

2026 Rock Island County Fair Open Class Shows General Rules and Regulations

Section I.

TERMS OF ADMISSION

1. Single Admission
 - a. Adults – Free Before 8pm/\$5.00 8 pm-Close
 - b. Children 12 Years Old & Under - Free
2. Grandstand -
 - a. Tuesday, July 14, 2026- BMX Races – East Moline BMX Speedway – 7 pm
 - b. Wednesday, July 15, 2026 – Viola Boyz - Quad Races – 7 pm
 - c. Thursday, July 16, 2026 – Viola Boyz Truck and Tractor Pull – 7 pm
 - d. Friday, July 17, 2026 – Viola Boyz Figure Eight Races Demolition – 7 pm
 - e. Saturday, July 18, 2026 – Viola Boyz Demolition Derby – 6 pm
 - i. <https://www.rockislandfair.org/grandstandevents>
3. Parking Pass
 - a. Daily pass - \$10.00
 - b. Weekly pass - \$40.00
 - c. One free weekly pass will be given to each exhibitor.
 - d. Free parking outside fairgrounds in designated areas.

ENTRIES AND EXHIBITS

1. Entries will be accepted online or mailed in.
 - a. Mailed entries must be postmarked by midnight on Monday, July 6, 2026.
 - b. Mail entries to: RICO Fair, 4200 Archer Drive, East Moline, IL 61244.
 - c. Online entries must be time-stamped by midnight on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.
 - d. Online entries may be made at www.rockislandfair.org
 - e. Late fees will apply to any entries made between Wednesday, July 8, at midnight and Monday, July 13, at noon. No entries will be accepted after Monday, July 13, at noon.
2. **There will be no refunds on entry fees or stall fees.**
3. Late entries are subject to the Superintendent's discretion and will be charged an additional \$25.00 per person, UNLESS DEPARTMENT RULES STATE OTHERWISE.
4. Every animal or article must be entered in the name of the bona fide owner or forfeit all premiums.
5. Exhibitors are not limited to the number of entries, UNLESS DEPARTMENT RULES STATE OTHERWISE, but may only collect 2 monies in any one lot number.
6. Superintendents may participate in professional classes, but no other classes in their department.
7. **The RICO Fair Association takes reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of all exhibits, but in no case will the management be responsible, in any way, for any loss, damage or injury to the property of any exhibit while it is on the grounds.**
8. **Exhibits in all departments will be released Saturday, July 18, 2026, between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., or Sunday, July 19, 2026, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (noon) UNLESS DEPARTMENT RULES STATE OTHERWISE.**

PREMIUMS

1. *IN THE EVENT THE STATE OF ILLINOIS REDUCES FUNDING, THE ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST PREMIUMS ACCORDINGLY.*
2. No premium money will be paid without the exhibitor's Social Security number and signature on file.
3. All premium checks must be cashed within 90 days.
4. Illinois state law requires that exhibitors must secure their premium money and sign receipt for same before exhibits will be released. All premium money not called for within 30 days from the last day of the Fair shall be forfeited to the Association.
5. The Fair Association reserves the right to withhold any or all premiums if the article or animal is removed from the grounds without the permission from the Superintendent of the department.
6. If it be ascertained that any exhibitor has made or caused to be made the same, or if any exhibitor shall attempt to interfere with the judge or Superintendent in the performance of his duty in any manner, or shall refuse to accept the awards made, he shall be disqualified from further competition and shall forfeit any premium monies and ribbons already awarded.
7. All judge's decisions are final.
8. ***All premium checks will be released for pick-up after 3:00 p.m., Saturday, July 18, 2026. Checks may be picked up at the RICO Fair office, located in the Copeland Center. All checks must be cashed within 90 days from issue. A signature is required to receive premium monies. Checks not picked up will be mailed.***

Section II.

