

2026 NATIONAL CATTLE CONGRESS FAIR

CREATIVE ARTS/FOODS/HORTICULTURE/PHOTOGRAPHY

SHOW & CONTEST PREMIUM BOOK

★ SPECIAL SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CLASSES DENOTED WITH BLUE STARS ★

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. All entries (except as specifically noted for baked goods and food contests) must be delivered to the National Cattle Congress (NCC) Agriculture Building during one of the following times:
Sunday, September 20, 12 P.M. – 3 P.M. – All Entry Departments Except Baked Goods and Chili Entries
Tuesday, September 22, 10 A.M. 3– 6 P.M. – All Entry Departments Except Baked Goods and Chili Entries
Additional Optional Check-In **FOR HORTICULTURE ONLY**: Wednesday, September 23, 7 A.M. – 9 A.M.
2. Entry/Exhibit Release and Premium Pick-Up (**ALL ENTRIES**):
Sunday, September 27 from 6 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. at the Agriculture Building (**building will close from 5-6 P.M.**)
Tuesday, September 29 from 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. at the NCC Main Office
NOTE: There is **NO EARLY RELEASE** for **ANY** exhibit, except for Mayor's Cookie Jar entries that are all sold at auction.
3. Exhibitors will be issued an entry pass at check-in to pick up exhibits and entries at or after 6:00 P.M., Sunday, September 27, 2026.
4. Judging, except as specifically noted for baked goods and food competitions, will begin at 9 A.M., Wednesday, September 23 and is open to the public. No ticket to the fair is needed this day, as the fair does not open until Thursday.
5. NO interaction with the judges is allowed, unless the judge initiates interaction for general educational purposes. Inappropriate communication or interaction with the judging can result in the ejection of the offending party and disqualification of any entries as determined by the competition committee.
6. **ENTRANTS ARE LIMITED TO ONE (1) ENTRY PER CLASS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS. Additional exhibitor entry limitations are listed under each department.**
7. **Youth Division entries cannot also be entered in the Open Division.**
8. **Adult & Open Class Entry Fees (unless otherwise noted): \$5 for up to 5 entries, \$10 for 6-10 entries, \$15 for 11-15 entries, etc. NOTE: If entering 1 item, the cost is \$5.**
9. **Youth Class Entry Fees (unless otherwise noted): \$1 per item.**
10. All classes are open to exhibitors of any age, except the youth division which is limited to people 18 years old & under, as of September 1, 2026.
11. Entries for competition must be made on official entry forms. Entry forms and an entry tag template are attached and can be found at nationalcattlecongress.com. Filling them out ahead of entry may expedite check-in.
12. Items previously exhibited at the NCC Fair are NOT eligible for re-entry.
13. All items must have been created and/or completed in the past two (2) years.
14. Every person who makes an entry at the NCC herewith exempts and discharges the NCC, its agents, servants and employees from liability for any loss or damage or injury to himself or his property, whether caused by the NCC, its agents, servants or employees or by other cause.
15. Each exhibitor will be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned to any person or to the property of any person by an animal or exhibit owned or exhibited by exhibitor and shall indemnify the management against all claims for injury occasioned by any animal or exhibit owned by him or arising from acts or negligence of any servant or employee of such exhibitor.
16. The NCC reserves the right to withhold premiums awarded in every case in which it shall appear to the management that the regulations have not been complied with or that fraud or deception has been practiced or attempted.
17. **JUDGES' CHOICE AND DISCRETION ARE FINAL WITH NO EXCEPTIONS.** Judges may choose not to award prizes or other recognition to any entry as they deem appropriate.
18. NCC management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret all rules and regulations in this premium book and will arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions or differences in regard thereto or otherwise arising out of or in connection with the NCC Fair. The right is reserved by management to amend or add to these rules as the Board of Directors in its judgement may determine.
19. NO copyrighted images will be accepted.
20. All wall hangings must have sturdy hooks or other hanging devices on the back for hanging or they will not receive a placing.
21. Winners release the rights of publication of their photos or photos of their entry to the NCC for the expressed use of promotion of future NCC materials and other publications.
22. The NCC will use customary care in handling all entries, but will in no case be responsible for loss or damage.

CREATIVE ARTS

1ST 2ND 3RD Honorable Mention

Youth Division: \$6 \$5 \$4 Ribbon

Best Youth Creative Arts Exhibit: Rosette

Open Division: \$6 \$5 \$4 Ribbon

Best Open Creative Arts Exhibit: Rosette

Entry Limit: 10 entries per exhibitor and 1 entry per class

DEPARTMENT 1 - FLORAL DESIGN

1. Fresh Arrangement
2. Dried Arrangement
3. Silk Arrangement

4. Holiday Other Than Fourth of July Design
- ★ 5. Red, White & Blue Arrangement – Dried, Silk or Fresh ★
6. Floral Article Other Than Above

DEPARTMENT 2 – WREATHS

1. Holiday (Any)
- ★ 2. Patriotic ★

3. Seasonal (Non-Holiday Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall)
4. Wreath Other Than Floral (Department 1), Holiday, Patriotic or Seasonal

DEPARTMENT 3 – HOLIDAY CORNER

1. Christmas Stocking
2. Christmas Ornament or Set
3. Christmas Decoration Other Than Above

- ★ 4. Red White & Blue Decoration Other Than Floral Design or Wreath ★
5. Article For Any Holiday Except Christmas or Fourth of July

