



Welcome!

Whether you're new to livestock or have years of experience, this guide is here to give you a clear, practical overview of what to expect and how to succeed. Think of this as your go-to reference for the basics, the must-knows, and the little details that can make a big difference.

What This Guide is About:

The 2026 Livestock Guide is your all-in-one reference for navigating the fairgrounds as an exhibitor. This guide is built to give you the key information you need to know-where to go, when to be there, who to contact, and what to expect throughout the event. Keep this guide handy-it's designed to answer your questions quickly and help you stay prepared from arrival to load-out. We're excited to have you as part of the Iowa State Fair livestock community and wish you a successful and enjoyable fair!



2026 Iowa State Fair Theme: “Fair Spirit”

As the nation approaches a landmark milestone, the Iowa state Fair is poised to play a part in the 250th anniversary-or semi quincentennial of our Nation's founding. From August 13 to 23, 2026, get ready to show your "Fair Spirit" with a theme fit for a once in-a-generation celebration.



FAIR SCHEDULE

You can find the complete Fair schedule at www.iowastatefair.org in July or on the official Iowa State Fair App. It is also printed in the Des Moines Register on August 9, 2026, and distributed at all Iowa State Fair gates. A shortened printed daily program is distributed at all gates and available at www.iowastatefair.org or by scanning the QR code.



MAPS

Maps are posted in most buildings and all information booths. A grounds map can also be found in the Daily Program or Daily Schedule Pocket Guides, on the Official Iowa State Fair App and at www.iowastatefair.org.



LIVESTOCK SCHEDULE & SHOW PROGRAMS

View full livestock schedules at:

<https://www.iowastatefair.org/competition/livestock-schedules>

Show programs will be posted after livestock check-ins are complete.

You can view show programs here:

<https://www.iowastatefair.org/competition/show-programs>



IOWA STATE FAIR COMPETITIVE EVENT'S LOCATION & HOURS

The Iowa State Fair Competitive Events Department is located on the lower east side of the Administration Building (North of the Anne & Bill Riley Stage).

Entry Office Fair Hours:

Aug. 8 - Aug. 9: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Aug. 10 - Aug. 11: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Aug. 12 - Aug. 23: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

IOWA STATE FAIR COMPETITIVE EVENT'S STAFF CONTACTS

515-262-3111 ext. 207

Beef & Dairy Cattle	ext. 247	cattle@iowastatefair.org
FFA	ext. 246	ffa@iowastatefair.org
Horse	ext. 241	horse@iowastatefair.org
Llama	ext. 243	entryintern1@iowastatefair.org
Pet Stock (Dog, Poultry and Rabbit)	ext. 267	entryintern2@iowastatefair.org
Sheep, Swine, and Goats	ext. 269	entryintern3@iowastatefair.org

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS & LIVESTREAM

Equine:
Tisha Pol Photography
<http://www.tishapol.com>

Sheep/Swine/Goats:
Empire Imagery
<http://www.empireimagery.com>

Beef Cattle:
Linde's Livestock Photos
<https://www.lindeslivestockphotos.com>

Livestream: **Walton Webcasting** <https://www.waltonwebcasting.com/>

LIVESTOCK CARE INFORMATION

VETERINARY OFFICE

The Veterinary Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., August 11-23. Please schedule your arrival to give yourself ample time to go to the Veterinary Office for checking health certificates. Location: Across from the swine barn next to Stockman's Inn.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

Please review the Health Requirements posted on the Iowa State Fair website.

Health Papers must be within 30 days of arrival to the Fairgrounds (14 days for sheep, 7 days for swine).

Health Papers must include the name of the owner/exhibitor and 911 address of the site the animal(s) resides, plus the name and 911 address of the exhibition. Exhibition address: Iowa State Fair | 3000 East Grand Avenue | Des Moines IA 50317

Health Papers shall only be used for **one** exhibition.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES NOT COMPLETED PROPERLY WILL BE DENIED AND THE OWNER WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A NEW CERTIFICATE AT OWNER'S EXPENSE.

Falsifying or tampering with a health certificate is a federal and state offense and will be grounds for disqualification and removal of all animals listed on the health certificate. (Iowa Code 136.18 and 136.24) Official State Fair Veterinarians are available to inspect animals and complete health certificates if a problem develops.

Contact information for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS):

- **Phone:** (515) 281-5321
- **Email:** info@iowaagriculture.gov
- **Address:** 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319

Feeding/Bedding/Ice: Hours, Location, Contact Info:

Hours: 7 AM – 8:30 PM

515-262-3111 x 256

Located North of the Youth Inn

MAP'S & MORE

Load-Out Procedures

Load-Out Procedures can be found in your exhibitor letters you received.

Parking & Trailer Maps (New this year)

Please note that parking areas have changed for the 2026 Iowa State Fair. The **SODA lots** are new this year, although these areas have been used for parking in previous years under different names. In addition, some parking lots located on the Fairgrounds in past years are **no longer available**. Exhibitors are encouraged to scan the QR code To review the updated 2026 parking map before arriving at the Fair.

