

Fair General Rules and Regulations

Entries:

1. County Exhibitors must be 4-H or FFA members of Polk County. 4-H'er or FFA member must be enrolled by May 15 of the current year.
 - Clover Kids – K-3 Grade
 - Junior – Grades 4-6
 - Intermediate – Grades 7-8
 - Senior – Grades 9-12
 - FFA – Grades 9-12 or 4 national conventions after high school graduation
2. The exhibit is an outgrowth of work done as a planned part of a project or program through 4-H or FFA.
3. Exhibitors in 4-H divisions are not eligible to exhibit in a similar division of FFA or vice-versa. Please communicate with extension or FFA staff for exceptions and clarifications. Polk County follows the state fair rules.
4. All fair entries, including Open Livestock, are to be made in [FairEntry](http://polkcountyfair.fairentry.com) (<http://polkcountyfair.fairentry.com>) before or on July 1 by 11:59 pm. No Paper forms will be accepted.
5. 4-H and FFA late entries can be made for two business days following July 1. A \$50.00 per day fee will be assessed for late entries. After the 2-day late registration period, youth must contact the Fair board President to attend the Fair board meeting and ask permission to exhibit. Upon the Fair board's decision, a final fee will be decided.
6. Youth open class livestock can make late entries in [FairEntry](http://polkcountyfair.fairentry.com) (<http://polkcountyfair.fairentry.com>). Entries will be charged a \$10 late fee.
7. All late entries have to be filled out in the office. Late entries must be paid in cash or check.
8. All exhibits will be under the control and general direction of the Department Superintendents.
9. The Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Board will use every precaution to ensure the safety of animals or articles entered for exhibition after their arrival and placement, but in no case will they be responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to the same.
10. The Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Board request the use of special precautions while using fans, radios, and other electrical equipment. All fans must have a protective covering or will not be allowed.
11. The only animals allowed in the sheep barn, horse barn, and Jacobson arena are animals being exhibited and certified service animals. All animals need to be contained or under control. Certified service animals need to be marked as such, this is an Iowa State Fairgrounds rule.
12. Animals must be owned by the exhibitor or immediate family member. All registration papers must be issued to exhibitor, family farm name.

Behavior & Conduct

1. All exhibitors and program participants are expected to be cooperative, courteous, and respectful 4-H or FFA representatives while on the fairgrounds and participating in fair events.
2. The Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Board has adopted a policy of no alcoholic beverages or illegal substances at the County Fair by Exhibitors. The exhibitors' use or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or smoking at the fair will disqualify the exhibitor's entry(s) and discontinued participation by the exhibitor.
3. 4-H and FFA members will NOT be allowed to remain at the fairgrounds overnight without adult supervision on the grounds.
4. Any cause for concern should be verbally addressed to the Department Superintendent. If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, a protest should be made, in writing, to the Department Superintendent from which the complaint arises. The Executive Committee on the grounds reserves the right to interpret all rules, and their decisions will be final. All protests and Executive Committee action will be reviewed by the Polk County 4-H and FFA Fair Board at their next regular meeting.
5. No bikes, scooters, rollerblades, skateboards, water balloons, or water fights are allowed in barns or 4-H exhibit building at any time. Fireworks of any kind are not allowed on the fairgrounds.
6. Any violation of the General Rules and Regulations or anyone who engages in unruly acts, vandalism, malicious treatment of livestock, or any other behavior that could cause injury to people, animals, or property, or disrupts fair activities should be reported to the general superintendent and action will be taken

by the review committee on all cases. This will result in the forfeiture of all privileges, special recognition, and premiums. Livestock will be removed from the fairgrounds immediately.

7. Iowa Youth Code of Ethics will be enforced. Each youth agrees to these terms when they enter classes through FairEntry.

