

DAIRY CATTLE

03 - Junior Dairy Cattle Show

Superintendent: Jeremy Huelsman (#708-204-4545)

Superintendent: Deb Pflasterer (#217-449-3369)

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) and \$10.00/head (manure). 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, 2025. Fees will not be refunded.

Notice to Exhibitors

Beginning in 2025, Individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, ("840" tag), and the tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.

Animal Processing:

Stalls Available	Monday, August 11, 12:00 p.m.
Animals in place by	Tuesday, August 12, 9:00 a.m.
Ring Cards Issued	Upon Check-in
Animals Released	
Ayrshire, Guernsey & Jersey	Saturday, August 16, 2:00 p.m.
Holstein, Brown Swiss & Milking Shorthorn	Saturday, August 16, 3:30 p.m.

**Note – No dairy cattle, feed, bedding, show tack, or equipment may arrive on the fairgrounds prior to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 10. 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 for announcements.

Wednesday, August 13

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 16 (Livestock Center)

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

12:00 p.m. – Supreme Champion Heifer & Female

12:30 p.m. – 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. An rRTPCR test for Influenza A virus (IAV) on milk from lactating dairy cattle exhibiting at the Illinois State Fair shall be conducted prior to livestock arriving on the fairgrounds. The animals must be sampled no more than seven (7) days prior to the date of arrival and a negative test record must be presented to Department staff.
3. Each exhibitor must be present to show their own animals unless exempted in advance by the Superintendent due to an identified, eligible conflict.
4. Exhibitors may stall animals in the Open or Junior Dairy Barns.
5. Junior and Open Show registration and ring card distribution will be conducted simultaneously in stalls.
6. Animals must be purebred and recorded in their respective National Breed Herd Book.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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, 2025.
10. Exhibitors are allowed open substitution across class numbers in the dairy show. All substitutions must be made at the time of check-in.
11. Entries in the cow classes may or may not be in milk; however, all animals in milk must show in cow classes.
12. 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 7, 2025.
13. 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 Over All Breeds: 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 at the 2025 Illinois State Fair. 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 at the 2025 Illinois State Fair. 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 2026 Governor's Sale of Champions.

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

Best Udder Classes: The top two (2) Best Uddered animals from milking classes will be recognized with ribbons in both junior and Land of Lincoln classes.

CLASSES

Division 0301 - Ayrshire

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2025, must be 4 months of age at show day	01	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	02	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	03	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2024	04	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2024	05	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2023, and last day of Feb. 2024	06	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2023	07	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug. 31, 2023	08	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2021, and Aug 31, 2022	09	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2021	10	*
Best Udder		11	*

Division 0302 – Brown Swiss

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2025, must be 4 months of age at show day	01	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	02	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	03	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2024	04	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2024	05	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2023, and last day of Feb. 2024	06	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2023	07	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug. 31, 2023	08	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2021, and Aug 31, 2022	09	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2021	10	*
Best Udder		11	*

Division 0303 – Guernsey

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2025, must be 4 months of age at show day	01	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	02	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	03	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2024	04	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2024	05	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2023, and last day of Feb. 2024	06	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2023	07	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug. 31, 2023	08	*

3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2021, and Aug 31, 2022	09	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2021	10	*
Best Udder		11	*

Division 0304 – Holstein

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2025, must be 4 months of age at show day	01	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	02	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	03	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2024	04	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2024	05	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2023, and last day of Feb. 2024	06	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2023	07	*
Junior 2-Year Cow and Yearling in Milk	Born between Mar. 1 and Aug. 31, 2023	08	*
Senior 2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and last day of Feb. 2023	09	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2021, and Aug 31, 2022	10	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2021	11	*
Best Udder		12	*

Division 0305 - Jersey

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2025, must be 4 months of age at show day	01	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	02	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	03	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2024	04	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2024	05	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2023, and last day of Feb. 2024	06	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2023	07	*
Junior 2-Year Cow and Yearling in Milk	Born between Mar. 1 and Aug. 31, 2023	08	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and last day of Feb. 2023	09	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2021, and Aug 31, 2022	10	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2021	11	*
Best Udder		12	*

Division 0306 – Milking Shorthorn

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after Mar. 1, 2025, must be 4 months of age at show day	01	*
Winter Heifer Calf	Born between Dec. 1, 2024, and last day of Feb. 2025	02	*
Fall Heifer Calf	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2024	03	*
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born between June 1 and Aug. 31, 2024	04	*
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born between March 1 and May 31, 2024	05	*
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born between Dec. 1, 2023, and last day of Feb. 2024	06	*
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30, 2023	07	*
2-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug. 31, 2023	08	*
3-Year Cow	Born between Sept. 1, 2021, and Aug 31, 2022	09	*
4-Year Cow and Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2021	10	*
Best Udder		11	*

Division 0307 – Showmanship

Class	Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered*
Junior Group	Exhibitors 8-12 years of age (by Aug. 7)	01	N/A
Intermediate Group	Exhibitors 13-16 years of age (by Aug. 7)	02	N/A
Senior Group	Exhibitors 17 and under 21 years of age (by Aug. 7)	03	N/A

Junior Dairy Cattle Pee-Wee Show

Saturday, August 16, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

South Showring Junior Building

Check-In: 9:00-9:30 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.