

FFA HERDING DEPARTMENT
Beef, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine
Supervisors of Exhibits - Joni Bruvold, Decorah FFA; Jessica O'Conner, Little Switzerland FFA

Herding assistants will be named by the Supervisor of Herding.

There will be herding assistants for the following departments: Beef, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine.

JUDGES - FFA Alumni Members and Other Volunteers

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

SPECIAL RULES

1. Do not enter herding classes on Iowa State Fair entry forms.
2. There is no entry fee for herding classes.
3. Herding will be evaluated in the following species: Breeding Beef, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine. Performance beef **will not** be included in Beef herding competition.
4. Herding will be judged in the morning and in the afternoon/evening for each day each species is on the Fairgrounds, from the "must be in place" to the "animals released" dates and times listed in each species section.
5. Herding results will be posted at the completion of each species final judging.
6. Small Group herding awards (purple, blue, red or white banner) will be presented to chapters in each department. Chapters with three or less exhibitors in a department will be classified as a small group.
7. Large Group herding awards (purple, blue, red or white banner) will be presented to chapters in each department. Chapters with four or more exhibitors in a department will be classified as a large group.
8. Herding banners (purple, blue, red, white) will be presented to each chapter in each department.
9. All herding awards will be given at the end of the last show for that species.
10. Banners will be provided to Top Herding Chapters (Small Group and Large Group) in each species judged.
11. Banners will be provided to the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Overall Herding Chapter. Points will be awarded as follows: 1st - 10, 2nd - 9, 3rd - 8, 4th - 7, 5th - 6, 6th - 5, 7th - 4, 8th - 3, 9th - 2 and 10th - 1. In case of a tie, the following categories will be used in this order: 1. Bonus, 2. Stall ID, 3. Animals, 4. Alleys, 5. Bedding/Stalling.
12. See Herding Rubric chart below:

Iowa State Fair Herding Rubric			
Herdsmanship is important to the public image of agriculture, our organization, and your chapter. The purpose of herdsmanhip is to encourage exhibitors in developing and maintaining clean and presentable exhibits as well as demonstrating proper animal husbandry and welfare. It also promotes pride and enthusiasm for the industry. Herdsmanship duties are a primary responsibility of the livestock exhibitor.			
COMPARISONS	0 pts.	1 pts.	2 pts.
ALLEYS	* Excessive equipment in ally * Excessive dirt, dust, manure present * Ally is impassable to public	* Some equipment in ally, most in tack stall * Some dirt, dust, manure but mostly clean * Some public able to pass	* Some equipment in ally, most in tack stall * Some dirt, dust, manure but mostly clean * Some public able to pass
BEDDING/STALLING	* Bedding heavily soiled * Excessive odor * No bedding * Excessive/unnecessary use of stalls * No equipment stored properly	* Bedding wet * Bedding clean * No odor * Little bedding * Some animals stalled properly, but some exceed standards	* Bedding dry * Bedding clean * No odor * Adequate bedding * Appropriate stalling for animals (Suggested: 2 swine/pen, 1 beef stall 1 beef, 3 to 4 sheep per pen)
ANIMALS	* Manure covered * Completely wet * Animal appear to be excessively hungry/thirsty	* Few manure covered * Slightly wet * Animals appear to be slightly uncomfortable from lack of food/water	* No manure * Not wet * Animals appear to be adequately fed/watered and comfortable
STALL ID	* Use of stalls not assigned to the chapter * No exhibitor ID * No chapter ID * No species ID	* Exhibitor ID * Chapter ID * No species ID	* Exhibitor ID * Chapter ID * Species ID with name, weight, breed, etc. * All stalls identified

IOWA STATE FAIR * AUGUST 7-17, 2025 * FFA HERDING

BONUS (+1 point for each)	At least one member present	Chapter sign	Member is interacting with public	Additional decorations appropriately representing the organization	Actions performed above and beyond by the exhibitor/chapter as observed by the judge (please specify)	
DEDUCTIONS (- 1 point for each)	Excessive noise (*radio)	Excessive horse-play	Water fights	Rude/innapropriate behavior towards public	Use of explicit language by member(s)	Unorganized tack, excessive desbris/litter

Disqualification Criteria for all Species

The following will disqualify the chapter from herding, but disqualifications will not be limited to this list.

Alcohol in tack pens or livestock pens and stalls.

Moving pen and stall locations without permission from FFA show superintendents.

Stalling before listed times in the Iowa State Fair premium book.

Any adjustments to pens, stalls, fencing, etc. that extends the assigned stalling beyond what is assigned and is not approved by the FFA show superintendents.