



2026 Mecosta County Fair Youth & Adult Still Exhibits

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General Rules:

- Exhibitors are allowed one entry per class in each department.
 - Cloverbuds may enter a total of 8 items in the Cloverbud Department
 - Differently abled may enter a total of 6 items in the Differently Abled Department.
- All still exhibits must be the original work of the exhibitor and completed/finished by the exhibitor after July 15, 2025 (last year's fair).
- Exhibits may NOT be shown at any other county fair during the current calendar year.
- All entries must stay on exhibit for the entire fair week (except for youth live auction items)
- Any exhibit item improperly entered will be reclassified, if more than 2 items entered in a class you will be asked to remove one – if we are unable to reach you to choose – superintendent will select one to remove or reclassify, if possible.
- No frames with glass – there may be exceptions if item has proper hanging devices – must get approval from superintendent
- Every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of exhibits, but in no case will the management be responsible for loss or damage of exhibits.
- Refer to each department for specific rules.
- See the need for a new category or item to be added? Contact us!!

<u>Registration and Deadlines</u>	
Registration forms can be found on page 4, on the fair website: https://www.mecostafreefair.com/ , or picked up at the MSU Extension office (14485 Northland Dr., Big Rapids).	
Age groups (as of July 1st of the current year):	
• Clover Buds:	ages 5 - 7
• Differently Abled Adults/Youth:	No age requirements..
• Youth:	ages 8 - 19
• Adult:	ages 20 and up
<i>NEW FOR 2026: Premiums are given out <u>only</u> to youth Ages 8-19.age group</i>	
Monday June 29th – Thursday July 2nd 10:00am - 4:00pm	Early Registration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faster, easier process, strongly encouraged!! • Turn in registration forms (and non-perishable items) to the MSU Extension office or email registration form to ripkekar@msu.edu by 4:00 pm, Thursday July 2nd or enter your still exhibit entries via the Fair Entry system. 	
Saturday July 11th: 8am - 11am	Fair Week Registration
Turn in registration forms and exhibit items at the fairground still exhibit building	
Saturday July 11^h 11am- Exhibit building closed until 4:30pm	Exhibit Building Judging for Perishable Goods
Sunday & Monday July 13th	Exhibit Building Judging
Saturday, July 18th 7-9pm Sunday, July 19th 9-11am	Items will be released back to exhibitors

Judging

- Judging will be based on content, workmanship, creativeness, and complexity of exhibit and will reflect the age of the exhibitor.
- All entries will receive an A, B, or C award based on age group (cloverbuds and differently abled departments will receive participation ribbons).
- Exhibit items that do not follow the department rules are only eligible for a B award.
- Entries receiving an A award will be judged for a Best of Division and honorable mention.
- Youth Still Exhibit Department Premiums are: A = \$5.00 B = \$3.00 C = \$1.00
 - Premiums will not be given out to adult entries
- Best of division & homemaker of the year premiums are \$10.00.
- There are no additional premiums for honorable mention.
- **Premiums are not awarded for adult exhibits.**
- Where there is only one entry in a class/division there will not be a best of division award.
- **No guarantee that late registration/exhibits will be judged or receive premiums.*

Live YOUTH Culinary Arts Auction *(does not include Adult/Cloverbud/Differently Abled departments)*

<p>When: Saturday, July 11, 2026</p> <p>Time: Registration 5:30pm Auction starts at 6:00pm</p> <p>Where: Exhibit Building</p>	<p>Exhibits for live auction will be on display 1 hour prior to the auction</p> <p><i>The exhibit building has limited cold storage and will be reserved for 4-H youth</i></p>
Eligible Department and Divisions	
<p>Department 40: Open Youth Culinary Arts</p> <p>Division A: Baking Division B: Breads Division C: Novelty (fudge, honey, maple syrup and molded chocolate only) Division D: Decorated (<i>excluding dummy cake entries</i>) Division F: Specialty Foods (<i>excluding dried items</i>)</p>	
<p>Auction Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One item per youth exhibitor allowed. • Items in the live auction will be released to buyers once the auction concludes, and payment is accepted. • Youth exhibitors wishing to participate in the still exhibit live youth auction must indicate on entry form. • Exhibitors must be present for the auction • All items sold must be exact duplicates of the project that has been judged. • All food items must be whole or contain at least a full dozen items and must have an ingredient card attached. • All food items must be properly stored prior to the auction. • If these rules are not followed, the item will not be allowed for auction. 	

Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair 2026 Still Exhibits Entry Form

Return completed form to:

Mecosta County MSU Extension Office
14485 Northland Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307
Or submit via email to ripkekar@msu.edu

Exhibitors are allowed only one entry per class.

Only one participant per form.

