



# Iowa State Fair

## 2025 Little Learners

### Fair Learning Destinations

Welcome to the Iowa State Fair! Here, children of all ages can enjoy over 20 educational destinations. Here is a guide to what each learning destination entails, with included activity ideas.

#### 1. Country School

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Step back in time at the Country Schoolhouse on the Iowa State Fairgrounds! Nestled on the corner before Pioneer Hall, the one-room schoolhouse is a charming glimpse into Iowa's educational past. Built in 1886 and lovingly preserved, the schoolhouse showcases what rural learning looked like over a century ago, complete with wooden desks, chalkboards and vintage textbooks. During the Fair, visitors can ring the bell and even try their hand at old-fashioned lessons. It's a nostalgic stop that's both educational and heartwarming.

#### 2. Richard L. Easter Museum Complex

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Richard L. Easter Museum Complex at the Iowa State Fair is a must-see destination that brings Fair history to life through engaging exhibits and preserved artifacts. Located just northeast of Pioneer Hall, the complex includes the Ralph H. Deets Historical Museum, filled with vintage memorabilia, and the Richard O. Jacobson Hall, a modern, interactive space where visitors can explore hands-on displays like livestock judging, Fair fashion through the decades, and even a simulated train crash. Together, these museums offer a fascinating journey through Iowa's agricultural roots, Fair traditions and timeless charm—all in one cool, educational stop.

#### 3. Art Attack

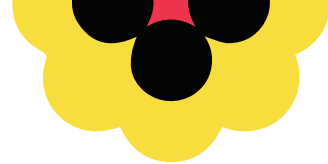
Hours: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Each day at the Iowa State Fair, Art Attack offers a "make it and take it" art experience. Designed for families, kids dive into colorful, hands on projects using markers, paint, collage and more, leaving with a special Fair memento. It's described as "just happiness, where young artists explore their imagination in a fun, interactive setting. Art Attack is located in the Cultural Center Courtyard.

#### 4. Milking Experience

Hours: 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Step into the Iowa State Fair Milking Parlor and discover the story behind your glass of milk. During the Milking Experience, a dairy industry expert walks you through the life of a dairy cow—from what she eats to how much milk she produces each day. You'll learn about the milking process, the cow's care and how milk is transformed into the dairy products we enjoy. This interactive, 15-to 20-minute presentation is both educational and engaging—perfect for curious minds of all ages.



## 5. Boulevard of Dairy Breeds

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Boulevard of Dairy Breeds gives Fairgoers of all ages the chance to learn about the differences between the six major breeds of dairy cattle and to see those breeds up close and personal.

## 6. I Milked A Cow

Hours: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Cost: \$3 - NO ADVANCE TICKETS SOLD

Try your hand at milking a cow the old-fashioned way: by hand. Located in the Cattle Barn, this is truly a once in a lifetime experience, so don't miss it! All proceeds benefit the Iowa State University Dairy Science Club.

## 7. Cattle Corner

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Did you know that a cow has four compartments to its stomach? Or that there are six major breeds of dairy cows represented in Iowa? You will get all your beef and dairy questions answered at this hands-on learning exhibit. You will also have the chance to take pictures as a beef or dairy farmer!

## 8. Avenue of Breeds

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Avenue of Breeds at the Iowa State Fair is a lively livestock showcase located west of the 4-H Building, featuring over 100 different breeds—ranging from cattle, sheep and horses to exotic varieties like elk, llamas and fish. It's staffed by enthusiastic FFA students who care for the animals and are ready to answer visitors' questions, offering both hands on learning and up-close encounters. Since the mid 1970s, this educational exhibit has served to teach Fairgoers where their food comes from and highlight the diversity within Iowa agriculture. It is organized and staffed by the North Polk FFA and alumni.

## 9. Horse Haven

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Do you know how to measure a horse in hands? Do you know how many inches a hand measurement is? You'll learn this and more at Horse Haven! There are many horse-themed displays and photo options.

## 10. Sheep Stop

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Get all your sheep questions answered at this sheep-themed exhibit. Flip the pages of a story book and have your picture taken at two different sheep photo boards along with putting together a sheep-themed giant puzzle!

## 11. Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The 4-H Exhibit Building houses thousands of state winning projects crafted by hundreds of Iowa 4-H'ers. Watch talented 4-H'ers in Share-the-Fun skits, take part in working exhibits and educational presentations. This is the place to learn all about the world of 4-H!

## 12. Snakes Alive

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Cost: \$3.50

Snakes Alive gives participants the opportunity to view snakes in glass enclosures in this walk-through exhibit and to have hands-on interaction with a live snake.



