

2026 4-H-ENTRY BOOK

CAT SHOW



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STATE FAIR

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4-H CAT SHOW

2026 ENTRY BOOK

Entry Department

entry@indianastatefair.com

Office and Fax: (317) 927-7515

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Note: Copies of the 4-H Animal Affidavit and State Fair Grievance/Appeal Form can be found at the back of this book.

Exhibitor Information



Animal ID Deadline: May 15, 2026

Entry Opens: May 18, 2026

Entry Deadline: July 1, 2026

(Late Entries accepted in most departments. See individual department for more information.)

State Fair Online Entries: <https://entry.indianastatefair.com/>

Animal ID: <https://v2.4honline.com>

2026 Animal ID Requirements:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/docs/projects/animal-identification/animal-id-requirements.pdf>

Exhibitor Admission & Parking Passes

Complementary Exhibitor Credentials

All Exhibitors will receive 2 complimentary Exhibitor Credentials good for admission for each week an entry is made, not by species:

Market	Friday, August 7 - Sunday, August 9
Breeding	Tuesday, August 11 - Sunday, August 16
Open	Tuesday, August 18 - Sunday, August 23

Individual Week Credentials for Purchase

Provides admission to the Indiana State Fair. A **\$18.00** admission will be charged for each person, each time, each day without a badge. Badges may be purchased and used by parents. Credentials are valid for admission for each week an entry is made:

Market (\$45)	Friday, August 7 - Sunday, August 9
Breeding (\$55)	Tuesday, August 11 - Sunday, August 16
Open (\$55)	Tuesday, August 18 - Sunday, August 23

Full Fair Exhibitor Credential:

Everyday (\$100) Friday August 7 - Sunday August 23

Exhibitor Single Day Ticket - **\$13.00**

Provides admission to the Indiana State Fair.

Vehicle Parking Pass - **\$30.00**

Valid for the Exhibitor Parking Lot (South of 38th St.) or overflow lot(s) as directed by State Fair Management. Enter and exit parking, without being charged for each entry.

Trailer Parking

Complimentary trailer parking is available at the 46th St. Parking Lot – 1209 E 46th St Indianapolis, IN 46205.

The trailer parking lot is monitored by off-duty law enforcement 24/7. Shuttles run from the trailer parking lot to the Livestock barns 24/7.

The official release will be required to remove the trailer from the lot (see specific department for release times).

Campgrounds

The Indiana State Fairgrounds operates a campground with spots available on a first-come, first served basis at:

1209 E. 45th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Reservations for 2026 will open on May 18, 2026 at 9am. Spots fill very quickly!

Please visit: <https://www.indianastatefair.com/state-fair/camping-information/> for additional information and to reserve your spot.

All exhibitors should be familiar with and must abide by the terms and conditions of the Indiana State Fair. Failure to do so may result in loss of the privilege to exhibit at the State Fair and/or ejection from the Fairgrounds.

Definitions

As used in these Terms & Conditions, the following Definitions apply:

- A. "Animal Wellness and Care Plan" shall mean a document in place to provide a statement of intent and standards by which the Indiana State Fair will operate to ensure the care, safety, and well-being of all animals involved with the Indiana State Fair. Indiana State Fair agrees to adhere to the best animal care practices, ensure all animals are under the care of an official veterinarian and that all animals are in accordance with the Indiana Board of Animal Health rules and regulations.
- B. The "Board" shall mean the Indiana State Fair Board.
- C. "Department" means any of the following 4-H event divisions:
 - a. Horse & Pony
 - b. Llama and Alpaca
 - c. Beef Cattle
 - d. Dairy Cattle
 - e. Swine
 - f. Sheep
 - g. Dairy Goats
 - h. Poultry
 - i. Rabbit
 - j. Dog
 - k. Cats
 - l. Pygmy Goat
 - m. Meat Type Goat
- D. "Premium" shall mean an award of any kind, including cash, plaques, ribbons, trophies and other such articles awarded to or received by exhibitors as prizes for accomplishments in the Show.
- E. "Rules" shall mean these General Terms & Conditions and any applicable Special Terms & Conditions for each species.
- F. "Show" shall mean the Indiana State Fair and the events and activities that it sponsors.
- G. "Show Management" means an adult individual duly appointed by to serve as the overall show managers including, but not limited to, the Executive Director or designee, Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Indiana State Fair Commission, Livestock Director, Livestock Manager, Department Superintendents and State Fair Veterinarians.
- H. "4-H Show Manager" means an adult individual appointed by the Purdue Cooperative Extension 4-H Animal Science Specialist to organize and supervise animal identification, judging and activities in the Indiana 4-H Livestock shows at the Indiana State Fair.

General Principles

1. By submitting an Indiana State Fair Entry Form or online entry, 4-H Exhibitors agree to all Terms & Conditions.
 - a. Exhibitors entered under one account are also responsible and held accountable to all Terms and Conditions.
2. The Indiana State Fair is fully committed to ensuring integrity in all 4-H Competitions. As such, there is **No Tolerance** for any violation of Terms & Conditions; intent is not relevant (i.e., strict liability) and any determined violations including testing results are final and binding. 4-H Exhibitors should expect that any animal exhibit may be tested at any time while on the Fairgrounds or at harvest.
3. The Indiana State Fair is fully committed to carrying out the Animal Wellness & Care Plan and ensuring the proper treatment of all animal exhibits. Therefore, sick animals shall not be exhibited because of the risk to the animal exhibit, other animal exhibits, the 4-H Exhibitor, other 4-H Exhibitors, other persons, and the integrity of 4-H Competitions. Based on Animal Wellness & Care Plan, Show Management may prohibit an animal exhibit from showing at their sole discretion.

Eligibility to Enter

4. To be eligible to participate in a 4-H Livestock show at the Indiana State Fair an exhibitor must:
 - a. Be enrolled in and a member in good standing of the 4-H Project in which they are entering.
 - b. Submit DNA for the animal being shown by May 15, 2026 to the County Extension Office. This is required for Beef, Dairy Beef, Dairy Females, Swine, Sheep and Meat Goats.
 - c. Have satisfactorily fulfilled county 4-H requirements.

Animal Ownership, Possession and Exhibition

5. Each exhibitor shall own his/her own 4-H Exhibit. Ownership must be in effect on or before the county and state ID deadlines and continuously until after the 4-H show at the County and/or State Fair.
 - a. For 4-H breeding animals, family corporations and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or legal guardians are acceptable.
 - b. For 4-H dairy cattle, family corporations and/or partnerships of the 4-H member with unrelated persons or dairy operations are also acceptable.
 - c. Dairy heifers, horses, ponies, alpacas and llamas may be leased subject to approval of both the county 4-H dairy, horse and pony, or llama committee and the respective County Extension Educator. 4-H animals (horse and pony, dairy, alpacas and llamas are only eligible to be leased by a single 4-H member in a 4-H program year.
 - d. 4-H animals are expected to be in the personal possession and regular care of the 4-H member who owns/leases them (unless other arrangements have been agreed upon by the County 4-H Extension Educator) from the animal ID deadline until the conclusion of the County and/or State Fair.