(If more space is needed, fill out another form.)

Early Registration Encouraged June 22-July 2

Same day registration July 11

Please Check One (age as of July 1st, 2026)

- Differently Abled
- Cloverbud (age 5-7) Age: _____
- Youth (age 8 – 19) Age: _____
- Adult (Age 20 and up) Age: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ 4-H Club Name (if member): _____

Department	Division	Class	Description of item <i>Example: red bracelet, horse (drawing), cow print (blanket)</i>	Check if selling at <u>Youth Culinary Auction</u> Department 40	Is exhibit from a kit? (Check if yes)
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FORM MUST BE SIGNED – As a condition of your signature, photos taken of you and/or your exhibit(s) at the 2026 Mecosta County Fair (MCF) become property of the MCF for non-profit promotional tools. The owner of exhibit(s) releases the MCF from any liability for loss or damage to exhibits, or other property while such property is on the Mecosta County fairgrounds. Items not picked up within 7 days of the end of the fair MCF and may be disposed of. I have read and understand the rules and regulations in the Still Exhibit Fair Book.

Exhibitors Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian (if under 18): _____

DEPARTMENT 39

Open Cloverbud and Differently Abled Still Exhibits

- Cloverbud age is 5 - 7 as of July 1st of the current year.
- There are no age restrictions for differently able individuals.
- This department is non-competitive, exhibits are not judged and do not receive premiums.
 - Exhibits will receive a participation ribbon.
- A total of 8 items (1-2 exhibits per class) per exhibitor will be allowed.
- This department is **not** eligible for Still Exhibit Youth Culinary Arts Auction
- Please refer to Open Youth departments for guidance.
 - Rules for this department are relaxed.

Class	Details
3901. Artwork	Refer to department 42 for guidance and ideas
3902. Collection	A collection of 10 related items
3903. Craft Item	Any craft items, refer to department 41 for guidance/ideas
3904. Culinary Arts Item	Refer to department 40 for guidance/ideas
3905. Educational Project	Refer to department 47 for guidance/ideas – topics can be outside the scope of what is listed
3906. Farm Crop	3 specimens or a bundle. Refer to department 46 for guidance.
3907. Fruit or Vegetable	3 specimens on paper plate. Refer to department 46 for guidance.
3908. Plant or Flower Arrangement	Live or Silk. Refer to department 45 for guidance/ideas, rules do not need to be strictly followed
3909. Needle work item	Refer to department 43 for guidance/ideas
3910. Pet Project	Refer to department 48 for guidance/ideas
3011. Photography	4x6 or 5x7 photos matted on cardstock or construction paper, no frames or glass

OPEN YOUTH STILL EXHIBITS

DEPARTMENT 40: Open Youth Culinary Arts

- Food items cannot be kits or store-bought mixes.
- Baked goods must be attractively presented on plastic or Styrofoam plates/trays or cardboard cut to size and in a plastic re-sealable bag when possible.
- Novelty exhibits should be placed on candy paper, or in an appropriate display container.
- A 3 x 5 or 4 x 6 index card with a complete ingredient list (recipe is not required) **must** accompany the food item. This includes frosting and toppings.
- No refrigeration will be provided for food exhibits. (Except for youth live auction items)
- Required numbers of products for entry are shown in parentheses. The first number indicates the number/amount required for judging. The second is the number of items or size needed to sell at the youth live auction.
- Exhibit items may be smaller for cakes, pies, & bread. If the exhibit item is full size, a portion must be left on display, and the remainder may be taken home after judging.
- Decorated Cakes:
 - Dummy cake forms are allowed, judging on decoration only.
 - Exhibits may not be bigger than 20"x 20" and no more than 2 tiers.
- Canning & Preserves (*not eligible for youth culinary arts auction*)
 - Jars must be clean, dated, and identified.
 - Must be canning jars. Sealed with 2-piece vacuum caps with ring on.
 - Product of the current or previous season.
 - Jars will not be opened for judging.

