
Fairground Rules and Regulations for HOME AND CREATIVE ARTS:

1. Open Show is open to anyone 8 years and over and from any locale. To compete in the Junior Open Division, the exhibitor must be at least 8 years old and not yet 21 years old as of January 1, 2026.
2. All entries in Open and Junior Open Divisions must be turned in at the Fair Office **by 2 pm on Sunday July 19, 2026 or online by midnight**. No entries or changes will be accepted after that date. Receipts and tickets for entries mailed in must be picked up at the fair office by Tuesday preceding the fair. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN OVER THE PHONE, FAX OR EMAIL**. Entrants earning \$600 or more must provide a social security number to pick up premium checks. **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU REGISTER ONLINE!**
3. Use a separate entry page for each different department being entered. Additional entry pages can be found on our website (www.mchenrycountyfair.com) or at the McHenry County Fair Office.
4. Non-livestock/Home Art exhibits will be released on the **SUNDAY of fair week between 6 pm OR MONDAY AFTER FAIR (AUGUST 5th) from 10 am-12 pm, exhibits may not be removed before then**. Premium checks, ribbons and exhibits will be available for pick up at these times only. Any exhibits that remain unclaimed after 4 pm on the Friday following the Fair will be donated or discarded.
5. Special rules relative to specific exhibits will be listed at the beginning of each department.
6. No premiums will be awarded or paid for any animal or article unworthy of competition, if any animal or exhibit is removed prior to listed dismissal times, and/or if there are any issues with the Code of Conduct. If Code of Conduct is broken the exhibitor and their exhibits will be asked to leave the grounds.
7. Superintendents have the right to reject entries that are unworthy of competition such as unclean, unmanageable, or otherwise unsuitable to compete. The superintendents' ruling is final. Furthermore, the superintendent may designate the requirements for any Division.
8. Judges have been carefully selected. All persons making entries accept these judges and agree to abide by their decisions. Protest upon any other grounds, or against other than judges, must be made in writing no later than 6:00 pm on the day of the show and shall be given to the Superintendent of the department concerned, who shall present such protest to the Fair Officials. The decisions of the Superintendents and Fair Officials shall be final.
9. Premiums will be pro-rated if, because of weather or other cause, receipts are insufficient to pay necessary expenses.
10. **Premiums will be paid by the Fair Association. Checks will be available Sunday afternoon from your superintendent. All checks must be picked up no later than the Friday following the Fair and the premium statement must be signed at that time. Any individual entrant receiving a check for \$600.00 or more MUST provide their Social Security Number before they will be given their check. Checks MUST be cashed within 60 days from the date issued to be valid. Checks will not be reissued. Checks will not be mailed under any circumstance. Checks not cashed will be considered a donation back to the fair association.**
11. All special awards, such as trophies, plaques etc. shall be awarded during the Fair. No special awards will be ordered after the Fair is completed.
12. Exhibitors or agents making or causing any false statement regarding animals or articles or interfering with the judge or superintendent shall be excluded from any further competition and any premiums awarded shall be forfeited. All entries must be made in the name of the creator of the entry.
13. Only one entry per person per Class is allowed unless otherwise noted in the individual department pages.
14. Entries may not have been previously entered in Open or Junior Open in the McHenry County Fair.
15. Exhibitors must classify their own articles in to the proper Division and Class to show.
16. All ratings must remain on exhibit throughout the fair.
17. The McHenry County Fair Association will take every precaution to safeguard entries, however, the Fair Association will NOT be held responsible for any damage or loss that might occur.
18. An exhibitor cannot win *Best of Show* in a Class more than 2 consecutive years in a row.
19. All exhibitors are required to purchase a week long exhibitor pass.
20. **All Home Arts and individual rules will be strictly enforced!**

NEW THIS YEAR: CURFEW ENFORCED

Quiet time and curfew is 12 Midnight – 5:00 am. All exhibits are closed. This includes grandstand, midway, barns and campgrounds. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult during these times.