



Linn County Fair
Central City, Iowa
June 24th- June 28th

Dear Candidate:

Thank you for your consideration in applying for the 2026 Linn County Fair Queen Competition. We are excited for another year of the fair and look forward to what this year has in store for us.

Please review this *whole* packet, it is important that you and your family are aware of the expectations and requirements that come with being the 2026 Linn County Fair Queen or Princess. By filling out this application you are agreeing to the terms and conditions set forth by the Linn County Fair Queen Committee, Linn County Fair Association and Iowa State Fair if chosen to be the queen or princess. Please mark your calendar now for the events that will be prior to the crowning, it is important to make these events as judging is all part of the events you attend. If there are conflicts with these events, please let the Queen Committee know in advance.

Please be sure to check your email after May 15th. We will send an email out to all candidates to give them more details on the events that will proceed in the month of June. We will host a “Meet and Greet” prior to all events. It is the candidate’s responsibility to check her email and respond after receiving it. Please be sure to share this information with your parents and/or guardians.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email Jennifer Dunn, committee co-chair, 319-929-0300 or jenn@thelinncountyfair.com.

We look forward to having you as a candidate for the 2026 Linn County Fair Queen Competition!

Linn County Fair Queen Committee

Dawn Carrothers, Susan Clarke, Kathy Clemens, Sarah Gericke, Kira Ingwersen, Julia Rathje, Zoey Wecker & Jennifer Dunn

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2026 Fair Queen Application

DUE BY: May 15th, 2026

(strongly encouraged to type this application)

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

Candidates Email: _____

Birth date: _____ **Candidates Cell Phone:** _____

Grade Completed in spring 2026: _____

School you attend or attended: _____

Parents/Guardians Name(s) (parents/guardians listed will be announced and published!): _____

T-Shirt Size: _____

High School or College Activities you are involved with in academic year 2025-2026, if none, please tell us what you are doing:

Service organizations and Community Involvement in the past three years:

Citizenship and Leadership activities in the past three years:

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Special honors, Awards, Scholarships, etc. you have received in the past two years:

What has been your involvement with the Linn County Fair?

Why do you want to be the 2026 Linn County Fair Queen?

What are your future academic and/or career plans? (Will be published for the public)

By signing this application, you have acknowledged that you have read the expectations & rules set forth by the Linn County Fair Association and Iowa State Fair and agree to them.

Candidate's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Application must be emailed to:

Subject: Linn County Fair-Queen Application

Email address- queencommittee@thelinncountyfair.com

***Include a headshot photo to be used for media purposes (this needs to be in a jpeg format)**

EVENT LIST

- 5/15- Application Due (EMAIL)
- 5/27- Meet & Greet (6 PM via Zoom 30 mins)
- 6/6- Center Point Pork Days Parade
- 6/6- Judging (2 PM - 6 PM)
- 6/20- Public event TBD
- 6/25- Youth Day Activities (9 AM- 1 PM)
- 6/25- Queen and Princess Crowning
(Thursday at 5pm, in Farm Bureau Pavilion arrive 30 mins prior.)

*(times & dates could be adjusted.
preliminary schedule)*



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2026 Fair Queen & Princess Expectations

Queen & Princess:

- Represent the fair with a smile
- Be at Grandstand events during fair
- Welcome people to the fair
- Be visible, be seen
- Between Queen and Princess all livestock events need to be attended at some point during their duration of show to hand out ribbons and/or trophies or assist committees if needed.
- Attend livestock auction, work with Auction Committee to help where needed
- Attend and donate a pie to the 2026 4-H Youth Council Pie Auction held on Sunday of the fair
- When not busy with other events during fair, try and visit the Farm Bureau Free Entertainment pavilion or other events around the fairgrounds
- Queen must be able to attend the 2026 Iowa State Fair (during the queen competition, August 11th -15th) to represent the Linn County Fair at the Iowa State Fair Queen Competition
- 2026 Fair Queen & Princess will need to be present at the first two days of the 2027 Linn County Fair (i.e. grandstand events and day activities).
- Encouraged to attend parades in the Linn County area (schedule to be determined by yourself and/or committee).
- Attend events throughout the year that are held at the Linn County Fairgrounds and represent the Fair.
- Linn County Fair fundraising events held throughout the year during your reign (ie. Golf tournaments, UTV Fundraiser, etc.)

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Upcoming Events

(Mark your calendars **NOW** with these events, working is not an excuse)

-Application due **May 15th, 2026** **emailed** to **queencommittee@thelinncountyfair.com**

Subject: Linn County Fair-Queen Application. NO APPLICATIONS will be personally accepted by committee members, you must follow the instructions provided above.

- May 27th at 6:00pm: Meet & Greet via Zoom

During this event, the candidates and committee will join from a remote location where they will engage with other queen candidates & learn about the competition. Questions will be addressed about the competition at this time. Attendance is required.

June 6th at 10:30am: Center Point Pork Days Parade

You will be walking and handing our flyers for the parade. Parade will start at 11am. Will be done by 11:30/11:45.

- June 6th at 2:00pm: Judging at Lynn Dunn Building at the Linn County Fairgrounds-

Public may join during the last judging session approximately at 5:30p. More communication to follow.

June 20th, TBD Public Event

Will consist of a public appearance. Time and location TBD.

Youth Day activities June 25th at 9a -1p

plan on a day with the youth and volunteering to help out with the festivities

Queen Coronation Thursday, June 25th Queen and Princess Crowning at 5pm, in Farm Bureau Pavilion arrive 30 mins prior.