<p><u>Division A: Baking</u></p> <p>Class 4000. Bars (3 + 24) 4001. Brownies (3 + 24) 4002. Cake (1 + 1) 4003. Cookies (3 + 24) 4004. Cupcakes (3 + 12) 4005. Pie (1 + 1) 4006. Other - Baking</p>	<p><u>Division B: Breads</u></p> <p>Class 4010. Biscuits (3 + 12) 4011. Muffins (3 + 12) 4012. Quick/Sweet Bread (1 + 1) 4013. Rolls (3 + 12) 4014. Yeast Bread (1 + 1) 4015. Other - Breads</p> <p><i>Breads: 4" x 6" foil pan size or similar is acceptable</i></p>	<p><u>Division C: Novelty</u></p> <p>Class 4020. Fudge (4 + 20pcs.) 4021. Honey 4022. Honeycomb 4023. Maple Syrup 4024. Molded Chocolate (4 + 20) 4025. Other -Novelty</p>
<p><u>Division D: Decorated</u></p> <p>Class 4030. Decorated Cake 4031. Decorated Cookies (3 + 6) 4032. Decorated Cupcakes (3 + 6)</p> <p><i>NOTE: Box cakes, scratch cakes or a false base may be used for this division.</i></p>	<p><u>Division E: Canning & Preserves</u></p> <p>Class 4040. Jar of Fruit 4041. Jar of Jam 4042. Jar of Jelly 4043. Jar of Pickles 4044. Jar of Relish 4045. Jar of Salsa 4046. Jar of Vegetable (includes tomatoes) 4047. Other Canning/Preserves</p> <p><i>Division not eligible for auction</i></p>	<p><u>Division F: Specialty Foods</u></p> <p>Class 4050. Summer sausage (3 slices + 1 log) 4051. Jerky (3 Sticks + ½ lb.) 4052. Meat Sticks (3 sticks + ½ lb.) 4053. Any Dried Fruit 4054. Any Dried Vegetable 4055. Any Dried Meat</p>

DEPARTMENT 41: Open Youth Creative Crafts

- The exhibitor is responsible for ensuring a secure wire to exhibits designed to hang.
- If the item is from a kit – It must be identified in registration form.

<p><u>Division A: Indoor Crafts</u></p> <p>Class 4100. Basketry 4101. Bead Work/Jewelry 4102. Candle Making 4103. Ceramics 4104. Macrame/Paracord 4105. Sand Art 4106. Sculpture 4107. Soap Making 4108. Stained Glass/Sun catcher 4109. Weaving</p>	<p><u>Division B: Metalworking</u></p> <p>Class 4110. Abstract Art Design 4111. Metal Article Formed/Forged 4112. Metal Craft/Sculpture 4113. Welded Article 4114. Other Metalworking</p>	<p><u>Division C: Outdoor Crafts</u></p> <p>Class 4120. Birdhouses 4121. Fishing Lures 4122. Leather Crafts 4123. Taxidermy 4124. Tied Flies 4125. Wreath</p>
<p><u>Division D: Paper Crafts</u></p> <p>Class 4130. Calligraphy 4131. Cards 4132. Collage 4133. Origami 4134. Paper Art 4135. Scrapbook, 1 page 4136. Other paper craft</p>	<p><u>Division E: Woodworking</u></p> <p>Class 4140. Furniture Creating 4141. Furniture Refinishing 4142. Wood Art 4143. Wood Burning 4144. Wood Carving 4145. Other Woodworking</p>	<p><u>Division F: Other Crafts</u></p> <p>Class 4150. Creative Writing 4151. Lego or model (kit) 4152. Lego or model (non-kit) 4153. Poetry 4154. Recycled Craft 4155. Stamping 4156. Other Creative craft</p>

DEPARTMENT 42: Open Youth Fine Arts

- All pictures (with exception of oil or canvas paintings) must be matted on a firm surface or in a frame (matting board, cardstock, foam board, stiff poster board, etc.)
 - Matting should be 1-inch larger than the actual artwork.
- Framed items must be wired to accept the weight of the item on a pegboard hook.
 - **No frames with glass allowed**
 - Any items showing signs of falling will be removed from display and stored.
- Maximum size for artwork will be 48" in any direction.
- All work must be original, No wet paint, No tracing.

<p><u>Division A: Drawings</u></p> <p>Class 4200. Charcoal 4201. Marker 4202. Mixed 4203. Pen 4204. Pencil</p>	<p><u>Division B: Painting</u></p> <p>Class 4210. Acrylic 4211. Mixed 4212. Oil 4213. Pastels 4214. Watercolor</p>	<p><u>Division C: Other Medium</u></p> <p>Class 4220. Crayon 4221. Finger paint 4222. Multiple/mixed mediums 4223. Textiles 4224. Any Other</p>
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DEPARTMENT 43: Open Youth Needlework

- Clothing entered should be on a hanger.
- Quilts must be finished in the last year.
- Wearable (Any clothing type)
- Non-wearable (tablecloth, napkin, placemat potholder, etc.)

