

2026 IOWA STATE FAIR

CONTINUOUS ACTIVITIES AND FAIRGROUND LOCATIONS

Most buildings are open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

America250 Celebrations: Celebrate America's 250th at the 2026 Fair with special America250 competitions showcasing the creativity of Iowa students. Winning entries from contests hosted by the Iowa Arts Council and the Iowa Department of Education will be on display in the VI Building south hallway, the Jacobson Exhibition Center lobby and the Cultural Center—highlighting original artwork and projects that honor America's past, present and future. Check out iowastatefair.org for a list of America250 activities and events at the Iowa State Fair.

Many special one-time experiences, patriotic tributes and can't-miss moments are planned for the 2026 Iowa State Fair. This year's celebration is set to be bigger and bolder for a once-in-a-generation celebration. We'll celebrate America250 with:

- A legacy sculpture in Ruan Plaza
- "Spirit of '76 – Iowa Celebrates America250!" Exhibit in the East Marketplace under the Grandstand
- 250 Years of the American Flag Display in Heritage Village
- Iowa Veterans Memorial Walkway on Expo Hill
- Official America250 Tree
- Nightly Drone Shows presented by T-Mobile, JPMorganChase and Iowa Lottery following the Grandstand shows
- Iowa Air National Guard flyover
- Daily "O Say Can You See?" National Anthem from military personnel and veterans
- IAFE Education Foundation Family Art Project
- Veterans Day sponsored by Hy-Vee
- Veterans Day Parade sponsored by the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation
- Star-Spangled Fireworks Spectacular presented by JPMorganChase following the drone shows

Administration Building: With a wraparound porch, it's a shady place to take a rest and is the home base for the Fair's full-time staff and board during the Fair. The working media office is located on the southwest corner, and the exhibits/entry department is located on the east side. Administration building hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the Fair. The Guest Services window can be found on the porch and is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., August 13-23. The Guest Services window will be a one-stop shop for all issues related to guest relations. The Grandstand Ticket Office will move to the East Grandstand Ticket Office Window and will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the Fair.

Agriculture Education Experiences: From learning where your food comes from to playing with baby goats, we have VIP, behind-the-scenes, one-of-a-kind agricultural experiences only found at

the Fair. Join us for Dairy Cow Yoga on Aug. 18 at 8 a.m.; Goat Yoga on Aug. 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Bunny Yoga on Aug 23 at 9 a.m.; Cuddles and Snuggles on Aug. 14, 17 and 22 at 8 a.m.; Fair after Dark – Hat Bar and Kahoot! at the Bubbly Bar on Aug. 20 at 8 p.m. and Fair After Dark Adults ONLY Night at the Animal Learning Center on Aug. 22 at 8:30 p.m. Space is limited and will fill up fast; buy tickets at iowastatefair.org.

Andringa Family Foundation Little Hands on the Farm (9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.): Designed for children ages 2 to 10 to actively participate in the workings of a kid-sized farm where they plant, work and sell goods. Sponsored by Cargill, Fareway Meat & Grocery, Farmers Mutual Hail, Iowa Beef Industry Council, Iowa Egg Council, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, John Deere, Pioneer Seed, and Wyffels Hybrids. Fairgoers ages 11 and over can enjoy their own scavenger hunt with Ag-Spy.

Alliant Energy Landing: The picnic shelter houses various events throughout the Fair. Companies and individuals rent this space for private events. Farm to Fair – America's Picnic, presented by Choose Iowa in partnership with Iowa Beef Industry Council, Iowa Corn, Iowa Egg Council, Iowa Soybean Association, and Midwest Dairy, will be held in the Alliant Energy Landing Aug. 16.

Anne and Bill Riley Stage sponsored by Pepsi with media sponsor iHeart Radio: Home to the Bill Riley Talent Show, Iowan of the Day sponsored by Cookies Food Products, Iowa State Fair Queen Coronation presented by Nature Hill with Spirulux, The Way We Live Award presentations presented by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield with media sponsors WHO-The Big Show and Iowa Farmer Today, as well as various family-friendly shows each night. Check out iowastatefair.org or the Iowa State Fair App for the full schedule.