**Release of Exhibits:**

All livestock release dates are listed in the special rules for each department, and permission for initial release must be obtained from department superintendent. Any exhibitor removing animals from the grounds prior to release date and time, without special permission, will forfeit all premiums earned; no pen/stall fees paid will be refunded. See special rules in each department for date and time when exhibits are released

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Department: 515-262-3931

Medical: 515-262-3111 ext. 255

Fire: 515-262-3111 ext. 255

The Iowa State Fair Police Department is located in the Public Safety Building, on Grand Avenue across from Gate 11 and is open 24 hours/day.

FIRST AID: The Hy-Vee Health and First Aid Center is located east of the John Deere Agriculture Building. A satellite station is in the Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center, west of the Administration Building. Both are staffed by Des Moines Fire and Rescue.

LOST & FOUND: Lost & found articles and inquiries are handled by the Iowa State Fair Police Department. The Public Safety Building is located at the west end of the Grand Concourse, 515-262-3931.

LOST CHILDREN/ADULT PAGING: Lost children and persons with special needs should be taken to the Public Safety Building at the west end of Grand Avenue. Paging is done from the Public Safety Building from 9 a.m. until midnight and is only available for lost children or persons with special needs and medical emergencies. The “Kid Find” wristbands will be available at all Information booths, the Public Safety Building, the Hall of Law and at the Des Moines Radio Group booth at the west end of the Grandstand. Wristbands are sponsored by Goodwill Industries in partnership with STAR 102.5, the Iowa State Fair Police and the Iowa State Patrol.

SECURITY: Weapons of any kind, including firearms, are prohibited, with or without a valid Iowa permit to carry. All guests should plan for extra time at entry points due to bag checks, metal detectors, and other security procedures. The Iowa State Fair reserves the right to search all bags, backpacks, coolers, purses, and other containers upon entry to the Fairgrounds, and upon request while on the Fairgrounds. Refusal to comply will result in denied entry or removal from the grounds. There will be additional bag searches upon entering the Grandstand. For a list of prohibited items at the Iowa State Fair and in the Grandstand, please see

www.iowastatefair.org/safety.

TEXT ALERTS: Stay up to date on the latest Iowa State Fair news and events with Iowa State Fair text alerts!

Text **FAIR to 844-844-8508** for special offers, updates on concerts and daily activities, weather alerts and more. Message frequency varies. No purchase is necessary. By texting in, you agree to receive auto-dialed marketing messages at the number provided. Message & data rates may apply.

HOURS

AUGUST 13 – 22

Grounds: 8 AM – Midnight

Buildings: 9 AM – 8 PM

August 13 – 22: No on-site ticket sales and no entry/re-entry allowed after 10 PM

AUGUST 23

Grounds: 8 AM – 9 PM

Buildings: 9 AM – 8 PM

August 23: No on-site ticket sales and no entry/re-entry allowed after 10 PM

TICKET OFFICE HOURS

Pre-fair hours: (Admin Building):

opens July 6 – Monday-Friday: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

Fair Hours: (Moved to East Grandstand Ticket Office) Aug 13 – 23; 10 AM – 9 AM

Guest Relations Office:

(Administration Building): 8 AM - 11 PM

August 13-23

Pre-fair extended hours

(Administration Building & Gate 15): August 2 - August 6

Saturday, August 8: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

Sunday, August 9: 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Monday, August 10: 8 AM - 6 PM

Tuesday, August 11: 8 AM - 6 PM

Wednesday, August 12: 8 AM - 8 AM

PRE-FAIR GATE HOURS (AUGUST 8-12)

Gates 5 and 8 are open 24 hours/day for vehicles

Gates 14 and 15 are open 24 hours/day for pedestrians

Gate 2: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Gate 6: 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Gate 9: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Gate 13: 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Gate 16: 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Gates 3, 4, 7 and 11 are not used during pre-Fair time

FAIRTIME GATE HOURS

Gates 5 and 8 are open 24 hours/day

Gates 10, 11 and 15 open to pedestrian traffic only beginning at 7 a.m. All other gates are open to vehicle and pedestrian traffic at 7 a.m.

*Gates are open to the public at 8 a.m.

Fair Hours: (Grandstand):

Every day: 9 AM – 9 PM

General Fair Questions?

Call 515-262-3111 or 800-545-FAIR

Additional information is also available at www.iowastatefair.org

GENERAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEELCHAIRS & SCOOTERS: Scooters and wheelchairs are available for rent from HomeTown Mobility. Reserve scooters ahead of time online at www.htmia.com or call 712-938-2029, or scooters and wheelchairs are available at Gates 8, 10, 11, 13 and 15. Call-in reservations will be charged with a \$5 processing fee. Personal golf carts are not allowed on the Fairgrounds. A limited number of wheelchairs and electric scooters will be available for walk-up customers during the Fair on a first come, first-served basis. A driver's license or State ID is required for scanning security. Cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance to receive a full refund. Late cancellations will be charged a \$5 cancellation fee per rental unit.