- e. 4-H market animals and commercial animals must be individually identified and verified under the supervision of the county 4-H program at county identification events by May 15th. These species include market lambs and commercial ewes, dairy wethers, dairy feeder steers, dairy beef steers, beef steers, market and commercial heifers, meat goat wethers, and market wether dams.
- f. 4-H animals purchased, sold, or offered for sale after the enrollment deadline and prior to the Indiana State Fair (including animals that have gone through a "Premium Only Auction"), shall not be eligible to show in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. Sale of products of animals (milk, cheese, wool, etc.) in lieu of the animal, is considered equivalent to a "Premium Only Auction."
- g. 4-H animals exhibited after the May 15 State 4-H animal ID deadline at any show by anyone other than the individual whose 4-H enrollment record is connected to the ID of the animal in Indiana 4-H Online will not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair. This term/condition does not apply to siblings, who may show each other's animals at any show during the year without jeopardizing State Fair eligibility. 4-H animals that are selected by 4-H Extension Staff or 4-H Adult Volunteers for use in supreme showmanship contests (Master Showmanship, Round Robin, etc.) may be used in those county events without jeopardizing State Fair eligibility. This policy applies to all 4-H animal projects. For animal projects without state ID deadlines, the person who enters them in the Indiana State Fair 4-H show is the equivalent of the owner of the animals.
- h. 4-H breeding beef, boer goats, dairy goats, sheep and swine must be registered in one of the following ownership methods:
 - i. in the 4-H members' name
 - ii. John Smith and Sons
 - iii. John Smith, Sons and Daughters
 - iv. John Smith & Family (family includes sons, daughters, and legal guardian youth only)
 - v. Mark Smith (brother) and Mary Smith (sister)
 - vi. Family corporations, where the 4-H members' name appears as a holder of stock in the corporation, and proof of same must be supplied on or before the enrollment date
 - vii. Family partnership where the 4-H members father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, and/or legal guardian is also in the family partnership and the 4-H member's name appears on the legal, notarized partnership. A copy of the written document must be on file with the Extension Office before the ID deadline. A single animal can only be included in one 4-H Online family profile.
- i. 4-H breeding beef, boer goats, dairy goats, sheep and swine will NOT be accepted in the State Fair 4-H Show if they are registered in a father's name only, farm name only, or partnerships with unrelated persons (such as "Smith View", "Smith Oak", "John Doe and William Smith (4-H member)", "Long Oak and William Smith (4-H Member)", etc.).
- j. For 4-H dairy cattle, partnerships of the 4-H member with unrelated persons or dairy operations are acceptable (i.e. John Doe and William Smith (4-H member) or Long Oak and William Smith). Dairy cows and heifers, owned in a partnership, may not be exhibited by more than one person from May 15 until the conclusion of the State Fair 4-H Dairy Show. This person must be the exhibitor of the animal in the current State Fair 4-H Dairy Show, or the animal will be ineligible for this show. 4-H dairy cattle will not be accepted in 4-H classes at the State Fair if they are registered in the father's name only or in a farm name, such as "Smith View", "Smith Oak", etc., unless the 4-H member has a certified lease agreement for this animal.
- k. The Dairy lease program is only for 4-H members who do not own their own dairy cows and/or heifers. Only dairy heifers that will be less than two years-of-age at the time of the Indiana State Fair 4-H dairy show, may be leased. Leasing a dairy heifer will be considered the equivalent of ownership. The 4-H member should be regularly involved in the care of the heifer, regardless of where the heifer is kept, and the 4-H member should have exclusive show rights to the heifer during the 4-H lease period from May 15 until the 4-H dairy show at the Indiana State Fair. Leased 4-H dairy heifers must be registered (although it is not necessary to have the registration paper transferred to the 4-H member's name) by May 15 and be properly identified in Indiana 4-H Online.

Care Of Animal Exhibits

- 6. 4-H Exhibitors are completely responsible for the care and custody of animal exhibits at the Indiana State Fair.
- 7. Exhibitors shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of their own animals entered at the Indiana State Fair. An exhibitor may receive assistance in the care, grooming, and preparation of the livestock entered in the Indiana State Fair, provided that the assistance shall be limited to explanation or demonstration and that the exhibitor is involved in the preparation. 4-H Exhibitors will be held accountable for all individuals contributing to animal project including but not limited to parents, siblings and animal fitters or groomers.
- 8. Ownership of the animal exhibits passes from the 4-H Exhibitors or their families to the Indiana State Fair Commission when the Indiana State Fair Commission takes possession of the animal exhibits for harvesting.

Code of Ethics

9. In order to protect the integrity of the Indiana State Fair 4-H Competitions and the food supply, the Indiana State Fair reserves the right to disqualify any animal(s) they have reasonable cause to believe have been fitted in an unethical manner.
 - a. By submitting an Indiana State Fair Entry Form or online entry, 4-H Exhibitors represent that the exhibitors' animal(s) natural conformation and structure have not been altered in any way. This alteration is also known as "unethical fitting" and includes but is not limited to injection of air, gas, or other foreign substances, cutting/tearing of the hide, or removal of tissue in an attempt to alter the physical appearance or shape of the animal, numbing an animal's tail, cutting tendons of an animal, using foreign substances to build or cosmetically re-shape feet.
 - b. Any animal found to have surgical alterations other than dehorning, castration, or docking as permitted by the species-specific rules may be disqualified. Unethical fitting also includes attempts to disrupt or change normal dental development. The act of artificially filling animals internally, which includes stomach pumping or any other method per os (by esophagus) is prohibited for all species.
 - c. No injection sites (including sites from acupuncture treatments) may be found in marketable areas such as top, rounds, loin, hips, etc.
 - d. The administration of any drug prohibited by Federal, State, or Local law or any drug used in a manner prohibited by Federal, State, or Local law is prohibited.
 - e. In such cases where unethical fitting appears to have been attempted, the Indiana State Fair may appoint a veterinarian to inspect the entry. The Indiana State Fair will follow a course of action based on the findings and conclusions of the examining veterinarian. Any 4-H Exhibitor that is disqualified for any rules or code of ethics violations will forfeit all premiums

Drug & Alterations Testing/Examination Principles

10. The Indiana State Fair 4-H Animal Testing Program protects the integrity of the Indiana State Fair, 4-H Competitions and the food supply. At no time shall animal exhibits have any substance present, alteration or tissue anomalies that:
 - a. Violates standards established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
 - b. Violates standards established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Should testing results reveal non label compound use, consideration may be given if credible veterinary disclosure or testimony is provided, accompanied by credible documentation citing appropriate exercise of the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act of 1994 (AMDUCA) within an existing Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) at the time of treatment is provided in a timely manner when requested by State Fair officials before, not after an Appeal Process as outlined in General Terms & Conditions 34-48 has been initiated and is recorded and present on the exhibit's Animal Affidavit.
 - c. Is determined by the Purdue University Meat Lab Manager or State or Federal Meat Inspectors to be unacceptable for human consumption either during or post-harvest.
 - d. Provides any potential performance enhancing quality or any potential showing advantage including but not limited to tampering, altering, or misrepresenting any exhibit; coloring that alters or misrepresents breed characteristics; pumping air or other substances to alter conformation; methods to induce artificial fill; performing surgical and/or non-surgical procedures to alter the animal's configuration or natural conformation of any part of the animal's body; and unethical fitting. The following generally accepted management practices are allowed: hoof trimming, dehorning, removal of hair, castration, branding, tattooing, ear notching, and docking of tails.

Treatment of Acute Injury Policy for 4-H Animal Exhibits at the 2026 ISF.

11. In the event that an animal suffers an acute injury, it is permissible for the animal to be treated with FDA approved medications. An ISF veterinarian must administer all treatments. The determination of the time of injury and its impact on the animal is solely based on the evaluation and diagnosis of the attending ISF veterinarian. For market animals, all withdrawal times must be completed prior to the start of the show. Failure to meet this withdrawal time requirement shall disqualify an animal from exhibition. Non-market animals are exempt from withdrawal times being completed by the time of show.
12. The use by non-veterinarians (exhibitor or otherwise) of animal compounds or other substances in any manner other than in accordance with the labeling approved by FDA is a violation of federal law and individuals found to be in violation may be disqualified and/or ejected from the event at the discretion of Show Management.

<https://entry.indianastatefair.com/AnimalAffidavit>

13. Upon check-in at the State Fairgrounds, an animal affidavit (found [HERE](#) shall be submitted for all animal exhibits (i.e., market and breeding) in the:
 - a. Beef Cattle Department,
 - b. Dairy Cattle Department,
 - c. Swine Department,
 - d. Sheep Department,
 - e. Dairy Goat Department,
 - f. Boer Goat Department, and
 - g. Meat Goat Department.
14. All medications, vaccinations, injections, medical treatments, and any foreign substances administered, in any form or manner, from the ownership deadline (May 15, 2026) through the day of check-in must be recorded.
15. Disclosing drugs and/or alterations on the animal affidavit does not affect the imposition of penalties should there be a violation of the Code of Ethics or drug testing /examination principles outlined above. Attaching accompanying veterinary documentation to support any Animal Affidavit claims is recommended.

16. If you are exhibiting multiple species on multiple weekends you will need a separate affidavit per weekend. (ie all barrows would be on one affidavit and the following weekend gilts would need a separate document.)
17. Failure to complete the animal affidavit shall result in automatic disqualification and may result in additional imposed penalties as listed below in General Terms & Conditions 36-40.