Premiums & Awards

1. Blue, red, and white ribbons will be awarded. Ribbons will be awarded on the merit of the exhibit, regardless of the number of exhibits in the class. The decision of the judge shall be final. Participation ribbons will be given in the "Fun" and "Open" Classes.
2. Only one ribbon will be awarded per entry.
3. Any premium check not submitted for cash within 90 days **will not** be reissued.

Livestock

1. FFA livestock must be identified using the 4-H LS106 series by May 15, including Breeding Beef, Sheep, Dog, Dairy Goat, Meat Goat and Horse.
2. 4-H livestock must be identified in 4honline by May 15, including Breeding Beef, Sheep, Dog, Dairy Goat, Meat Goat and Horse.
3. Market Beef, Sheep, Swine, & Meat Goats - County weigh-in dates.
4. No cattle or horses will be allowed in the barns before 8:00 AM Saturday.
5. Sheep, goats, and swine are not allowed in barns until designated times on the schedule. These animals must go through vet check in the Rock Island Parking Lot, south of the sheep barn before unloading.
6. All livestock must be checked in and weighed in according to the Livestock Weigh-in and Check-in Schedule. All exhibits (livestock and non-livestock) must be in their assigned area and will be released **according to the time in the current years schedule**. The only exception will be cats, dogs, pets, open class animals, and animals shown as a pet during conference judging. They are released immediately following their respective shows.

Livestock Rules and Regulations

(Also see fair general rules & regulations)

1. All exhibitors must furnish their feed, bedding, and water buckets for their exhibits, NO STRAW ALLOWED. Cattle will use wood chips only for bedding provided by the beef department.
2. All pens will be cleaned out on dismissal, or premiums will be withheld, and the exhibitor will be charged a fee of \$100 per pen or stall. All bedding material must be removed from your pen and from underneath adjoining pens.
3. A locked box for show equipment is recommended. Please label all equipment.
4. Advertising, such as personal names, club names, etc., is not allowed on show ring equipment.
5. All market animal weigh-in weights will be final once the animal has left the scale.
6. Exhibitors must wear only white or gray Polk County Fair T-shirts, 4-H T-shirts, or FFA T-shirts. Long jeans and closed toe shoes must be worn by exhibitors in the show ring. No hats, shorts, or ripped jeans of any kind allowed (*Exception: Horse department rules regarding dress and helmets.*)
7. All livestock must be shown by the exhibitor who enters it, except in cases of illness or two exhibits in the same class. Substitutes must be eligible Polk County 4-H or FFA members exhibiting at the Polk County Fair. Department Superintendent needs to be notified before the show.
8. Only exhibitors and officials are allowed in the show ring at the time of judging.
9. All entries must be in place as noted in "Livestock Weigh-In and Check-In Times."
10. All exhibits must remain in the assigned pen, cage, stall, or booth until release time **on the current year schedule** unless stated otherwise in department rules.
11. All beef, sheep, swine, dairy, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry, and rabbit exhibitors must be YQCA certified to show. Contact Extension Office for YQCA certification.
12. Cattle, Sheep, Swine, and Meat Goats must have a Drug affidavit turned in at fair weigh-in.
13. Purebred registration papers must be submitted to the Superintendent at the Fair to be eligible. Registration Papers need to be in the exhibitor's name, farm name or immediate family member's name. Immediate family members include spouse, child, sibling, parent or legal guardian.

14. Unethical fitting shall include any cutting or tearing of the hide, cutting, or tearing underneath the hide or removal of tissue in any attempt to alter the shape or appearance. It shall also include attempts to disrupt or change normal dental development, adding artificial tail heads, switches, polls, hair, and heels; as well as any attempt to change the conformation and degree of firmness by administration of fluids internally or externally in a liquid or solid state. No unnatural means of providing an animal feed, water, or other fluids (i.e., stomach pump, drenching, IV) will be allowed. Exhibitors, families, and any involved parties using these methods will be disqualified and will forfeit all premiums.

