

Department And Exhibit Rules

Agricultural Hall Department and Exhibit General Rules

All rules and regulations that apply to the Senior Division also apply to the Junior Division unless noted differently.

Entries for Departments 100-900 must be received by 8 PM on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

Entries can be completed online, mailed, emailed, or dropped off.

Online: <https://www.defiancecountyfair.com/agricultural-hall-entries>

Mail to:

Defiance County Fair
PO Box 184, Hicksville, OH 43526

Email to: defiancecountyfair@gmail.com

Entry Drop off:

Fair Secretary's Office
530 S. Main Street, Hicksville, Ohio 43526
August 1st 3pm-7pm
August 4th 4pm-7pm
August 11th 4pm-7pm
August 15th 11am-2pm
August 19th 5pm-8pm

BRING OR SEND ONLY A LIST OF WHAT YOU WISH TO ENTER, NOT THE ACTUAL ENTRIES. ENTRIES NEED TO BE DROPPED OFF AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH 6-8 PM, OR FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST 9-11 AM.

Please read the following regulations/rules and make certain that your planned entries are in accordance with the classes and categories offered. Please do not ask the clerk to make any entries not listed.

- All adult entrants must purchase a season ticket. Failure to purchase a season ticket will result in not being able to enter.
- An entry fee of \$1.00 per item will be charged for ALL (Junior and Senior) Departments.
- Entry fees can be paid by check and mailed with entry forms. Make checks payable to the Agricultural Fair of Defiance County and include your address and phone number.
- An open-class entry blank is published on our website at www.defiancecountyfair.com. The form may be copied or duplicated as often as needed.
- Your exhibits may be brought to the Agricultural Building from 6-8 PM on Thursday, August 20, 2026, AND/OR 9-11 AM on Friday, August 21, 2026. Judging will start at 12 noon on Friday, August 21, 2026. Items not in the building by 11 AM on Friday will not be allowed to enter.
- The Ag Building will be CLOSED for judging. The judge's decision will be final. If any item, in the opinion of the judge, is not entered in the correct class, true name, or age, it will not be considered in the award of premiums.
- Exhibits will be released on Friday, August 29, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Premiums will be available for pick-up at that time. If items and premiums are not picked up at that time, then food items will be thrown away and premiums will be taken to the Secretary Office. If other items and premiums are not picked up within 30 days they will become the property of the Defiance County Agricultural Society Fair Board.
- The Agricultural Society will take every precaution to ensure that your exhibits are secure, but will not be held responsible for missing stolen, lost, or broken items.

Baked Goods Auction

Pies, cakes, cookies, and decorative houses entered in the Junior & Senior Divisions will be sold at auction on Saturday, August 22nd at 3:00 pm in front of the Agricultural Hall. Senior proceeds will be used to support the program. Baked goods for auction need to be brought Saturday morning to the agricultural building. Wine tasting, will follow the baked goods auction 4:00-6:00 pm.

Best of Class Awards

Senior and Junior Divisions

Premiums offered for Agricultural Hall Exhibits:

1st-\$4.00, 2nd-\$3.00, 3rd-\$2.00

Premiums offered for club booths in Agriculture Hall:

1st-\$25.00, 2nd-\$20.00, 3rd-\$15.00

Department 100 - Baked Goods

- Make sure that your entry tags are firmly attached when entries are brought for judging.
- Punch a hole and tie the entry tag to cardboard, plate, or tin.
- All cakes must be on cake board, or cardboard covered with foil, which should not exceed more than 1" beyond the size of the cake.
- Cookies must be on a firm, small paper plate in a plastic bag.
- Please place 4 cookies on a plate.
- Cookies: Nuts are optional. Be sure the recipe card states whether your item has nuts.
- Pies should be in 9" foil pans.
- The baked good auction is voluntary. A sign-up sheet will be available as entries are brought in for judging. 1st and 2nd place winners will be strongly encouraged to enter as names will be announced during the auction. Those entering cookies are asked to bring an extra dozen packaged to be auctioned. The pies and cakes will be auctioned, with one piece removed for judging and display.

Department 200 - Agricultural Exhibits

- Mark a variety of entry cards.
- Must have been home/family grown.
- Dehydrated items placed in zip lock sandwich bag and mark variants on entry card.

Department 300/350 - Horticulture (Floral) - Senior Division

THERE ARE TWO SHOWS:

FIRST SHOW - Saturday, August 22, 2026

SECOND SHOW - Wednesday, August 26, 2026

All rules govern both show classes and specimen categories are the same except for Class A (House Plants). The numbers within the classes are different for each show.

