 29th, 2025
- **Foods Department:** Weekend Contests: October 2nd, 2025; Topsfield Fair Fall Harvest Baked Sweet Treat Contest: October 5th, 2025; King Arthur Baking Company Contest: October 7th, 2025; Topsfield Fair Apple Pie Contest: October 8th, 2025; Parent & Child Cookie Contest: October 9th, 2025
- **Fruit Exhibit:** October 2nd, 2025
- **Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off:** September 19th, 2025
- **Grange Exhibit:** September 12th, 2025
- **Horse & Oxen Pulling Contest:** October 2nd, 2025
- **Junior Fruit, Vegetable & Decorative:** September 19th, 2025
- **Junior King & Queen Pageant:** October 3rd, 2025
- **Mrs. Essex County Pageant:** October 9th, 2025
- **Open Sheep Show:** September 15th, 2025; Yarn Show: October 2nd, 2025
- **Poultry Exhibition:** September 26th, 2025
- **Rabbit & Cavy:** September 23rd, 2025
- **Sheep Dog Trial:** September 26th, 2025
- **Stock Farm Tractor Pull:** October 10th, 2025
- **Vegetables Exhibit:** September 26th, 2025
- **Winemaking:** September 14th, 2025