

2026 National Cattle Congress Fair

Open & Youth Dairy Cattle Show Premium Book

September 24-26, 2026

General Show Rules

1. Please give all information requested on the entry form. All animals must be registered with current registration papers available when entries are checked. Identify enrollment of cattle, VIP or grade cattle **are eligible**. Animal registration information must be listed on entry form. For VIP/Grade Cattle Permanent ID must be provided. No registration transfers will be accepted at the Fair. **Entries will be accepted until September 1, 2026. A late fee of \$30.00 will apply per animal after September 1, 2026. No entries accepted after September 15, 2026.**
2. Juniors ages 9 – 21 as of January 1 2026 are eligible to show in the Youth Show. **Their animals must be owned by the youth or be proven Youth Projects through at least one of the following: Breed Associations, 4-H, FFA. Youth Names are not required on the papers, but they are strongly advised. Lease papers must be presented.**
3. Substitution of animals entered will be permitted within and outside a class; providing the request for substitution is accomplished by reasons of satisfactory to the Dairy Cattle Superintendent and that the animal to be substituted is owned by the exhibitor at the time of exhibition. **No transfer papers will be accepted as proof of ownership.**
4. **Health papers will be collected and checked by the clerk at check in time.**
5. All animals must be stalled. No cattle are to be kept in trailers. The Dairy Cattle Superintendent can reassign stalls based on entries and available space. No alterations will be allowed without the consent of the Superintendent.
6. **NO STRAW is to be used for bedding. Wood shavings MUST be used as bedding. Bagged shavings may be purchased on the grounds at \$9.00/bag.**
7. Farm displays are encouraged but may be limited if stalling space is not available.
8. Late arrivals will not be accepted and early releases to other fairs will not be granted without advance permission by the Dairy Superintendent.
9. All animals must be properly cared for. Animals and surrounding area must be kept clean and neat. If improper care does exist, exhibitor may be asked to leave and to forfeit all premiums.
10. **Fans in Barn(s):** To improve air circulation in the barn(s), all barn fans should be facing toward the east end toward the Concourse/Estel Hall. For Paul Barger Building, fans should point towards Anniversary Hall.
11. Clipping chutes are not allowed in the Main Aisles and must be broken down when not in use.
12. All vehicles must be parked in the parking lot. None are to be left by the barns before, during or after Fair.
13. Unloading & Loading will take place at the west end of barns entering through Gate 1 and exiting through Gate 3, to keep an easy traffic flow.
14. Trailers may be parked in the North parking lot off the grounds. Trailers will not be allowed on the grounds until cattle are released.
15. Information regarding a Veterinarian may be obtained from the Dairy Superintendent.
16. **All Premiums are guaranteed. Open Junior Shows' Cash Premiums will be paid following the conclusion of the shows. Youth Exhibitors must specify their individual animals on the entries in order to receive Premiums. EACH ANIMAL MAY ONLY BE SHOWN BY 1 YOUTH INDIVIDUAL!**
17. JR. BEST 3 & SR. BEST 3 GROUP CLASSES ARE BRED & OWNED. All animals must be shown in individual classes. No partnership (other than within family or farm entries) or syndicate bred animals will be accepted unless the exhibitor is listed as that partnership or syndicate. **Limit 1 entry per exhibitor.** Both Shows will follow classes as ordered starting with the Summer Calves. Cows Classes will begin with Sr. Yearling in Milk both days.

JR. Best 3 – Heifers ONLY – Summer Calf – SR. Yearling Classes
SR. Best 3 – Cows Only – JR 2-Year-Old – Aged Cow Classes
18. This will be the 10th Annual Dairy Heifer Scholarship Show. Youth Exhibitors qualify for this special show by winning Supreme or Reserve Supreme Champion Heifer of all breeds at their County Fair Youth Show. Forms should be available through the respective County Fair, county extension offices or through the National Cattle Congress office.

