



# Chapter ATCP 160

## COUNTY AND DISTRICT FAIRS

### Subchapter I — General Requirements and Definitions

**ATCP 160.01 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

- (1) “Breed class” and “breeding class” mean a specific breed within a class such as holstein in the dairy class.
  - (2) “Class” means a grouping in which exhibits may be entered, including an animal breed or age group for animal exhibits; a type of produce, crop or food; or a specific age, age group or educational grade level of exhibitor.
  - (2m) “Conference judging” means a judging system using a discussion about each exhibit with the entire group.
  - (3) “Danish judging system” means a judging system that allows for multiple first, second, third and fourth class selections as provided in s. [ATCP 160.91 \(4\) \(b\)](#).
  - (4) “Department” as it relates to the organizational structure of a fair, means an animal species, production group, or other principal classification of exhibits. As used in any other context, “department” means the state of Wisconsin department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection.
  - (5) “Division” means one of 3 exhibitor group classifications for a fair and is limited to junior division, open division and senior citizens division.
  - (6) “Entry class” means a class in which the fair allows exhibitors to submit entries.
  - (7) “Exotic domestic animal” means an animal that is not a common farm animal.
  - (7e) “Face-to-face judging” means a judging system using a semiprivate discussion between the judge and the exhibitor with the following phases:
    - (a) Get acquainted.
    - (b) Learn the background of the exhibit.
    - (c) Self-evaluation.
    - (d) Evaluator comment.
    - (e) Parting.
  - (7m) “Fair” means a county or district fair eligible to receive state aid under s. [93.23 \(1\) \(b\)](#) or [\(c\)](#), Stats.
  - (7s) “Fair board” means the governing entity of a fair.
  - (8) “Lot” or “lot number” means the numerical designation assigned by a fair for a specific category of exhibits within a class.
  - (9) “Market class” means a class that includes animals of a certain weight for the species that can be sold for slaughter.
  - (10) “Premium” means a monetary prize that a fair awards to an exhibitor after judging all competing exhibits in the class to which the premium pertains.
  - (11) “Regular judging system” means a judging system that allows for one first, second, third and fourth class selection as provided in s. [ATCP 160.91 \(4\) \(c\)](#).
  - (12) “Self determined project” means a project that meets all of the following criteria:
    - (a) It is approved by the fair board.
    - (b) Its subject matter is related to any of the junior fair departments 9, 10, 13 to 16, 18, or 20 to 29.
    - (c) It does not fall into a defined entry class within any department.
    - (d) It is carried out by a member of a youth organization.
  - (13) “Youth organization” means an organization under adult leadership that has educational programming.
- History:** Cr. [Register, November, 1990, No. 419](#), eff. 12-1-90; cr. (5), [Register, July, 1995, No. 475](#), eff. 8-1-95; [CR 11-037](#): renum. (1) to (5) to be (2), (4), (5), (8), (10), cr. (1), (3), (6), (7), (9), (11), (12) [Register April 2012 No. 676](#), eff. 5-1-12; [CR 21-093](#): cr. (2m), (7e), (7m), (7s), am. (8) to (10), (12) (d), cr. (13) [Register September 2022 No. 801](#), eff. 10-1-22.

### ATCP 160.02 Premium requirements.

- (1) General.