Avenue of Breeds presented by Iowa Bankers Association with media sponsor WHO The Big Show: Located west of the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building, the Avenue represents 70 breeds and approximately 100 unique and common animals found in Iowa. The Avenue of Breeds is supervised and organized by current and alumni members of the North Polk FFA.

Barksdale's State Fair Cookies: Synonymous with the Fair, Barksdale's State Fair Cookies are a popular must-have for Fairgoers each year. Get a cup or bucket of warm chocolate chip cookies at the Barksdale's State Fair Cookie Building or in the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building.

Blue Ribbon Foundation Merchandise Booths: Official Iowa State Fair souvenirs, including ornaments, cookbooks, charm bracelets, lapel pins, pottery, T-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, hats and more. Six locations at the Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center, William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building, John and Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn Foyer, John Deere Agriculture Building, Jacobson Hall/Kenyon Gallery (Museum Complex) and Elwell Family Food Center. Profits from the store are used to renovate and improve the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

Blue Ribbon Foundation Water Booths: Seven sales booths are located throughout the Fairgrounds where Fairgoers can purchase 16-ounce bottles of water for \$3 each. Locations are the John Deere Agriculture Building, Andringa Family Little Hands on the Farm, John & Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn, Robert G. Horner & Sheri Avis Horner Service Center, Anne & Bill Riley Stage, south end of Thrill Town and Heritage Village across from the Harper Telephone Museum.

Blue Ribbon Kids' Club: The Blue Ribbon Kids' Club offers activities for Fairgoers ages 10 and under on weekdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m. For a schedule of programs, visit the Daily Program Guide at iowastatefair.org or download the Iowa State Fair App.

Bob and Deb Pulver Outdoor Arena: Built in 2008 east of the Swine Barn, the Outdoor Arena hosts various livestock shows, stock dog trials, llama limbo and more during the Fair.

Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa: Renovated in 2020, explore nearly 4,000 exhibits from some of the most talented and creative 4-H members in the state. This building offers great photography, quilts, customized classic cars and homemade furniture. Kids can participate in daily hands-on activities and check out worthwhile programs like “Share the Fun.”

CIRC Model Railroad: Visit more than 3,500 square feet of display that features several miles of track and 10 to 15 1/87th scale trains. The model railroad has a layout depicting typical rural Midwest America with farms, grain elevators, small industries and communities. The building is wheelchair and stroller accessible with raised areas for children to view the display (\$3).

Country School sponsored by Iowa State Education Association: Get a taste of history with the activities showcased in this one-room schoolhouse. Play farms, parent-child art activities and more are available. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Discovery Garden: A peaceful retreat, the Discovery Garden provides a place to stop and rest. Polk County Master Gardeners will be available each day of the Fair from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to answer gardening questions. Located south of the Agriculture Building, Discovery Garden will also feature the “Plant of the Day.”

Elwell Family Food Center sponsored by Choose Iowa: Live Food Department judging, demonstrations and exhibits, boasting the largest food department of any state fair. Check out over 135 divisions and 800 classes from food exhibitors.

Elwell Family Park: The west outdoor events area at the Fair includes a mix of free and paid entertainment. Check out the NEW Iowa State Fair PRCA Pro Rodeo Aug. 13 and 14 (\$), the Short Course UTV & ATV Cup Aug. 15, Charros Performances on Aug. 16, the Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pulls sponsored by Titan Tire, maker of Goodyear Farm Tires with media partner WHO-The Big Show Aug. 19 (\$), Iowa's Electrical Lineman Rodeo Aug. 21, a Demolition

Derby Aug. 22 (\$) and Figure 8 Races Aug. 23 (\$). Buy Elwell Family Park event tickets at iowastatefair.org.

Expo Hill: Expo Hill is home to the Chainsaw Carvers (Gary Keenan, TJ Jenkins and Clint Henik), the MidAmerican Energy Wind Turbine and Education Center and the new Iowa Veterans Memorial Walkway. Chainsaw pieces will be on display throughout the Fair and auctioned to the public on Sunday, Aug. 23 at 4 p.m. in the Penningroth Sale Ring in the Cattle Barn.