<p><u>Division A: Clothing</u></p> <p>Class 4300. Accessory 4301. Apparel 4302. Recycled/Enhanced</p>	<p><u>Division B: Crocheting</u></p> <p>Class 4310. Blanket/Afghan 4311. Non-Wearable 4312. Wearable</p>	<p><u>Division C: Knitting</u></p> <p>Class 4320. Blanket/Afghan 4321. Non-Wearable 4322. Wearable</p>
<p><u>Division D: Quilts</u></p> <p>Class 4330. Appliqued (machine or hand) 4331. Group Made Quilt 4332. Hand Pieced Quilt 4333. Machine Pieced Quilt 4334. Quilted Pillow or Wall Hanging 4335. Quilt Tied off 4336. Other Quilt</p>	<p><u>Division E: Other Needlework</u></p> <p>Class 4340. Cross-stitch 4341. Embroidery 4342. Fleece Article 4343. Latch Hook 4344. Rugs 4345. Toys (bear, doll, doll clothes, etc.) 4346. Tye-Dye 4347. Other Needlework</p>	

DEPARTMENT 44 Open Youth Photography

- All single pictures must be 8 x 10.
- Related Series of 6 can be 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 photos, mounted on a foam board.
- Photography must be matted and have a wire or heavy cord securely fastened and ready to hang. Frame is optional, no glass allowed. Duct tape is not a secure fastener.
- If your item does not have proper hanging, exhibit building staff will apply a plastic hanging tab that may cause damage to backing when removing.
- All photography must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- **NO NUDE PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

<p><u>Division A: Color</u></p> <p>Class 4400. Action 4401. Animal 4402. Farm Scene 4403. Nature 4404. Portrait (person, face or head and shoulders) 4405. Special Effects/Digitally Enhanced 4406. Still Life 4407. Structure (<i>equipment, auto, building, etc.</i>) 4408. Related Series: 6 photos on one board (must include title to series)</p>	<p><u>Division B: Black and White (includes Sepia)</u></p> <p>Class 4410. Action 4411. Animal 4412. Farm Scene 4413. Nature 4414. Portrait (person, face or head and shoulders) 4415. Special Effects/Digitally Enhanced 4416. Still Life 4417. Structure (<i>equipment, auto, building, etc.</i>) 4418. Related Series: 6 photos on one board (must include title to series)</p>
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DEPARTMENT 45 Open Youth Floriculture

- Cut flower division: Exhibitors must grow their own floriculture.
- Flower arrangements may be home grown, wild, or purchased.
- An index card with common name, variety, and type (home grown, wild, or purchased) must accompany live flower exhibits.
- No plants from Michigan protected list allowed.
 - See: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/species/plants>
- Cut flowers and bouquets should be clear container or vase.
 - Do not remove foliage/greenery from stems above the waterline or add an extra stem of foliage.
- Flowers and plants must be free of disease, insect damage and in a healthy condition.
- Similar variety, bloom, and stem length should be chosen.

<u>Division A: Cut Flowers</u>	<u>Division B: Live Flower Arrangements</u>	<u>Division C: Silk Flowers</u>
Class 4500. Annual Flower 4501. Gladiolus 4502. Hydrangeas 4503. Perennial Flower 4504. Rose 4505. Other Cut Flower	Class 4510. Bouquet 4511. Corsage 4512. Dried Flowers 4513. Green Foliage 4514. Table/Centerpiece 4515. Other Live Flower Arrangement	Class 4520. Bouquet 4521. Corsage 4522. Table/Centerpiece 4523. Wall Hanging 4524. Other Silk Flower
<u>Division D: Flower Gardening</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dish gardens/terrariums must contain at least 3 different plants. No artificial plant materials allowed.</i> • <i>Plants must be the property of the exhibitor for at least three months.</i> • <i>Accessories are allowed in terrariums.</i> • <i>Exhibitors should plant their project and begin caring for it by April 15th.</i> Class 4530. Dish Garden/Terrarium 4531. Hanging Plant/Basket 4532. Houseplant Arrangement (foliage or bloom) 4533. Patio Planter (at least 4 types) 4534. Succulents or Cacti 4535. Other Flower Garden		

DEPARTMENT 46 Open Youth Agriculture and Horticulture

- Corn stalks must be tied and with husks:
- Herbs should be 1-inch diameter bunch and tied.
 - Fresh cut bunches in water containers
 - Herbs should not be exhibited in full bloom.

