

2026 Iowa State Fair Food Department Seminar Schedule
Elwell Family Food Center - Room 4

Schedule is subject to change. Please visit www.iowastatefair.org for the most up to date schedule.

Thursday, August 13

- 10:30 am - 11:30 am "We Eat with Our Eyes First, What Comes Next"
Lois Aldridge - ISF Food Department Judge
- 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm "Let's Talk Cake"
Gloria Olson - Owner of Glorious Desserts, specializing in custom cakes and artisan desserts for 27 years; trained at the French Pastry School in Chicago and the French Culinary Institute in New York; cakes have been featured in *American Cake Decorating*, *Better Homes and Gardens Scrapbooking*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *The International Cake Exploration Magazine*, *Mailbox News*, *The Chicago Sun Times*, *The Des Moines Register*, *the Des Moines Business Record*, *Honolulu Advertiser*, *The Californian*, *Clarion-Ledger*, *Reno Gazette Journal*, *USA Today*, KCCI 8, WHOTV 13 and WOI 5; ISF Food Department Judge
- 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm "Yeast Bread for Beginners"
Kay Fenton Smith - Co-Author of *Baking Blue Ribbon Winners*
(Proceeds of book sales are donated to the ISF Food Department)

Friday, August 14

- 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm "How to Enter the Iowa State Fair Food Competition and Win"
Cassandra Hyatt - ISF Food Department Judge with Degree in Restaurant Management
- 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm "How Does It All Come Together"
Perspectives and experiences in the Iowa State Fair Food Department: Panel Discussion - ISF Food Department Staff and Judges, sponsored by Bret & Amy Doerring

Saturday August 15

- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm TBA

Sunday, August 16

- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm "Winning Ways with Cinnamon Rolls"
Lana Shope - Owner of Pies and Pastries by Lana; ISF Food Department Judge

Tuesday, August 18

- 11:30 am - 12:30 pm "What My Grandma Did Every Summer - A History of Food Preservation"
Cassandra Hyatt - ISF Food Department Judge with Degree in Restaurant Management
- 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm "Culinary History of Iowa"
Darcy Maulsby - 5th generation farmer and Iowa storyteller; author of several books including: *Culinary History of Iowa*, *Calhoun County*, *Iowa Agriculture: A History of Farming, Family and Food*, *Classic Restaurants of Des Moines and Their Recipes*

Wednesday, August 19

10:30 am - 11:30 am "History & Health Benefits of Sourdough Baking "
Diane Ward - Director with Pampered Chef, celebrating her 31st year with the Pampered Chef;
ISF Food Department Judge

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm "How to Enter the Iowa State Fair Food Competition and Win"
Cassandra Hyatt - ISF Food Department Judge with Degree in Restaurant Management

Thursday, August 20

Noon - 1:30 pm "Creative Quick Breads"
Kay Fenton Smith - Co-Author of *Baking Blue Ribbon Winners*
(Proceeds of book sales are donated to the ISF Food Department)

Saturday, August 22

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm TBA

Sunday, August 23

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm "Winning Ways with Cinnamon Rolls"
Lana Shope - Owner of Pies and Pastries by Lana; ISF Food Department Judge

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm "Pies by Dianna"
Room 2 Dianna Zaiger Sheehy - Winner of the Crisco American Pie Celebration at the 1985 Iowa State Fair; competed in the 1989 National Crisco Pie Celebration and received 2nd place with rhubarb pie; competed again at Nationals in 1993 with fresh peach pie and placed in the top 10; invited by Food Network in 2006 to present a video about competition on the topic of Pie Baking; ISF Food Department Judge