

Rule Changes for County Fair 2026

When reviewing these rule changes, use the 2025 Fair Book as a reference for rule numbers. Please let the Extension Office know if you have any questions.

Clover Kids

Add the following rules-

- Proper identification of animals must be recorded in 4-H Online by May 15.
- There will be a limit of 2 entries per Clover Kid exhibitor for any species of animals.
- Clothing Event Department for Clover Kids

Notes-

- Clover Kids will still have its own section of the Fair Book, but the classes will be listed in Fair Entry under the departments they are being shown under, making them easier to find when registering.

General Animal Rules and Regulations

- Add the following rule: Besides stall cards, only club signs are allowed to be hung in stalls. Any other signs must be approved by Superintendents.
- Rule #7 Currently states- *For market animal species that have carcass scanning classes- entries must be made by the June 10 Fair Entry deadline. Only 1 market animal may be entered by class per species. If an exhibitor wishes to have additional animals scanned for educational purposes, the exhibitor will need to pay for the scanning of those animals by the June 11 Stall Fee deadline.*
Change Rule #7 to state: For market animal species that have carcass scanning classes- entries must be made by the June 10 Fair Entry deadline. All exhibitors showing an animal with a carcass class are required to enter the carcass class. Only 1 market animal may be entered per species, and the animal must be selected at the time of entry. Animals selected for this class cannot be changed after June 10, with the exception of the death of an animal. All exhibitors are encouraged to participate in Carcass; however, on the day of scanning, an exhibitor can choose not to participate and scratch their entry. Exhibitors, parents, or a substitute must be present for scanning in order for the animal to be scanned. If an exhibitor wishes to have additional animals scanned for educational purposes, the exhibitor will need to pay for the scanning of those animals by the June 11 Entry Fee deadline.
- Rule #27- Currently states- *Common bedding will be used in the barns for all animals. The stalls will initially be bedded by the Jefferson County Fair Board, and the fee is included in the entry fee. No alternative bedding will be allowed. A stockpile of bedding will be available for exhibitors to freshen stalls during fair.*
Change Rule #27 to: Common bedding will be provided by the fair board. If you

wish not to use it, you can bring purchased natural wood bedding (shavings, flakes, etc.) to use instead. However, the entry fee still must be paid. Types of bedding other than natural wood bedding is not allowed (such as straw, cornstalks, fiber carpets, rubber mats, etc.).

- Add the following rule: While animals registered in Fair Entry by the deadline are final and cannot be switched, in the event an exhibitor's animal dies between the time of the Fair Entry deadline and fair, they can add a new animal in their place, given that the animal was registered in 4-H Online by May 15. In this circumstance, contact the Extension Office right away.
- Remove Rule #30 about holding an Exhibitor Meeting, but it will be kept on the schedule and will only be held if needed and will need to be run by Superintendents.

Showmanship

- Rule #3 currently states: *An exhibitor is eligible to participate in the showmanship class of each species' show if he/she exhibited an animal in that division.* Rule #4 currently states: *Each exhibitor must show his/her own animal.* Combine the rules and change to: All exhibitors will be required to enter Showmanship for each species that they exhibit. The animal used for showmanship does not have to be selected in Fair Entry ahead of time but must be the exhibitor's own animal and must have been shown in another class to be eligible to be used for Showmanship. All exhibitors are encouraged to participate in Showmanship; however, on the day of the show, an exhibitor can choose not to participate and scratch their entry (except for horses).

Species Specific Rules

Cats

- Remove Clover Kid Cat class from show order. (We do not have a Clover Kid Cat class; Clover Kids show cats in the Pet Show).

Beef Cattle

- The Advanced Cattle Feeding Pen of 3 currently states: *At winter weigh-in, animals must be designated as Advanced Cattle Feeding Pen of 3. They are not eligible to switch to other classes.* Change this rule to state: *At winter weigh-in, animals must be designated as Advanced Cattle Feeding Pen of 3 to be eligible to be shown in this class. Animals being exhibited in these classes cannot also be shown in another class.*
- The Advanced Cattle Feeding Pen of 3 currently states: *The Advanced Cattle Feeding Pen of 3 animals will not be calculated into the regular market rate of*

gain, as this is part of their scoring for the class. Add to this rule: or Carcass Beef of Merit Awards.

- Change the following rule: Bottle animals should be born by May 15 (including Clover Kids). *Currently states April 30.*

Meat Goats

- Add the following department rule: No muzzles are allowed
- Change the following rule: Bottle animals should be born by May 15 (including Clover Kids). *Currently states April 30.*
- Clarify the following: All bottle animals (4-H and Clover Kids) will be weighed-in during county fair weigh-in on Wednesday morning (but are not weighed-in during the spring weigh-in).

