LORAIN COUNTY FAIR

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2026 COMBINE DERBY – Rules & Regulations

Saturday, August 29, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

RULES:

- **Derby is open to all – out of county entries are allowed.**
- **Entries will be accepted at the Secretary's Office and by mail starting July 1, 2026.**
- **Entry fee through August 17: $40.00. Late entry fee, August 17 through day of show: $60.00. Entry fee is non-refundable.**
- **Driver and combine must be at show two hours prior to start time.**
- **Due to the morning horse show, there will be no driving combines around the infield until 4:30 pm.**
- **All combines need to congregate on the west end of the infield when moving in. Can move after 4:30 pm.**
- **Entry fee includes three wristbands; extra wristbands are $23 each (limit 4). Wristbands get you in the gate and show.**
- **W-9 must be submitted with application.**

Combines will be divided by size and weight according to the original combine specs to the best of our ability, keeping feature numbers as equal as possible.

PRIZE MONEY:
For each feature:
1st - $1,500
2nd - $ 1000
3rd - $ 500
4th - $ 250 if 6 + combines in class

Note: No prize money will be released until all combines have been removed from the fairgrounds.

MACHINE PREPARATION RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Any size of self-propelled combine is allowed and all equipment is to be as close to original as possible (no reinforced parts or shields) and, if the combine is a 4 WD, the 4 WD must be disabled.

2. a) must use a grain table or corn head (snouts and snapping rolls unit must be removed) in a fixed position at 18" to 24" from the ground;
   b) any bracing of any diameter, on either side of the feeder housing, may be mounted from the head to the axle or frame. These points must not extend beyond 36" from the center of the feeder housing;
   c) you must weld, bolt, and/or use bracing from the feeder housing to the head to hold the head on, all bracing must stay within the 36" from center of feeder housing to outmost diameter of the brace.

3. a) reel must be removed from the grain head;
   b) reel supports must be removed or laid down flat on top of dividers and welded solid, very little steel should be added to do this;
   c) the auger must be welded to keep from turning;
   d) knife guards and knives must be removed from the grain head by removing the bolts;
   e) wobble box must be removed to allow both sides of the grain head to be flush;
   f) nothing is permitted to extend past front of head (no points allowed).

4. a) all glass windows and factory outside lights must be removed;
   b) cab door must be welded or chained closed;
   c) mount some kind of driver protection on the cab at least 36" high;
   d) combines that are not equipped with factory cabs will need to have a roll cage built for them, out of 2" or larger pipe or tubing, and mount some kind of driver protection at least 36" high;
   e) cab ladder must be removed.

5. The fuel tank must be mounted securely in the grain bin. Remove factory tank or leave it in place and cut a large hole in the lower side of fuel tank.

6. Driver must wear helmet and seat belt when entering the track and during the derby.

7. At the start of the derby all drive tires must be:
   a) standard rubber tires on standard rims;
   b) filled with air only;
   c) NO DUALS;
   d) NO LOGGING TIRES ARE ALLOWED.

8. No adding weight of any kind to the combine.

9. Engine exhaust must exit straight up!

10. Steering arm may be put in the front of the steering axle.

11. All removable straw choppers must be removed.

12. Separator drive belt must be removed.

13. The unload auger must be removed.

14. Combine number must be highly visible from the top and both sides. Must be a 24" x 24" sign with your driver's number on each side of it and needs to be mounted to top of driver's cab.

15. All loose sheet metal needs to be removed. Do not throw scraps in combine as it is considered weight and is more for clean-up crew to clean off track between heats.

16. No sharp points will be permitted. Anything questionable, you will be asked to remove it before the show.

17. Driver must be 16 years of age or older.

18. All rotating pulleys need to have guards over them. The purpose of this guard is to contain the pulley in the event it may come off or break apart.
   a) steel used for guards should be no thicker than 1/8" thick;
   b) if using conveyor belt, it can be up to ½" conveyor belt material.

19. Judges' decisions are final.

COMBINE DERBY RULES

1. No direct hits to the driver's area.

2. Must stop machine upon lifting of other machine off wheels to eliminate tip overs.

3. If you are rolled over, the heat will be stopped and your combine will be placed back on its wheels.

4. During the competition, you must initiate contact within two minutes. If, at any time, you cannot make contact within the time limit, you will be disqualified.

5. All motion to be halted upon signal from referees in case of fire, injury, and other emergencies.

6. No hits when opponent is out of bounds (over block is out of bounds).

7. No pit racing.

8. Need chain in rear to pull off track if possible.

9. EXPLANATION AT DRIVERS' MEETING.

10. ALL COMBINES MUST BE REMOVED BY SEPTEMBER 1 OR THEY WILL BE REMOVED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE.