

DAIRY CATTLE

03 - Junior Dairy Cattle Show

Superintendent: Jeremy Huelsman (708-204-4545)

Open Class Premiums Offered: \$8,768.00

Land of Lincoln Class Premiums Offered: \$7,700.00

**Premiums will be pro-rated according to participation and pay up to six (6) places.*

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$20.00/head (entry fee), \$10.00/head (manure), and \$9.50/exhibitor (supply chain surcharge). Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois 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 a.m. to 4 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before July 15, 2026. Fees will not be refunded.

Animal Processing:

Stalls Available	Monday, August 17, 12:00 p.m.
Animals in place by	Tuesday, August 18, 9:00 a.m.
Ring Cards Issued	Upon Check-in
Animals Released	
Ayrshire, Guernsey & Jersey	Saturday, August 22, 2:00 p.m.
Holstein, Brown Swiss & Milking Shorthorn	Saturday, August 22, 3:30 p.m.

All exhibitors must check in with the Superintendent for stall assignments before unloading. Further, only one vehicle per stalling group will be allowed to unload and load on the street between Brick Barn Series 18 and 25 on the South, and Brick Barn Series 25 and 36 Barn Series on the North.

***Note – Dairy Cattle Exhibitors will not be paid for milk produced on the fairgrounds. Milk will be hauled away as fluid waste with no milk samples or records collected.*

Show Schedule

Shows will be held in the South Showring of Junior Livestock Barn unless otherwise noted. Start times may vary slightly from the published schedule. Exhibitors should watch and listen to announcements.

Wednesday, August 19

8:00 a.m. – Ring 1: Jersey cows, followed by heifers

8:00 a.m. – Ring 2: Ayrshire & Guernsey cows, followed by heifers (alternating breeds)

11:30 a.m. – Ring 1: Holstein cows, followed by heifers

11:30 a.m. – Ring 2: Brown Swiss & Milking Shorthorn cows, followed by heifers (alternating breeds)

3:00 p.m. – Showmanship (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age groups)

Saturday, August 22 (Livestock Center)

8:00 a.m. – Invitational 4-H Dairy Judging

11:00 a.m. – Supreme Champion Heifer & Female

Superior Young Dairy Producer Awards

Department Rules

1. Each exhibitor must comply with the Illinois Exhibition Health Requirements; Animal Care, Drug, Testing and Welfare Policies; and General Rules of the Junior Livestock Division.

2. Each exhibitor must be present to show their own animals unless exempted in advance by the Superintendent due to an identified, eligible conflict.
3. Junior and Open Show registration and ring card distribution will be conducted simultaneously in stalls.
4. Animals must be purebred and recorded in their respective National Breed Herd Book.
5. Animals shown in the Junior Dairy Cattle Show may be owned or leased. If owned, registration must show ownership of the animals in the name of the exhibitor or ownership by immediate family members including the exhibitor for the period required in the 4-H or FFA projects. If leased, registration may be in the name of the owner, but the exhibitor must provide a copy of the lease agreement in which the exhibitor is identified as the lessee, and the lease must be properly signed by both owner and lessee. Certificates from breed association representatives will not be accepted in lieu of registration papers.
6. The date shown on the registration papers will be taken as the effective date of ownership and the date on the lease agreement will be taken as the effective date of possession if animals are leased.
7. Entries in the dairy classes (either owned or leased) must have been owned or in the possession of the exhibitor and part of his/her project by June 1, 2026.
8. Exhibitors are allowed open substitution across class numbers in the dairy show. All substitutions must be made at the time of check-in.
9. Entries in the cow classes may or may not be in milk; however, all animals in milk must show in cow classes.
10. Each exhibitor is required to pre-enter Showmanship classes online by the published Junior Department entry deadline. Showmanship age will be the exhibitors age as of August 13, 2026.
11. All milking age cows are eligible for the Best Udder class in their division. Exhibitors must enter this class by the online registration deadline. There is no entry fee for these classes.