DEPARTMENT 4 – CROCHET

1. Baby Afghan
2. Afghan Other Than Baby

- ★ 3. Red, White & Blue Crocheted Article or Set of Articles of Any Type ★
4. Crocheted Article or Set of Articles Other Than an Afghan

DEPARTMENT 5 – HAND KNITTING

1. Afghan
2. Cap, Hat, or Tam *
3. Scarf or Cowl *
4. Mittens *
5. Slippers *

7. Brioche Knitted Item *
8. Fair Isle Sweater *
9. Sweater Not Fair Isle *
10. Knitted Set
11. Knitted Article Other Than Above *

- ★ 6. Red White & Blue Article or Set of Articles ★

* = Any items entered by an exhibitor in separate classes that are deemed to be a set will be combined and moved to Class 9 OR will not be eligible for competition if the exhibitor already has an entry in Class 9, at the judge's discretion.

DEPARTMENT 6 – CROSS STITCH

1. Picture (12" or Less on the Longest Side)
2. Picture (12"-24" on the Longest Side)
3. Picture (Over 24" on the Longest Side)

4. Holiday Item Other than Fourth of July
- ★ 5. Red White & Blue Themed Item of any Size or Type ★
6. Any Article Other Than a Picture, Fourth of July or Other Holiday Item

DEPARTMENT 7 – CREWEL EMBROIDERY, NEEDLEPOINT, AND OTHER NEEDLE CRAFTS

1. Picture
- ★ 2. Red White & Blue Themed Article ★

3. Article Other Than a Picture and Other Than Red White & Blue

DEPARTMENT 8 – SEWING

1. Coat or Jacket
2. Suit (2 or more coordinating pieces)
3. Skirt
4. Pants, Slacks or Shorts

5. Dress
6. Shirt or Blouse
6. Memory Bear – **NEW!**

DEPARTMENT 9 – APRONS - NEW!

2026 Theme: ★ Red, White & Blue ★

1. Sewn
4. Knitted or crocheted

RULES:

- All aprons must conform to the stated theme.
- May be bib or half aprons.
- Aprons will be judged on overall appearance, creativity, workmanship/suitability, and design/color.

DEPARTMENT 10 – CRAFTING & WOOD CRAFTING - JUDGED EVENT

1. **Furniture** – an item considered household, office, shop or garage
2. **Clock**
3. **Toys** - doll house, barn, child chair, rocking horse, doll cradle, wagon, tractor, boat, pull toys, etc. Limited to 3' x 3' x 3'.
4. **Manual Carving** – any carved wood item such as a duck, fish, animal, characters, busts, etc.
5. **Mechanical Carving** – any wood item that uses mechanical equipment to carve the item
6. **Turning** – items including: bowls, candlesticks, platter, pen/pencil, vase, etc.
7. **Intarsia** – decorative or pictorial inlay work involving a mosaic of wood pieces.
8. **Scroll Work** – majority of the item is made using scroll saw
9. **Model/Kit** – made from any kit or boxed item.
10. **Miscellaneous** – any item not listed above

RULES:

- Each entry must be the work of the exhibitor.
- Entry size must NOT exceed 54" in any one direction (framed).
- All entries must be ready to hang unless it is an item that stands on its own.
- Art entries will be judged in part based on composition, value, color, variety, unity, technique and originality.

SEED PICTURES

| | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | Honorable Mention |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Youth 10 & Under Division: | \$15 | \$10 | \$5 | Ribbon |
| Youth 11-18 Division: | \$15 | \$10 | \$5 | Ribbon |
| Open Division: | \$15 | \$10 | \$5 | Ribbon |
| * 70 & Over Division: | \$15 | \$10 | \$5 | Ribbon |

Entry Limit: 1 entry per class

* = Special entry fee for 70 and over division is \$1 per entry

DEPARTMENT 11 – SEED PICTURES

1. Holiday
2. Animal(s)
3. Nature

Seed Picture Rules:

1. Artwork must be made entirely out of dry seeds and/or beans. No portion of the seedpod is allowed to be used in the picture.
2. Mounted board must be completely covered with seeds.
3. Seeds must be permanently affixed to the flat surface with an invisible or clear adhesive. A clear protective finish may be applied to the completed picture.
4. Seeds may be layered or partially layered as long as the thickness does not exceed ¾" thick. NOTE: If picture is mounted on a ½" surface item, the total thickness of the entry must be less than 1 ¼" thick.
5. Natural color of the seeds and beans will provide the only pigment in the pictures. NO PAINT OR DYES ARE ALLOWED.
6. Entries may include but are not limited to portraits, landscapes and other pictures that could be painted.
7. Pictures may be no larger than 24" on any one side and must be mounted on a stiff, flat surface. The picture may be framed, but this is not required. There should be no glass or plastic covering the artwork.
8. All items MUST INCLUDE A HANGING MECHANISM ON THE BACK OR IT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR A PLACING.

