



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

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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

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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.

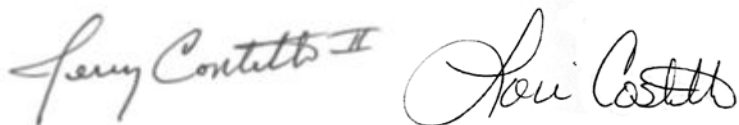
Of course, no fair visit is complete without the classics — a fresh corn dog, a cold lemon shake-up, and a ride on the Ferris wheel. But there's even more to discover around every corner. Feel the excitement of harness racing and USAC and ARCA auto racing on the legendary Magic Mile. Enjoy Grandstand 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





SPECIAL EVENTS

BOOK

DEPARTMENT 41

SPECIAL EVENTS

DUQUOIN STATE FAIR LITTLE MISS, JUNIOR MISS & PRE-TEEN MISS CONTEST

TWILIGHT PARADE

MARCHING BAND CONTEST

KIDS OF PERSONALITY CONTEST

PARENT/CHILD LOOK ALIKE PICTURE CONTEST

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PET/OWNER LOOK ALIKE PICTURE CONTEST

RECREATE PHOTO PICTURE CONTEST

LEGO CONTEST

MOO MOO CHUG-A-LUG

PONYTAIL/PIGTAIL CONTEST

SMILE CONTEST

QUARTERBACK CHALLENGE

NOT SO NEWLYWED SHOW

FFA FARMYARD FOLLIES

SUSAN BOSWELL MEMORIAL SUNSHINE PICNIC

KID'S DAY

GORGEOUS GOAT

BEARD/MULLET CONTEST

JUNIOR MULLET CONTEST

BACK SEAT DRIVING CONTEST

PEDAL PULL CONTEST

CUTEST FARMER CONTEST

NOT SO NEWLYWED SHOW #2

WASHER TOURNAMENT

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

CAMP AT THE FAIR

DUQUOIN STATE FAIR PAGEANT LITTLE MISS, JUNIOR MISS, & PRE-TEEN MISS CONTEST

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Exhibition Hall

Sponsored by: Fenton's Collision, The Flower Patch, and S.I. Event Co.

COME JOIN US FOR OUR DUQUOIN FAIR PRINCESS PAGEANT!

There will be three age divisions in this pageant: (Age on pageant day must be used)

Little Miss ages 4-6 on pageant day

Junior Miss ages 7-10 on pageant day

Pre-Teen Miss ages 11-14 on pageant day

They will be judged in 4 categories:

- Interview
- Route 66 Smiles for Miles – (Active Outfit) Examples: Soda Pop Shop waitress, vintage Route 66 attire, car attire. Dress up to represent the theme of Route 66. Represent the fair with the historic route 66 running through the state of Illinois.
- (Speaking question) on stage in cowgirl attire. Dress up like a cowgirl to represent the agriculture it brings to our fair.
- Party wear

Rules:

- All decisions by the judges are final.
- All outfits must be approved by the director before the pageant.
- The contestants will have two meetings for practice and one informational meeting. The informational meeting will be Tuesday, July 28th starting at 5:30 pm at the Expo Hall.
- The next practice will be at the Expo Hall on Tuesday, August 4th.
 - o Little Miss: 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm
 - o Junior Miss: 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm
 - o Pre-Teen Miss: 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm
- There will be a rehearsal on Tuesday, August 11th at 5:30 pm in the Expo Hall.
- Each contestant can wear make-up, but only light make up. This is a natural pageant.
- Each contestant will be allowed one person backstage with them during the pageant.
- The Little Miss will start at 3:00 pm on Sunday, August 16th followed by the Junior Miss and Pre-Teen Miss.
- Interviews will be conducted on Sunday, August 16th starting at 11:00 am.
- There is no fee to enter the pageant, although there will be a \$5 admission fee for family and friends to come watch.