- (a) The state aid authorized by s. [93.23 \(1\)](#), Stats., may be paid on net premiums paid by a fair. The department may withhold state premium aid from any fair that does not enforce animal health provisions under ch. [ATCP 10](#) that are applicable to animals exhibited at the fair. State aid will be paid only on premiums actually paid by bank check or draft.
- (b) No deductions may be made from premium money won by an exhibitor. Premiums may, however, be withheld where exhibition rules established by the fair association are violated. A written statement of violation shall be submitted to the department to justify actions taken by a fair.
- (c) Premiums offered shall be definite in amount. No decrease or increase in published premiums may be made because of the financial condition or the organization or for any other reason.
- (e) No fair may receive state aid for a premium awarded to any exhibitor in the open division if that exhibitor entered the same exhibit in the junior division at the same fair. This paragraph does not apply if the exhibit was entered in the junior division only as part of a herd group, carcass class or performance class.
- (f) No state aid will be paid on the cost of ribbons, cups, trophy prizes or entertainment contests.
- (2) Premium lists.
  - (a) Premiums for which state aid is requested by county and district fairs shall conform with the uniform premium list and other requirements set forth in these rules. Fairs requesting state aid for net premiums shall submit to the department a printed copy of the premium list used at the fair, as required under s. [ATCP 160.92 \(3\) \(c\)](#).
  - (b) The officers of each fair shall mail a copy of the premium list to other associations, societies, or boards conducting a fair in Wisconsin upon request.
  - (c) Sections [ATCP 160.01](#) through [160.07](#) and [160.91](#) shall be published in premium books used by a fair for which state aid is requested.
- (3) Entry fees.
  - (a) A fair may charge an exhibitor an entry fee or charge stall rents for animals, or both.
  - (b) Exhibitors in department 35 shall not be required to purchase an exhibitor’s ticket. Any other exhibitor may be required, if no entry fee is charged, to purchase an exhibitor’s season ticket at a price not to exceed that charged for a non-exhibitor’s season ticket.
- (4) Split fair dates.
  - (a) For purposes of this subsection, “split fair dates” occur when a fair organization judges exhibits or contests and pays premiums at more than one time or at more than one location during the calendar year.
  - (b) Except as provided under par. [\(c\)](#), the department may not pay state aid for a fair having split dates unless the department gives advance written approval for a split fair. The department may approve split dates based on hardship.
  - (c) The department may pay state aid for the following exhibits or contests in a fair having split dates with advance notification to the department:
    - 1. Clothing revue.
    - 2. Demonstrations.
    - 3. Favorite foods revue.
    - 4. Dogs.
    - 4m. Cats.
    - 5. Small animals.
    - 6. Rocketry.
    - 7. Shooting sports.
    - 7m. Mechanical projects.
    - 8. Other exhibits and contests that are similar to those identified in subsds. [1](#) to [7](#).
  - (d) If there are split dates under par. [\(b\)](#) or [\(c\)](#), all blue ribbon winners shall repeat their demonstrations or exhibits at the regular fair dates unless the department grants a hardship exemption. An exhibitor may use audio-visual media, still photography or an educational display to repeat a demonstration or exhibit.



**History:** Cr. [Register, November, 1990, No. 419](#), eff. 12-1-90; r. and recr. (1) (e) and am. (3) (a), [Register, July, 1995, No. 475](#), eff. 8-1-95; r. and recr. (4), [Register, November, 2000, No. 539](#), eff. 12-1-00; correction in (2) (a) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., [Register, November, 2000, No. 539](#); [CR 08-075](#): am. (1) (a) [Register April 2009 No. 640](#), eff. 5-1-09; [CR 11-037](#): am. (1) (a), (3) (a), (b), cr. (4) (c) 8. [Register April 2012 No. 676](#), eff. 5-1-12; [CR 21-093](#): am. (1) (a), (b), renum. (1) (d) to ATCP 160.05 (3), am. (1) (e), (3) (a), (4) (b), (c) (intro.), cr. (4) (c) 4m., 7m., (4) (d) [Register September 2022 No. 801](#), eff. 10-1-22.

**ATCP 160.03 Exhibition requirements.** A fair shall meet all of the exhibition requirements of this section to be eligible for state premium aid.

(1) No fair society or other organization sponsoring a fair may require an exhibitor to become a member of the organization in order to enter an exhibit at the fair, nor may the sponsoring organization make any deduction from an exhibitor's premium as a donation to the fair society, or require an exhibitor in any other way to make a donation to the society.

(2) State aid may not be approved for out-of-state exhibits or for separate classes of local and non-local exhibitors. Aid may not be approved for payment of premiums to an exhibitor having an out-of-state address but claiming Wisconsin residency unless the fair secretary provides the department with an affidavit that the exhibitor's residence is geographically located within the state.