<p><u>Division A: Farm Crops</u> Class</p> <p>4600. Corn, 5 ears (any variety) 4601. Corn, 3 stalks (any variety) <i>(with husks, must be tied)</i> 4602. Forage, bundle 4603. Gourd, 3-5 specimens 4604. Grain, bundle or 1qt jar <i>(Bundles must show seeds)</i> 4605. Haylage, gallon bag 4606. Silage, gallon bag 4607. Sunflower, 3-5 specimens 4608. Other Farm Crop</p>	<p><u>Division B: Fruits</u> Class</p> <p>4610. Blueberries, 1 pint 4611. Cherries, 1 pint 4612. Raspberries, 1 pint 4613. Strawberries, 1 pint 4614. Other Fruit, 1 pint</p>	<p><u>Division C: Vegetables</u> Class</p> <p>4620. Cabbage, 1 specimen 4621. Cucumbers, 3 specimens 4622. Eggplant, 3 specimens 4623. Lettuce, 1 specimen 4624. Onions, 3 specimens 4625. Peppers, 3 specimens 4626. Radishes, 6 specimens 4627. String beans, 6 specimens 4628. Summer squash, 3 specimens 4629. Sweet corn, 3 specimens 4630. Potatoes, 3 specimens 4631. Basket (6 or more, assorted) 4632. Other Vegetable</p>
<p><u>Division D: Herbs (Dried or fresh)</u> Class</p> <p>4640. One Herb 4641. Three Types of Herbs 4642. Six types of Herbs</p>	<p><u>Division E: Container Garden</u> Class</p> <p>4650. Container Garden with one vegetable 4651. Container Garden with two or more vegetables</p>	

DEPARTMENT 47 Open Youth Educational Projects

GOAL: Encourage youth to explore, investigate, and experience new events/topics through improving their skills and knowledge related to area of study.

Learning Objectives: Youth will be able to demonstrate and share knowledge of exhibits.

Exhibits should:

- Clearly identify the topic and explain what the exhibitor learned.
- Explain the importance and benefits to people, animals, community, environment, etc.
- A list of resources used. (articles, interviews, etc.)
- Exhibit should be a “display” constructed or collected to tell an appropriate story as learned from the project or activities and may consist of one or more of the following:
 - Poster 24” x 36” depicting some aspect of learning in the project area.
 - Notebook with collection of information learned in the project.
 - Three-dimensional display (size maximum 16” x 16” x 16”)
 - Model (i.e., Lego Connex, Pinewood Derby Car, etc.)
 - Item made by exhibitor.

<p><u>Division A: Natural Resources/Conservation</u> <i>Objective: Learn what natural resources are, how and why they exist, and how they connect with each other, the environment, and people</i> Class 4700. Conservation (Wildlife, water, soil, forest, etc.) 4701. Entomology (insects) 4702. Natural Resources (wildflowers, ecology, rocks, and minerals, bee keeping, etc.) 4703. Other Natural Resources/Conservation</p>	<p><u>Division B: Mechanics & Technology</u> Class 4710. Automotive 4711. Electrical Science 4712. Pinewood Derby Car 4713. Small Engines/Motors 4714. Tractor 4715. Other Mechanics & Technology</p>
<p><u>Division C: Animal Science</u> Class 4720. Basic Anatomy 4721. Physiology 4722. Sanitation and/or cause of disease & immunology 4723. Other Animal Science</p>	<p><u>Division D: Other Sciences/Technology</u> Class 4730. Computer 4731. Crop Science 4732. Genealogy 4733. Human Biology 4734. Nutrition 4734. Other Science & Technology</p>

DEPARTMENT 48 – Open Youth Pet/Animal Project

General Rules:

1. **Share and show off your pet/animal on a posterboard size display.**
 - a. Must include 4 Photos (4 x 6) of pet/animal (various ages, activities, etc., one photo should include you and your pet/animal)
 - b. Poster can be a foam board (encouraged) or general poster board (no three dimensional or tri-fold boards).
2. **Required Pet Information**
 - a. Name, breed, age.
 - b. What is a fun fact about this type of pet/animal?
3. **History of pet (answer at least 3)**
 - a. How old was your pet/animal when you got it?
 - b. Why did you get this type of pet/animal?
 - c. How/why did you pick your pet/animal's name?
 - d. What do you feed them?
 - e. What are their favorite treats?
 - f. How does your pet/animal stay clean?
 - g. Have you learned anything from your pet/animal?
4. **Fun stuff**
 - a. What tricks can your pet/animal do?
 - b. Do they have any favorite toys/hiding spots?
 - c. What is your favorite thing about your pet/animal?
5. Can be a current pet/animal or a pet/animal that has crossed the rainbow bridge.

Division A Youth Pet/Animal Project

Class

- 4800. Dog or Cat
- 4801. Aviary (Birds)
- 4802. Fish & Reptiles
- 4803. Small animal (rabbit, guinea pig, gerbils, etc.).
- 4804. Large animal (livestock)
- 4805. Other Pet

Department 49 – Jr. Homemaker of the Year

The Jr. Homemaker of the year will be awarded to a young individual who demonstrates and showcases community service, leadership and skills Still Exhibits department

Exhibitors must complete a still exhibit entry form and exhibit a total of 4 items from at least 3 of the Open Youth Still Exhibit departments (2 items may be from the same department). These are not additional still exhibit entries.