Farm Bureau Park in Ruan Plaza: Step into the heart of Iowa agriculture at Farm Bureau Park, where we're proudly celebrating "Roots of Freedom: Growing America for 250 Years." This free, family-friendly destination brings Iowa farming to life with hands-on learning, exciting prizes, special giveaways, and meaningful health screenings and education. Meet Iowa farmers, play interactive ag games, and test your luck at Iowa Farm Bureau's "Pulling for Iowa Farmers" pull-tab giveaway—where you could win your favorite fair foods, all made possible by Iowa farmers. Join the America250 celebration with exclusive giveaways and discover how Iowa farmers have driven innovation, strengthened communities, and helped grow America for 250 years.

Farm Bureau Pioneer Hall: Heritage competitive exhibits and contest; Working exhibits and displays; Gas engine display; Vintage vehicle display (between Fair museum and country school); Country antique market; Blacksmith shop, Ron Koske, Altoona, and Randy Mills, Des Moines; Coon River Mercantile, manufacturers of 1860-1880 period clothing, Gerald Durbin, Des Moines; 1920s Newspaper and Printing, Friends of Pioneer Hall; Wheel Thrown Pottery, Leslie Nelson of Lotus Moon Ceramics, Urbandale; Spinning Wool on a Wheel, Janice Cook, Monroe; Handmade Kitchen Utensils from Fallen Trees, Tim McGuire of Wild Cherry Spoon, Quad Cities; Spinning and Inkle Loom Weaving by Valerie Dejoode, Cumming; Leather Tooling and Stitching by Dave Baker of Fellowcraft Leather, Story City; Chair Caning and Rush Seat Weaving by Michelle and Olivia Schanz, Amana (Aug. 13-16, 20-22); Tall Corn Contests - Iowa's Tall Corn Contest and America's Tallest Corn Contest entries on display (judging held Aug. 12; on display Aug. 13-23)

FFA Display Building and Headquarters: Photography and chapter exhibits; FFA Ag Mechanics Technology Show (inside and outside).

First Church: Take part in the Old Fashioned Hymn Sing every day of the Fair at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., sponsored by GuideOne and hosted by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Outdoor accommodations are also available.

Gammon Barn Museum: Named after the Gammon Family, the barn houses the history of the Polled Hereford breed and highlights the birthplace of Polled Herefords (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

The Garden sponsored by Corteva Agriscience: This educational exhibit located east of Andringa Family Foundation Little Hands on the Farm features information about fruit and vegetable growing in Iowa along with the history of corn and agricultural crops. Attend the free "I

Picked” at The Garden Aug. 13-23 at 10 a.m., as well as the Iowa State Fair Farmers Market just east of The Garden from 4-7 p.m. Plus, young entrepreneurs will have their products on sale at the Kids Makers Market from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 23. Pulse 101.7 is also located near The Garden.

The Garden: Located north of Andringa Family Foundation Little Hands on the Farm. Pulse 101.7 is also located near The Garden. Check out the Iowa State Fair Farmers Market Aug. 13-22 from 4-7 p.m. and Iowa State Fair Kids Makers Market on Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Both markets will be located across from The Garden.

Gas Engine Display provided by Central Hawkeye Gas Engine and Tractor Association: Located west of Pioneer Hall, the display includes antique gas engines, tractors and a working grist mill. The display has continuous shelling and grinding of corn and hand-operated antique corn grinders for children to operate as well as a working aircraft engine and miniature engines.

Grand Concourse presented by Maverik: The main stretch of the Iowa State Fairgrounds, from Gate 11 to Pioneer Hall, visit the Grand Concourse every day of the Fair for interactive activities for Fairgoers, food, and strolling entertainment for all ages. Review the Daily Program Guide at iowastatefair.org or the Official Iowa State Fair App for specific activities.