Show Ring Code of Ethics

The showing of registered dairy cattle is an important part of the promotion, merchandising and breeding program of many breeders. Additionally, it is important part of the program of the various dairy breed associations to stimulate and sustain interest in breeding registered dairy cattle. This relates to both spectators and exhibitors. In this connection, the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, the Iowa PDCC and the Iowa State Fair believe that it is in the best interest of the breeders of registered dairy cattle to maintain a reputation of integrity and to present a wholesome and progressive image of their cattle in the show ring.

It is recognized there are certain practices in the proper care and management of dairy cattle that are necessary in the course of moving dairy cattle to and between shows that are advisable to keep them sound, healthy state so they might be presented in the show ring in a natural and normal condition.

Conversely, the following practices or procedures are considered unacceptable in the show ring. Also the following practice or procedures are considered unacceptable and defined as being fraudulent and/or unethical in the show ring of registered Dairy Cattle.

1. Misrepresenting the age and/or milking status of the animal for the class in which it is shown.
2. Treating the animal, particularly the udder, internally or externally, with an irritant or counter-irritant, or other substance to artificially improve the conformation.
3. Surgery or insertion of foreign matter under the skin, performed to change the natural contour of appearance of the animal's body, though not to preclude practices required or involved in normal management.
4. Criticizing or interfering with the judge, show management or other exhibitors while in the show ring, or other conduct detrimental to the breed or the show.
5. Setting teats or manipulating a teat or alter its normal position such as to unnaturally hold it plumb or to alter its length is unacceptable and shall be given slight to serious discrimination by the judge.

The following practices and procedures are considered to detract from the image of the show ring when carried to excess and will be given slight to serious discrimination in placing within class.

1. Excessive manipulation of hair.
2. Use of artificial hair except for false switches.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of show person.

The following practices should be encouraged to enhance the image of the show.

1. Establish uniform dress code for exhibitors in the show ring.
2. Recognize good herdsmanship and exhibits in the barn(s).

In keeping with the basic philosophy of the PDCA, ethics are an individual responsibility of the owner of each animal shown.

VIOLATION OF THE SHOW RING CODE OF ETHICS IS DETERMINED BY THE NATIONAL CATTLE CONGRESS FAIR OFFICIALS AND WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE ANIMAL AND EXHIBITOR. THE EXHIBITOR MAY ALSO BE BANNED FROM SHOWING IN FUTURE SHOWS.

Dairy Show Judges

Open Show

Friday - Sept. 25, 2026

TBA

Scholarship Show

Saturday - Sept. 26, 2026

TBA

Youth Show

Saturday - Sept. 26, 2026

TBA

2026 National Cattle Congress Open & Youth Dairy Show Schedule

Wednesday, September 23

11am All Dairy Cattle may arrive

Thursday, September 24

4pm Open Dairy must be in

4pm Open Dairy Check-In

Friday, September 25

8:30am Open Dairy Show in Outdoor Arena (Beginning with JR. Calves)

Open Dairy released AFTER presentation of Premiums

4pm Youth Dairy must be in

4pm Scholarship Heifers must be in

4pm Youth Dairy & Scholarship Heifers Check-In

Saturday, September 26

8:30am Immediately Following - Youth Show in Outdoor Arena (Beginning with Summer Calf)

12:30 NCC Supreme Champion Dairy Heifer Scholarship Show

Cow Classes will Immediately follow the Scholarship Show

All Dairy released after completion of Youth Show and Presentation of Premiums

10pm All Dairy must be out (Except Blue Ribbon Row)

NO Premiums will be mailed! Premiums must be picked up by Exhibitor before removing cattle from fairgrounds or premiums are FORFEITED!

Milking Facilities

The milking parlor will again be available at the West end of Barn 6. Exhibitors may bring their own milking equipment. Set milking hours are TBD.

116th National Cattle Congress Fair
September 24-27, 2026



Group Classes of 3 - Open Show Only

Jr. Best & Sr. Best 3 group classes are **all bred & owned**. All animals must be shown in individual classes. No partnership (other than within family or farm entry) or syndicate bred animals will be accepted unless the exhibitor is listed as that partnership or syndicate. Limit 1 entry per exhibitor.