2025 DEFIANCE COUNTY FAIR FLOWER SHOW RULES

1. The Senior Division is open to any person 17 years or over. Anyone 4 to 16 years old may enter the Junior Division. To compete for class premiums, exhibitors must purchase a season ticket to enter. Entry fee of \$1.00 per item will be charged for the Senior Division.
2. All entries are to be pre-registered. Since there are two shows, exhibitors are encouraged to register for both shows. One plant shall not be shown twice. An exhibitor may enter the same classes for both shows or may choose to enter different classes.
3. All classes are open to those who grow flowers and plants for pleasure only, not for the purpose of livelihood.
4. Entries are not limited to Defiance County.
5. Entries for the first show are to be brought to the Agriculture Hall between 7:30 AM and 10:30 AM on Saturday, August 22, 2026. Entries for the second show are to be brought to the Agriculture Hall between 7:30 AM and 10:30 AM on August 26, 2026.
6. All exhibitors are to use the Hicks Street entrance to the fairgrounds on Wednesday.
7. Judging for the first show will begin at 12:00 noon on August 22, 2026. Judging for the second show will begin at 12:00 noon on August 26, 2026.
8. Entries from the first show are to be removed after 9:00 PM on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 (this is to allow ample time for setup of the second show) Entries not removed by 7:30 AM will be disposed of and the containers stored. Exhibits will be released on Friday, August 28, 2026, from 6-8:00 PM. Premiums will be available for pick-up at that time. If items and premiums are not picked up at that time, then items will be thrown away and premiums will be taken to the Secretary Office. If other items and premiums are not picked up within 30 days they will become the property of the Defiance County Agricultural Society Senior Fair Board to do with as they choose.
9. The fair board will spare no effort to see that every precaution is taken for their safekeeping, but will not be responsible for missing, stolen, lost, or broken articles.
10. The exhibitor must grow all horticulture entries. Correct variety names should be on the entry tag of each exhibit. Horticulture entries must be exhibited in clear bud vases. Only foliage that is a part of the bloom is allowed in the horticulture categories; no foliage may be added.

11. Only the placement committee will stage horticulture exhibits.
12. When the schedule calls for a definite number, as in horticulture exhibits, a greater or lesser number disqualifies.
13. The plant must have been in the exhibitor's possession at least three (3) months.
14. All floral designs must be the work of the exhibitor.
15. Any premium may be withheld at the discretion of the Judges. Inferior exhibits will receive no prizes. Judges' decisions are final.
16. A person may enter two exhibits under each class, except in the horticulture section where one entry for each different named variety is permissible. Variety names must be included on the entry tag.
17. No scenes or landscapes will be accepted.
18. Entries must not be moved or position altered without assistance of the placement committee.
19. In order to secure an adequate number of entries in each class, the placement committee reserves the right to combine or subdivide classes as needed.
20. Classes having no entries will be withdrawn.
21. All containers, bases, and accessories must be labeled on the bottom, with the exhibitor's name and telephone number.
22. While the committee will afford the best possible care and protection to all exhibits, it distinctly disclaims any liability for losses or damage to exhibits or personal property of the exhibitors

JUDGING STANDARDS

JUDGING WILL BE BY THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF GARDEN CLUB STANDARDS

NOTE: Plants should be labeled as a variety.

- A bloom - one flower disbudded with all foliage attached to its stem above the waterline.
- A spray - one stem with all foliage, flowers, and buds down to the first true leaf on the main stem. The terminal bud blooms first. One stem terminates in a bud, but not in another stem.
- A spike - one stem with all foliage, flowers, and buds attached and where the bottom florets bloom first.
- Foliage on all exhibits should be clean with no evidence of spray residue, mildew, insect damage, or infestation.
- No artificial polishing or oiling is permitted.
- All variety names must be listed on entry tags.

THERE WILL BE TWO SHOWS: AUGUST 22 & AUGUST 26, 2026.

The specimen categories are the same for both shows, however, the numbering will be different. To be judged for horticulture quality. Removal of side buds and branches from individual blooms is required. The foliage is not to be removed. Must be grown by the exhibitor and must be labeled as to the named variety.

Department 900 - Horticulture (Floral) Junior Division

SUPERINTENDENT Tracey Backhaus 419-438-1149

THERE ARE TWO SHOWS:

FIRST SHOW - Saturday, August 22, 2026

SECOND SHOW - Wednesday, August 26, 2026

The Junior Division is open to any person 16 years or under. Anyone 17 years or older may enter the Senior Division. Entries must be grown and cared for by the exhibitor, ages sixteen (16) and under. To compete for class premiums, exhibitors must purchase a season ticket to enter. Junior Division entrants may enter under a parent's ticket or purchase their own exhibitor's ticket. Anyone entering must be present with the entry.

Department 400 - Homemade Wines

SUPERINTENDENT Tracey Backhaus 419-438-1149

Homemade Wines are open to all adult competitors 21 years and over. Wines will be judged on merit only. No entry is accepted unless it can be placed in the listed categories. All exhibits shall be identified with the entry tag only. Entries submitted into the wrong class will be disqualified. Open registration ends August 19, 2026. Exhibits are accepted Saturday, August 22nd between 7:30 am and 11:00 am. Judging is to be held on Saturday, August 22nd at 1:00 PM. All exhibitors must have or purchase a Defiance County season pass at the time of registration. Entry fee will be 1.00 per entry. Exhibits will then remain in place until release day Friday, August 28, 2026 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.

Wine tasting is open to the public. This year there will be a separate wine tasting event.. -
\$0.25 / taste, 5 tastes for \$1.00

WINE JUDGING STANDARDS:

Clarity, Color, Aroma / Bouquet, Palate, Flavor, Balance & Finish.

