



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH
NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

August 28 – September 7, 2026

Grand Island, NE



Join the Agricultural Products Department in celebrating “It All Happens Here” at the 2026 Nebraska State Fair.

Superintendent: Marvin Rousey, North Platte, NE

Phone: 308-532-7708 or 308-520-2431

Email: mlrousey@gmail.com

New in 2026

- All perishable items will be donated or disposed of at the end of fair. If you are wanting to pick up any of your items that must be arranged with Marvin Rousey prior to the end of the fair.

Important Dates

- Entry Deadline: Wednesday, August 19, at 11:59 PM
- Exhibit Delivery: Wednesday, August 26, 2 pm – 7 pm
Thursday, August 27, 9 am – 12 pm
- Exhibit Release: Monday, September 7, 6 pm – 8 pm. **Early Release is Prohibited.**

As an Open Class exhibitor you are an important part of what makes the Nebraska State Fair great. If you've appreciated your involvement and want to find other ways to support Competitive Exhibits, we hope you'll consider coming out to volunteer with us during the event! All volunteers get to pick what department they'd like to volunteer, they receive free gate admission for each shift worked and a complimentary official souvenir shirt. For more information or to register as a volunteer, please contact Haley Hewen at hhewen@statefair.org or visit www.statefairvolunteer.org.

Agricultural Products Department Divisions

- Divisions 2202-2211, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, & 2218 are open to all ages
- Division 2213 contains one class for youth ages 6-12 years old

Class Premiums and Overall Awards

Depending on the caliber of exhibits, the judge may but is not required to award all the placings that are available to be made in the class.

The **Nebraska Beekeeper's Association** offers one-pound jars of clover honey for the first-place winners in Division 2202 Classes 0204, 0210, 0211, 0212, & 0213

The premiums and special awards listed below are paid by the Nebraska State Fair & Grand Island Casino Resort

Place	Ribbon	Divisions 2202- 2212	Divisions 2214- 2218	Division 2209 Class 0901
1	Blue	\$7	\$18	\$300
2	Red	\$5	\$16	\$200
3	White	\$3	\$14	\$100
4	Pink	\$2	\$12	
5	Yellow	\$1	\$10	
\$30 and Rosette Best of Division 2201-2208				
Rosette Reserve Best of Division 2201-2208				
Green Thumb Award, recognition only, chosen by the superintendent				

Sweepstakes Sponsored by Grand Island Casino Resort

These are based on a point system. 1st place – 5 points, 2nd place – 3 points, and 3rd place – 1 point. Best of Show – 15 points, Reserve Best of Show – 12 points, Best of Division 10 points, Reserve Best of Division 7 points. Note: If an exhibitor wins for 2 consecutive years, they will be ineligible to win for the following 2 years.

1st place - \$300
2nd place - \$200
3rd place - \$100

The first-place winner will then go in for a people's choice Overall Sweepstakes Winner receiving a plaque and their name engraved on a trophy that will be displayed each year during the fair. The voting will begin the final weekend of the fair after all static events are complete. It will be a google form that you will use an email address to submit a vote.

Department Rules

It's the Exhibitor's responsibility to be familiar with the [General Rules & Regulations](#) linked here which apply to all Nebraska State Fair open class departments of Competitive Exhibits and to the specific rules for each department.

Additional Rules Specific to the Agricultural Department are:

- Competition is limited to Nebraska residents only.
- Commercial seed companies are not permitted to compete.
- Age-restricted classes require the birth date to be listed on the entry form. Age is as of January 1. Check age limits carefully when entering.
- **Division 2212 is for youth only.**
- Entries must be the growth of the present year unless otherwise stated in the class description.
- Exhibitors may enter only one (1) entry per class number.
- The superintendent will assign exhibit space. The department will furnish containers for Divisions 2201 and 2202, boxes for vegetables, and hooks for Pegboard displays.
- Exhibit quantity and other specifications are noted at the beginning of each division unless otherwise stated.
- The State Fair reserves the right to submit any or all exhibits to the germination test. Any exhibit showing a germination test lower than 80 will be disqualified. The Fair furthermore reserves the privilege of defacing and spraying with fluorescent dye.
- Perishable items that show spoilage or deterioration will be disposed of during the Fair to keep the exhibits fresh and attractive for the viewing public.
- Only officials may enter the exhibit spaces or have access to the entries.