LIVESTOCK

1. The Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act prohibits physical mistreatment of animals. The use of electrical shock OR mutual striking of sheep, OR withholding feed and water are considered direct violations of the Act. The presence of any type of equipment to induce electrical shock in the exhibition area will be considered as intent to inflict electrical shock on animals under care of the person with the equipment. Persons found mistreating sheep shall be prohibited from exhibiting, forfeit any premium monies, and be dismissed from the fairgrounds.
2. **Persons found mistreating livestock shall be prohibited from exhibiting, forfeit their premium monies, and be dismissed from the fairgrounds. Any practice or deviation from normal, accepted care, including physical, medical, or mechanical application, other than on the prescription of a licensed veterinarian, will constitute a violation of show rules and are subject to the above provisions.**
3. Livestock exhibits must be in place before 10:00 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2026, unless department rules state otherwise.
4. All animals must be purebred and eligible for registry, except market class animals and horses.
5. Exhibitors must present original registration papers and Health Papers to the Superintendent at check-in and have them available at show time.
6. Health papers must be presented to the veterinarian for approval.
7. No person except the awarding committee on duty and officers of the Association will be allowed inside the arena while exhibitions are going on.
8. All entries must show in the ring at the discretion of the Superintendents.
9. Only one fan is to be used per 3 animals in the barns. Only 12-gauge drop cords may be used.
10. No water tanks are to be placed in the arena.
11. All stalls or pens will be assigned by the Superintendent.
12. No stalls will be sold for tack at entry time. Any extra stalls will be divided by the Superintendents.
13. All trailers enter at Gate 1.
14. All livestock trailers, trucks, etc., must be parked in designated parking areas.
 - a. NO PARKING allowed west of the livestock barns.
 - b. NO PARKING allowed in the race track pit area.
15. Failure to adhere to parking rules will result in the forfeiture of premiums.

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK, ALL DEPARTMENTS

1. All exhibitors must familiarize themselves with all rules listed in the Open Class Show General Rules and Regulations, as well as the Open Class Livestock Health Rules and Regulations section of this fair book.
2. **Open to boys and girls who are 8 years of age and not yet 21 years of age, on or before September 1, 2025.**
3. **Animals shown in the Junior Shows must be the property of the exhibitor showing them. If the same animals are shown in the Open Classes, they must be shown in the same name as in the Junior Show.**
4. Group showings or placing are not permitted. Herd flocks cannot be made up of animals registered in the name of an older member of the family and shown by a son or daughter in the Junior Show.

GENERAL

1. No dogs are allowed anywhere on the grounds except service dogs.
2. No premium results will be released over the phone.
3. A \$500.00 fine shall be imposed upon any person injuring trees, destroying fences, buildings, or any kind of advertising sign or otherwise defacing same.

2026 Rock Island County Fair Open Class Livestock Health Rules and Regulations

For Health Requirement Information:
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare
State Fairgrounds P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281
Phone (217) 782-4944

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. These Exhibition Health Requirements apply to all livestock present on County Fairgrounds, including livestock that are not entered in competitive events. Species specific information follows the general requirements.
2. Exhibitors are required to familiarize themselves with all rules applicable to their exhibits.
3. All out-of-state animals must have an entry permit. Entry permit numbers are available online at <https://entrypermit.agr.illinois.gov/Login.aspx>.
4. All animals, except as noted in species specific information below, shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).
5. All animals must be officially identified.
6. All livestock shall be subject to examination upon entry to County Fairgrounds. Examination may include but is not limited to ultrasound, urine testing, blood testing, and similar actions.
7. Definitions, abbreviations, and administration:
 - a. The Illinois Department of Agriculture may be referred to as “Department” or “IDOA”
 - b. The Department contains a Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare, which receives all CVIs.
 - c. Department or IDOA staff, as used in this document, includes all Bureaus
8. IDOA will continue to monitor state and federal trends in animal health as it relates to this document. Any updates to these requirements will be posted on our website.

II. CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

9. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) means a legible record, made on an official form from the state of origin, containing an accurate description or identification of the animal including age, sex, breed, health status, and vaccination information.
10. The CVI must be signed, dated, and issued by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in that state.
11. Submitted CVIs must be as originally issued by the veterinarian; no CVIs with alterations, edits, or changes, will be accepted. The CVI must show that the animal meets all health requirements for the State of Illinois (species specific information noted later in this guidance)
12. CVI must show the name and address of the animal’s owner or exhibitor.
13. CVI must include the animal’s Animal Identification Number. a. Animal identification number (AIN): A numbering system for the official identification of individual animals in the United States that provides a nationally unique identification number for each animal. The AIN consists of 15 digits, with the first 3 being the country code (840 for the United States or a unique country code for any U.S. territory that has such a code and elects to use it in place of the 840 code).
14. If one CVI is used for multiple animals, each animal identification must be made on a separate line.
15. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to obtain electronic CVIs whenever possible; IDOA is moving toward only accepting electronic CVIs.
16. Exhibitors shall make CVIs available to Department of Agriculture and County Fair staff on request. a. If an official electronic CVI is utilized, the exhibitor should be able to log on and show County Fair staff or Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare Personnel the completed CVI.
17. If animals are from tuberculosis accredited, brucellosis certified, pseudorabies qualified, or brucellosis validated herds, the identifying herd number(s) along with the date of the last herd test(s) shall appear on the CVI.
18. CVIs for out-of-state livestock shall be void thirty (30) days after issuance.
19. CVIs for Illinois-origin livestock shall be void ninety (90) days after issuance.

III. QUARANTINE AND REMOVAL

20. Quarantine shall be at the animal owner (or exhibitor) risk and expense.
21. Quarantine and removal from the Fairgrounds shall be as determined appropriate by the County Fair Veterinarian, State Veterinarian, or their designee(s).
22. Quarantine will be required until the animal has been properly treated and recovered, or the animal can be released to return to the owner’s premise, both in the opinion of the County Fair Veterinarian, State Veterinarian, or their designee(s).
23. Any animal presenting with a condition that would subject it to quarantine must be withdrawn from any/all entered competitions and are not permitted to exhibit.
24. Any condition meriting quarantine may also result in required removal of the animal from the Fairgrounds, as determined appropriate by the County Fair Veterinarian, State Veterinarian, or their designee(s).
25. Conditions subject to quarantine (not an exhaustive list)

- a. Any animal showing evidence of infectious, contagious or communicable diseases shall be held in quarantine.
 - b. Any livestock infected with scabies, mange, active lesions of ringworm, soremouth, or multiple warts which are easily visible without close examination
 - c. Sheep and goats with caseous lymphadenitis as evidenced by draining abscesses
 - d. Suspicion of or diagnosis of a foreign animal disease, emerging animal disease, or other actionable disease, animals may be subject to quarantine on the fairgrounds until such time that it is determined that the disease is no longer a threat.
26. Any Illinois cattle, bison, cervidae or goats being exhibited in non-accredited free states must be isolated from the remainder of the herd/flock upon return to Illinois and retested for tuberculosis 60-120 days post-entry back into the state.

IV. SPECIES SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS The information included below for any species is in addition to the requirements noted above. There is no additional species-specific information or requirements for llamas, pigeons, or rabbits.

CATTLE

Identification: Individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, ("840" tag). The identification tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.
 Illinois Cattle:

- Illinois is a Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State and an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. Brucellosis and Tuberculin testing are not required for Illinois cattle.
- Illinois calves under 6 months of age are not required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

Out-of-State-Cattle

- Brucellosis
1. Female cattle six (6) months of age and older and bulls eighteen (18) months of age and older shall be negative to an official test for brucellosis within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds, unless exempt by one (1) of the following:
 - A. Originate directly from a certified brucellosis-free herd.
 - B. Official vaccinates of dairy breeds under twenty (20) months of age or official vaccinates of beef breeds under twenty-four (24) months of age.
 - C. Animal originated from a "Class Free" state (if entire state is so classified).
 - D. Animal is a steer or spayed heifer.
 2. The negative brucellosis test shall be conducted at a state or federal laboratory within 30 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

- Tuberculosis
1. Accredited Tuberculosis Free States
 - A. No tuberculin test required.
 2. Non-Accredited Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
 - A. Cattle must originate from a herd where a complete herd test was conducted within the past year.
 - B. The individual animals entering Illinois must be negative to an additional tuberculin test conducted within 30 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

ALL Dairy Cattle (In-State and Out-of-State): A rRT-PCR test for Influenza A virus (IAV) on milk from lactating dairy cattle present at the Illinois or Du Quoin 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.

