



Welcome 2026 National Cattle Congress Queen Candidate

We are thrilled you have applied for the 2026 National Cattle Congress Queen contest!

Here is information you need for the contest Saturday, June 7:

- Location: Electric Park Ballroom on the National Cattle Congress Fairgrounds
- Time: Arrive no later than 9:45 A.M. to be ready by 10:00 A.M.
- Competition Schedule:
 - Formal Group Welcome (Business Attire)
 - Candidate Self-Introductions (Business Attire)
 - Individual Interviews (Business Attire) - 7 Minutes/Contestant
 - Snack & Ice Breaker (Business Attire)
 - Change Into Formal Gowns
 - Group Interviews (Formal Gowns) - 12 Minutes
 - Judges' Deliberations
 - Pictures (Formal Gowns)
 - Judges' Comments (Formal Gowns)
 - National Cattle Congress Queen Coronation (Formal Gowns) - Approximately 11:30 A.M.

Attire:

- Formal Gown - At least one portion of the hemline must be floor length (touching the floor or the contestant's foot). A gown with the skirt split more than 2 inches above the knee, a low-cut bodice and/or cut/design or bare midriff inappropriate for the pageant may be discounted by the judges.
- Interview Attire - During the initial competition activities, contestants need to wear a business-appropriate dress (with a jacket or sweater if desired), jacket/skirt/pants, or a one-piece outfit.
- Additional Dress Code guidelines are attached.

Additional Information:

- No parents, guardians or others besides the candidates are allowed at/in Electric Park during the contest. However, they are welcome to return shortly before coronation to be present for that portion of the event.
- Judges will be interacting with and observing contestants outside the interview and formal gown judging (except during private time for wardrobe changes, etc.), just as the judges at the Iowa State Fair Queen pageant are constantly present and evaluating the candidates.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If chosen as National Cattle Congress Fair Queen, I am committed to the following dates/events:

- **Tuesday, August 11 through Saturday, August 15, 2026**, in Des Moines at Iowa State Fair Queen contest representing the National Cattle Congress Fair (Paid for *except transportation and incidentals*). The 2026 Queen will have experienced local assistants to help them prepare for the Iowa State Fair Queen Contest in August along with past National Cattle Congress Queens. (If chosen as Iowa State Fair Queen, that commitment will end Sunday, August 23, 2026. This contest awards various scholarships to the Queen and runners-up.)
- **Thursday, September 24 through Sunday September 27, 2026**, as Queen for National Cattle Congress. My responsibilities include, but are not limited to, opening night events (Thursday) the open dairy show (Friday), the youth dairy show (Saturday), food judging (Saturday).
- **Saturday A.M., September 19** attend and participate at the Little Miss NCC Contest at NCC Pavilion.
- **Spring/Summer 2026**-If available, I will represent the National Cattle Congress in the My Waterloo Days Parade and the Sturgis Falls Parade, Hudson and Independence.

On my original application, I have signed off on the following items:

1. I am not a professional model.
2. I have never been married, nor will I be married until I relinquish my crown in June/July 2027.
3. I am a resident of Iowa.
4. I have never competed in the Iowa State Fair Queen Contest.
5. I will always act respectfully and dress appropriately. (Written dress code has been given to you as guideline.) If unsure what constitutes appropriate attire or activities, I will ask one of the Queen contest committee members for clarification.
6. Once all the required obligations are fulfilled, I will be awarded a monetary gift at the end of my reign.

Questions? Contact the committee at nccfairqueen@gmail.com or call committee member Deb Pullin-Van Auken at 319.430.3171.

NATIONAL CATTLE CONGRESS FAIR QUEEN DRESS CODE

Wearing of the fair queen crown and/or sash is an honor and privilege. The bearer is an ambassador representing herself, her family, her community and the fair. She must always put effort into making a good impression.

While fashion styles may change, good taste does not!

Responsible, appropriate and professional appearance is expected while our queen is wearing her crown and sash. Attire should be conducive to the specific appearance or event (i.e. banquet, business casual, formal, etc.). Alterations to the attire rules may be made only if 1) severe weather or unsafe conditions exist and 2) the fair queen's official coordinator or a board member has approved an alteration consistent with the professional appearance expectation.

GENERAL APPEARANCE ATTIRE RULES

1. No jeans or denim shorts.
2. No outfit that shows cleavage or bare midriff.
3. Dresses/skirts/dress shorts must be no shorter than the height of a dollar bill (approximately 2.5") from the bottom of the dress/skirt hem to the top of the knee cap.
4. No clothing that advertises, promotes or glorifies the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs or anything inconsistent with the dignity of the queen program.
5. No visible piercings (other than earrings).
6. No visible tattoos.

FOOTWEAR RULES

1. No sneakers
2. No flip flops
3. Boots:
 - a) Cowboy/western-style boots are **ONLY ALLOWED** if they are fashionable and new or in like-new condition
 - b) **NO** thigh-high or over-the-knee boots
 - c) **NO** muck boots
 - d) **NO** work boots

"Shoe Boots", with or without a heel, are permitted if the shoe boots are no higher than ankle height (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: Shoe boots no higher than ankle height



Figure 2: Acceptable pants & shirt attire

LIVESTOCK BARN & SHOW RING ATTIRE

1. When the fair queen is a **visitor** in the livestock barns or show ring:
 - a. Follow the “General Appearance Attire and Footwear Rules” (slacks, dresses, skirts, dress shorts).
 - b. Crown and banner.
 - c. Only closed-toe shoes, for safety reasons.
2. When the fair queen is in the show barns and/or ring as an **exhibitor**:
 - a. Nice jeans (no holes), khaki or similar boot-cut style pants and a presentable shirt. (See Figure 2)
 - b. NO crown, and NO banner.
 - c. Only closed-toe shoes, for safety reasons.
 - d. If the fair queen is also presenting ribbons or awards during her time as an exhibitor, then she may only wear her crown and banner for the presentation segment but not while showing livestock.
3. Work boots may be permitted in livestock barns only when necessary to work with, wash and/or fit animals.