Notes-

- Change in Schedule: Bottle animals will be shown at the beginning of the Goat and Sheep Show, not in the own separate show in the afternoon

Llamas

- No longer offer this as a department; instead, these would be part of the Pet Show.

Pets

- Clarify by adding the following: Pets are animals that do not fit into any other class at fair. If an animal meets the requirements of another department, it should be shown in that department, not under Pets.
- Clarify by adding the following: Pets are judged based on an interview process in the ring with the judge. This interview is based on the exhibitor's knowledge of the animal.

Poultry-

- Clarify by adding the following rule to Return Classroom Chickens: Return Classroom Chickens do not have to match breeds.
- Specific Department Information #4 Currently states: *An exhibitor is limited to 3 entries per class, with the exception of pens of three classes, which are limited to 1 entry. Limit 3 entries per single entry classes. Change #4 to: An exhibitor cannot exhibit more than a total of 16 entries. A pen of 3 counts as 1 entry, not 3. Additionally, exhibitors are limited to 3 entries per class, with the exception of pens of 3, which are limited to 1 entry per class. Exhibitors can only enter one Production Pen of 3 (Class 24001 or Class 24002), not one of each class. Birds can only be shown 1 time, not in 2 classes (for instance as a single or a pair, but not 2 singles also shown as a pair, or from a Pen of 3). Superintendents have the right to change birds into the appropriate classes for their breeds. The class*

limit rule will still apply. If you are not sure what class the breed fits into, please contact the Extension Office before the Fair Entry deadline.

Notes-

- Classes will be added in Fair Entry and the Fair Book to add a Medium Breeds Class for Exotic, Hobby Chickens- Pairs and Singles.
- The Egg Quality Classes will move to the beginning of the show as the show ring is being set up.
- All eggs for the Egg Quality Class will be due to the Superintendents or Extension Office by Thursday of fair at 8 AM.

Rabbits

Notes-

- In Fair Entry-
 - Rabbit animals will be listed by breed, with the classes selected after that. This helps to ensure the programs are accurately completed. If someone has a breed that is not listed, they can notify the office, and we can create the breed in Fair Entry, as our list may not include all of the breeds.

Sheep

- Add the following department rule: No muzzles are allowed
- Add the following Market Lamb Rule: Pens of 3 Sheep can be all one sex or mixed sex.
- Change the following Market Lamb rule: Change the birthdate to December 1, instead of January 1.
- Change class limits: Remove all class limits for breeding and market sheep, while keeping the total number of head an exhibitor is allowed to bring the same.
- Change the following Bottle Animal rule: Bottle animals should be born by May 15 (including Clover Kids). *Currently states April 30.*
- Clarify the following: All bottle animals (4-H and Clover Kids) will be weighed-in during county fair weigh-in on Wednesday morning (but are not weighed-in during the spring weigh-in).

Notes-

- Change in Schedule: Bottle animals will be shown at the beginning of the Goat and Sheep Show, not in the own separate show in the afternoon

Swine

- Change class limits: Remove all class limits for swine, while keeping the total number of swine allowed to a maximum of 6 (no restrictions as to the number of purebred or market vs. breeding).

- Department Rule #8 Currently States: A pen of three market pigs can consist of either 3 gilts or 3 barrows. No gilts entered in a breeding class can be used in the market pen of three class. Change Rule #8 to: Pens of 3 Swine can be all one sex or mixed sex; however, no gilts entered in a breeding class can be used in the market pen of three class.
- Add a Single Source Pen of 3 Class- Entries in this class would be exhibited in the same Pen of 3 classes as all other pigs and judged accordingly, with no points based off the interview. Still only allowed 1 individual Single Source Swine is allowed to be exhibited.

Static

- Photography Max Limit- The limit is currently 10 entries per exhibitor; change this to 8 entries per exhibitor.
- Horticulture- All Horticulture projects that have a requirement of 6 specimens will change to be 3 specimens. Class 40099-instead of requiring 3 specimens, we change it to produce under 1lb will need 3 specimens, and produce over 1lb 1 will need 1 specimen.
- Add a new County Only Department- County Only Creative. This department will not advance to the Iowa State Fair. Entries in this department would include items made from kits (Legos, birdhouses, diamond art, or other crafts).

Notes-

- For County Only Departments- Blue, red, and white ribbons will be used, with premium money given accordingly. Lavendar Outstanding Exhibit ribbons will also be given out to outstanding exhibits from exhibitors of all grade levels, as State Fair Consideration ribbons are not used for these classes.