

TO: FFA Dairy Cattle Exhibitors
FROM: FFA Entry Department



Thank you for entering the Iowa State Fair! Your exhibitor admission ticket and unload permit have been sent to your advisor. Each exhibitor will be given one unload permit that allows 30 minutes to unload animals and tack, but does not provide parking. The vehicle unload permit has been dated for the Youth Dairy Cattle Show. Please enter the Fairgrounds through **Gate 6**. Vehicles without a permit will not be allowed to enter the Fairgrounds. *Reminder, streets adjacent to the livestock barns will be reserved for unloading/loading, no parking will be allowed on these streets including during PreFair.

All trailers will be parked off grounds. NOTE: Please remember to bring wood blocks to use when parking/setting your trailer.

Upon arrival please take your animals' health certificates to the Veterinary Office (located on the South side of the Cattle Barn) for approval. Health certificates must be examined, approved and stamped by the veterinarian in the Veterinary Office prior to animals being checked in. **Veterinary office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., please plan your arrival accordingly.** Health certificates not completed properly will be denied and the owner will be required to obtain a new certificate at owner's expense. The Iowa State Fair must be listed as the destination.

FFA DAIRY CATTLE SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, August 11

8:00 a.m. Dairy Cattle may arrive

Wednesday, August 12

9:00 a.m. Dairy Cattle must be in

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. T-shirts & exhibitor numbers must be picked up by the Cattle Barn Office

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Entries checked – please remain at your stalls and wait for check-in crews to come to you

4:00 p.m. All substitute showmanship forms must be submitted to the Superintendent

Thursday, August 13

4:00 p.m. Dairy Awards Program – Penningroth Sale Ring

Friday, August 14

5:00 p.m. Youth Dairy Cattle Showmanship – Livestock Pavilion

Saturday, August 15

8:30 a.m. Youth Dairy Cattle Show - Livestock Pavilion

5:00 p.m. Dairy Cattle released by zone

(or after Gov. Steer Show)

Sunday, August 16

7:00 a.m. Dairy Cattle must be out

Check-in: FFA members or a designated person **must stay with their animals until clerks have verified your entries.** Have your registration papers ready for the clerks. Animals housed with the Open Class dairy animals will be checked-in by the Open Class clerks as early as possible Wednesday afternoon. **Please do not leave your cattle until they are checked in.** We appreciate your cooperation as we try to speed up the check-in process.

DHI records should also be available on animals qualifying for production premiums. **It is up to the exhibitor to inform clerks that your animals qualify for the production premiums. Production information – milk and combined records must be shared at check-in time with the check-in crew.** Documentation (DHI records) must be present at check-in time in order to be eligible for this award.

Please read all FFA Department and General and rules and regulations listed in the Premium Book sections online. A few rules to note:

- All FFA exhibitors are expected to conduct themselves in a cooperative and courteous manner while participating in FFA events at the Iowa State Fair.
- At any time after an animal arrives on the Fair or livestock show premises **medication of any kind is to be administered to livestock animals by an Official Iowa State Fair Veterinarian ONLY.** If an FFA exhibitor or his/her assistant administers a shot or medication, this exhibitor shall be barred from showing and premiums will be taken away.
- All levels of registry are acceptable. (Registration papers or identified grade papers must match the animal.)
- **NEW IN 2026:** No aerosol cans may be used in the Livestock Pavilion.

Livestock Release Procedure:

To help alleviate traffic congestion and expedite load out procedures, a process for livestock release will be used again this year. Please familiarize yourself with the following steps. Cooperation from all exhibitors is greatly appreciated and will provide a better experience for everyone.

1. Exhibitor will go to the barn office to obtain a release form no earlier than 30 minutes before scheduled release time.
2. Exhibitor will take the release form to the appropriate trailer lot to receive their load-out mirror hanger. **ALL** vehicles picking up livestock **MUST** go to a trailer lot to get a load-out mirror hanger before being allowed on the Fairgrounds.
3. Trucks and trailers will be lined up according to species/barn.
4. Vehicles will be released from trailer lots to the Fairgrounds.

In coordination with Metro Waste Authority, the Iowa State Fair will dispose of waste livestock bedding as a compostable material. In addition to being environmentally friendly, this program puts our waste to better use and helps reduce disposal costs. We need the help of exhibitors, superintendents and attendees to make this program successful. Please make sure to keep bedding clear of unaccepted material such as paper, cans, show supplies, feed bags or leftover food that could disrupt the composting process. Your cooperation is much appreciated!

Please make every effort to keep your entire area clean and neat. The aisles must be open at all times to the public. Thank you for helping us put on a great display of quality show animals for all visitors and other exhibitors.

If you have any questions, please contact the FFA Entry Department at 515-262-3111 ext. 246 or ffa@iowastatefair.org.

Thank you and good luck at the 2026 Iowa State Fair!