Entering Exhibits – The deadline is Wednesday, August 19, at 11:59 PM

Exhibitors may purchase \$5 Exhibitor Gate Tickets. A maximum of 5 exhibitor tickets per family is allowed. No refunds will be given on any unused or lost tickets. To purchase these tickets, go to <http://bit.ly/4bVSm5v> and use password **CVENT**. Exhibitor tickets go off sale Thursday August 27, 2026, at 11:59pm.

Please note that daily gate admission for seniors (age 60+) and kids (6-12) is \$6 for any day of the fair. Find additional ticket deals and details at <https://www.statefair.org/plan-your-visit/pricing/>.

Online Registration: The most time and cost-efficient way to enter is online. Exhibitors can enter all their open-class exhibits and order exhibitor tickets (optional) in one session. Online entry begins around July 1. Instructions on how to enter online are found on the website www.statefair.org – Menu – Competitive Exhibits – Scroll down to Agricultural Products – Online Entry

Mail-In or In-Person Registration: When using mail-in or in-person registration, the exhibitor must use a separate form for each department entered. Either print the entry form from the following link: [2026 Agricultural Products Entry Form](#) or request a form from the Nebraska State Fair Office, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE 68801, Phone 308-382-1620.

Entry forms must be mailed, faxed, or delivered to the Nebraska State Fair. The deadline for Ag Products is Wednesday, August 19, at 11:59 PM. Mail-in entry must be postmarked by August 19.

- Mailing Address: Nebraska State Fair, PO Box 1387, Grand Island, NE 68802-1387
- Fax: 308-384-1555
- In-person delivery: Nebraska State Fair, 501 E Fonner Park Rd Ste 200, Grand Island, NE 68801

Guidelines for Completing Entry Form

- Enter all items you plan to bring. There is no entry fee. Items not brought will be deleted at the fair.
- No late entries including add-ons and substitutes at delivery check-in.
- Birthdate is required on the entry form only if you are entering an age-restricted (youth-only) class.
- Retain a copy of the entry form. A copy is required when you deliver your exhibits. For online registration, print either the entry receipt activity report or a packing/loading report.

Delivery of Exhibits – The deadline is Thursday, August 27, at 12 pm

Deliver exhibits along with a copy of the entry form to the Agricultural Products Department located in the 4-H FFA Fieldhouse. Use Gate 5 and you can enter the North or West doors.

There are two receiving dates this year: Wednesday, August 26, 2 pm - 7 pm, and Thursday, August 27, 9 am – 12 pm.

Make sure all tags are securely attached to your exhibits. Return all unused tags to the Superintendent. Exhibits not received and checked in before Thursday, August 27, 12 pm will not be judged.

Judging

Judging will begin promptly at 3 pm on Thursday, August 27.

Results will be available at www.statefair.org – Menu – Ag & Competitions – Open Class Competitive Exhibits

Return of Exhibits – Monday, September 7, 6 pm – 8 pm

Early release is prohibited.

All perishable items will be donated or disposed of at the end of fair. Non-perishables can be returned via the return site drop-off or must be picked up at the State Fair office by Friday, October 30th, 2026.

Divisions 2202-2219

Division 2202-2210 will receive sticker ribbons for class placings and a rosette for Best of Division

Division 2202: Sheaf Display

Sheaves must be Nebraskan grown, but do not need to be grown by the exhibitor. Grain and forage sheaves must not be less than three inches in diameter at the center of the banded portion. They must be the product of the current season and shall be judged as sheaves, considering the type, quality, and appearance of the entire sheaf.

- 0201 Hard Red Winter Wheat, shown without leaves
 - 0202 Rye, shown without leaves
 - 0203 Oats, shown without leaves
 - 0204 Soybeans, leaves permitted on the top one-third. Stalks cut at ground level
- Legumes for hay are shown with leaves.** Sheaves will be judged based on hay quality.
- 0210 Alfalfa any cutting
 - 0211 Any Sweet Clover before the bloom stage
 - 0212 Red Clover
 - 0213 Alsike Clover

Division 2203: Specimen Sheaves

Specimen sheaves. These sheaves should be mature and will be judged on the attractiveness of the sheaves and not forage or hay quality. Warm-season grass may be from the previous season. Sheaves should be identified.