Veterinary Treatment Of Animal Exhibits

18. Upon check-in at the State Fairgrounds, all 4-H Exhibitors irrevocably consent to emergency medical care that may be needed to preserve an animal's life or prevent extreme suffering. 4-H Exhibitors and any person affiliated with them hereby waive any claim related to emergency medical care and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, 4-H Exhibitors and any person affiliated with them hereby agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Indiana State Fair Board, Indiana State Fair Commission, Purdue University, Indiana 4-H Program, Cooperative Extension, the State of Indiana, and respective agencies, affiliates, agents, officers, and employees from all claims and suits including court costs, attorney's fees, and other expenses related to emergency medical care. If the following conditions have been met, the Indiana State Fair is expressly authorized to perform any medical treatment, including but not limited to medical practices/procedures, administering of medications, surgery, and euthanasia, for an animal in the absence of the 4-H Exhibitor if:
 - a. The 4-H Exhibitor is unreachable after due diligence has been made to contact the 4-H Exhibitor, and
 - b. A State Fair Veterinarian or Show Management determines that the animal's health is in danger and delaying treatment would be detrimental to the animal's life, or that the animal is in extreme pain.
19. Only the State Fair Veterinarians may administer drugs to animal exhibits at the Fairgrounds.

Non-ambulatory/Deceased Animal Policy

20. The Indiana State Fair will not allow the unloading of animals that are non-ambulatory or unable to walk off the vehicle under their own power. If an animal becomes non-ambulatory after arrival at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, the owner shall immediately notify the Superintendent in charge of that department.
 - a. Livestock that becomes non-ambulatory after arriving at the Indiana State Fairgrounds must be removed within 12 hours of discovering or receiving notice of the animal's condition. If the animal is treatable and Show Management agrees, the owner must remove that animal from the Fairgrounds (at the owner's expense) within the 12-hour period.

21. In the event of an animal dying while at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, the Indiana State Fair Commission will remove and dispose of the animal at the owner's expense. The owner must contact species superintendent, who will then be responsible for communicating with ISF staff for removal.

22. Show Ring Ethics

- a. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
- b. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.
- c. Commercial advertisement, names or insignia, farm names and family names on 4-H exhibitors or exhibits while showing is prohibited. Distribution or posting of flyers, advertisements, banners or posters are prohibited from being hung in the Barns or Coliseum, Youth Arena or any other building.

23. Assignment of Stalls

- a. Assignment of stalls will be made and enforced by department personnel.
- b. Alteration or removal of stall or pen structures - Exhibitors are required to notify and obtain approval from department personnel to alter any assigned stall(s) or pen structure(s), or any part thereof. If an Exhibitor does not seek and obtain such approval, the Exhibitor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Indiana State Fair Board and the Indiana State Fair Commission for any damage to person or property that results from such alteration or removal and penalties may be imposed on the exhibitor. The Indiana State Fair reserves the right to alter, move or revoke stalls on an as needed basis.
- c. Feed and Bedding of good quality will be available for exhibitors to purchase at reasonable prices. The Indiana State Fair will not furnish these items. The selling of feed or bedding is strictly prohibited, with the exception of the approved Indiana State Fair vendor.

Drenching

24. Drench guns may be used in the exhibitor's stall/pen for hydration purposes. Stomach pumping, drenching tubes or any other method (by esophagus) is strictly prohibited.

Judges & Judging

25. The decision of the judges will be final in all cases, except where mistake, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion, not discovered at the time of award, is proven. Any objections to a judge must be submitted as an Official Protest(See Rule 31 below for Official Protests).
26. 4-H Exhibitors and any person affiliated with them shall treat officials and judges with respect. 4-H Exhibitors shall not interfere/attempt to interfere with or influence/attempt to influence a Judges' decision.
27. Any exhibit not presented promptly when called shall be disqualified.
28. Competition placings are not official until all carcass examinations, animal testing, re-weighing, and animal verifications are complete.
29. 4-H Exhibitors may appeal a Judge's decision only by alleging either that a specific and applicable Term & Condition was violated, or that the Judge's decision was improperly influenced. 4-H Exhibitors appealing a Judge's decision shall describe relevant facts and their proof (e.g., witnesses) as well as give **written** notice to Show Management within two (2) hours of the alleged infraction.
30. The 4-H Exhibitor, parent or guardian submitting the Protest Form shall use the Due Process procedure below to appeal.

Protest Procedure

31. All protests must be made in writing on the protest form (Found) by the 4-H Exhibitor and accompanied by a \$300 deposit (**Cash or Certified Check**), of which the deposit will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.
32. Protest must state plainly the cause of complaint and must be filed within 2 hours immediately following the occasion that prompted the protest. Protests concerning the ages of animals must be filed with the Show Management prior to the day on which the animal(s) is/are to be judged.
33. Protest Investigation: Show Management shall investigate all protests. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation. Depending on the basis of the protest, a decision may be withheld until a complete investigation has been conducted. Show Management reserves the right to hold all protests and investigation findings confidential.
34. The 4-H Exhibitor submitting the Protest Form may use the Due Process procedure below to appeal.

Determination and Interpretation Principles

35. The Indiana State Fair Board and Show Management:
 - a. Shall act to ensure integrity in all 4-H Competitions and penalize Terms & Conditions violations, fraud, deception, and improper/unethical activities,
 - b. Have the final authority to interpret all Terms & Conditions and make determinations at their discretion,
 - c. May resolve any unforeseen matters in their sole discretion, and
 - d. May amend or add to these Terms & Conditions and/or withdraw all premium offerings in any Departments should they determine that an emergency exists and/or circumstances require such action.

Indiana State Fair Board Due Process, Determinations, Penalties and Appeals

36. The Indiana State Fair Commission is the final authority for all actions relating to programs funded through it.
37. When a Term & Condition violation is reported, Show Management shall investigate and determine whether a violation has occurred and either may seek assistance, guidance, and vet any questions via the Indiana State Fair Board..
38. Upon determining a Term & Condition violation has occurred, the Executive Director, or designee may adjust, amend or impose a penalty, sanction, disqualify, ban from future competition, assign alternative penalties or dismiss from violation any exhibitor or project determined to be in violation. These determination decisions may extend to a 4-H Exhibitor's immediate family and animal fitters or groomers.. No action of the family or exhibitor shall affect the timeline or process for the appeal under Ind Code 4-21.5-3 et. Seq. (the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act, AOPA)
39. 4-H Exhibitors whose animal exhibit tests positive for any substance in violation of General Term and Condition shall be subject to the following penalties:
 - a. First Offense
 - i. Disqualification of that animal exhibit from the Indiana State Fair,
 - ii. Forfeiture of all entry and other fees associated with that animal exhibit,
 - iii. Forfeiture of all monetary awards associated with that animal exhibit,
 - iv. Forfeiture from the animal exhibit being awarded 4-H Champion Award.
 - b. Second Offense
 - i. Disqualification of the exhibitor from the Indiana State Fair,
 - ii. Forfeiture of all entry and other fees associated with the exhibitor,
 - iii. Forfeiture of all monetary awards associated with the exhibitor,
 - iv. Forfeiture from the exhibitor being awarded 4-H Champion Award, and
 - v. Ban from competing in the Indiana State Fair for the following year.
 - c. Third Offense
 - i. Disqualification of the exhibitor from the Indiana State Fair,
 - ii. Forfeiture of all entry and other fees associated with the exhibitor,
 - iii. Forfeiture of all monetary awards associated with the exhibitor,
 - iv. Forfeiture from the exhibitor being awarded 4-H Champion Award, and
 - v. Lifetime ban from exhibiting at the Indiana State Fair.