COMPETITIVE ARTS SHOW

| | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | Honorable Mention |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Youth Division: | \$15 | \$10 | \$5 | Ribbon |
| Best Youth Art Exhibit: Rosette & \$50 | | | | |
| Open Division: | \$15 | \$10 | \$5 | Ribbon |
| Best Open Art Exhibit: Rosette & \$50 | | | | |

Entry Limit: 5 entries per exhibitor and 1 entry per class

DEPARTMENT 12 - COMPETITIVE ARTS SHOW

1. Canvas Painting – Oil *
2. Canvas Painting – Pastel *
3. Canvas Painting – Acrylic *
4. Watercolor Painting *
5. Drawing *
6. Painting or Drawing from a Kit
7. Trash to Treasure Art *
8. Paper Crafts *
9. Vintage Jewelry Pictures *
10. Metal Art Work *
11. Artwork on Glass, Barn Wood, Saw Blades, Etc. *
12. Ceramics – Mold *
13. Ceramics – By Hand *
14. Holiday *
15. Legos – YOUTH CLASS ONLY
- ★ 16. Red White & Blue Themed Art Item * ★
17. Memory Art *
18. Article of Any Artistic Craft Other Than Above *

* Classes are for ORIGINAL ARTWORK ONLY. Only items fitting into classes 6 and 15 may be made from kits.

PHOTOGRAPHY

1ST 2ND 3RD 4th & 5th

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Youth Division: | \$15 | \$10 | \$5 | \$2 |
| Best Youth Photo: Rosette & | \$50 | | | |
| Open Division: | \$15 | \$10 | \$5 | \$2 |
| Best Open Photo: Rosette & | \$50 | | | |

Entry Limit: 5 entries per exhibitor and 1 entry per class

DEPARTMENT 13 – PHOTOGRAPHY – COLOR

1. People/Portrait
2. Flowers
3. Landscape
4. Animals/Pets
5. Action/Sports
6. Water/Seascape
7. Still Life
8. Computer Altered or Enhanced
9. Series *
10. Challenge: Festivals, Fairs or Parades **
- ★ 11. Patriotic ★
12. Miscellaneous/Not Listed Above

DEPARTMENT 14 – PHOTOGRAPHY – BLACK & WHITE

1. People/Portrait
2. Flowers
3. Landscape
4. Animals/Pets
5. Action/Sports
6. Water/Seascape
7. Still Life
8. Computer Altered or Enhanced
9. Series *
10. Challenge: Festivals, Fairs or Parades **
- ★ 11. Patriotic ★
12. Miscellaneous/Not Listed Above

RULES:

- * = A series is a group of photographs [3 to 5] that are related or tell a step-by-step story. Photographs must be mounted together in story order or sequence. Finished size of individual photographs in a series should not exceed 6" x 8".
- ** = Challenge class entries must have been taken in the past two (2) years.
- Contest is open to all AMATEUR photographers.
- Each entry must be the original work of the entrant.
- The photography competition is about the ART of photography NOT photoshopping. Basic editing techniques are acceptable for any of the normal classes. AI may only be used as a filter capacity when applying it to an image that was taken on a camera and can only be entered in Class 8.
- In case of montages, all work must have been captured and assembled by the entrant.
- All photos must have been shot or completed within the last two (2) years.
- A subject may only be used once by the same photographer.
- The same person or object cannot be in multiple pictures by the same entrant.
- The same image may only be used once.
- Items previously exhibited at the NCC Fair are not eligible.
- All entries must be no smaller than 5" x 7" and no larger than 11" x 14".
- All entries must be mounted on foam core, sintra or styrene that is at least 1/8" thick. Maximum thickness of finished project must not exceed ¼" thick.
- Judges will not judge the mat. The mat should not compete with the photo. A mat is optional and cannot exceed the foam core.

- Photographer's name(s), date of photo, or any other identifying marks should not be on the photo.
- All entries must be unframed.
- Subject matter of photographs must be in good taste and be appropriate for public display in a family setting.
- Photographs depicting unsafe practices or illegal activities are not allowed.
- NO HOOKS, WIRES, GLASS, CELLOPHANE, DOUBLE STICK TAPE, or anything that could damage another person's work will be allowed.

QUILTING **1ST 2ND 3RD Honorable Mention**

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|--------|
| Youth Division: | \$25 | \$15 | \$10 | Ribbon |
| Best Youth Quilt: Rosette & \$25 | | | | |
| Open Division: | \$25 | \$15 | \$10 | Ribbon |
| Best Open Quilt: Rosette & \$25 | | | | |

Entry Limit: 3 entries per exhibitor and 1 entry per class [Note: A team/group entry counts toward each team member's entry limit]

DEPARTMENT 15 - QUILTING

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Hand Quilted Quilt by Exhibitor | 6. Team/Group Quilt - 3 or More People |
| 2. Machine Quilted Quilt by Exhibitor | 7. Holiday Quilt Other Than Fourth of July, Any Stitching |
| 3. Machine Quilted Quilt - Not by Exhibitor ★ | 8. Red White & Blue Themed Quilt or Quilted Article ★ |
| 4. Baby or Crib Quilt (Any Technique) | 9. Any Tied Quilt |
| 5. Embroidered, Cross-Stitched, Appliqued or Painted Quilt | 10. Any Other Quilted Item <u>Other Than Listed Above That is NOT A QUILT</u> |

ANTIQUE & VINTAGE QUILTED & HAND-WOVEN ITEMS

1ST 2ND 3RD Honorable Mention

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|-----|--------|
| One Division: | \$20 | \$10 | \$5 | Ribbon |
| Overall Best of Show: Rosette | | | | |

Special Award Certificates May Be Presented As Determined By The Judge(s)

Entry Limit: 2 entries per exhibitor and 1 entry per class

DEPARTMENT 16 - ANTIQUE ITEMS - Items made on or before 1926

1. Antique Quilted Item
2. Antique Hand-Woven Item

DEPARTMENT 17 - VINTAGE ITEMS - Items quilted after 1926 but before 1966

1. Vintage Quilted Item
2. Vintage Hand-Woven Item

RULES:

- This competition is intended as a way to share and display heritage items. All entries must be accompanied by a story of the item that includes the approximate date the item was made, the specific name of the person that made the item, and up to three (3) memory statements about the person and/or the item. It is intended that the entrant knows or knew or has information about the specific person that made the item and be able to describe that connection. To ensure the story is easy for fairgoers to read, it must be typed on an 8.5"X11" sheet of white paper using the Arial font in 14 point, bold print.
- Quilted items may be hand or machine quilted.
- Items do not have to be made by the entrant.
- To ensure items are not damaged, they will not be hung but will be displayed either on quilt racks or folded and displayed on a flat surface.
- Judging Criteria: Entries will be evaluated based primarily on construction quality and originality/creativity. Other criteria may also be considered, depending on the types of items entered and as deemed appropriate by the judges for this unique, new competition.

BAKING CONTESTS

ALL BAKING ENTRIES MUST BE CHECKED IN FROM 8-10 A.M., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 IN THE AGRICULTURE BUILDING. DISCOUNTED TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT ALL GATES DURING THIS TIME FOR YOUTH (18 & UNDER) ENTERING BAKED GOODS ENTRIES. YOUTH MUST SHOW THEIR ENTRIES AND ENTRY SHEETS TO GATE OFFICIALS TO QUALIFY.

BAKING CONTESTS JUDGING SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26:

| 10:30 A.M. | 11:30 A.M. |
|---|--|
| <u>Celebrity Foods Judge + 2 Cedar Valley Mayors</u> | <u>Judge 1</u> |
| Mayor's Cookie Jar Contest | \$100 Cinnamon Roll Challenge |
| | King Arthur Open Class Baking Contest |
| | King Arthur Kids' Cookie Challenge |
| | Pie Contest |
| | Decorated Cookie Contest |

MAYORS' COOKIE JAR CONTEST

| | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | 4th |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Open Division Only: | \$50 | \$25 | \$15 | \$10 |
| 1 st -Place: Rosette | | | | |

Entry Limit: 1 entry per exhibitor per class

DEPARTMENT 18 – MAYORS' COOKIE JAR CONTEST & AUCTION

One (1) Class:

1. Individual or Team of Two (2) or More People

RULES:

1. ENTRY DAY OF EVENT ONLY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 ON THE SPECIAL BAKING ENTRY FORM ATTACHED OR PROVIDED AT THE CHECK-IN TABLE.
2. NO ENTRY FEE.
3. CHECK IN: 8-10 A.M., Saturday, September 26 at the NCC AGRICULTURE BUILDING
4. Judging will begin at 10:30 A.M. with awards announced at the conclusion of judging. A silent auction will occur immediately after awards are announced and will continue until 5:00 P.M.
5. Open to all ages. No separate youth division.
6. Cookies may be made by a team of people, including but not limited to parents/children, youth clubs/class groups, etc.
7. Certificates will be awarded for the Best Individual Cookie, Most Visually Appealing Display, and other awards to be determined by the judges and/or competition committee.
8. ALL cookies and jars will be sold at auction – NO EXCEPTIONS. NO COOKIE JARS WILL BE RETURNED TO ENTRANTS.
9. Three (3) different types of cookies must completely fill a 1-gallon (128 oz.) CLEAR GLASS, LIDDED OR OTHERWISE ENCLOSED container of the entrant's choosing.
10. The entrant will also provide THREE (3) full samples of each of the three (3) different types of cookies on a disposable, WHITE plate sealed in a zipping plastic bag for cookie judging.
11. Cookies in the jar should not be individually or otherwise wrapped.
12. Entrant can SLIGHTLY enhance the jar lid but not in any way to obscure the ability to view all the cookies.
13. Entries must be family friendly.
14. COMPLETE recipes with ALL ingredients and instructions must accompany the entry and will NOT be returned to entrant. Recipes may be published.
15. Cookies requiring refrigeration after baking are NOT allowed.
16. COOKIES MUST BE APPROPRIATE FOR A COOKIE JAR. FROSTED, CHOCOLATE COVERED OR OTHERWISE COATED COOKIES ARE NOT ALLOWED. CRUMBLY OR TOO SOFT COOKIES ARE HIGHLY DISCOURAGED AS THEY DO NOT HOLD UP IN COOKIE JAR CONDITIONS AND WILL BE DISCOUNTED BY THE JUDGES.
17. All auction proceeds go to Friends of NCC, a 501(c)(3) organization supporting the NCC's mission.

