

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BUREAU COUNTY AGRICULTURAL BOARD

ALL 2026 PREMIUMS OFFERED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON STATE FUNDING

1. This exhibition will be open Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 3:00 pm and close Sunday, August 30, 2026 at 5:00 pm.
2. Competitions shall not be confined to Bureau County, but shall be open to the State of Illinois, and all other U.S. States, except as otherwise stated.
3. Persons making entries for any premiums must first become members of the Bureau County Agricultural Board or purchase an exhibitor ticket. Children 12 and under are not required to purchase an exhibitors ticket.
4. No entry refunds to non-winners.
5. All entries must be accompanied by payment in full: Entry fee, stall/pen fee and exhibitor ticket, mailed to: Bureau County Fair Association, P.O. Box 238, Princeton, IL 61356 or presented at the secretary office on the fair grounds. Person giving an insufficient funds check, or a stop payment check will be barred from exhibiting at the Bureau County Fair for two (2) years.
6. The association reserves the right to reject any or all entries.
7. All premium forms must be signed when you pick-up your check.
8. All premium forms will be kept at the office.
9. The decision of the superintendent and executive secretary will be final in all disputes.
10. Any exhibitor, who, upon the suggestion of the superintendent of the department and the executive secretary, shall be found guilty of finding fault with the decision of the judges in any department, can be excluded from exhibiting by a majority vote at the annual meeting.
11. No person shall be allowed to act as judge in any class in which they are an exhibitor.
12. All protests must be in writing and a \$25.00 deposit must accompany it.
13. Trophies, plaques and ribbons may be awarded at the discretion of the fair board.
14. All trailers must be parked in designated area.
15. No person on the property of the Bureau County Fairgrounds will be permitted to have, sell, or give away any intoxicating drinks, drugs or narcotics of any kind.
16. Any person considered in the opinion of fair officers to be in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of alcoholic beverages, drugs or narcotics will be suspended from the fairgrounds at the decision of fair officials.
17. The fair officials reserve the right to inspect all vehicles and containers at any time.
18. **Premium Waiver Statement:**

"The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premium amounts may not be accurately reflected in this Premium Book."

SUPERINTENDENTS

1. The Superintendents are required to be on the grounds and receive all livestock and articles belonging to their department, and see that they are arranged properly.
2. They must be at their proper departments during the fair.
3. They will have full charge of everything in their respective departments and will be looked to for proper protection and management.
4. Superintendents of livestock must notify the exhibitors of stock when to be shown in the ring.
5. No animal or article will be allowed to be removed from the grounds during the fair, except by consent of the executive secretary.
6. Superintendent and executive secretary will make the final decisions in all disputes, regarding their department.

JUDGES

1. Judges are to be selected by the superintendents of the different departments.
2. Judges are approved by the fair board.
3. Judges may not exhibit in any class they are judging.

INVITED GUESTS

1. Officers, with their families, of other agricultural societies are respectfully invited to attend our fair.
2. Badges may be picked up at the secretary's office

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS

1. No persons on the property of the Bureau County Fair Grounds will be permitted to have, sell or give away any intoxicating drinks, drugs or narcotic of any kind.
2. Any person considered in the opinion of fair officials to be in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of alcoholic beverages, drugs or narcotic, may be suspended at the decision of fair officials
3. Fair officials and security reserve the right to inspect all vehicles and containers at any time

OFFICERS, SUPERINTENDENTS, POLICE, GATE KEEPERS

1. The officers of the board, superintendents, police and gatekeepers will be provided with suitable badges.
2. The officers and superintendents may appoint such assistants as they may deem necessary, with fair board approval

ADMISSIONS

1. A life member card will be provided to a life member by the fair board, which will entitles them to admission to the fair.
2. The card to be picked up at the secretary office. (A life member card will admit the owner, his or her wife or husband, and all children of such owner under twelve (12) to the fair. If such owner is not married, their life member card will admit such owner and one guest. A life member card entitles the spouse of any deceased life member, during his or her widowhood, to all the privileges of a life member).
3. There is a charge of \$30.00 per night per unit for parking house trailers or campers.

LIVESTOCK

OPEN CLASS RULES

1. **All Entries of Livestock, Poultry and Rabbits must be in the office by 7:00 pm Monday August 17, 2026.** All late entries & changes will be charged an additional \$1.00 per entry if room available (unless otherwise noted in the Fairbook). No exceptions.
2. No additions or class changes 48 hours before show time.
3. All entries, except noted on department page must be on the grounds by noon Wednesday, August 26, 2026
4. **Entry releases will be according to individual livestock department page. Except by consent of the executive secretary, no departure from this rule will be allowed under penalty or forfeiture of premium and being barred from exhibiting at the Bureau County Fair for two years.**
5. Children 12 and under are not required to purchase an exhibitor ticket.

