



Illinois
Department of
Agriculture



 **DUQUOIN**
STATE FAIR
AUG 28 - SEPT 7, 2026

HOME SHOW & SPECIAL EVENTS

PREMIUM BOOK

Du QUOIN STATE FAIR

August 28 - September 7, 2026

ADMISSIONS

Adults (13+) & Children (0-12).....	Free
PARKING	\$10.00
INSIDE PARKING.....	\$15.00

CONTENTS

Governor's Welcome.....	3
Director's Welcome	5
Homeshow Book	7
General Requirements.....	8
Department 30 – Agriculture Products	10
Department 31 – Art Show.....	14
Department 32 – Culinary	23
Department 33 – Floriculture.....	31
Department 35 – Textiles	35
Department 34 – Hobbies	41
Department 40 – Cooking Contests.....	46
Special Events Book.....	61
Campground Information.....	89

Voice/TTY (618) 542-1515 or (866) 287-2999 - FAX (618) 542-1541

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any attendee requiring a reasonable accommodation, should notify us of their needs by August 10, 2026

ENTRIES CLOSE AUGUST 3, 2026

For Additional Information:

Du Quoin State Fair

655 Executive Drive | Du Quoin, IL 62832

Attn: Danette Mohr

618-542-1509 or 618-542-1525 | Fax: 618-542-1541

Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois | #26-000 / 7-14 / 400 copies

As the Governor of the great state of Illinois, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 104th annual Du Quoin State Fair.

Inspired by this year's theme, Miles of Smiles, we are proud to celebrate this time-honored tradition in southern Illinois. Year after year, the fair brings people together to enjoy the very best of our state — from agriculture and entertainment to family fun and, of course, fair food.

The Du Quoin State Fair continues to grow and thrive, as reflected in the record-breaking attendance in 2026. That success not only highlights the fair's enduring appeal but also reinforces its role as a major economic driver for southern Illinois. To ensure this proud tradition continues for generations to come, we have invested more than \$30 million in improvements to the fairgrounds since 2019, strengthening and preserving this historic venue for the future.

We are grateful to the hardworking men and women whose dedication and resilience keep agriculture, our state's number one industry, strong and resilient. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the staff, volunteers, exhibitors, vendors, and countless individuals who make the Du Quoin State Fair bigger, better, and more enjoyable each year.

Thank you for being part of the 2026 Du Quoin State Fair. We hope your time here is filled with memories that last long after the final fireworks fade.

All our best,



JB Pritzker, *Governor* MK Pritzker, *First Lady*



On behalf of our entire team at the Illinois Department of Agriculture, we are proud to welcome you to the 2026 Du Quoin State Fair, one of our family's favorite summer traditions and a celebration we look forward to all year long. We are so glad you're here.

Whether this is your first visit or a family tradition years in the making, we are excited to celebrate everything that makes the Du Quoin State Fair such a special part of summer in Illinois.

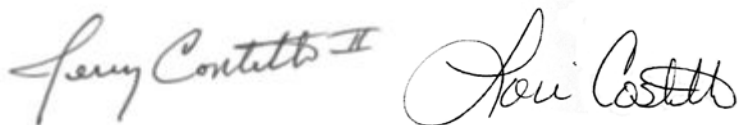
Of course, no fair visit is complete without the classics — a fresh corn dog, a cold lemon shake-up, and a ride on the Ferris wheel. But there's even more to discover around every corner. Feel the excitement of harness racing and USAC and ARCA auto racing on the legendary Magic Mile. Enjoy Grandstand concerts, demolition derby action, truck and tractor pulls, live entertainment and magic shows. Spend time browsing unique treasures at the Rusty Truck Vintage Market and visit the Illinois Product Expo to sample delicious local favorites and shop local.

As the state's number one industry, Agriculture remains at the heart of the Du Quoin State Fair. We invite you to visit the barns and learn more about the hardworking young people and farm families who make Illinois agriculture thrive. From cattle and sheep to goats and swine, the livestock exhibits offer a chance to connect with those who feed our nation.

We are also proud to continue improving the fairgrounds to make your experience even more memorable. Thanks to the Pritzker administration and the General Assembly, over \$30 million has been invested in infrastructure improvements, including \$16.4 million dedicated to much needed road repairs. The results speak for themselves as these 1,400 acres have never looked better.

Thank you for being part of the Du Quoin State Fair story. We hope you experience Miles of Smiles and make plans to do it all again in 2027!

Warm regards,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'Jerry Costello II' and the second signature on the right is 'Lori Costello'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry and Lori Costello





HOME SHOW *BOOK*

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITION

Entries Close August 3, 2026

RULE 1

“No Employee of the Department of Agriculture, Division of State Fair or any members of their immediate family shall own or exhibit any articles in any Competitive Department in which they are affiliated”.

RULE 2

All articles in the Textile, Art, and Hobbies Department are to be delivered to the Exhibition Hall on Friday, August 21, 2026 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All articles in the Agriculture, Floriculture, and Culinary Departments are to be delivered to the Exhibition Hall on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Articles not in the building by 5:00 p.m. will not be judged. All exhibits must be picked up between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. No items will be returned by the Du Quoin State Fair. Exhibitors who are unable to pick up their items on the designated day and time must make prior arrangements. The Du Quoin State Fair will not be responsible for items remaining on the grounds after Wednesday, September 9, 2026. NO ARTICLE MAY BE ENTERED IF IT HAS BEEN EXHIBITED AT THIS FAIR PREVIOUSLY. WE MUST DEPEND UPON THE COOPERATION AND INTEGRITY OF EACH EXHIBITOR.

RULE 3

Each exhibitor must list his or her social security number in the proper place. Failure to do so delays the entry.

RULE 4

Before making entries, read all of the rules very carefully. Incomplete entries will not be accepted. The Du Quoin State Fair management reserves the right to reject any entry.

RULE 5

BEST OF SHOW classes are limited to first place winners. Do not make entries in these classes.

RULE 6

Closing date for entries is August 3, 2026 @ \$2.00 per class entry and \$3.00 office fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry.

RULE 7

Exhibits that have been erroneously entered may, at the discretion of the judges, be transferred to or from the class entered and placed in the proper class previous to the judging. If such classes have been judged, they shall not be reopened, and ineligible or late entries will be disqualified.

If it is ascertained any exhibitor has made or caused any false statement in regard to any entry, or ownership of same, he will be disqualified. WE MUST DEPEND UPON THE COOPERATION AND INTEGRITY OF EACH EXHIBITOR.

RULE 8

Arrival schedule for placing entries to be judged is given at the beginning of the various sections. Please read these instructions carefully.

RULE 9

Premiums will be paid as quickly as possible after awards have been made. Judge's books are used as evidence for payment of premiums. RIBBONS AND/OR TAGS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE WON A RIBBON AND DID NOT RECEIVE IT THROUGH THE MAIL, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMPETITIVE EVENTS OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (618) 542-1509 OR (618) 542-1525.

ERRORS IN PREMIUM STATEMENTS WILL BE CORRECTED UNTIL OCTOBER 30, 2026 FOLLOWING THE FAIR, AFTER WHICH TIME THE BOOKS ARE CLOSED.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHALL USE ITS BEST EFFORTS TO SECURE SUFFICIENT APPROPRIATIONS TO FUND PREMIUMS. IN ANY YEAR FOR WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS FAILS TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION SUFFICIENT TO PAY SUCH PREMIUM. PREMIUM AMOUNTS MAY NOT BE ACCURATELY REFLECTED IN THE HOME SHOW PREMIUM BOOK.

RULE 10

Designation of Ribbons

Blue First
Red Second
White Third
Rosette BEST OF SHOW

RULE 11

Ribbons and or prizes will be presented to the exhibitors at the time of pick-up. The Du Quoin State Fair will not be responsible for loss or issue duplicates.

RULE 12

Care will be exercised to prevent accident or damage of any kind. The Du Quoin State Fair will not in any way hold themselves responsible for accidents, loss and damage by water, fire, theft or otherwise, whatever may be the cause or extent of the damage or loss. All exhibits are entered at the owner's risk.

RULE 13

Awards will be made by the judges in each section. Judges are to report to the Superintendents of their respective headquarters set for awarding premiums, unless notified differently by their respective Superintendent.

No person will act as judge in any class in which she/he may be interested as the Exhibitor, agent of employee or an exhibitor, or otherwise, and if such circumstances should occur, the Superintendent of the department may remove such judge or substitute another temporarily. In case an official judge is not present, the Superintendent of this department has the privilege to appoint a capable judge, providing he/she is not one of the officials or an exhibitor in the section to be judged.

No entry deemed unworthy shall be awarded a premium. Should any question arise concerning any entry or other matter which the judge feels incompetent to decide, he shall report it to the Superintendent whose decision is final.