\$100 CINNAMON ROLL CHALLENGE**1ST****2ND****3RD****4TH-10TH**

Open Division Only:

\$100

\$50

\$25

\$10

1st-Place: RosetteEntry Limit: 1 entry per exhibitor**DEPARTMENT 19 – \$100 CINNAMON ROLL CHALLENGE**

One Class: Caramel or iced cinnamon rolls

RULES:

1. ENTRY DAY OF EVENT ONLY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 ON THE SPECIAL BAKING ENTRY FORM ATTACHED OR PROVIDED AT THE CHECK-IN TABLE.
2. ENTRY FEE: \$2
3. CHECK IN: 8-10 A.M., Saturday, September 26 at the NCC AGRICULTURE BUILDING
4. Awards will be announced at the conclusion of judging.
5. Open to all ages. No separate youth division.
6. Premanufactured ingredients like frozen dough, prepackaged mixes, puddings, flaked or other kinds of instant potatoes, etc. cannot be used as ingredients.
7. All recipes must include cinnamon.
8. **FOUR (4)** rolls must be exhibited. They may be baked **1)** in a 9" X 9" or 8" X 8" pan and remain attached **OR 2)** the entry may be a selection of four (4) rolls baked in a larger pan BUT the four (4) rolls must be contiguous in a selected square and remain attached. Rolls cannot be hand selected from other pans or different parts of a pan.
9. Display the **FOUR (4)** cinnamon rolls on very sturdy cardboard wrapped with white paper. The base should not exceed the rolls by more than 2" on any side.
10. During judging, the competition committee will retain one roll for display. The remaining rolls will be released after judging. All displayed baked goods will be disposed of and will not be returned to exhibitors. Only ribbons and entry tags will be returned.
11. Rolls must be baked in a home-style oven.
13. If using frosting, frost only the **TOP**, not the sides of the rolls.
14. Rolls cannot be warmed prior to judging.
15. Rolls must only be made by the person entering them.
16. Judging criteria: flavor (50%); texture (20%); appearance (20%); and aroma (10%).
17. Entrant must provide a legible copy of the full recipe (without entrant's name) listing all ingredients and instructions.
18. Recipes will NOT be returned to the exhibitor and may be published.
19. Prior contest winners are not allowed to compete in this challenge for 5 (five) years (e.g., the 2025 winner cannot compete again until 2031).

**KING ARTHUR BAKING CONTEST****1ST****2ND****3RD****SPONSOR: King Arthur Baking Company**

Open Division:

\$75*

\$50*

\$25*

Youth Division:

\$40*

\$25*

King Arthur Tote Bag

* Premiums are in the form of a gift cards redeemable at www.kingarthurbaking.comEntry Limit: 1 entry per exhibitor per class**DEPARTMENT 20 – KING ARTHUR BAKING CONTEST****OPEN CLASS (see more detailed information about the class below):**

1. Scones – Link: <https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/scones-recipe>

NOTE: For food safety reasons, entrants should not add ingredients that are moist and could cause bacteria growth.

YOUTH CLASS (see more detailed information about the class below):

2. Kids' World's Best Cookie Challenge

RULES:

- ENTRIES IN THE OPEN CLASS MUST BE MADE USING THE REQUIRED KING ARTHUR RECIPE LISTED IN THIS PREMIUM BOOK AS REFERENCED FROM THE KING ARTHUR WEBSITE.

- **ENTRANTS IN THE OPEN CLASS MAY ADD INGREDIENTS TO THE REQUIRED RECIPE BUT CANNOT DIVERGE FROM THE INGREDIENTS LISTED OR THE QUANTITY OF THE INGREDIENTS LISTED. ALL CHANGES MUST BE DOCUMENTED IN WRITING.**
- **ENTRIES IN THE YOUTH CLASS CAN USE ANY COOKIE RECIPE OF THEIR CHOOSING. THE RECIPE MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE ENTRY.**
- **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE MADE WITH KING ARTHUR FLOUR. AT CHECK IN, ENTRANT MUST PRODUCE THE OPENED BAG OF KING ARTHUR FLOUR USED FOR THE RECIPE OR PROVIDE THE ORIGINAL UPC CODE FROM THE FLOUR BAG.**
- **ENTRY DAY OF EVENT ONLY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 ON THE SPECIAL KING ARTHUR ENTRY FORM.** The entry form can be found in this packet, at nationalcattlecongress.com (see forms link under “2026 Fair”) or at the event check-in table.
- OPEN AND YOUTH CLASS ENTRY FEE: \$2
- CHECK IN: 8-10 A.M., Saturday, September 26 at the NCC AGRICULTURE BUILDING
- Awards will be announced at the conclusion of judging.
- During judging, the competition committee will retain the baked item or a portion thereof for display. The remainder of the entry, if any, will be released after judging. Entries will remain on display until the end of the fair on Sunday, September 27. All displayed baked goods will be disposed of and will not be returned to exhibitors. Only ribbons and entry tags will be returned.
- As applicable, recipes and/or recipe alteration documentation will NOT be returned to the exhibitor and may be published.
- Failure to follow the rules may result in disqualification.
- King Arthur and the NCC are not responsible for replacing lost or misplaced prizes or ribbons (including gift cards).
- Judging criteria:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Taste | 50 points |
| Overall Appearance & Creativity | 25 points |
| Texture | <u>25 points</u> |
| Total: | 100 points |

Class 1 (Open Class): King Arthur Scones – Must use all ingredients and follow all instructions in this recipe

Weblink: <https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/scones-recipe>

Recipe also available at nationalcattlecongress.com under the “2026 Fair” tab

- Entry will consist of four (4) scones
- Entries must be submitted on a white disposable plate in a clear, zipping plastic bag.
- Entrant must provide written documentation (without entrant’s name) of all alterations to the recipe and any optional ingredients (as noted in the King Arthur recipe) used.
- For food safety reasons, entrants should NOT add ingredients that are moist and could cause bacteria growth.