- 0301 Big Bluestem
- 0302 Little Bluestem
- 0303 Indiangrass
- 0304 Switchgrass

Division 2204: Stalk Display

Entries in this division shall be judged from the standpoint of the best plant types for the purpose for which the crop is grown, whether for grain, forage or otherwise.

- Entries in classes 0404-0411 must consist of four (4) stalks tied or banded
- Entries in class 0412 must consist of two (2) heads with a 1-foot stem.

- 0401 Grain Sorghum, red or bronze with leaves
- 0402 Grain Sorghum, yellow or cream with leaves
- 0404 Yellow Popcorn
- 0405 White Popcorn
- 0406 Yellow Dent Corn
- 0407 White Dent Corn
- 0408 Strawberry Popcorn
- 0409 Any Flint or Indian Corn
- 0410 Ornamental Corn, up to 3.5 inches
- 0411 Ornamental Corn, over 3.5 inches
- 0412 Sunflower Heads, 2 quantities with 1-foot stem
- 0413 Tallest Corn Stalk, 3 stalks with ears, no roots

Division 2205: Corn, Growth of Current year (2026)

Corn samples of 5 ears, shown without shucks unless otherwise specified.

- 0501 Yellow Dent Corn
- 0502 White Dent Corn

- 0503 Yellow Sweet Corn
- 0504 White Sweet Corn
- 0505 Bi-colored Sweet Corn
- 0506 Yellow Popcorn
- 0507 White Popcorn
- 0508 Strawberry Popcorn
- 0509 Other Ornamental Corn, up to 3.5 inches
- 0510 Other Ornamental Corn, over 3.5 inches
- 0511 Flint Corn, shown with shucks (turned back but not tied)

Division 2207: Vegetables

Exhibits will be displayed on plates or other containers furnished by the department. Onions, table beets, carrots, horseradish, turnips, and parsnips are to be shown with two inches of the top. The number of specimens required is listed after each class. Note: Refrigeration and washing before the show cause deterioration.

- 0701 Russet Potatoes – 5
- 0702 Kennebec Potatoes – 5
- 0703 Cobblers Potatoes – 5
- 0704 Norland Potatoes – 5
- 0705 Yukon Gold Potatoes – 5
- 0706 Any other variety White Potato – 5
- 0707 Any other variety Red Potato – 5
- 0708 Sweet Potato, any variety – 3
- 0709 Colored Potato, other than red or white – 3
- 0710 Red Onion, unpeeled – 5
- 0711 White Onion, unpeeled – 5
- 0712 Yellow Onion, unpeeled – 5
- 0713 Jumbo Onions, 4 inches or over, any variety, unpeeled – 3
- 0714 Soybeans, edamame pods – 12
- 0715 Green Beans, in pods – 12
- 0716 Wax Beans, in pods – 12
- 0717 Lima Green Beans, in pods – 12
- 0718 Green Cabbage – 2 heads
- 0719 Red Cabbage – 2 heads
- 0720 Green Bell Peppers – 5
- 0721 Red Bell Peppers – 5
- 0722 Banana Peppers – 5
- 0723 Hot Peppers, Jalapeno – 5
- 0724 Hot Peppers, red, large – 5
- 0725 Hot Peppers, green – 5
- 0726 Hot Peppers, yellow – 5
- 0727 Hot Peppers, not named – 5
- 0728 Hot Peppers, chili – 5
- 0729 Other Sweet Pepper – 5
- 0730 Red Tomatoes, no stems – 5
- 0731 Pink Tomatoes, no stems – 5
- 0732 Yellow or Orange Tomatoes, no stems – 5
- 0733 Paste Tomatoes, no stems – 5
- 0734 Small Red varieties Tomatoes other than paste, no stems – 12
- 0735 Any other small variety Tomato, no stems – 12
- 0738 Red Table Beets – 5
- 0739 Colored Carrots, purple or mixed colors – 5
- 0740 Short Carrots, 2-4 inches – 5
- 0741 Long Carrots, over 4 inches – 5
- 0742 Turnips – 5