40. 4-H Exhibitors whose animal exhibit test positive for any substance or are determined to be in violation of General Term and Condition 9b, 9c, or 9d or is determined to have been fitted unethically in violation of General Term and Conditions 10a-10d shall be subject to the following penalties:
- a. First Offense
 - i. Disqualification of the exhibitor from exhibiting at the Indiana State Fair,
 - ii. Forfeiture of all entry and other fees associated with the exhibitor,
 - iii. Forfeiture of all monetary awards associated with the exhibitor,
 - iv. Forfeiture from the exhibitor being awarded 4-H Champion Award,
 - v. Ban from competing in the Indiana State Fair for the following 2 years, and
 - vi. Forfeiture of any proceeds from an animal exhibit awarded premiums from the Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions (the Indiana State Fair Board shall withhold proceeds and shall donate the entire sum to the Indiana State Fair Foundation).
 - b. Second Offense
 - i. Disqualification of the exhibitor from the Indiana State Fair,
 - ii. Forfeiture of all entry and other fees associated with the exhibitor,
 - iii. Forfeiture of all monetary awards associated with the exhibitor,
 - iv. Forfeiture from the exhibitor being awarded 4-H Champion Award,
 - v. Forfeiture of any proceeds from an animal exhibit awarded premiums from the Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions (the Indiana State Fair Board shall withhold proceeds and shall donate the entire sum to the Indiana State Fair Foundation), and
 - vi. Lifetime ban from exhibiting at the Indiana State Fair.
41. Show Management reserves the right to assess additional penalties beyond those listed.
42. The Indiana State Fair Board may notify the International Association of Fairs and Expositions and the North American Livestock Stock Show and Rodeo Managers Association (NALSRMA) of any decision related to their National Code of Show Ring Ethics including but not limited to addition to the NALSRAMA Rule Infraction Database (RID) List.
43. The Indiana State Fair Board may be required to notify the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and/or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of any finding that violates applicable regulations.
44. Within 15 days of the violation determination Show Management shall notify the 4-H Exhibitor in writing of the violation determination and imposed penalty. For violations not involving rules 9 and 10 the exhibitor may appeal the decision in writing to the Indiana State Fair Board within 15 days of the determination of a violation..
45. The 4-H Exhibitor receiving a violation determination and/or imposed penalty may request an appeal hearing within 18 days of the initial violation determination. Requests for an appeal hearing must be sent to the State of Indiana Office of Administrative Law Proceedings (OALP) by submitting a petition for review. To submit a request, please visit <https://www.in.gov/OALP> and select that you are an individual filing for a petition for review. Then:
- a. Fill out the online for via the link at the bottom of the page (you will be asked to upload a copy of the violation determination):
 - b. Download a paper copy of the request form and mail it to ALP; or
 - c. Personally appear at OALP's office located at 100 N Senate Avenue N802 Indianapolis, IN 46204.
46. OALP shall appoint an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to conduct an appeal hearing. The ALJ shall issue an order to parties setting a date for the appeal hearing.
47. OALP's assigned ALJ shall issue a final order concluding the Administrative Review. Either party wishing to appeal the ALJ's final order may file for judicial review of the order. Any judicial review shall take place in a competent court situated in Marion County, Indiana.

4-H Determinations

48. Independently, the Director of the Purdue Cooperative Extension or his/her designee may assess penalties under 4-H Policies and is the final authority for all actions pertaining to the statewide policies and programs of Indiana 4-H, including but not limited to eligibility determinations for competitions

Premises ID

49. The Indiana State Fair requires all Indiana Exhibitors to provide the Indiana State Board of Animal Health required Premises ID number on all entry forms for beef and dairy cattle, goats, swine and sheep. Indiana exhibitors of horses, poultry, llamas and alpacas as well as out of state exhibitors will be requested to voluntarily provide Premises ID numbers. To obtain a Premises ID#, please contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health at 877- 747-3038. Information can be found on the Indiana State Board of Animal Health website at www.in.gov/boah.

4-H Substitute Showman

50. 4-H exhibitors having an entry in animal classes at the State Fair are expected to show their own animals. In cases where this cannot be done, the owner may request another Indiana 4-H member to serve as a substitute showman. Substitute showmen must be approved in writing by the 4-H show manager. Requests will only be granted for medical emergencies, conflicts with showing other animals, or circumstances deemed unavoidable by the 4-H show manager. Failure to be excused from a job and/or participation in a non-4-H-related creative arts or sporting event or practice will not result in a substitute showman being granted.

Supreme 4-H Livestock Showmanship

51. The champion and reserve champion senior beef showmen, champion senior barrow showman, champion senior gilt showman, the champion senior market lamb showman and champion senior breeding ewe showman, champion senior meat goat wether & wether dam showman, the champion senior meat goat breeding doe showman and the champion dairy goat showman will compete for the title of Supreme 4-H Livestock Showman. The winner will be declared the Indiana State Fair Supreme 4-H Livestock Showman and will be part of Celebration of Champions. Once a 4-H member is declared the Indiana State Fair Supreme 4-H Livestock Showman, they will become ineligible to compete in any showmanship classes that compete in Supreme Showmanship at the Indiana State Fair in future years.

4-H Grand & Supreme Drive

52. Should a champion animal become ill/injured or be determined to be unsound and unable to participate in either the Grand or Supreme Drive, the reserve animal of that breed will represent the breed. The Department Superintendent shall inform the judge of the situation prior to judging the Grand/Supreme Champion. The reserve breed champion from the same breed as the Grand Champion is eligible to be selected for the ISF Celebration of Champions.
53. Once a market animal is selected for the Celebration of Champions it cannot be withdrawn and will undergo testing and harvest.
54. All 4-H Celebration of Champions market animals will be transported by the State Fair or designee to the processing harvest site.
55. All 4-H Celebration of Champions market animal carcasses will remain under the jurisdiction and ownership of the Indiana State Fair until such time as all carcass examinations, tissue testing, and/or any other required testing as determined by the Show Management or State 4-H Youth Development officials have been completed.
56. Monetary awards will not be issued until test results are complete.

Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions

57. The 2026 Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions will honor the top five in 4-H Market Lambs, Barrows and Beef Steers. Additionally, the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether, Supreme and Reserve Supreme Wether Dam Sheep, the Grand Champion 4-H Commercial Waterfowl, the Grand Champion 4-H Meat Pen of Rabbits, the Grand Champion 4-H Meat Type Chickens, the 4-H Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Goat Wether, and the Grand Champion 4-H Dairy Beef Steer will be recognized as market projects.
58. The 2026 Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions will also honor the top five in 4-H Beef Heifers, 4-H Gilts, 4-H Ewes, 4-H Supreme Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Dairy Cows, 4-H Supreme Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Dairy Heifers, 4-H Supreme Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Full Blood & Supreme Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Percentage Meat Goat Does, 4-H Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether Dam, 4-H Supreme Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Sr. & Supreme Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Jr. Dairy Goat Does, 4-H Best of Show Halter, Champion overall performance and Champion showman Llama & Alpaca, 4-H Best Exhibition in Show Poultry and 4-H Best of Show Rabbits as non-market/breeding projects.
59. Also included in the 2026 Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions will be the Supreme Showman, Horse & Pony Western, English and Contesting Champions, Best of Show Dog, Best of Show Cat, Grand and Reserve Champion Pygmy Goat Doe.
60. An exhibitor will receive a Celebration award for every qualifying project category (Market and Non-Market) for which they are selected as outlined in rules #57 and #58. There are no limitations on the number of Celebration awards an exhibitor may receive. Only one video will be created for exhibitors winning multiple species.
61. The Youth Development and Fundraising Committee reserves the right to eliminate any 4-H animals from the ISF Celebration of Champions which it deems to not be in the best interest of the Indiana State Fair.
62. The Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions Award total monetary amount includes premiums and accomplishment award for all participants, and market value price for market animals. Total monetary award amount is based on a formula. Awards will not be given to exhibitors until testing results are complete.
63. With regard to ISF Celebration of Champions animals, it is understood that the market animals awarded upon showing and/or processing will have urine, blood, saliva and/or tissue samples taken per the mandatory testing under 4-H General Terms & Conditions and the animal may be examined by a panel of licensed and accredited veterinarians. Upon said examination, if in the opinion of the examiners, the animal has been fitted in an unethical manner or tampered with, the animal will be disqualified from the ISF Celebration of Champions, all premiums and awards forfeited, and the award proceeds will be withheld by the Indiana State Fair Board and donated to the Indiana State Fair Foundation.
64. Exhibitors of reserve 4-H breed champion market animals not selected for Celebration of Champions must take their animal home.
65. The ownership of a market animal or an exhibit receiving an ISF Celebration of Champion award is maintained by the exhibitor until the conclusion of Grand Drive, Sunday, August 9. The animal or exhibit must be on display until the Transfer of Ownership is signed over to the Indiana State Fair. Signatures of both a guardian and the 4-H Exhibitor is required.

Recognized Breed Participation Policy

66. Recognized Breed Participation: Indiana State Fair recognized breeds (those listed in the current entry book) are required to have a minimum of head total (market and/or breeding) in order to offer breed classes.