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2026 Linn County & Iowa State Fair Queen Competition Rules & Regulations

Linn County Rules:

1. Contestants must never have been married or have had children.
2. Each contestant must be an active member of at least one service organization in her community such as church group, Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, and involved with the Linn County Fair.
3. Must be able to participate in the Iowa State Fair Queen competition and be a guest of the Iowa State Fair August 11th through the 14th.
4. If you were a past fair queen or princess for the Linn County Fair you are ineligible to run again.
5. If you are currently a commodity queen that has duties during the Linn County Fair, you are not eligible to run for the current Linn County Fair royalty.

2026 Iowa State Fair Queen Competition Rules and Regulations

Note: Please forward these rules and regulations to your queen when selected.

1. Each contestant must be female and at least 16 years of age and not more than 21 years of age on Aug 13th, the first day of the 2026 Iowa State Fair.
2. Contestants must have never been married.
3. A county fair queen must reside in the county she represents or an adjoining county if most of her activities in the county she represents. If a fair represents more than one county, the winning contestant must reside in one of the participating counties.
4. Each contestant must be an active member of at least one service organization in her community such as a church group, Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, etc. (Eligibility is not limited to 4-H or FFA membership.)

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5. Each entrant in the State Fair Competition must be selected from a competitive queen contest at her county fair. If an Iowa fair does not have a contest, it may sanction another queen contest in their county as the "Official County Fair Queen Contest." The winner of this is then eligible to compete at the Iowa State Fair. Only contests sponsored by county fairs that are members of the Association of Iowa Fairs will be eligible to compete at the state level.
6. Only winners as indicated under Rule 5 are eligible to represent counties at the state pageant. In the event the county queen is unable to participate, alternates will be considered in order of selection.
7. No professional model (one who has had ongoing employment in which modeling was the primary part of the job) is eligible to compete in the state competition.
8. Any contestant who has competed at the Iowa State Fair Queen level of the competition may not compete again.
9. Any county fair queen selected after the 2025 Iowa State Fair and meeting the above qualifications is eligible for the 2026 competition
10. The Iowa State Fair will accept only one entry per county. Should there be more than one queen contest in the county, it will be the responsibility of the fairs concerned to hold an elimination contest. The only exception to this rule will be in those counties where more than one fair qualifies for membership with the Association of Iowa Fairs. In those cases, both fairs will be eligible to submit candidates for competition.
11. It is the responsibility of each contestant to plan transportation to and from Des Moines.
12. The county fair queens will be the guests of the Iowa State Fair Tuesday, August 11th, through the time of the crowning Saturday evening, August 15th, 2026.
13. The Iowa State Fair will provide a sash and crown for each county fair to award their queen at the county fair. This must be worn when she appears at the Iowa State Fair and is included in the \$450.00 entry fee. The entry fee for entries received after April 30 is \$500.00. **Absolutely NO entries will be accepted after May 31! Online payment for 2026 will only be accepted. The link has been attached to this email.**
14. County fairs are requested to select their candidates by competition in which personality, leadership, and beauty are judged.
15. A competent committee will select the "Iowa State Fair Queen". Judging comments are not available to the contestants or county representatives. Judging will be based on the following:

Personality, Attitude, Appearance, and Awareness Leadership and Citizenship -
Contribution to Community, Overall Appearance, Charm, Poise

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16. Each contestant should be prepared to appear in a variety of attire, such as business attire or a suit, evening attire, or casual wear.
17. The winner of the state competition will be crowned “2026 Iowa State Fair Queen.” The 2026 Queen will be required to remain at the Fairgrounds for the remaining time of the 2026 Fair.
18. The state competition winner must agree to appear for the Iowa State Fair Board in official capacities as requested throughout the year until her successor is crowned. This includes daily appearances at the 2026 Fair and the first three days at the 2027 Fair. The Iowa State Fair will help with food and transportation expenses for these appearances.
19. If the winner cannot reign until a new queen is crowned at the 2027 Fair, she must forfeit the title, and all awards associated with it to the first runner-up. She may then accept the title and all awards associated with it to the first runner-up. She may then accept the title and awards for the first runner-up.
20. The winning contestant at the Iowa State Fair must agree to accept no other queen titles nor endorse any commercial product as “Iowa State Fair Queen” for 12 months following the 2026 Iowa State Fair without the written permission of the Iowa State Fair Board.
21. The winning contestant will receive all the prizes at the time of the finals except the scholarships. The scholarships will be presented to her after the 2027 Iowa State Fair Queen is selected.
22. The reigning 2026 “Iowa State Fair Queen” is expected to conduct herself in a manner that reflects positively on herself, her family, and the Iowa State Fair. Should the reigning “Iowa State Fair Queen” become involved in any activity, including drug, alcohol, or tobacco-related offense that reflects negatively on herself, her family, or the Iowa State Fair, she may be required to forfeit her crown, title, and rights to the scholarship award to the first runner-up.
23. Should the 2026 “Iowa State Fair Queen” marry or become ineligible before the 2027 queen is crowned, she will forfeit her title, crown, and rights to the scholarship award for the first runner-up. Should the first runner-up marry or become ineligible, she will forfeit the title, crown, and rights to the scholarship to the second runner-up.
24. The Iowa State Fair Board reserves the right to change and interpret the foregoing rules and regulations at any time as may be deemed expedient.