The Du Quoin princesses that are chosen by judges will need to be available to ride in the parade on Friday, August 28th. Applications are due on Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 by the time of the meeting.

TWILIGHT PARADE

Friday, August 28th 2026

6:00 pm

Class No: 446

REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINE FOR FLOAT ENTRY

1. THEME FOR 2026: "Miles of Smiles"
2. DECORATIONS: It is strongly suggested by the Fair Committee that floats be covered with sturdy materials such as vinyl floral sheeting, enamel paint, or other materials which will hold up under adverse weather conditions.
3. SYMMETRY: Floats shall be constructed and decorated so that either side is equally appealing.
4. PARTICIPANTS NAME & FLOAT THEME: Floats will bear the name of the community, organization, or business firm entrant and the name of the theme depicted by the float. All signs must be of high quality and easily legible.
5. FLOAT DIMENSIONS: A single vehicle should be no more than 40 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 13' high.
6. **DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS AND CANDY FROM FLOATS:** Samples, candy, or other material of any sort **MUST NOT BE THROWN** from a float. All items must be handed out to viewers along the parade route. The Du Quoin Police Department, Illinois State Police, and parade monitors have been instructed to take necessary action in any removal of an entry from the parade.
7. DEFINITIONS: A non-commercial float is a float built by an organization or business firm, with the actual building of the float being done by the members and/or employees.
8. JUDGING: The Twilight Parade floats are judged by an impartial panel which has no connection with the parade or parade participants.

In making their final decisions, the judges will also consider the appearance and effectiveness of the float, intended costumes of the float riders, workmanship, attention given to minor details and completeness of decorations, with particular attention to aprons, both sides, and rear of float.

All floats must be parked in designated positions by 5:00 pm. Judging will take place during the parade.

All decisions of the judge are final.

9. AWARDS: The following is a list of the standard categories and general criteria to govern the selections of recipients: The winners will receive a plaque.

NON-COMMERCIAL ENTRIES:

Governor's Award- Most fitting presentation of the theme

Director's Award- Best musical representation

Hayes Memorial Award- Best display of originality

ALL ENTRIES: (including walking units)

Judge's Special Award- Judge's favorite entry

Manager's Award- Excellence in craftsmanship

Most Entertaining Award

Marketing Award- Best business promotion entry

10. DEADLINES: The entry deadline to be accepted in the Twilight Parade is August 13, 2026. The application must be completed and signed before being accepted by the Parade Committee.

11. Entry forms should be submitted to:

DuQuoin State Fair
Special Events Department
655 Executive Drive
DuQuoin, IL 62832

REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINE FOR ALL PARADE PARTICIPANTS

1. All entries must display their assigned parade number and are encouraged to carry identifying banners and signs.
2. Any walking group or unit must display an identifying banner and make some commitment to the theme.
3. No entry will be accepted unless the application is completed on both sides and signed.
4. Deadline for entries is August 13, 2026. Entries received after August 13, 2026 will be placed at the end of the line-up.
5. **QUEENS:** The Twilight Parade committee welcomes all queens to participate in the parade, but it is the policy of the committee, the Division of Fairs and Promotions, and the Illinois Department of Agriculture that Miss Illinois County Fair be the highlighted Queen of the parade. In addition, the Du Quoin State Fair Queens will be next.
6. **POLITICAL CANDIDATES:** Political candidates are welcome to be in this parade. Entries may consist of a float or they may walk with their spouses.
7. Information containing the line-up will be emailed to all participants.
8. The Twilight Parade will consist of the best 100 entries. Those entries that are unique and different will have the opportunity to be in the parade. Due to the length of the parade, all entries may not be accepted.
9. **DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL AND CANDY FROM FLOATS OR OTHER ENTRIES:** Samples, candy, or other materials of any sort **MAY NOT BE THROWN** from a float. All items must be handed to viewers along the parade route. The Du Quoin Police Department, Illinois State Police, and parade monitors have been instructed to take necessary action in the removal of the entry from the parade.
10. Failure of any applicant or participant to comply fully with any and said operation procedures shall make said applicant or participant unable to participate in the Du Quoin State Fair Twilight Parade. The parade committee shall have the right to approve or disapprove entries in this parade.