If it is ascertained any exhibitor or spectator shall attempt to interfere with the judge in the performance of his/her duty in any matter, they will be disqualified from further competition and forfeit any premiums and/or ribbons already awarded.

RULE 15

All protests concerning entries in any department must be made in writing, accompanied by affidavit setting forth grounds for protest.

Protests concerning an award must be filed within six (6) hours after the award was made and such protests will be considered by the Fair Management only after a deposit \$100.00 is made to cover necessary expense of the protest. The deposit will be returned if the protest is sustained. Interested parties will be notified, and an opportunity given them to submit evidence. The Du Quoin State Fair Management will make the final decision.

DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND CLERKS

The Superintendent of each Section shall instruct the clerk to check the entries as shown in the Entry Book, and mark the entry books to show the item is shown and passed upon by the Judges. Clerks in the Department will certify the awards with the Judges at the Superintendent's supervision, and the Entry Book will be returned to the Entry Department for vouchering of the premiums awarded. Payments of premiums will be authorized only upon entries contained in these books.

DEPARTMENT 30 – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

To be shown in the Exhibition Hall

Premiums Offered: \$750.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before August 3, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in.

Deadlines and Check-in

Entry Deadline	Monday, August 3, 2026,
Entry check-in	Wednesday, August 26, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Articles not in the Exhibition Hall by 5pm will not be judged.
Exhibit Pick-up	Wednesday September 9, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully.
2. All articles competing for premiums must be exhibited by the producer.
3. All entries in this department must be Illinois grown products.
4. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class number, and there are no additions or substitutions after the entry deadline.
5. Entry fee of \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and a \$3.00 Exhibitor Office Fee. You may purchase a Home Show Seasonal pass for \$30.00. Home Show Seasonal pass is for inside parking only.
6. Entry tags are prepared for each class entered, and will be available at entry check-in. Entry tags must be secured to each piece before judging.
7. Exhibitors should write the variety on the back of the tag once received.
8. Containers such as plates will be furnished by the Du Quoin State Fair. Fruit and vegetable exhibitors should furnish their own bushel baskets.
9. After exhibits are in place no one will be permitted to handle them without the permission of the Superintendent.
10. Any entry manifestly unfit for exhibition may be disqualified by the Superintendent and removed from the show.
11. All exhibits must be products during the current growing year except in the Corn, soybean, and edible nut classes which must be from the 2026 crop.
12. Entries that are highly perishable will be disposed of by department personnel. The exhibitor need not return to claim them. If ribbons are not called for by the end of the fair, they will be mailed to exhibitor. IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE WON A RIBBON AND DID NOT RECEIVE IT THROUGH THE MAIL. PLEASE CONTACT THE COMPETITIVE EVENTS OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (618)542-1509 OR (618)542-1525.

Judging Guidelines
Garden (Vegetables, melons, etc.)

Quality40

In best and prime eating conditions (NOT necessarily biggest)

Condition25

Clean, free from blemishes

Uniformity20

Typical of Variety.15

Division 3001 – FRUITS

Entry fee \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Nuts, pecans	Plate of 10	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Nuts, hickory	Plate of 10	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Nuts, black walnut	Plate of 10	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Nuts, any other variety	Plate of 10	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Gourds, pear, small	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Gourds, any other	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Dress A Gourd	1	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best nut display and Best Gourd display will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3002 – Vegetables

Entry fee \$2.00 per class

*Four varieties, one variety per plate

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Beans, Green Snap,	12 pods per plate	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Beans, any other variety	12 pods per plate	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Cabbage		\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Carrots, long slender	Five carrots per plate	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Cucumbers, pickling under 3"	5 Cucumbers per plate	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Cucumbers, pickling, over 3"	5 Cucumbers per plate	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Eggplant	Display of 2	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Okra	Plate of 12	\$6-\$5-\$4
09	Onions, red	Plate of 3	\$6-\$5-\$4
10	Onions, white	Plate of 3	\$6-\$5-\$4

11	Onions, any other variety	Plate of 3	\$6-\$5-\$4
12	Peppers, sweet bell	Plate of 3	\$6-\$5-\$4
13	Peppers, hot, any other type	Plate of 3	\$6-\$5-\$4
14	Peppers, hot, Jalapeno	Plate of 3	\$6-\$5-\$4
15	Peppers, sweet banana type	Plate of 3	\$6-\$5-\$4
16	Potatoes, Red Irish	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4
17	Potatoes, White Irish	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4
18	Potatoes, Sweet	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4
19	Squash, zucchini	Plate of 2	\$6-\$5-\$4
20	Squash, butternut	Plate of 2	\$6-\$5-\$4
21	Squash, acorn	Plate of 2	\$6-\$5-\$4
22	Squash, any other variety	Plate of 2	\$6-\$5-\$4
23	Sweet Corn, yellow	5 ears in husk	\$6-\$5-\$4
24	Tomatoes, red	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4
25	Tomatoes, pink	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4
26	Tomatoes, yellow	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4
27	Tomatoes, Roma	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4
28	Tomatoes, Red Cherry	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4
29	Tomatoes, any other variety	Plate of 5	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Corn, Best of Beans, Green Snap, Best Peppers, Best Squash, Best Onion and Decorated Vegetable will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3003 – MISCELLANEOUS

Entry fee \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description		Premiums
01	Muskmelon, any type 5 lbs. and over	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Muskmelon, any type, 5 lbs. and under	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Watermelon, oblong, striped	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Watermelon, oblong, solid color	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Watermelon, round, striped	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Watermelon, round, solid color	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Large pumpkin, 10 lbs.	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Small pumpkin, pie type, 5 lbs.	1	\$6-\$5-\$4
09	Pumpkin, mini decorative type	Plate of 3	\$6-\$5-\$4
11	Heaviest Muskmelon		\$5
12	Heaviest Watermelon		\$5
13	Heaviest Pumpkin		\$5
14	Heaviest Tomato		\$5

15	Heaviest Potato		\$5
16	Longest ear of corn, yellow dent		\$5
17	Display basket of mini pumpkins	6-8 mini pumpkins	\$5
18	Salad bowl- vegetables and greens used for making salads in an attractive container.	Vegetables are to remain whole	\$5
19	Du Quoin State Fair basket of Fresh Vegetables	(This does not include popcorn) The basket will be tipped to resemble horns. The display will consist of a plain or decorated bushel basket containing a well-balanced assortment of not less than seven, nor more than ten kinds of vegetables from a family garden.	\$12-\$8
20	Tallest cornstalk		\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Melon and Best Miscellaneous will be awarded a Rosette

NOT MORE THAN TWO VARIETIES A KIND to be judged as follows:

Quality and edibility of vegetables65%

Assortment of vegetables10%

Arrangement of vegetables10%

Basket and decorations5%

Neatness & attractiveness of exhibit.10%

The space allotted for each basket is 24" wide and 36" deep

SUPERINTENDENT AWARD

This will be given to an entrant in each Department. Judging will be the Superintendents of each Department and will be based on uniqueness, size, appeal, eye appeal, personal preference, etc. Exhibitors may not necessarily receive a premium award.

END OF DEPARTMENT 30 – AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS

DEPARTMENT 31 – ART SHOW

To be shown in the Exhibition Hall

Premiums Offered: \$1,233.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before August 3, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in

Deadlines and Check-in

Entry Deadline	Monday, August 3, 2026
Entry check-in	Friday, August 21, 2026, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Articles not in the Exhibition Hall by 5pm will not be judged.
Exhibit Pick-up	Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 1:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully.
2. Entries will be accepted in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and times listed above. **Articles not in the Exhibition Hall by 5:00 p.m. will not be judged.**
3. Entries will be released in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and time listed above. Exhibitors who are unable to pick up their items **must make prior arrangements** with the Competitive Events Department.
4. Entry fee of \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and a \$3.00 Exhibitor Office Fee. Exhibitors may purchase a Home Show Seasonal pass for \$30.00. Home Show Seasonal pass is for inside parking only.
5. Articles must be the original completed work of the exhibitors and cannot be borrowed, purchased, etc. Stamped paintings, items made with the use of a kit, pre-molded ceramics, copies "Paint by Number," and nudes will not be accepted in any class.
6. All work must be created by the exhibitor and not previously entered at the Du Quoin State Fair. Only current projects.
7. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class.
8. **Pictures must be mounted on Poster Board only. NO MAT BOARD. NO FRAMING.**
9. Any entry manifestly unfit for exhibition may be disqualified by the Superintendent and removed from exhibition.
10. Entry tags are prepared for each class entered and will be available at entry check-in. Entry tags must be secured to each piece of artwork before judging.

Division 3101- BARN QUILT PAINTING

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Minis 12" x 12" or less	\$12-\$10-\$8
02	Geometric Shapes (triangles, circles, rectangles)	\$12-\$10-\$8
03	Four-Patch (no larger than 24" x 24")	\$12-\$10-\$8
<i>Best of Barn Quilting will be awarded a Rosette</i>		

Division 3102- DECORATIVE PAINTING

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Paints can be oil or acrylic. Items that can be decorated: Wood, Tin, Glass. Decorated theme could be "seasonal" Christmas, Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, etc.