Cattle: 5 head

Goats: 15 head

Swine: 15 head

Sheep: 15 head

67. Each Breed Class must have a **minimum of three animals** in order to be a recognized Breed Class. If minimum is not met, Breed Class becomes an exhibition class for current Indiana State Fair, premiums will not be awarded and Breed Class is ineligible for Grand or Supreme Drive.

68. **AOB Division:** The AOB Division will be offered in the Swine, Beef Cattle, and Sheep departments and shall be considered a recognized breed. The division will include all other registered breeds papered with a recognized breed association, not listed in the current department entry book. Regardless of the number of animals in the AOB class, premiums will be offered for AOB division. Champion of the AOB division would be eligible for Grand or Supreme Drive.

Establishing New Breeds In Competition

69. The Indiana State Fair must approve a state-affiliate breed association application for a breed show. The breed must also have a minimum number of head exhibited in either proposed breed/gender classification (ie. rams, ewes, market lambs) over a two-year period prior to the recognition of the new breed. This rule does not apply to any Poultry or Rabbit Exhibits

b. Breed association letters are to be sent to the Exhibitor Livestock Manager at livestock@indianastatefair.com.

70. To place an established breed of livestock on probation the following shall apply:

c. The first year that a breed does not meet a minimum number of head, it shall be considered on its first probation.

d. At the end of the second consecutive year of probation, if the breed does not meet the minimum head, that breed will then exhibit as Exhibition Only the following year, if the minimum head is not reached, the breed will be removed and eligible for exhibition in AOB.

e. The same entry fees shall be paid by all livestock exhibitors regardless of show classification.

Minimum Number of head:

Cattle: 5 head

Goats: 15 head

Swine: 15 head

Sheep: 15 head

Loss or Damage

71. It is mutually agreed that the Indiana State Fair assumes no liability for loss to property or by reason of any claim for personal injury, including death. The exhibitor herein agrees to release, discharge and indemnify the State of Indiana, Indiana State Fair Board, Indiana State Fair Commission, its component members, and their successors from liability by reason of injury to property and/or persons, including death, which may occur within or upon the premises herein described in any manner connected with use thereof by exhibitor.

Entry Revisions, Cancellations & Refunds

72. Entries may be revised in advance of check-in. Additional fees may apply.

73. Entry Fees are non-refundable.

Premiums

73. Premium Checks will be mailed in October for all departments.

74. Premiums will be paid according to official judging result sheets.

75. Any exhibitor receiving \$600.00 or more in monetary awards will be required to provide the Indiana State Fair with a completed IRS Form W-9 (W-8BEN for foreign exhibitors) providing a taxpayer identification number. Failure to provide this information will result in the forfeiture of all premium monies. Forms may be obtained at the Barn Offices, at the Entry Office in the Pop Weaver Youth Pavilion or on the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

76. Questions and/or discrepancies noted in issued premium checks must be addressed to the Indiana State Fair Entry Department prior to December 1, 2026 for resolution. Premium records will be considered closed on December 1, 2026. After this date the exhibitor's right of protest is relinquished.

All emergencies, safety concerns and suspicious activity should be reported immediately to the Indiana State Fair Operations Center at (317) 927-7520.

Prohibited Items

1. No alcoholic beverages may be brought on to the Fairgrounds during the annual Indiana State Fair.
2. No person in possession of a deadly weapon shall be permitted onto or be permitted to remain on the Fairgrounds, unless that person can demonstrate that the deadly weapon is intended for sale or trade at an event that is taking place on the Fairgrounds (Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-2(b)).
 - a. The definition of a deadly weapon includes firearms, knives or sharp bladed items (regardless of blade length), or any object carried or possessed with the intent to be used as a deadly weapon.
 - b. Exhibitors will be permitted to carry and use knives and other tools necessary for the proper care of their animals, tack, and equipment. However, these items may only be carried within the confines of the barn in which the animal(s) is housed. Knives and other tools carried outside of the barn are subject to confiscation under the deadly weapon rules found in the Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-2.
3. Any deadly weapon found in the possession of a person while on the Fairgrounds is subject to immediate confiscation by persons authorized to provide security protection services as well as city, county, and state police agencies. Federal, state, or local law enforcement officers or those employed or authorized by the Indiana State Fair Commission are excepted from this rule (Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-2 (a), (c), and Section 11-2-3 CI) and (2)).
4. Any person properly licensed to carry a firearm must secure the firearm in a locked compartment of his/her vehicle and it shall not be visible to passersby (Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-2(d)).
5. No generators (not attached to a working/in transit RV/trailer/living quarters) or animal scales are permitted on the Fairgrounds except those furnished by the State Fair.

Animal Policies & Procedures

6. The only animals permitted on the Fairgrounds during the Indiana State Fair are animals registered, boarded or entered for exhibition, show or other competition; animals that will be used in a scheduled performance or to perform work at the Fair; law enforcement animals and service animals. Household and family pets, whether domestic or wild, and service animals not recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 36.104 are not permitted on the Fairgrounds during the Indiana State Fair. No person in possession of or having control over an unauthorized animal shall be permitted onto or be permitted to remain on the Fairgrounds (Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-4).
7. Animals entered for exhibition, show or competition and animals scheduled to perform must remain in approved areas at all times. Violation may be disqualifiable offenses. See individual department terms and conditions for more specific information.

General Safety Policies & Procedures

8. Smoking is not permitted inside barns and buildings. Smoking is only permitted in designated areas on the Fairgrounds.
9. Cameras are located throughout the Fairgrounds for security and promotional purposes.
10. Motorized vehicles, including golf carts, are not permitted in any barns or buildings (IFC 313.1). This does not apply to personal mobility devices. A valid State issued driver's license is required to operate a motorized vehicle including a golf cart on the Fairgrounds.
11. Fans are permitted, so long as they have safety-approved shrouds. See individual department requirements pertaining to size, allowable number, and placement of fans.

Tents, Canopies, & Stall Coverings

- Any tent, canopy, or stall covering in a building must be made of a material to allow for or not block water distribution as well as meet or exceed NFPA Standard 701.
- A portable fire extinguisher must be located under each tent, canopy, or covering. Fire extinguishers mounted in the building by the ISFC do not apply. Exhibitors must have their own fire extinguisher under each tent, canopy, or covering.

Fire Safety

- The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office conducts regular inspections of all barns and buildings during the Indiana State Fair to identify any potential fire hazards or threats to life safety. The decisions of the fire marshal are final and will be enforced.
- Fire extinguishers are located throughout every barn and building. They may be used for approved purposes only. Do not use a fire extinguisher if you are not trained on its proper use.
- Most buildings and barns are equipped with fire alarm and/or fire suppression systems. In the event of a fire, these systems should be activated.
- Emergency exits are clearly marked in all barns and buildings. In the event of an emergency, calmly evacuate through the nearest accessible emergency exit.
- Do not store tack/supplies in primary aisles, in front of exit doors, or in/under stairwells.

Severe Weather

- In the event of severe weather impacting the Fairgrounds, be it a severe thunderstorm or tornado, you may receive instructions over the barn or building public address system. If the barn or building is not equipped with a public-address system, State Fair staff will notify people in person.
- During a severe weather situation, you will be asked to remain inside, away from windows and doors whenever possible. Staff may be instructed to close all doors and windows, including overhead doors.
- Larger barns and buildings will be used for shelter-in-place (points of refuge) to allow Fairgoers to seek shelter. This may cause an influx of people into livestock areas and result in the postponement of a show or exhibition. Exhibitors should be mindful of this, keep aisles and walkways clear, and tend to their animals accordingly.

Food Preparation/Cooking Policies & Procedures

- Cooking inside and adjacent to barns and buildings is not advised. The Indiana State Fair Biosecurity plan recommends that food be excluded from animal areas. If cooking and/or food preparation is necessary, the following policies and procedures must be followed:
 - All grills and flat-top cook surfaces that are powered by gas, charcoal, or other fuel are prohibited on the Fairgrounds. Only electric-powered cooking devices are allowed. **Any cooking device with an open flame is prohibited.**
 - Approved cooking devices are limited to crockpots, or similar slow cookers, and microwave ovens. Cooking devices must have a cover approved for use with the device and comply with all applicable electrical and fire codes. Cooking devices are also required to be powered by approved cords that are not frayed or malfunctioning in any way.
 - Exhibitors cooking in the barns and buildings do so at their own risk and assume all liability for their actions concerning food contamination from pathogens that may be present in or near a livestock area.

