

**SPECIAL NON-STATE FAIR SPONSORED LIVESTOCK EVENTS
AT THE 2026 ILLINOIS STATE FAIR**

- Master Showmanship Contest
- Illinois Guernsey Breeders' Association Futurity Show
- Illinois Jersey Cattle Club Futurity Show
- Illinois Milking Shorthorn Arnold A. Kohley Memorial Futurity Show
- Kinder Goat Club Show
- Heartland Pygmy Goat Club Springfield Special Show
- Illinois Junior Beef Association Jackpot Heifer Show
- Illinois Club Lamb Association Market Ewe Lamb Show
- Dorper Sheep Breed Club Show
- ILWS Meat Goat Wether Series Show
- Marion R. Nash Memorial Rooster Crowing Jamboree



2026 Illinois State Fair Master Showmanship Contest

The Illinois State Fair Master Showmanship Contest (MSC) will be **Friday, August 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. or 30 minutes following the conclusion of all junior livestock shows.** The contest will be held in the Junior Livestock Barn and the Open Swine Barn at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The beef division will be in the junior beef ring, and the swine and sheep divisions will be in the open swine ring. The event will simultaneously run three species contests with a set of judges in each ring. Participants will be scored in each round based on overall showmanship abilities. **Participants must check in at the Illinois Farm Bureau tent outside the Junior Livestock Barn between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.** on the day of the contest. If the participant is unavailable during check-in time, they may send a representative to check in on their behalf.

The Master Showmanship Contest is coordinated by the Illinois Farm Bureau and the RFD Radio Network. Contest results and photos will be posted on the "Illinois Farm Bureau" Facebook page following the contest.

Rules

1. The exhibitor must be a 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 (must be at least 14 but cannot have reached their 19th birthday before September 1, 2025 - birth date between 9/1/2006 and 9/1/2011).
2. The exhibitor must be enrolled in a 4-H livestock event in the county they are representing.
3. There may only be one (1) contestant per county.
4. All contestants must be selected through their designated county University of Illinois Extension 4-H show. There may only be one (1) contestant per county. Contestants from contests at other fairs will not be eligible to enter the State Master Showmanship Contest.
5. To participate in the state event, a county must select one (1) overall showmanship winner prior to the state event. This must be accomplished through a county-based contest or set of guidelines established and published to all available participants.
6. An exhibitor may participate in the state MSC for multiple years if the following permit:
 - a. The exhibitor has not previously been recognized as the Overall Winner of the state MSC.
 - b. The exhibitor is chosen as the overall county/fair winner.
 - c. County contest rules permit an individual to be the county winner multiple times.
 - d. County rules and guidelines adhered to and followed.
 - e. The exhibitor must be able to attend and participate in the state contest at the Illinois State Fair. If the county winner cannot participate in the state contest, then the county University of Illinois Extension office may select an alternate.
7. Participants must supply their own livestock for the competition. Each exhibitor must own or borrow each: a steer or heifer, a market or breeding lamb, and a market hog or breeding gilt. **The MSC will not provide animals for the contest.**
8. **All animals being shown in the MSC must be entered and checked in at the Illinois State Fair.**
9. All state contest participants will receive a T-shirt and an exhibitor harness that are both required to be worn during the contest.

10. Prizes will be awarded to the Top 5 Overall and Top 3 in each species division at the conclusion of the contest. **Winners are responsible for any and all applicable state or federal taxes due to the value of the prizes.**
11. **County contest coordinators must submit the intent to participate form by June 1.**
12. To participate in the state contest, the exhibitor must have all paperwork filled out correctly with required information. **The contest organizer must receive this information by August 1.** If a fair occurs after the deadline, exhibitor must submit the participant information immediately following the county contest.
13. Due to timing and scheduling constraints, no special accommodation will be made to allow an exhibitor to participate in simultaneous events on the fairgrounds the evening of the MSC. If the exhibitor is not present at the beginning of the state contest, he or she will be automatically disqualified from competition.
14. Contest organizers withhold the right to expel any individual who has violated any of the rules or regulations or exhibits improper conduct that is unbecoming of a 4-H member.
15. In the event of a state contest cancellation, contest organizers are not liable for any lost revenues, expenses incurred, or schedule inconvenience, and are not bound to issue any awards or prizes.
16. The state contest will adhere to any and all guidelines in relation to the Illinois State Fair issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and all livestock exhibited in the MSC must meet the Illinois Exhibition Animal Health Requirements of the State Fair.
17. Judges and emcees will only be furnished for the state contest.