Jr. Best 3 (Heifers Only) Classes: **Jr. Calf - Sr. Yearling**

Sr. Best 3 (Cows Only) Classes: **Jr. 2 Year Old – Aged Cow**

\$10 Entry Fees for Group Classes (Best 3) Must be pre-Entered!

Adult Showmanship - Friday, Sept. 25

Any adult older than 21 years of age not entered in the Youth Show.

Classes will be split after registration closes

Novice Showmanship - Sat. Sept. 26

Any youth under the age of 8.

Classes will be split after Registration closes.

Youth Showmanship - Sat. Sept. 26

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Junior | Ages 9 – 12 |
| Intermediate | Ages 13 – 17 |
| Senior | Ages 18 – 21 |

Please sign up for Showmanship Classes prior to the Youth Show on Saturday.

Showmanship will conclude the Youth Show.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITION OF LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND BIRDS AT STATE FAIR AND DISTRICT SHOWS

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

- A. All animals, poultry and birds intended for exhibition within the State of Iowa will be considered under quarantine and not eligible for showing until the owner or agent presents a CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION, stating the animals, poultry or birds are apparently free from symptoms of infectious or communicable diseases as determined on clinical inspection by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days (14 days for sheep) prior to date of entry to exhibition grounds.
- B. INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION WILL NOT BE REQUIRED in certain classes, if the division superintendent has made prior arrangements with the official fair veterinarian to have all animals and/or birds inspected on arrival and prior to exhibition.

ANY EVIDENCE OF WARTS, RINGWORM, FOOT ROT, PINK EYE, DRAINING ABSCESSSES, OR ANY OTHER CONTAGIOUS DISEASE WILL ELIMINATE THE ANIMAL FROM THE SHOW.

SECTION 2 - BREEDING CATTLE

TUBERCULOSIS (Iowa is Class Free): Cattle originating from an accredited-free state or zone may be exhibited without other testing requirements when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that lists official individual identification. Cattle from a herd or area under quarantine for tuberculosis may not be exhibited. Cattle from a state or zone which is not an accredited-free state or zone must meet the following requirements:

- 1. An individual animal test conducted within 60 days of the exhibition, or
- 2. Originate from a tuberculosis accredited-free herd, with the accredited herd number and date of last test listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

BRUCELLOSIS (Iowa is Class Free):

- 1. Native Iowa cattle originating from a herd not under quarantine can be exhibited without other testing requirements when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing individual identity.
- 2. Cattle originating outside the state must meet one of the following requirements:
 - a. Originate from Brucellosis Class "Free" states, when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and showing individual official identification, or
 - b. Officially vaccinated under 24 months (beef), 20 months (dairy), when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing official calf hood vaccination and individual official identification.
 - c. Animals of any age originating from a herd not under quarantine when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing a report of a negative brucellosis test conducted within 30 days prior to opening date of exhibition and individual official identification, or
 - d. Originate from a certified brucellosis free herd, accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing individual official identity, herd number, and date of last test, or
 - e. Calves less than 6 months of age when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing individual official identification.

NOTES:

- 1. All brucellosis tests must have been confirmed by a State-Federal Laboratory.
- 2. All nurse cows which accompany calves to be exhibited must meet above health requirements.
- 3. All cattle and bison originating from states not officially classified as brucellosis or tuberculosis free must obtain a pre-entry permit from the Iowa State Veterinarian's Office. (515.281.5547)

SECTION 3 - MARKET BEEF CATTLE

Steers and beef-type heifers exhibited in market classes must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing individual identification for each animal and originate from a herd not under quarantine.