MARCHING BAND CONTEST

Friday, August 28, 2026

6:00 pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **DEADLINE:** Entries must be postmarked no later than August 13, 2026.
2. Participating bands will each receive \$300 and dance/drill team non-band entries will each receive \$100.
3. Each participating band and non-band will enter at Gate 5 where the parade will line up on South Fairgrounds Road and perform throughout the parade, which will travel up Midway Drive to Grandstand Avenue, to Main Street, and back to Trotter Avenue.

“KIDS OF PERSONALITY” BABY PICTURE CONTEST

EXPO HALL

Sponsored by:

The Upbeat Studio and Stevens Floral Gifts & Framing

Premium Number:

Premium Number:

447 Girls, 0-6 months
448 Girls, 7-11 months
449 Girls, 1 year
450 Girls, 2 years
451 Girls, 3 years

452 Boys, 0-6 months
453 Boys, 7-11 months
454 Boys, 1 year
455 Boys, 2 years
456 Boys, 3 years
457 Twins, 0-3 years and Multiples, 0-3 years

Photograph must be 8” x 10” firmly attached to white poster board which is 10” x 12” in size. All photographs must be color, black & white, or sepia tone. Only one entry per child. Photos to be taken in the last six months.

The following information must be recorded on the BACK CENTER of the poster board:

1. Both parent’s names
2. Address (Complete address & zip code)
3. Child’s name
4. Current age
5. Sex
6. Birthdate
7. Phone and/or cell phone number
8. Premium number

GRAND PRIZE WINNER WILL BE CHOSEN FROM 1ST PLACE RIBBON WINNERS.

Pictures will be judged on expression and personality of the picture. Photos entered do not have to be a professional photo.

Entry deadline for this contest is August 21, 2026. All pictures should be delivered to the Special Events area of the Expo Hall. Pictures not in the Expo Hall by 5:00 pm will not be judged.

All pictures will be on display in the Exhibition Building during the fair. PICTURES ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM THE BOARD BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE FAIR. Pictures removed without permission will be disqualified from future judging.

Pictures may be picked up on September 09, 2026, between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm in the Expo building. Any pictures not picked up will become the property of the Du Quoin State Fair.

Each category will have a 1st place winner. The picture chosen for the grand prize will be framed.

GRANDPARENT OR PARENT/CHILD LOOK ALIKE PICTURE CONTEST

Class Number:

- 458 Mother/Daughter
- 459 Mother/Son
- 460 Father/Son
- 461 Father/Daughter
- 462 Grandmother/Granddaughter
- 463 Grandfather/Grandson
- 464 Grandmother/Grandson
- 465 Grandfather/Granddaughter

1. Entry deadline for this contest is August 21, 2026. Entry must be pre-entered on a Du Quoin State Fair entry form.
2. All pictures should be delivered to the Special Events Office in the Expo building between the hours of 1:00pm and 5:00pm on Friday, August 21, 2026. Pictures can be turned into the Du Quoin State Fair Office before this date as well. Pictures not in the Special Events Office by 5:00 pm will not be judged. ABSOLUTELY NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
3. Photographs must be no larger than a 5" x 7". Photos are not required to be the same size, but must be firmly attached side by side to a WHITE poster board with a 1" border (NO DECORATIVE BORDER ALLOWED).
4. Photographs may be color, black and white, or sepia tone.
5. Du Quoin State Fair is not responsible for lost or damaged pictures. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER YOUR ONLY COPY OF OLD OR TREASURED PHOTOGRAPHS.
6. Only one entry per family per category.
7. The following information must be recorded on the back center of the poster board:

Parent's Name

Child's Name

Address (Complete address with zip code)

