

2026

# DUPAGE COUNTY FAIR

JULY 23, 24, 25, 26, 2026

## OPEN CLASS AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & HOME ECONOMICS AND ARTS DIVISIONS

### GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**General Supts: Ellen Sietmann (630) 334-6487, Ruth O’Sullivan (630) 247-2434, Sara Barentine (773) 573-8531**

1. The term “Open Class” refers to the Competitive Exhibits portion of scheduled DuPage County Fair activities. All Open Class entries and 4-H exhibits will be displayed in the south half of **Building #1 with Open Class on east side and 4-H on west side.**
2. The DuPage County Fair Agricultural Sciences & Home Economics and Arts Open Class Competitive Exhibit Divisions are **amateur contests** open to any person **currently residing in DuPage County.** An amateur is defined as one who does not derive the major source of their income from teaching/selling the items in the entered classes.
3. Exhibitors are divided into several age categories as defined below. Exhibitors must follow these requirements when entering competitive exhibit classes. **Remember your age to register in one of the three age divisions is your age as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of 2025 (last year).**
  - a) **Youth Open Division:** 5-7 years of age as of September 1 of last year.
  - b) **Junior Open Division:** 8 years of age through 18 years of age as of September 1 of last year.
  - c) **Adult Open Division:** limited to exhibitors 19 years of age and older as of September 1 of last year.
  - d) **Open Class:** open to exhibitors 8 years of age and older as of September 1 of last year. **Three (3) Open Class Competitive Exhibits Departments have this single age division: Dept. J-7 Apiary, Dept. M-17 Collections, and the Advanced Photo section in M-15 Photography.**
4. Online Entry is the preferred method to enter the Agricultural Sciences & Home Economics and Arts Divisions. **Online entries can be processed beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>** by following the links found on the DuPage County Fair Association website: [www.DuPageCountyFair.org](http://www.DuPageCountyFair.org) On the home page, click on the “Exhibits/Contests - Exhibits” tabs to start the process. Online entries require the use of a credit card to process the transaction. The Association accepts Visa and MasterCard. Entries submitted using the online option must be processed by **Monday, July 13, 2026.** The program will not be available after that date. No Exceptions! If due to special circumstances you cannot utilize the online program, please contact the Fair Association Office at (630) 668-6636 for further instructions. Exceptions will be made for special circumstances only.
5. If exhibitors have questions about the online entry process, they may contact the General Superintendents listed at top of this page, call Supt listed at top of each Department page, or call the Fair Association Office at (630) 668-6636 for an assistance referral.
6. The **2026** edition of the DuPage County Fair Premium Book shall be the only source that exhibitors shall use to determine class numbers and class descriptions for the 2026 DuPage County Fair. In the event of any discrepancies between the print or online versions of the Premium Book, the decision of the Open Class office shall be final in these situations.
7. All exhibitors are required to purchase a Fair Exhibitor pass unless the exhibitor is also exhibiting in the 4-H Division of the DuPage County Fair and has a 4-H exhibitor pass. Each exhibitor is required to purchase a Fair Exhibitor pass for **\$25 for Adults, \$10 for Juniors; “Free” for all Youth Open Exhibitors.** Fair Exhibitor pass will be included with your entry tags and will be available when exhibits are brought to the Fairgrounds on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> between **11:00 am - 6:00 pm. NOTE TIME CHANGE.** The Fair Exhibitor pass will allow admission into the Fair all 4 days! **So, with payment for Exhibitor pass you will not pay any class entry fees.**

8. An exhibitor may make **TWO entries per class, except for Photography and Foods Departments. Only ONE entry per class is allowed in Youth, Junior and Adult Divisions for the Photography and Foods Departments.**
9. Each entry in a competitive exhibit class **MUST be the work of the exhibitor** from July 2025 to July 2026, with the following exception: 4-H members may enter their last year's 4-H projects in any competitive exhibits classes that are appropriate if requirements are met.
10. An exhibit may be entered **only once** in the Open Class Competitive Exhibits Divisions of the DuPage County Fair, except for specific rules governing **Department M-17 (Collections).**
11. **Competitive exhibits in the Agricultural Sciences & Home Economics and Arts Divisions MUST be received in Building #1 between the hours of 11:00 am and 6:00 pm on Wednesday of Fair week, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.**
  - a. Entry tags will be distributed to the exhibitor on Wednesday in the Check-in area in Building # 1, and he/she must affix tags to all exhibits, following rules as outlined in certain Departments. Take exhibits with entry tags affixed to the specific departments for placement in respective classes.
  - b. At check-in we will confirm the items you entered online and brought to the Fair, and any items that you entered online but do not bring, we will collect those tags so we can mark as "No Show" in the Judging Book.
  - c. Please allow time to get and attach tags to exhibits and place exhibits in proper areas by 6:00 pm. **All exhibits must be in place by 6:00 pm Wednesday evening and remain on display until Sunday at 5:00 pm.**
  - d. Retain the bottom half of your exhibit entry tag as this is the Claim Check you will need to present for the release of your exhibit at the exhibit checkout Sunday evening of the Fair.
12. Failure to follow specified rules and regulations is cause for disqualification and/or loss of Prize Money.
13. Judges will award three placings (first, second, & third) per class to exhibits meeting all judging standards and Department rules and specifications, unless said class has less than three entries. In that case, the judge will award a placing (starting with first place) for each entry that meets standards. If there is a lone entry in the class, that entry must be awarded first place, unless it has been disqualified.
14. The judge's decision is final. If, in the opinion of the judge, the exhibit is entered in the wrong class, the exhibit will not receive a rating.
15. "Special Awards" are presented at the judge's discretion. This award represents a subjective uniqueness acknowledged by the judge. Special Awards have no ranking, points, or monetary values.
16. "Grand Champion Awards" will be made in two areas, the **Agricultural Sciences Division** and the **Home Economics and Arts Division for both Adult Division and Junior Division**. The award will be \$20 for **Adult and Junior Division winners**. **Grand Champion winners must have a minimum of 24 points in the Division. (1<sup>st</sup> = 8 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 4 pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 2 pts)**

