

# 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, 2026 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **4-H and Youth Dairy Goat Show:** October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026
- **4-H and Open Youth Horse Show:** September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **ADGA Open Senior & Junior Doe Shows:** October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Beekeeping & Honey Show:** September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026; Division 4: September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Canning Exhibit:** September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Cattle:** October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026
- **Christmas Tree Exhibit:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- **Crafts Exhibit:** September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Draft Horse Farm Day:** September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Draft Horse Show:** September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Farm Photography Contest:** August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Fine Arts Division - Amateur & Professional:** September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Flower Show:** September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Foods Department:** Weekend Contests: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026; Topsfield Fair Fall Harvest Baked Sweet Treat Contest: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026; King Arthur Baking Company Contest: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026; Topsfield Fair Apple Pie Contest: October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026; Parent & Child Cookie Contest: October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Fruit Exhibit:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- **Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off:** September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Grange Exhibit:** September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Horse & Oxen Pulling Contest:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- **Junior Fruit, Vegetable & Decorative:** September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Junior King & Queen Pageant:** October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026
- **Mrs. Essex County Pageant:** October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Open Poultry Exhibition:** September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Open Sheep Show:** September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026; Yarn Show: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- **Rabbit & Cavy:** September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026
- **Stock Farm Tractor Pull:** October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Vegetables Exhibit:** September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Winemaking:** September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- **Youth Poultry Exhibition:** September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026