Telephone Number

Sex

Class Number

8. All pictures will be on display in the Exhibition Building during the fair. PICTURES ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM THE BOARD BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE FAIR. Pictures removed without permission will be disqualified from future judging.
9. Judging will be based on the likeness of the contestants, not the perfection of the photography. Entries may be two individual pictures of look alike or one picture with both look alike in it. There is no age limit.
10. DECISIONS OF THE JUDGE ARE FINAL.
11. Ribbons will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners in each group.
12. Pictures may be picked up on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, between the hours of 1:00pm and 5:00pm in the Expo Building

PET PHOTO CONTEST

<u>Entry number:</u>		<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
466	Cutest Dog Picture	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon
467	Craziest Dog Costume	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon
468	Cutest Cat Picture	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon
469	Craziest Cat Costume	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon
470	Cutest Any Other	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon
471	Craziest Costume Any Other	Ribbon	Ribbon	Ribbon

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. All pictures must be in our hands or delivered to the Special Events Office in the Expo Hall on or before August 21, 2026 by 5:00 P.M.
2. Photographs must be 5" x 7", firmly attached to white poster board which is 7" x 9" in size. Photos will not be accepted if mounted on any other material other than white poster board. Photos will not be accepted if mounted on any other material other than white poster board. Photos will not be accepted if framed in any way. Size must be 5" x 7" (no other size will be accepted).
3. All photographs must be in full color or black and white.
4. Photographs must have been taken within the past 6 months. Only one entry in each category per pet.
5. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE RECORDED ON THE BACK OF THE POSTER BOARD IN THE MIDDLE:
 - OWNER'S NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS WITH ZIP CODE
 - PHONE NUMBER
 - DOG OR CATS NAME AND APPROXIMATE AGE AT THE TIME OF PICTURE
 - ENTRY NUMBER
6. Judging will be based on personality and appeal – not on perfections of photography.
7. First, Second, and Third place ribbons will be awarded in each category.
8. All photographs will be on display during the entire Du Quoin State Fair, August 28 to September 07, 2026.
9. Pictures may be picked up on Wednesday, September 09, 2026, between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm in the Expo Building.

PET/OWNER LOOK ALIKE PICTURE CONTEST

Has anyone ever told you that you and your pet look alike? Well, here is your chance to win a prize for it! Enter a picture of you and your pet to show everyone how much you look like each other!

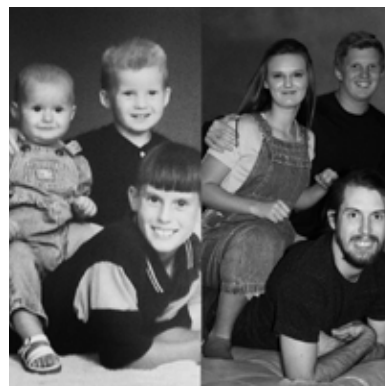
1. Entry deadline for this contest is August 21, 2026. Entry must be pre-entered on a Du Quoin State Fair entry form.
2. PHOTO should be delivered to the Special Events Office in the Expo Hall between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Friday, August 21, 2026. Pictures can be turned into the Du Quoin State Fair Office before this date as well. Pictures not in the Special Events Office by 5:00 pm will not be judged. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
3. PHOTOS may also be hand delivered to the Special Events Office in the Grandstand before the August 21, 2026 deadline.
4. Photographs must be 5" x 7" and firmly attached to a white poster board which is 7" x 9" in size. Photos will not be accepted if mounted to any other material other than white poster board. Photos will not be accepted if framed any other way.
5. Photographs may be color, black and white, or sepia tone.
6. Only one entry per owner with pet.
7. The following information must be recorded on the **BACK CENTER** of poster board:

Owner's Name

Complete Address with Zip Code & Phone Number

Pet's Name

8. Photographs will be judged on the likeness of the owner and pet.
9. **DECISIONS OF THE JUDGE ARE FINAL.**
10. Ribbons will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners in each group.
11. Photographs must stay on display during the entire Du Quoin State Fair.
12. **Photographs may be picked up on Wednesday, September 09, 2026, between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm in the Expo Hall.**



RECREATE PICTURE CONTEST

Recreate a picture from an old photo from the past years. Try to use similar clothing in your current size, strike a pose like the original picture, imitate the same facial expressions, and try to set the same background or pose.

