

2026 Grundy County Agricultural District Fair

● ● ● GENERAL RULES and REGULATIONS ● ● ●

The Grundy County Agricultural District Fair Association reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions or differences in regard thereto. It shall further reserve the right to amend or add to these rules when in its judgment, it may so determine as being necessary. The Assoc. further reserves the right to withdraw any premium offerings, whether in whole or part, in any or all departments should an emergency exist and circumstances demand. No Officer, Employee or Superintendent has the authority to suspend, modify or change any rule, regulation, class or premium as herein adopted.

The Grundy County Agricultural District Fair operates under the Agricultural Fair Act and participates in the Agricultural Premium Fund as directed by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of County Fairs. The Fair endeavors to operate within and abide by the rules and regulations of the State of Illinois. In any case of conflict of Rules & Regulations the State directives shall take precedent over the Fair Association.

SECTION 1 - - GENERAL RULES and REGULATIONS

1.1. Neither the Grundy County Agricultural District Fair Association nor any of its officers or agents shall be liable in case of any injury, loss or damage to any person or property of any person having license or privilege to exhibit or to occupy space upon the said Association's Fairgrounds. Nor shall they be held liable for any injury, loss or damage caused by any negligent or willful act of any person or their employees or representatives having license or privilege or occupying space on said Fairgrounds. Every precaution will be taken for the safeguarding of animals or articles placed on exhibit and/or vehicles, automobiles or trailers parked upon Fairground property, but the Grundy Co. Ag. Dist. Fair Assoc. will not assume or be responsible for any losses by fire, theft or otherwise that may occur, either to licensee or any others. Being fully aware that hazards do exist when participating in the Fair, those entering hereby release the Grundy County Agricultural District Fair Association, its sponsors, sanctioning organizations, officers, directors, employees, and agents from all personal injury and property damage liability. Those entering also hold the Grundy Co. Ag. Dist. Fair Assoc. harmless for all claims made against the said Fair Assoc. including claims that are known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen, future or contingent as the result of participating in the Fair.

1.2. Entries are open to the world unless otherwise stated, however the Fair reserves the right to refuse, reject, or return entries from any person or firm when in the Fair's judgment it is in the best interest of the Fair. Entries may be closed when barns are filled.

1.3. No more than TWO PREMIUM MONEYS will be paid to ONE EXHIBITOR under the same premium number.

1.4. Unless the current year premium list or Fair book states otherwise within a department, class or under a specific premium number ALL ANIMALS SHALL BE PUREBRED and that the EXHIBITOR SHALL PROVIDE to the Dept. Supt. upon exhibitors arrival or any other time at request of the Dept. Supt. or the Fair Secretary, up to date and in order REGISTRATION PAPERS proving said animals to be purebred, animals ages are correct and that the EXHIBITOR IS OWNER OF RECORD. If exhibitor CANNOT PROVIDE ALL REGISTRATION PAPERS WHEN REQUESTED that entry will not be allowed in the show area at any time, shall be considered a NO SHOW and NO AWARD PLACING WILL BE MADE and NO PREMIUM MONEY WILL BE AWARDED. This will also affect any group class of which animal is part of. There shall be NO REFUNDS of any kind if the exhibitor is found in default due to this ruling. Have your registration papers available at ALL times as you are subject to inspection by the BUREAU OF COUNTY FAIRS. Exhibitor(s) of any animal found with altered identification shall be banned from show

and will be reported to the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture Bureau of County Fairs. BE LEGAL, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

1.5. Each Exhibitor will be charged a Documenting Fee at the time of making entries. Only one Vehicle Pass will be allowed per Exhibitor. Only one vehicle will be admitted to grounds on this pass. VEHICLE PASS IS NOT PARKING PERMIT. Livestock Exhibitors cars and/or trucks will be permitted in the fairgrounds area to deliver feed and supplies daily between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM. After 10 AM, all Livestock Exhibitors cars and/or trucks will park outside the fenced area. Any vehicle found in violation after set time will be towed to the impound area at the owner's risk and expense. On day of livestock release, cars and/or trucks for pick up of animals will not be allowed to enter fairgrounds until such time as designated in fair book. The only exception to this rule is vehicles involved in one-day shows who will be issued special passes. Each Livestock Exhibitor will be issued one vehicle pass, which must be permanently affixed to the driver's side of the front window. Vehicles are not to be left unattended during pickup and delivery. Livestock Superintendents and assistants will have full access to grounds at all times. This rule will be strictly adhered to as ordered by the State Fire Marshall.