Grandstand Concert Series presented by Iowa Lottery on the Krause Group Stage: See 11 nights of top entertainers from every genre in the Iowa State Fair Grandstand. Purchase tickets at iowastatefair.org or at the Iowa State Fair Ticket Office. Drone Shows presented by T-Mobile, JPMorganChase, and Iowa Lottery will take place after all Grandstand shows, followed by the Fireworks Spectacular presented by JPMorganChase. Only iowastatefair.org and etix.com sell official online tickets for the Iowa State Fair Grandstand. Tickets purchased from other sources are not recommended, and the Fair cannot assist with refunds or exchanges from third party ticket sellers. Children under the age of 2 do not need a Grandstand ticket. Convenience charges apply to all tickets. Grandstand tickets do not include Fair admission. For a list of prohibited items in the Grandstand, please see iowastatefair.org/safety. The Grandstand Ticket Office will be located at the East Grandstand Ticket Office Window and will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the Fair.

Heritage Village: Includes Susan Knapp Amphitheater, Barber Shop, Ice Cream Parlor, Country School, First Church, General Store, Harper Telephone Building, Old Depot, Farm Bureau Pioneer Hall, Richard L. Easter State Fair Museum Complex (Ralph H. Deets Historical Museum, Richard O. Jacobson Hall and Ronald and Margaret Kenyon Gallery) and the 250 Years of the American Flag Display.

Horse Barn: Often used in conjunction with the Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center, the barn has a capacity of 400 box stalls. Find Horse Haven, an interactive learning station located at the east end of the Horse Barn, and various horse exhibitors and competitions. The two-year, \$13.1 million renovation of the historic barn was completed prior to the 2026 Fair. The

Blue Ribbon Foundation's "Back the Barns" fundraiser offers a meaningful way for supporters of agriculture to contribute to the renovations of the livestock barns.

Horseshoe Courts: Bring your friends to the horseshoe courts for daily horseshoe pitching east of Farm Bureau Pioneer Hall. Check the Daily Program Guide at iowastatefair.org for specifics on open singles, open doubles, two player pro-am and more.

Hy-Vee Health and First Aid Center: Located east of the John Deere Agriculture Building, open 8 a.m. to midnight. A satellite station is located at the Robert G. Horner and Sheri Avis Horner Service Center, open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Locations are staffed by Des Moines Fire and Rescue. An accessible adult changing station is available in the Hy-Vee Health and First Aid Center.

Hy-Vee Fun Forest and Fun Forest Stage sponsored by Community Choice Credit Union: 1.5 acre grassy park with the Variety Star Playground, a playground with an agricultural theme with farm animals, complete with accessible ramp and smooth, easy-to-navigate surface. The Fun Forest also includes a snake walk path, decorated gates, concrete lions, a chainsaw-carved eagle and a wooden train engine. A trumpeting concrete elephant stands guard as a tribute to Baby Mine, the 1929 pachyderm purchased with children's nickel and dime contributions. Watch live entertainment like Brad Weston's magic and juggling show and Greg Frisbee's Rubber Chicken Show. Also home of Blue Ribbon Kids' Club each weekday and Saturday at 10 a.m.

Interpretive Trail Iowa State Fairgrounds Trees: Get on the 1.2 mile long trail of learning about select trees on the Fairgrounds, brought to you by the Iowa Woodlands Owners Association. Most of the trees are marked for easy identification. A map is available at the DNR building.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Building: Natural resources exhibits and daily interactive demonstrations as well as pop-up programming. The wrap-around aquarium is the focal point of the pavilion, filled with Iowa fish of all shapes, sizes and species. Check out the daily program for specific activities.

Iowa Food and Family Project: Visit the Iowa Food and Family Project display in the south atrium of the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building.

Iowan of the Day: Since 1997, the Blue Ribbon Foundation and Cookies Food Products have come together to recognize people who personify greatness with a strong work ethic, a commitment to helping others and an exceptional sense of Iowa Pride. The Iowan of the Day award presentations are on the Anne and Bill Riley Stage Aug. 13-22 at noon. Stop at the booth south of Gate 11 to sample award-winning Cookies Food Products. Hotel accommodations sponsored by Des Moines Marriott Downtown.

John & Emily Putney Family Cattle Barn sponsored by Vermeer: 154,000 square feet with room to hold 1,300 head of cattle. Visit the Super Bull, Hall of Champions, Cattle Corner, Boulevard of Dairy Breeds and demonstrations by ISU Dairy Science Club.