ENTRY RULES:

1. All exhibits entered must be made by the exhibitor.
2. Wines may be made from grapes, berries, other fruits, vegetables, or blends of these.
3. Ingredients may be made from fresh, canned, dried, concentrated, or otherwise preserved items.
4. Exhibitors may enter two entries per class.

5. ONLY ONE BOTTLE PER ENTRY NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED. (Entry bottles will be used for display and may be picked up Friday, August 28 from 6-8:00 PM in the Ag Hall).
6. The Agriculture Hall will be closed during judging.

RULES FOR PRESENTATION:

1. Still wines MUST be submitted in smooth glass bottles of approximately 750-ml capacity.
2. Bottles of the general shape called BORDEAU or RHINE are acceptable and may be closed with cork, screw top, or plastic stopper.
3. Bottles MUST be filled to within an inch of cork or other closure.
4. Each bottle must be labeled with the class of wine, the year it was made and the main ingredient used. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE BOTTLE - however, you may put your exhibitor's number on the label.

Department 500 - Home-Brewed Beers & Ales

SUPERINTENDENT Tracey Backhaus 419-438-1149

1. Competition is open to all amateur brewers 21 years of age and older.
2. All entries must be homemade and intended for private, non-commercial use. Blending or addition of any commercial beer/ale is strictly prohibited.
3. Entries will be judged according to Beer Judge Certification Program style standards (2008 revision). Complete style descriptions and information can be found at www.bjcp.org
4. All exhibitors must purchase a season ticket and pay a fee of \$1.00 per entry. Exhibitors must comply with all Defiance County general rules.
5. Exhibitors may enter two entries per class.
6. Exhibitors must provide two bottles per entry. Bottles should be free of labels or raised lettering. Any type of standard closure is allowed including crown caps, flip-tops (Grolsch) style stoppers, and cork & wire stoppers. Caps that have logos or lettering should be blacked out. Bottles must be standard 12 or 16 oz. sizes. EXCEPTION: Entries in Section G - Belgian and French Ales may be entered in bottles and seals appropriate to the style. If a 22 oz. (approx.) bottle is entered, only one bottle is needed per entry.
7. Places and premiums will be awarded at the discretion of the judge based on the quality of entries. Judges are not obligated to award placing or premiums. The judges' decision is final.
8. One empty bottle from each entry will be retained for the fair display. In place of unmarked bottles, exhibitors are encouraged to display an empty bottle with a decorative label.

Department 600 - Photography

SUPERINTENDENT Tracey Backhaus 419-438-1149

- Photographs for all classes must be a print from a single or multiple exposures, digital or film. Pre-fair registration is required for all classes. The entry tag will be attached to the back of the photo in the lower right-hand corner.
- Entries will be released on Friday, August 22, 2025 from 7-8:30 PM with receipt of the claim slip.
- All photos must be a minimum of 5 x 7 and a maximum of 8 x 10 and firmly attached to a mat or mounting board not to exceed 12 x 14.
- No frames of any kind are allowed. Please don't put any kind of hanger on the photos.
- All photos must be printed on photo paper.
- Attach the entry tag to the back of the photo in the lower right corner.
- The same photo cannot be entered in more than one class.
- All photographs must be the original work of the exhibitor.
- No photo will be exhibited with the photographer's signature or logo on the face of the photo.
- Any subject that is questionable or inappropriate will be rejected at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Department 700 - Art

SUPERINTENDENT Tracey Backhaus 419-438-1149

- This Senior division is for anyone out of high school and older. Current high school artists will be part of the Youth Division. If you graduated in 2025, artwork created prior to graduation must be entered in the Youth Division. Artwork created after graduation must be entered in the Adult Division. NO COMPUTER-GENERATED ARTWORK IS ALLOWED. Please be sure the artwork is entered in the correct category. Do not ask the clerk to make entries in classes not listed. Entries will not be judged if entered in the wrong class.
- TWO ENTRIES PER EXHIBITOR WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR EACH CLASS. Entry tags must be securely fastened by string, etc. on the back of the item. Names will be displayed AFTER JUDGING which will be completed Friday. All paper artwork should be matted or mounted on a mat board or poster board. Hangers will be provided. Framing is acceptable but not necessary. If framed, hangers or wires are required.
- Entries will be released on Friday, August 28, 2026, from 6-8:00 PM with receipt of the claim slip.

Artwork is judged on creativity and presentation. The judge will not be required to award all premiums in a class if entries are limited and/or not worthy.

Department 700 - Quilts

SUPERINTENDENT Tracey Backhaus 419-438-1149

The entry fee is \$1.00 per quilt.

Quilts will be displayed in the Agricultural Hall.

Two entries per exhibitor will be accepted for each class. Entry tags must be securely attached to entries. All articles must have been made by the exhibitor within the past three years and not previously exhibited at the Defiance County Fair.

Department 700 - Woodworking

SUPERINTENDENT Tracey Backhaus 419-438-1149

The entry fee is \$1.00