CITRUS TREE

Premium Book

Grow It • Show It • Sell It

Lake County Fair • April 9 – 18, 2027

Superintendents

Ethan Gruner • 352-530-7766 • goatbusters4h@gmail.com

Leah Fischer • 352-551-7407 • LCFCreativeLiving@gmail.com

Fair Manager

Mary Ellen Jones • 352-357-7111

Table of Contents

1 Registration Details 3
2 Exhibitor Eligibility 3
3 Rules & Regulations 4
3.1 General Rules 4
3.2 Registration 4
3.3 Tree Requirements 4
4 Expectations 5
4.1 Project Categories 5
4.2 Record Books 5
4.3 Thank-You Letters 5
5 Dress Code 6
6 Tree Care After Drop-Off 6
7 Ribbons & Awards 7
7.1 Record Book Award 7
7.2 Skill-a-Thon Award 7
7.3 Citrus Speech Award 7
7.4 Citrus Judging Award 7
8 Judging 7
9 Show & Sale 8
10 Premiums 9
11 Check-Out 9
12 Project Schedule 9

1 Registration Details

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Register online by Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM — www.lakecofair.com

You should fully read this Premium Book before you register because it contains the rules, class descriptions, entry requirements, and judging criteria that determine how you register and what you're allowed to enter. Once you have completed reading it, please see "How to Enter the Lake County Fair Online" on Showman, which is posted after this Premium Book.

Key Dates & Fees

Registration Deadline	Thursday, September 3, 2026 — 5:00 PM
Registration Website	www.lakecofair.com
Registration Cost	$25.00 (plus $25.00 per additional citrus tree)
Take-In Date	Saturday, April 3, 2027 — 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Sale Date & Time	Saturday, April 17, 2027 — 1:30 PM, at the Fair

Location & Directions

Creative Living Building (Ashford)

1. Turn off County Road 44
2. Drive along the fence beside Southern Palms RV Resort
3. Drive through the gate
4. Take the first left
5. The building is on the right side

2 Exhibitor Eligibility

2.1 All Citrus Tree exhibitors must reside within the boundaries of Lake County and/or attend a Lake County School or home school. Anyone who has graduated high school or dropped out is ineligible to register or show at the Lake County Fair. The Lake County Fair (LCF) management and/or superintendents have the right to ask for proof of school records and residence.

2.2 All exhibitors must be a registered member of a chartered Lake County 4-H Club or Lake County FFA Chapter. Their membership must be in good standing, and exhibitors must have met/meet all Club or Chapter requirements.

2.3 Clubs or Chapters are ineligible to apply.

2.4 Age breakdowns are as follows as of September 1, 2026:

- **(a)** Junior: 8-10 years old
- **(b)** Intermediate: 11-13 years old

(c) Senior: 14-18 years old

3 Rules & Regulations

3.1 General Rules

3.1.1 Any item or exhibitor entered in the competition may be photographed and used by the Lake County Fair for advertising or promotional purposes.

3.1.2 All entries will remain under the supervision of Fair Management and the Citrus Tree Superintendents for the duration of the event.

3.1.3 The Lake County Fair is not responsible for loss or damage to any exhibit, regardless of the cause.

3.1.4 Participants may not remove, rearrange, or modify their entry at any time once it has been submitted.

3.2 Registration

3.2.1 Registration Deadline – September 3, 2026, by 5:00 PM

3.2.2 The Citrus Tree MUST be registered through the Lake County Fair website (www.lakecofair.com) using the online Showman system by September 3, 2026, by 5:00 PM.

3.2.3 Completion of registration indicates you have read, understand, and agree to abide by ALL rules set forth in this Premium Book.

3.2.4 All entries are subject to a non-refundable $25.00 entry fee, charged at the time of online registration, which includes one citrus tree, workshops, and a 5-gallon issued container. Exhibitors may purchase one additional citrus tree for $25.00.

3.2.5 Exhibitors will be required to complete a W-9 form during registration. This form must be completed to finalize registration.

3.2.6 A confirmation receipt should be kept by the exhibitor for their records. Should any registration issues arise, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to provide proof of registration.

3.3 Tree Requirements

> **MANDATORY WORKSHOP & TREE PICK-UP**
> September 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM — Lake County Extension Office, Tavares. All exhibitors must attend this workshop to receive their tree.