Jr. Homemaker application and questions are due by **Friday July 2th** and emailed to Ripkekar@msu.edu or dropped off to the Extension office. **Saturday July 11th** is exhibit building set-up at the fairgrounds, all items not already turned in must there by 11am.

Judging is based on department awards, neatness, detail & creativity of exhibits, and questions.

Department 49 Mecosta County Fair Jr. Homemaker of the Year

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Rules:

- Must be Youth (age 8 – 19), as of July 1, 2026.
- You must be a resident of Mecosta or neighboring county or exhibited at the Mecosta County Fair the previous 2 years.
- Exhibitors must complete a still exhibit entry form and must exhibit a total of 4 items from at least 3 of the Open Youth Still Exhibit departments (2 items may be from the same department).

Please list the classes you are entering as part of this contest.

Department	Division	Class	Description of Item

Must answer the following:

1. Describe your involvement in the Mecosta County Fair during the past 2 years. Include awards won and volunteer tasks you performed at the fair.

2. Describe other volunteer participation/activities you have been involved in outside the fair (school, community, church, other organizations).

3. What do you enjoy most about “homemaking” activities

4. What do you like best about the Mecosta County Fair and why?

OPEN ADULT STILL EXHIBITS

DEPARTMENT 50: Open Adult Culinary Arts

- Food items cannot be kits or store-bought mixes.
- Baked goods must be attractively presented on plastic plates, Styrofoam plates or cardboard cut to size and in a plastic re-sealable bag.
- Novelty exhibits should be placed on candy paper, or in an appropriate display container.
- A 3 x 5 or 4 x 6 index card with a complete ingredient list (recipe is not required) must accompany the food item. This includes frosting and toppings.
- Required numbers of products for entry are shown in parentheses.
- Exhibit items may be smaller for cakes, pies, & bread. If the exhibit item is full size, a portion must be left on display, and the remainder may be taken home after judging.
- Decorated Cakes:
 - Dummy cake forms are allowed, judging on decoration only.
 - Exhibits may not be bigger than 20"x 20" and no more than 2 tiers.
- Canning & Preserves
 - Jars must be clean, dated, and identified.
 - Must be canning jars. Sealed with 2-piece vacuum caps with ring on.
 - Product of the current or previous season.
 - Jars will not be opened for judging.

<p><u>Division A: Baking</u></p> <p>Class 5000. Bars (3) 5001. Brownies (3) 5002. Cake 5003. Cookies (3) 5004. Cupcakes (3) 5005. Pie 5006. Other Baking</p>	<p><u>Division B: Breads</u></p> <p>Class 5010. Biscuits (3) 5011. Muffins (3) 5012. Quick/Sweet Bread 5013. Rolls (3) 5014. Yeast Bread 5015. Other Bread</p> <p><i>Breads: 4" x 6" foil pan size or similar is acceptable</i></p>	<p><u>Division C: Novelty</u></p> <p>Class 5020. Fudge 5021. Honey 5022. Honeycomb 5023. Maple Syrup 5024. Molded Chocolate 5025. Other Novelty</p> <p><i>4 pieces for judging</i></p>
<p><u>Division D: Decorated</u></p> <p>Class 5030. Decorated Cake 5031. Decorated Cookies (3) 5032. Decorated Cupcakes (3)</p> <p><i>NOTE: Box cakes, scratch cakes or a false base may be used for this division.</i></p>	<p><u>Division E: Canning & Preserves</u></p> <p>Class 5040. Jar of Fruit 5041. Jar of Jam 5042. Jar of Jelly 5043. Jar of Pickles 5044. Jar of Relish 5045. Jar of Salsa 5046. Jar of Vegetable (includes tomatoes) 5047. Other Canning/Preserves</p>	<p><u>Division F: Specialty Foods</u></p> <p>Class 5050. Summer Sausage (3 slices) 5051. Jerky (3 Sticks) 5052. Meat Sticks (3 sticks) 5053. Any Dried Fruit 5054. Any Dried Vegetable 5055. Any Dried Meat</p>

DEPARTMENT 51: Open Adult Creative Crafts

- All work exhibited must be completed by the exhibitor.
- The exhibitor is responsible for ensuring a secure wire to exhibits designed to hang.
- If the item is from a kit – It must be identified.

