

DANE COUNTY FAIR MASTER SHOWMAN CONTEST RULES
Sunday, July 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. – Pavilion 2 - Showring B
For questions: entries.danecountyfair@gmail.com

1. The following departments will participate in the Master Showman Contest: Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Dairy Goats, Meat Goats, Poultry, and Rabbits.
2. Each species representative will be the winner of the following showmanship classes (8 participants):
 - Dairy: Overall Champion Showman
 - Beef: Senior Showman (Grades 11+)
 - Swine: Senior Showman (Grades 11+)
 - Sheep: Senior Showman (Grades 11+)
 - Dairy Goats: Senior Showman (Grades 9+)
 - Meat Goats: Senior Showman (Grades 9+)
 - Poultry: Senior Showman (Grades 9+)
 - Rabbits: Senior Showman (Grades 9+)
 - If a winner from one of the above stated classes chooses not to participate in the Master Showman Contest, the option to participate will default to the second place winner in that class.
 - If a member is eligible to participate in the Master Showman Contest in more than one species, he/she must choose the species in which he/she will participate within one hour of winning the second species contest. The member must inform BOTH species Superintendents and the Fair office of his/her decision. The second place winner in their non-chosen species will have the option to participate.
 - All youth, excluding those who have previously been named Champion Master Showman, are eligible to participate in the Master Showman Contest.
3. Each participant will show their project animal first, then an animal from each of the other six species through rotation. If the participant's animal is not available, the participant is responsible for finding a replacement.
4. There will be seven judges, one representing each species.
5. Each judge will use the same scorecard to evaluate each participant in the following categories: Animal & Equipment (first round only), Showing the Animal, Species Knowledge and Appearance/Attitude.
6. Five minutes will be allowed for the participants to show each species. The time keeper will notify the participants and the judges when one minute is left for each round. Please note - all species will be shown simultaneously in the same Showring. The rotation of species shown will be discussed at the pre-contest meeting.
7. If items such as a brush, show stick, comb, etc. are necessary to show your species, please bring them with you to the Master Showman contest. These items will be passed to the next participant who will show that species.
8. Each participant should wear the provided "Showmanship Award" t-shirt, jeans, boots, and belt so that their attire is not an issue for cross species showing.
9. Each participant must remain in the Showring at all times during the contest and wear the species identification harness provided by the Master Showman Contest committee.
10. Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place.
11. Cash prizes, will be awarded
 - The winner of the Master Showman contest will receive \$100
 - Second place will receive \$75
 - Third place will receive \$65
 - Fourth place will receive \$50
 - Fifth place will receive \$40
 - Sixth place will receive \$30
 - Seventh place will receive \$20
 - Eighth place will receive \$15
12. All Master Showman participants will meet in Pavilion 2 - Showring B at 5 p.m. on Saturday to review the rules.
13. No cell phones are allowed in the ring.
14. During the judging process, an announcer will give a short biography on each judge and participant and explain the contest rules/requirements. The announcer will also give a brief description of what the judges are looking for in each species.
15. In case of a tie, the judges will confer and break the tie.
16. The decision of the judges and the Master Showman Contest Committee are final.