1. Entry deadline for this contest is August 21, 2026. Entry must be pre-entered on a DuQuoin State Fair entry form.
2. All pictures should be delivered to the Special Events Office in the Expo Building between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00pm on Friday, August 21, 2026. Pictures can be turned into the Du Quoin State Fair office before this date as well. Pictures not in the Special Events office by 5:00 pm will not be judged. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
3. Photographs must be no larger than 5"x7". Photos are not required to be the same size but must be firmly attached side by side to a WHITE poster board with a 1" border (DECORATIVE BORDER NOT ALLOWED).
4. Photographs may be color, black and white, or sepia tone.
5. Du Quoin State Fair is not responsible for lost or damaged pictures. **PLEASE DO NOT ENTER YOUR ONLY COPY OF OLD OR TREASURED PHOTOGRAPHS.**
6. Only one entry per family.
7. The following information must be recorded on the back center of the poster board:
 - Contact Person Name/Entrant
 - Complete Address including Zip Code
 - Phone Number
 - Category entered
8. Judging will be based on the likeness of the two photos, clothing, posing, facial expressions, and similarity.
9. **DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.**
10. Ribbons will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners in each group.
11. Pictures may be picked up on Wednesday, September 09, 2026, between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm in the Expo Building.
12. Entries may be two separate pictures on the white poster board or one printed together with the pictures side by side.

Deadline is Friday, August 21, 2026.

**example photo*

Pick up is Wednesday, September 09, 2026.

LEGO CONTEST

Saturday, August 29, 2026

Expo Hall

Sponsored by: Southern Illinois Builders Association

618-624-9055 siba@siba-agc.org

Registration begins 30 minutes prior to start time. Participants will have 30 minutes to build. Judging will follow.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Age Categories: 5-8, 9-12, 13-17
2. LEGO Kits will be provided for the contest.
3. Prizes will be awarded.
4. Free to participate.

Ages 5-8	Group 1	Registration	9:00 am
		Lego Building	9:30 am
		Judging	10:00 am
Ages 9-12	Group 2	Registration	10:30 am
		Lego Building	11:00 am
		Judging	11:30 am
Ages 13-17	Group 3	Registration	12:00 pm
		Lego Building	12:30 pm
		Judging	1:00 pm
	Championship	Lego Building	1:30 pm
		Judging	2:00 pm

JUNIOR KIDS MULLET CONTEST

Saturday, September 5th, 2026

5:30 P.M.

Competition Corner

Sponsored by: Country Cutz

CATEGORIES:

Entry Number:

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 472 | Longest Mullet |
| 473 | Most Unique Mullet Design |
| 474 | Best Trimmed and Clean-Cut Mullet |

1. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each category.
2. Decisions of the judges are final.
3. NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
4. REGISTRATION WILL BE DAY OF CONTEST.
5. Ages 17 and under.