Tentative Schedule:

Round # / Time	Beef Round	On Deck for Beef	Hogs Round	On Deck for Hogs	Sheep Round	On Deck for Sheep
1- 6:00 p.m.	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
2- 6:15 p.m.	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 1
3- 6:30 p.m.	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 1	Group 2
4- 6:45 p.m.	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
5- 7:00 p.m.	Group 5	Group 6	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
6- 7:15 p.m.	Group 6	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
8:45 p.m.	Awards					

ILLINOIS GUERNSEY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION FUTURITY SHOW

Illinois Two-Year-old Futurity

Thursday, August 20, 2026, after milking yearling classes

Livestock Center, Illinois State Fairgrounds

Entry must be an Illinois owned two (2) year old previously nominated with the Illinois Guernsey Breeders' Association, Mary Mohr, Secretary, 1942 Ropp Road, Normal, IL 61761. The added purse for the Illinois Guernsey Breeders' Two (2) year old Futurity shall consist of all monies received as nomination fees, subsequent payments or contributions less actual expenses incurred in administration of the show. The purse shall be divided and paid directly by the Association among the first twenty (20) placings as follows:

1 st	20%
2 nd	15%
3 rd	10%
4 th	6%
5 th	5%
6 th -10 th	4%
11 th -15 th	3%
16 th -20 th	2%

If less than twenty (20) animals are shown, the portion of the unclaimed purse shall be applied to future Illinois Guernsey Futurities.

ILLINOIS JERSEY CATTLE CLUB FUTURITY SHOW

Illinois Two-Year-old Futurity

Thursday, August 20, 2026, after milking yearling classes

Livestock Center, Illinois State Fairgrounds

The Illinois Jersey Cattle Club sponsors a Futurity show for two (2) year old females. The purse shall consist of all monies received as nomination fees, subsequent payments or contributions less actual expenses incurred in administration of the show. The purse shall be divided and paid directly by the club as follows:

1 st	20%
2 nd	15%
3 rd	10%
4 th	6%
5 th	5%

Any animal exhibited will at least receive at least the entry fees. The remainder of the money will be prorated among the top five (5) animals.

ILLINOIS MILKING SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION

Arnold A. Kohley Memorial Futurity Show

Friday, August 21, 2026, after milking yearling classes
Livestock Center, Illinois State Fairgrounds

The *Arnold A. Kohley Memorial Futurity* was established in memory of the late Arnold A. Kohley, a longtime exhibitor of Milking Shorthorn at the Illinois State Fair. Entry must be an Illinois bred and owned, two (2) year and under three (3) year old cow, previously nominated with the Illinois Milking Shorthorn Association. All futurity fees must have been paid on the entry by July 1 of the year of the futurity. The purse for this futurity shall consist of all monies received as nomination fees and subsequent payments made on nominations as specified by the rules of the futurity. The futurity purse shall be divided and paid directly by the Illinois Milking Shorthorn Association among the first twelve (12) placings as follows:

1 st	25%
2 nd	20%
3 rd	15%
4 th	10%
5 th	5%
6 th -10 th	3%
11 th and 12 th	2%

KINDER GOAT CLUB SHOW

Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Goat Barn, Illinois State Fairgrounds

The Kinder Goat Breeders Association extends an invitation to all Kinder Goat exhibitors to enter and participate in their Club Show at the Illinois State Fair. This is a Kinder Goat Breeders Association Club Show and Association rules will apply.

Entry forms will be available from Show Director Kelsee Gibbs, 618-615-7624, and should be returned to her upon arrival at the State Fair.

