

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Business Impact Analysis

Rule Subject: County and District Fairs
Adm. Code Reference: ATCP 160
Rules Clearinghouse #: Not yet assigned
DATCP Docket #: 09-R-20

Background

DATCP currently provides fair aids to 76 county and district fairs. State aid moneys are used to reimburse fairs for premiums awarded to fair exhibitors. The legislature appropriated \$375,500 in general purpose revenue and \$20,000 in segregated revenue for fair aids in each year of the FY 2009-11 biennium.

Under s. 93.23, Stats., DATCP may reimburse 95% of the first \$8,000 in net premiums awarded by a fair, and 70% of all net premiums over \$8,000, up to a maximum total reimbursement amount of \$10,000. In order to qualify for state aid, fairs must award premiums according to DATCP rules. If combined reimbursement claims from all fairs exceed available appropriations, DATCP reimburses claims on a pro rata basis.

Current rules specify entry classes for county and district fair exhibits. For each entry class, current rules specify uniform premiums for first place to fourth place premium awards. A fair may award higher premiums, but DATCP will pay state aids only on that portion of a premium award that is within the maximum amount specified by rule.

DATCP updates its county and district fair rules periodically, based on recommendations from the Wisconsin association of fairs. Current rules were last updated in 2000.

Rule Overview

This rule does all of the following:

- Creates new and revised entry classes for some fair exhibits. Changes are designed to keep entry classes current with exhibition trends and needs.
- Revises some current premium amounts. Under current rules and this rule, reimbursable premiums for most exhibits are under \$10.00 (higher amounts may be awarded for some exhibits).
- Makes minor organizational and drafting changes to clarify current rules.

Dairy Cattle

This rule does not change current dairy cattle entry classes, except that in the junior fair division it eliminates required distinctions between “grade” and “registered” cattle within certain entry classes. A fair board may establish “grade” and “registered” subclasses within any entry class if it wishes to do so.

Beef Cattle

This rule modifies *market beef* entry classes in both the open and junior divisions. Under this rule, *market beef* animals are raised for market and shown by weight. Entry classes are not limited by breed, sex or age, except that this rule includes the following *market beef* categories based on age:

- “Feeder calf” (under 17 weeks old). The fair board may create up to 2 “feeder calf” entry classes based on weight.
- “Market steer or heifer” (at least 17 weeks old). The fair board may create up to 3 “market steer or heifer” entry classes based on weight.

Under this rule, an exhibitor may enter up to 3 market beef animals in all market beef entry classes, and may receive up to 2 premiums in any market beef entry class.

Swine

This rule clarifies, but does not substantially alter, current rule provisions related to *market swine* entry classes in both the open and junior fair divisions. Under this rule:

- Market swine are raised for market and shown by weight (entry classes are not limited by breed, sex or age).
- A fair board may establish up to 3 market swine entry classes, based on weight.
- An exhibitor may enter up to 3 market swine in all market swine entry classes, and may receive up to 2 premiums in any entry class.

This rule clarifies, but does not substantially alter, the current *swine carcass* entry class in the junior fair division. This rule clarifies that an exhibitor may enter only one market pig in the *swine carcass* class, but may enter that same market pig in a *market swine* class.

Sheep

This rule expands the current *sheep* department in the open division to include a *dairy sheep* entry category (that category already exists in the junior fair division). The fair

board may create one or more entry classes within the new “dairy sheep” category. This rule specifies premiums for the new category.

This rule clarifies, but does not substantially alter, current rule provisions related to *market lamb* entry classes in both the open and junior fair divisions. Under this rule:

- Market lambs are raised for market and shown by weight (entry classes are not limited by breed, sex or age).
- A fair board may establish up to 3 market lamb entry classes, based on weight.
- A single exhibitor may enter up to 3 market lambs in all market lamb entry classes, and may receive up to 2 premiums in any entry class.

This rule clarifies shearing standards for sheep exhibited in both the open and junior fair divisions (different standards apply to fleece, meat and other breeds).

Goats

In both the open and junior fair divisions, this rule expands the current *dairy goats* department to create a more general *goats* department. Within the *goats* department, this rule creates *dairy goat*, *meat goat* and *other goat* entry categories. Within each entry category, this rule specifies allowed entry classes and premiums (this rule clarifies but does not change the current *dairy goat* entry classes and premiums). This rule eliminates *goat* department entry classes for pygmy and angora goats (pygmy and angora goats may instead be exhibited as “domesticated exotic animals”).

Llamas, Alpacas and Domesticated Exotic Animals

This rule re-names the *domesticated exotic animals* department as the *llamas, alpacas and domesticated exotic animals* department, to put more emphasis on llamas and alpacas (which are widely shown at fairs). Under this rule, the exhibitor of a llama or alpaca may win premiums for both exhibitor showmanship and animal performance.

Self-Determined Projects

This rule gives fair boards more flexibility to create special junior fair division entry classes for “self-determined projects” in a wide range of departments. Projects must meet 4-H guidelines or comparable youth organization standards. This rule specifies reimbursable premium amounts for “self-determined projects.” Under this rule, a fair board has some flexibility to choose among alternative premium levels (depending, for example, on the department to which the project pertains).

Youth Group Booths, Banners and Scrapbooks

This rule creates, in the junior fair division, a new department of *youth group booths, banners and scrapbooks*. The fair board may create one or more entry classes within this category. This rule specifies reimbursable premium amounts for the new department.

New Entry Classes in Senior Citizens Division

Within the senior citizens division, this rule authorizes new entry classes related to natural sciences, antiques and clothing.

Other Changes and Clarifications

This rule does all of the following:

- Retains current language allowing fair boards to charge entry fees *or stall rents* to exhibitors, but it eliminates current provisions that limit stall rent amounts.
- Clarifies that state aid may not be used to award more than one premium to any exhibitor in any department in the junior fair division, except that:
 - A premium may be awarded to each member of a group that collectively owns and enters a livestock exhibit.
 - An exhibitor may receive a separate premium for showmanship, where specifically allowed by this rule.
 - An exhibitor may receive more than one premium for animals entered in certain market classes, as specifically provided in this rule.
- Clarifies that, for entry classes based on animal age, the age of an animal is determined as of the first day of the fair.
- Makes a variety of other editorial changes and clarifications to current rules.

Business Impact

This rule will not have any impact on business. Participation in county and district fairs is voluntary. Individual businesses may benefit from winning premiums at county or district fairs, but premium amounts are relatively small and this rule does not substantially affect the likelihood of winning.

Conclusion

This rule will have no impact on business.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2011

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

By _____
Mike Powers, Administrator,
Division of Agricultural Development