

IOWA STATE FAIR



Special Events Directory





The highly successful Kids' Club is back in 2026 with new events. Kids Club, the Fair's special club for ages 10 and under, allows children to experience the Fair from a unique perspective.

Kids' Club members will get a rare glimpse at the heart of the Iowa State Fair and become part of the action during special kids' club activities.

It's entirely free to join Kids' Club and to participate in all of the events (with gate admission). All Kids' Club events will be held weekdays at 10 a.m. at the Fun Forest Stage during the Fair. Meet and greets will be Saturdays at 10 a.m. on the Fun Forest Stage. Members must be registered before August 1, 2026.

Visit www.iowastatefair.org/visit/kid-friendly-activities for more information.

It's fun to be a Blue Ribbon Kid!

2026 Kids' Club Events - 10 a.m. at the Fun Forest Stage

Thursday, August 13 – Make and Take T-Shirt Day at Kids' Club

Friday, August 14 – Choose Iowa Day at Kids' Club

Monday, August 17 – Living History Farms - Iowa before the American Revolution

Tuesday, August 18 – DMACC Vet Camp Day at Kids' Club

Wednesday, August 19 – Sensory-Friendly Morning at Kids' Club (open to all ages)

Thursday, August 20 – Living History Farms: America's Westward Experience

Friday, August 21 – Dance Party at Kids' Club

2026 Kids' Club Saturday Meet and Greets: 10 a.m. - Fun Forest Stage

Saturday, August 15 – Meet and Greet with Iowa State Fair Police

Saturday, August 22 – Happy Birthday, America, Fairfield, and Rosetta

SPECIAL EVENTS DEPARTMENT

Tonya Cook
Entertainment Director
515-262-3111 ext. 215
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4 X 4 STOMPER PULL

Saturday, August 22 • 9:30 a.m.

Sign-in: 9 a.m.

MidAmerican Energy Stage with Iowa Realty and media sponsor KCCI 8

Contact: Roger Elliott | 641-919-1662 | rogerm13@iowatelecom.net

DESCRIPTION: Kids hitch weights to their battery-operated, handmade miniature trucks to see who can pull the farthest distance in 20 seconds.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Judges' decisions are final.
2. No traction compound allowed.
3. All weights certified on house scales.
4. First puller in each class has the option to take that pull or drop to third pulling position.
5. If not ready by your pull number, you may drop to last pull in class.
6. Steering is prohibited.
7. If alterations do not conform to the intention of rules, judges may disqualify.
8. All power supplies must be in D.C. only.
9. Truck has to complete the pull in 20 seconds.
10. Ribbons will be awarded as prizes.
11. The Southeast Iowa Stomper Pulling Association and volunteers are not responsible for any accidents that may occur during any of the pulls.

RUN WHAT YOU BRING

Weight:	6 1/2 oz. including weights
Power:	Unlimited - must be D.C. power - carried on board
Body:	Original equipment - may be customized or unlimited body
Frame:	Original equipment (4x4 or semi) or unlimited frame
Tires:	Unlimited - must be rubber
Motor:	Unlimited
Drive Train:	Unlimited
Hitch:	No limit
Size:	3 1/2" wide x 6 1/2" long

STOCK STOMPER I & STOCK STOMPER II

Weight:	Hitch & frame, original stock weight
Power:	1 AA battery
Body:	Original equipment
Frame:	Original equipment
Tires:	Original equipment
Motor:	One original motor
Drivetrain:	Original equipment
Hitch:	Stomper I & II hitches only
Size:	2 1/2" wide x 4" long

STOMPER MONSTER 4x4

Weight:	30 oz. or original stock weight
Power:	Stock batteries
Body:	Original equipment
Frame:	Original equipment
Tires:	Original equipment
Motor:	One original motor in stock location
Drivetrain:	Original unaltered
Hitch:	Unlimited
Size:	6 1/2" wide x 9" long or original size

STOCK SEMI

Weight:	Original stock weight
Power:	2 AA batteries
Body:	Equipment
Frame:	Equipment
Tires:	Equipment (may be glued to rims)
Motor:	One original in stock location
Drivetrain:	Original unaltered gears. Must be nylon spur gear drive and worm drive
Hitch:	Stomper hitch supplied, all others must be 1/2" back of rear axle and 1" high
Size:	2 1/2" wide x stock length plus stomper weight box

FAIR SPIRIT

BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT

Sunday, August 16 • Noon

Registration: 11 a.m.-Noon

Oman Family Youth Inn

Contact: John Kalachnik | 515-306-6149

DESCRIPTION: A popular board game with 2 participants; the object of the game is to remove all of your pieces first.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry Fee: \$5 for Youth Division (below age 16); \$10 for Less Experience, \$20 for More Experience

Divisions: Youth, Less Experienced, More Experienced (doubling cube used)

1. Tournament drawing begins at 12 p.m. with play immediately following.
2. Please bring a board to the tournament.
3. Other than the Youth Division, play will be split into two divisions: Less Experienced and More Experienced.
4. Entry fees will be pooled by division and distributed to winners in each division as follows:

1 to 5 players registered:	100% to first place
6 or more players registered:	70% to first place
	20% to second place
	10% to third place

5. Tournament play will be single elimination with players bracketed by blind drawing. Byes will be assigned to the bracket, if necessary, before player drawing begins.
6. Each tournament round will be played to the number of points below:

<u>Round</u>	<u>More Experienced</u>	<u>Less Experienced</u>	<u>Youth</u>
Non-championship	7 points	5 points	3 points
Championship	7 points	5 points	3 points



BANJO/GUITAR/ MANDOLIN CONTESTS

43rd Annual Guitar Contest

Saturday, August 15 • 11 a.m.