3.3.1 Citrus Trees for this project MUST be picked up at the Lake County Cooperative Extension Service, 1951 Woodlea Road in Tavares, at the first workshop, on September 14th at 6:00 PM. All exhibitors must attend this workshop to participate.

3.3.2 The citrus tree must be transplanted into a 5-gallon issued container. The tree must have the original tag at the time of the Fair.

3.3.3 The tree must be delivered to the Lake County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 3rd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

3.3.4 Plants will be inspected upon check-in at the Fair. Each tree must be in show condition and representative of a marketable nursery-quality citrus tree. Any tree determined to be unhealthy, diseased, or infested with pests will be disqualified and sent home.

3.3.5 Contest officials have the right to reject entries of inferior quality or diseased plants. Exhibitors whose trees are disqualified based on disease or lack of show quality are still required to complete a record book and complete the project.

3.3.6 Blue Ribbon citrus trees will be the only trees sold (unless exhibitor is otherwise notified) in the live auction on April 17th at 1:30 PM at the Fair.

4 Expectations

4.1 Project Categories

4.1.1 The Citrus Tree competition will include four project categories:

- **(a)** Citrus Tree Judging
- **(b)** Citrus Tree Skill-a-Thon
- **(c)** Citrus Tree Record Book
- **(d)** Citrus Speech

4.1.2 Exhibitors must complete a record book and participate in Citrus Judging. Participation in the Citrus Speech Contest and Skill-a-Thon is optional (Dates to be determined). To receive their final payment, exhibitors must submit a Thank-You letter to the buyer of their citrus tree.

4.2 Record Books

4.2.1 Record books must be signed by the exhibitor, parent or guardian, and FFA Advisor/4-H Leader.

4.2.2 Failure to turn in a completed Record Book will result in disqualification.

4.2.3 Record books will be turned in at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

4.2.4 The deadline to turn in record books will be April 3, 2027, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

4.2.5 Record books determined to be incomplete, unacceptable, or non-compliant by the Lake County Fair Record Book Committee shall be grounds for the exhibitor to be disqualified. Exhibitors will be notified of any deficiencies or disqualification within seven (7) days of record book submission.

4.3 Thank-You Letters

> **IMPORTANT — FINAL CUTOFF**
> If no Thank-You letter is received by May 28, 2027, Sale & Premium checks are forfeited, and the exhibitor is disqualified from next year's fair.

4.3.1 Letters must be addressed (i.e.: To Buyer & From Exhibitor), using Business Letter Block format. Letters may be typed or hand-written.

4.3.2 Each letter must be placed in an addressed, stamped, but NOT SEALED envelope, ready for mailing.

4.3.3 Exhibitors MUST furnish the Fair office with Buyer Thank-You letters by May 7, 2027, at 5:00 PM.

4.3.4 A $50.00 fine will be deducted from the exhibitor's check for any Thank-You letter turned in after the deadline or deemed unacceptable (i.e., scrapbook paper, ripped or damaged paper, letters consisting of only one sentence, letters not addressed to the buyer, letters that fail to include the buyer's name, or illegible handwriting).

4.3.5 NO Checks will be mailed to an exhibitor until their Thank-You letter is received in the fair office.

4.3.6 It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that your letter is received at the fair office by the deadline.

4.3.7 PLEASE NOTE: If NO Thank-You letter is received by the final cutoff of May 28, 2027, the fair will NOT mail an exhibitor's check. Sale & Premium checks will be donated back to the fair, and the exhibitor will be disqualified from showing in next year's fair.

5 Dress Code

5.1 4-H/FFA official dress must be worn during show and sales.

5.2 Exhibitors must wear a white collared dress shirt (polo shirts permitted), tucked in (short or long-sleeved), 4-H/FFA tie, black pants or jeans (no blue pants or jeans), and boots or closed-toe shoes that go above the ankle.

5.3 "Bling" belts and pants are not permitted.

5.4 4-H jackets are optional.

5.5 Boat shoes, Sperry, Hey Dudes, or any equivalent slip-on casual footwear, as well as clogs, sandals, and other open-toed footwear, are not permitted during shows, or sales.