John Deere Agriculture Building sponsored by Alliant Energy: 4-H and FFA horticulture judging and FFA floriculture judging; floriculture and horticulture displays and crops; apiary; Iowa Quality Dairy Product contest winners; world famous Butter Cow; daily stage presentations; Discovery Garden; “Plant of the Day” by the Polk County Master Gardeners; FFA hands-on demonstrations; Gingerbread Sculpture by Terry Johnson, Morning Sun; Iowa Master Farmer’s display; “Shine On, Iowa” exhibit; indoor trees and gardens, Kirkwood Community College Horticulture Department; Iowa Christmas Tree Growers display; garden design, Harvey’s Greenhouse of Adel. Find a bronze sculpture, “Duffy’s Cow & Calf,” honoring Norma “Duffy” Lyon, who created the iconic butter cow for 46 years, on the west lawn of the Agriculture Building.

2026 Butter Cow Companion: The 2026 Butter Cow companion sculpture, “Meet Me at the Pepsi Clock,” will celebrate Fair Spirit while recognizing America250 through a tribute to the people, celebrations and diversity that make Iowa shine. Highlighting agriculture, music, art, natural resources, and hometown pride, the sculpture will showcase the rich heritage and vibrant spirit that bring Iowans together.

The Lawn: Find family-friendly entertainment like the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show sponsored by Mountain Valley Spring Water. Watch an action-packed show featuring quality lumberjack competitors west of the Jacobson Exhibition Center. See the shows daily at 12 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Machinery Grounds: Farm machinery, equipment showcase, merchandise vendors and food booths can be found south of the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building.

The Marketplaces: Discover the East, Central and West Marketplaces under the Iowa State Fair Grandstand—three vibrant shopping destinations filled with handcrafted goods, live demonstrations and merchants featuring everything from innovative new finds to as-seen-on-TV favorites. Be sure to explore all three sections so you don’t miss a thing, plus visit Iowa’s public safety experts in the East Marketplace and explore the “Spirit of ’76 – Iowa Celebrates America250!” Exhibit.

Maytag Family Theaters: The Kitchen and NEW All-Iowa Classroom in Maytag Family Theaters were designed around teaching, learning and sharing. Enjoy a mix of free and paid demonstrations/classes from interesting and amazing Iowans. Demonstrations/classes will be held in The Kitchen Aug. 13-23 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. 3 p.m. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. and in the All-Iowa Classroom Aug. 13-22 at Noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Find a list of classes and purchase tickets at iowastatefair.org. The Kitchen Pantry is sponsored by Fareway Meat & Grocery. The All-Iowa Classroom is a meeting place for Narcotics Anonymous every day during the Fair. Meeting times are the following: Aug. 13-22 at 6 p.m.

MidAmerican Energy Stage with Iowa Realty and media sponsor KCCI TV8: From 80s rock to country to pop, the MidAmerican Energy Stage provides free entertainment for everyone,

plus great local talent during the day and KCCI TV8 News Live at 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. Find the MidAmerican Energy Stage lineup at iowastatefair.org.

MidAmerican Energy Wind Turbine and Education Center: Learn something new with interactive displays throughout the Fair. Enjoy the video wall, pick up a free reusable bag and enter your favorite charity for the daily \$1000 CARES drawing from the MidAmerican Energy Company Foundation.

Mobile Marketing Interactive exhibits and sampling (all exhibits Aug. 13-23 unless specified):

