



Youth
Organization
Information

Information for Youth Groups

The Jefferson County Fair welcomes community members to exhibit their animal and non-animal projects. Youth aged 8-19 who are part of an organized group such as **4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, afterschool programs, school clubs, or other organizations** with adult leadership and an educational program appropriate to that organization are eligible to show in the Junior Department. Leaders of youth organizations other than 4-H or FFA must complete the Youth Organization Application form annually and submit it to the Fair by **April 1st** of the current Fair year to allow their members to exhibit.

Sprouts

Youth in your organization who are ages 5–7 as of January 1st of the current Fair year can exhibit in the Sprouts Department. Sprouts exhibitors showing animals will be paired with Junior exhibitors for a guided experience. Non-animal project exhibitors (e.g., baking, crafts, photography) will have their projects judged by an experienced 4-H member, helping them improve as they continue to exhibit in future years.

Junior Exhibitors

Youth ages 8–19 as of January 1st of the current Fair year are eligible to exhibit in the Junior Department, provided they are in good standing with their organization, as determined by its leadership.

Departments

The Jefferson County Fair is divided into animal and non-animal departments.

- Animal departments: Department #1 (Dairy) to Department #11 (Cats).
- Non-animal departments: Department #12 (Animal & Veterinary Sciences) to Department #29 (Health, Political, and Social Sciences).

Each department is further divided into divisions and classes.

Superintendents

Each department is overseen by a Superintendent, a highly qualified individual specializing in that department's subject area. Superintendents assist with enforcing rules and regulations, check-in procedures, and check-out processes.

Judging

Projects are judged using different methods:

- Animal projects: Judged face-to-face, requiring the exhibitor to be present during judging.
- Non-animal projects: Judged through Conference Judging, where exhibitors present their project to a judge, explain details, and answer questions. The exhibitor will receive their ribbon and placement when projects are released at the end of the Fair.

All judges are qualified through DATCP and selected by Jefferson County Fair staff.

Awards, Ribbons, and Premiums

Each department, division, and class offer ribbons with corresponding monetary awards (premiums). Some divisions award ribbons without premiums. Additional special awards, such as "Judge's Favorite," "Grand Champion," "Reserve Grand Champion," and others may also be available. Details on premiums can be found in the Premium Book.

Premium Book

The Premium Book contains all rules and regulations for the Fair, including information about the Sprouts, Junior, Open, and Senior Departments, as well as auction details, entry fees, judging schedules, ethics policy, and more. It is an essential resource for entering exhibits and understanding each department. The Premium Book is available on our website under [Premium Book](#).

How to Enter

The Fair uses the FairEntry software for managing entries. Exhibitors may begin submitting entries on November 18, 2024, with a **final deadline of May 23, 2025**. Late entries will not be accepted. Learn more about the entry process on our website under [Entry Information](#).

Exhibitor Fees

Entry fees vary by department and division. Every entry in Sprouts is \$0.25, while it changes from class to class in the Junior Department. The fee will be under the rules in each department in the Premium Book.

Admission

Exhibitors may purchase one wristband for \$15.00 through FairEntry, granting daily access to the Fair. These wristbands can be purchased for exhibitors in Sprouts, Junior, Open, and Senior departments.

Steps to Exhibit

Youth Organization Approval

Youth organizations other than 4-H or FFA (e.g., school clubs, Girl Scouts, Scouts, church groups, afterschool programs) must submit the **Youth Organization Application** annually. This form can be found at the end of this packet or on our website under [Youth Organizations](#).

- It is recommended to complete the application early to ensure exhibitors can register under the correct organization.
- The adult leader of the organization must complete and submit the form.

Project Entry Process

Youth exhibitors (Ages 5-7: Sprouts; Ages 8-19 Junior) must be entered into the **FairEntry** software by a parent/guardian or themselves. Entries open on **November 18th, 2024**, and close on **May 23rd, 2025**.

- An instructional video on using FairEntry is available under [Entry Information](#) on the Fair website.

Entry Review

After entries close on **May 23rd, 2025**, Fair staff will review the list of exhibitors registered under each approved youth organization.

- Staff will send this list to the organization's adult leader, who must confirm which exhibitors are in good standing.
- Exhibitors who are not confirmed in good standing by the adult leader will risk losing their ability to exhibit in Junior Departments in the current Fair year.

Project Check-in & Judging

Exhibitors must bring their projects to the Jefferson County Fair on the designated check-in and judging day.

- Specific drop-off, check-in, and judging times can be found in the [Premium Book](#).

Judging

Projects will be judged according to the schedule on **page 6 of the Premium Book**.

- **Non-animal exhibits:**
 - Exhibits are dropped off, tagged, and judged on the same day.
 - After conference-style judging, exhibits will be left with the Superintendent and displayed until pick-up on Sunday.
 - Ribbons and awards will be displayed with the projects.
- **Animal exhibits:**
 - Judging schedules vary and may include additional events such as **Master Showperson** and the **Animal Auction**.
 - Details for animal exhibit schedules are in the Premium Book under each department.

Project Pick-up

Non-animal exhibits must be picked up on the final day of the Fair, **Sunday, July 13th, 2025**

Approved Youth Organization Application Form

Name of Youth Organization: _____

Adult Leader Contact (must be 21 years of age or older)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Number of Members in organization: Adult _____ Youth _____

Number of Members anticipated to exhibit at the upcoming Jefferson County Fair: _____

Is your organization a 501c3 non-profit? Yes No

If no, please describe your organization's status: _____

1. Please describe the mission, goals, or objectives of your organization:

2. Organizations Membership and/or Good Standings Requirements:

3. Planned Program of Activities/Educational Programs: (Proceed to back of page if necessary):

Applicant Signature: _____

Office Use Only: Approved _____ Denied _____ Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____