Class 2 (Youth Only Class): King Arthur Kids’ World’s Best Cookie Challenge

- Entry will consist of six (6) cookies.
- Entries must be submitted on a white disposable plate in a clear, zipping plastic bag.
- Entrant can select their own favorite cookie recipe of any variety. Recipe must be a baked cookie.
- Entrant must provide a legible copy of the full recipe (without entrant’s name) listing all ingredients and instructions. Recipes may be published.

PIE CONTEST

| | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | 4TH |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Open Division Only: | \$20 | \$15 | \$10 | Ribbon |
| Overall Winner: Rosette & \$25 | | | | |

Entry Limit: 2 entries per exhibitor

DEPARTMENT 21 – PIE CONTEST – DOUBLE-CRUST FRUIT PIES ONLY

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. Apple | 4. Other Fruit |
| 2. Cherry | 5. Combination (two or more different types of fruits) |
| 3. Berry* | |

*= Berry pies must use a single berry variety or a combination of different varieties of berries. No other type of fruit can be included.

RULES:

1. **ENTRY DAY OF EVENT ONLY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 ON THE SPECIAL BAKING ENTRY FORM ATTACHED OR PROVIDED AT THE CHECK-IN TABLE.**

2. ENTRY FEE: \$2
3. CHECK IN: 8-10 A.M., Saturday, September 26 at the NCC AGRICULTURE BUILDING
4. Awards will be announced at the conclusion of judging.
5. Entries in the single fruit pie classes can only include that fruit type. All pies with more than one type of fruit must be entered in the combination class.
6. No refrigerated, custard, cream, meat or single-crust pies allowed.
7. All fillings and crusts must be made by the exhibitor from scratch.
8. No meat, egg or dairy products are allowed in the fillings.
9. All pies must be in 8" or 9" plates.
10. Entrants can use their own glass, ceramic or metal pie plates. During judging, the competition committee will retain one piece of each pie for display. The remainder of all pies will be released after judging. Contestants can use disposable aluminum pie plates if they do not want to claim their pie after judging. Only entry tags and ribbons will be released with premiums Sunday, September 27.
11. Entries must include the FULL RECIPE INCLUDING ALL INSTRUCTIONS for the filling and crust. Recipe cannot include the entrant's name.
12. All recipes will be retained and may be published.
13. Certificates will be awarded for overall Best Filling, Best Crust and Most Visually Appealing pies. Additional certificates for other categories may be awarded at the discretion of the judge.

| RED WHITE & BLUE DECORATED COOKIE CONTEST | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD | 4TH |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|

| | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|--------|
| Open Division Only: | \$25 | \$15 | \$10 | Ribbon |
| 1 st -Place Winner: Rosette | | | | |

Entry Limit: 1 entry per exhibitor

DEPARTMENT 22 – DECORATED COOKIE CONTEST

1. ★ Red, White & Blue Decorated Cookie ★

RULES:

1. ENTRY DAY OF EVENT ONLY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 ON THE SPECIAL BAKING ENTRY FORM ATTACHED OR PROVIDED AT THE CHECK-IN TABLE.
2. ENTRY FEE: \$2
3. CHECK IN: 8-10 A.M., Saturday, September 26 at the NCC AGRICULTURE BUILDING
4. Awards will be announced at the conclusion of judging.
5. Entry must be six (6) individually decorated **SUGAR** cookies.
6. Decoration colors can include accents other than red, white and blue but **MUST BE PREDOMINATELY** red, white and blue.
7. All cookies can be decorated identically or all six (6) can be uniquely decorated.
8. Judging will be based on decorating quality, uniqueness, and taste.



| THE GREAT CHILI COOKOFF | 1ST | 2ND | 3RD |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Open Division Only: | \$50 | \$20 | \$10 |
| 1 ST Place: Rosette | | | |

Special award certificates may be presented at the discretion of the judges

Entry Limit: 1 entry per exhibitor

DEPARTMENT 23 – CHILI COOKOFF

1. One Class: Chili

RULES:

1. ENTRY DAY OF EVENT ONLY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 ON THE SPECIAL CHILI ENTRY FORM ATTACHED OR PROVIDED AT THE CHECK-IN TABLE.
2. ENTRY FEE: \$5
3. CHECK IN: 12-12:45 P.M., Sunday, September 27 at the NCC AGRICULTURE BUILDING

4. JUDGING WILL BEGIN AT 1 P.M.
5. Awards will be announced at the conclusion of judging. Special award certificates may be presented at the discretion of the judges.
6. Chili must be cooked from scratch at home and brought on site the day of the cook-off ready to eat in no larger than a 4.5-quart crock-pot to maintain the chili at a temperature of 140 degrees or higher.
7. All meat and poultry must be obtained from USDA approved sources. Home canned and home prepared foods are NOT allowed.
8. A listing of ingredients used to make the chili must be provided, but quantities do not need to be included.
9. True chili is defined as any kind of meat or combination of meats cooked with chili peppers, various other spices and other ingredients. Vegetarian chili will be accepted. Toppings of cheese, onion, cilantro, etc. are allowed but must be placed on top of the chili in the crock pot at or before check-in.
10. Regular commercial chili powder is permissible, but complete commercial chili mixes are not permitted.
11. All cooking must be done in a sanitary manner. Suspicion of failure to comply will lead to disqualification.
12. Chili will be blind judged. The judges' decision is final. Judges will vote for the chili they like best based on the following major considerations: a. presentation and color (chili should look appetizing); b. aroma (chili should smell good); c. consistency (chili must have a good ratio between sauce and meat and should not be dry, watery, grainy, lumpy or greasy); and d. taste (taste above all else is the most important factor and should consist of the combination of the meat, spices, etc., with no particular ingredient being too dominant).