Extension Cords

- Extension Cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. IFC 2012 (605.4.1) Extension Cords shall not be affixed to structures. IFC 2012 (605.5)
- Extension Cords shall not extend through walls, ceilings, doorways, or floors. IFC 2012 (605.5) Extension Cords shall not be buried under carpet or animal bedding.

Multi-plug Adapter/Power Strip

- Multi-plug adapter(s) are prohibited. IFC 2012 (605.4)
- Power strip(s) shall be grounded and be equipped with overcurrent protection. IFC 2012 (605.4.1) Power strip shall be directly connected to an electrical outlet (no piggy-backing). IFC 2012 (605.4.2) Power strip cords shall not extend through walls, ceilings, doorways, or floors. IFC 2012 (605.4.3)

Animal Wellness & Care

The Animal Wellness & Care Plan (AWAC) was established to reinforce the Indiana State Fair's commitment and belief in the proper treatment of all animals in exhibition. The Indiana State Fair holds exhibitors of the various species of animals being exhibited to the highest standards in wellness, care and ethics of exhibition. The AWAC is responsible for ensuring the most up to date standards as well as to be a source for the public to seek answers to their questions relating to the health and safety of the animals involved in the Indiana State Fair. Failure or refusal by an exhibitor or fairgoer to comply with the Animal Wellness & Care Plan can result in penalties up to and including but not limited to removal and a ban from the Fairgrounds for the duration of the event.

Biosecurity

The Indiana State Fair Biosecurity Plan was developed to prevent the outbreak of diseases carried by both animals and humans that spread pathogens that can be transmitted to and from farm animals, as well as through the food supply. Many diseases and pathogens can be prevented through maintaining the cleanliness of facilities and encouraging good hygiene. The Biosecurity Plan will be enforced during the Indiana State Fair and all exhibitors are expected to carryout and preform basic biosecurity and hygienic task including:

- Hand Washing/sanitizing following exposure to animals and always before consuming food or drinks
- Excluding human food and food preparation from animal areas
- Maintaining general cleanliness of animals and animal areas
- Properly disposing of animal waste/soiled bedding in properly identified/designated areas
- Cleaning-up after your animal if it soils/has a biological event in a building/Fair common space
- Reporting the appearance or evidence of animal/human sickness or distress to Fair officials

Failure or refusal to comply with the above can result in penalties up to and including but not limited to removal and a ban from the Fairgrounds for the duration of the event.

The Indiana State Fair is committed to providing opportunities for all 4-H participants to show their animals as part of the State Fair. The State Fair also wants to ensure the integrity of its 4-H competitions as is evidenced by the various terms and conditions set forth in this Entry Book, including its policy with respect to testing for unauthorized substances in certain animals that are entered into these competitions and the penalties associated with positive results. By entering into these competitions, you agree to these terms and conditions and as such, we strongly recommend that you read this information carefully prior to submitting your entry.

Missy Culp
Indiana State Fair Board

1. **Indiana State Fair General Terms and Conditions** - By entering exhibits at the Indiana State Fair, you agree to the Indiana State Fair General Terms and Conditions.
 - a. All animals must meet the official health requirements, general terms and ownership conditions located in the front of the State Fair 4-H Entry Book. Especially note terms and conditions on tampering, misrepresentation, conduct, drugs, etc. Officials reserve the right to require drug steroid testing and examination of animals entered for show.
 - b. Read official health terms and conditions, general terms and conditions and official ownership terms and conditions located in the front of the 4-H Entry Book. Pay particular attention to the terms and conditions on tampering, misrepresentation, conduct, drugs, pumping, forced fillings, etc. 4-Hers and parent's consent to drug and/or steroid testing as a condition for entering. Refusing tests will be cause for disqualification.
2. **4-H County Terms and Conditions** - All State Fair 4-H Cat show exhibitors must have been enrolled in the 4-H cat program prior to May 15.
 - a. It is not necessary for a 4-H Cat to have been selected as a county winner to enter and compete at the State Fair. Any eligible 4-H Cat project member may elect to exhibit their 4-H cat in State Fair competition.
 - b. A cat or kitten being shown in the 4-H Cat project must belong to the exhibitor or to a member of the immediate family or household and be cared for by the 4-H member by May 15.
 - c. **All 4-H cats must have a completed certification of vaccination for the 4-H Cat project (4-H 777). The certification of vaccination must be signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian, and it must be available at check-in. A veterinary check-in will be done before registration and before the 4-H cat may be benched and entered in the 4-H Cat Show.**
3. All cats exhibiting at the Indiana State Fair Cat Show must have an entry made online through <https://exhibitorscorner.indianastatefair.com/> before July 26th. Placings at county event do NOT grant automatic entry into the cat show.
4. **Cages**-There will be a Cat cage fee of \$5/cage that will be paid at time of completing State Fair entry.
 - a. One cat per cage
5. Cat(s) may be purebred or grade animals (household pets).
6. Each 4-H exhibitor is responsible for bringing both the 4-H cat and the cat/cage number card to and from the show ring. Only 4-H members may show cats at the judging table. A 4-H cat entered but not presented or available will be disqualified.
7. Each cat will be judged under 1 judge unless the cat is selected for the grand champion grouping.
8. Each 4-Hers cat will be judged on a) health, b) cleanliness, c) grooming, d) personality, and e) if all categories are equal, the judge will choose a winner by its "star quality."
9. After each 4-H cat has been judged, 4-Hers are to remain in the benching area as their cat may be called again for another runoff.
10. 4-H exhibitors read the general terms and conditions printed in the front of this Entry Book regarding other 4-H related policies and information.

11. **Care and Management** - The Indiana State Fair will furnish cages (22" H x 22" D x 25" W) for benching all of the cats that are entered in the show. Exhibitors must provide water/feed containers, carrying case, towels or curtains to drape their cage, litter box and litter, and other appropriate grooming aids. No double cages will be available.
- a. Exhibitors will be responsible to maintain and care for the 4-H cat while at the State Fair 4-H cat show.
 - b. 4-H cats will be benched by sex and 4-H exhibitor number.
 - c. Advertising will not be permitted on 4-H cat exhibits.
 - d. All 4-H cats must be brought and taken from the show in carriers. Cats on leashes without carrying cases will not be accepted. Please do not use paper/cardboard boxes as carriers. Harnesses should not be used because they interfere with judging. A leash and collar may be used but shall be removed for judging.
 - e. 4-H exhibitors are expected to stay in the area with their cats during judging.
 - f. Pregnant or lactating female cats will not be permitted to show.
 - g. All 4-H cats must have their claws clipped or be de-clawed.
 - h. It is recommended that all 4-H cats, other than pedigreed breeding stock, be neutered or spayed.
 - i. 4-H cats must be free of fleas, fungus, ear mites, or other communicable diseases. See the health terms and conditions section printed on pages 23-24 for the details.
 - j. 4-H cats will be removed from their cages during judging. The 4-H member will stay and watch his or her cat being judged, then return the cat to its cage. If a 4-H cat is not on the judging table at the time the class is judged, it will not be judged.
 - k. The 4-H'er and/or his/her parent(s) should not speak with the judge unless conversation is initiated by the judge.
 - l. Cats must be taken home following official release at the end of the 4-H cat show.
 - m. 4-H cats shall not be left unattended at any time either in the show building or in an automobile.
 - n. 4-H Exhibitors must provide appropriate draping whether or not they are entered in the cage decorating class to prevent cats from coming in contact with one another. This procedure helps to prevent the spread of air borne disease from sneezes or Male/Female attraction.
 - o. Measurement of cages and drapery information for the Cage Decorating is listed within that section.

