DAIRY

Exhibitor Handbook

1060 3rd Street SW
Huron, South Dakota 57350
Telephone: 605.353.7340
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www.sdstatefair.com/participate

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SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE FAIR PARK DIVISION
1060 3RD St. SW
Huron, SD 57350
Phone: 605.353.7340 Fax: 605.353.7348
www.sdstatefair.com

Thank you for being a part of the 2026 South Dakota State Fair!

We are thrilled to invite you back to Huron for the 2026 South Dakota State Fair on September 2-7! You are so important to our fair, whether you are a long-time exhibitor or a first-year competitor. We love to see the livestock shows brimming with your accomplishments and talents for fairgoers of all ages to enjoy.

The South Dakota State Fair exists to showcase the best of South Dakota and bring people together. The State Fair has a rich history of livestock showmanship. Your entries highlight the showmanship skills of citizens across the state of South Dakota and beyond. Fairgoers of all ages enjoy seeing your accomplishments and talents.

Please review the guidelines for entering your animals and note the deadlines for entering. We thank you in advance for sharing your livestock and talents with us. See you in September!

Sincerely,

The South Dakota State Fair Staff and Commission

Thank You to our sponsors!

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Grain & Livestock Hedging & Consulting
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There is a substantial risk of loss in futures trading

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Don-Mil-Dale Holsteins
AXCESS Coop
K & J Farms, Milbank
Phibro Animal Healt

DEPARTMENT 300: DAIRY

Superintendent: Mike Frey, Claremont, SD
Email: msfrey@venturecomm.net
Judge: Josh Fairbanks – Anamosa, IA
Online Entries: https://sdsflive.fairwire.com
Competition Open to the World

LIVESTOCK ENTERING/EXITING FAIRGROUNDS
If unloading south of 3rd St - enter Gate 8, then exit Gate 2.
If unloading north of 3rd St - enter Gate 4, then exit Gate 3.5, 4 or 4.5*.
**Gate 4.5 will close on Wednesday at noon. Following this time, all trailers entering Gate 4 must exit Gate 3.5 or 4. Gate 4.5 will re-open for outbound traffic only on Monday at 1 PM.*

SCHEDULE *(subject to change)*		
Tuesday, September 1	8 AM	Cattle may begin arriving All cattle will enter gate 4 or 4.5 and exit 3.5 or 4.
Wednesday, September 2	1 PM-5 PM	Open Class Check-In at the Superintendent's Office
	9 PM	All cattle must be in the Dairy Barn by this time • Late arrival is only allowed if coming from another show and with notification to the Superintendent. • All cattle must remain in place until 6 PM on Monday, September 7. • Early release is only allowed if going to another show and if a copy of the other show's entry form is provided to the Superintendent.
Thursday, September 3	9 AM-11 PM	Open Class Check-In at the Superintendent's Office
Friday, September 4	9 AM	Milking Shorthorn Brown Swiss Holstein
Saturday, September 5	9 AM	Guernsey Jersey Jr. Supreme Champion will follow the Jersey Show Supreme Champion will be 15 minutes after the Jr. Supreme Champion
	3 PM	Open Youth Showmanship will follow the Supreme Champion show (details on page 7)
	8 PM	Costume Contest Open to anyone over 21, need not be an exhibitor **Costume Theme: Circus**
Sunday, September 6	6 PM	Exhibitor's Meeting, followed by Cornhole Tournament Please bring cornhole boards & bags if you have them.

Milking females will be allowed to leave the fair between 7 PM on Saturday, September 5 and 6 AM Sunday, September 6 unless they are entered in 4H or FFA. Please notify the Superintendent if you plan on taking lactating cows home early. Failure to comply may result in loss of premiums.

ENTRY FEES – Due August 1

Dairy Cattle
$20 - Entry Fee/Head $10 - Group Class Entry Fee $20 - Extra Stall for Large Cow or Tack

All fees shall be paid online by credit or debit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover). Each transaction will have a 5% processing fee.

Late entries will only be accepted if all the following conditions are met:

1. Adequate exhibit space if available.
2. Late entries must be received by August 15.
3. The late fee equal to twice the total regular entry fee is paid in full.

Feeding/Unloading Permit: A feeding/unloading permit may be purchased at the State Fair Administration Office or online upon submission of livestock entry for $20 (only 1 permit per family/address allowed). This permit allows entry on the fairgrounds before 9 AM and after 6 PM to feed animals and then exit immediately. This is NOT a parking permit and will be subject to fines if vehicle is left unattended for an extended amount of time. Permits will only be valid during the designated hours.

Refund Policy: The fair may refund entry fees paid by an exhibitor if the exhibitor requests the refund in writing two weeks prior to the opening day of the fair and states the reason for requesting the refund. Following that timeframe, NO refunds will be issued.