1.6. Park all vehicles in designated areas. DO NOT BLOCK FIRELANES. All trucks, trailers and livestock trailers except units approved as required for one day shows will be parked in an area outside of the fence west of barn gate. Any vehicle of any type found to be in violation will be towed and removed from grounds at the owner's risk and expense. If it is determined that all available parking space within the grounds is filled NO more vehicles will be allowed through the gate. The Fair reserves the right to have any and all vehicles removed from grounds by whatever method or means is required and to refuse entry at any time to any person or vehicle. Legitimate Permitted Handicapped Exhibitor Parking will be allowed in designated areas within the grounds as determined by the Fair. Please notify the Office if you require any special services.

1.7. All campers and trailers used for living quarters will be charged a daily fee for parking as outlined in the Grundy County Fair Camping Rules and Regulations. Space is very limited. Parking of campers as directed in designated areas only. Ask at the Secretary's Office or be prepared to move. Limited electric and water hookups are available. CAMPING PERMITS MUST BE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED Camping units include: Motor Homes, Trailers with Living Quarters, Pickups with Toppers and Others as Approved by Fair. ABSOLUTELY NO CAMPING WILL BE ALLOWED WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION. The determination of an adult rests solely with the Grundy County Fair. Camping permits will be issued to units only as determined by the Grundy County Fair. Sleeping in a truck cab or car will not be allowed. Camping permits will be limited to one per family. No permits will be issued after available space is filled. Camping rules will be posted and strictly adhered to. The Grundy County Fair reserves the right to refuse or expel anyone creating a problem.

1.8. BAD CHECKS - You will be given notice once only for NSF or checks returned for any reason. If the check is not made good within ten calendar days from notice, the Fair will notify the STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE and the check writer will be charged. There will be a \$50 charge for each NSF check written in addition to any other fees incurred if other means of collection are required.

1.9. No Officer, employee or any superintendent shall disclose to any person or competitors what entries have been made prior to entry closing, nor shall any person, other than the Secretary and office personnel, be allowed access to any entries, fair records or fair files.

1.10. No dogs or pets, other than seeing-eye dogs or dogs for the hearing impaired, are allowed in the show area. All dogs shall be leashed.

1.11. No cooking in barns. This includes coffee pots, crock-pot type cooking, electric, gasoline, propane or charcoal grills or stoves. (State Fire Marshall)

1.12. NO SMOKING IN BARN (State Fire Marshall)

1.13. DISCARDING OF CANS AND BOTTLES IN MANURE IS PROHIBITED. Violators will be prosecuted at the discretion of the Fair Board.

1.14. ABSOLUTELY NO GENERATORS will be allowed with the exception of that unit required to operate carnival. Only exception shall be if a special permit is granted through the Secretaries Office. (State Fire Marshall)

1.15. Only ONE fan per three animals will be allowed in barns. No drop cords of less than 12 gauge wire shall be used. All cords & plugs must meet National Electric Code Standards and are subject to inspection at any time. Fan blades must be guarded or surrounded in a manner to prevent insertion of fingers or fingers. All fans must be mounted or supported in a manner so as to prevent tipping or falling. Any drop cords used shall not pose or present a tripping hazard.

1.16. No connection, splice or tap shall be made to any permanent electric wiring, fuse box or breaker panel without the express written consent from the Fair Office.

1.17. Trees shall not be used for the purpose of fastening or tying an animal

1.18. No advertising signs or other matter may be placed on trees, poles, fences or buildings. Any person defacing or destroying any property or equipment, creating any disorder or considered to be trespassing on Fair Grounds will be immediately charged and the Grundy Co. Sheriff's Dept. will be notified.

1.19. Unsportsmanlike attitudes, abusive language, fighting, disorderly conduct or behavior deemed to be inappropriate will not be condoned, nor shall there be any consumption of, or possession of any alcoholic beverages by any person exhibiting in the show area when show is in progress. Violation of the aforementioned will result in removal from fairgrounds and forfeiture of all premiums, entry fees and rental fees. The determination of violation shall rest solely with the Fair Association and any action taken by the Association shall not be cause for compensation or damages to persons found in violation.

1.20. KEEP ALL AISLE & WALKWAYS CLEAN & CLEAR. Exhibitors and handlers must keep livestock barns in order. Exhibitors will be permitted to bring into the grounds only a limited amount of feed, hay or bedding. The Fair reserves the right to refuse admission of such if in the Fairs judgment there is an excessive amount. The space in the barns is for exhibition purposes and not for storage of feed. Feed and bedding as well as personal items shall be neatly placed so as to leave a clear walkway that will invite and allow visitors to pass through and see the exhibits. This is in the best interest of all. Grooming chutes will be stored in areas specified by superintendents.