Health Requirements for Exhibition of Livestock, Poultry and Birds at a County 4-H/FFA Fair
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Mike Naig, Secretary of Agriculture

Any evidence of warts, ringworm, footrot, pink eye, draining abscesses, or any other contagious or infectious condition will eliminate the animal from the show.

Individual Certificates of Veterinary Inspection will be required on livestock or poultry exhibited at a county 4-H/FFA fair and must be inspected when unloaded or shortly after that by livestock superintendents. Superintendents will require health certificates at check-in time, or the animal will be removed from the fairgrounds. Each show must have an official veterinarian. Health Certificates must be issued within 30 days (14 days for sheep and 7 days for swine) of the county fair. Quarantined animals or animals from quarantined herds cannot be exhibited.

Swine - No testing is required for swine at an exhibition that involves only market classes, provided all swine are consigned directly to a slaughter establishment from the exhibition. Commercial gilts may be taken home subject to state health rules and regulations.

Sheep and Goats - All sexually intact sheep must have an individual Scrapie Flock of Origin identification tag. All sexually intact goats must be identified with an individual Scrapie Flock of Origin identification tag or by an official tattoo registered with USDA (to register, call 1-866-USDA-TAG). Wethers over 18 months of age must have a scrapies tag.

Poultry and Birds - All poultry exhibited must come from U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid clean or equivalent flocks and have had a negative Pullorum-Typhoid test within 90 days of public exhibition performed by an authorized tester. Broilers must be within 30 days of the exhibition. All testing must be completed by the start of the fair and will not be done on the grounds. Superintendent will review certificates at check-in.

Dogs and Cats - All dogs and cats exhibited must have a current rabies vaccination certificate. Cats must have been vaccinated before July 1 with the vaccination number listed on the entry form. You will be required to present your current rabies certificate at the scheduled check-in time.

The decision of the official show veterinarian will be final.

These are the requirements as of the date the fairbook is published, subject to change as guidelines from the USDA change.

Herdsmanship Contest

**Superintendent:
Committee: Fair board Members**

1. All 4-H clubs and FFA chapters with entries in the following departments will compete for Herdsmanship awards: **Beef, Dairy Goats, Meat Goats, Horse, Rabbit/Cavy, Sheep, and Swine.**
2. Ribbons will be awarded to clubs for Herdsmanship awards.
3. Horse displays do not include banners, ribbons, and awards other than 4-H or FFA.
4. All alleys are to be kept clean. Paper decorations on stalls are permitted but should be kept neat and orderly.
5. Judging will be done periodically by a committee, according to the following scorecard:

Category	Description	Points Possible
Cleanliness Of Alleys	Alleys swept clean, free of dust, straw, or any other foreign materials	20
Cleanliness Of Stalls/Pens	Bedding adequate, bright, dry, clean, and in place	20
Cleanliness/Neatness of Tack Pens	Tack pens are clean and arranged neatly for a pleasant appearance	10
Animals Properly Secured	Animals are properly secured in pens with latches closed and secured, or animals are properly tied in designated areas.	10
Welfare Of Animals	Animals appear to be properly taken care of with a sufficient supply of water and proper cooling equipment	10
Appearance Of Animals	Animals are properly groomed and cleaned for the optimal appearance of animals for spectators	10
Identification Of Animals	Stall cards are readable from the alley and filled out with correct information.	10
Attendants From Club Present	Representatives from the club are close by the animals to represent their club in case of an emergency	10