- North of the Elwell Family Food Center: Cookies Food Products; AudioNova (Aug. 13-22); Google (Aug. 13-15); Sydney Milani & USA Bobsled (Aug. 16-17); Diabetic Equipment and Supplies (Aug. 19); Coca-Cola (Aug. 18, 20, 21); BIKEIOWA (Aug. 23)
- West of the DNR Building: Busch Light; FOX News (Aug. 13-16); Iowa Legal Aid (Aug. 21-23)
- West of Elwell Family Park: Budweiser Clydesdales; Budweiser Clydesdales parade at 5 p.m. (6 p.m. on Aug. 21) (Aug. 13-16; 18-23); Titan Tire, maker of Goodyear Farm Tires – WHO Radio (Aug. 19); Immanuel (Aug. 19)
- Machinery Grounds: Verizon; Capital Vacations
- Gate 15: Dr Pepper (2-6 p.m.); Kwik Star (Aug. 13); Sensory-Friendly Morning Welcome Tent sponsored by Drake University (Aug. 19)
- South of Horse Barn: Firestone Ag Tires (Aug. 13-14)
- Grand Concourse, north of WHO Crystal Studio: LifeServe Blood Center (Aug. 20, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.)
- North of Varied Industries Building: Frontier
- East end of Grandstand, outside of America250 Exhibit: Chase (Aug. 20-23)

Mountain Man Camp: Take a walk back in time and visit the pre-1840 Mountain Man Fur Trade Camp. Seven camps demonstrate and offer for sale beadwork, leather bags, handmade courting flutes, fry bread, Scrimshaw, tomahawk throwing and more. See the Mountain Man fire starting contest around 1 p.m.; let the youngsters line up to catch candy shot out of a candy cannon. Talk to reenactors about how life might have been in a real Mountain Man camp in the late 1700s or early 1800s. You might catch someone sewing a leather bag, draw knifing a new flute, engraving a powder horn, knapping a stone arrowhead, making fry bread and coffee or maybe cooking up supper in a Dutch oven. Located near Heritage Village and East of Susan Knapp Amphitheater.

Oman Family Youth Inn: Stop by the air-conditioned Oman Family Youth Inn on the southeast corner of the Fairgrounds throughout the Fair for a meal or contest. Check the daily program guide for a listing of events, including 4-H clothing judging, tumbling, cribbage and backgammon tournaments.

On-Site Media Partners: Life 107.1 FM • Iowa Catholic Radio Network 105.5 FM • Cumulus Media including: 92.5 KJY, 94.9 KGGO, 97.3 NASH FM and 98.3 The Vibe • We are Iowa- Local

5/CW 23 • Des Moines Register • iHeartRadio: including 107.5 KISS FM, 100.3 The Bus, NewsRadio 1040 WHO, WHO Big Show, NOW 105.1, 96.9 The Bull and 1460/106.3 KXNO • Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network • Iowa PBS • IMC Conexiones• Inc. • KCCI TV8 • KDSM Fox 17 • KIX 101.1 and 1230 KFJB AM/93.9 FM • Pulse 101.7 FM • Des Moines Media Group including: LAZER 103.3, 93.3 KIOA, HITS 99.9, 104.1 EZ FM, HOPE 940, 1350 ESPN, The OUTLAW, Pure Oldies 104.5 and STAR 102.5 • WHO 13 TV • Iowa Farmer Today

The Media Office is open for credentialed media from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the Fair in the lower level of the Administration Building.

- Local 5 Weather Lab & Experience & Broadcast Booth (on Grand Ave. in front of the Administration Building): Watch newscasts, meet the anchors and grab some swag. Explore the science behind Iowa's weather, meet Local 5's team of Meteorologists and try your hand at telling the forecast! It's all waiting for you at the Local 5 Weather Lab Experience!
- KCCI TV 8 News: TV 8 News will broadcast from the Fair weekdays at 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. and the MidAmerican Energy Stage.
- WHO TV 13 Hello Iowa: WHO TV will broadcast their mid-day program, Hello Iowa, live from the Fair: weekdays at 11 a.m., at the Susan Knapp Amphitheater.

Patty & Jim Cownie Cultural Center, Atrium sponsored by Bankers Trust: Fine Arts Juried Exhibit (including adult and youth categories); Photography Salon Juried Exhibit (including adult and youth categories): 2026 Theme – America 250; Dollhouse and Miniature Room Displays: People's Choice Voting; Wood Projects Display and Demonstrations; Creative Arts Display and Demonstrations: People's Choice Voting; ARTWorks; Art Fair; Art Attack in the Courtyard daily. In the Creative Arts department, create a variety of fun and creative crafts every day of the Fair starting at 9 a.m. Includes Henna Tattoo Art, Make and Take Candles, Airbrush Demonstrations and a Lego® Display. These events are located on the second floor of the Patty and Jim Cownie Cultural Center.

Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center sponsored by Christensen Farms: Live animal births, baby animal displays, The Way We Live Award display, Ag Art Contest Display and agriculturally-based educational displays. Text BABY to 844.844.8508 to receive updates when baby animals are being born.

Pioneer Livestock Pavilion sponsored by Pioneer Seed: Home to many livestock shows the whole family will enjoy, including Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, Horse Pulling, Miniature Horse Shows, Super Bull, Big Ram, Governor's Charity Steer Show, Century Farm and Heritage Farm Awards, various FFA and 4-H shows and more! Livestock schedule at www.iowastatefair.org

Poultry and Rabbit Building: Located near Gate 4 on the east end of the grounds. Stop by for various poultry and rabbit shows throughout the Fair, August 13-16, 19-23, including the largest rabbit on Aug. 21.

Pella Plaza: 50,000 square feet featuring benches, flowers, trees and a misting fountain. On the east end of the plaza, a flag flies for each of Iowa's 99 counties.

Principal® Plaza at Legacy Terrace: Enjoy water fountains, benches, shrubs and shady trees in this courtyard on the Grand Concourse adjacent to the Grandstand. Plaques and monuments commemorate contributions to the Fair. Ask how to be a part of it by stopping at the Blue Ribbon Foundation's store in the Robert G. Horner & Sheri Avis Horner Service Center.

Reichardt Family Giant Slide: A Fair institution, the Giant Slide is the top ride with over 100,000 riders each year. It is 45 feet high and 150 feet long (\$4). Located southeast of the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building.

Richard L. Easter Museum Complex: Find interactive exhibits of Fair history in the Richard O. Jacobson Hall and Ronald and Margaret Kenyon Gallery. The Ralph H. Deets Historical Museum features an extensive collection of Fair memorabilia. Blue Ribbon Foundation merchandise booth open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center presented by Google: Hosts various free horse shows and the Cowgirl Queen Contest. The venue has more than 3,500 seats and a VIP balcony called Jake's Club. On Aug. 19, a second calming room can be found from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. during Sensory-Friendly Morning presented by ChildServe.

Robert G. Horner & Sheri Avis Horner Service Center sponsored by Mattress Firm: Home of the Blue Ribbon Foundation's main merchandise store and a calming room from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. Also, home to the Des Moines Register Soapbox.

The Triangle: Situated on the north end of Rock Island Avenue, between the Agriculture Building and the Administration Building the Triangle hosts seating, vendors and some of the Fairgoers' favorite foods.

Ron and Bev Shivers Family Plaza: New at the 2025 Fair, the Ron and Bev Shivers Plaza on Rock Island Avenue, just southwest of the Livestock Pavilion, features open seating, landscaping, restrooms and convenient access to nearby concession stands.

Ruan Plaza: Built in 2014, the pedestrian-friendly walkway connects the Grand Concourse with the Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center. It includes Farm Bureau Park and various food vendors.

Sheep Barn: This historic barn includes details that can't be duplicated today. It is home to the Big Ram, Sheep Stop, the Wool Show, and various sheep shows throughout the Fair. Between 2023 and 2024, the Sheep Barn received a complete renovation.

Snakes Alive: This walk-through exhibit allows visitors to view snakes up close with the chance to have a hands-on experience with live snakes. Located between the Anne and Bill Riley Stage and the Horse Barn (\$3.50).

Sky Glider East and Sky Glider West sponsored by Superior Sleep: A Fair favorite, the sky gliders provide a unique view of the city and the Fairgrounds (\$6 one-way or \$10 round trip). Sky Glider East runs from Pioneer Hall to the entrance of Thrill Ville, and Sky Glider West spans from Gate 10, southeast of the Food Center, to Rock Island Ave.

Stalling Barn sponsored by Van Wall Equipment: Home of cattle and llamas. Located on the southeast corner of the Fairgrounds, next to the Bob and Deb Pulver Outdoor Arena.