1.21. Stalls and pens shall be properly bedded and kept clean. Place manure in dumpsters provided.

1.22. Those exhibitors who must dump milk see your Department Superintendent.

1.23. Animals not entered but occupying stalls or pens will be charged the normal rental fee.

1.24. Any exhibitor removing any article or livestock prior to published release time or without a written release from the Secretary's Office signed by the Fair Secretary shall forfeit all premiums.

1.25. All contracts (judges, ringmen, announcers, etc) must be approved by the Secretary.

1.26. All livestock and poultry shall meet all health requirements as outlined by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Health. Exhibitors shall present up to date health papers upon request of Dept. Supt or Fair Veterinarian.

1.27. The Fair Association shall reserve the right to postpone the published time or cancel the exhibition or judging of any class, department, article or animal for weather or any other good and sufficient reason as determined by the Fair Board.

1.28. All exhibits must be the property of the exhibitor. There shall be NO LEASING OR BORROWING OF ANIMALS OR ARTICLES by any exhibitor.

1.29. The Treasurer of the Grundy Co Ag District Fair reserves the right to cancel or stop payment on any check issued by him if the check is not cashed within 60 calendar days of issuance.

1.30. All premiums will be paid in full, no later than October 1 following the last day of the fair.

1.31. All premium money not called for within 30 days from the last day of fair shall be forfeited to the Association.

1.32. The Grundy Co. Fair endorses and its Exhibitors shall abide by and comply with "The ILLINOIS HUMANE CARE for ANIMALS ACT" and "IAFE NATIONAL CODE of SHOW RING ETHICS." If violations are observed, the animal or animals may be excused from further exhibition and may be ordered removed

from the Fairgrounds. Such violation may also result in forfeiture of all awards and premiums. The sole determination of said violation shall rest with a committee consisting of the Supt. of the Department involved, the General Superintendent, the Grundy Co. Fair Board Executive Committee and if deemed necessary, a Veterinarian of the committee's choice. The committee may determine that any deviation or practice from normal humane husbandry practices, including, but not limited to any device of artificial manipulation, physical abuse, medical treatments or mechanical applications of any substance, other than on prescription of a licensed veterinarian, shall constitute a violation of show rules and are subject to provisions of the Committee. Note: Blood, tissue, or urine samples may be collected from any animal being exhibited and/or raced at any Illinois Fair to test for the presence of illegal drugs.

1.33. Premiums will be forfeited if the exhibitor's animals and space are not properly cared for. Each must be fed, watered and cleaned at least twice daily. First cleaning and feeding must be done before 10 AM each day.

1.34. Additional rules covering particular departments will be found under Department heading.

1.35. Errors of all kinds do occur, including printing, the Fair Assoc. reserves the right to interpret and correct any errors as they shall consider to be in their best judgment.

1.36. No Golf Carts, 4-Wheelers, 3-Wheelers, ATV's of Any Style, Motorbikes, Mo-Peds, Motorscooters, or Motorcycles will be located on or operated within the Fairgrounds proper without the express written consent of the Secretary's Office. Violation will result in the impoundment of the vehicle.

1.37. No person without a Valid Drivers License shall operate a motorized vehicle on the Fairgrounds.

SECTION 2 - - - SUPERINTENDENTS

2.1. The Department Superintendent expects and should receive the respect and full co-operation of each exhibitor and handler. The Dept. Supt. is responsible only to the Fair Secretary for the management of his Department.

2.2. Do not try to pick your own pens or stalls. The Dept. Superintendent has full charge of this matter and will assign your space. No Tack or 2 Feed stalls unless Supt. deems there is adequate space available and then shall notify the Office to make charge for additional space used.

2.3. Dept. Superintendents shall have complete control for the arrangement of his department and pen or stall assignments. The Supt. will place nametags showing placement of all livestock. Pens will not be assigned until animals are entered at the Secretary's Office. The Grundy County Fair and/or Dept. Superintendent shall have the right to move, re-pen or relocate any animal or exhibit as they shall so deem as necessary. This shall include, but is not limited to, those that have been stalled or penned before assignments of stalls. *** Do Not Remove Stall / Pen Assignment Tags ***

2.4. Superintendent shall oversee and supervise weigh-ins. His decision at scale is final and once an animal's weight class has been determined and that animal is placed in the appropriate weight class there will be NO changes. Exhibitors must see the Superintendent as to the exact time for weigh-in and the exhibitor alone is responsible to see that his animals are present at time specified. It is highly recommended that interested exhibitors be present for the entire procedure.