HEARTLAND PYGMY GOAT CLUB

Springfield Special Show

Friday, August 21, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.
Goat Barn, Illinois State Fairgrounds

The Heartland Pygmy Goat Club extends an invitation to all Pygmy Goat exhibitors at the Illinois State Fair to enter and participate in the *Springfield Special Show*. This is a National Pygmy Goat Association sanctioned show and NPGA rules will apply. Only animals entered in the Saturday State Fair Junior and/or Open Show are eligible to compete.

Classes will be similar to those offered in the Open Pygmy Goat Show of the Illinois State Fair. Entry forms will be available from the Show Secretary and should be returned to the Secretary at the State Fair.

IJBA JACKPOT SHOW

Sunday, August 16, 2026, at NOON
South Showring of the 30 Building /Junior Livestock Barn

General Rules

1. Exhibitors must be over 8 and under 21 years of age as of January 1, 2026.
2. All animals must have health papers from a veterinarian.
3. All entries must be registered in the name of the exhibitor, who must show the heifer, unless other arrangements have been made with IJBA Jackpot Show Staff.
4. This is an IJBA Points Sanctioned Show.

Heifers and Cow-Calf Pairs

5. Registration papers are required.
6. Registered heifers will be shown by age from youngest to oldest.
7. Heifer and cow-calf classes will be offered for any breed that has at least five (5) head. Registered females with less than five (5) head per breed will show in an All Other Breeds (AOB) Class.
8. **NEW** – There will be a Commercial Heifer class that will show by weight. Weights must be declared during the entry process.

Entries

9. All entries will be made online through ShoWorks platform. The registration form link can be found on the Illinois Beef Association website at www.illinoisbeef.com. Online entries are due Friday, August 7, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. at the rate of \$25 per entry. Late entries will be accepted until Tuesday, August 11, 2026, through 3:00 p.m. at the rate of \$45 per entry.
10. All questions can be directed to Devin Bollman by calling 217-787-4280 or emailing devin@illinoisbeef.com
11. All exhibitors must be Illinois Junior Beef Association members.
12. Entry fees are non-refundable.

Stalling

13. All the non-Illinois State Fair cattle brought onto the fairgrounds for the Jackpot Show only should be stalled in the Junior Livestock Building.
14. All heifers and cow-calf pairs *not* showing at the Illinois State Fair should arrive on the grounds during the day, Saturday, August 15, 2026.
15. When your breed show is completed, you will be released.

Premiums

16. All entry fees will be redistributed.

Show Order

17. Show order will be posted in the Junior Livestock Building by NOON, Saturday, August 15, 2026.

ILLINOIS CLUB LAMB ASSOCIATION

Market Ewe Lamb Show

Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
North Sheep Barn, Illinois State Fairgrounds

The Illinois Club Lamb Association (ICLA) extends an invitation to all members at the Illinois State Fair to enter and participate in the *Market Ewe Lamb Show*. Exhibitors must be current members of ICLA and lambs shown must have been shown and nominated at a previous ICLA Jackpot Club Lamb Show during the current show season.

Pre-registration is required and may be done by contacting Rodney Knittle through the Association website at www.illinoisclublamb.com.

GREAT LAKES REGION DORPER AND WHITE DORPER ASSOCIATION

Club Show

Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
North Sheep Barn, Illinois State Fairgrounds

Illinois Dorper Breeders and Exhibitors extend an invitation to owners and exhibitors of Dorper Sheep to participate in a Club Show. The show will be run much as the shows of other breeds at the Illinois State Fair and will have a modest per head entry fee. Entry fees will be combined and jackpotted.

Additional information is available by contacting Chris Crider at 309-826-5372 or emailing to Cecrider89@gmail.com.

ILLINOIS WETHER SERIES (IWS)
Meat Goat Wether Series Show
Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 3:00 pm
Goat Barn, Illinois State Fairgrounds

Show Rules

The Series Shows are limited to youth 5 to 21 years of age as of January 1 of show year.

ETHICAL FITTING PRACTICES MUST BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES.

