

STOCK DOG TRIALS

Superintendent - Don Hummel, Elk Horn

Sponsored by: Iowa State Fair

Directed by: Iowa Stockdog Handler's Association

Trial Field - Outdoor Arena

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, August 19

7:45 a.m. Veterinary Check (must have current rabies certificate)
8:30 a.m. Trials Begin

For questions, please contact the Iowa State Fair Entry Department at 515-262-3111 ext. 269 or entryintern3@iowastatefair.org.

RULES

1. Open Cattle and Sheep classes are sanctioned by USBCHA and ISDHA. Ranch classes are sanctioned by ISDHA.
2. Open Class Livestock general rules, regulations and health requirements apply in this department. In case general rules conflict with Stock Dog Trials Department general or special rules, the latter shall govern.
3. **ENTRY DEADLINE IS JULY 15.** Entries **must be made online** at <https://www.iowastatefair.org/>. No late entries accepted.
4. **ENTRY FEE.** Open Class Cattle - \$45 per dog; Ranch Cattle - \$40 per dog; Open Class Sheep - \$35 per dog; Ranch Sheep - \$30 per dog.
5. **ADMISSION TICKETS.** Each exhibitor must purchase one discounted admission ticket at \$11 when making entry. Additional tickets may be purchased. Discounted tickets for children 6-11 years old may be purchased for \$7 each. Without admission tickets, the full price of \$16 (adults) and \$10 (children) per day will be charged at the gate.
6. **VEHICLE PERMITS.** Each exhibitor may purchase a vehicle parking permit at \$10 per day. Each exhibitor is limited to two Fairgrounds lot permits per day. Vehicle permits must be purchased in advance by indicating the specific days needed on the Entry Form. Each vehicle permit will park one car or truck (no trailers) in a Fairgrounds lot for the specified day(s). Vehicle permits are required to park in Fairgrounds lots on a space available basis. Parking will not be available at the gate.
7. **RABIES CERTIFICATE.** All dogs must be accompanied by a current rabies certificate and shown to the State Veterinarian.
8. All breeds of dogs are eligible to compete. Breed registration is not needed.
9. Only dogs entered in trial allowed on grounds.
10. Dogs may work cattle, sheep or both, but must enter each class.
11. Previous Ranch Class winners must enter the Open Class.
12. Dogs entered in Ranch Class may not have run in Open Class.
13. Classes will be:
 - 1 Open Cattle
 - 2 Ranch Cattle
 - 3 Open Sheep
 - 4 Ranch Sheep
14. The cattle trial will be point and time only with a deduction for a cross-over on outrun. Obstacles and point system will be announced at handlers' meeting immediately before start of each division. Open dogs will be expected to complete an outrun, lift fetch, drive, cross drive, pen and possibly sort. Additional obstacles will be explained at handlers' meeting. Ranch dogs will not be required to sort. Time line will be established and used to break ties.
15. The sheep trial will be a judged event. Dogs will be judged on outrun, lift, fetch, driving, penning and possibly shed. Ranch dogs will not have to shed. Additional obstacles and possible time limit will be announced at handlers' meeting immediately before each division. Ties will be broken by outwork and then time.
16. Order of run will be determined by random draw with attention to multiple dogs per handler being split.
17. Dogs may be disqualified at any time during their run for gripping or excessive biting or excessive running of livestock. In the event of a disqualification, the judge or course director will excuse the dog and handler from the competition. No score will be given for runs in which the dog was disqualified. Each contestant will be solely responsible for any consequence, injury or damage done for which they or their dog are responsible.
18. **COMMAND:** Dogs may be directed by voice or whistle. Handlers may carry only a stockman's cane or show stick.
19. **OVER-DRIVING:** Exhausting sheep/cattle through much running and faulty work may, in extreme cases, disqualify, or the dog may continue with loss of points, according to the Judge's decision. The object is to handle sheep/cattle quietly, easily, confidently, having control and directing movement without injury of any sort.
20. Reruns will be permitted by Judge's decision.

IOWA STATE FAIR * AUGUST 13-23, 2026 * OPEN CLASS STOCK DOG TRIALS

21. **OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE:** Any disturbing incident that interferes with each and every contestant having equal opportunity shall be ruled on by the Judging Committee and the Committee's decision shall be final.
22. **UNFINISHED WORK:** A dog which fails to complete the work in the time allowed shall be allowed the points earned up to the expiration of the time limit set and order of work must follow designated pattern of work.
23. **TIED SCORE:** Rerun on first place ties. Course Director is in complete charge of all runs. Other ties will be decided by outwork then time.
 - a. Tied score for Cattle runs: A timeline will be established and announced at the Handlers' meetings. The timeline will be used to break ties.
24. **PATRON COOPERATION:** The proper conduct of Stock Dog Trials requires that conditions shall be as nearly equal for all contestants as possible. All patrons are asked to be considerate of this need.
25. All contestants will be under control and direction of the Judging Committee and the Iowa State Fair. Each contestant will be solely responsible for any consequence, injury or damage done for which they are responsible.

OUTRUN: In starting each run the contestant and his dog shall take position at any point in the handler's circle – this same position to be the "fixed" position for all work during the GATHER and DRIVE. With the sheep/cattle in place, and upon signal from the Course Director, the run for each dog begins. On the outrun, the dog may be directed to go either "right" or "left", and each dog shall carry along this given line until beyond the sheep/cattle. Crossover or disposition to crossover shall cause deduction of points according to the Judge's decision. The dog shall go wide and beyond the sheep/cattle before circling in so as to come upon the sheep/cattle from the "far side" in preparation for the LIFT. The dog's "come-on" to the sheep/cattle should be cautious and well "balanced" on the flock.

LIFT: The lift should be cautious; the sheep/cattle not unduly startled, held quietly and firmly, and moved off steadily with the dog in full control.

FETCH: The fetch should be on a near straight line from the point of contact to the handler. Swerving, zig-zagging or other deviation from the near straight line will involve loss of points. The nature of the work and the condition and handling of the sheep/cattle will be the foremost consideration. The fetch ends when the sheep/cattle enter the handler's circle.

DRIVING: From the handler's position in the circle the dog is required to drive the sheep/cattle away on a diagonal to the left toward and through "Gate No. 1" (obstacle) thence horizontally across the field to and through "Gate No. 2" (obstacle) on the right side of the course. As soon as one sheep's/cattle's ear passes the hurdle line, drive must move forward.

(Hurdle not complete until all sheep/cattle go through.)

When through Hurdle No. 1, direct drive to Hurdle No. 2. Drive is completed after passing through Hurdle No. 2 and brought on a direct line to handler's circle.

PENNING: At the completion of the drive the contestant shall open the gate of the pen, either to the right or to the left, so that it continues in a straight line the side of the pen of which it is fastened. When the gate is opened, the contestant shall grasp the end of a rope 6 feet long, tied to the open end of the gate, and shall confine his movements to a limit fixed by the rope. Each dog shall work its assigned sheep/cattle into the pen.

SHED: The handler and dog will bring sheep/cattle into shedding area. The handler will call the dog through to gain control of the correct number of sheep/cattle. The Judge will determine the type of shed (i.e. single or split) at the beginning of the trial and will signal to handler when shed is completed.

PREMIUMS

OPEN:							
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
\$240	\$170	\$135	\$110	\$85	\$65	\$50	\$40

RANCH:							
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
\$135	\$110	\$85	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30

TROPHIES

- 1st Place - Open Sheep
- 1st Place - Open Cattle
- 1st Place - Ranch Sheep
- 1st Place - Ranch Cattle