Special Awards

Supreme Champion Heifer and Female: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitor of the Supreme Champion Heifer and Supreme Champion Female of the Junior Show. An award will also be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitor of the Supreme Champion Land of Lincoln Heifer and Female of the Junior Show. Additionally, the exhibitor of the Land of Lincoln Supreme Champion Female will be the recipient of the proceeds from the sale of a Bonnie Mohr print at the livestock auction of the 2027 Governor's Sale of Champions.

Breed Awards: The following awards will be given in each Breed Division: Junior Champion & Reserve Champion Female, Senior Champion & Reserve Champion Female, Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion Female.

Best Udder: An additional \$20.00 for first place and \$15.00 for second place will be awarded to the top two best udders in each of the Land of Lincoln cow classes.

CLASSES

Division 0301 - Ayrshire

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2026, must be 4 months of age at show day	001	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2025, and last day of Feb. 2026	002	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2025	003	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2025	004	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2025	005	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	006	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	007	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2023, and Aug. 31, 2024	008	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug 31, 2023	009	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2022	010	*

Division 0302 – Brown Swiss

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2026, must be 4 months of age at show day	001	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2025, and last day of Feb. 2026	002	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2025	003	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2025	004	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2025	005	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	006	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	007	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2023, and Aug. 31, 2024	008	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug 31, 2023	009	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2022	010	*

Division 0303 – Guernsey

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2026, must be 4 months of age at show day	001	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2025, and last day of Feb. 2026	002	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2025	003	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2025	004	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2025	005	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	006	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	007	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2023, and Aug. 31, 2024	008	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug 31, 2023	009	*

4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2022	010	*
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Division 0304 – Holstein

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2026, must be 4 months of age at show day	001	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2025, and last day of Feb. 2026	002	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2025	003	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2025	004	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2025	005	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	006	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	007	*
Junior 2-Year Cow and Yearling in Milk	Born between Mar. 1 and Aug. 31, 2024	008	*
Senior 2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2023, and last day of Feb. 2024	009	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug 31, 2023	010	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2022	011	*

Division 0305 - Jersey

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2026, must be 4 months of age at show day	001	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2025, and last day of Feb. 2026	002	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2025	003	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2025	004	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2025	005	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	006	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	007	*
Junior 2-Year Cow and Yearling in Milk	Born between Mar. 1 and Aug. 31, 2024	008	*
Senior 2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2023, and last day of Feb. 2024	009	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug 31, 2023	010	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2022	011	*

Division 0306 – Milking Shorthorn

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2026, must be 4 months of age at show day	001	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2025, and last day of Feb. 2026	002	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2025	003	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2025	004	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2025	005	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	006	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	007	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2023, and Aug. 31, 2024	008	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug 31, 2023	009	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2022	010	*

Division 0307 – Showmanship

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Junior Group	Exhibitors 8-12 years of age (by Aug. 13)	001	N/A
Intermediate Group	Exhibitors 13-16 years of age (by Aug. 13)	002	N/A
Senior Group	Exhibitors 17 and under 21 years of age (by Aug. 13)	003	N/A

Junior Dairy Cattle Pee-Wee Show

Saturday, August 22, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

South Showing Junior Building

Check-In: 8:30-9:00 a.m.

Department Rules

1. The exhibitor's participation is subject to parent's discretion.
2. No advanced registration or entry fees will be required.
3. All animals exhibited must comply with the General Health Regulations of the Illinois State Fair.
4. All animals exhibited must be entered and shown in the Junior and/or Open Show(s) and stalled at the Illinois State Fair.
5. All breeds will be shown together in the identified age classes.
6. Milking animals must be shown in cow classes.
7. All classes will be judged based on showmanship only.
8. No premiums will be paid to exhibitors; however, ribbons will be awarded.
9. Registered participants will be divided into groups of no more than six per group.