

## General Rules and Regulations

Notice: Premiums will be paid at the Office of the Secretary on the Fairgrounds. Premiums must be called for at the office as they WILL NOT be mailed out. Checks must be cashed within 60 days - no exceptions.

1. All livestock and home ec exhibitors must pre-enter. This rule does not apply to tractor pull or horse and rabbit shows. (These will remain one day shows as in the past, with the entries to be made on show day. No entry fee/pen fee refunds.)
2. All mailed entries must be postmarked on or before June 5, 2026. The Ford County Fair cannot be responsible for the U.S. Postal Service misplacing or detaining your entry. Metered mail postmarks will not be honored.
3. Entry blanks must be filled in completely. The social security number is especially important as entries cannot be made and checks cannot be issued without it.

4. Entry Procedures: You have three options available to make entries for the 2026 Fair.

a. BYUS MAIL: Mailed entries must be postmarked by or prior to midnight Friday, June 5, 2026. Mail to: Jane Meyer, 1795 N 1800 East Rd, Thawville, IL 60968. Metered mail postmarks will not be honored. Entry fees, exhibitor's fees and requests for number of pens must accompany entry blanks or entry will not be accepted. To be sure your mailed entry is postmarked ON TIME, mail inside the post office and request that the clerk working hand postmarks your envelope.

b. IN PERSON: Entries may be made in person at the fair office in Melvin, IL on Monday, June 8, 2026 or Tuesday, June 9, 2026 between Noon and 4:00 p.m. either day. All entry fees, exhibitor's fees and pen or stall fees must be paid at the time of entry.

c. ONLINE: There is a link on the fair's website that will direct you to the entry site. The website address is [www.fordcountyfair.org](http://www.fordcountyfair.org). Look for the link on this website. Payment for all entry fees, exhibitor's fees, and requests for pens will be paid at the fair. Online entries will close on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 9:00 p.m.

5. No changes will be made in the judge's book. The only errors to be corrected will be those made by the office staff. Superintendents should check with the office if an exhibitor feels an error has been made.
6. A charge of \$75.00 will be made for all checks ISF. If you lose your premium check and want a new check issued, you will be charged for the bank's "Stop Payment" fee.
7. Livestock exhibitors desiring to use a portable generator during the fair must meet the rules set forth by the State Fire Marshall and the Fair Board. No generators will be permitted without first registering it with the fair secretary and securing a permit. Only 1 fan per 3 animals allowed.
8. All exhibits will remain the property of exhibitor.
9. No person will be allowed more than one entry in the same premium number except in livestock.
10. All exhibits of grain, fruit, and vegetables must have been produced during the current growing season.
11. Judging will take place at the time specified by the head of each department. Exhibitors will cooperate

with the judges in order that judging may be carried through without delay. Entry tag must be on exhibit or exhibition while it is being judged.

12. Hogs will be released Monday after the show. Cattle will be released Thursday after the open show. Jr. Rabbits will be released at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday. Livestock may not be released to go to another fair.
13. When bringing livestock exhibits to the fair, report to the Superintendent of entries at the Secretary's office. Household and Horticulture exhibits will be received at the Home Ec Building.
14. The Superintendent of each department shall have the arrangement and supervision of all articles or animals on exhibition in his department. Entry cards on livestock must be received before animals are unloaded and penned. All entry cards on livestock will be received from the secretary at the fairgrounds.
15. The Superintendent shall record all entries with the name of exhibitors, section and class of entry, record winners and affix the ribbons. He also has the authority to examine registration papers of pedigreed animals.
16. Superintendents will be particular to observe the colors in designating awards: Champion-Royal Purple; First-Blue; Second-Red; Third-White; Fourth-Pink; Fifth-Yellow; Sixth-Green; Seventh-Light Green.
17. The management will in no case be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits. Watchmen will be on duty each day and night of the fair.
18. The decision of the judges will be final and no appeal will be considered. Exhibits may be barred from competition for trying to influence of finding fault with the judges' decision.
19. The interpretation of all rules governing any exhibit shall rest entirely with the Fair Association and their decision shall be final.
20. Any exhibitor attempting to interfere with the judges during their judging will be promptly excluded from competition.
21. Trucks and cars entering the grounds for the purpose of delivering merchandise will be required to buy a season ticket. Deliveries are to be made before noon each day.
22. Care will be exercised to prevent accident or damage of every kind, but the management will not assume any liability for damage to property or person.
23. No dogs will be allowed on the fairgrounds with the exception of the 4-H Dog Show and those must be on a leash.
24. Neither the Secretary or any Officer of the Fair shall disclose to competitors or any other person, what entries have been made, nor shall any other person, other than the Secretary and Officers of the Fair, be allowed to know what other entries have been made before entries close.
25. Registration papers are required for all purebred animals. Junior livestock exhibitors must provide proof of ownership for the purebreds.