SECTION 3 - - - ENTRIES

3.1. All entries will be made online **ONLY** for the Grundy County Ag District Fair, through the provided Grundy County Ag Fair website. Absolutely no entries or changes to entries will be allowed by email or fax. Absolutely no entries will be taken by telephone nor will any changes to entries be made by telephone.

3.2. Exhibitors are advised not to make entries except in those classes where they intend to show, as exhibitors will be charged whether the animal is shown or not. **POSITIVELY NO FEES WILL BE REFUNDED** on entries made by an exhibitor and not shown.

3.3. Exhibitors should make their entries as early as possible to help alleviate the last minute rush. This can be advantageous to the exhibitor and the office in detecting any mistakes or problems.

3.4. No more than TWO premium monies will be paid to one exhibitor under the same premium number. (STATE RULE)

3.5 Each exhibitor must have an exhibitor's number that will be assigned only by the Secretary's Office. The exhibitor is responsible for knowing his number, ensuring the show clerk is properly informed as to the exhibitor's number, and if requested, must prominently display the number when in the show area. Placings for premiums in the judge's books are only by exhibitor number.

SECTION 4 - - - AWARDS & JUDGING

4.1. Awards shall be made by the single judge system unless the Dept. Superintendent desires or a sanctioning association requires that more than one judge is necessary.

4.2. The Fair Association feels that it employs only expert, fully competent judges and when shows are sanctioned events uses only judges as licensed by the sanctioning body.

4.3. No person shall act as judge or clerk in any department in which he may have interest as owner, exhibitor, agent or employee of any exhibitor in that department, nor may a person act as judge or clerk in any department where such person's judgment may be influenced by prejudice, partiality, favor or any reason likely to prevent an unbiased, fair awarding of premiums. In the cases that judge feels that he cannot impartially judge a class he shall inform Dept. Superintendent who may replace or temporarily substitute with another judge.

4.4. Objections to any person serving as judge must be submitted in writing to the Department Superintendent who shall immediately file an objection with the Fair Secretary and the committee shall have full power to act upon objection. Objections must contain good, valid, sufficient reasons for questioning the capability or integrity of a judge. Only exhibitors who are from that department where the judge is in question must sign an objection. Objections must be filed prior to the judge awarding any premiums in class. Once judging has commenced no objection may be filed. Objectors shall agree that upon filing an objection that they shall, without question, abide by the final decision of the committee (Dept. Supt, General Supt, and Fair Secretary).

4.5. Premiums will be awarded only to those entries as printed in judges award books. Written entries will not be allowed. NO ENTRIES SHALL BE TAKEN IN THE SHOW RING and any additions or changes without being initiated in the award book by the Fair Secretary will be disallowed. If there is a problem, stop show and call the Office before proceeding.

4.6. All animals will be presented before the judge to be placed. There will be NO MARKING of classes even if there is no competition. Animals left in pens or stalls will be considered no show and will not be placed or awarded a premium.

4.7. First premium awarded when there is no competition only when deemed worthy by the judge. Any article or animal deemed to be unworthy by a judge may not be awarded premium placing.

4.8. Exhibitors are warned that any act of interference, discourtesy or disobedience to Show Officials on the part of an exhibitor, exhibitor's helper, or members of exhibitor's family will disqualify exhibitor in that class and may result in prompt exclusion from further competition without cause for compensation or damages.

4.9. Exhibitors are cautioned to state their questions in a reasonable manner and without abusive language.

4.10. The decision of the judge shall be considered as final except in case of protest.

4.11. Order of show is not necessarily the same order as shown on premium listing.

4.12. All animals must be exhibited in such a place and at such time, as Superintendent shall direct. It is the exhibitor's responsibility of being aware when their respective class is due in the show area and must be ready by the time the previous class ends. Failure on the part of the exhibitor to have animals in the ring when awards are made shall disqualify the entry with no refund or responsibility on the part of the officials or Association. On show day the Superintendent may call his classes at his discretion.

4.13. The Dept. Supt. or his clerk shall enter into the judge's award books under the correct premium number, only the EXHIBITOR'S NUMBER as given by the exhibitor and in the order of placing as directed by the judge. Award book entries must be written in a plain and legible manner. The superintendent shall exercise great care when recording these placings as payment of premiums can only be authorized from the entry placings as made in the judge's books.