PREMIUM SCHEDULE

Prize money in each Dairy Cattle Class* will be paid on the following scale:
$90 $75 $60 $45 $37.5

**Only one entry per Group Class will be paid unless otherwise noted*

ADDITIONAL PREMIUM & AWARD INFORMATION

SD Jr. Holstein Association & SD Jr. Jersey Association State Shows: Each will be holding their State Shows during their respective breed shows at the South Dakota State Fair. To be eligible for awards, the animal exhibited must be registered in a junior aged exhibitor's name only, prior to July 15, 2026, for Holsteins and August 1, 2026, for Jerseys. Monetary awards of $15, $10, and $5 will be given to the first three place winners in the Junior Holstein Shows.

Ryan Graber Memorial Overall Production Award: The Jersey Association will award this trophy, sponsored by the Graber Family

Supreme Champion Overall Breeds: In memory of Andy Clawson sponsored by Pat & Janey Cronin

Junior Supreme Champion Overall Breeds: Sponsored by Gerald Feikema

Dairy Barn Herdsmanship Award: In memory of Mark Ripp, sponsored by the Mark Ripp family

Premier Exhibitors Award: (Each Breed) Plaque

This award to be made by the South Dakota State Fair Commission to the Breeder winning the most points not to exceed six animals in the open single divisions exhibited by self and/or other exhibitors.

Placings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Senior	*Females*									
Points	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2
Junior	*Females*	*&*	*Dry*	*Cows*						
Points	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

All or any animal from family members will be considered for breeder and exhibitor points.

OPEN YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST
Saturday, September 5 at 3 PM
Age Divisions (age as of January 1)
• 7 and under
• 8-10 years
• 11-15 years
• 16-21 years
Prizes awarded to top individuals. All youth are eligible to compete.
7 and under exhibitors must be able to show the calf by themselves without assistance.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

A completed Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, listing individual animal official identification must accompany all animals exhibited at the South Dakota State Fair. The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must be issued within 30 days of entry to the State Fairgrounds. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection written for animals originating from outside the State of South Dakota must meet all state import requirements as listed on the SD Animal Industry Board website. The consignee must be listed as: **South Dakota State Fair, 1060 3rd St. SW Huron, SD 57350**

Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection (CVI) Collection Process Has Changed.

1) Exhibitor presents CVI to Livestock Superintendent, or their designee, at check-in to verify they have a CVI.
   NOTE: If exhibitor is showing multiple species, they need a separate CVI for each species.
2) Exhibitor gets stall assignment and is responsible for writing the stall number on the CVI and then puts the CVI in the CVI collection box.
3) AIB collects CVIs from the collection box several times throughout the day to inspect animals.
4) It is the exhibitor's obligation and responsibility to ensure their animal(s) are healthy and that they have obtained a CVI within 30 days of bringing the animal(s) onto the fairgrounds. **Any exhibitor found bringing an animal with obvious issues pertaining to animal health and well-being will be asked to leave immediately and will not be allowed to show at the 2026 South Dakota State Fair.**
5) Electronic CVIs will be accepted. Exhibitors may show their electronic CVI upon check in and fill out the provided form to file in the CVI collection box.

Animals must be free of signs of communicable and infectious disease at the time of entry onto the Fairgrounds. Any determination of the health status of an animal will be at the discretion of the State Veterinarian or official representative.

Out-of-state participants with cattle originating from tuberculosis modified-accredited advanced (MAA) state or cattle originating from tuberculosis modified accredited (MA) state or zone (Michigan) need to have their veterinarian contact the South Dakota Animal Industry Board at (605) 773-3321 for current test requirement.

Exhibitors Must Provide Registration Papers

Certificate of Registration Policy
(Certificate of registry Administrative Policy 12:02:08:05): All animals entered under a breed classification must have been recorded in an association recognized for the particular breed. Registry numbers must be furnished on online entries when requested. Exhibitors must produce a certificate of registry at the request of the superintendent in charge of the department. Animals that are in a breed recovery program must be listed as at least 87% Registered-(3 generations) on their certificate.

QUIET TIME

For safety and security of livestock and personal property, the South Dakota State Fair has established a "Quiet Time" in all barns that starts at 2 AM until 5 AM. Large gatherings, parties or excessive socializing will be prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.