SWINE

Identification: Individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, ("840" tag). The identification tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.
 Illinois Swine: Brucellosis and Pseudorabies testing are not required for Illinois swine.
 Out-of-State Swine:

- Brucellosis

1. Breeding swine 4 months of age and older shall be negative to an official test for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds unless exempt by one (1) of the following:

- A. Originate immediately and directly from a validated brucellosis-free herd.
- B. Originate directly from a validated brucellosis-free state.

2. Swine brucellosis tests shall be conducted at a state or federal laboratory.

- Pseudorabies

1. Swine originating from a Pseudorabies Stage IV or V state are exempt from the pseudorabies testing requirement.

2. Swine originating from a Pseudorabies Stage III state shall be negative to an official test for pseudorabies conducted within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds or originate immediately and directly from a qualified pseudorabies negative herd.

3. Swine originating from a Pseudorabies Stage I or II state shall be negative to an official test for pseudorabies conducted within 10 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

4. Barrows and females in market classes must meet the same requirements as breeding swine.

SHEEP

Identification

- Individual identification of each animal shall be by an ear tattoo or official metal or plastic tag. A microchip ID is acceptable if the owner provides the reader.
- Ear tattoos may be used when a registration certificate, listing the tattoo number, accompanies the animal. If the tattoos are not visible, another form of official identification must be presented.
- When using ear tags, the tag must indicate the premises ID and state of origin. The tag number must be assigned by a state or APHIS representative and recorded in the Scrapie Record Database.

Market Lambs: All market lambs must be slick shorn (show ring ready) before weigh-in so that show lamb fungus can be identified.

Scrapie: Sheep originating from a flock that has previously been classified as either an infected or source flock can be exhibited in Illinois upon the completion of an approved flock plan.

CVI must include the flock of birth and the flock of origin, if different.

GOATS

Identification

- Individual identification of each animal shall be by an ear tattoo or official metal or plastic tag. A microchip ID is acceptable if the owner provides the reader.
- Tattoos may be used when a registration certificate, listing the tattoo number, accompanies the animal. If the tattoos are not visible, another form of official identification must be presented.
 - Ears should be used for tattooing when possible. If there is no space in the ear, the flank or tail fold may be used.
- When using ear tags, the tag must indicate the premises ID and state of origin. The tag number must be assigned by a state or APHIS representative and recorded in the Scrapie Record Database.

Scrapie: Goats originating from a herd that has previously been classified as either an infected or source herd can be exhibited in Illinois upon the completion of an approved herd plan.

CVI must include the herd of birth and the herd of origin, if different.

Out-of-State Goats

Goats from states that are not Accredited Bovine Tuberculosis Free, must also have the following information included on their CVI:

- (1) that the goats originated from a herd where a complete negative herd test has been conducted within the past twelve (12) months and
- (2) the individual animals are negative to a tuberculin test conducted within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

HORSES, PONIES, MULES AND OTHER EQUIDAE

Equine Infectious Anemia

- All horses and other equidae, twelve (12) months of age and older entering the Fairgrounds, shall be accompanied by a negative test for equine infectious anemia (EIA) conducted within the last twelve (12) months.
- A copy of this test shall accompany the animal.
- AGID (Coggins) or ELISA tests are accepted.

Illinois Equine: A CVI is not required for Illinois equine.

