

SWINE

05 - Junior Swine Show

Superintendent: Eric Fugate (#217-898-0825)
Junior Gilt Class Premiums Offered: \$4,400.00
Land of Lincoln Gilt Class Premiums Offered: \$6,273.00
Junior Barrow Class Premiums Offered: \$6,305.00
Land of Lincoln Barrow Class Premiums Offered: \$3,540.00
**Premiums will be pro-rated according to participation and pay up to six (6) places.*

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$10.00/head (entry fee), \$5.00/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.

Deadlines and Check-in

Pens Available	Tuesday, August 11, 6:00 a.m.
Health Checks	Tuesday, August 11 from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 pm. To 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 12 from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Animals must be penned as follows:

Gilts	Wednesday, August 12, 8:00 a.m.
Barrows	Thursday, August 13, 10:00 p.m.

Ring Cards Issued:	Date:	Location:
Purebred and Crossbred Gilts	Check-in cards will be distributed Tuesday, August 11, 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Outside of Open Swine Barn Office
	Nomination and classification check-in Wednesday, August 12, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Exhibitor's pens
	In-ring paperwork check-in and weigh-in (as necessary) Wednesday, August 12, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	North Showring, Junior Barn
	Second chance check-in Wednesday, August 12, 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	North Showring, Junior Barn
Barrows	Check-in cards will be distributed Wednesday, August 12, 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Outside of Open Swine Barn Office
	Nomination and classification check-in Thursday, August 13, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Exhibitor's pens
	In-ring paperwork check-in Thursday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	North Showring, Junior Barn

	Second chance check-in Thursday, August 13, 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	North Showring, Junior Barn
Premier Carcass Barrows	Thursday, August 13, 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Open Swine Barn Showring

Animals Released	Saturday, August 15 Immediately following Junior Barrow Show
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**Special Note – No grooming or exhibitor tents larger than 10'x12' will be allowed and all tents around the Open Barn must have one side touching the brick wall and located only in areas where vehicles can still park perpendicular to the building between the tent and roadway without impeding traffic flow on the road.*

Show Schedule

Start times may vary slightly from the published schedule. Exhibitors should watch and listen for announcements.

Thursday, August 13

5:00 p.m. – Showmanship (Open Swine Barn Showring)

Friday, August 14

7:00 a.m. – Junior Gilt Show (North Showring – Junior Barn)

Saturday, August 15

7:00 a.m. – Junior Barrow Show (Open Swine Barn Showring)

6:00 p.m. – Junior Show Grand Champion Barrow Selection (Coliseum)

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 Show exhibitors are reminded they must adhere to the Junior Show registration and ring card distribution requirements to exhibit in the Junior Show. Open Show registration does not fulfill Junior Show requirements.
4. All entries in the Junior Swine Show must have a properly registered 840 tag and accompanying paperwork. All entries in the Junior Swine Show must be properly ear notched. Both ears must be notched, and all ear notches must be completely healed and visible. Ear notches will be read on the purebred system. If the exhibitor uses another system, he/she must draw a diagram. Any animal whose ears show signs of being tampered with will be disqualified.
5. Only those animals listed in the online entry system by ear notch will be allowed to exhibit at the Fair.
6. Animal health papers will be checked prior to animal unloading. No animals may be unloaded prior to veterinary inspection of both the animals to be shown and the health papers.
 - a. Trucks and trailers with swine must enter Gate 8 of the Fairgrounds where they will be directed to veterinary inspection lines.
 - i. Inspections will occur on the following schedule:
 1. Tuesday, August 11, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 pm. To 11:00 p.m.
 2. Wednesday, August 12, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - b. Inspectors will reference animal health papers using EID tags for identification.