Sign-in: Between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

43rd Annual Mandolin Contest

Saturday, August 15 • 1 p.m.

Sign-in: Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

43rd Annual Banjo contest

Sunday, August 16 • 11 a.m.

Sign-in: Between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Farm Bureau Pioneer Hall

Contact: Angela Bellegante | 515-979-4818 | angela.bellegante@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION: Participants play three memorized songs with their instrument of choice to score points.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Open to any person of any age.
2. No advance entry required.
3. Out-of-state contestants are welcome.
4. Three judges will place the awards.
5. Contestants must play three selections. Ties will be played off on a three tune basis. Superintendent reserves the right to change format due to time constraints.
6. Contestants must play by ear or from memory.
7. One accompanist is allowed to be furnished by the contestant.
8. Electrified instruments will not be allowed.
9. Position on the program will be decided by the number given to each contestant at time of registration.
10. Prizes will be awarded strictly on ability based on a point system. Ribbons will be awarded and winners will be announced at the end of each contest.

BENCH PRESS/DEADLIFT CONTEST

42nd Annual Drug Free Event

Saturday, August 22 • 9 a.m.

Weigh-ins: 7-8 a.m. Rules meeting: 8:30 a.m. Lifting starts at 9 a.m.

Early Weigh-ins: Call 515-289-6093 or visit www.22barbell.com

Susan Knapp Amphitheater sponsored by Prairie Meadows and media sponsor WHO 13

Contact: Wes Keith | 515-289-6093 | 22barbell@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION: Participants test their strength by performing in different classes based on weight, age and gender.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry Fee:

Bench Divisions: \$75

Youth Raw, Teen Raw, Junior Raw, Open, Masters 1 Raw, Masters 2 Raw
and Masters 3 Raw

Deadlift Divisions: \$75

Youth Raw, Teen Raw, Junior Raw, Open, Masters 1 Raw, Masters 2 Raw
and Masters 3 Raw

If entering more than one division, each division will cost \$75. There are no refunds on entry fees or any transfer of entries.

This meet is only for individuals who are drug free.

Bench Press and Deadlift Divisions

Youth Raw: 15 and under

Teen Raw: 16 - 19 years old

Junior Raw: 20 - 23 years old

Open: 14 years and up

Masters 1 Raw: 40 - 49 years old

Masters 2 Raw: 50 - 59 years old

Masters 3 Raw: 60 years and up

Mens Weight Classes: 123, 132, 148, 165, 181, 198,
220, 242, 275, 308, SHW

Womens Weight Classes: 105, 114, 123, 132, 148, 165,
181, 198, SHW

Trophies will be awarded to the first 3 lifters in each weight class

Best Lifters Awards

Very special awards will be given this year to all of the best lifters. It will be a combination of the best lifter and first place award.

Best Lifter Awards will be given to the best lifter in each of the following divisions:

Bench: Youth, Teen, Junior, Open, Masters 1, Masters 2, Masters 3

Deadlift: Youth, Teen, Junior, Open, Masters 1, Masters 2, Masters 3



BEST BAGGER CONTEST

Friday, August 14 • 1 p.m.

Pre-registration required

Susan Knapp Amphitheater sponsored by Prairie Meadows with media sponsor WHO 13

Contact: Annie Lallier | alallier@iowagrocers.com | 309-229-0947

DESCRIPTION: The best grocery baggers from across the state put their skills to the test in the Iowa Grocery Industry's Best Bagger Contest. All non perishable food items used in the competition are donated to the Food Bank of Iowa.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Contestants bag identical grocery orders consisting of approximately 35 commonly purchased items into three reusable grocery bags
2. Contestants are scored and ranked primarily on weight distribution among bags, speed and proper item arrangement.



BILL RILEY TALENT SEARCH

Preliminaries and Semi-Finals: August 13-22 • 12:15 p.m.

Championships: August 23 • 1:30 p.m.

Anne and Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi with Media Sponsor iHeart Radio

Contact: Carly Cox & Hailey Burton | specialevents@iowastatefair.org

DESCRIPTION: Local talent advances to the State Fair to show off their talents. A panel of judges names a champion of the senior division and several Sprout Champions.

Rules and Contest Information:

1. Show is open to legal residents of the state of Iowa only. Acts must appear in a locally sponsored/Iowa State Fair sanctioned show somewhere in the state of Iowa and be the show qualifier to be eligible to compete at the Iowa State Fair. Judges' decisions are final.

2. Sprouts: Ages 2 through 12 Seniors: Ages 13 through 21

Seniors and Sprouts must qualify within the age requirement at local shows. For example, if you are 21 and don't qualify before you are 22, you are ineligible. All Sprout acts must qualify for the State Fair at the age of 12 or under.

The following applies only to the competition at the Iowa State Fair, NOT local shows:

A person's age for the Iowa State Fair competition is determined at the time they win a local show. A 12 year old who wins a local show (or 21 year old) could turn 13 (or 22) by the State Fair and still be eligible in the Sprout (or Senior) division, as they met age requirements at the time of qualification at a local show.