Out-of-State Equine: All horses and other equidae shall be accompanied by a CVI issued within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

POULTRY

1. All entries (except waterfowl, i.e., domesticated fowl that normally swim, such as ducks and geese) in a show or exhibition shall have originated from a U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean or equivalent hatchery or flock OR have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days prior to exhibition. Exhibitor shall show proper information as to name and address of owner or exhibitor, name and address of the authorized testing agent, date of the testing and the number, breed, and species of those tested.
2. Prior to being used to transport poultry to a show, all crates, boxes, containers and vehicles shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
3. Any poultry vaccinations must be performed at least 4 weeks prior to delivery to the show.
4. Upon admission to a show, all entries shall be examined by the State Veterinarian or their designee or qualified state personnel who shall also receive and examine all certificates necessary for admission of birds to a show. Birds not in show condition will be removed from exhibition and must be removed from the Fairgrounds.
5. Any fowl showing signs of illness during the Fair will be removed from the Fairgrounds.
6. All out-of-state turkeys must originate from flocks that are officially classified as U.S. Mycoplasma Gallisepticum Clean in accordance with the provisions of the National Poultry Improvement Plan or be negative to a test for Mycoplasma gallisepticum within 30 days prior to entry.

CERVIDAE: Deer, Elk, Reindeer, Caribou, Moose, Red Deer and other Related Species

Identification: All animals shall be individually identified with an approved tag, microchip or tattoo. Elk are required to have two official/approved unique identifiers.

Illinois Cervidae

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** For cervidae moving within the State, the owner must obtain a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture prior to movement. The cervid must originate from a herd that is enrolled in the Certified Monitored Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Program or the Contained Monitored Chronic Wasting Disease Program. The permit shall be obtained no more than 72 hours in advance of the movement of the cervids by providing the following information:
 - A) Name and complete mailing address of person exhibiting the cervids;
 - B) Certified Monitored Chronic Wasting Disease or Contained Monitored Chronic Wasting Disease Herd number;
 - C) Name and complete mailing address of location where the animals will be exhibited;
 - D) Number of animals and unique identification of the animals.
- **Tuberculosis:** Illinois is an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. Tuberculin test is not required for

Illinois cervidae.

Out-of-State Cervidae. All Cervidae entering Illinois must:

1. Be in compliance with the Illinois Wildlife Code [520 ILCS 5]. For more information, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at 217/782-6384.
2. Be accompanied by a permit from the Illinois Department of Agriculture
3. Have a CVI that:
 - a. shows that the cervidae are free from visible evidence of any contagious, infectious or communicable disease or exposure thereto, do not originate from a CWD endemic area (any county and surrounding counties where CWD has been diagnosed in the past five years);
 - b. shows that the cervidae are not originating from a herd under quarantine for any contagious, infectious or communicable disease;
 - c. shows that the animals originate from a herd that has been monitored for at least 5 years under a state-approved CWD certification program.

4. Brucellosis: Cervidae six (6) months of age and older must have a negative brucellosis card or PCFIA test within sixty (60) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

5. Tuberculosis

a. Accredited Tuberculosis Free States: All cervidae twelve (12) months of age and over shall be negative to two (2) tests for bovine TB no less than ninety (90) days apart with the second test conducted within ninety (90) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds. These animals shall be isolated from all other members of the herd during the testing period unless they originate from an accredited, qualified or monitored herd.

1. Cervidae from an accredited herd may be moved into Illinois without further TB testing provided that a certificate stating that such cervids originated from an accredited herd accompanies them.

2. Cervidae originating from qualified or monitored herds may enter with a negative test within ninety (90) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds and a certificate stating that the animals originate from a monitored herd.

b. Non-Accredited Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)

1. All cervidae shall originate from a herd where a complete herd test was conducted within the past year.

2. The individual animals entering Illinois must be negative to two (2) additional TB tests conducted within 180 and 30 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

RATITES: Ostriches, Emus, Rheas, Cassowaries and Kiwis

Illinois Ratites: There are no requirements governing the movement of ratites within Illinois.

Out-of-State Ratites

1. Individually identified by leg band or microchip.

2. Negative test for Avian Influenza within 10 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

For clarification or additional information on health requirements, contact:

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare

Phone (217) 782-4944

Or visit our webpage: <https://agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth.html>