THE GREAT PUMPKIN CONTEST

THE BIGGEST PUMPKIN CONTEST **1ST** **2ND** **3RD** **Honorable Mention**

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|------|--------|
| Youth Division: | \$20 | \$15 | \$10 | Ribbon |
| Open Division: | \$20 | \$15 | \$10 | Ribbon |

Overall Biggest Pumpkin: Small Trophy, Rosette & \$50

Entry Limit: 1 per exhibitor

- Pumpkins will be weighed on site.
- Weights will be determined by a team of individuals as named by the contest committee.
- Must be delivered and displayed on a pallet (pallet weight will not be included with the pumpkin's weight).

DEPARTMENT 24 – BIGGEST PUMPKIN

1. **Biggest Pumpkin**

PUMPKINS (HORTICULTURE) **1ST** **2ND** **3RD** **Honorable Mention**

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Open Division: | \$6 | \$5 | \$4 | Ribbon |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|

Best Pumpkin (Horticulture): Small Trophy & Rosette

Entry Limit: 4 per exhibitor

DEPARTMENT 25 – PUMPKINS

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Pie/Sugar | 3. White or Cream | 5. Other Than Above |
| 2. Jack-O-Lantern (Orange) | 4. Miniature Pumpkins | |

HORTICULTURE

1ST 2ND 3RD Honorable Mentions

One Division: \$6 \$5 \$4 Ribbon

Overall Best of Show: Rosette

Vegetables Best of Show: Rosette

Fruit Best of Show: Rosette

Flowers Best of Show: Rosette

Fair Gardens Best of Show: Rosette

- The exhibitor must have personally grown horticulture specimens.
- Flowers must be displayed in clear containers that are furnished by the exhibitor. Plastic water bottles are not reliably stable and **CAN NOT** be used to display flowers.
- Vegetables & fruits will be displayed on white disposable plates furnished by the NCC.

Entry Limit: 20 entries per exhibitor and 1 entry per class

DEPARTMENT 26 – SPECIAL HORTICULTURE CLASSES – NEW CLASSES!

1. Largest Vegetable (List Type)
2. Smallest Vegetable (List Type)
3. Most Unusual Vegetable (List Type)
4. Ugliest Vegetable (List Type)
5. Largest Fruit (List Type)
6. Smallest Fruit (List Type)
7. Tallest Corn Stalk
8. Longest Ear of Field Corn
9. Tallest Sunflower
10. Largest Sunflower Head (Diameter)

NOTE: Description on the entry tag must name the type of item entered when required above, for example “Summer Squash”, “Tomato”. When the variety is known, please list that as well so fairgoers can be informed, for example “Imperial Summer Squash”, “Big Boy Tomato”. Please be as specific as possible, when known.

DEPARTMENT 27 – FAIRY GARDENS

Fairy gardens are a miniature landscape or scene in a container. Creativity is encouraged, and emphasis is not necessarily on plant material. The garden must have some live plant material(s) included. All types of accessories are permitted. NO artificial plant material is allowed. Entries will be judged on overall design, creativity and the imaginative use of materials, with a focus on natural or organic elements and live plants.

Fairy Gardens

1. Tea Cup
2. No Larger Than 12” In Any Direction

- ★ 3. Tea Cup Red White & Blue ★
- ★ 4. Red White & Blue No Larger Than 12” In Any Direction ★

DEPARTMENT 28 -VEGETABLES

1. Red or White Cabbage (Head)
2. Cucumbers (3 on a Plate)
 - a. Slicing
 - b. Pickling
3. Squash (1 on a Plate)
 - a. Acorn
 - b. Butternut
 - c. Zucchini
 - d. Other
4. Gourds (Excludes Miniature Pumpkins)
 - a. Large – Over 6” (1 on a Plate)
 - b. Small – 6”-3” (3 on a Plate)
 - c. Miniature – 3” or Smaller (3 on a Plate)
5. Tomatoes (3 on a Plate)
 - a. Cherry (Any Color) – 10 on a Plate
 - b. Paste (e.g., Roma) – 3 on a Plate
 - c. Red – 3 on a Plate
 - d. Other Than Listed Above
(10 on a Plate if Small, 3 on a Plate if Large)
6. Potatoes (3 on a Plate)
 - a. White
 - b. Red
 - c. Blue
7. Onions (3 on a Plate)
 - a. White
 - b. Red
 - c. Yellow
8. Bell Peppers (3 on a Plate)
 - a. Red
 - b. Yellow
 - c. Green
9. Other Peppers (3 on a Plate)
 - a. Banana
 - b. Jalapeno
 - c. Other Sweet Not Listed Above
 - d. Other Hot Not Listed Above
10. Other Vegetable Not List Above