This applies to individuals or anyone in a group who qualifies at a local show at age 12 but turns 13 before the State Fair. If more than one performer in a group turns 13 before the State Fair, thus making the Sprout act have two or more 13 year olds, that act will automatically become a Senior act.

3. Professionals are NOT permitted to compete. This includes Union musicians and anyone whose principal source of income is from their talent. Compensation for performing at weddings, etc. does not constitute principle source of income.

4. Acts must keep the performance to three minutes. Acts timed past three minutes are subject to possible disqualification or point deduction. Five seconds over would be a starting point to begin deductions, ten seconds over or longer can be considered for disqualification. This is at the judges' discretion and should be monitored closely. At the local level this would be a great opportunity for show coordinators to let an act know that they were over the time limit. We have two different timers at the state level so we are very serious about the three minute rule. Set up time is not included. Limit set up time to one minute.

5. No more than five persons are allowed in an act. Piano accompanist is NOT included in an act and may be any age. No more than three accompanists permitted per act. Drums, amps, etc. are discouraged due to the one-minute set-up time. No combos, rock bands or similar musical groups permitted.
6. Acts will be required to meet with the show coordinator or emcee a minimum of 45 minutes to an hour prior to the show to get checked in.
7. Acts will need name, complete address, birth date, age, phone number (include area code), email and type of talent. Multiple acts need one member to act as a contact person with all information going through them. Additional members of the act need only birth date, age and town. DO NOT PROVIDE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS TO LOCAL SHOW COORDINATORS.
8. Acts are asked to not dance onto or off the stage. After introductions, you may take any position you wish to begin your performance.
9. Vocalists can perform with an accompanist or CD/Ipod/USB flashdrive. Prerecorded tracks should be instrumental only. Any prerecorded track with backing vocals is not allowed, and the act will be disqualified.
10. Looping (typically seen in vocal or instrumental performances) is allowed as part of an act as long as each loop is performed live on stage. Previously recorded loops will not be allowed. Looping equipment must be provided by the contestant.
11. Foul language is not allowed in the Bill Riley Talent Search. Acts performing to or singing pieces with inappropriate lyrics will be disqualified and the show coordinator should encourage performers to compete with a different song.
12. Contestants may only appear once in any given show. This applies to qualifying shows as well as the competition at the Iowa State Fair. They may not perform "solo" and then return in the same show in a duet or trio. Contestants are allowed to perform in different acts in different shows, but they may only qualify for the State Fair Show with one act. Once a performer has qualified for the State Fair they are not allowed to perform in local shows as part of another act. They may keep competing in local shows with the qualifying performance.
13. Only one qualifier from each division (Sprout and Senior) of a local show is permitted to advance to the Iowa State Fair. NO TIES are permitted in all placing.
14. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of Iowa State Fair staff or Bill Riley Jr.

Competition at the Iowa State Fair

- Preliminary rounds: First 7 days (August 13-19)
- Semi finals: Days 8, 9 and 10 (August 20-22)
- Championship show: Day 11 (August 23)

(Cont.)

Semi-Finalists: Semi-finalists from the 2025 Iowa State Fair Bill Riley Talent Search are automatically qualified for the 2026 State Fair competition. You do not have to re-qualify by winning at the local level show, but you are encouraged to compete at local shows. If you win at the local level show, you are entitled to the prize money, but you must inform the emcee that you have already qualified for the State Fair. The second place winner will then be able to advance to the State Fair competition.

Birthdays and Semi-Finalists: 2025 semi-finalists returning in 2026 will perform in the division for their current age as of the 2026 Iowa State Fair.

Iowa State Fair Championship Show:

Sprout Division Champions: There will be 6 Sprout Champions showcased in the Championship Show. Sprout Champions in the Sprout division must sit out one year of competition. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 12 years old or less to compete in the Sprout division.

Senior Division Championship: There will be 9 finalists in competition. All finalists in the Senior division must sit out one year - they cannot perform as an individual or in a group during the next year. They also must re-qualify when returning after the one-year absence, and be 21 years old or less. The "Grand Champion" of the Senior division is no longer allowed to compete in the Bill Riley Talent Search at the local or State Fair level.



CHECKERS TOURNAMENT

Youth Checkers:

Friday, August 21 • 9 a.m.

Registration: 8-9 a.m.

Adult (18 years +) Checkers:

Saturday, August 22 • 9 a.m.

Registration: 8-9 a.m.

Administration Building Porch, West Side

Contact: Tim Moore | 319-325-3635 | bos.bud@hotmail.com

DESCRIPTION: A board game with two opponents; played by moving different colored pieces across a board to capture your player's pieces.

YOUTH TOURNAMENT RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. No advanced entry is required.
2. Entrants should bring checkers and board.
3. NO deposit required.
4. Play will be divided into two age groups: 7-11 and 12+.
5. Tournament starts promptly at 9 a.m. and runs until 11 a.m.
6. Ribbons awarded.

ADULT TOURNAMENT RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry Fee: \$5 deposit required (returned after final game)

1. Advanced entry is not required. Entrants should bring, if necessary, opening cards.
2. Swiss System play: four rounds until done. Each round will have two games with the same opponent and same three-move restriction opening, first play alternating. Two points for a win and one point for a draw. First round pairing by chance, subsequent rounds by matching similar scores for new opponent. One hour limit per game; games not completed to be adjudicated. Competitors of each round may agree to play "Go-As-You-Please."
3. Ribbons awarded.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, August 19 • 3 p.m.

Scholastic Division registration: 3-3:30 p.m.