- 0743 Rhubarb, 2-inch fan, pulled not cut – 5
- 0744 Eggplant, traditional – 2
- 0745 Eggplant, Japanese – 2
- 0746 Eggplant, other – 2
- 0747 Okra, edible, up to 5 inches – 5
- 0748 Kohlrabi – 5
- 0749 Other non-root crop, above ground – 5
- 0750 Other root crop, below ground – 5
- 0751 Sweet Basil, dried shown with leaves – 5 stems
- 0752 Dill, dried bunch 2 foot – 5 stems
- 0753 Sage, dried shown with leaves – 5 stems
- 0754 Garlic Chives, fresh shown in jar/glass of water – 5 specimens
- 0755 Onion Chives, fresh shown in jar/glass of water – 5 specimens
- 0756 Parsley, fresh shown in jar/glass of water – 5 specimens
- 0758 Garlic – 5 bulbs
- 0759 Oregano, fresh shown in jar/glass of water – 5 stems
- 0760 Rosemary, fresh shown in jar/glass of water – 5 stems
- 0761 Other Herb, not listed, fresh shown in jar/glass of water – 5 stems
- 0762 Shallot – 5 bulbs

Division 2208 – Vine Products

Each entry shall consist of two (2) uniform specimens of each variety, shown with 2" stems unless otherwise indicated.
Note Refrigeration before the show causes deterioration.

- 0801 Spaghetti Squash, mature – 2
- 0802 Butternut Squash, mature – 2
- 0803 Acorn Squash, mature – 2
- 0805 Buttercup Squash, mature – 2
- 0806 Banana Squash, mature – 2
- 0807 Other mature Winter variety Squash, not listed above – 2
- 0809 Decorative Squash (doll type) – 2
- 0810 Warty Pumpkin – 2
- 0814 Turk's Turban Squash, mature, decorative – 2
- 0815 Scallop Squash, any type, edible, immature – 2
- 0816 Zucchini, edible, immature – 2
- 0817 Crookneck Squash, edible, immature – 2
- 0818 Any other Summer Squash, edible, immature – 2
- 0819 Pumpkin, sugar or pie, mature – 2
- 0820 Pumpkin, Connecticut field type, mature – 1
- 0821 Cushaw Pumpkin, mature – 1
- 0822 Mini Pumpkin, up to 4 inches, mature, white – 2
- 0823 Mini Pumpkin, up to 4 inches, mature, orange – 2
- 0825 Watermelon, round over 9 inches, green, mature – 2
- 0826 Watermelon, round over 9 inches, stripe, mature – 2
- 0827 Watermelon, long, green, mature – 1
- 0828 Watermelon, long, stripe, mature – 1
- 0829 Watermelon, ice-box varieties, up to 9 inches, mature – 2
- 0830 Muskmelon – 2
- 0831 Cantaloupe – 2
- 0832 Cucumber, green slicing, with or without stem – 2
- 0833 Cucumber, pickling, over 2.5 inches, with or without stem – 5
- 0834 Lemon Cucumber, with or without stem – 2
- 0835 Any other variety of Cucumber, not listed – 2
- 0836 Ornamental Gourds, matured, display of 5 large varieties over 3.5 inches, judged for color and shape
- 0837 Ornamental Gourds, matured, display of 5 small varieties up to 3.5 inches, judged for color and shape

- 0838 Other Vine Products – 2
- 0839 White Pumpkin 10 inches or less – 2
- 0840 White Pumpkin over 10 inches – 1

Division 2209: Giant & X-Large Pumpkin

Exhibits must be sound, good quality, mature, and single specimens to be judged by weight at the time of entry. Specimens shown in this division cannot be shown in any other class. A minimum weight of 300 pounds is required for the Giant Pumpkin. X-Large pumpkins to be 75 – 299 pounds

- 0901 Giant Pumpkin (300 lbs and up) with soft/hard, round/hexagonal stem (Connecticut Field, Howden, Atlantic Giant, Big Max, Hungarian Giant, etc.). Premiums – 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100
- 0902 X-Large Pumpkin (75-299 lbs) with soft/hard, round/hexagonal stem (Connecticut Field, Howden, Atlantic Giant, Big Max, Hungarian Giant, etc.). 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25

Division 2210: Largest Vegetables

Exhibits in this division cannot be shown in any other class and should be a single specimen, matured, sound/good quality to be judged by weight on the day of entry.

