



ONE HUNDRED FORTY SECOND
NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

AUGUST 26 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2011
GRAND ISLAND, NE

Christmas Trees

Scott Lund-Superintendent

402-660-9138-Home

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308-382-1620

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

The following general rules & regulations apply to all departments. Please refer to each department for specific rules and requirements.

It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to be familiar with all applicable rules & regulations.

2. INTERPRETATION OF RULES:

The Nebraska State Fair reserves to itself the final and absolute right to interpret, amend or add to these rules and regulations as its judgment may determine, and to settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard hereto or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the Fair.

3. COMPLIANCE:

The Nebraska State Fair management under no circumstances, will be responsible for personal injury, and assumes no liability for loss or damage of any nature to any property of the concessionaire, exhibitor or patron while on the grounds or at any time or place due to theft, fire, tornado, weather conditions, or other causes, nor be liable for or make any payment for the value thereof. By submitting an entry form, exhibitors agree to comply with all rules and regulations governing the Nebraska State Fair.

4. VIOLATION:

All exhibitors are bound by the most current editions of Nebraska State Fair's Space Rental Rules & Regulations. Any violation of these rules & regulations will subject exhibitor to any penalties as Nebraska State Fair may order and/or penalties prescribed by law.

5. COOPERATION:

In all buildings where different entries are present at the same time, the Nebraska State Fair expects that all exhibitors will extend courtesy to other exhibitors and their exhibits. This includes respect for designated areas, information signage, and division barriers. Any questions which may arise should be referred to the Superintendent of your show.

6. SMOKING:

To safeguard exhibitors and entries, it is necessary to prohibit smoking in the buildings. We ask all exhibitors and guests to cooperate with us in enforcing this rule.

7. ALCOHOL ABUSE:

To safeguard exhibitors, entries, livestock and the public, the State of Nebraska Rules on Alcohol Use and Abuse will be enforced.

8. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right to cancel events or change scheduling if deemed necessary.

9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

The Nebraska State Fair management provides to all persons the opportunity to exhibit at the Fair without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age or other non-merit factors. Any discrimination will be prohibited.

10. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

All applications for entry must be made On Line or on an official Nebraska State Fair Entry Form. Entry forms may be obtained from the State Fair website, www.statefair.org, or the Nebraska State Fair office (photo copies are acceptable). Using the On-Line method is preferred as it is the most accurate way of entering. Entries must be accompanied by all fees and other sums due the State Fair or entry will not be accepted.

No person, other than those in authority, will be allowed to see the entries or have access to the entry data until such time as the entries shall have been closed.

Should any individual enter an entry in a name other than that of a bona fide owner or attempt to perpetuate a fraud by misrepresenting any fact, the entry thus made shall not be allowed to compete for or receive any award, and the owner shall be barred from this show until reinstated.

When not otherwise stipulated, entries and competition are open to the public. No article will be considered unless provided for in the Entry Premium Book.

11. Entry Deadline/Late Entries:

See each department's entry rules and regulations for entry deadlines and information regarding late entries.

12. JUDGES / JUDGING:

No person shall be permitted to judge a class in which he/she may be competing for an award or have an ownership of any article entered in such class.

Judges are earnestly requested to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations of this show.

If any exhibitor interferes with the judges in the performance of their duties by letter, act, or otherwise he/she shall be excused from competition and exhibition for such period of time as Management may determine and shall forfeit any awards received at this Fair. Any person, not an exhibitor, who interferes with the judges in any manner during the performance of their duties, shall be asked to leave the judging arena.

When there are three (3) judges making a placing, the decision of two (2) shall be conclusive.

13. DISPUTES:

The Nebraska State Fair Management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these Rules & Regulations and to arbitrarily settle disputes and questions of differences.

14. ERRONEOUS ENTRY:

Participants are responsible for their own entries, and those of their agents and representatives, in preparation of entries. Exhibits that have been erroneously entered may be transferred, at the discretion of the Superintendent of the department, to their proper class, prior to judging, upon application to the Nebraska State Fair, who will determine the matter upon its merits. If such classes have been judged, they shall not be reopened.

15. PROTESTS:

All formal protests must be submitted in writing to the State Fair Superintendent. All forms must be signed by three individuals, and be accompanied by a monetary fee of \$150.00, cash or certified check. Such written protests must state plainly the cause of complaint or appeal and must be filed with the Superintendent immediately upon the occasion of the protest. No complaint or appeal based solely upon the statement that a judge is incompetent will be considered by Management.