Animal	Arrival	Weigh-in/ Check-in	Show	Release
Advanced Feeders	Saturday 8:00 AM	Saturday 9:00 AM	Wednesday Interviews 10:30 AM Awards 11:30 AM or following interviews	Thursday 3:00 PM
Beef	Sunday 5:00 AM-7:00 PM	Sunday 7:00 PM	Wednesday 3:00 PM	Thursday 5:00 PM
Bucket/Bottle Calf	Sunday 8:00 AM – Wednesday 12:00 PM	Wednesday 12:00 PM	Wednesday 1:00 PM	Following the show, if own animal
Cat	Saturday 2:00 PM	Saturday 2:00 PM	Saturday 3:00 PM	Following Show
Dairy Goat	Saturday 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Saturday 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Monday 8:00 AM	Thursday 5:00 PM
Dog	Monday 7:00 AM	Monday 7:00 AM	Monday 8:00 AM	Following Show
Horse	Saturday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM	Saturday 4:00 PM	Sunday 3:00 PM, Monday 1:00 PM, Tuesday 9:00 AM Wednesday 9:00 AM	Thursday 5:00 PM
Meat Goat	Saturday 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Saturday 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Wednesday 9:00 AM	Thursday 5:00 PM
Open Cat	Saturday 1:00 PM	Saturday 1:00 PM	Saturday 2:00 PM	Following Show
Open Class Poultry	Sunday 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Sunday 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Sunday 2:00 PM	Following Show
Open Class Rabbit/Cavy	Monday 9:00 AM	Monday 9:00 AM	Monday 10:00 AM	Following show
Open Dairy Goat	Monday 8:00 AM	Monday 8:00 AM	Monday 10:00 AM	Following the show, if own animal
Open Meat Goat	Wednesday 7:00 AM	Wednesday 7:00 AM	Wednesday 8:00 AM	Following the show, if own animal
Open Horse	Monday 4:00 PM	Monday 5:30 PM	Monday 6:30 PM	Following the show, if own animal
Open Sheep	Monday 7:00 AM	Monday 10:00 AM	Monday 11:00 AM	Following the show, if own animal
Open Swine	See Swine MUST BE 4-H/FFA Animal	See Swine MUST BE 4-H/FFA Animal	Tuesday 3:00 PM	Thursday 5:00 PM
Poultry	Saturday 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM Broilers & Turkeys only Sunday 6:00-8:00 AM	Saturday 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM Broilers & Turkeys only Sunday 6:00-8:00 AM	Sunday- Market 3:00 PM Tuesday- Breeding 3:00 PM	Thursday 5:00 PM
Rabbit/Cavy	Sunday 3:00 PM- 7:00 PM	Sunday 3:00 PM- 7:00 PM	Monday 10:00 AM	Thursday 5:00 PM
Sheep	Saturday 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Saturday 4:00 - 7:00 PM	Monday 1:00 PM	Thursday 5:00 PM
Swine	Sunday 5:00 AM-8:30 AM	Sunday 9:00 AM	Tuesday 8:00 AM	Thursday 5:00 PM

Auction - Livestock

Superintendents: Ben Shivers, Amy Chance, Nick Griffieon, Trevor Gallagher and Greg VandeLune

The Livestock Auction provides an outlet for the 4-H and FFA youth to sell their livestock. The Polk County Fair Board is not responsible for securing buyers or prices for the livestock. That is the responsibility of each youth.

1. All animals to be sold must have been exhibited by the 4-H or FFA members in their respective departments.
2. Exhibitors will be limited to selling a maximum of four beef animals in the sale in addition to Advanced Cattle Feeder Pens. Exhibitors must report the ear tag numbers of all of their auction animals to the department superintendent before the end of their respective shows.
3. The sale begins promptly at noon Friday.
4. All Livestock must be presented in the show ring by the Exhibitor who entered it or premiums may be withheld. In cases of illness, substitutes must be eligible Polk County 4-H or FFA members exhibiting at the Polk County Fair
5. Sheep and Meat Goats weighing less than the minimums required by the packer will not go through the auction.
6. Sheep, Beef, and Meat Goat use weigh-in weights
7. Auction begins at noon Friday.
8. SALE FEE: 1% of the total auction amount will be deducted from the 4-H/FFA member's check.
9. 4-H/FFA members are responsible for processing and delivering the rabbits and poultry to the buyer.
10. All Sales are Final. See rules in the livestock office when entering your animals for sale.
11. Each Species will be released by the Sale Clerk.
12. Cattle, Sheep, Swine, and Meat Goats must have a Drug affidavit turned in at county fair weigh-in.