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Rocks	\$12-\$10-\$8
02	Flowerpots/Pottery	\$12-\$10-\$8
03	Painting on repurposed items (Ex. Windows, screens, saw blades, etc.)	\$12-\$10-\$8
04	Miscellaneous	\$12-\$10-\$8
<i>Best Decorative Painting will be awarded a Rosette</i>		

Division 3103- NEW AGE

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Storyline (3 to 4 pictures that tell a story)	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Cell Phone Photo/People (cell phone picture of a person)	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Cell Phone Photo/Scenic (cell phone picture of a scenery)	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	A/I photo of a person (photo of a person that AI has created)	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Eco-Narratives (Two to four photos showing a visual story of an environmental theme or scene- ex. Tree first planted to now, old area that has buildings on it)	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Whimsical Realities (Blending surreal elements with real life scene. Ex. Star Wars characters in the dirt that looks like Dunes, fairy in a whimsical tree)	\$6-\$5-\$4
<i>Best of New Age Photo will be awarded a Rosette</i>		

Division 3104 – ACRYLIC PAINTING

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Portrait or Figure	\$12-\$10-\$8
02	Landscape, Snowscape, or Water Scene	\$12-\$10-\$8
03	Still Life	\$12-\$10-\$8

Best Acrylic Painting will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3105 – OIL PAINTING

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Portrait or Figure	\$12-\$10-\$8
02	Landscape, Snowscape, or Water Scene	\$12-\$10-\$8
03	Still Life	\$12-\$10-\$8

Best Oil Painting will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3106 - WATERCOLORS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Portrait or Figure	\$12-\$10-\$8
02	Landscape, Snowscape, or Water Scene	\$12-\$10-\$8
03	Still Life	\$12-\$10-\$8

Best Watercolor will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3107- PENCIL DRAWING

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Article must be the handiwork of the exhibitor. All entries should be mounted on white poster board.

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Portraits	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Still Life	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Landscape	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Pencil will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3108- PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class.

The size of the pictures and the mountings are as follows: Picture maximum 8" x 12", minimum 3 ½" x 5". Mounting margin, maximum 2", minimum 1". Pictures must be mounted on white poster board. This rule applies in all cases. NO CUT MATS. Please make sure poster board is clean and has no markings on them.

BLACK AND WHITE PRINTS

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Nature (flowers, trees, leaves, landscape, sky/weather, water, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Animals (live animals only- no teddy bears, dinosaurs, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Architecture (building or close-up of building)	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	City- Name City on Exhibitor Tag (capture the flavor of a city; photo must be recognizable as being taken in a city; examples: skyline, rush-hour traffic, sidewalk crowd, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Country (capture the flavor of a country setting; examples: rural town, farm, field in hay bales, dusty road, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	People: Children (emphasis of photo is children)	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	People: Adults (emphasis of photo is adults)	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Still Life (non-living objects ONLY: fruit, vegetables, cut flowers permitted; people and animals NOT permitted as subject of photo)	\$6-\$5-\$4
09	Seasonal- Summer, Spring, Fall, Winter	\$6-\$5-\$4
10	Any other Black & White prints	\$6-\$5-\$4
11	Special Effects (double exposures, time-lapse, special development, or printing techniques, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
12	Transportation Picture	\$6-\$5-\$4
13	Weather Picture	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Black & White will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3109- COLOR PRINTS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

(NO DIGITALLY GENERATED COMPUTER PHOTOS)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Nature (flowers, trees, leaves, etc., landscape, sky/weather, water)	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Animals (live animals only- no teddy bears, dinosaurs, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Architecture (building or close-up of part of building)	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	City- Name City on Exhibitor Tag (capture the flavor of a city; photo must be recognizable as being taken in a city; examples: skyline, rush-hour traffic, sidewalk crowd, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Country (capture the flavor of a country setting; examples: rural town, farm, field in hay bales, dusty road, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	People: Children (emphasis of photo is children)	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	People: Adults (emphasis of photo is adults)	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Still Life (non-living objects ONLY; fruit, vegetables, cut flowers permitted; people and animals NOT permitted as subject of photo)	\$6-\$5-\$4
09	Night Scenes	\$6-\$5-\$4
10	Special Effects (double exposures, time-lapse, special developing or printing techniques, etc.)	\$6-\$5-\$4
11	Any Other Color Prints	\$6-\$5-\$4
12	Seasonal Spring Picture	\$6-\$5-\$4
13	Seasonal Summer Picture	\$6-\$5-\$4
14	Seasonal Fall Picture	\$6-\$5-\$4
15	Seasonal Winter Picture	\$6-\$5-\$4
16	Shadows Picture	\$6-\$5-\$4
17	Weather	\$6-\$5-\$4

*Best Color will be awarded a Rosette***Division 3110- DIGITALLY GENERATED COMPUTER PHOTOS**

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Landscape or Water Scene	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Animals and/or Birds	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Any Other	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Digitally Generated Computer Photos will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3111– FAIR

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

The size of the pictures and the mountings are as follows: Picture maximum 8" x 12", minimum 3 ½" x 5". Mounting margin, maximum 2", minimum 1". Pictures must be mounted on white poster board. This rule applies in all cases. NO CUT MATS. Please make sure poster board is clean and have no markings on them.

COLOR PRINTS

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Through A Child's Eyes (From a child's perspective)	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Hidden Fair Gems (Focus on unnoticed details, textures, shadows, or small elements at the fair)	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Before the Gates Open (Early morning preparations, setting up rides, animals, ready for show, during parade, cooking food)	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Fair By Night (highlight vibrant lights, long exposures, nighttime energy)	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Candid Fair moments (unposed pictures, spontaneous captures of people or animals at the fair, authentic)	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	The Fair Experience (photos showcasing sights, emotions, energy of the fair)	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Fair will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3112- SENIOR ADULTS – Ages 75 & Up

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Painting- any kind including pastels	\$12-\$10-\$8
02	Drawings, Prints, Digital Generated Art	\$12-\$10-\$8
03	Clay, Ceramics, China Painting, Sculptures	\$12-\$10-\$8

Best of Senior Adults will be awarded a Rosette

JUNIOR ART

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before August 3, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in

Exhibitor may purchase a Home Show Seasonal pass for \$30.00. Home Show Seasonal pass is for inside parking only.

Article must be the handiwork of the exhibitor. All entries should be mounted on white poster board.

Stamped paintings, items made with the use of a kit, pre-molded ceramics, copies, "Paint by Number," nudes, and pages from coloring books will not be accepted in any class.

AGE OF THE EXHIBITOR MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE TOP HALF OF THE ENTRY TAG

Division 3113- DECORATIVE PAINTING

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Rocks	\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Miscellaneous	\$5-\$4-\$3

Best of Decorative will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3114- DRAWING AND PAINTING (14 - 18 years)

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Pencil, Charcoal, or India Ink	\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Watercolor	\$5-\$4-\$3
03	Felt Pen	\$5-\$4-\$3
04	Miscellaneous	\$5-\$4-\$3

Best of Drawing and Painting will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3115 - DRAWING AND PAINTING (9 – 13 years)

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Crayons or Pastels	\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Creative design, print or collage	\$5-\$4-\$3
03	Oil Painting, Acrylic, or Tempra	\$5-\$4-\$3
04	Pencil, Charcoal, or India Ink	\$5-\$4-\$3
05	Watercolor or Tempera	\$5-\$4-\$3
06	Felt Pen	\$5-\$4-\$3
07	Miscellaneous	\$5-\$4-\$3

Best of Drawing and Painting will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3116- PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

The size of the picture and the mounting are as follows: Picture 8" x 12", minimum 3 ½" x 5". Mounting margin: maximum 2", minimum 1". Pictures must be mounted on white poster board. This applies in all classes. **Matted works will not be accepted.**

BLACK & WHITE PRINTS

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Shadows	\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Animal Life	\$5-\$4-\$3
03	Insects and Bugs	\$5-\$4-\$3
04	People	\$5-\$4-\$3
05	Miscellaneous	\$5-\$4-\$3
06	Silly Picture	\$5-\$4-\$3
07	Transportation Picture	\$5-\$4-\$3
08	Holiday Picture	\$5-\$4-\$3

Best of Black and White will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3117 – Color Prints

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

The size of the picture and the mounting are as follows: Picture 8" x 12", minimum 3 ½" x 5". Mounting margin: maximum 2", minimum 1". Pictures must be mounted on white poster board. This applies in all classes. **Matted works will not be accepted.**

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Sports Action	\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Animal Life	\$5-\$4-\$3
03	Floral	\$5-\$4-\$3
04	People	\$5-\$4-\$3
05	At the Fair Picture	\$5-\$4-\$3
06	Party Picture	\$5-\$4-\$3
07	Holiday Picture	\$5-\$4-\$3
08	Miscellaneous	\$5-\$4-\$3

Best Color Prints will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3118 – Digitally Generated

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

The size of the picture and the mounting are as follows: Picture 8" x 12", minimum 3 ½" x 5". Mounting margin: maximum 2", minimum 1". Pictures must be mounted on white poster board. This applies in all classes. **Matted works will not be accepted.**

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Landscape or Water Scene	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Animals and/or Birds	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Any Other	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Of Digitally Generated will be awarded a Rosette

END OF DEPARTMENT 35 – ART

DEPARTMENT 32 – CULINARY

To be shown in the Exhibition Hall

Premiums Offered: \$1599.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before August 3, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in.