## 13. CIRC Model Railroad

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Cost: \$3

Be awed in this ever-changing model railroad display. View more than 3,000 square feet of display that is 1/87th of actual size. With 10 to 15 trains going on this several mile track, you will see everything from a drive-in theater to Superman! The display features an "I Spy" style game for children of all ages.

## 14. DNR Building

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The DNR Building, operated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is where glass aquariums display native Iowa fish species. Information is given on how to identify fish from rivers, streams, and lakes in Iowa. It also provides information about hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, state parks, energy and recycling programs as well as conservation programs throughout Iowa. Be sure to check out the Fair's daily program for events, classes and seminars on the day of your trip.

## 15. John Deere Agriculture Building

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Butter Cow

The iconic Butter Cow begins with a sturdy frame of wood, metal, wire and steel mesh, then gets sculpted with around 600 pounds of low-moisture, pure cream Iowa butter. Inside a 40-degree cooler, layers of butter are carefully added until the life-sized cow—standing about 5 ½ feet tall and 8 feet long—comes to life. Though smaller than a real dairy cow, the butter version could cover 19,200 slices of toast and would take an average person two lifetimes to eat. Much of the butter is reused for up to 10 years, and each year, a new themed companion sculpture joins the Butter Cow in the Agriculture Building cooler.

### Giant Pumpkin Display

This contest is for big squash type pumpkins. The Iowa State Fair record is 1,323 pounds and was set in 2010. This contest is open to entrants from all states; so be sure to note where all the pumpkins come from!

## 16. The Garden

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Garden features fruits, vegetables and farm crops grown in Iowa. Smell, touch and feel your way through pizza and salsa gardens while learning about each ingredient. A must-see is the corn and soybean room.

## 17. Have You Herd? Presentations

Hours: Daily at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Have You Herd presentations are a way to provide livestock education from a unique perspective – from youth! Have You Herd allows the Fairgoer to meet, see, hear and learn from some of the Fair's most passionate and knowledgeable exhibitors. Just outside the east entrance of the Sheep Barn, see these live animal demonstrations about raising and showing sheep, swine, dairy cattle, beef cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, chickens, rabbits, horses and even llamas!

## 18. Hy-Vee Fun Forest

Nestled in the shade of a 1½ acre green oasis dotted with trees and flowers, the Fun Forest Stage at the Iowa State Fair is a vibrant, family friendly hub for free entertainment. This colorful outdoor venue—sponsored by Community Choice Credit Union—hosts upbeat performances throughout the Fair. With ground seating and temporary bleachers, it's the perfect spot for kids and families to sing, dance, laugh, and connect under the Iowa sky.

### NEW FOR 2025: Variety Star Playground

The Variety Star Playground is designed to inspire outdoor play and creativity. This new playground will have an agricultural theme with farm animals, complete with accessible ramps and smooth, easy-to-navigate surfaces. It's a space where children of all abilities can play, encouraging physical activity, imagination, and friendship.

## 13. Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center is an agricultural education exhibit featuring live births of various species of farm animals including cows, sows, goats (does) and ewes. Fairgoers of all ages will be drawn to the chick hatching display along with the dairy calves, turkeys and ducklings. Be sure to check out the Farmer Bull Pen and get your very own Ag Trading Card.

## 20. Andringa Foundation Little Hands on the Farm

Hours: 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Little Hands on the Farm teaches children the importance of agriculture and how it affects their daily lives in a fun and interactive way. Children ages 2 to 10 become farmers at this free, hands-on exhibit. Children obtain a gathering basket and proceed along a path that includes a garden, grain bin, apple orchard, chicken coop, tractor shed, sheep barn, dairy barn, beef barn and swine barn. After gathering items along the way, kids get the chance to sell their items at the farmers' market for a Little Hands dollar to buy a piece of fruit, a granola bar, ice cream, or other items at the grocery store.

### NEW FOR 2025: Iowa's Ag-Spy

Iowa's Ag-Spy will add an extra layer to Little Hands on the Farm for those who are 11 and over to enjoy the exhibit from a new perspective as a scavenger hunt designed just for them. Complete the hunt to get a prize!

## 21. Blue Ribbon Kids Club

Hours: Weekdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Blue Ribbon Kids Club, the Fair's special club for ages 10 and under, allows children to experience the Fair from a unique perspective. Blue Ribbon Kids members will get a rare glimpse at the heart of the Iowa State Fair and won't be simply watching demonstrations – they'll be part of the action. Kids' Club offers speakers and hands-on crafts, and best of all it is a free event at the Fair. Be sure to check out the Fair's daily program for a list of Kids' Club events.