Entry Information

1. All entries must be made in accordance with the terms and conditions.
2. **Online Entry** - To enter the Indiana State Fair, please go <https://exhibitorscorner.indianastatefair.com> and enter online. Each exhibitor is required to pay an entry fee at the time of entry. An exhibitor will not be considered entered into the Indiana State Fair until payment is made in full. Payment can be made online with a valid credit card. Entries will not be accepted over the phone.
3. **Entry Deadlines and Fees** –

Enter between
May 18, 2026 - July 1, 2026
Per Head Entry Fee: \$15
Cage Fee: \$5

Enter Between
July 2, 2026 - July 26, 2026
Per Head Entry Fee: \$75
Cage Fee: \$5

4. **Each entry includes 6 tickets and a 1-day parking voucher per exhibitor.**
5. **Confirmation of Entry** - A confirmation email will be sent to the email address used to sign in for the account once entries have been paid in full.
6. 4-H cats entered at the State Fair must be owned, cared for, and shown by the 4-H member.
7. A 4-H member may enter and show a maximum of 2 cats in the 4-H cat show. Each cat may be shown in only one cat class. All classes must be entered by posted deadlines.
8. Responsibility for correctly entering appropriate State Fair class number(s), section letters, and class descriptions rests with the 4-H member. Once entered, cats cannot be switched to a different section. 4-H exhibitors will be given an entry number which will be used throughout the show for judging and benching. When this number is called by the announcer, it will be time for the 4-Her and their cat to report to the judging area. Be sure to stay alert and listen for your number. 4-H members are to remain in the benching area until the show's end. Their cat may be called again for another runoff.

Schedule

Note: The 2026 Cat Show takes place on a State Fair \$2 Tuesday. Crowds will be large that day, so please plan accordingly to avoid delays parking and getting through the entry gates.

Date	Time	Description	Location
Tuesday, August 11	9:00am – 11:00am	All 4-H cats admitted, vet checked and benched. All 4-H Cat exhibitors report first to the vet check, then bring the approved Certificate of Vaccination to the 4-H Cat registration table.	Purdue Extension Building Auditorium
	11:30am	Judging of all 4-H animals, showmanship and cage decorations.	
	After show's end	All 4-H cat exhibits are dismissed and may go home following announcement of the 4-H champions.	

4-H Cat Show Classifications



Junior - 4-H members in the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade on January 1 of the current year.

Intermediate - 4-H members in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade on January 1 of the current year.

Senior - 4-H members in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade on January 1 of the current year.

Household kittens - Cats aged 4 to 8 months on day of show. Any kitten becoming 8 months old on show day will be considered an adult cat.

Household adults - Cats 8 months of age or older on show day.

Purebred - Registered cats of a recognized breed. Animals must have a current registration number from one of the national cat registries, such as the Cat Fanciers Association.

Long haired - Cats whose coat has long top hairs, with a thick wooly under-coat. The length of hair on a cat's tail is often used as a determining factor. Hair length is normally 1-1/2" long or more.

Short haired - Cats whose coat has only short hairs, a smooth, textured coat. Cat tail hair is usually less than 1-1/2" in length.

Judge's "award of merit" ribbons shall be awarded as appropriate.

Note:

- Reserve Champion moves up for Reserve Grand Champion if the Grand Champion is selected from their class.
- Reserve Grand Champion moves up for Reserve Best of Show if the Best of Show is selected from their division.

Kitten Division

Category: Short Hair

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
1	Junior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Junior Champion Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
2	Intermediate	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Intermediate Champion Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
3	Senior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Senior Champion Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion Short Hair 4-H Kitten	Plaque	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion Short Hair 4-H Kitten	Plaque	

Category: Long Hair

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
4	Junior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Junior Champion Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
5	Intermediate	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Intermediate Champion Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
6	Senior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Senior Champion Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion Long Hair 4-H Kitten	Plaque	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion Long Hair 4-H Kitten	Plaque	

Adult Division

Category: Short Hair

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
1	Junior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Junior Champion Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
2	Intermediate	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Intermediate Champion Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
3	Senior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Senior Champion Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion Short Hair 4-H Adult Cat	Plaque	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion Short Hair 4-H Adult Cat	Plaque	

Category: Long Hair

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
4	Junior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Junior Champion Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
5	Intermediate	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Intermediate Champion Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
6	Senior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Senior Champion Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion Long Hair 4-H Adult Cat	Plaque	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion Long Hair 4-H Adult Cat	Plaque	

Purebred Kitten Division

Category: Short Hair

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
1	Junior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion Purebred Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Junior Champion Purebred Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
2	Intermediate	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion Purebred Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Intermediate Champion Purebred Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
3	Senior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion Purebred Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Senior Champion Purebred Short Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion Purebred Short Hair 4-H Kitten	Plaque	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion Purebred Short Hair 4-H Kitten	Plaque	

Category: Long Hair

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
4	Junior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion Purebred Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Junior Champion Purebred Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
5	Intermediate	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion Purebred Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Intermediate Champion Purebred Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
6	Senior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion Purebred Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Senior Champion Purebred Long Hair Kitten	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion Purebred Long Hair 4-H Kitten	Plaque	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion Purebred Long Hair 4-H Kitten	Plaque	

Purebred Adult Division

Category: Short Hair

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
1	Junior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion Purebred Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Junior Champion Purebred Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
2	Intermediate	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion Purebred Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Intermediate Champion Purebred Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
3	Senior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion Purebred Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Senior Champion Purebred Short Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion Purebred Short Hair 4-H Adult Cat	Plaque	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion Purebred Short Hair 4-H Adult Cat	Plaque	

Category: Long Hair

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
4	Junior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion Purebred Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Junior Champion Purebred Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
5	Intermediate	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion Purebred Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Intermediate Champion Purebred Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
6	Senior	Blue-Red-White Ribbons	Sliding Scale
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion Purebred Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Senior Champion Purebred Long Hair Adult Cat	Rosette	
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion Purebred Long Hair 4-H Adult Cat	Plaque	
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion Purebred Long Hair 4-H Adult Cat	Plaque	

Best of Show Division

Do Not Enter

Class #	Class Description	Awards	Premiums
1	Best of Show 4-H Cat	Large Plaque	Celebration of Champions
2	Reserve Best of Show 4-H Cat	Small Plaque	

Showmanship Division

Each exhibitor can only enter one cat in showmanship.

Class ages as of January 1 of the current year.

1. Reference material may not be used during the activity by participants.
2. Questions for the activity will be taken from one or more of the following publications (listed below): (Grade in school on January 1 of the current year)
3. Showmanship Judging
 - a. Written quiz
 - b. Showing your cat
 - c. Oral interview about the cat

Category: Showmanship

Class #	Class Description	Awards
1	Juniors (Level 1) BU-8148 – (Grades 3-4-5) – Purrr-fect Pals!	Blue-Red-White Ribbons
2	Intermediate (Level 2) BU-8148 and BU-8149 (Grades 6-7-8) – Purrr-fect Pals! and Climbing Up!	Blue-Red-White Ribbons
3	Senior (Level 3) BU-8148, BU-8149 and BU-8150 (Grades 9 and above) – Purrr-fect Pals!, Climbing Up!, Leaping Forward	Blue-Red-White Ribbons
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion 4-H Cat Showmanship	Small Plaque
Do Not Enter	Junior Reserve Champion 4-H Cat Showmanship	Rosette
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion 4-H Cat Showmanship	Small Plaque
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Reserve Champion 4-H Cat Showmanship	Rosette
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion 4-H Cat Showmanship	Small Plaque
Do Not Enter	Senior Reserve Champion 4-H Cat Showmanship	Rosette
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion 4-H Cat Showmanship	Large Plaque
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Cat Showmanship	Small Plaque

Cage Decoration Contest

Terms and Conditions

1. Cat cage decoration is an optional activity for 4-H members with a cat or cats entered in the cat show. If a 4-H member chooses not to decorate the cage, he/she must plan to bring a sheeting or material with which to cover the inside of the cage.
2. If a member chooses to decorate the inside of their 4-H cat cage, the single cat cage measures 22" H x 22" D x 25" W. 4-H members with two cats may decorate 1 or both cages for their cage decorating entry. Enter cage decorating only 1 time.
3. The following judging criteria will be used to evaluate each entry:
 - a. color coordination
 - b. originality/imagination
 - c. Are the 2 sides, top and back appropriately covered? (Front of cage should not be covered.) Please do not use copyright figures such as Garfield, Mickey Mouse, etc. in decorating of your cat cage.
 - d. Health/Safety/Comfort of the 4-H Cat (to include: water dish, litter, appropriate continuation of the theme.)
 - e. Appropriateness to theme. Exhibitors must post theme name on cage.

Note: 4-H Cat Cages are decorated and displayed sitting on show tables. The cages are connected in groups of two.