(3) State aid may be paid only on articles or animals actually on display in an exhibit building or actually shown in the show ring on regular fair dates unless approval for split fair dates is obtained under s. [ATCP 160.02 \(4\)](#). State aid may not be paid on Dairy Herd Improvement Association records, transportation aid, production contests or other special educational exhibits unless prior approval is obtained under s. [ATCP 160.49 \(7\)](#).

(4) State aid may not be paid on exhibits removed from the fairgrounds before 4 p.m. on the last day of the fair, or such other later time as may be specified by the fair, without prior approval of the department. Authority for earlier removal may be granted by the department in case of meat animal sales or other special classes, if requested before the beginning of the fair. In other hardship cases, approval may be granted by the fair. Exhibits in dog obedience and small animal pet classes may be judged during the regular fair but are not required to remain present during the entire fair. The fair may prescribe the length of time junior fair exhibitors of horses shall keep their animal on the ground.

**History:** Cr. [Register, November, 1990, No. 419](#), eff. 12-1-90; [CR 21-093](#): am. (intro.), (1), (4) [Register September 2022 No. 801](#), eff. 10-1-22; correction in (3) made under s. [13.92 \(4\) \(b\) 7.](#), Stats., [Register September 2022 No. 801](#).

**ATCP 160.05 Open division; general requirements.**

(1) The total maximum premiums set forth for all places in any open division livestock class, excluding poultry and rabbits, may be divided into multiple premiums for a greater number of places, but the maximum premium offered for any additional place shall not be higher than the maximum for the last place in the class.

(2) All animals in any open division class shall be owned by the exhibitor, except as provided in s. [ATCP 160.09](#).

(3) State aid may be paid on no more than 2 premiums awarded an exhibitor under one premium or lot number in open division individual livestock classes, except poultry and rabbits, and no more than one premium in all other classes, including poultry and rabbits.

(5) The fair board may establish specific classes by professional and amateur level groupings within classes for open class departments 14 to 28.

**History:** Cr. [Register, November, 1990, No. 419](#), eff. 12-1-90; [CR 11-037](#): r. (2), renum. (3) to be (2) [Register April 2012 No. 676](#), eff. 5-1-12; [CR 21-093](#): am. (1), renum. (3) from ATCP 160.02 (1) (d), cr. (4), (5) [Register September 2022 No. 801](#), eff. 10-1-22; [CR 24-072](#): r. (4) [Register February 2025 No. 830](#), eff. 3-1-25.

**ATCP 160.07 Classes; general requirements.**

(1) Classes may be combined if the number of entries in several single classes is insufficient. If any classes are combined, state aid shall be limited to the maximum total premiums listed for a single class of animals, items or articles in that department.

(2)

(a) Except as provided under par. (b), no fair may receive state aid for premiums awarded for sexually intact male dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine or horses unless those animals are registered. Registered status shall be documented by a certificate of registry from the appropriate breed association or society, or by a copy of the application for registration.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to dairy cattle exhibited at a fair if a national breed association certifies that those dairy cattle are recorded in that breed association's qualified herd book which records the genealogy of that breed.

(3) Any animal entered as part of a group class may also be exhibited in a class for individual animals.

(4) Boars may not be entered as an exhibit in the swine department unless their tusks have been removed.

(5) The age of an animal, for purposes of determining its entry class under this chapter, shall be determined as of the opening day of the fair.

**History:** Cr. [Register, November, 1990, No. 419](#), eff. 12-1-90; renum. and am. (2) to be (2) (a) and cr. (2) (b), [Register, July, 1995, No. 475](#), eff. 8-1-95; [CR 11-037](#): cr. (5) [Register April 2012 No. 676](#), eff. 5-1-12; [CR 21-093](#): am.

(2) [Register September 2022 No. 801](#), eff. 10-1-22.

**ATCP 160.08 Class definitions; individual classes.**

(1) Dairy cattle.

(a) A spring calf is one born on or after March 1 of the exhibit year.