4.14. The Superintendent or his assistant shall affix ribbons at the time awards are made by judges.

4.15. Immediately upon completion of show each Superintendent shall return to the Secretary's Office, the judges award books properly certified by the judge and the Superintendent. If the show is a two-day event, books will be returned to the Office upon completion of the first day's show.

4.16. Only show officials, exhibitors and their helpers will be allowed within the show area.

4.17. The State of Illinois Department of Agriculture and Grundy County Agricultural District Fair Rules and Regulations supersede any and all rules and regulation of any livestock sanctioning association in the event of conflict.

SECTION 5 - - - PROTESTS

5.1. A protest may be filed only by an exhibitor directly involved in the protested class. Protest presentation hearing, if so required, shall be limited to the ONE EXHIBITOR FILING PROTEST. There will be NO GROUPS allowed or present when filing protest or during any hearing or discussion concerning the protest. Junior Show Exhibitors filing protest will be allowed the benefit of ONE PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN being present.

5.2. All protests must be submitted in writing, signed and filed in person by the protesting party to the Fair Secretary. Junior Show protests must be signed by both Exhibitors and one parent or legal guardian.

5.3. All protests must be filed within ONE (1) hour of the completion of the protest show.

5.4. Exhibitor lodging protest shall deposit FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50) with the Fair Secretary. Protest will not be accepted without deposit. If the protest is found to be valid the deposit shall be returned to protester, however if protest is not sustained the deposit will be forfeited to the Grundy County Ag. Dist. Fair.

5.5. All protests shall be heard by a committee consisting of the Superintendent of the Department involved, the General Superintendent, and the Grundy Co. Fair Board Executive Committee with FINAL decision being that of Executive Committee ONLY.

5.6. An exhibitor agrees that upon filing a protest that he will abide by and considers final, without any question, the FINAL DECISION of the committee.

5.7. It may also be ascertained that any exhibitor who has made, or has caused to be made, any false statement in regard to the exhibition of any animal or article shall be considered, as PERPETRATOR OF FRAUD and appropriate action shall be taken. This may include, but is not limited to, FORFEITURE OF ALL PREMIUMS and/or the release of information to Federal, State or Local agencies or the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

5.8. Failure to follow protest procedure as outlined will be considered a waiver of all such objections by the protesting party.

5.9. The burden of proving the validity of protest shall lie upon the protester.

SECTION 6 - - - PREMIUM CHECKS

6.1. All class premium check payouts will be made at the Secretary's Office.

6.2. All premium money not called for within 30 days from the last day of fair shall be forfeited to the Association.

6.3. Announcements will be made when premium checks are ready for each class.

6.4. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to pick up and sign for their own premium check at the Secretary's Office or arrange for mail delivery as outlined in 6.8.

6.5. All premium statements must be signed by the exhibitor or their agent prior to issuance of premium check.

6.6. The Grundy County Ag. Dist. Fair reserves the right to extend any and all premium check pay-outs until said date after the fair in the event of technical difficulties.

6.7. MAILING OF PREMIUM CHECKS – Those exhibitors who require checks to be sent by mail shall bring a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Secretary’s Office and must sign an affidavit authorizing the Secretary of Fair to sign the exhibitor’s premium report. Exhibitors must meet these conditions or a check will not be sent.

SECTION 7 - - - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & DRUGS

7.1. No person, exhibitor or guest, while in the barn, exhibit or any other areas as determined by the Grundy County Fair, shall be permitted to sell or give away any intoxicating drinks, drugs or narcotics of any kind. Excessive use of, or unlicensed distribution of alcoholic beverages may be cause for forfeiture of entry fee, stall or pen rent and premium money.

7.2. Any person considered, in the opinion of Fair Officials, to be in an intoxicated condition or under the influence of alcoholic beverage, drugs or narcotics, may be removed from grounds or suspended at the discretion of Fair Officials.

7.3. Fair Officials reserve the right to inspect all vehicles and / or containers, coolers, etc. at any time.

7.4. Any person supplying or furnishing alcoholic beverages to underage persons or underage persons found in possession of alcoholic beverages will be turned over to proper authorities and charged.

Read the rules and by example assist in enforcing them. Do not accept any rumor or hearsay in regard to the business of exhibition. If you do not know what to do or do not understand, then inquire at the Secretary’s Office. Announcements made in Show Ring prevail over Printed Materials

NO GLASS BOTTLES ALLOWED ON FAIRGROUNDS