Deadlines and Check-in

Entry Deadline	Monday, August 3, 2026
Entry check-in	Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 1:00pm to 5:00pm Articles not in the Exhibition Hall by 5pm will not be judged.
Exhibit Pick-up	Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. **General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully**
2. Entries will be accepted in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and times listed above. **Articles not in the building by 5:00 pm will not be judged.**
3. Entry fee of \$2.00 per entry and a \$3.00 exhibitor office fee. You may purchase a Home Show Seasonal pass for \$30.00. Home Show Seasonal pass is for inside parking only.
4. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class.
5. Entry tags are prepared for each class entered and will be available at entry check-in. Entry tags must be secured to each piece before judging.
6. List on said "entry blank" article or articles to be exhibited using care to give correct Division and Class Number according to catalog.
7. Each jar displayed shall have a label on the outside of the jar with the Exhibitor's number, date of preservation, and contents.
8. Closed judging will begin at 5:00pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.
9. Entries will be released in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and time listed above. Exhibitors who are unable to pick up their items **must make prior arrangements** with the Competitive Events Department.
10. NO CULINARY ENTRIES WILL BE RETURNED BY DUQUOIN STATE FAIR and food that is no longer edible will be destroyed and ribbons mailed to the Exhibitor.
11. Any entry manifestly unfit for the exhibition may be disqualified by the Superintendent and removed from exhibition.
12. EXHIBITORS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SELL FOOD IN THE EXHIBITION HALL.

GENERAL RULES

ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO ILLINOIS RESIDENTS

Exhibitors are limited to one entry in each class number. Duplicate entries in the same class will not be judged. Members of the same family must not use identical recipes.

IN THE JUNIOR DIVISION, THE AGE OF THE EXHIBITOR MUST APPEAR ON TOP HALF OF ENTRY TAG.

Exhibits must be labeled true to name. Those not conforming to this rule will be barred from judging. Labels should be suitable, uniform, and neat. Variety of kinds and date of canning must be placed on all glass containers.

All exhibitors must observe State and Federal Food Restrictions.

All entries will be under the care of the Superintendent and under constant protection. Every care will be taken to prevent damage, but in no event will the Superintendent or Management be responsible for any injury or loss that may occur.

Perishable items will be destroyed if molding occurs.

Use **PLASTIC PLATES OR WAX COATED PAPER PLATES**. NO STYROFOAM plates. Foods such as bread, cookies, etc. **MUST BE IN PLASTIC BAGS with entry tags securely tied to plates.**

BUTTERS, JAMS, MARMALADES, AND PRESERVES MUST BE IN STANDARD ONE HALF PINT JARS. Use new lids and **NO RINGS**. Entry tags must be secured on a rubber band around top of jar before it is brought in for judging.

All entries must have been made since the last Du Quoin State Fair.

Process with hot water bath, jellies for 5 minutes; jams, preserves, and marmalades for 10 minutes. Check a new canning book for hot water bath method. This will eliminate molding and spoilage. Please use this process with no paraffin.

JUDGING

Judging will be closed. Competent judges will be secured. Their decision will be considered final.

Judges are instructed not to award premiums unless exhibits are deemed worthy of merit. If not, competition exists and an exhibit is not worthy of first premium, the judges may award a second premium or none, according to their judgement. Any article not up to standard in the class in which it is exhibited can be disqualified by the judge.

Judges are instructed that if they have reason to believe that an exhibitor, by false entry or otherwise (example- two entries of cookies from the same batch, one entry in one name and the other in another name) attempts to deceive and obtain an award by misrepresentation. (Example – items purchased from individuals other than said exhibitor shall not be awarded any prizes.)

Several slices will be cut from real cakes when being judged. This amount gives the “spectator” an opportunity to view the texture and color of the cake.

All cakes which do not pass a perfect appearance test will not be opened for judging.

Great care must be taken to make the exhibit attractive; exhibits are first judged according to appearance.

JUDGING GUIDELINES

CAKES

FLAVOR35

Delicate and pleasing, well-blended

TEXTURE35

Cakes with butter/shortening tender, moist, fine even cells; light cakes without fats: tender, feathery, resilient fine even cells.

APPEARANCE.....30

Shape: straight sides; slightly rounded top crust; smooth uniform color, not cracked or sticky; frosting: glossy smooth, not too thick, suitable to cake; filling: minimum ¼” fluffy, good flavor, suitable to cake

CANNING: JELLIES, PRESERVES, JAMS, MARMALADES

PRODUCT.....50

Absence of defects (seeds, peel); quality and maturity of fruit: color clear, bright, typical of fruit used; proper consistency; jelly tender to firm, retains shape without weeping, no crystals; preserves: thick, fruit tender, plump, whole small fruits or uniform pieces, fruit evenly distributed; jam holds shape but less firm than jelly; marmalade tender with pieces of fruit evenly distributed.

FLAVOR25

Characteristic of fruit used, without excessive sweetness of spices

PACK.....15

Headspace: ¼", no air bubbles

CONTAINER.....10

COOKIES

FLAVOR50

Well-blended natural flavor in ingredients

TEXTURE30

Tender, small even cells, not crumbly or hard, consistent with type of cookie: thin cookie crisp; drop cookie soft, bar cookie moist

APPEARANCE.....20

Shape regular, color uniform, free from darkened edges

DECORATED CAKE

OVERALL APPEARANCE40

Balance, color harmony, consistency of pattern

ARTSTIC QUALITY35

Originality, difficulty of techniques, overall eye appeal

NEATNESS25

Texture of icing, uniformity of repeat pattern

QUICK BREAD

SHAPE, COLOR, VOLUME30

Well proportioned, evenly rounded or flat top (depending on type); uniformly brown, light weight in proportion to size

CRUMB30

Well raised and equally light throughout; moist, elastic, tender; medium fine; round even cells, flaky lightness; no tunnels; not dry or soggy; nuts or fruits well distributed

FLAVOR30

Blended flavor of well-baked ingredients; free from flavor of fat, baking soda, or salt

CRUST10

Crisp, usually rough surface; tender, thin, no cracks

YEAST BREADS

FLAVOR	30
Blend of well-baked ingredients, free from sourness	
TEXTURE	25
Tender, free from dryness or doughiness	
GRAIN	15
Fine cells, evenly distributed	
CRUST	15
Uniform browning, free from cracks and bulges	
COLOR	10
Characteristic of ingredients used, free from dark streaks	

Division 3201 – BREADS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Cinnamon Raisin Biscuit	\$8-\$6-\$4
02	Blueberry Biscuit	\$8-\$6-\$4
03	White	\$8-\$6-\$4
04	Whole Wheat 100%	\$8-\$6-\$4
05	Yeast Rolls (6)	\$8-\$6-\$4
06	Sweet Rolls (6)	\$8-\$6-\$4
07	Coffee Cake (yeast)	\$8-\$6-\$4
08	Muffin (6) any kind	\$8-\$6-\$4
09	Banana	\$8-\$6-\$4
10	Cranberry	\$8-\$6-\$4
11	Pumpkin	\$8-\$6-\$4
12	Chocolate Chip	\$8-\$6-\$4
13	Other than classified (yeast)	\$8-\$6-\$4
14	Other than classified (non-yeast)	\$8-\$6-\$4

Best Bread will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3202 – CAKES

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	White, iced	\$8-\$6-\$4
02	Chocolate, iced	\$8-\$6-\$4
03	Any other kind	\$8-\$6-\$4
04	Cake Pops, plate of 12	\$8-\$6-\$4

Best Cake will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3203 – DECORATED CAKES

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

This category only: You do not have to decorate an actual baked cake. You may decorate a Styrofoam round, square, or rectangle shape; a small bucket turned upside down, or a large bowl upside down. Anything other than a real cake. This category is judged only on overall appearance, artistic quality, and **NEATNESS**. Your decorated entry must be on a sturdy white covered cardboard or plastic board, which must not exceed over 2" from sides of decorated entry. The majority of the decorations on entry must be made of icing. Limit the use of artificial decorations.

