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ADDITIONAL RULES APPLY IN EACH COMPETITION DEPARTMENT.

-  Exhibitors are encouraged to make all entries early. The right is reserved to reject any entry.
-  In most divisions, competition is limited to residents of North Carolina.
-  All entries must be made in the name of the owner, breeder, manufacturer, grower, producer, or one whose skill the exhibit represents. A firm, to be entitled to exhibit as such, must have been organized not less than 30 days prior to the closing date for entries and such firm must have been organized as a bona fide firm for the purpose of producing or buying and selling the articles or animals it proposes to exhibit in the name of such firm. A firm will be regarded as one exhibitor.
-  All exhibits must be officially registered with the Fair before the deadline for each department. No article or animal will be entitled to space or considered for judging until proper registration has been made.
-  **Late entries will not be accepted.**
-  Exhibitors are encouraged to make their entries online by accessing the registration link on the [State Fair General Competitions website](#). If mailing in entry forms, official printed forms or copies of forms must be used in making applications for entry. Be sure to fill out the application form completely, accurately, and legibly.
-  Exhibitors must provide a valid Social Security Number (SSN) or Employer Identification Number (EIN) at the time of registration to be able to receive a premium check and cannot be provided at a later time once registration is submitted. Declining to provide a valid SSN or EIN at registration will result in forfeiture of all premiums earned. For online registration, entering 000-00-0000 or any other obviously invalid SSN or TIN will automatically be regarded as a declination to provide a valid number and result in forfeiture of premiums earned from any NC State Fair Competitions.
-  Entry fees are required in some departments.
-  Each individual entry item may only be entered in one class.
-  Unclaimed exhibits from competitive departments will be considered abandoned if not called for within **one week** after the official closing of the Fair and may be disposed of as the Fair Manager sees fit.
-  Removal of exhibits before the date and time specified will result in forfeiture of all premiums won, all fees paid, and the right to further participation in Fair competitions.
-  All exhibits will be numbered and recorded in the books of the proper department and class. Entry tags with corresponding numbers will be issued. This tag must be securely attached to the exhibit and must remain on the exhibit throughout the Fair.
-  The State Fair assumes no responsibility for the incorrect tagging of exhibits.
-  Shipped entries must be **received** by Monday, October 5th, 2026. Entries may be shipped via UPS or Fed Ex (signature required) to: NC State Fair Attn Entry Department 4285 Trinity Road Raleigh NC 27607
-  The management will not be responsible for delayed shipments which arrive at the Fair too late to be considered for judging.
-  All reasonable care will be given to all exhibits; however, exhibits are entered at the **exhibitor's risk**. The Fair and staff are not responsible for damage, theft, or loss at any time.
-  Entries made in wrong classes may be moved to the proper class by the Department Superintendent or Competitive Exhibits Director.
-  Division Directors and Department Superintendents will have full authority over allocation of space.
-  The NC State Fair makes no guarantee that all entries will be displayed.

-  The Fair management reserves the right to reject any exhibit which does not reflect merit and which would not be a credit to both the exhibitor and the Fair.
-  Division Directors, Department Superintendents, and/or Judges must report disqualification of entries to the Fair Manager immediately after such action is taken. Under no circumstances will judging be considered official and premiums paid in a class where disqualification is recommended until approval of the disqualification(s) is obtained from the Fair Manager.
-  Decision of the judges will be final and no appeal will be considered, except in cases of protest in writing, with strong evidence of fraud or violation of the rules of the Fair. Protests must be in writing and filed with the State Fair Competitive Exhibits Director.
-  Judges, when requested, may give the reasons for their decisions embracing the value and desirable qualities of the exhibits to which they have awarded premiums.
-  Judges will not award premiums or ribbons to any article or animal that does not qualify for one of the classes in the NC State Fair Premium Book.
-  Judges may choose to not award any or all placings in a class if entries are not deemed to be of sufficient quality and quantity.
-  There will only be one ribbon awarded per placing per class, unless otherwise specified.
-  The State of North Carolina will require submission of a NC Substitute W-9 prior to making any payment of \$2,000 or greater or any payment that results in a total of \$2,000 or more during one calendar year from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to any individual or entity. All exhibitors expecting earnings above this threshold are strongly encouraged to complete and upload the NC Substitute W-9 form to prevent any delay in receiving premium prize money.
-  If any problem develops concerning prize check issuing and mailing, additional paperwork will be required.
-  Photographs of exhibits and winners will be taken by official photographers of the NC State Fair. Exhibitors hereby grant the NC State Fair permission to utilize photographs, images, or likenesses in whole or in part for use in official NC State Fair publications and promotions.
-  Any participant who wishes to comment on a contest must do so in writing by sending an e-mail to: NCSFCompetitions@ncagr.gov
-  The following colors of ribbons will be used to designate awards:

AWARD	RIBBON COLOR
Grand Champion	Purple
Reserve Champion	Lavender
First Place	Blue
Second Place	Red
Third Place	White
Fourth Place	Pink
Fifth Place	Yellow
Sixth Place	Dark Green
Seventh Place	Light Green
Eighth Place	Tan
Ninth Place	Gray
Tenth Place and Above	Light Blue