6. Bureau County Fair Association is not responsible for animals left after 5:00 pm Sunday August 30, 2026.
7. Every animal on the grounds and entered for premiums will, during the fair, be under the control of the superintendent of the department in which it is entered. All possible care of animals will be taken by the board. But the board will in no case be responsible for any damages that may occur.
8. No person except awarding committee on duty and officers of the association will be allowed inside the arena area while the exhibiting is going on.
9. A premium will not be awarded for an animal thought not worthy, even though there may be no competition.
10. It shall not be permissible to combine herds or flocks in order to make a show.
11. All animals must comply with State of Illinois health rules.
12. ***REGISTRATION PAPERS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL PUREBRED LIVESTOCK. A COPY OF REGISTRATION PAPERS MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE OFFICE BEFORE EXHIBITING. (NOTE: PAPERS WILL NOT BE COPIED BY THE OFFICE STAFF.)***
13. All animals must be shown to receive a premium.
14. All animals must be entered in their proper class and must be purebred.
15. All animals must be shown by the exhibitor.
16. No exhibitor will be allowed more than two premiums in each class.
17. No feeding of animals will be allowed on the grounds outside of the buildings.
18. No paper bedding will be allowed.
19. Awards will be made by the selected judge of each department.
20. The superintendent has the right to reject any animal or poultry showing signs of disease
21. Entries in the livestock open class must comply with rules and regulations of Bureau County, State of Illinois and Livestock Open Class.

JUNIOR CLASS RULES

1. Open to any boy or girl between 8 years of age, or in third grade and not yet 21 years of age on or before September 1 of the year previous to the fair.
2. Proof of entry must be presented to superintendent upon request.
3. Animals (i.e., individual, herd or flock classes) shown in the junior classes must be the property of the boys and girls showing them.
4. If the same animals are shown in both the open classes and junior classes, they shall be shown under the same exhibitor's name. (For example, the father is not permitted to show an animal in the open class and the son or daughter to show the same animal in the junior classes).
5. Only other boys and girls who meet the age requirement set forth in #1 may assist exhibitor in herd or flock classes during the judging process.
6. Competition shall be open to the State of Illinois.
7. Any junior exhibitor wishing to show in open classes may do so by complying with open class and department rules.
8. Entries in junior livestock and poultry must comply with the rules and regulations of Bureau County, State of Illinois, and livestock open show, and junior livestock show.

All animal trailers left at the fairground must be parked in the West Gate area. Livestock exhibitor's cars/trucks will be permitted in fairgrounds livestock area to deliver feed and supplies, only until 10:00 am. After 10:00 am, all livestock exhibitors' cars/trucks will park outside the fenced in area. Any vehicle found in unauthorized area after set time will be towed into the general parking lot area at the owner's expense.

These rules will be strictly adhered to as ordered by the State Fire Marshal.

Each livestock exhibitor will be issued one vehicle pass per family.

Do not request additional passes from the fair office.

Vehicle passes are for the vehicle only! All riders must have their exhibitor ticket, season pass or must pay the entrance fee; there will be no passing tickets from inside the fair grounds to outside the gates!

FINE ARTS

OPEN CLASS RULES

1. **Last day to have copies of entries of fine arts into the fair office is Monday, August 17, 2026 by 7:00 pm. A late entry will be charged an office fee of \$1.00 per entry. No exceptions.**
2. **All exhibitors must be a resident of Illinois and the bona fide raiser/owner of the article exhibiting or forfeit all premiums.**
3. **All entries of art, photography, culinary canned goods, hobbies & collections, and textiles (open and junior shows) must be brought to fairgrounds between 9 am and 7 pm Monday, August 24. All entries of agricultural products, horticultural, and floriculture must be in the fairgrounds between 9 am - 7 pm Tuesday, August 25.**
4. Entry releases will be 5:00 pm Sunday August 30, 2026, except by consent of the Executive Secretary. No departure from this rule will be allowed under penalty of forfeiture of premiums and being barred from exhibiting for two years.
5. Bureau County Fair Board is not responsible for articles left after 5:00 pm Sunday, August 30, 2026. **All items will be discarded 30 days after that date.**
6. Children 12 and under are not required to purchase an exhibitors ticket.
7. Every article upon the grounds and entered for premiums will, during the fair be under the control of the superintendent of the department in which it may be entered. The board will take all possible care of articles, but the board will in no case be responsible for any damages that may occur.
8. All articles are displayed at the owner's risk.
9. A premium will not be awarded for an article thought not worthy, even though there may be no competition.
10. **Only one article may be entered in each lot number.**
11. No article shall be entered for a premium to which a premium has previously been awarded by this Society.
12. All articles must conform to premium list requirements or the judge and/or the superintendent of the department will automatically disqualify them.
13. The department personnel if needed will dispose of all highly perishable articles.
14. Entries in fine arts must comply with the rules and regulations of Bureau County, State of Illinois, and fine arts.

JUNIOR RULES

1. Open to any boy or girl between 8 and 21 years of age, as of January 1 of the year the fair is held.
2. Any junior exhibitor wishing to show in open classes may do so by complying with open class rules.
3. Entries in the junior fine arts must comply with the rules and regulations of Bureau County, State of Illinois, fine arts, and junior fine arts.