Skill-A-Thon

Committee: Amy Chance, Ben Shivers, Kevin Anderson, Caitlin Remington, Taylor Brittain, Jamie Waddingham

1. Teams consist of three members of youth in the same age range. Individual entries will be accepted.
 - a. Pee-Wee- K-3rd grade
 - b. Junior- 4th-6th grade
 - c. Intermediate -7th-8th grade
 - d. Senior- 9th-12th grade
 - e. Adult- Post 12th grade
2. This contest covers the understanding and practical application, and the principles of Animal Science related to the dog, pet stock, poultry, rabbit, horse, dairy goat, beef, sheep, swine, and meat goats project areas.
3. Each youth will be given an answer sheet with their contestant number on it.
4. Youth will be split amongst the table and will not be with their teammates.
5. Youth will have 5 minutes at each table to answer questions or identify what is needed at each station. Pee-Wee- 2 answers, Junior- 5 answers, Intermediate- 8 answers, Seniors & Adults- 10 answers
6. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded to top teams and individuals.
7. Skill-A-Thon will take place on Monday and results will be announced Thursday between Bacon Buddies and Supreme Showmanship. If you will be exhibiting livestock during the contest time please contact the committee for an alternative time.

Supreme Showman Contest

Committee: Nick Griffieon, Amy Chance, Deb DeDecker, Caitlin Remington, Trevor Gallagher, Tyler Stubbs and Taylor Brittain

Supreme Showman will be held in Jacobson Arena Thursday at 2:00 p.m. or immediately after the conclusion of Bacon Buddies and the sheep show, whichever is first.

1. The Master Showmanship winner in the following species will be eligible to compete for Supreme Showman: Beef, Dairy Goat, Horse, Meat Goat, Sheep, and Swine.
2. If an exhibitor wins Master Showmanship in more than one eligible species, he or she will choose which species to represent, and the Reserve Showmanship winner will be eligible to represent the other species.
3. Department Superintendents are responsible for providing the necessary number of animals for the contest.
4. No exhibitor will be allowed to handle their animal, nor an animal belonging to a family member in the Supreme Showman contest.
5. All contestants will be required to submit a written biography before the competition, to be read aloud during the introduction of contestants.
6. The following criteria will be considered in the selection of Supreme Showman:
 - a) Exhibitor's ability to safely handle each species and show the animal to advantage.
 - b) Exhibitor's ability to answer questions put by the judges.
 - c) Exhibitor's show ring appearance and attitude.
7. Exhibitors will wear blue jeans, appropriate footwear, and T-shirts provided by the Committee. Exhibitors will display back letters that are provided. No hats will be worn.
8. Exhibitors will be supplied with all equipment needed to show each species.
9. Species will be shown as a class with the exception of horses
 - a) For Horses: Exhibitors will be handed the showmanship pattern for horses after they have received their assigned animal. They will have two minutes to study the pattern and ask questions of the judge. The horse showmanship winner will go last.
10. Judges will be arranged by the Committee and will be qualified adults.
11. Contestants will be placed 1-6 in each species, and the Supreme Showman winner is the contestant with the highest number of points. Before the commencement of the contest, judges will decide on a tiebreaker. Judges' decision is final.
12. Once selected as Supreme Showman, an exhibitor will not be eligible to enter the contest in later years, even if they win master showmanship again or in a different species. In that event, the Reserve Showman will enter the Supreme Showman contest as a regular contestant.

Past Winners

2021: Molly VandeLune- Meat Goat

2022: Tricia Veldhuizen- Meat Goat

2023: Chesney Steenhoek- Sheep

2024: Tyson Lillegard- Cattle

2025: Evan Huberty- Cattle