



RULES & REGULATIONS FOR THE 2026 MORGAN COUNTY FAIR

1. LIMITATIONS – Exhibitors in the Morgan County Junior Progress Fair are limited in age to those persons who are 8 years old by September 1, 2025, or are in 3rd grade and those who are not 21 years old before September 1, 2025, except for classes open to adults. Only those who are 21 years old by September 1, 2025, may enter in adult classes. State Rule Governing Junior Age Requirements: Junior classes are eligible for premium State aid only if they are open to children 8 years of age or in the 3rd grade and not yet 21 years of age on or before September 1 of the year before the fair. All animals (i.e., individual, herd or flock classes) shown in junior classes must be the property of the exhibitors showing them. If the same animals are shown in both the open and junior classes, they shall be shown under the same exhibitor's name (for example: the father is not permitted to show an animal in the open class and their child to show the same animal in the junior class). (Section 260.95)
2. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE MADE BY 12:00 p.m. JULY 3, 2026. No entries will be accepted postmarked after July 1, 2026. Online entries must be made by 11:59 p.m. on July 3, 2026. Entries will not be accepted without payment of fees. Rules Governing Junior Fair Entry Fees: The State requires each county collect entry fees for ALL JUNIOR FAIR CLASSES at the time fair participants make their entries. If exhibitors place, they will receive the total amount of money designated for that placing in each class.
3. All exhibitors MUST purchase a season pass except youth exhibitors and those exhibiting in the Handicapped Department. Social Security Numbers are required. Adult season passes are sponsored for the 2026 Fair and will not require payment from exhibitors.
4. Fair Office will be open for entries Monday-Friday, June 15–July 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and June 20, 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Office will be closed July 4 for Independence Day. The Fair Office is located on the south side of the fairgrounds on Grand Avenue.
5. Each Department Superintendent reserves the right to make reasonable modifications or clarifications to departmental rules as needed to address unforeseen circumstances, provided such actions support fairness and the integrity of the competition.
6. Each Junior exhibitor will be limited to two (2) entries per class in ALL departments, except the Culinary Dept. where only one (1) will be permitted. Only one (1) entry per class will be accepted in the Adult Departments.
7. No entries can be made in the show ring.
8. Awards will be made by the single judge system. The judge's decision will be final.
9. All animals must be exhibited in such places at such times as the Superintendent shall decide and be ready to parade at the call of the Superintendent.
10. Should there be any unnecessary delay in bringing animals into the show ring, the superintendent may exclude such animals from competition.
11. No premiums will be awarded to any animal or group of animals unless shown in the ring for judging.
12. When on exhibition in the ring, each animal must be under halter and/or in the charge of owner or other junior exhibitor. Only one exhibitor per animal will be permitted in the ring.
13. Stall fees must be paid or stall will not be provided. Stall fee may be returned only upon withdrawal of entry on or before the closing date for receiving entries.
14. Superintendents reserve the right to place animals in their proper classes, if necessary.
15. Animals may be removed in case of disease or emergency only upon the request of the Superintendent and the written consent of the Policy Committee.
16. Each livestock exhibitor must furnish their own buckets for watering and feeding.
17. Exhibitors of livestock will be required to keep stalls in a neat and clean condition and space over which visitors must pass examining stock free from waste and rubbish. All stalls and pens must be cleaned before 8 a.m. each day and refuse disposed of as the superintendent may direct.
18. All washing of animals shall be done ONLY in designated areas.
19. Exhibitor or member of the public filing a protest against any exhibited animal, project, or exhibitor must submit a written protest along with \$50 to the Fair Office. Protests must be made within 24 hours after the respective show. Final decision to be decided by Superintendents.

REGISTRATION AND HEALTH CERTIFICATES

20. All livestock exhibited must comply with the rulings of the Department of Agriculture of the State of Illinois.
21. All purebred animals must be recorded in Exhibitor's name only. Exhibitors must furnish registration papers and health papers to Superintendent at their request.
22. In all purebred classes the Exhibitor will be required to furnish the proper certificates of their respective classes. Any misrepresentation of age will automatically eliminate the animal from the class.
23. Exhibitors must submit their animals for examination by the official veterinarian when so ordered by the Superintendent. Check department rules for your specie for times of inspection by the fair veterinarian.