<p><u>Division A: Indoor Crafts</u></p> <p>Class 5100. Basketry 5101. Bead Work/Jewelry 5102. Candle Making 5103. Ceramics 5104. Macrame/Paracord 5105. Sand Art 5106. Sculpture 5107. Soap Making 5108. Stained Glass/Sun catcher 5109. Weaving</p>	<p><u>Division B: Metalworking</u></p> <p>Class 5110. Abstract Art Design 5111. Metal Article Formed/Forged 5112. Metal Craft/Sculpture 5113. Welded Article 5114. Other Metalworking</p>	<p><u>Division C: Outdoor Crafts</u></p> <p>Class 5120. Birdhouses 5121. Fishing Lures 5122. Leather Crafts 5123. Taxidermy 5124. Tied Flies 5125. Wreath</p>
<p><u>Division D: Paper Crafts</u></p> <p>Class 5130. Calligraphy 5131. Cards 5132. Collage 5133. Origami 5134. Paper Art 5135. Scrapbook, 1 page 5136. Other paper craft</p>	<p><u>Division E: Woodworking</u></p> <p>Class 5140. Furniture Creating 5141. Furniture Refinishing 5142. Wood Art 5143. Wood Burning 5144. Wood Carving 5145. Other Woodworking</p>	<p><u>Division F: Other Crafts</u></p> <p>Class 5150. Creative Writing 5151. Lego or Model (kit) 5152. Lego or Model (non-kit) 5153. Poetry 5154. Recycled Craft 5155. Stamping 5156. Other Creative Craft</p>

DEPARTMENT 52: Open Adult Fine Arts

- All pictures (with exception of oil or canvas paintings) must be matted on a firm surface or in a frame (matting board, cardstock, foam board, stiff poster board, etc.)
 - Matting should be 1-inch larger than the actual artwork.
- Framed items must be wired to accept the weight of the item on a pegboard hook.
 - **No frames with glass**
 - Any items showing signs of falling will be removed from display and stored.
- Maximum size for artwork will be 48" in any direction.
- All work must be original, No wet paint, No tracing.

<p><u>Division A: Drawings</u></p> <p>Class 5200. Charcoal 5201. Marker 5202. Mixed 5203. Pen 5204. Pencil</p>	<p><u>Division B: Painting</u></p> <p>Class 5210. Acrylic 5211. Mixed 5212. Oil 5213. Pastels 5214. Watercolor</p>	<p><u>Division C: Other Medium</u></p> <p>Class 5220. Crayon 5221. Finger paint 5222. Multiple/mixed mediums 5223. Textiles 5224. Any Other</p>
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DEPARTMENT 53: Open Adult Needlework

- Clothing entered should be on a hanger.
- Quilts must be finished in the last year.
- Wearable (Any clothing type)
- Non-wearable (tablecloth, napkin, placemat potholder, etc.)

<p><u>Division A: Clothing</u></p> <p>Class 5300. Accessory 5301. Apparel 5302. Recycled/Enhanced</p>	<p><u>Division B: Crocheting</u></p> <p>Class 5310. Blanket/Afghan 5311. Non-Wearable 5312. Wearable</p>	<p><u>Division C: Knitting</u></p> <p>Class 5320. Blanket/Afghan 5321. Non-Wearable 5322. Wearable</p>
<p><u>Division D: Quilts</u></p> <p>Class 5330. Appliqued (machine or hand) 5331. Group Made Quilt 5332. Hand Pieced Quilt 5333. Machine Pieced Quilt 5334. Quilted Pillow or Wall Hanging 5335. Quilt Tied off 5336. Other Quilt</p>	<p><u>Division E: Other Needlework</u></p> <p>Class 5340. Cross-stitch 5341. Embroidery 5342. Fleece Article 5343. Latch Hook 5344. Rugs 5345. Toys (bear, doll, doll clothes, etc.) 5346. Tye-Dye 5347. Other Needlework</p>	

DEPARTMENT 54: Open Adult Photography

- All single pictures must be 8 x 10.
- Related Series of 6 can be 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 photos, mounted on a foam board.
- Photography must be matted and have a wire or heavy cord securely fastened and ready to hang. Frame is optional, no glass please. Duct tape is not a secure fastener.
- All photography must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- **NO NUDE PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

<p><u>Division A: Color</u></p> <p>Class 5400. Action 5401. Animal 5402. Farm Scene 5403. Nature 5404. Portrait (person, face or head and shoulders) 5405. Special Effects/Digitally Enhanced 5406. Still Life 5407. Structure (<i>equipment, auto, building, etc.</i>) 5408. Related Series: 6 photos on one board (Must include title to series)</p>	<p><u>Division B: Black and White</u> (includes Sepia)</p> <p>Class 5410. Action 5411. Animal 5412. Farm Scene 5413. Nature 5414. Portrait (person, face or head and shoulders) 5415. Special Effects/Digitally Enhanced 5416. Still Life 5417. Structure (<i>equipment, auto, building, etc.</i>) 5418. Related Series: 6 photos on one board (Must include title to series)</p>
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DEPARTMENT 55 Open Adult Floriculture

- Cut flower division: Exhibitors must grow their own floriculture.
- Flower arrangements may be home grown, wild, or purchased.
- An index card with common name, variety, and type (home grown, wild, or purchased) must accompany live flower exhibits.
- No plants from Michigan protected list allowed.
 - See: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/species/plants>
- Cut flowers and bouquets should be clear container or vase.
 - Do not remove foliage/greenery from stems above the waterline or add an extra stem of foliage.
- Flowers and plants must be free of disease, insect damage and in a healthy condition.
- Similar variety, bloom, and stem length should be chosen.