- c. Exhibitors shall provide two (2) physical copies of health papers at the time of veterinary inspection.
 - d. Animals will be visually inspected for precluding health issues.
 - e. At the completion of inspection, the veterinary staff will stamp the health papers, and the exhibitor will be allowed to proceed to unloading areas.
 - f. Any exhibitor that unloads without the prescribed veterinary health inspection and stamped health papers will be disqualified from exhibiting and will be ordered to immediately remove their animals from the fairgrounds.
 - g. Exhibitors will be allowed to unload tack and set up pens prior to conducting the veterinary inspections, but no swine are allowed in either barn until they have been inspected by the veterinary teams.
7. Original registration papers will be required in all purebred classes. Certificates from breed association representative will not be accepted in lieu of registration papers. Additionally,
- a. 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.
 - b. In extreme emergencies, a faxed copy of the registration paper(s) from the National Association with a cover letter will be accepted two (2) hours before the start of the barrow or breeding stock check-in.
 - c. To be eligible to show, all purebred animals must meet all requirements for registration in accordance with their respective breed associations. Each breed will need a representative present during check-in to screen animals.
 - d. All of these requirements will be examined by the Superintendent and his/her assistants or appointed committee who, along with the General Livestock Superintendent, shall have full authority regarding show eligibility.
8. All purebred animals exhibited are subject to DNA testing for verification of pedigree, parentage and/or purity by the National Swine Registry or Certified Pedigreed Swine. DNA testing requirements for each breed can be found on their respective breed websites.
9. No boars will be shown in the Junior Swine Show.
10. All pens will be assigned by the Superintendent on the basis of a minimum of two (2) head per pen, unless an exhibitor has only one (1) entry. Animals must be penned according to these assignments. Additional pens, for any reason, will be at the discretion of the Superintendent. Exhibitors are encouraged to bring their own pen dividers to accommodate individual penning needs. No feed, equipment, or show boxes will be allowed in pens.
11. No equipment owned by counties or exhibitors will be allowed to block aisles.
12. No blowers, turbofans, appliances, misters, swamp blasters, air conditioning units, or cooling systems, bicycles, skateboards or scooters of any kind will be allowed in the barns.
13. The following grooming practices are prohibited in the Junior Swine Show:
- a. The use of any substance to alter or enhance the color of animals, including hide, hair and hooves.
 - b. The use of any substance, material or product to build, change or alter the shape or conformation of animals.
 - c. The use of any substances of augmentations that adversely affect a carcasses ability to enter the food chain may result in disqualification at the discretion of the superintendent and General Livestock Superintendent.

- d. Animals will be subject to a white or black towel test as they enter the show ring for their class, division champion selection, breed champion selection, and the grand champion drive. Detection of substances to alter or enhance animals will result in disqualification of the animals.

Specific Rules for Gilts and Barrows

Gilts

14. All gilts will be penned in the Junior Barn (30 Building) by the county in which the exhibitor participates in 4-H and/or FFA.
15. Gilts must have been farrowed on or after January 1, 2026, and must have been the property of the exhibitor and part of his/her project as of June 1, 2026. The date shown on the registration papers will be taken as the effective date of ownership.
16. Gilt exhibitors are not required to have completed Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Certification.
17. An exhibitor is limited to entering and showing four (4) head in the Junior Gilt Show.
18. An exhibitor may show up to four (4) gilts with a maximum of two (2) animals in the same class. Gilts may be purebred, crossbred or any combination.
19. Gilts may be pregnancy checked using ultrasound. The Illinois State Fair Junior Gilt Show is restricted to open gilts. Any gilts detected as pregnant will be disqualified.

Purebred Gilts

20. To be eligible to show, all purebred gilts must meet all requirements for registration in accordance with their respective breed associations. A committee of two (2) breed representatives, appointed by the Department Superintendent, will screen all gilts to check registration papers and breed character.
21. All class breaks for purebred gilt shows will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Crossbred Gilts and Barrows

22. Crossbred gilts and barrows will be divided into light and dark class divisions as follows:
 - a. Light Cross classes will include animals with white, red and/or blue only.
 - b. Dark Cross classes will include animals with any black pigmentation, including black spots, ears, tails, legs, etc.
 - c. The superintendent has the authority to move any animal from a Light Cross weight class to the corresponding Dark Cross weight class if black marking is evidenced at check-in.
 - d. Both the Light Cross and Dark Cross champions are eligible to show in the overall grand champion drive.
23. There is no minimum weight for crossbred gilts, but the maximum weight is 350 pounds.
24. Crossbred gilt classes will be placed into weight classes based upon weigh-in weight at check-in. All class breaks for the crossbred gilt show will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.
25. Practice scales will be available in the barns for use by exhibitors. There will be no re-weighing at the conclusion of judging for each weight class.
26. Crossbred gilts are eligible for the Grand Champion Gilt competition.