PONYTAIL/PIGTAIL CONTEST

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Sponsored by: Wild Stylez

1:30 pm – Entertainment Tent

Class 1 – Ponytail Contest

0-2 years of age

3-4 years of age

5-6 years of age

7-9 years of age

10-12 years of age

13-16 years of age

Class 2 – Pigtail Contest

0-2 years of age

3-4 years of age

5-6 years of age

7-9 years of age

10-12 years of age

13-16 years of age

GENERAL INFORMATION

NO PRE-REGISTRATION NECESSARY

REGISTRATION WILL BE DAY OF CONTEST

1. Length of hair will be the chief factor in judging- measuring from the base (rubber band) of the ponytail/pigtail to the end of the longest hair. In case of pigtails, both pigtails will be measured, and the longest will be recorded.
2. In case of a tie for first place overall, hair will be judged on neatness and beauty.
3. If the hair is braided, it must be braided as far as possible.
4. Applicants are eligible for either the Ponytail or Pigtail competition, not both.
5. Prizes will be awarded to the first 3 places in each division.
6. One overall champion in the Ponytail Contest and one overall champion in the Pigtail Contest will be given an award.
7. A ponytail is one (1) – either braided or not.
8. A pigtail is two (2) – either braided or not.
9. If a participant fails to comply with the rules, the contestant will be allowed to have the hair re-combed.
10. Decisions of the judges are final.

SMILE CONTEST

Sunday, August 30, 2026

2:00 pm – Entertainment Tent

Sponsored by: Chelsea Rae Photography

Girl- Ages 0-2

Girl- Ages 3-4

Girl- Ages 5-8

Girl- Ages 9-12

Teen Boys and Girls- Ages 13-15

Boy- Ages 0-2

Boy- Ages 3-4

Boy- Ages 5-8

Boy- Ages 9-12

GENERAL INFORMATION

NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

REGISTRATION WILL BE DAY OF THE CONTEST

1. Registration for the Smile Contest will begin at 1:45 pm.
2. Contestants are judged on overall presentation and personal appeal and sparkle.
3. Decisions of the judges are final.

QUARTERBACK CHALLENGE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30th, 2026

3:00 PM

Competition Corner

BE #1 AND TEST YOUR QUARTERBACK SKILLS!

Sponsored by: Lee's Sporting Goods

CONTESTANTS WILL THROW A FOOTBALL THROUGH A TARGET. THE CONTEST WILL BE JUDGED BY ACCURACY AND DISTANCE.

3-4 YEARS OF AGE	BOYS	GIRLS
5-6 YEARS OF AGE	BOYS	GIRLS
7-9 YEARS OF AGE	BOYS	GIRLS
10-13 YEARS OF AGE	BOYS	GIRLS
13-17 YEARS OF AGE	BOYS	GIRLS

1. Each contestant will get five tries to throw the football through the target. Those having the best out of 5 throws will advance to the next distance.
2. Applicants can register up to the time of the contest.
3. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each age division and gender.
4. Decisions of the judges are final.

NOT SO NEWLYWED SHOW

Sunday, August 30th, 2026

6:00 pm – Expo Hall

Sponsored by:

St. Nicholas Brewing Co.

Sunday, September 6, 2026

6:00 pm – Expo Hall

Sponsored by: St. Nicholas Brewing Co.

This is a contest for COUPLES ONLY. Registration can be made in advance by calling the event coordinator, Tawmi Conley at 618-626-6036 or email Tawmi.Conley@illinois.gov

Couples can also register the day of the show in the Expo Hall prior to show time.

Couples will be asked several questions about each other's likes or dislikes, first date, favorite movie, etc. The couple with the most correct answers will win 2 tickets to either a Grandstand night show or a weekend car race.

This event is so popular, we are having two shows!

FFA FARMYARD FOLLIES

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

4:30 pm

Located at the Heartland Coca-Cola Covered Horse Arena @ Gate 3

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Each team will consist of members from their High School FFA Chapter. Graduates of 2026 are not eligible.
2. Teams must pre-register by August 28, 2026.
3. FFA Advisors must report to the Horse Arena staging area by 4:00 pm on the day of the contest for registration.
4. The competition will consist of several "Farmyard" events. A list of events will be mailed to the advisor after entry is received by the Fair.
5. Plaques will be awarded to the first six places.
6. Judges have the right to limit the number of entrants if deemed necessary.
7. Decisions of the judges are final.