This complaint, along with supporting documents, will be submitted to the Superintendent and Executive Director. The report of wrongdoing will then be reviewed by a neutral panel for review. The panel shall review the form, the allegations, and the supporting documents or evidence and report its findings and proposed decision to the Superintendent and the Executive Director. At no time will any exhibition, judging event, or any other ongoing event be delayed, stopped or interrupted as a result of any allegation of wrongdoing.

Where a protest is to be made against the competition of an article in any class, notice of same must be filed with the department Superintendent before the class is judged or immediately after the conclusion of class judging. Once an exhibit reaches championship judging, NO protests will be accepted.

Any decision rendered by the Executive Director and Superintendent based upon the review and proposed decision of the neutral panel shall be deemed a final decision.

16. AWARDS:

Where there are fewer entries in a class than the number of premiums offered, the judges may, at their discretion, award a prize or prizes of such grade as the exhibit merits. Unworthy exhibit: judges shall not award a prize to an unworthy exhibit. It is the intention of the Fair Management that no premium or distinction of any kind shall be given to any exhibit that is not deserving.

An individual exhibitor may enter unlimited exhibits in any individual class unless specified differently in the department entry book, but shall not be awarded more than two premiums from the individual class. Where there is but one exhibitor in a class, there will be only one premium awarded. Provided there are competing exhibitors (two or more) in a class, all placings and premiums may be awarded, except as noted in special department policies.

Payment of awards will be made within sixty (60) days after the last day of the Fair. **NO AWARD CHECK WILL BE ISSUED BY THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR FOR LESS THAN \$2.00.** The Nebraska State Fair will not be held liable for any award or premium offered by an individual or company, separate from the Nebraska State Fair, should that individual or company fail to provide the offered award or premium.

Not all departments will award all ribbon places.

17. STATE FIRE MARSHALL:

By order of the State Fire Marshal, the use of flammable and combustible materials inside the buildings is strictly prohibited. These types of materials must be used outside of the buildings only.

18. RETURNED CHECKS:

Any exhibitor issuing a check for payment, which is returned as non-sufficient funds or for any other reason not clearing their account, will be charged a \$40.00 service charge. No exhibitor will be permitted to show until the non-sufficient check has been paid. The exhibitor will have five (5) working days within which to make payment, by cash or money order, in the amount of the outstanding check plus the service charge. If any check is returned after exhibitor has shown, all premiums will be held until the amount of the check plus the service charge is paid.

19. CONCESSIONS AND ADVERTISING PRIVILEGES:

All exhibits, concessions and/or commercial privileges are at the sole discretion of Fair Management. Under no circumstances will any advertising matter be allowed to be placed upon buildings, trees or other places on the grounds or otherwise distributed without Management permission.

20. EXHIBITOR LIABILITY:

The exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage done to, or occasioned by, or arising from any animal or article exhibited by him/her and for its description as given in the Premium Book. Exhibitor shall indemnify the Nebraska State Fair against all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto, as well as any damage or injury to any other person or property, caused by the exhibitor or exhibites with the Fair.

21. LOTTERIES

No lottery or raffle shall be conducted at the Nebraska State Fair without the written authority of the Nebraska State Fair Board.

22. MAILING ADDRESS

Those in attendance at the Nebraska State Fair for the duration of the Fair should have mail addressed: c/o Nebraska State Fair, P.O. Box 1387, Grand Island, NE 68802

23. SOLICITATION

All advertising and/or distribution of advertising materials, tracts, pamphlets, etc. must be confined to a leased location.

24. TICKET POLICY

Discount admission tickets are available, **ONLY to exhibitors**, if purchased on the entry form, at a cost of \$4.00 per person/per day. Exhibitor tickets (a maximum of 5 days per household) must be purchased on the entry form and **are for the sole use of the exhibitor**. No additional exhibitor tickets may be purchased after the entry form has been submitted. No tickets will be mailed after Friday, August 19, but may be called for at the Ticket Office.

Non-exhibitor ticket prices:

Adults (excluding Aug 29-31).....	\$8
Aug 29-31	\$5
Advance-sale adult gate tickets (available through August 25).....	\$6
Children, 6 to 12 years of age.....	\$3
Children, 5 years of age and under.....	Free

Re-admission to the grounds on the same calendar day is offered via a hand stamp at all exit gates. NO REFUNDS will be given on any admission ticket.