Wheelchairs: \$30 per day

Scooters: \$75 per day (8 a.m. to 11 p.m.); scooters cannot be reserved for a half day.

AIR-CONDITIONED BUILDINGS:

Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building
John and Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn
Penningroth Media Center
Patty and Jim Cownie Cultural Center
Walnut Center

Richard L. Easter Museum Complex
William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building
Maytag Family Theaters Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center
Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center

Ralph H. Deets Historical Museum
Richard O. Jacobson Hall/Kenyon Gallery
Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center
Elwell Family Food Center
FFA Display Building
Pioneer Livestock Pavilion

ATMS: Approximately 25 ATMS are located throughout the grounds, including outside or inside the major entrance gates. Some other locations include just outside the Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center and on the northeast side of the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building. See the ground map for additional locations.

ACCESSIBILITY: Accessibility Guide: Available at information booths, the Administration Building and www.iowastatefair.org/visit/disability-assistance.

ON-GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Blue Line Parking shuttles sponsored by Chevron run daily from 5:30 a.m. until 1 a.m. The Blue Line Parking shuttles have 5 routine stops and will stop at Gate 13 & 15 for entry to the Fair.

- Stop 1 Lot C
- Stop 2 Lot C
- Stop 3 Lot B
- Stop 4 Gate 15 Unload
- Stop 5 Gate 13 Unload/Load
- Stop 6 Gate 15 Load

Free shuttles operated by Clearfield Lions run daily beginning at 8 a.m. One wheelchair accessible unit will be available approximately every 15 minutes. These shuttles run continuously from First Church to Pioneer Hall to the campgrounds. Shuttles are open to all Fairgoers.

Golf-cart mini-shuttle service (not wheelchair accessible) is available from Lots A, B and C to Gates 13 and 15 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. While offered as a free service, riders may make donations to the Shriners Children's Hospital and the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine Transportation Fund. Golf carts are not available for rent for safety and liability reasons

Courtesy Cart Info:

Mobility Assistance Cart rides are available for Fairgoers who may need help navigating the Fairgrounds. Volunteer-operated six-seat golf carts will run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from five designated information about Booth's locations. The Mobility Assistance Carts will travel fixed routes between information Boob and passengers may be dropped off at the closest point along the route to their destination. Mobility Assistance Cart pick-up and drop-off locations will be at Gate 11, Gate 10, the Cattle Barn area at Rock Island and Logan, Grand Avenue in front of the Bud Tent and near Gate 4 by the Fire Station. Look for the clearly marked "Mobility Assistance Cart" signs at each location.

SUPERINTENDENTS, COORDINATORS & SUPERVISORS

Competitive Events Director	Jennifer Cannon	Food	Pat Berry, Urbandale
Competitive Events Entry Coordinator	Tracy Wiseman	Heritage	Regina Pirtle, Carlisle
4-H Exhibits Building	Gail Castillo, Ames	Horse	Noah Levy, Ankeny
4-H Livestock	Celine Beggs-Shoemaker, Ames	Horse Pulling	Daniel Gray, Villisca
Agricultural & Horticultural Crops	Ronda Magnusson, Hartford	Horseshoe Pitching	Ralph Davis, Ankeny
Agriculture Building	Mary Boysen, Wapello	Iowa Commercial Wine	Iowa Wine Growers Association
Apiary	Andy Joseph, Des Moines	Iowa Dairy Products	Sarah Canova & Danielle Christofferson, Ames
Art Attack	Kristie Ortiz, West Des Moines	Livestock Control	Doug Hlas, Traer
Avenue of Breeds	North Polk FFA, Alleman	Livestock Pavilion	Gene Parham, Corydon
Beef Cattle	Tim Heindel, Columbus Junction	Llama	Irene Gerwig, Winterset
Boer Goat	Gavin Tindle, Montezuma	Oenology	Jeff Postal, Ankeny
Creative Arts & Crafts	Kris Jones, Eldora	Photography	Pam Deichmann, Winterset & Christina Young, Indianola
Cultural Center	Charlotte Banks, St. Charles	Poultry	Diana Dahir, Minden
Dairy Cattle	Mike Eilers, Urbana	Rabbit	Becky Stock, West Des Moines
Dairy Goat	Beth Konen, Maxwell	Sheep, Sheep Shearing, Stock Dog Trials	Don Hummel, Elk Horn
Dog	Helena Lloyd, Des Moines	Spin & Knit	Jean Gross, Charles City
Doll Houses & Miniature Rooms	Lori Bauer, Washington	Swine	Ernie Barnes, Adel
Fabric & Threads	Anna Pilcher, Norwalk	Wood Projects	Brenda Rekenenthaler, Des Moines
FFA	Dennis Meggers, Truro	Youth Inn	Kathy Comer, Benton
Fine Art	Teri Templeton Cadman, Des Moines	Youth Livestock Judging	ISU Livestock Judging Team, Ames
Floriculture	Barry Laws, Indianola		