5.6 No hats or cell phones will be permitted in the show ring.

5.7 Shirts containing inappropriate graphics, slogans, language, or sayings are prohibited.

5.8 Failure to adhere to attire requirements will result in disqualification.

6 Tree Care After Drop-Off

6.1 Each exhibitor is responsible for the care (water) of their tree from drop-off through the auction. Care instructions will be provided by the superintendent(s) at the time of drop-off.

7 Ribbons & Awards

7.1 Record Book Award

For Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Age Bracket

Placement	Award
Grand Champion	Award
Reserve Grand Champion	Award
Blue Ribbon	Award

7.2 Skill-a-Thon Award

For Junior, Intermediate and Senior Bracket

Placement	Award
Grand Champion	Award
Reserve Grand Champion	Award
Blue Ribbon	Award

7.3 Citrus Speech Award

For Junior, Intermediate and Senior Bracket

Placement	Premium
Grand Champion	$25
Reserve Grand Champion	$20

7.4 Citrus Judging Award

Awards are selected from exhibitors across all age divisions.

Placement	Premium
Grand Champion	$35
Reserve Grand Champion	$25

(Additional Awards may be offered)

8 Judging

8.1 Trees will be pre-judged and classified as blue, red, or white by qualified judges based on:

- **(a)** Trunk width and form
- **(b)** Sprouts
- **(c)** Leaf shape and size
- **(d)** Free of insects and insect damage

(e) Free from disease signs and symptoms

(f) Overall tree appearance

9 Show & Sale

9.1 The only ribbon displayed on the tree will be its official judging placement ribbon.

9.2 Exhibitors are responsible for recruiting their own buyers.

9.3 Citrus Tree exhibitors will be issued a colored armband and parking pass that corresponds to their respective show and sales.

9.4 Exhibitors will be permitted to park in Livestock Exhibitor Parking Only.

9.5 The Lake County Fair does not issue passes/tickets for exhibitors' parents/families; tickets must be purchased for entry.

9.6 Livestock 10-day passes will be available for purchase for Lake County 4-H/FFA family members at the fair website (www.lakecofair.com) February 12 – March 19, 2027. (Limit 8 per family). Please note that after March 19th, these tickets will NOT be available for purchase, and individual full-priced entry tickets will be required.

9.7 All exhibitors, parents, advisors, leaders, volunteers, and guests must possess valid Lake County Fair-issued admission credentials to enter the fairgrounds. Admission credentials may include, but are not limited to, tickets, passes, wristbands, badges, or other approved forms of admission. Individuals must present and maintain their admission credentials each time they enter the fairgrounds. Participation in any fair activity does not exempt an individual from admission requirements.

9.8 Buyer packets (credentials and parking pass) will be mailed to buyers who purchased a plant the previous year by the Fair Office. No tickets or parking passes will be given to exhibitors to pass to their buyers.

9.9 It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to furnish the Lake County Fair office with buyers' names and addresses they would like credentials sent to.

9.10 Prospective Buyer information MUST be given to the Fair Office by March 12, 2027, to ensure delivery to the buyers.

9.11 Buyer letters will no longer be accepted as a form of admission or entry into the fair.

9.12 A six percent (6%) commission fee will be deducted from both the sale price of the plant sold at auction AND all add-ons processed by the Lake County Fair for the promotion and production of our Creative Living Programs.

9.13 It is highly encouraged that add-ons are given directly to exhibitors. Please note that add-ons given to exhibitors are not eligible as a tax write-off to sponsors.

10 Premiums

10.1 All premiums will be mailed to the exhibitors after the Fair. Please allow 6 weeks.

11 Check-Out

11.1 Citrus Trees removed before the end of the Fair will result in forfeiture of premium money.

12 Project Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION	TIME
09/14/2026	MANDATORY MEETING	Extension Office – Tavares	6:00 – 7:00 PM
TBA	Field Trip	TBD	TBD
TBA	Pruning Workshop	TBD	TBD
04/03/2027	Citrus Tree Arrival	Lake County Fairgrounds	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
04/17/2027	Citrus Sale	Lake County Fairgrounds	1:30 PM
05/28/2027	Thank-You Letters (Final Cutoff)	Lake County Fairgrounds	5:00 PM

***Extra optional workshops may be added later*