Barrows

27. All barrows will be penned in the Open Swine Barn by the county in which the exhibitor participates in 4-H and/or FFA.
28. Barrows must have been farrowed on or after January 1, 2026, and must have been the property of the exhibitor and a part of his/her project as of June 1, 2026.
29. Barrows must be completely healed from castration and not show any scabs.
30. All Premier Carcass barrow entries must be shown on-foot to be eligible for carcass evaluation.
31. Premier Carcass barrow exhibitors only must have completed the Youth Quality Assurance (YQCA) Certification and submit his/her certification number at the time of Premier Carcass barrow check-in. Direct questions to Dan Jennings at 815-218-4358.
32. An exhibitor is limited to entering and showing four (4) heads in the Junior Barrow Show with a maximum of two (2) barrows allowed to show in the same class. If properly nominated, two (2) of the four (4) barrows may be Premiere Carcass barrows.
33. Barrows will be placed into weight classes based upon declared weights made at check-in. Purebred classes will have approximately twelve (12) animals per class and crossbreds approximately fourteen (14) per class. All class breaks for purebred or crossbred shows will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.
34. Practice scales will be available in the barns for use by exhibitors. The judges will determine the optimum number of animals in class that will be re-weighed. Animals that vary more than fifteen (15) pounds from the declared weight will be disqualified.
35. The check-in card, registration paper, health papers, and for premier barrows the PQA Certificate, must be submitted at the time of check-in.
36. Barrows must have a declared weight of at least 220 pounds and not more than 300 pounds, except for Premier Carcass barrows, to be eligible to show.
37. All barrows must vacate the Open Swine Barn immediately after the conclusion of the Open Barrow Show on Sunday, August 16. Only Premier Carcass Barrows will be loaded for the packing plant at the conclusion of the Open Barrow Show. All other barrows are the responsibility of the exhibitor and must be removed from the building. Pens will be available in the Junior Barn (30 Building) following the Open Barrow Show. At the discretion of the Open Swine Superintendent, there may be pens available on the far north end of the Open Swine Barn, but availability is not guaranteed.

Specific Breed Rules

Berkshire

38. Berkshire swine must be registered by the American Berkshire Association (ABA), PO Box 122, Winimac, IN 46996. The ABA is the only Berkshire registry recognized by the National Association of Swine Records (NASR) and the National Pedigreed Livestock Council (NPLC).
39. All gilts must have a minimum of six (6) quality teats on each side to be eligible to show. A Berkshire cannot have white skin or hair that continuously encircles the body anywhere between the base of the ear and the base of the tail and must meet all registry requirements, including no swirls on the upper half of the body. All eligibility concerns shall be brought to the show committee which has the authority to disqualify any animal in question.
40. Pedigrees must have stress negative status printed on the pedigree.

Chester White

41. Only stress negative breeding stock are allowed to be exhibited.

42. The Junior Show Champion Chester White Gilt may sell at the Open Chester White Sale as long as the gilt is also shown in the Open Show. The sale position will be determined by the sale committee.

Spotted Swine

43. All spotted swine exhibited at the Illinois State Fair must meet any requirements set by the National Spotted Swine Registry.
44. A purebred spotted gilt, with a purebred spotted pedigree is eligible to show.
45. A spotted pietrain gilt is eligible to show and must be three-quarters (3/4) spotted blood concentration or higher with the remaining percentage being pietrain.

Landrace

46. Landrace swine may not exhibit "excessive" skin pigmentation or any hair color. "Excessive" is defined as other three (3) pigmentation spots, any one (1) of which is larger than the size/diameter of one (1) U.S. minted quarter.

Special Awards

Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Runners-up Gilts: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitors of the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Gilts of the Junior Show at the Illinois State Fair, as well as to the exhibitors of the Second, Third, and Fourth Runners-Up.

Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Barrows: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitors of the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Barrows, as well as the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Land of Lincoln Junior Show Barrow. Additionally, the Grand Champion Junior Show Barrow and Grand Champion Land of Lincoln Junior Show Barrow will sell at the livestock auction of the Governor's Sale of Champions.