1. The two highest placing wethers of an exhibitor will contribute to the individuals ILWS points per show.
2. The accumulated points for all shows will equal the total calculated points for the series.
3. Youth may enter and show a maximum of four wethers at any individual show unless otherwise specified by a specific show.
4. Youth must show their own wether unless there are two or more wethers entered by the same youth in a particular class. This includes champion drive.
5. Wethers must have ownership declared before weigh-in and may not be entered or shown in another youth's name after being weighed-in. (ALL blankets must be removed before weigh-In)
6. Wethers must have all kid teeth still in place.
7. Wethers must be slick shorn to an even length (3/8" or less) above the knee and hock but excluding the head and tail switch.
8. Wethers may not have any testicular tissue or exhibit behavioral signs of still being intact males. Disbudded is preferred or encouraged but horns are not a disqualification.
9. Each entry will cost \$25 each animal at time of registration.
10. Prizes for each division will be awarded at the end of the show that day.
11. The highest two-point totals at the end of the year, regardless of age, will be awarded Grand and Reserve Overall respectively. The Grand and Reserve will each receive a special reward.
12. The ILWS reserves the right to drug test any animal exhibited in a series show for any illegal substances.
13. Participation is not limited to Illinois youth. However, only Illinois residents can participate and accumulate points in the series.
14. The coordinator of each individual show reserves the right to refuse entry into the show to any animal that exhibits a transmissible disease, fungus, etc.; or to any individual or family not acting in an appropriate manner as deemed by the show committee without refunding any monies.

ILLINOIS WETHER SERIES (IWS)
Meat Goat Wether Dam (Slick) Series Show

Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 3:00 pm
Goat Barn, Illinois State Fairgrounds

Show Rules

The Series Shows are limited to youth 5 to 21 years of age as of January 1st of the show year

The Illinois Wether Series is a set of at which youth show their does to accumulate points over the summer. The series is sponsored by local goat associations, breeders, feed companies and other friends of the goat industry. There will be a Wether Dam (slick-shorn) and Wether Dam (Hair) show. Awards for the top two individual does in each category will be recognized.

1. Current membership is not required for participation in any of the doe shows. However, only ILWS series members are eligible to accumulate points towards Premier exhibitor awards and overall doe awards.
2. Only the two highest placing Wether Dam Slick does of an exhibitor will contribute to the individuals ILWS points per show.
3. The accumulated points of all shows will equal the total calculated points for the series.
4. Youth may enter and show a maximum of four does (haired & slick-shorn) at any individual show unless otherwise specified by a specific show. 8 doe's total.
5. Youth must show their own does unless there are two or more does entered by the same youth in a particular class. This includes champion drives. Must be ILWS member to assist in showing another member's animal.
6. Does must have ownership declared before weigh-in and may not be entered or shown in another youth's name after being weighed-in. (ALL Blankets must be removed before Weigh In)
7. Doe classes will split by weight and determined by the number of entries per show. All does must have milk teeth to be eligible to show.
8. Wether Dam (Slick Shorn Doe) must be clipped to an even length (3/8 inch or less) above the knee and hock but excluding the head and tail switch. If over 3/8" at weigh in they will put into the Wether Dam haired class. If weights are declared and the hair is too long you will not show in your class points will be excluded for the entire show.
9. Each entry will cost \$25 for each animal at the time of the show unless the show has existing entry fees.
10. Prizes in each division will be awarded at the end of the show.
11. Highest two-point totals at the end of the year, regardless of age, will be awarded Grand and Reserve Overall respectively. The Grand and Reserve will each receive a special reward.

ILLINOIS WETHER SERIES (IWS)
Meat Goat Wether Dam (Hair) Series Show

Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 3:00 pm
Goat Barn, Illinois State Fairgrounds

Show Rules

The Series Shows are limited to youth 5 to 21 years of age as of January 1st of the show year

The Illinois Wether Series is a set of at which youth show their does to accumulate points over the summer. The series is sponsored by local goat associations, breeders, feed companies and other friends of the goat industry. There will be a Wether Dam (slick-shorn) and Wether Dam (Hair) show. Awards for the top two individual does in each category will be recognized.