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Decorated Birthday Cake, Bridal Shower, or Baby Cake	\$15-\$10-\$8
02	Decorated Wedding or Anniversary Cake	\$15-\$10-\$8
03	Decorated Cupcake, Plate of 6	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Decorated Cake will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3204 – CANNING

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

EXTRACTED HONEY

1 JELLY GLASS JAR (NO LABELS ALLOWED. JARS WILL BE OPENED)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Alfalfa	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Clover	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Very light honey, other than above	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Medium colored honey, other than above	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Dark honey, other than above	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Honey will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3205 – CANNING- JAMS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

(JARS WILL BE OPENED)

Jams are made out of crushed fruits, mixed with sugar and cooked until thick. Should not be firm enough to jell. Mold on top of jam disqualifies exhibit for judging. Good jam has a soft, even consistency without distinct pieces of fruit, a bright color and semi-jelled texture that is easy to spread without any fruit liquids. All jams are to be in jelly jars with new lids and no rings.

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Blackberry	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Strawberry	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Grape	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Apple Butter	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Any other kind	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Jam will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3206 – CANNING- JELLY

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

(JARS WILL BE OPENED)

Fruit jellies are made from extracted juices of various kinds of fruits cooked with granulated sugar. Good jellies are clear, sparkling, and have a fresh flavor of the fruit from which it is made. It is tender enough to quiver when moved but holds angles when cut. All jelly is to be in jelly jars with new lids and no rings.

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Grape	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Blackberry	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Strawberry	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Any other kind	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Jelly will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3207 – Cookies, Etc.

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Cookies are to be displayed on **WAX COATED PAPER or PLASTIC PLATES.** No Styrofoam plates. Show exactly 6 on a plate.

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	White chocolate macadamia nut	\$8-\$6-\$4
02	Chocolate brownies	\$8-\$6-\$4
03	Bars, any other, may be iced	\$8-\$6-\$4
04	Refrigerator	\$8-\$6-\$4
05	Chocolate chip	\$8-\$6-\$4
06	Peanut butter	\$8-\$6-\$4
07	Lemon	\$8-\$6-\$4
08	Sugar	\$8-\$6-\$4
09	Oatmeal	\$8-\$6-\$4
10	Any other, give name	\$8-\$6-\$4
11	Snickerdoodle	\$8-\$6-\$4
12	Cake Mix Cookies	\$8-\$6-\$4

Best Cookie will be awarded a Rosette

JUDGES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE LIDS AND OPEN JAR AND SAMPLE THE JELLY, PRESERVES, JAMS, AND BUTTERS.

JUNIORS

17 years and under

Require fees include \$2.00 per class entry fee and \$3.00 per exhibitor office fee. Exhibitor may purchase a Home Show Seasonal pass for \$30.00.

Any entry manifestly unfit for exhibition may be disqualified by the Superintendent and removed from exhibition.

All real cakes and decorated artificial cakes must be on covered boards which do not exceed more than 2" from the side of the item entered.

All decorated cakes must be decorated with icing, and the trim and flowers are to be made of icing. Limit artificial decorations.

AGE OF THE EXHIBITOR MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE TOP HALF OF ENTRY TAG

A special award will be presented to the "BEST HOMEMAKER" in the Junior Department.

Division 3208 – JR. CAKES

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	White, iced	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Chocolate, iced	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Any other kind	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best JR. Cake will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3209 – JR. DECORATED CAKES

(Class 01 ,02 and 03 can be artificial)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Decorated Cake	\$10-\$8-\$6
02	Decorated Cupcakes, plate of 6	\$8-\$6-\$3
03	Decorated Cookies, plate of 6	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best JR. Decorated Cake will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3210 – JR. COOKIES

Show exactly 6 on PLASTIC or WAX COATED PAPER PLATE

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Sugar	\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Oatmeal	\$5-\$4-\$3
03	Peanut Butter	\$5-\$4-\$3
04	Chocolate Chip	\$5-\$4-\$3
05	Cookies made with candy	\$5-\$4-\$3
06	Any other	\$5-\$4-\$3

Best JR. Cookie will be awarded a Rosette

END OF DEPARTMENT 32 – CULINARY

DEPARTMENT 33– FLORICULTURE

To be shown in the Exhibition Hall

Premiums Offered: \$594.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before August 3, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in

Deadlines and Check-in

Entries close	Monday, August 3, 2026
Entry check-in	Wednesday, August 26, 2026, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Articles not in the Exhibition Hall by 5pm will not be judged.
Exhibit Pick-up	Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully.
2. Entries will be accepted in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and times listed above. **Articles not in the building by 5:00pm will not be judged.**
3. Flowers must be grown by the exhibitor in all classes.
4. Entry fee of \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and a \$3.00 Exhibitor Office Fee. Exhibitors may purchase a Home Show Seasonal pass for \$30.00. Home Show Seasonal pass is for inside parking only.
5. Flowers must be grown by the exhibitor in all classes.
6. This show is for amateurs only.
7. Entries will be released in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and time listed above. Exhibitors who are unable to pick up their items at the specified time **must make prior arrangements** with the Competitive Events Department.
8. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class number.
9. Entry tags are prepared for each class entered, and will be available at entry check-in. Entry tags must be attached to each article before judging
10. Vases will be furnished by the Du Quoin State Fair for all cut flower specimens. Department personnel will care for the plants during the Fair if instructions are included with the plant on entry day. The Department staff will not be responsible for any plan that does not include care instructions on card staked in the pot or basket. Include requirements for water. No fertilizer will be applied by any Department employee. All hanging plants must be presented for competition, ready to hang. Flowering varieties should be in flower.
11. Exhibitors must furnish presentable containers, with drainage trays for all potted plants and hanging basket classes. Management will furnish vases for cut plant materials.

Judging Guidelines

POTTED PLANTS:

Abundance of blooms at their peak
Foliage
Clearness of color
Size and form of plant, according to variety
Grooming
Rarity
Culture perfection

SPECIMENS OF CUT FLOWERS:

Blooms at their peak
Clearness of color
Length and size of stem
Foliage
Culture perfection
Size and form, according to variety

Division 3301 – Artistic Arrangement

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class.

Each arrangement must be accompanied with a 3" x 5" card with the title.

ARTIFICIAL OR SILK FLOWERS ONLY

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Decorated Lanterns	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Summer Artificial Wreath	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Summer Artificial Arrangement	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Christmas Artificial Wreath	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Christmas Artificial Arrangement	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Best Fair Themed: Miles of Smiles Artificial Arrangement	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Arrangement will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3302 – Container Garden

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Succulent	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Mix Garden	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Container Garden will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3303 – CUT FLOWERS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Marigold, single vases	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Marigolds, collection	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Zinnia, single vases	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Zinnia, collection	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Any Other Flower, vases	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Sunflower, single	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Sunflowers, collection	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Cut Flowers will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3304 – HOUSEPLANT

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Tropical Plant	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Fern, Any variety	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Any Herb Potted Plant	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Philodendron	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Any other houseplant- grown for foliage	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best House Plant will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3305 – POTTED FLOWERING PLANTS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	African Violet, any type, any color	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Begonia, any type except trailing, any color	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Geranium, any type except trailing, any color	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Geranium, trailing, any color	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Hanging Basket	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Patio tree or shrubs, flowering variety	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Any potted flowering plant not mentioned above	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Wave petunia, any color	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Potted Flower Plant will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3306 – Roses

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

The Rose Show is open to all amateur exhibitors. An amateur is hereby defined as one who does not derive any part of their regular livelihood from the sale of flowers or flower arrangements for gain, nor anyone employed by any concern who sells flowers or flower arrangements commercially. Each rose must be named to qualify for a premium, unless otherwise stated.

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Red	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Pink	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Yellow	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	White	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Blends	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Collection of Rose Bouquet (1 per color)	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Collection of Rose Bouquet (mixed)	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Floribunda will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3307 – Sunflowers

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Largest Head	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Tallest Stem	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Most Blooms	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Sunflower will be awarded a Rosette

END OF DEPARTMENT 33 – FLORICULTURE PRODUCTS

DEPARTMENT 34 – HOBBIES

To be shown in the Exhibition Hall

Premiums Offered: \$1,023.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before August 3, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in

Deadlines and Check-in

Entry Deadline	Monday, August 3, 2026
Entry check-in	Friday, August 21, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Articles not in the Exhibition Hall by 5pm will not be judged.
Exhibit Pick-up	Wednesday, September 9, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

1. General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully.
2. Exhibitors are limited to one entry in a class
3. Entries will be accepted in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and time listed above. **Articles not in the Exhibition Hall by 5:00 p.m. will not be judged.**
4. Entries in this department will be released in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and time listed above. Exhibitors who are unable to pick up their items at the specified time **must make prior arrangements** with the Competitive Events Department.
5. Entry fee of \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and a \$3.00 Exhibitor Office Fee. Exhibitor may purchase a Home Show Seasonal pass for \$30.00. Home Show Seasonal pass is for inside parking only.
6. All exhibits must be the bona fide property of the Exhibitor.
7. Entry tags are prepared for each class entered and will be available at entry check-in and are to be attached to each article before judging.
8. Cards may be attached to entries giving information that would be of interest to the public.