DELIVERY AND RELEASE TIMES

24. The times of delivery for your exhibits are listed in the individual department rules.
25. No livestock will be permitted on the grounds before 6 a.m. on Monday, July 6.
26. Exhibit release times are listed in the individual department rules.
27. SALE ANIMALS WILL BE ALLOWED, BUT NOT REQUIRED, TO LEAVE THE GROUNDS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SPECIE'S SHOW. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SELL IN THE AUCTION, ALL SALE ANIMALS MUST RETURN TO THE GROUNDS ON MONDAY, JULY 13 BY 8:00 A.M.
28. Youth and Adult exhibits each have designated pick-up times. See each department for specific information. Morgan County Agricultural Fair Association will not be responsible for any exhibits left behind after pickup dates and times.
29. ANY EXHIBITOR REMOVING THEIR EXHIBIT(S) BEFORE THE DESIGNATED RELEASE TIME WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE WILL FORFEIT ALL PREMIUM MONEY.
30. All premium checks will be mailed following the conclusion of the 2026 Morgan Co. Fair and CANNOT be picked up in the Fair Office.
31. The Morgan County Agricultural Fair Association Directors announce the Association will not be responsible to any person, individual, corporation or association for any loss by either fire, theft, damage, or by personal injury sustained by anyone through negligence of any person or groups of persons, exhibits, or exhibitors. The Morgan County Agricultural Fair Association will give adequate police protection and will use every reasonable precaution to safeguard the public, exhibits, exhibitors and employees, but positively will not be responsible for any of these occurrences under any circumstances.
32. Management of the Morgan County Agricultural Fair Association reserves to its Board of Directors the final and absolute right to interpret these Rules and Regulations and settle all matters in question and differences that may arise in connection with holding, managing or promoting the Fair. The Superintendent of each department will have charge of the department, but the Board of Directors of this Association is hereby vested with full authority to construe all Rules and Regulations of this Association.

CAMPING

33. Campers can be parked on the grounds, but NO utilities will be provided until Monday, July 6, at 9:00 a.m. Permits are available in the Fair Office and must be clearly displayed in the camper window. Campers will be checked for permits.
34. Sale of camping permits will be limited to Board of Directors and Livestock Exhibitors until after the deadline that entries are due. After the date that entries are due, if there are any spaces available, they will be sold to the public.

GOLF CART/GATOR-TYPE VEHICLES

35. Golf carts & Gator-type vehicles will be permitted on the fairgrounds under the following conditions. NO four-wheelers will be permitted.
 - Permits MUST be purchased at the Fair Office. Cost is \$25. The permit MUST be attached and visible on the vehicle.
 - Driver MUST have a valid driver's license. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - A certificate showing liability insurance coverage for the vehicle must be presented to the office.
 - Vehicle must be driven in a safe and courteous manner. If these conditions are not met, the vehicle must be removed from the fairgrounds. Morgan County Agricultural Fair Association Directors announce the Association will not be responsible to any person, individual, corporation, or association for any loss by either fire, theft, damage, or by personal injury sustained by anyone through negligence of any person or groups of persons.

TRAILERS

36. Absolutely no unhooked trailers can be left on the grounds during the fair. All unhooked trailers are to be parked on an offsite location. ANY UNHOOKED TRAILERS PARKED ON THE GROUNDS WILL BE TOWED.
37. If additional information is desired, address all correspondence to Gary Hadden, General Superintendent, Morgan County Junior Fair, 110 N. Westgate Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650 or to the Superintendent of the Department.

MORGAN COUNTY 4-H ALUMNI LIVESTOCK AUCTION

38. To qualify to sell in The Morgan County 4-H Alumni Auction, exhibitors must:
 - Have successfully completed Morgan Co. 4-H Auction eligibility [completing 4-H requirements the final year of age eligibility as defined by the 4-H program].
 - Reside in Morgan County and not yet reached the age of 21 by September 1, 2025.
 - Exhibit a market animal at the 2026 Morgan Co. Fair and be present at the time of the sale.
39. Auction animals are allowed, but not required, to leave the fairgrounds at the conclusion of their respective species' show. Auction animals MUST return to the fairgrounds by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 13 to be eligible to sell.
40. Each exhibitor may enter only one (1) market animal to sell.
41. Animals in the Morgan Co. 4-H Alumni Auction will sell immediately following the Morgan Co. 4-H Auction. Sale order will be determined by the Morgan Co. 4-H Alumni Auction Committee.
42. The Morgan County 4-H Alumni Auction will utilize the average local market prices established by the Morgan County 4-H Auction Committee, which will be posted the morning of the auction.
43. There are no weight limitations placed on any species.
44. Buyers will have two options: Elect to keep the animal and pay Seller full bid price. The Buyer takes ownership of the animal upon leaving the sale ring. OR Elect to return the animal to Seller and pay the difference between the bid price and local market price. Seller retains ownership of the animal and should be prepared to haul their animal home.
45. Morgan Co. 4-H Alumni Auction Committee will interpret rules and answer all questions that arise.