DEPARTMENT RULES

1. The name of the exhibitor as entered online must correspond and be the same name as on breed registration papers and must correspond with Social Security Number or tax ID number. The exhibitor must own any animal that the exhibitor shows for at least 30 days prior to the opening day of the fair.
2. Dairy exhibitors shall furnish their own milk cans.
3. Dairy cattle exhibitors may purchase extra ties for large cows or tack.
   Note: Cattle ties will be assigned first. Extra ties will be assigned if available.
4. All suggestions or complaints concerning the Dairy Department should be brought to the attention of the Dairy Superintendent.
5. Exhibiting of horned animals is discouraged. Animals with sharp or protruding horns will not be allowed to be shown for safety reasons. Dairy Cattle over one year of age must be dehorned.
6. **American Jersey Cattle Association:** Animals must be registered in the Herd Register of the American Jersey Cattle Association (i.e., have GR or HR status) or have registry status of 87 1/2% or greater with Jersey Canada. The exhibitor must be listed as Recorded Owner on the registration certificate, either (1) as the sole owner or (2) by his/her name in joint ownership. If the joint ownership includes more than one eligible exhibitor, one of them must be declared as the exhibitor during check-in. Animals must be registered and/or transferred to meet one of

the above ownership requirements on or before August 1, 2021. The recording date is the postmark date and will be considered the date of registration and/or transfer

7. The South Dakota State Fair has adopted and will enforce the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics. A copy of this code can be found in the back of this book. All exhibitors will be required to sign an agreement to abide by this code when completing the online registration.
8. The South Dakota State Fair has adopted and will enforce an Animal Welfare Plan. A copy of this can be found at https://www.sdstatefair.com/participate/competitive-exhibits/open-class-livestock/.
9. **Livestock Trailer Parking**: Livestock trailer parking is available at Huron Continental Marketing located west of Huron at 39763 US Hwy 14 or at the Heartland 4-H Rodeo Grounds located east of Huron at 2125 US Hwy 14.
10. On-grounds parking is prohibited without permits. Parking passes issued to campers are valid only for the campsites. They are not a valid anywhere else. If the vehicle does not fit within the boundaries of the campsite, the vehicle must be parked off grounds. Any vehicle found on-grounds without the proper credential for the area in which it's parked is subject to fines. There will be zero tolerance for parking violations; we will no longer be making PA announcements or giving warnings. Violators will be fined.
11. The South Dakota State Fair has an electronic system at the gates for admission. All exhibitors must have an admission pass when entering the fairgrounds during the fair. It is recommended to purchase passes in advance to make for efficient entry into the fair. The majority of admission passes will have bar codes on them that will be scanned upon entry. Parking passes will be checked upon entry to the fairgrounds. Passes are only valid for the area and terms listed on the pass.
12. Fire Lanes: For safety purposes, any vehicle blocking a fire-lane will be towed at owner's expense. There will be zero tolerance.
13. Premium checks will be mailed to exhibitors within 60 days of the State Fair. If an exhibitor's earnings total $600 or over, a W-9 must be completed by the exhibitor before their check will be issued. Premium checks for the amount of $5 and under will not be mailed out (some exceptions apply). Affected exhibitors will receive instructions on how to collect premium winnings.
14. No cots or other overnight sleeping accommodations will be allowed in the barns or tie-outs.
15. **Drenching.** Drench guns may be used in the exhibitor's stall/pen for hydration purposes. Stomach pumping, drenching tubes or any other method (by esophagus) is strictly prohibited.
16. **Sunrise Photo at the Fair:** Youth exhibitors who wish to take a photo with their animal on the Midway may do so on Monday, September 7, from 6:00 AM to 7:30 AM. During this time, select carnival rides will be lit with flashing lights to create a special photo opportunity. For safety reasons, this is the only time animals will be permitted on the Midway. Exhibitors must be respectful of the grounds by cleaning up after their animals and avoiding areas with food vendors or heavy foot traffic. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in forfeiture of premiums.
17. **Photography/Videography:** When you attend the fair, you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By entering the fairgrounds, you consent to such recording media and their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction.
18. **Livestock Release:** Livestock exhibitors will be released on Labor Day only at times designated by fair officials. The Superintendent for each species will issue a Livestock Release Form to exhibitors, which will state their assigned release time. Exhibitors must present this form to gate personnel at the time designated on the Livestock Release Form to be eligible to enter the fairgrounds to remove their livestock. Attempting to remove livestock before the assigned release time may result in:
    A) Loss of premium, and/or
    B) A one-year exhibition suspension from exhibiting livestock at the South Dakota State Fair.
19. **Woodchips:** Woodchips will be on sale at the Feed & Forage Buildings, supplied by Show Stock Bedding. All bedding pre-orders will be done through ShoWorks when entering exhibits online, on Page 3 (Items). The State Fair office will give stall assignments Show Stock Bedding to all those that have purchased bedding that is to be delivered to your stall before arrival. If you have questions on bedding, please call Dan with Show Stock Bedding at 605.695.2179.