DEPARTMENT 29 – FRUIT

1. Pears (3 on a Plate)
2. Cantaloupe
3. Watermelon
4. Apples (3 on a Plate) a. Jonathan b. Red Delicious c. Macintosh d. Gold or Yellow e. Round f. Oval
5. Strawberries (3 on a Plate)
6. Peaches (3 on a Plate)
7. Other Fruit Not Listed Above (3 if Large, More if Small)

DEPARTMENT 30 – FLOWERS

House Plants

1. Blooming
2. Non-Blooming

Annuals

3. Celosia (1 Stem)
 - a. Crested
 - b. Plumed
4. Marigolds – Large
(3 Blooms, 3" or More in Diameter)
5. Marigolds – Small
(3 Blooms, Under 3" in Diameter)
6. Salvia (3 Stems)
 - a. Red
 - b. Blue
 - c. Other
7. Coleus (3 Cuttings)
8. Zinnias – Large
(3 Blooms, 3" or More in Diameter)
9. Zinnias – Small
(3 Blooms, Under 3" in Diameter)
10. Aster (1 Stem)
11. Geranium (1 Stem)
12. Other Annual Not Listed Above

Perennials & Biennials

13. Chrysanthemum (1 Bloom, Stem or Spray)
 - a. Large
 - b. Pompom
 - c. Cushion
14. Sedum (1 Stem)
 - a. Red
 - b. Blue
 - c. Other Color Not Listed Above
15. Aster (1 Stem)
16. Dahlia (1 Bloom, Stem or Spray)
 - a. Cactus or Semi Cactus
 - b. Decorative
 - c. Pompon or Ball
 - d. Dinner Plate
 - e. Other Not Listed Above
17. Hydrangea (1 Stem)
18. Other Perennials & Biennials Not Listed Above

Roses

19. Shrub
(1 Stem With Bloom, Named)
20. Climber
(1 Branch 12" - 18" Long, Named)
21. Other Rose Not Listed Above (1 Stem With Bloom, Named)
22. Miniature
(1 Stem With Bloom, Named)
23. Hybrid
(1 Stem With Bloom, Named)

WOOD CRAFTING DISPLAY - DISPLAY ONLY – THIS IS NOT A JUDGED EVENT

ANY ONE CAN DISPLAY ITEMS IN THIS CATEGORY. This is a woodworking display of fine woods that is going to demonstrate and show the public the crafting skills in the Cedar Valley Area. There will be a display of exotic wood varieties as well as common woods. Exhibitors will also include a selection of joints commonly used in woodworking.

General Entry Rules:

Items DISPLAYED: MUST be made by the exhibitor using mostly wood the exceptions of: knobs, latches, hinges, fasteners, clock works, wheels, etc., which are necessary parts of the items.

Display Categories:

1. Furniture – an item considered household, office, shop or garage
2. Toys – items that a child would play with including: doll house, barn, child chair, rocking horse, doll cradle, wagon, tractor, boat, pull toys, etc. and are limited to 3' x 3' x 3' in size.
3. Carving – any carved wood item such as a duck, fish, animal, characters, busts, etc.
4. Turning – items including: bowls, candlesticks, platter, pen/pencil, vase, etc.
5. Intarsia – decorative or pictorial inlay work involving a mosaic of wood pieces.
6. Scroll Work – majority of the item is made using scroll saw
7. Miscellaneous – any item not listed above

CEDAR VALLEY WOODWORKERS ASSOCIATION

The Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association is a non-profit organization of persons interested in improving the woodworking skills of its members and the public. Monthly meetings include a presentation on one of the processes used in woodworking. Meetings are open to guests from the public, and membership dues are \$35/year. For more information, visit their website at cedarvalleywoodworkers.com



2026 National Cattle Congress Fair

Baking Contests

Entry Form

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address:

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

Home

Cell

Email: _____

Check All That Apply:

Mayor's Cookie Jar Contest: Individual or Team

Cinnamon Roll Challenge: Open

Pie Contest: Apple Cherry Berry Other Fruit Combination
[Limit of 2]

Red White & Blue Decorated Cookie Contest: Open

For Competition Check-In Committee Only:

Entry tag completed & secured to item

\$2 entry fee paid

Recipe with all ingredients & instructions provided – no name on recipe



2026 National Cattle Congress Fair

King Arthur Baking Contest

Entry Form

Name _____

Mailing Address:

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

Home

Cell

Email: _____

Check One: Open Class Scones Youth Class Cookies

Youth entrants only:

Birthdate: _____

Name of parent or guardian: _____

For Competition Check-In Committee Only:

- Entry tag completed & secured to item
- \$2 entry fee paid
- King Arthur flour bag or UPC code cut from bag provided
- Modifications/optional items added to recipe (Open Class) or full recipe (Youth) provided



2026 National Cattle Congress Fair

The Great Chili Cookoff

Entry Form

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address:

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

Home

Cell

Email: _____

Entry Name: _____

.....

For Competition Check-In Committee Only:

- Entry tag completed & secured to item
- \$5 entry fee paid
- Recipe with all ingredients & instructions provided – no name on recipe



319.234-7515

PO Box 298 – Waterloo, IA 50704

nationalcattlecongress.com

National Cattle Congress Fair

Exhibitor No.

Dept. No.

Class No.

Entry Description: _____

Exhibitor _____

Town _____

National Cattle Congress Fair

Exhibitor No.

Dept. No.

Class No.

Entry Description: _____

Exhibitor _____

Town _____

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