Category: Cage Decoration Contest

Class #	Class Description	Awards
1	Juniors – 4-H member in the 3 rd , 4 th or 5 th grade on January 1 of the current year.	Blue-Red-White Ribbons
2	Intermediate – 4-H member in the 6 th , 7 th or 8 th grade on January 1 of the current year.	Blue-Red-White Ribbons
3	Senior – 4-H member in the 9 th grade or above on January 1 of the current year.	Blue-Red-White Ribbons
Do Not Enter	Junior Champion 4-H Cat Cage Decoration	Small Plaque
Do Not Enter	Junior Reserve Champion 4-H Cat Cage Decoration	Rosette
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Champion 4-H Cat Cage Decoration	Small Plaque
Do Not Enter	Intermediate Reserve Champion 4-H Cat Cage Decoration	Rosette
Do Not Enter	Senior Champion 4-H Cat Cage Decoration	Small Plaque
Do Not Enter	Senior Reserve Champion 4-H Cat Cage Decoration	Rosette
Do Not Enter	Grand Champion 4-H Cat Cage Decoration	Large Plaque
Do Not Enter	Reserve Grand Champion 4-H Cat Cage Decoration	Small Plaque

4-H Cat Show Premium Schedule



Number in class	Placings									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19+	22	20	18	16	15	14	13	12	11	10
17-18	22	20	18	16	15	14	13	12	11	
15-16	22	20	18	16	15	14	13	12		
13-14	22	20	18	16	15	14	13			
11-12	22	20	18	16	15	14				
9-10	22	20	18	16	15					
7-8	22	20	18	16						
5-6	22	20	18							
3-4	22	20								
1-2	22									

ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITION OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS IN INDIANA 2026

This document describes the Indiana State Board of Animal Health's (BOAH) requirements for all animal exhibitions in the state. Indiana State 4-H has imposed additional requirements as a condition of exhibition. These additional conditions are denoted with an "*" throughout this document.

Please call the Indiana State 4-H Office at (765) 494-8435 with questions concerning 4-H exhibition requirements in Indiana.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SPECIES

A. Limitations on Exhibition

This section describes limitations on exhibiting animals in Indiana. Other exhibition limitations may be described in the species-specific requirements that follow.

1. Failure to meet all animal health requirements will result in removal of animals from the exhibition premises.
2. The following animals are not eligible for exhibition in Indiana:
 - a. Animals that originate from a herd that is under quarantine.
 - b. An animal prohibited from exhibition under any law or order.
 - c. Any animal classified as a brucellosis "suspect".
 - d. Animals showing signs of any infectious or communicable disease or that are a health hazard to people or other animals.
 - e. Any animal that does not meet state animal health requirements.
3. Any animal that develops or shows signs of any infectious or communicable disease during exhibition must be removed from the premises, including the surrounding exhibition grounds. An owner who is disputing the exclusion of his/her animal(s) from exhibition may not exhibit the animal in question pending any appeal.
4. The State Veterinarian is authorized to make the final determination as to an animal's eligibility for exhibition. The State Veterinarian may order removal of any animal from the exhibition grounds.
5. Exhibition organizers may impose health requirements in addition to those prescribed by BOAH. Added requirements may not contradict requirements imposed by BOAH.
6. Exhibition organizers may have a licensed and accredited veterinarian review animals and animal health documentation during the exhibition.

B. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection

1. **For animals located within Indiana**, a certificate of veterinary inspection (commonly known as a "health paper") is not required by the Indiana State 4-H Office or BOAH for exhibition.
2. **For animals located outside of Indiana**, the exhibitor must have a properly completed CVI for all animals prior to entry. This requirement applies to all domestic animals (except fish and poultry).
 - a. CVIs must be completed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian who has personally inspected the animals.
 - b. A CVI for any animal is valid for 30 days from the date it is issued by a licensed and accredited veterinarian. NOTE: Animal(s) must be inspected by a licensed and accredited veterinarian no more than ten days prior to the date in which the CVI is issued.
 - c. CVIs must clearly include a description of each animal including the age, sex, and breed of the animal, and the official individual identification.
 - d. CVIs must accompany the animal while on the exhibition premises.
 - i. CVI's can be made available in their original format (i.e., digital, or physical copy).

C. Pre-Entry Movement Permit (**REVISED**)

Effective January 1, 2022:

1. **For swine and cattle located within Indiana**, a pre-entry movement permit is not required.
2. **For swine and cattle located outside of Indiana**, a pre-entry movement permit is not required when an **electronic certificate of veterinary inspection is issued**.
3. **For swine and cattle located outside of Indiana**, a pre-entry movement permit is required when a **paper** certificate of veterinary inspection is issued.
 - a. The 2026 Indiana State Fair pre-entry movement permit number is "**INSF26**" and must be noted on all **paper** certificates of veterinary inspection.

D. Indiana State Fairgrounds

1. The Federal Premises Identification Number for the Indiana State Fairgrounds that should be recorded on all associated CVIs is: **00C6T69**
2. The physical address for the Indiana State Fairgrounds that should be recorded on all associated CVIs is: **1202 E 38th St, Indianapolis, IN 46205**

E. Official Identification

All exhibition animals must be permanently and individually identified unless otherwise noted. Official ear tags are tags approved by the USDA that bear the US shield. All official identification and any additional identification devices should be recorded on the certificate of veterinary inspection.

F. Testing

1. All tests required for exhibition must be conducted at the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) at Purdue University, a laboratory approved by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health, or a state or federal-approved laboratory.
2. All animals, including Indiana animals, that are to be offered for sale to out of state buyers should have the necessary testing completed prior to the sale date. The destination state should be contacted to ensure all pre-entry movement requirements are met prior to the planned movement. www.in.gov/boah/movements-out-of-indiana/

CAT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

A. SEE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SPECIES

B. Certification*

1. All 4-H cats must have a completed certification of vaccination for the 4-H Cat project (4-H 777).
2. The certification of vaccination must be signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian, and it must be available at check-in.
3. A veterinary check-in will be done before registration and before the 4-H cat may be benched and entered in the 4-H Cat Show.
 - a. This original form **MUST** be brought by the 4-H member to all 4-H Cat events.
 - b. <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/docs/projects/cat/cat-vaccination-form.pdf>

C. Official Identification

- a. Physical description of the individual animal
 - a. Name, age, breed, color, gender, distinctive markings, etc.

D. Testing*

1. Feline Leukemia test or vaccination (Required)
 - a. Negative test within 180 days of show or vaccination within one year of show.
2. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Test (Recommended)

E. Vaccination*

1. Vaccinations must be given at least two weeks prior to and within one year of show date.
2. Rabies vaccination (Required)
 - a. All cats three months of age or older must be vaccinated by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in accordance with the state rabies vaccination law.
3. Panleukopenia vaccination (Required)
4. Rhinotracheitis vaccination (Required)
5. Calicivirus vaccination (Required)
6. Feline Leukemia vaccination or test (Required)
 - a. Negative test within 180 days of show or vaccination within one year of show.

F. Procedures*

1. Fecal parasite exam or deworming (Required)
2. Heartworm consultation (Recommended)
3. Flea and tick preventative (Recommended)

INDIANA STATE FAIR GRIEVANCE/APPEAL FORM



INDIANA STATE FAIR

WARNING: You must read and initial this section before proceeding to complete this document.

_____ 1. I understand and agree that filing a grievance that alleges
a. facts that are not true, or
b. facts that I know are not true, or
c. facts I should know are not true:
will be considered a violation of the 4-H behavioral expectations.

_____ 2. I understand and agree that all statements made herein by me are subject to the pains and penalties of perjury and I hereby affirm that my statements herein are true.

_____ 3. I understand that perjury is a crime in Indiana.

I, the undersigned, allege that the following term(s) and condition(s) have been violated:

The facts which support this allegation are set out as follows:
(If needed, additional sheets may be attached.)

I swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ that I have read, understand, and accept the above statements to be true, accurate, and complete

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print your name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

(1) Perjury - knowingly making false material statements under oath or affirmation. In Indiana, person who commits perjury commits a Class D felony⁽³⁾, which may be punishable by imprisonment, fine or restitution (Indiana Code 35-44-2-1 and 35-50-2-7)

(2) Prosecution for violations of Indiana law will be referred to the proper authorities.

(3) Felony - a crime of graver or more serious nature than those designated as misdemeanors.

Form received by signed: _____ Date: _____