(b) A winter calf is one whose date of birth is between December 1 of the year preceding the exhibit year and February 28 or 29 of the exhibit year.

(c) A fall calf is one whose date of birth is between September 1 and November 30 of the year preceding the exhibit year.

(d) A summer yearling is one whose date of birth is between June 1 and August 31 of the year preceding the exhibit year.

(e) A spring yearling is one whose date of birth is between March 1 and May 31 of the year preceding the exhibit year.

(f) A winter yearling is one whose date of birth is between December 1 of the second year preceding the exhibit year and February 28 or 29 of the year preceding the exhibit year.

(g) A fall yearling is one whose date of birth is between September 1 and November 30 of the second year preceding the exhibit year.

(h) A 2 year-old is one born between September 1 of the third year preceding the exhibit year and August 31 of the second year preceding the exhibit year. A 2-year-old includes a yearling that has freshened.

(i) A 3 year-old is one whose date of birth is between September 1 of the fourth year preceding the exhibit year and August 31 of the third year preceding the exhibit year.

(j) A 4 year-old is one whose date of birth is between September 1 of the fifth year preceding the exhibit year and August 31 of the fourth year preceding the exhibit year.

(2) Beef cattle.

(a) A junior calf is one born on or after January 1 of the exhibit year. The calf shall be at least 4 months old at the time of exhibit.

(b) A senior calf is one whose date of birth is between September 1 and December 31 of the year preceding the exhibit year.

(c) A summer yearling is one whose date of birth is between May 1 and August 31 of the year preceding the exhibit year.

(d) A junior yearling is one whose date of birth is between January 1 and April 30 of the year preceding the exhibit year.

(e) A senior yearling is one whose date of birth is between September 1 and December 31 of the second year preceding the exhibit year.

(f) A 2 year-old or older cow is one born before September 1 of the second year preceding the exhibit year and which has calved during the past year.

(4) Swine.



- (a) A junior yearling boar or sow is one born between January 1 and June 30 of the year preceding the exhibit year.
  - (b) A senior boar or sow is one whose date of birth is between July 1 and December 31 of the year preceding the exhibit year.
  - (c) A senior spring boar or sow pig is one whose date of birth is between January 1 and February 28 or 29 of the exhibit year. A fair board may subdivide this entry class into January-born and February-born sows or boars.
  - (d) A junior spring boar or sow pig is one born during the month of March of the exhibit year.
  - (5) Sheep.
    - (a) A spring lamb is one born on or after February 16 of the exhibit year.
    - (b) A fall lamb is one born between September 1 and December 31 of the year preceding the exhibit year.
    - (c) A winter lamb is one born between January 1 and February 15 of the exhibit year.
    - (d) A yearling ram or ewe is one born outside the date of birth limitations in pars. (a) through (c). The age of yearlings may be subject to verification by a veterinarian's examination whose findings shall be final.
- History:** Cr. [Register, November, 1990, No. 419](#), eff. 12-1-90; am. (1) (h), (4) (a) and (5) (a), (b) and (c), [Register, July, 1995, No. 475](#), eff. 8-1-95; correction in (6) (intro.) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., [Register, November, 1999, No. 527; CR 11-037](#): r. (3), (5) (e), (6) [Register April 2012 No. 676](#), eff. 5-1-12; [CR 21-093](#): am. (4) (c) [Register September 2022 No. 801](#), eff. 10-1-22.
- ATCP 160.09 Class definitions; group classes.**
- (1) Dairy and beef cattle.
    - (a) A dairy junior get of sire shall consist of 3 animals which are the offspring of the same bull. All of these animals shall be under 2 years of age, and not more than one may be a bull. A beef junior get of sire shall consist of 3 animals which are the offspring of the same bull and are animals in the junior calf, senior calf, or the summer yearling, bull and heifer classes, with both sexes to be represented.
    - (b) A dairy and beef senior get of sire shall consist of 3 animals which are the offspring of one sire. All of these animals shall be 2 years of age or over. In either a dairy or beef breed get of sire, the name of the sire shall be designated by the exhibitor. The animals need not be owned by a single exhibitor.
    - (c) A produce of dam shall consist of 2 animals of any age or sex which are the produce of one cow.
    - (d) A group of 3 best female cattle shall consist of 3 animals of any age which were bred and are owned by the exhibitor.
  - (2) Swine. A pen of 3 feeder pigs shall consist of swine of either sex each weighing between 40 and 60 pounds. Any male pigs included in the pen shall be castrated and healed.
  - (3) Sheep.
    - (a) A get of sire shall consist of 4 lambs or yearlings, or both, of either sex, from one sire, which were bred and are owned by the exhibitor.
    - (b) An exhibitor's flock shall consist of one yearling or ram lamb, 2 yearling ewes and 2 ewe lambs which are owned by the exhibitor.
    - (c) A junior division pair of lambs may include a spring or fall ram and spring or fall ewe lamb owned by the exhibitor.
    - (d) A junior division flock shall be comprised of 3 sheep consisting of a yearling or lamb ram, a ewe lamb, and a yearling ewe, all of which are owned by the exhibitor.
- History:** Cr. [Register, November, 1990, No. 419](#), eff. 12-1-90; [CR 11-037](#): r. (4) [Register April 2012 No. 676](#), eff. 5-1-12; [CR 21-093](#): am. (1) (a) [Register September 2022 No. 801](#), eff. 10-1-22.