25. CAMPGROUND

All campers are required to stop at the Campground office, pay the camping charges in advance, and receive a lot location assignment. Upon payment of camping charges, campground stickers will be furnished for cars. All vehicles without a sticker will be required to pay \$3 per night for camping. The Campground area is fenced with a permanent fence, and a Campground Manager is on duty at all times. The Manager will assign camping locations and will maintain a Campground directory.

CAMPGROUND FEES (PER DAY)

Campers & Trailers (full hook-up – all services & pad parking).....	\$28 (plus tax)
Electric & water service only.....	\$25 (plus tax)
Tent Space or Self-contained (no services).....	\$22 (plus tax)
Autos (without trailers/campers)	\$3 (plus tax)
Additional persons over 12 years of age (2 persons included with one night camping fee)	\$1 (plus tax)

All campers must leave the camping area by 3 p.m., or they will be charged an additional day at the regular daily rate.

Gate admission tickets to State Fairgrounds must be purchased each day at the Gate where the bus drops its passengers. (see "Ticket Policy" for prices).

Free bus service will be available to and from the Campground. The bus will begin the route at 7:30 a.m. each day and will run every ½-hour until 10 p.m. The only boarding place for returning to the Campground is at the east side of the 4H/FFA exhibit building (North side of the grounds).

26. ALL PARKING

Vehicles are required to park in places designated by the Fair Management. The Fair Management assumes no obligation and no liability for any theft or damage that may occur to the vehicle or its contents. No vehicles will be allowed to park for the sole purpose of advertising.

All trucks 1/2 ton or larger and livestock trailers will be required, immediately after unloading, to park in designated areas.

27. AUXILIARY VEHICLES

Auxiliary vehicles, such as golf carts, service carts, and other four wheelers, will require a permit for operation in State Fairgrounds, including parking areas and perimeter streets. This permit is available from the State Fair Ticket Office during move-in and during the Fair, for a fee of \$150 for the term. Any person who purchases a permit will be required to sign and abide by the Nebraska State Fair Auxiliary Vehicle Rules and Regulations and **must provide proof of insurance for the vehicle**. Auxiliary vehicles without a permit will not be allowed in the grounds at any time during the Fair. Carts will **NOT** be allowed in the Core Area after 8:30 a.m. any day. A map showing the route for auxiliary vehicles will be provided upon payment and signature for a permit. Some carts may be denied a permit based on size (no auxiliary vehicles over 52" will be allowed).

ONLINE ENTRY GUIDELINES

Exhibitors are encouraged to enter online rather than by mail. The process saves postage, is faster and less prone to entry errors.

To Enter Online

Go to the home page of the Nebraska State Fair web site, www.statefair.org. Click on the "Entry Book/Forms" tab and select "Domestic". Then, midway down the page, click on "How to Enter Online".

Start by clicking on the *Login/Logoff* found in the left side of the screen.

Then apply the following basic guidelines when following through the online process:

- Note that multiple people can be entered through "Quick Group". See the bottom of page for details.
- Any field title that is in bold print is a required field and must be filled in.
- For names that have two capitalized letters within the name such as "Mc" or "Mac", leave a space between the "c" and the next letter. Failure to do so will result in the next letter being lower case rather than capitalized.
- Do not use periods but only spaces in the name or address fields.
- Use either PO Box or Street Address; do not use both. Put apartment number after the street address.
- Use only a 5-digit zip code.
- Use a valid email address. A receipt with details of your entries will be emailed to this address.
- Exhibitor's birth date is needed only if entering in a class that has an age requirement.
- Note that if your "Return of Entry" is by mail or UPS, you will have to supply the pre-determined cost of this later on in the online entry process. The cost must be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. This means that if the actual return postage cost is pre-determined to be \$7.05, you must pay the next highest whole dollar amount which is \$8. The minimum return entry cost will be \$2.
- Many departments have specific requirements regarding the description of an entry. However, in all cases, the description entered should not be longer than 40 characters (a character is a letter or space. For example there are 19 characters in the following description: *red & white mittens*.)

When you have finished adding all entries, continue to the payment step:

- Exhibitor tickets must be ordered at the time entries are made. There is a **limit of FIVE exhibitor tickets per household**. Note that orders in excess of five will not be provided. There will be no refunds for excess tickets ordered.
- If you have elected to have your exhibits returned by mail or UPS, enter the dollar amount (without the \$ sign) rounded up to the next whole number from the actual pre-determined cost (see example above).