    Available products:
    - Inside Bulk Bedding (1 head [1 stall] – ½ cubic yard): $20 *(Pre-order only)*
    - Outside Tie-Out Bulk Bedding (1 head [1 stall] – ½ cubic yard): $20 *(Pre-order only)*
    - Cedar Fiber Bedding (3 Cubic feet per Bag): $10/bag
    - Showflake Pine Shavings (Large Flake, Triple Screened, minimal dust. 12 Cubic Feet per Bag): $13/bag
    - Standard Pine Shavings (standard): $10/bag

North Barn hours of operation:

Saturday, Aug 29: 8 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, Aug 30: 8 AM – 5 PM
Monday, Aug 31: 7AM – 10AM, 4pm – 7pm
Tuesday, Sept 1: 7 AM – 7 PM
Wednesday, Sept 2: 7AM – 10AM, 4pm – 7pm
Thursday, Sept 3: 7AM – 10AM, 4pm – 7pm
Friday, Sept 4: 7AM – 10AM, 4pm – 7pm
Saturday, Sept 5: 7AM – 10AM, 4pm – 7pm
Sunday, Sept 6: 7AM – 12PM

South Barn hours of operation:

Saturday, Aug 29: Closed
Sunday, Aug 30: Closed
Monday, Aug 31: Closed
Tuesday, Sept 1: 7 AM – 7 PM
Wednesday, Sept 2: 7AM – 10AM, 4pm – 6pm
Thursday, Sept 3: 7AM – 9AM, 4PM – 6PM
Friday, Sept 4: 7AM – 9AM, 4PM – 6PM
Saturday, Sept 5: 7AM – 9AM, 4PM – 6PM
Sunday, Sept 6: 7AM – 10AM

DAIRY CATTLE DIVISIONS

The following breeds of dairy cattle may exhibit

DIVISION 1 -- Brown Swiss

DIVISION 2 -- Holsteins

DIVISION 3 -- Guernsey

DIVISION 4 -- Jersey

DIVISION 5 -- Milking Shorthorn

CLASSES

1. Summer Heifer Calf: born after 6/1 current year
2. Spring Heifer Calf: between 3/1 and 5/31 of current year
3. Winter Heifer Calf: between 12/1/25-2/28/26
4. Fall Heifer Calf: between 9/1-11/30, previous year
5. Summer Yearling Heifer: between 6/1- 8/31, previous year
6. Spring Yearling Heifer: between 3/1- 5/31, previous year
7. Winter Yearling Heifer: between 12/1/24 - 2/28/25
8. Fall Yearling Heifer (not in milk): 9/1/24 - 11/30/24
9. Junior Champion Female
10. Reserve Junior Champion Female
11. Junior Best 3 Females: This group to consist of three females from the heifer divisions, none of which have freshened, all bred by and at least one owned by exhibitor.
12. Yearling Heifer in milk born 9/1/24 or later (must have freshened)
13. Summer Junior Two-Year-Old Cow born 6/1/24 - 8/31/24
14. Junior Two-Year-Old Cow: between 3/1/24 - 5/31/24
15. Senior Two-Year-Old Cow: between 9/1/23 - 2/28/24
16. Junior Three-Year-Old Cow: between 3/1/23 - 8/31/23
17. Senior Three-Year-Old Cow: between 9/1/22 - 2/28/23
18. Intermediate Champion
19. Reserve Intermediate Champion
20. Four-Year-Old Cow: between 9/1/21 - 8/31/22
21. Five-Year-Old Cow: between 9/1/20 - 8/31/21
22. Aged Cow: 6 years and older - before 9/1/20
23. Lifetime Production Class: Verification of milk production must be provided at check-in.
    a. 125,000 lbs.—Holsteins
    b. 90,000 lbs. —All other Breeds
24. Dry Cow: before 8/31/23
25. Senior Champion Female
26. Reserve Senior Champion Female
27. Best Udder of Show
28. Grand Champion Female
29. Reserve Grand Champion Female
30. Dairy Herd: Three cows that have freshened. All to be owned by exhibitor. Exhibitor limited to one entry
31. Senior Best 3 Females: All over two years of age (from Classes 22 –30), all bred & at least one owned by exhibitor. Exhibitor limited to one entry.
32. Produce of Dam: Two animals, any age, either sex, the produce of one cow. The dam must be named. Exhibitors limited to two groups-only one group per dam.
33. Daughter - Dam: Both animals to be owned by exhibitor. Limited to two groups per exhibitor

IAFE (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS)

CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1) All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership, and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.

2) Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.

3) Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.

4) Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of, consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.

If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the laboratory, to which it is sent, is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise.

At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

(continued on next page)

5) Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.

6) The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.

7) Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

8) No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.

9) The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.

10) The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expos and any special notices to members.

11) The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.