**ANIMAL
INDUSTRY
BUREAU**



**Mike Naig
Secretary of Agriculture**

Open Show Premium Schedule for All Breeds

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Heifer Classes (Summer Calf – SR. Yearling Classes) | \$60-40-25-15-10 |
| JR. Champion | \$75- 50 |
| Supreme JR. Champion | \$150-75 |
| JR. Best 3 | \$60-40-25 |
| Cow Classes (JR. 2 – Aged Cow Classes) | \$75-40-30-20-10 |
| Grand Champion (BREED) | \$150-100 |
| Supreme Champion Cow | \$300-150 |
| SR. Best 3 | \$75-50-40 |

Youth Show Premium Schedule for All Breeds

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Heifer Classes (Summer Calf – SR. Yearling Classes) | \$35-30-25-20 |
| Cow Classes (JR. 2 – Aged Cow Classes) | \$40-30-20-15-10 |
| JR. Champion | \$50-25 |
| Supreme JR. Champion | \$50-25 |
| Grand Champion (BREED) | \$100 |
| Supreme Champion | \$100-50 |
| SR. Best 3 | \$75-50-40 |
| Showmanship Classes | Awards presented at ringside |

Premiums are subject to change

Open & Youth Dairy Class Entry Numbers on Next Page

Open & Youth Dairy Class Entry Numbers

| Class | Ayrshire | Brown Swiss | Guernsey | Holstein | Jersey | Milking Shorthorn |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Summer Calf 6/1/-7/4 2026 | 1000 | 2000 | 3000 | 4000 | 5000 | 6000 |
| Jr. Calf 3/1-5/31 2026 | 1001 | 2001 | 3001 | 4001 | 5001 | 6001 |
| Int. Calf 12/1/25-2/28/26 | 1002 | 2002 | 3002 | 4002 | 5002 | 6002 |
| Sr. Calf 9/1-11/30 2025 | 1003 | 2003 | 3003 | 4003 | 5003 | 6003 |
| Summer Yearling 6/1-8/31 2025 | 1004 | 2004 | 3004 | 4004 | 5004 | 6004 |
| Jr. Yearling 3/1-5/31 2025 | 1005 | 2005 | 3005 | 4005 | 5005 | 6005 |
| Winter Yearling 12/1/24-2/28/25 | 1006 | 2006 | 3006 | 4006 | 5006 | 6006 |
| Sr. Yearling 9/1-11/30 2024 | 1007 | 2007 | 3007 | 4007 | 5007 | 6007 |
| Jr. Best 3 Open Show ONLY (Must be pre-entered and shown) | 1008 | 2008 | 3008 | 4008 | 5008 | 6008 |
| SHOWS WITH MILKING COWS AFTER BREAK | | | | | | |
| Sr. Yearling in Milk 9/1-11/30 2024 | 1009 | 1009 | 3009 | 4009 | 5009 | 6009 |
| Jr. 2 YR Old Cow 3/1-8/31 2024 | 1010 | 2010 | 3010 | 4010 | 5010 | 6010 |
| Sr. 2 YR Old Cow 2/28-9/1 2024 | 1011 | 2011 | 3011 | 4011 | 5011 | 6011 |
| Jr. 3 YR Old Cow 8/28-9/1 2023 | 1012 | 2012 | 3012 | 4012 | 5012 | 6012 |
| Sr. 3 YR Old Cow 9/1/22-2/28/23 | 1013 | 2013 | 3013 | 4013 | 5013 | 6013 |
| 4 YR Old Cow 9/1/21-8/31/22 | 1014 | 2014 | 3014 | 4014 | 5014 | 6014 |
| 5 YR Old Cow 9/1/20-8/31/21 | 1015 | 2015 | 3015 | 4015 | 5015 | 6015 |
| Aged Cow Born Before 9/1/2020 | 1016 | 2016 | 3016 | 4016 | 5016 | 6016 |
| Sr. Best 3 - Open Show ONLY (Must be pre-entered and exhibited) | 1017 | 2017 | 3017 | 4017 | 5017 | 6017 |

Thank you for participating in the 116th National Cattle Congress Fair Dairy Cattle Shows