- 1001 Potato, any variety
- 1002 Onion, any variety
- 1003 Cabbage, either green or red
- 1004 Tomato, red
- 1005 Eggplant
- 1006 Pepper
- 1007 Sweet Potato
- 1008 Carrot
- 1009 Cucumber, no Armenian variety
- 1010 Kohlrabi
- 1011 Pumpkin, Cashew
- 1012 Squash, Hubbard
- 1013 Squash, Zucchini
- 1014 Watermelon
- 1015 Other Squash
- 1016 Ear of Corn – crop of 2026

Division 2211: Oddity of Nature

Open to All Ages

- 1101 Oddity from any class in Agricultural Products

Division 2212: Mr. Potato Head

This is an age-restricted division and is limited to ages 6-12 years of age. Birth date must be listed on the entry form. Age is as of January 1, 2026.

Potato decorated to look like a person or character with a name. Must use all natural materials. Use a Patriotic Theme!

- 1201 Mr. Potato Head – America 250

Division 2214: Farm Products Display

Bushel of Garden Produce. Entry must be shown in a bushel basket turned on the side. Bring your own bushel basket. Vegetables are to look like the basket was spilled and not arranged. No decorations on or with basket allowed. Entry must be an assortment of vegetables consisting of at least 6 or more types of produce, not more than a level bushel. Exhibits are to be assembled by the exhibitor and observed by an Agricultural Products staff member. Judged for quality, variety, and general appearance. **Open to all ages.**

1404 Bushel of Garden Produce from divisions 2207 and 2208

Division 2215: Scarecrow

Be Creative! "Your Imagination is boundless" Use a Patriotic Theme!

Only One entry per exhibitor. Open to all ages.

Entry Requirements: Must be free-standing.

1501 Scarecrow – America 250

Division 2216: Cornucopia Display

The entry is shown in a cornucopia basket. Bring your own basket. Decorations on or with baskets will be judged on originality. Entry must be an assortment of agricultural products from divisions 2205, 2207, and 2208 consisting of at least 3 but not more than 8 different kinds of produce. Exhibits are to be arranged by an exhibitor and observed by an Agricultural Products staff member. Entry will be judged for quality, variety, and arrangement. Open to all ages.

1601 Cornucopia Basket

Division 2217: From Produce to Pantry

Prepare an educational exhibit to show where our food supply comes from. Example: A basket might contain a jar of salsa surrounded by tomatoes, jalapeno peppers, cilantro, and onions. Judging is based on educational effect, creativity, and quality of produce. Bring your own container. Open to all ages.

1701 Educational Exhibit

Division 2218: Table Centerpiece

The centerpiece is not to exceed 18" L x 12" W at any point including the base. The base could be a placemat, basket, or tray. The centerpiece may include **size-appropriate items** from Division 2202 Classes 201-203, Division 2203 Classes 0301-0304, Division 2205 Classes 0501-0511, and Division 2208 Classes 0801-0838. No other items may be used except ribbon. Open to all ages.

1801 Table Centerpiece

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Sites

For Non-Perishable Exhibits

Please package each department's exhibits separately. For example, if you are entering both textile arts and photography, which belong to different departments, package them separately. Ensure a copy of your entry form is taped to the top of each package.

Important: We will not accept exhibits that are not properly packaged. We will make an effort to return your exhibits in the same packaging used for drop-off. To make transportation easier and safer, we recommend packaging your exhibits in a box.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Locations:

This year, exhibits can be dropped off and picked up at the following locations during the Extension Office's business hours:

Drop-Off Dates:

- Thursday, August 13th and Friday, August 14th, 2026

Pick-Up Dates:

- Monday, September 14th and Tuesday, September 15th, 2026
 - Must be picked up no later than September 15th.

Location Hours:

- **Lincoln/Logan/McPherson County Extension Office:**
348 West State Farm Rd, North Platte, NE 69101
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- **Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office:**
8015 West Center Rd, Omaha, NE 68124
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- **Seward County Extension Office:**
322 S. 14th St, Seward, NE 68434
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Reminder: Please bring a copy of your entry form(s) when dropping off your exhibits.