Division 3401 - CRICUT/SILHOUTTE

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Using vinyl, paper, material, wood, or glass

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Paper crafts	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Stickers	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Magnets	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Decorated a purchased fabric item in a patriotic theme	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	None of the above	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Fair will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3402 - DU QUOIN STATE FAIR

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Memorabilia 1950 & after	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Glassware	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Pins (lapel)	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Pictures, post cards	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Ribbon or award	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of DuQuoin State Fair will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3403 – HAND CRAFTED HOBBIES

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Any article in metal and/or wire, handcrafted; includes jewelry	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Stained or other glass work, Max. 10" x 10" – 1 only	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Basket, any style	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Handcrafted wooden toy – not to exceed 12" x 12" x 18" – 1 only	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Mesh Wreath – no size limit – 1 only	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Book Art	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Epoxy/Resin Art – Jewelry, Tumblers/Cups, Trays, Coasters, Bowls	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Wood Carving (20" limit) 1 only, any article except toy	\$6-\$5-\$4
09	Sculpture – Ceramic, Clay – non-metal	\$6-\$5-\$4
10	Diamond Painting – any size, framed	\$6-\$5-\$4
11	Holiday Craft	\$6-\$5-\$4

12	Jewelry – No Plastic	\$6-\$5-\$4
13	Handcrafted Wood Items	\$6-\$5-\$4
14	Miscellaneous Item	\$6-\$5-\$4
15	Handcrafted molded or made, silver/gold	\$6-\$5-\$4
16	Diorama- 3 dimensional, physical or digital replicas of a scene that tells a story or captures a frozen moment in time	\$10-\$8-\$6

Best of Hand-Crafted Hobbies will be awarded a Rosette

JIGSAW PUZZLE

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Puzzles must be either vertical or landscape with the measurements 19" x 13" for landscape or 13" x 9" vertical, glued to a poster/foam board and not framed.

Division 3404 - 2D

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Nature/Water scene	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Animal	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Flowers	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	City	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Any Other	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best 2D will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3405 - PHOTOMOSAIC

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Animal	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Landscape	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Flowers	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Characters	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Any Other	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Photomosaic will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3406 - REPURPOSE OR UPSCALE

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Furniture	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Clothing	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Kitchen Utensils	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Glassware	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Silverware	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Miscellaneous Articles	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Repurpose or Upscale will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3407 – SCRAPBOOKS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

(Enter ONE page with plastic sheet protector in each class)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Holiday	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Sports	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Baby	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Heritage	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Seasons	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Any other not listed	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Vacation	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Du Quoin State Fair	\$6-\$5-\$4
09	Party	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Scrapbooking will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3408 - WINDCHIMES

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Any wood windchime	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Any metal windchime	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Any other windchime	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Windchimes will be awarded a Rosette

YOUTH

(17 years and under by January 1, 2026)

Division 3409 - COLLECTIONS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Exhibits must be mounted to foam board or poster board. **AGE OF THE EXHIBITOR MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE TOP HALF OF THE ENTRY TAG**

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Butterfly (5)	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Insects (5)	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Leaf (5)	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Coin (5)	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Any Other	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Collection will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3410 - CONSTRUCTED ARTICLES

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Must be the work of the Exhibitor

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Bird House or Bird Feeder (height not to exceed 12")	\$5-\$4-\$3
02	Diamond Painting – any size, framed	\$5-\$4-\$3
03	Toothpick, popsicle stick, clothespin creation (not to exceed 12" in height)	\$5-\$4-\$3
04	Woodworking (max 3 not to exceed 12" x 12")	\$5-\$4-\$3
05	Models – made from kit or original design (max 3, not to exceed 18" wide x 24" long, x 18" high; Lego -submitted on a Lego base affixed to foam)	\$5-\$4-\$3
06	Textile Painting – Shirt or other article	\$5-\$4-\$3
07	Rock Painting (min 3 – max 5)	\$5-\$4-\$3
08	Miscellaneous articles (not to exceed 12" in height)	\$5-\$4-\$3

Best Constructed Article will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3411 – SCRAPBOOKS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

(Enter ONE page with plastic sheet protector in each class)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Holiday	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Any other not listed	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Vacation	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Du Quoin State Fair	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Scrapbooking will be awarded a Rosett

END OF DEPARTMENT 34 – HOBBIES PRODUCTS

DEPARTMENT 35 – TEXTILES

To be shown in the Exhibition Hall

Premiums Offered: \$1,570.00

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before August 3, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in.

Deadlines and Check-in

Entry Deadline	Monday, August 3, 2026
Entry check-in	Friday, August 21, 2026, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Articles not in the Exhibition Hall by 5pm will not be judged.
Exhibit Pick-up	Wednesday, September 9, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

General Requirements & Criteria for Competition

- General rules apply to all divisions in this department. Please read carefully**
- Entries will be accepted in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and times listed above. **Articles not in the building by 5:00 pm will not be judged.**
- ALL ARTICLES MUST BE CLEANED AND NOT YELLOWED. Soiled or discolored articles will not be accepted. ANY ARTICLE PREVIOUSLY ENTERED IS INELIGIBLE FOR COMPETITION. WE MUST DEPEND UPON THE COOPERATION AND INTEGRITY OF EACH EXHIBITOR. ENTRIES NOT MEETING SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.
- Articles must be the handiwork of the exhibitor and not previously exhibited at the Du Quoin State Fair. ALL ITEMS ENTERED IN THIS DEPARTMENT MUST BE OF FABRIC OR THREAD
- Entry fee of \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and a \$3.00 Exhibitor Office Fee. Exhibitors may purchase a Home Show Seasonal pass for \$30.00. Home Show Seasonal pass is for inside parking only.
- Entries will be released in person at the Exhibition Hall on the date and time listed above. Exhibitors who are unable to pick up their items **must make prior arrangements** with the Competitive Events Department.
- Exhibitors are limited to one entry per class.
- Any article manifestly unfit for exhibition may be disqualified by the Superintendent and removed from exhibition.
- Entry tags are prepared for each class entered and will be available at entry check-in. Entry tags must be secured to each piece before judging.
- Entry tags must be affixed with a safety pin to each article unless otherwise stated. If there is more than one article per entry, each article must be safely pinned together. **THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**
- Exhibitors who are unable to accompany their exhibits may send them by United Parcel or Parcel Post, addressed to the Competitive Events Department, Du Quoin State Fair, 655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, IL 62832, who shall care for them and properly place them for exhibit. Exhibitor's name and address must be plainly written on outside of package. Money orders must be made payable to the UNITED STATES POST OFFICE. **CHECK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

QUILTING

WORKMANSHIP45

Top (precision of cutting and stitching); quilting techniques: binding/edging (precision and finishing techniques)

DESIGN 45

Choice and use of pattern for top and borders; choice and use of quilting patterns; choice and

use of color; suitability of materials to design use of color; suitability of materials to design

And function' originality or use of traditional patterns

GENERAL APPEARANCE 10

Total impact, neat, clean

Division 3501 – HOLIDAY CRAFT

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Christmas Picture	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Christmas Stocking	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Christmas Tree Skirt	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Holiday Craft will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3502 –KNITTED OR CROCHET ITEMS

Entry Fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Afghan, Knitted	\$10-\$8-\$6
02	Afghan, Crochet in One Piece	\$10-\$8-\$6
03	Afghan, Crochet in more than One Piece	\$10-\$8-\$6
04	Infant Crib Blanket, Knitted	\$10-\$8-\$6
05	Infant Crib Blanket, Crochet	\$10-\$8-\$6
06	Washcloths	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Crochet Stuffed Animals	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Textile Crossover (material – Crochet Border)	\$6-\$5-\$4
09	Miscellaneous	\$6-\$5-\$4
10	Beginners & Beginning Stitches- Easy Patterns	\$6-\$5-\$4
11	Crochet Clothing	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Knitted or Crochet Item will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3503 –Miscellaneous

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Rug Making with Yarn Material	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Needle Felting- picture or animal	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Miscellaneous will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3504 – NEEDLEWORK

Entry Fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Embroidered/Crewel Pillow	\$10-\$8-\$6
02	Embroidered/Crewel Item	\$10-\$8-\$6
03	Counted Cross Stitch Pillow	\$10-\$8-\$6
04	Counted Cross Stitch Item	\$10-\$8-\$6
05	Machine Embroidered Pillow	\$10-\$8-\$6
06	Machine Embroidered Item	\$10-\$8-\$6
07	Hand Quilted Pillow	\$10-\$8-\$6
08	Beginners & Beginning Easy Patterns	\$6-\$5-\$4
09	Pillowcases- embroidered/cross stitch/counted	\$6-\$5-\$4
10	Any other item	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best of Needlework will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3505 – QUILT TOPS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class (Tops are not to be hand or machine quilted)

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Applique	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Pieced	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Machine Embroidered	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Hand Embroidered	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Quilt Top Not Quilted will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3506 – QUILTS

Entry Fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Quilt, applique, hand quilted	\$15-\$10-\$5

02	Quilt, applique, machine quilted	\$15-\$10-\$5
03	Quilt, pieced, hand quilted	\$15-\$10-\$5
04	Quilt, pieced, machine quilted	\$15-\$10-\$5
05	Quilt, hand embroidered, hand quilted	\$15-\$10-\$5
06	Quilt, hand embroidered, machine quilted	\$15-\$10-\$5
07	Quilt, machine embroidered, hand quilted	\$15-\$10-\$5
08	Quilt, machine embroidered, machine quilted	\$15-\$10-\$5
09	Quilt, with creative original design	\$20-\$15-\$10
10	Quilt, vintage	\$20-\$15-\$10
11	Group Quilt, made by 2 or more people	\$25-\$20-\$15
12	Crib Quilt, applique	\$15-\$10-\$5
13	Crib Quilt, pieced	\$15-\$10-\$5
14	Crib Quilt, embroidered	\$15-\$10-\$5
15	Wall Hanging, pieced	\$15-\$10-\$5
16	Wall Hanging, applique	\$15-\$10-\$5
17	Tied Comforter	\$15-\$10-\$5
18	T-Shirt Quilt	\$15-\$10-\$5
19	Rescue Quilts – Finding quilt blocks: hand embroidered, applique, or pieced	\$15-\$10-\$5
20	Any other quilted article	\$15-\$10-\$5

Best Quilted Article will be awarded a Rosette

Division 3507 – Sewn Articles

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Purse	\$6-\$5-\$4
02	Tote Bag	\$6-\$5-\$4
03	Backpack	\$6-\$5-\$4
04	Toiletry or Make-up Bag	\$6-\$5-\$4
05	Fabric Toy	\$6-\$5-\$4
06	Apron	\$6-\$5-\$4
07	Garments	\$6-\$5-\$4
08	Any other item	\$6-\$5-\$4

Best Sewn Article will be awarded a Rosette

Junior Textiles

(17 years and under)

AGE OF THE EXHIBITOR MUST BE WRITTEN ON THE TOP HALF OF ENTRY TAG.

Entries

Required fees include \$2.00 per Class Entry Fee and \$3.00 Office Fee is also due for each exhibitor. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Du Quoin State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before August 3, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Exhibitors are highly encouraged to bring a copy of their entry receipt to check-in.

Division 3508 – JR. MISCELLANEOUS

Entry fee of \$2.00 per class

Class No.	Class Description	Premiums
01	Tye Dye Shirt	\$5-\$4
02	Decorated Shoes	\$5-\$4
03	Hair Bow	\$5-\$4
04	Sock Animal	\$5-\$4
05	Decorated Handbag	\$5-\$4
06	Decorated Jewelry	\$5-\$4
07	Crocheted Blanket	\$5-\$4
08	Loom Weaving (potholders)	\$5-\$4
09	Any Other Miscellaneous	\$5-\$4

Best Miscellaneous will be awarded a Rosette

END OF DEPARTMENT 35 – TEXTILES PRODUCTS

DEPARTMENT 40

COOKING CONTESTS

CAKE DECORATING

FIRECRACKER SPICE CHALLENGE

BLUE RIBBON ROUTE 66 BBQ CONTEST

MYSTERY SACK COOKING CONTEST

PATRIOTIC CHARCUTERIE BOARD

4-H FLORAL CHALLENGE-CENTERPIECE MAKING

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE DESSERT SHOWDOWN

ROUTE 66 SODA POP CHALLENGE

ROUTE 66 WAFFLE SHOWDOWN

STAR SPANGLED APPETIZER CHALLENGE

GENERATION SHOWDOWN – KIDS VS KIN

PATRIOTIC PIE BAKE-OFF

FARMYARD GINGER BARN CONTEST

FFA & 4-H WHEELBARROW CONTEST

4-H FOOD CHALLENGE

CAKE DECORATING

Sponsored by:
U of I Extension
Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph & Williamson Counties
Saturday, August 29
3:00 p.m. – Stage at Expo Hall

1. **Open to all youth ages 8-18. You do not have to be a 4-H member.**
2. Contestants come at 2:30 p.m. to the EXPO HALL to set up.
3. All equipment and ingredients will be provided.
4. You may bring food coloring of your choice to add to icing.
5. You may bring special decorations for your project if you want.
6. You will be given an hour to finish your cake.
7. Entries for this contest must be submitted by August 25th, 2026 at noon. No late entries will be accepted.
8. Cakes will stay on display in the Expo throughout the duration of the rest of the fair.

Entry forms are available online. Entries can be mailed to:

Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events

655 Executive Dr.

Du Quoin, IL 62832

or by calling the office at 618-542-1509/618-542-1525

Any questions can be answered by calling the office at 618-542-1509.

No entry fee for this contest.

Entries will be judged on:

Decorative Skill	50%
Taste	30%
Presentation	20%

Awards will be given in two age categories, 8-12 and 13-18.

1st Place- Gift Card

2nd Place – Gift Card

3rd Place – Gift Card

FIRECRACKER SPICE CHALLENGE

Sponsored by:

Farm Fancy

Monday, August 31st

6:00 p.m. – Stage at Expo Hall

Every dish must have a KICK to represent fireworks!

1. Contestants come to the Expo Hall at 6:00pm with their Firecracker dish.
2. Contestants will explain what to expect when taking a bite of their Firecracker dish.
3. Provide plates and samples for judges (4-5)
4. Provide a recipe of what was used to create your food and be sure to include your name.
5. Entry forms are found online. Entries can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL 62832, or by calling the office at 618-542-1509/618-542-1525
6. NO ENTRY FEE. Entries for this contest must be submitted by August 27, 2026.

Entries will be judged on:

Spice Kick	50%
Taste	30%
Presentation	20%

Awards will be given:

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

BLUE RIBBON ROUTE 66 BBQ CONTEST

Sponsored by:

TOMAHAWK BAR & GRILL

Monday, August 31

7:00 P.M. – Stage @ Expo Hall

1. Contestants come to the Expo Hall at 6:00 pm to set up their BBQ plate.
2. Bring your best shredded/sliced BBQ sandwiches.
3. Provide plates for judges (4-6)
4. Bring ready to taste.
5. You can use chow and your favorite recipe of BBQ sauce.
6. Entry forms are online. Entries can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL 62832, or you may call the office at 618-542-1509.
7. NO ENTRY FEE.
8. Entries for this contest must be submitted by August 28, 2026.

No entry fee for this contest.

Entries will be judged on:

Taste	60%
Presentation	20%

Awards will be given:

- 1st Place – Gift Card
- 2nd Place – Gift Card
- 3rd Place – Gift Card

MYSTERY SACK COOKING CONTEST

Sponsored by:

The W Restaurant

Tuesday, September 1st, 2026

7:00 p.m. – Stage at Expo Hall

Bring an electric skillet, utensils, and three (3) condiments or spices of your choice. Salt and pepper will be available along with oil and water for cooking.

At time of contest, you will be given the MYSTERY BROWN BAG with various products purchased by The W Restaurant.

You will be given one hour to prepare your own creation from the bag. While cooking and stirring, you must come up with a name for the unique original recipe.

Entry forms are online. Entries can be mailed to the Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL 62832 or by calling the office at 618-542-1509.

Deadline to enter is Friday, August 28, 2026.

No entry fee.

Entries will be judged on:

Taste	50%
Creativity/Use of product	30%
Presentation	20%

*Be creative in your design of foods and dips, can add fresh flowers or greens for décor.

Awards to be given:

1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place

PATRIOTIC CHARCUTERIE BOARD CONTEST

Sponsored by:

Raggedy Sisters

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

6:00 pm – Stage at Expo Hall

1. Contestants come to the Expo Hall at 6:00 pm to set up their boards
2. Board size should be at least 9" x 13".
3. Provide plates for judges (4-6)
4. Think up a name for your charcuterie board. Be creative in your design of foods and dips. You can add fresh flowers, greens, or any other props for décor to go along with the patriotic theme. You may choose sweet, savory, or spicy.
5. Provide a typed copy of what is used on your board and any recipe that may have been used (in sauce, dip, or spread). Be sure your name is included.
6. Entry forms are online. Entries can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL 62832, or you may call the office at 618-542-1509.
7. NO ENTRY FEE.
8. Entries for this contest must be submitted by August 31, 2026.

Entries will be judged on:

Creativity 50%

Taste 30%

Assortment 20%

(Variety of foods)

Awards to be given:

1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place



4-H FLORAL CHALLENGE CENTERPIECE MAKING

Sponsored by:

U of I Extension

Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph & Williamson Counties

Thursday, September 3, 2026

6:00 p.m. – Stage at Expo Hall

1. **Open to all youth ages 8-18. You do not have to be a 4-H member.**
2. Contestants come at 5:30 p.m. to the EXPO HALL to set up.
3. All vases and flowers will be provided.
4. Bring your own scissors and cutting utensils.
5. You may bring up to 5 special decorations for your project if you want. (Examples: additional special flowers, ribbons, decorative picks, fillers.)
6. You will be given 45 minutes to finish your centerpiece.
7. Entry forms are found online. Entries can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL 62832, or by calling the office at 618-542-1509/618-542-1525
8. Entries for this contest must be submitted by August 25th, 2026 at noon. No late entries will be accepted.
9. Centerpieces will be on display in the Expo throughout the duration of the rest of the fair.

No Entry Fee for this contest.

Entries will be judged on:

Presentation	50%
Creativity	30%
Best Use of Product	20%

Awards will be given in two age categories, 8-12 and 13-18.

- 1st Place – Gift Card
- 2nd Place – Gift Card
- 3rd Place – Gift Card



RED, WHITE, AND BLUE DESSERT SHOWDOWN

Sponsored by:

Fare Foods

Thursday, September 3

7:30 P.M. – Stage @ Expo Hall

1. Contestants come to the Expo Hall at 7:15 pm to set up their dessert.
2. Create desserts using red, white, and blue, ingredients.
3. Provide plates for judges (4-6)
4. Think up a Patriotic name for your dessert. Be creative in decorating your dessert in a patriotic theme.
5. Provide a copy of your recipe and what was used to decorate your dessert. Be sure your name is included.
6. Entry forms are online. Entries can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL 62832, or you may call the office at 618-542-1509.
7. NO ENTRY FEE.
8. Entries for this contest must be submitted by September 1, 2026.

Entry forms are online and can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, IL 62832, or completed online at dsf.illinois.gov/competitions/home-show/cooking-contests

No entry fee for this contest.

Entries will be judged on:

Use of RED, WHITE, & BLUE ingredients	50%
Taste	30%
Presentation	20%

Awards will be given in two age categories, 8-12 and 13-18.

- 1st Place – Gift Card
- 2nd Place – Gift Card
- 3rd Place – Gift Card



ROUTE 66 SODA POP CHALLENGE

Sponsored by:

DOWNTOWN FIZZ

Friday, September 4, 2026

6:00 p.m. – Stage at Expo Hall

Make, create, and decorate, your personal dirty soda!

1. Contestants come to the Expo Hall at 6:00 pm
2. There will be a children's division and an adult division.
3. The cups, syrup, ice, straws, and soda will be provided by Du Quoin Downtown Fizz.
4. Each contestant can bring up to 4 items to add to their dirty soda.
5. Each contestant will need to come up with a name for their dirty soda.
6. Entry forms are online and can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, IL 62832, or completed online at ***dsf.illinois.gov/competitions/home-show/cooking-contests***
7. NO ENTRY FEE. Entries for this contest must be submitted by September 2, 2026

Entries will be judged on:

Creativity	40%
Taste	40%
Visual Presentation	20%

Awards will be given:

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place

ROUTE 66 WAFFLE SHOWDOWN

Sponsored by:

Gurtie's Goodies

Saturday, September 5th

10:30 A.M. – Stage at Expo Hall

1. Be creative and put your best waffle art mind to use!
2. Each contestant will get 4 waffles to use for their decorations.
3. Decorate the waffle(s) in a creative way.
4. Contestants can use the waffles for decorations and some for waffle art.
5. Contestants need to bring what they want to decorate the waffle with.
6. THE WAFFLE WILL BE DECORATED AT THE CONTEST.

Pre-registration is required for this contest.

Entry forms are online and can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, IL 62832, or completed online at dsf.illinois.gov/competitions/home-show/cooking-contests

NO ENTRY FEE.

Entries must be submitted by August 31st, 2026

Entries will be judged on:

Creativity	50%
Use of Decorations	30%
Overall Appearance	20%

Awards to be given:

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place



STAR SPANGLED APPETIZER CHALLENGE

Sponsored by:

BANTERRA BANK

Saturday, September 5

1:00 P.M. – Stage @ Expo Hall

1. Contestants come to the Expo Hall at 12:45 pm to set up their appetizer.
2. Create an appetizer using one red, one white, and one blue, element.
3. Provide plates for judges (4-6)
4. Think up a Patriotic name for your appetizer.
5. Provide a copy of your recipe and what was used to make your appetizer. Remember to put your name on it.
6. Entry forms are online. Entries can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL 62832, or you may call the office at 618-542-1509.
7. NO ENTRY FEE.
8. Entries for this contest must be submitted by September 1, 2026.

No entry fee for this contest.

Entries will be judged on:

Use of RED, WHITE, & BLUE elements	50%
Taste	30%
Presentation	20%

Awards will be given in two age categories, 8-12 and 13-18.

1st Place – Gift Card

2nd Place – Gift Card

3rd Place – Gift Card



GENERATION SHOWDOWN: KIDS VS KIN

Sponsored by:

Kalin's Café

Saturday, September 5th

2:00 P.M. – Stage @ Expo Hall

Did your parents or grandparents teach you everything you know about cooking? Did they teach you TOO much? Well, come out to our contest and prove it! Judges will pick who they think has the better dish, dessert, or soup.

1. Each contestant will have to challenge their kin on an item they both have cooked.
2. The challenger needs to be a child against their kin (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc.)
3. Each contestant will bring the same item that they have made at home.
4. The judges will do a blind taste test and decide who brings home the bragging rights for that dish!
5. Entry forms are online. Entries can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, IL 62832, or call the office at 618-542-1509.
6. NO ENTRY FEE
7. Entries for this contest must be submitted by Friday, September 4th, 2026

Entries will be judged on:

Taste	50%
Creativity	30%
Overall Appearance	20%

Awards to be given:

1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place

PATRIOTIC PIE BAKE OFF

Sponsored by:
Checker Flags and Lemonade Stands
Saturday, September 5th
7:00 p.m. – Stage at Expo Hall

Bake and decorate your pie in a Patriotic Theme!

1. Contestants come to the Expo Hall at 4:30 pm with their recreated fair food.
2. Each pie should be decorated with a patriotic theme. (Examples: stars, stripes, or flag inspired lattice crusts.
3. Using locally sourced ingredients will earn you some bonus points. Please bring an index card or piece of paper listing the ingredients you used and from what local sourced store it was bought from.
4. The pies can be sweet or savory.
5. Provide plates for judges (4-5)
6. Provide a recipe of what was used to create your food and be sure to include your name.
7. Entry forms are online and can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, IL 62832, or completed online at dsf.illinois.gov/competitions/home-show/cooking-contests
8. NO ENTRY FEE. Entries for this contest must be submitted by September 1, 2026.

Entries will be judged on:

Patriotic Presentation	50%
Taste	30%
Creativity	20%
Bonus	list on index card of local ingredients

Awards will be given:

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place



FARMYARD GINGER BARN CHALLENGE

Sponsored by:
Kellerman's Feed & Supply
Sunday, September 6th
4:00 p.m. – Stage at Expo Hall

Put your decorating skills to good use and turn a gingerbread house into a barn to celebrate the agriculture at the Du Quoin State Fair!

1. Each contestant will be given a gingerbread house and it is up to them to turn it into a gingerbread barn!
2. Contestants are allowed to bring 3 items from home to decorate the barn
3. We will provide some icing and candy pieces.

Entry forms are online and can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, IL 62832, or completed online at dsf.illinois.gov/competitions/home-show/cooking-contests

No entry fee.

Entries will be judged on:

Creativity	50%
Originality	30%
Overall Neatness & Appearance	20%

Be creative!

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place



FFA AND 4-H FLOWER CONTAINER/TUB CONTEST

Sponsored by:
FFA & 4-H

1. Open to all chapters or clubs of FFA or 4-H.
2. Each chapter or club would find a tub/container and fill it with decorations of your choice.
3. Decorations must be weighted appropriately and weatherproof.
4. Every tub/container must include your chapter or club name.
5. You can paint and decorate the tub anyway you want.
6. Entry forms are found online. Entries can be mailed to Du Quoin State Fair Competitive Events, 655 Executive Dr., Du Quoin, IL 62832, or by calling the office at 618-542-1509/618-542-1525
7. Entries for this contest must be submitted by August, September 24th.
8. To enter this contest please call Ericka Kirk at 618-357-212
9. There will be three places: Grand Prize, Governor's Choice, and Director's Choice.
10. The tubs/containers will then be displayed August 29- September 7 during the 2026 Du Quoin State Fair.

No Entry Fee for this contest.