Speed Division registration: 5-5:30 p.m.

Administration Building Porch, West Side

Contact: Ben Munson | 515-276-0634 | munsonbenj@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION: A board game with two opponents; the objective of the game is to capture the opponent's king.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry fee: \$2 per division; Scholastic divisions include entry fee into Speed Chess tournament.

1. You are encouraged (but not required) to pre-register.
2. Bring chess sets, boards and, if possible, chess clocks.
3. Most divisions will be round robin.
4. All participants will play each other. Large divisions may use a Swiss System with no elimination.
5. Ribbons will be given to the top players in each division.
6. Participation ribbons will be given to all who complete their playing schedules.

Scholastic Chess Tournament Divisions:

Play begins when registration is complete and continues until 5 p.m.

- A. High School (2026) - Open to any student in grades 12 or lower during the 2025-2026 school year.
- B. Junior High School (2026) - Open to any student in grade 9 or lower during 2025-2026 school year.
- C. Elementary (2026) - Open to any student in grade 6 or lower during the 2025-2026 school year.

Speed Chess Tournament Division:

Play begins when registration is complete and continues until 5:30 p.m.

- Open - Anyone may play in this division.



IOWA STATE FAIR



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT (DOUBLES ONLY)

Sunday, August 23

Doubles Competition: 12 p.m.

Registration: 11 a.m.

Grand Concourse

Contact: Cody Kinna | 515-230-7538 | centraliowahomerepair@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION: Toss corn-filled bags into an angled board. Players score points by hitting the board or making it in the hole. The Iowa State Fair recently broke a World Record for participants in the Cornhole Tournament.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry fee: \$20 per team

1. To sign up for the competition, visit scoreholio.com
2. Entry money will be paid back as prize money.



CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

Sunday, August 23 • 11 a.m.

Registration: 10 a.m.

Oman Family Youth Inn

Contact: Larry Kacer | 515-967-3514

DESCRIPTION: Cribbage is a card game with two to four players with the task of reaching card counts of exactly 15 or 31.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry fee: \$1 for singles

1. You **MUST** bring cards, boards and ink pens. These items will **NOT** be furnished.
2. Boards all face same direction during play.
3. Cut for deal at the start of each game. Low card wins. Cards will be cut before each deal.
4. If your opponent misses points in counting, you cannot take their points. After a hand is counted and the peg set, you cannot take points missed; if you take too many, you must move back.
5. If a Jack is cut and the Dealer needs only two points to go out, the Dealer wins the game.
6. Eight games will be played. One side of the table moves four times to the right. Then, the opposite side moves four times to its right.
7. Any mistakes in writing down scores or misunderstandings in hand counting must be checked by the judges for a final decision.
8. No helping another player count points, unless you are personally playing that game.
9. Two points for a win; three points for a win with a skunk; zero points for a loss.
10. No alcohol is permitted at this event.
11. Registration money will be pro-rated back in prizes. Ribbons will be awarded to first through 10th place. Trophies awarded for the first five places.
12. A special Iowa State Fair plaque will be awarded to anyone who holds a 29 hand.



DECORATED DIAPER & DIAPER DERBY

Friday, August 21 • 10 a.m.

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Anne and Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi with media sponsor iHeart Radio

Contact: Rhonda Hiatt | 515-720-7007 | hiatt.r806@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION: This contest involves decorating a diaper in one of three categories. The Diaper Derby is a race of babies under 24 months.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION: DECORATED DIAPER CONTEST

1. Three categories will be judged: Celebrating America-250 years! Diaper, Iowa State Fair Diaper and Group Theme Diaper.
2. Contestants will be assigned a number during registration, which must be clearly in view of the judges at all times during the competition.
3. All babies must be under the age of 24 months.
4. All babies must be in decorated diaper attire, disposable or cloth. Contestants may design a costume to coordinate with the diaper, but the diaper must be visible for judges.
5. Judging for all categories will be based on originality, creativity, public appeal and overall effect. (The Iowa State Fair diaper can be anything that reminds you of the Fair.)
6. First and Second place winners in each category will receive a trophy. Third through Fifth place winners will receive a ribbon. All other contestants will be awarded participation ribbons.
7. Judges' decisions are final.

Rules and Contest Information: Diaper Derby

1. Each "racer" must be accompanied by two adult "coaches."
2. "Racers" participating in the Diaper Derby are required to independently crawl from one end of the mat to the other without any assistance. "Racers" cannot walk.
3. The "coaches" can be behind the start and finish lines and can use toys, dolls, baby bottles, keys, etc., as incentives to finish.
4. No "coaches" can assist the "racer" or cross the starting line or finish line during the race, or the "racer" will be disqualified.
5. The winning "racers" must cross the finish line on their own.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Friday, August 14 • 5:30 p.m.

Registration: 4:15 p.m.

Location: Oman Family Youth Inn

Cost: \$5 per player plus .25 cents (one quarter) for sets (est. no more than an additional \$5 for sets). \$1 bills can be used to make change for quarters as necessary.

Contact: Alyson Gearhart | 319-929-0923 | alyson.gearhart@yahoo.com

All buy-in money and set money will be paid out. 400 player limit. Supplies will be provided.