**ATCP 160.91 Judging regulations.**

- (1) Judging shall be done at fairs by individuals who are registered with the department. In no case shall any person who is an officer or director of a fair be eligible to judge exhibits at such fair; nor shall any person interested directly or indirectly in exhibits shown in any department of a fair be eligible to judge articles or animals in that department.
  - (1m)
    - (a) An individual shall register by submitting to the department an application. The department shall register all individuals who qualify to be judges, including having the knowledge, training, or experience in the specific classes to be judged and adhering to ethical judging practices. The registration is valid for five years.
    - (b) An individual submitting an application after July 1 may not judge for the current fair year.
    - (c) A fair representative may request the department waive par. (b) in cases of unanticipated emergency situations.
  - (2) Each judge at a fair shall be provided with a copy of the fair's premium book or list of entry classes at least 7 days prior to the opening date of the fair.
  - (3) No animal or article, irrespective of the number of entries in the class in which it is entered, shall be awarded a higher rating than its merit would entitle it to in comparison to the standard of perfection in the class.
  - (4)
    - (a) Danish system judging may be used in the junior fair division. State aid may not be paid on premiums awarded under the Danish system in any other division.
    - (b) When classes in the junior fair division are judged according to the Danish system, 4 group placings shall be awarded in any class. When there are less than 8 exhibitors in the class, there shall not be more than 2 in the first group, not more than 4 in the first 2 groups and not more than 6 in the first 3 groups. If there are 8 or more entries in the class, there shall not be more than 25% in the first group, not more than 50% in the first 2 groups, and not more than 75% in the first 3 groups.
    - (c) The number of awards in the last group placing may be increased to the extent necessary to give awards to all exhibitors.
    - (4g) When classes in the junior fair division are judged using the conference judging system, the judge shall use sub. (4) (b) and (c) to award placements in a class.
    - (5) If any class of exhibits at a fair is judged according to the regular system, the judges for that class may give only one first-place, one second-place, one third-place and one fourth-place award in that class.
- History:** Cr. [Register, April, 1976, No. 244](#), eff. 5-1-76; am. (1), [Register, March, 1980, No. 291](#), eff. 4-1-80; renum. from Ag 5.07, [Register, November, 1990, No. 419](#), eff. 12-1-90; am. (2), and cr. (5), [Register, July, 1995, No. 475](#), eff. 8-1-95; [CR 21-093](#): am. (1), cr. (1m), am. (2), (4) (a), (b), cr. (4g), (am) (5) [Register September 2022 No. 801](#), eff. 10-1-22.