SUSAN BOSWELL MEMORIAL SUNSHINE PICNIC

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

VIP TENT 1

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact: Our Directions

800 East Herrin
Herrin, IL 62948

For Questions: Please call 618-988-8178 and tell the receptionist you will be attending the "Sunshine Picnic" or email verna@ourdirectionsinc.com

Or: DuQuoin State Fair
655 Executive Drive
DuQuoin, IL 62832
618-626-6036

KIDS DAY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 OR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2006

9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

This event will start at the Expo Hall

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Kid's Day is open for all surrounding schools.
2. The age is geared for elementary and junior high students.
3. This is a free event offered to all local schools.
4. Each school will have the option to attend Thursday or Friday.
5. Each school will need to fill out an application to attend. Please email Tawmi Conley at Tawmi.Conley@Illinois.gov or call 618-626-6036. The application will be online.
6. The fair has the right to limit the number of entrants if deemed necessary due to trams.
7. The schools will have to provide their own transportation to the Du Quoin State Fair.
8. The students will need to bring a sack lunch to eat at the Expo during lunchtime.
9. The students will rotate around to different shows and exhibits which are normally performed during the Du Quoin State Fair. The organizations will perform special shows for the students.
10. Home School students are welcome but will also need to fill out an application.

GORGEOUS GOAT CONTEST

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Open Air Barns next to the Horse Arena

12:00 PM

Sponsored by: First National Bank in Pinckneyville

GENERAL INFORMATION

Do you think you have the cutest goat? Prove it to everyone else!

Contestants will dress up their goat and they will be judged on the following categories listed below:

- Creativity
- Costume
- Originality

A top 3 will be picked in each category.

Join the fun! Registration will begin at 11:00 am

Prizes will be awarded to the winner!

MOO MOO CHUG-A-LUG

Saturday, August 29, 2026

5:30 pm

Exhibition Building

Sponsored by: Filson Appraisal

Contestants will have a set amount of milk cartons to drink in a limited amount of time. The person to drink the most will win!

1. Each contestant will have the same amount of milk cartons, and they will have to chug the entire carton. These will be the tiny school cartons.
2. The person who finishes fastest is the winner!

Prizes will be given to the winner!

Must be at least 16 years old to participate.

BEARD OR MULLET CONTEST

Saturday, 5th, 2026

4:00 pm – Beer Tent

Sponsored by: Razor's Edge Barber Shop

BEARD CONTEST- Let's see what you can GROW!

CATEGORIES

Entry Number:

475	Longest Beard
476	Most Unique Beard Design
477	Most Historic Nature Beard
478	Best Trimmed and Clean-Cut Beard
479	Longest Mullet
480	Most Unique Mullet Design
481	Most Historic Nature Mullet
482	Best Trimmed and Clean-Cut Mullet

1. Prizes will be awarded for the top three places.
2. Decisions of the judges are final.
3. NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
4. REGISTRATION WILL BE DAY OF THE CONTEST.

BACK SEAT DRIVING CONTEST

Saturday, September 5th, 2026

Competition Corner

6:00 P.M.

Sponsored by: Linzee Insurance

Prizes will be awarded.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. All entries must consist of two (2) people, at least one needs to be an adult.
2. Entrants will drive a designated course set up by the judges.
3. Either team member may drive. THE DRIVER WILL BE BLINDFOLDED.
4. The passenger will direct the driver through the course VERBALLY. NO DRIVING IN REVERSE.
5. The passenger may not touch the steering wheel or handle.
6. There will be a time limit of three (3) minutes to complete the course.
7. The object is to see which team can complete the course in the shortest time with the fewest collisions. If you go completely out of the course, your time will be doubled. If you hit a cone, 10 seconds will be added to your time.
8. No reckless driving will be allowed.
9. Judges have the right to limit the number of entrants if deemed necessary and the decision of the judges are final.
10. Contestants may enter the day of the contest.
11. NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
12. REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD THE DAY OF THE CONTEST.