To Complete Online Entry

After you have entered your credit card information (VISA or MasterCard), you will be asked to confirm the order by entering "YES" in a box and then click on the Submit button. **Do not** click the Submit button again. Additional Submits may result in duplicate charges to your credit card. Response to the submission may take up to 30 seconds or longer. You will receive a confirmation via the email address you entered at the beginning of the session.

Corrections to online entries after the entry has been submitted are made at the time of the fair.

To Enter Multiple Family Members Online

Multiple family members can be entered more efficiently if you initially sign on as a "Quick Group". Give yourself a group name (this is only used on the entry process and appears no place else) and follow the instructions. After entering the first member, you will be given the opportunity to additional members and their entries, one by one. All charges for the group are paid at one time during check out. An entry receipt for each member will be emailed to you.

“The Good Life. On a Stick.”

CHRISTMAS TREE DEPARTMENT

Superintendent:

Scott Lund
(402) 660-9138

ENTRY FEE

There will be an entry fee of \$10.00 per entry for each class entered. Exhibitors may enter more than one item in a class, but the entry fee will be due for each item entered. Checks or Money Orders for the total fee due, **MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY FORM**. Note information in upper, right hand corner of entry form. Forms received without fees will be returned. In mid-June you will be able to enter online @ www.statefair.org.

There will be no refund for items entered, but not presented for judging.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Pre-entries are encouraged by either entry form or online (which will be available mid-June). Exhibits (trees, wreaths, centerpieces & swags) must be received at the Grand Stand Concourse area between 1:00pm-7:00pm Friday, August 26. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Entry Department and the Division Superintendent. Judging will be on Saturday morning, August 27.

ENTRY RULES

1. All Christmas trees and wreath greens must have been grown in Nebraska.
2. Trees shall be placed in water holding stands provided by the State Fair. The judges will not consider the stand.
3. All trees shall be cut from the roots.
4. The height of the tree shall be measured from the butt of the trunk to the tip of the leader. The width of the tree shall be measured from branch tip to branch tip at the widest part of the tree.
5. Artificial coloring is prohibited in all classes.
6. The State Fair shall provide entry registration tags. These tags **MUST** be properly filled out and affixed to the leader of any tree exhibited or the ring of any wreath exhibited. Any entry without an entry tag shall be eliminated from the competition.
7. Unless other arrangements are made with the superintendent, the State Fair will dispose of the trees and wreaths on September 6.

AWARDS

The Nebraska State Fair will not be held liable for any award or premium offered by an individual or company, separate from the Nebraska State Fair, should that individual or company fail to provide the offered award or premium.

PRIZE MONEY

Judges will award placing when quality and competition merits. If in the opinion of the judge an exhibit is not up to a standard worthy of first place, the placing will be made, as the judge may consider proper. All judges' decisions will be final. **The Nebraska State Fair will payback \$25.00 for 1st, \$15.00 for 2nd place and \$10.00 for 3rd place in all classes.**

Trees will be judged on Saturday, August 27. Following the judging, the exhibits will remain on display inside the Grand Stand Concourse area throughout the Fair.

Points will be awarded based on the following judging criteria:

Foliage:	Fresh, clean, uniform	10
Taper:	Pines 40% to 90% Fir and Spruces 40% to 70%	10
Density:	Medium or higher	10
Color:	Natural-normal	10
Naturalness:	Not perfectly smooth outside appearance	10
Damage or defects:	Crooked stem, holes, uneven sides, etc.	30
Overall Effect:	Overall general effect and appearance of tree	<u>20</u>
PERFECT SCORE		100

DIVISION 3201 - TREES

6-7' trees, not decorated

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per tree

Ribbons: Given to each first, second, and third place, and also to the overall Grand and Reserve Champion in the Tree Division.

- 101 Scotch Pine
- 102 White Pine
- 103 Any other

DIVISION 3202 - WREATHS

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per wreath

Ribbons: Given to first, second, and third place, and also to the overall Grand and Reserve Champion in the Wreath Division.

201 Any undecorated wreath

DIVISION 3203 - DECORATED CENTERPIECES & SWAGS

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per centerpiece or swag

Ribbons: Given to first, second, and third place and also to the overall Grand and Reserve Champion in the Decorated Centerpiece or Swag Division

301 Decorated centerpieces – base made of real, evergreen (conifer) material with added decoration. Maximum of 36” in length and width.

302 Decorated swags – 36” or less in total length, base made of real, evergreen (conifer) material with added decorations

“The Good Life. On a Stick”

ONLINE ENTRIES WILL BE AVAILABLE AND ENCOURAGED

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