1. Current membership is not required for participation in any of the doe shows. However, only ILWS series members are eligible to accumulate points towards Premier exhibitor awards and overall doe awards.
2. The two highest placing does of an exhibitor will contribute to the individuals ILWS points per show.
3. The accumulated points of all shows will equal the total calculated points for the series.
4. Youth may enter and show a maximum of four does (hair & slick-shorn) at any individual show unless otherwise specified by a specific show. 8 doe's total.
5. Youth must show their own does unless there are two or more does entered by the same youth in a particular class. This includes champion drives. Must be ILWS member to assist in showing another member's animal.
6. Does must have ownership declared before weigh-in and may not be entered or shown in another youth's name after being weighed-in. (ALL Blankets must be removed before Weigh In)
7. Doe classes will split by weight and determined by the number of entries per show. All does must have milk teeth to be eligible to show.
8. Each entry will cost \$25 for each animal at the 5me of the show unless the show has exis5ng entry fees.
9. Prizes for each division will be awarded at the end of the show.
10. Highest two-point totals at the end of the year, regardless of age, will be awarded Grand and Reserve Overall respectively. The Grand and Reserve will each receive a special reward.

ILLINOIS WETHER SERIES (IWS)

Showmanship Series Show

Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 3:00 pm

Goat Barn, Illinois State Fairgrounds

1. By becoming a member, you are automatically enrolled into accumulating points earned in showmanship. Becoming a member enrolls you in the Showmanship, Wether Series point program and High Point Exhibitor Award.
2. Each show will include showmanship, and the cost of entry is \$10.00 each show or at the discretion of show committee.
3. Exhibitors MUST show their own animal registered in their name upon entry. No bucks will be shown in showmanship. Exhibitors can show wethers, wether dam (Slick or Hair) with milk teeth in place. Exhibitor must show an animal that is registered as their animal on the day of the show. No farm name or family nominations will be accepted.
4. Prizes for each high point showmanship division winners at the end of the year.
5. Prizes will be awarded at each show in the series for winners in each division. Prizes awarded by each individual show may vary depending on the show

Showmanship Divisions by age as of January 1st of the show year

Novice 5 – 8 years of age

Junior 9-12 years of age

Intermediate 13-16 years of age

Senior 17 – 21 years of age

Points for Series Shows and Showmanship

1st in Class = 6 x # head in class

2nd in Class = 5 x # head in class.

3rd in Class = 4 x # head in class.

4th in Class = 3 x # head in class.

5th in Class = 2 x # head in class.

6th or lower in class = 5 points

Grand Overall = 15 points

Reserve Overall = 12 points

6. Classes may exceed 5 heads, but the maximum number of head in class factors for points calculation will be 5. (For example, a class of 8 will be scored 30,25,20,15,10,5,5,5)
7. Members must show in at least 2 shows to be eligible for end of year showmanship award.
8. Participation is not limited to Illinois residents. Only Illinois residents can participate and accumulate points in the series.
9. The coordinator of each individual show reserves the right to refuse entry into the show to any animal that exhibits a transmissible disease, fungus etc., or inappropriate actions.

**Friends of the Illinois State Fair
present the**



Marion R. Nash Memorial Rooster Crowing Jamboree

Friday, August 14, 2026, at 11:00 am

East Side of Poultry Building, Barn 105, Illinois State Fairgrounds

**This fun event is sure to provide a friendly, entertaining contest for exhibitors,
their friends, family and fair attendees.**

Prizes and/or awards presented.

RULES:

1. Open to Poultry exhibitors who entered a rooster in the Open Poultry Show.
2. You must be entered in the Rooster Crowing Contest with the rules committee by 9 a.m. on the day of the show. No entries will be accepted after 9:00 a.m. (No exceptions)
3. Each exhibitor may enter one rooster. Only one rooster per cage is acceptable. The rooster entered must be owned and exhibited in the Open Show by the participant.
4. Each participant must bring one person to officially count. That person will be assigned to a cage to count official and true crows.
5. Contest will be 30 minutes in length. The rules committee will certify the crows and tabulate. The rooster with the most crows during that time will be the winner.
6. Participants may not touch animals to make them crow.
7. Cruelty to the animals will *NOT* be tolerated and will result in automatic disqualification from the contest.
8. Prizes will be awarded to the top crowing rooster(s). Ties will have a 5-minute crow-off. Prizes are subject to change and availability and will be announced the day of the show.
9. The rules committee has final say over contest governance.

END OF SPECIAL NON-STATE FAIR SPONSORED LIVESTOCK EVENTS