DESCRIPTION: This contest is a fast-pace, single player format tournament style. Each player is partnered with another player rotating partners throughout the tournament. Eight games will be played, playing eight hands per game for a total of 64 hands.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Each game consists of 8 hands and uses a total of 24 cards: nines through aces from a standard deck.
2. Table numbers and partner numbers are issued on individual scorecards in order of tournament registration. Scorecards designate each player's starting table, and partner assignments are determined by number: the two lowest numbers are partners, the two highest numbers are partners, and so on. Players may be paired with the same partner later in the tournament, but not in consecutive games.
3. The dealer is determined by dealing cards face up until the first jack appears. The dealer shuffles the cards and then offers a cut to the opponent sitting on the dealer's right. The dealer deals five cards to each player and the card is turned face-up from the four cards remaining.
4. The player to the dealer's left starts the bidding and can order the dealer to pick up the face-up card by calling trump (suit) or pass. If the face-up card is ordered up, that card becomes trump. The dealer may add the card to their hand and discard another card. Bidding continues clockwise until trump is determined. If all players pass during the first round of bidding, the top card is turned face down, and that suit may not be called as trump. If no suit is chosen during the second round of bidding, the dealer must call trump. After the hand is completed, the player to the dealer's left deals. This repeats until each player deals twice in each game.
5. Refer to the scoring scenarios below based on the number of tricks each team wins.
6. If a player declares that they are going alone, their partner does not play that hand. If the declarer wins three or four tricks, they receive one point (no set occurs). Refer to the scoring section below.
7. Each couple shall pay a quarter when set. A set occurs when the defenders (the opposing team of the bidders) win three or more tricks.
8. One person at each table will volunteer to keep score. The scorer writes down the score in accumulative format after each hand. All players at the table are responsible for reviewing the scorekeeper's math after each hand to ensure accuracy.
9. At the end of each game (8 hands), the individual player's scorecard shall be completed and signed by their teammate. Individual scorecards include a column for each game, as well as a cumulative total for all eight games.

10. If a game ends in a tie, the team that won the hand shall move to the next table in the direction of the lower-numbered tables (for example, winners at Table 10 move to Table 9). There is no head table (i.e., players must switch partners each consecutive game).
11. Table talk is prohibited. Partners are forbidden from giving any indication or clues as to what they hold in their hand or what should be played.
12. A farmer's hand (also known as "no ace, no face") is not permitted. Players are required to play the cards they are dealt.
13. Players are not required to pick up a turned-up jack.

SCORING

1. If bidding team wins 3 or 4 tricks, 1 point goes to the bidding team.
2. If bidding team wins all 5 tricks, 2 points go to the bidding team.
3. If bidding team wins 2 tricks a set occurs, 2 points for the defenders. Both bidding partners are now required to pay a quarter.
4. If bidding team goes alone and wins all 5 tricks, 4 points go to the bidding team.
5. If bidding team goes alone and wins 3 or 4 tricks, 1 point goes to the bidding team.
6. If bidding team goes alone and wins 2 tricks a set occurs, defenders receive 2 points. Both bidding partners are required to pay a quarter.
7. Failure to follow suit without player immediately correcting error results in an automatic set, 2 points.



FIDDLERS' CONTEST (101ST ANNIVERSARY)

Youth

Friday, Aug. 14 • 10 a.m.

Junior

Friday, Aug. 14 • 10 a.m.

Ages 18-49

Saturday, Aug. 15 • 10 a.m.

Ages 50 and over

Sunday, August 16 • 10 a.m.

Grand Champion and Runners-Up Finals

Sunday, August 16 • 3 p.m.

Free Fiddler's Dance

Sunday, August 16 • 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Farm Bureau Pioneer Hall

Contact: Angela Bellegante | 515-979-4818 | angela.bellegante@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION: Participants are split into four age categories and play three memorized songs to score points.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Contest is open to any person, any age.
2. Out-of-state contestants are welcome.
3. No advanced entry is required. Sign up with the contest superintendent at Pioneer Hall. (CAN ENTER AS EARLY AS 10 A.M. BUT NO LATER THAN 2 P.M.)
4. Contestants are encouraged to perform on their specified day, but any contestant desiring to play on an earlier day may do so with their score held for judging on their specified day.
5. Age group winners will be announced each day at 3 p.m. or at the end of the contest.
6. Three judges will place awards. Prizes will be awarded strictly on ability based on a point system. (Contestants must have their instruments tuned before going on stage. Otherwise, points will be taken off their score).
7. Each contestant must play three selections: hoedown, waltz and a tune of his/her choice. In the event of a tie, one different song must be played — superintendent reserves the right to change the format due to time constraints.
8. Each contestant must play by ear or from memory.
9. One accompanist is allowed, furnished by the contestant.
10. Electrified instruments are not allowed in competition.
11. A P.A. system is available for use by contestants.
12. Position on the program will be decided by the number given to each contestant at the time of registration.
13. Prizes are given in each age group. Ribbons and the Junior Grand Champion rosette will be awarded on Friday, August 14. First-place winners in the 18-49 and 50 and over groups will compete for the Grand Champion title on Sunday, August 16, at 3 p.m. The Grand Champion title will be judged based upon three new tunes that contestants will play. No tune previously played in competition can be repeated, including tunes played in a tie situation.
14. Prizes will be awarded, as follows, for each age group: First: \$35, Second: \$20, Third: \$15, Fourth: \$10, Fifth: \$5.
15. The Junior Grand Champion (up to 18) will receive a rosette. The Grand Champion fiddler (ages 18 and over) will receive a rosette and \$25. The runner-up Grand Champion will receive a rosette and \$10.