Susan Knapp Amphitheater sponsored by Prairie Meadows with media sponsor WHO TV 13: The Susan Knapp Amphitheater is home to free country, rock and pop entertainment at night, as well as local talent throughout the day. The Susan Knapp Amphitheater is located in Heritage Village. Check out the full schedule on the Official Iowa State Fair App and at iowastatefair.org.

Swine Barn: An icon for more than a century, this massive 184,096 square foot building hosts numerous swine and goat shows, Pig Place and the Big Boar. It is located on the south end of the Fairgrounds, across from the Sheep Barn.

Thrill Parks: From roller coasters to bumper cars, amusement park rides have been a staple at the Iowa State Fair. Thrill Parks include Thrill Ville, Thrill Town and Thrill Zone! Fairgoers can easily access rides and games simply by purchasing an Advance One-Day Ride Wristband (\$40 for unlimited rides until 10 p.m. on the day of use, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, in Thrill Ville and Thrill Town) or a reloadable Thrill Pass. Advance Thrill passes are \$30 for 50 credits (only sold in advance). The Advance Thrill Passes can be ordered online for a discount before Aug. 13 or purchased at the Fair in Thrill Town and Thrill Ville. Thrill Parks beautification sponsored by Premier Outdoor Management.

- Thrill Ville presented by Travel Iowa (11 a.m.-11 p.m.) Buckle your seat belt for the newest, fastest and most thrilling amusement rides. Thrill Ville offers a clean and family-friendly atmosphere, but focuses on the spectacular, jaw dropping and super-speed screams of the best of today's rides. Thrill Ville is located between the Grandstand and Ye Old Mill. For a list of rides visit iowastatefair.org.
- Thrill Town (10 a.m.-10 p.m.): Little Fairgoers and their families will find loads of fun and stroller parking with the addition of Thrill Town. Thrill Town features kid-friendly rides in a fun, clean and convenient location without having to navigate the larger Thrill Park areas. Thrill Town is located east of Gate 10 and directly north of the Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center Lawn.
- Thrill Zone (10 a.m.-11 p.m.) Fairgoers seeking breathtaking, heart-stopping, hair-raising adventure will find it in the Thrill Zone. These unforgettable attractions will have

you talking about the Iowa State Fair for months to come. Thrill Zone is located north of Gate 11 on the west side of the Fairgrounds.
On Aug. 23, Thrill Parks are open until 9 p.m.

Vendors: The Iowa State Fair is home to more than 500 vendors offering a little something for everyone—from the most iconic Fair foods to one-of-a-kind crafts, the latest gadgets, and everything in between. Whether you’re looking for a deep-fried delight, a handmade treasure, or your next favorite kitchen tool, you’ll find it here. Find shopping opportunities in the Varied Industries Building, Cultural Center, Walnut Center, the NEW East, Central and West Marketplaces, as well as other locations around the Fairgrounds.

Vermeer Grandfather's Barn: Visit Grandfather’s Barn for daily wine tastings from the Iowa Wine Growers Association. Visit the remaining original building on the Fairgrounds daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Walnut Center: A great showcase for Iowa crafters, shop for items from cross stitch to woodworking. Open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building sponsored by Principal®: With 200+ vendors and sponsors in the Varied Industries Building, it is one of the largest exhibition halls in the Midwest. It is home to the Fabric and Threads Department (second floor) and commercial exhibits (main floor). **Fabric and Threads:** Home to displays featuring counted cross stitch; counted thread techniques, crocheting, embroidery, hand and machine knitting, handspun yarn, quilting, hooked rugs, toys and dolls, needlepoint, weaving, clothing, sewing for the home, demonstrations/working exhibits, shuttle or needle tatting, sewing classes. See artwork submitted in the Iowa Art Council’s Statewide Art Contest display (south hallway). Artwork from students across the state that visually express the American spirit – past, present and future – and how Iowa and Iowans have shaped the cultural life of our nation.

Ye Old Mill: Completed in 1923, the Ye Old Mill is one of three “tunnel of love” rides remaining in the United States today and is the Fair’s oldest permanent amusement ride. It is located at the corner of the Grand Concourse and E. 33rd St. (\$3).