Champion Swine Showman: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the Champion Showman of each age division, as well as the Overall and Reserve Overall Champion Swine Showman of the Junior Show.

Junior Swine Family Award: Upon decision of the Swine Superintendent, an award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to a family that assists their own junior exhibitors, as well as other junior exhibitors in preparing for processing, weighing, and showing in an exemplary manner.

Special awards presented by Breed Associations are the responsibility of those associations and the Department Superintendent or Illinois State Fair.

CLASSES

Division 0501 – Barrows

Exhibitors are eligible to enter up to four (4) barrows. Exhibitors may list up to 20 ear notches in the ear notch field at time of entry. At check-in Department staff will review registration papers and entry information to ensure the ear notch is listed in the entry and then break classes by breed.

Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Barrow General Entry	A	*
<i>Champion and Reserve Champion Barrow will be named in each breed. Champion and Reserve will be named in Light and Dark Crossbred Barrows. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Barrow, and 2nd-4th Runner-up will be selected from breed champions.</i>		

Division 0502 – Gilts

Exhibitors are eligible to enter up to four (4) barrows. Exhibitors may list up to 20 ear notches in the ear notch field at time of entry. At check-in Department staff will review registration papers and entry information to ensure the ear notch is listed in the entry and then break classes by breed.

Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Gilt General Entry	A	*
<i>Champion and Reserve Champion Gilt will be named in each breed. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Gilt, and 2nd-4th Runner-up will be selected from breed champions.</i>		

Division 0503 – Showmanship

1. The Showmanship Contest is open to all exhibitors in the Junior Swine Show of the 2026 Illinois State Fair. Each exhibitor is required to pre-enter Showmanship classes online by the published Junior Department entry deadline.
2. The Showmanship Contest will be held Thursday, August 13, 5:00 p.m. in the Open Swine Barn Showing.
3. Exhibitors must show an animal he/she has exhibited or will exhibit in the Junior Show.
4. Exhibitors will be divided into five (5) divisions based on number of participants and exhibitor age as of August 13, 2026. Class breaks will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.
5. The winners of each age division will compete for Champion and Reserve Champion Swine Showman.
6. Showmanship classes will be evaluated on the following criteria: 45% on Showing and Appearance of the animal, 10% on Dress of the Exhibitor, 5% on Equipment in the showing, 20% on Knowledge of Swine, 20% on Courtesy to the Judge and other Exhibitors.

Division 0503 – Showmanship

Open Class
Showmanship
A
<i>Champion and Reserve Champion Showman will be named.</i>

Division 0504 – Premier Carcass

Division 0501 - Premier Carcass		
Open Class		
Carcass Barrow	A	*
<i>Entry into this division includes entry into the on-foot evaluation class as well as the carcass evaluation class. Exhibitors should not enter carcass animals in Division 0501. See Premier Carcass Premium Book Section for complete rules.</i>		

Junior Pee-Wee Pig Show
Sunday, August 23, 2026 – 12:00 p.m.
Open Swine Barn Showring
Registration: Sunday, August 23, 10:00 a.m.

Department Rules

1. The Pee-Wee Show is for children unable to show in the Junior Show of the Illinois State Fair due to age limitations. Exhibitors must be under ten (10) years of age as of September 1, 2025.
2. Participation is subject to parents' discretion and parents must be Illinois residents.
3. There will be a \$20.00 entry fee per head and all money, after award expenses, will be jackpotted. Checks should be made payable to Mark Anderson and given to him at check-in, the day of the show.
4. Animals may arrive on the day of the show, Sunday, August 23, 2026, or Saturday, August 22, 2026, once the Berkshire show has ended.
5. All animals exhibited must comply with the General Health Regulations of the Illinois State Fair. Exhibitors will be required to present a certified health paper for the animal exhibited.
6. Purebred animals must have registration papers.
7. Breeding classes will be divided based on number of animals and animal ages.
8. Barrow classes will be divided based on number of animals and animal weight.
9. The Show Coordinators shall have complete authority to organize and conduct the show in a manner they deem appropriate to ensure a safe, fair, and efficient show.
10. All questions should be directed to Mark Anderson at phone number 217-720-7172.