FLY TYING COMPETITION

Judging

Wednesday, August 12 • 1 p.m.

Registration due by July 31

DNR Building Display

Contact: James Barnhart | 515-988-3210 | photofisher@hotmail.com

DESCRIPTION: This contest judges handmade flies made for fly fishing. The contest is judged with three divisions based on age and expertise.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Advanced entry required. You may enter in each category. Entries must be postmarked by July 31 and sent to:
Iowa State Fair
Attn: Special Events/Fly Tying
PO Box 57130
Des Moines, IA 50317
2. Three divisions:
 - Adult Division—16 years of age and older
 - Junior Division—younger than 16 years of age
 - Expert Division—sell flies commercially
3. Four categories for each division:
 - Dry Fly
 - Wet Fly/Soft Hackle/Nymph
 - Streamers
 - Open Class
4. You must be an Iowa resident to enter. You cannot enter the Adult or Junior Divisions if you have ever sold flies commercially.
5. Each fly will be judged in its category. Ribbons will be given for first, second and third-place winners.
6. A panel of judges will choose the places in each category and division prior to the Fair.
7. Fairgoers will see the flies displayed in the DNR Building during the Fair.
8. Contestants may pick up their flies after 7 p.m. on August 23. If other arrangements need to be made, contact James Barnhart. Flies not picked up will be donated to the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Competition or returned to the contestant at a later date.

HERITAGE CONTESTS

Rural Americana Olde Tyme Competitions

Farm Bureau Pioneer Hall

Contact: Regina Pirtle | 515-669-3120

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

No advanced registration required for the following contests. Sign up begins about 30 to 60 minutes prior to the contest. First prize of \$5 and ribbons awarded to each class.

Wednesday, August 12:

Tallest Corn Contest, 1 p.m.

Corn is judged for the tallest stalk, tassel length included. Division 1: Iowa's Tall Corn Contest, Division 2: America's Tall Corn Contest. All corn will be dropped off at Pioneer Hall on Wednesday, August 12 between 8 a.m. and Noon. Judging and measuring will take place at noon on August 12. All corn stalks will stay in Pioneer Hall for the duration of the Fair.

Thursday, August 13:

Turkey Calling, 10:30 a.m.

Each participant must do four specific calls, plus a call of their choice (can be a repeat). Each call must be given twice. Ages: 4-16; 17 and over.

Duck Calling, 11 a.m.

Each participant is given a three-minute limit. Ages: 4-16; 17 and over.

All entries must be in by noon

Youth Rooster Crowing, 1 p.m.

Each child can give their rooster call twice. Ages: 5-16.

Ladies' Chicken Calling, 1:30 p.m.

Each participant can give her call twice. Ages: 17 and over.

Monday, August 17:

Piano Playing Contest, Youth 10 a.m., Adult 10:30 a.m. Three-minute time limit. May use sheet music. Ages: 5-16; 17 and over.

Harmonica, Youth 1 p.m., Adult 1:30 p.m.

Three-minute time limit. Ages: 5-16; 17 and over.

Accordion (Solo), 2:30 p.m.

Four-minute time limit. Keyboard and button.

Tuesday, August 18:

Beard Growing Contest, 10:30 a.m.

Categories: Best Groomed, Longest Beard, Most Unique Beard Design, Most Historic Nature and Best Beard Design with Costume.

Timber Sports, 1 p.m.

One-woman Crosscut, Ladies Bow Saw, Sawing with Bucksaw. One- man Crosscut, Two-men Crosscut, Bow Saw. Participants must be 18 or over.

Wednesday, August 19:

Cow Chip Throwing, 11 a.m.

One try; participant is disqualified if foot goes over the line or if cow chip goes beyond boundaries. Youth ages 5-16; Men 17 and over; Women 17 and over; VIP.

Ladies' Rubber Chicken Throwing, 2 p.m.

Ages: 16-50; 51 and older.

Thursday, August 20:

Children's Singing (Solo), 10:30 a.m.

Two tunes or three minutes. May have accompaniment. Ages: 5-12.

Yodeling (Solo), 11:30 a.m.

Two tunes or three minutes. May have accompaniment. Ages: 5 and over.

Whistling (Solo), Youth 1:30 p.m. (ages 16 and under), Adult 2 p.m. (ages 17 and older)

Two tunes or three minutes. May have accompaniment.

Friday, August 21:

Husband Calling, 10 a.m.

One-minute time limit. Ages: 17 and older.

Mom Calling, Ages: 5-9 11 a.m., Ages: 10-15 11:30 a.m. May do call twice.

Children's Joke Telling, 1 p.m. One Joke. Ages: 5-9.

Hog Calling, Youth 2 p.m., Adult 2:30 p.m.

May do call twice. Three-minute time limit. No live pigs allowed. Ages: 5-16; 17 and over.

Saturday, August 22:

Ladies Nail Driving Contest, 10:30 a.m.

Each participant is given six nails; one is extra and five need to be nailed flush within one square marked on the board. Each person must put hammer down as soon as finished and put hands up. Ages: 18 and over.

Sunday, August 23:

Mother/Daughter Look-A-Like, 1 p.m. Contestants will be judged on mannerisms, voice, walk and anything that makes them alike.

HAT PARADE

Wednesday, August 19 • 10 a.m.

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Anne and Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi with media sponsor iHeart Radio

Contact: Sandy Bruns | 319-651-5083

DESCRIPTION: Decorate or create any type of hat.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION: HAT PARADE

1. Examples: Vintage hat, homemade, everything Iowa State Fair, etc.
2. Purchased hats must have at least one personal touch added.
3. Adults only will be allowed.