<u>Division A: Cut Flowers</u>	<u>Division B: Live Flower Arrangements</u>	<u>Division C: Silk Flowers</u>
Class 5500. Annual Flower 5501. Gladiolus 5502. Hydrangeas 5503. Perennial Flower 5504. Rose 5505. Other Cut Flower	Class 5510. Bouquet 5511. Corsage 5512. Dried Flowers 5513. Green Foliage 5514. Table/Centerpiece 5515. Other Live Flower Arrangement	Class 5520. Bouquet 5521. Corsage 5522. Table/Centerpiece 5523. Wall Hanging 5524. Other Silk Flower
<u>Division D: Flower Gardening</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dish gardens and terrariums are to contain a mixture of at least three different plants. No artificial plant materials allowed.</i> • <i>Plants must be the property of the exhibitor for at least three months.</i> • <i>Accessories are allowed in terrariums.</i> • <i>Exhibitors should plant their project and begin caring for it by April 15th.</i> Class 5530. Dish Garden/Terrarium 5531. Hanging Plant/Basket 5532. Houseplant Arrangement (foliage or bloom) 5533. Patio Planter (at least 4 types) 5534. Succulents or Cacti 5535. Other Flower Garden		

DEPARTMENT 56 Open Adult Agriculture and Horticulture

- Each exhibitor must be the producer.
- Corn stalks must be tied and with husks.
- Herbs should be 1-inch diameter bunch, tied and should not be in full bloom.
 - Fresh cut bunches in water containers

<p><u>Division A: Farm Crops</u> Class 5600. Corn, 5 ears (any variety) 5601. Corn, 3 stalks (any variety) <i>(with husks, must be tied)</i> 5602. Forage, bundle 5603. Gourd, 3-5 specimens 5604. Grain, bundle or 1qt jar <i>(Bundles must show seeds)</i> 5605. Haylage, gallon bag 5606. Silage, gallon bag 5607. Sunflower, 3-5 specimens 5608. Other Farm Crop</p>	<p><u>Division B: Fruits</u> Class 5610. Blueberries, 1 pint 5611. Cherries, 1 pint 5612. Raspberries, 1 pint 5613. Strawberries, 1 pint 5614. Other Fruit, 1 pint</p>	<p><u>Division C: Vegetables</u> Class 5620. Cabbage, 1 specimen 5621. Cucumbers, 3 specimens 5622. Eggplant, 3 specimens 5623. Lettuce, 1 specimen 5624. Onions, 3 specimens 5625. Peppers, 3 specimens 5626. Radishes, 6 specimens 5627. String beans, 6 specimens 5628. Summer squash, 3 specimens 5629. Sweet corn, 3 specimens 5630. Potatoes, 3 specimens 5631. Basket (6 or more, assorted) 5632. Other Vegetable</p>
<p><u>Division D: Herbs (Dried or fresh)</u> Class 5640. One Herb 5641. Three Types of Herbs 5642. Six types of Herbs</p>	<p><u>Division E: Container Garden</u> Class 5650. Container Garden with one vegetable 5651. Container Garden with two or more vegetables</p>	

Department 57 - Adult Open Class Homemaker of the Year

A homemaker is an individual that resides in Mecosta or adjoining counties, who successfully manages their life in a way that benefits both their family and their community. They effectively manage their household, create a home where they celebrate their creativity, skills, and work ethic, and provide inspiration and guidance to others. They contribute to society by performing community service that reflects their values and beliefs.

Exhibitors must complete a still exhibit entry form and must exhibit a total of 4 items from at least 3 of the Open Adult Still Exhibit departments (2 items may be from the same department). These do not need to be in addition to still exhibit entries.

Homemaker application and questions must be completed by **Friday July 2th** and emailed to Ripkekar@msu.edu or dropped off to the Extension office. Non-perishable items can be turned in at this time as well. **Saturday July 11th** is exhibit building set-up at the fairgrounds, all items not already turned in must there by 11am.

On Tuesday of fair week, homemaker displays will be arranged for all participants. This class will then be judged to determine the 2026 Homemaker of the year.

Judging will be based on initial department awards, neatness, detail & creativity of exhibits, and questions answered on application.