**Grand Champion of the Agricultural Sciences Division** will be the exhibitor winning the most points in Apiary, Vegetables & Herbs, Garden Flowers & House Plants, and Woodworking. The exhibitor with the most total points, including all 4 of these depts. will be the Grand Champion of the Agricultural Sciences Division. There will be an Adult Grand Champion and a Junior Grand Champion.

**Grand Champion of the Home Economics and Arts Division** will be the exhibitor winning the most points in Floral Design, Needlecraft, Arts & Crafts, Fine Arts, Photography, Sewing, Collections, and Foods. The exhibitor with the highest total points from all eight departments will be named Grand Champion of the Home Economics and Arts Division. There will be an Adult Grand Champion and a Junior Grand Champion.

- 17. **Champion Awards** will be given to the exhibitor who has the most points in **each** of the 12 Departments, as well as the Youth Division and Advanced Photo section. Award will be \$10 per Champion in Adult and Junior Divisions and **must have a minimum of 24 points in the Dept.** (1<sup>st</sup> = 8 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 4 pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 2 pts)
- 18. All Agricultural Sciences & Home Economics and Arts Divisions **prize money** may be picked up at the south end of Bldg. # 1 between 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Sunday night of the Fair.
- 19. No Competitive Exhibit entries will be released before 5:00 pm on Sunday of the Fair. Failure to follow this rule will result in the forfeit of any Prize money or ribbons earned. Exhibits will not be released until the Claim Check (bottom half of the exhibit’s entry tag) has been presented. Exceptions to this rule are listed below:
  - a. Exhibits in the Vegetable Department will be disposed of by Department Supt.
  - b. Exhibitors with entries in Garden Cut and Flower Arranging Department may pick up their containers on Sunday after 5:00 pm Flowers will be discarded.
  - c. Exhibits in Department O-18 (Foods) will be disposed of by Department Superintendents. Every effort will be made to retain jars used in canning classes, and cake forms/decorations.
  - d. The DuPage County Fair Association will not be responsible for exhibits left after 8:00 pm, the Sunday of the Fair.
  - e. Exhibits not picked up following the Fair will be disposed of after September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- 20. Interpretation of the Rules and Regulations is the responsibility of the Board of Directors of the DuPage County Fair Association. Their decision will be final.
- 21. Exhibitor authorizes the DuPage County Fair Association to display the exhibitor’s exhibit. The DuPage County Fair Association will exercise care and precaution but cannot be held responsible for damage or loss of exhibits. Any exhibit displayed shall be at the risk of the exhibitor. It is understood that exhibits are entered to be evaluated for prizes only. The Exhibitor, or the person who enters the exhibit on the Exhibitor’s behalf, expressly assumes all liability or responsibility for the accident, loss or damage to person or property because of his or her participation or arising out of the display of his or her exhibit, whether it be caused by the negligence or otherwise of the DuPage County Fair Association, its Officers, Directors, Employees, Volunteers and Agents. By entering an exhibit, the Exhibitor, or person who enters the exhibit on the Exhibitor’s behalf, agrees to waive all claims, damages, demands, or costs against the DuPage County Fair Association, its Officers, Directors, Employees, Volunteers and Agents.
- 22. The management of the Fair and the Exhibit’s Department and/or their designee reserve the right to remove and disqualify any exhibit which is not in the best interest of the Fair; or is objectionable to the Fair or endangers the public; or is objectionable in any way; or has been entered in violation of these official rules and regulations; or to reject, limit or disqualify the acceptance of, or the display of, any exhibit brought to the Fairgrounds.

<b>Building #1 Hours:</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:00 am – 9:00 pm</b>
	<b>Friday</b>	<b>10:00 am – 9:00 pm</b>
	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11:00 am – 9:00 pm</b>
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11:00 am – 10:00 pm</b>

**ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE - MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026**

**ENTRIES BROUGHT TO FAIR ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, BETWEEN 11:00AM TO 6:00 PM.  
BRING CLAIM STUB TO PICK UP ENTRIES, PRIZE MONEY, AND RIBBONS ON SUNDAY OF FAIR  
BETWEEN 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM.**