IOWA AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION BID CALLING

Tuesday, August 18 • 9 a.m.

Selling Order Drawing: 8:30 a.m.

Anne and Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi with media sponsor iHeart Radio

Contact: Heath DeYoung | 515-480-5633 | hedeyoung@agribiz.org

DESCRIPTION: Participants show their skills in accepting bids and declaring goods sold.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry fee:

\$25 for Iowa Association Members

\$85 for Non-Iowa Association Members (includes IAA dues and entry fee)

1. Make checks payable to Iowa Auctioneers Association.
2. Must be 18 years of age to enter.
3. Officers and directors of Iowa Auctioneers Association cannot enter.
4. Contestants will bring three items of their choice. State Association will retain 25 percent commission to help defray expenses.
5. Dress shirt and tie required (coat optional).
6. Contestants will be judged on speed, bid calling ability, salesmanship and appearance.
7. Three judges, either auctioneers or persons attending numerous auctions, will declare the winners. All decisions are final.
8. The first five place winners will receive ribbons. Winners must attend the Fall Iowa Auctioneers Convention to receive prize money.
 - Champion: \$1000
 - Reserve Champion: \$100
 - First Runner-Up: \$50
 - Second and Third Runners-Up: \$25
9. Entry forms are due by August 1, 2026. Contact Heath DeYoung for entry forms.



IOWA PARKS & RECREATION DAY

Thursday, August 20 • 8 a.m.

Contact: Austin Tasler | 515-554-6678 | austintasler@yahoo.com

DESCRIPTION: Various contests celebrate a healthy lifestyle.

Bubble Gum Blowing Contest, Anne and Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi with media sponsor iHeart.

9 a.m.

Elk's Spot Shot, Grand Concourse

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Pie Eating Contest, Anne and Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi with media sponsor iHeart

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Big Wheel Races, Grand Concourse

11 a.m. to Noon

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Scavenger Hunt, Grand Concourse

1 p.m.

Sidewalk Tattoo, Grand Concourse

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



MICRO-MINI TRACTOR PULL

Sunday, August 16 • 9 a.m.

Registration: 8 a.m.

Susan Knapp Amphitheater sponsored by Prairie Meadows with media sponsor WHO 13

Contact: Jim Adams | 515-745-1028 | skidoo8000@yahoo.com

DESCRIPTION: Miniature handmade tractors compete to pull the heaviest load at the fastest speed.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Contact Jim for registration information.
2. Entrants are limited to two units per class.
3. Units will be weighed and the hitch checked after each pull during the competition.
4. Competition will be held in the following classes:
 - 3-lb. Pro-stock tractors
 - 5-lb. Pro-stock tractors
 - 4-lb. Two-wheel drive
 - 5-lb. Super stock
 - 6-lb. Four-wheel drive
 - Open class (limited to six pounds)
 - 7-lb. Semi



MONSTER ARM WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sanctioned by World Monster Association

Sunday, August 16 • 1 p.m.

Weigh-ins: 10 a.m. - Noon

Penningroth Sale Ring (Located in the John and Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn)

Contact: Lee Ann Krough | 641-751-6265 | monsterarmwrestling@yahoo.com

DESCRIPTION: Competitors arm wrestle their opponents with a Monster Arm Wrestling machine to determine a winner.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Entry Fee: \$25

1. First, second and third-place trophies will be awarded for each class.
2. All competition will be on regulation tables under the direction of certified referees.
3. Weights will be verified on the day of the tournament.
4. Five pound scale allowance; double elimination.
5. Classes:

Men's Right Hand:

Bantamweight:	130 lbs. and under
Flyweight:	131-150 lbs.
Lightweight:	151-175 lbs.
Middleweight:	176-200 lbs.
Heavyweight:	201-235 lbs.
Super Heavyweight:	236 lbs. and over

Men's Left Hand:

Flyweight:	150 lbs. and under
Lightweight:	151-175 lbs.
Middleweight:	176-200 lbs.
Heavyweight:	201 lbs. and over

Women's Right Hand:

Bantamweight:	130 lbs. and under
Flyweight:	131-150 lbs.
Lightweight:	151-175 lbs.
Middleweight:	176 lbs. and over

Women's Left Hand:

Flyweight	150 and under
Lightweight	151 and over

STAR 102.5 MR. LEGS CONTEST

Saturday, August 15

Registration: Noon - 1 p.m.

Registration will take place onsite the day of the event. No pre-registration is required prior to the event.

Contest: 1 - 2 p.m.

MidAmerican Energy Stage sponsored by Iowa Reality with media sponsor
KCCI 8

Contact: Alexa McCunn | 515-309-4337 | amcunn@desmoinesmediagroup.com

DESCRIPTION: Entrants compete for five different titles based on the appearance.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Any man 18 or older can compete in the contest. You must be registered at the check-in table during the registration period prior to the event for the chance to compete. *Please note: this is a family event, so please be sure to keep things family-friendly.*

1. Participants will be judged by a panel of judges on the appearance of their legs for the chance to win five different titles based on the categories below.
2. **Mr. Legs Categories:**
 - Thinnest legs
 - Hairiest Legs
 - Palest Legs
 - Tannest Legs
 - Mr. Legs Champion



93.3 KIOA'S MULLET CONTEST

Saturday, August 15

Registration: 10 - 11 a.m.

Registration will take place onsite the day of the event. No pre-registration is required prior to the event.

Contest: 11 a.m. - Noon

MidAmerican Energy Stage with Iowa Realty and media sponsor KCCI 8

Contact: Alexa McCunn | 515-309-4337 | amcunn@desmoinesmediagroup.com

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

Anybody can compete in the contest. You must be registered at the check-in table during the registration period prior to the event for the chance to compete. *Please note: this is a family event, so please be sure to keep things family-friendly.*

1. Mullets will be judged on creativity and originality of design.
2. Each age group will have a top-voted contender, and those winners will then compete against each other for the chance to be crowned the best mullet overall.

Mullet Age Groups:

- 5 & Under
- 6-12
- 13-17
- 18+



PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

Sanctioned by Iowa State Pulling Association

Wednesday, August 19 • 10 a.m.

Registration: 9 a.m.

Elwell Family Park

Contact: Katie Cordray | 660-342-2978 | hawkeyepedalpull1@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION: Kids foot pedal tractors to get as far as they can while hauling weights behind them.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Boys and girls will compete separately in the following age groups: 4-year-olds, 5-year-olds, 6-year-olds, 7-year-olds, 8-year-olds, 9-year-olds, 10-year-olds and 11-year-olds.
2. A full pull will be 40 feet.
3. Judges' decisions will be final.



TWINS, TRIPLETS & MORE CONTEST

Thursday, August 13 • 9 a.m. RESCHEDULED TO AUGUST 23, 2026

Registration: 8:15 a.m.

Anne and Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi with media sponsor iHeart Radio

Contact: Angie Ault | 515-202-6611 | angiesmbq@msn.com

DESCRIPTION: Entrants are divided into age brackets and judged on how similar they look.

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Judging will begin with the youngest age.
2. Judges will award ribbons for the most alike and least alike in each of the following age groups: Infants under 1 year; 1 year; 2 years; 3 years; 4 years; 5-6 years; 7-8 years; 9-17 years; 18 and over.



YOUTH SPELLING BEE

Friday, August 14 • 9 a.m.

Located in the Penningroth Sale Ring (in the John and Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn)

Contact: Mason Sander | 712-209-0919 | masonsander.1@gmail.com

Registration and pre-fair questions contact: Carly Cox | specialevents@iowastatefair.org

RULES AND CONTEST INFORMATION

1. Individuals competing in the State Fair Spelling Bee must qualify under the following basic requirements:

- a. They must have completed school in the grade level of competition they enter;
- b. They must NOT have reached ON OR BEFORE January 1, 2026 their ninth (9) birthday for First and Second grade competition; their eleventh (11) birthday for Third and Fourth grade competition; and thirteenth (13) birthday for Fifth and Sixth grade competition.

2. Words used in the State Fair Spelling Bee shall be selected from the Scripps National Spelling Bee Word list. (Practice lists will be mailed out in July).

3. Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings Scripps National Spelling Bee Word list rules. With the approval of the judges, he/she may give a fuller explanation of the meaning of the words to supplement the dictionary definition or definitions quoted. 4. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant will be encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it. However, no contestant will be eliminated for failing to pronounce a word.

5. The contestant may request the pronouncer to pronounce the word again, define it or use it in a sentence. If the contestant has a specific root word in mind, the contestant may ask if the dictionary lists that word as the root of the word to be spelled. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. **THE JUDGES MAY DISQUALIFY ANY CONTESTANT WHO IGNORES A REQUEST TO START SPELLING.**

6. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing there can be NO change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence is changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.

7. The State Fair Spelling Bee shall be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the Bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round and each subsequent round, except as provided in rules 9, 10, and 11. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a contestant immediately drops out of the contest, except as provided in rules 10 and 11.

8. The State Fair Spelling Bee shall be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the Bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round and each subsequent round, except as provided in rules 9, 10, and 11.

9. If none of the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, all shall remain in the competition.

10. If only one of the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, the contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list. If the contestant succeeds in correctly spelling the new word, the contestant shall be declared the champion. Otherwise, all the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of the round shall remain in the competition. A new round will begin, with all of the contestants spelling in their original order.

11. When there are only five contestants left in the competition and one of the contestants misspells a word, the next contestant must spell the next two words correctly in order to eliminate the speller who misspelled his/her word. We continue in this fashion until we have only one person remaining.

12. Scripps National Spelling Bee shall serve as the final authority for the spellings of words in the State Fair Spelling Bee. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct if the word either matches the pronunciation and definition provided by the pronouncer, or if it is clearly identified as being a standard variant of the word that the contestant has been asked to spell. Spelling at other locations having archaic, obsolete or regional labels (such as North, Midland, South, British, Irish) that are different from those at the main entry will NOT be accepted as correct.

13. If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer will indicate which word is to be spelled. If the listed word is not properly identified, either by defining it or by distinguishing the homonyms, any correct spelling of any homonym of the word will be accepted.

14. Any questions relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the designated official immediately in writing on a grievance form. The deadline for filing a grievance is before the contestant affected would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the contest. No grievance will be entertained after that word has been given to another speller. When only two spellers remain, an oral grievance must be made immediately, that is, before the second speller has started to spell the word given to him/her, or, if both have missed the same word, before the corrected spelling is given to the audience.

15. The judges are in complete control of the Bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions. Previous winners in each Bee may not compete again in the age group they have won.



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