PEDAL PULL COMPETITION

OPEN DIVISION

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Expo Hall

Sponsored by: Du Quoin Dental Dome, Kasey Pyron DMD

Registration & Weigh IN-12:00 pm

Pull 1:00 pm

Premium Number:		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
483	Class 1- 35-49 lbs	\$50	Ribbon	Ribbon
484	Class 2- 50-59 lbs	\$50	Ribbon	Ribbon
485	Class 3- 60-69 lbs	\$50	Ribbon	Ribbon
486	Class 4- 70-79 lbs	\$50	Ribbon	Ribbon
487	Class 5- 80-99 lbs	\$50	Ribbon	Ribbon
488	Class 6- 100-109 lbs	\$50	Ribbon	Ribbon

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Competition is open to all boys and girls weighing between 35 and 109 pounds in attendance on the day of the pull. There will be no advance entries.
2. All contestants must register by 12:45 pm. No registrations accepted after pull begins.
3. The winner of each contest is determined by who can pedal the tractor down the track the farthest while pulling a weigh transfer sled.
4. The decisions of the judges are final.
5. The contestants will be weighed at the registration
6. Contestants will need to provide their social security number if they win to get their prize money.

CUTEST LITTLE FARMER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2026

3:30 PM – Expo Hall

Sponsored by:

Martel's Pizza

Girls 2-5

Boys 2-5

Girls 6-10

Boys 6-10

GENERAL INFORMATION

NO PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. REGISTRATOIN WILL BE THE DAY OF THE CONTEST.

1. Registration will begin at 3:15 P.M. If the pedal pull is still going on, then registration will begin directly following the pedal pull competition.
2. Contestants are judged on overall impression, personal appeal, neatness, creativity, and overall effect of their costume. Contestants may bring one object as a costume accent. No live animals will be allowed as part of the costume.

WASHER TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 07, 2026

Beer Tent – Noon

Sponsored by: Smile Design

Premium Number:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
489	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$50

GENERAL INFORMATION

PRE-ENTRY NOT REQUIRED

1. Registration for the washer tournament contest will begin at 11:00 am.
2. Each team will consist of 2 players.
3. Decision of the judges will be final.

Pre-registration can be mailed to the Special Events Coordinator, Tawmi Conley, 655 Executive Dr., DuQuoin, IL 62832 or email tawmi.conley@illinois.gov. For questions, call 618-626-6036.

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 07, 2026

Beer Tent – 2:30 P.M.

Sponsored by:

Saints & Spirits

Premium Number:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
490	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$50

GENERAL INFORMATION

PRE-ENTRY NOT REQUIRED

1. Registration for the Corn Hole tournament contest will begin at 1:30 P.M.
2. Each team will consist of 2 players.
3. Decision of the judges will be final.

Pre-registration can be mailed to the Special Events Coordinator, Tawmi Conley, 655 Executive Dr., DuQuoin, IL 62832 or email tawmi.conley@illinois.gov. For questions, call 618-626-6036.

DUQUOIN STATE FAIR HEARTLAND COCA-COLA CAMPGROUND

South Highway 51

DuQuoin, IL 62832

Phone: (618)-542-1515

Registration: A limit of 6 people per campsite. Check out time is 2:00 pm Monday- Saturday, 4:00 pm on Sunday. (During fair, the campground office is open 8am to 8pm)

Rates: \$25.00 per night

CAMPGROUND RULES:

Pets are welcome if kept on a leash and picked up after. Pets should not disturb other campers.

Do not dump waste water or gray water on the ground.

Quiet hours: 10:00 pm to 7:00 am **STRICTLY ENFORCED**

Campfires are permitted only in **above ground** fire pits.

No sleeping in pavilions or rest rooms.

No swimming in lakes. No boats on the lake.

Please bag garbage and place it in trash cans.

Parents are responsible for their children and their behavior.

Visitors to campers must leave by 10:00 pm.

Please drive slowly and watch for children. **SPEED LIMIT 20 MPH**

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Police, and Ambulance.....911

Fairground Security.....618-521-2935