

GOVERNEUR & ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY FAIR INFORMATION AND GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair will be held at Gouverneur NY, August 4 – August 9, 2026, inclusive, unless postponed by the Management for any cause or causes whatsoever which it may deem necessary for the good of all concerned. The Fair Boards hereby reserves that right.

While the financial liability of the entire exhibition is the responsibility of the Fair Association, under the direction of its President, the coordination of all details of getting the Fair underway lies with the Board of Directors and the other appointed officers and superintendents.

All rules and regulations referred to herein will apply to each and every department of the Fair. They are made a part of the conditions under which entries are accepted for exhibit or contracts for Concessions are granted. All property being brought and kept upon said fairgrounds shall be at owner's risk, owner assumes all responsibility for any loss, damage, theft, or accident that may occur.

In the event of a conflict of general and special department rules, the latter will govern.

Express permission of any variation of these rules may be given by the Board of Managers, who are vested with the authority to give or refuse their consent, as they in their judgment believe to be in the best interest of the public welfare and to aid in the promotion and conduct of a safe, orderly and well-operated annual fair.

The disregard of any rule by any exhibitor or concessionaire will be cause to forfeit all premiums, rights, and privileges with recourse.

The Society reserves the right to refuse pass-out checks, rain checks, refunds or ticket exchanges at any of the outside gates. Please do not ask an officer or employee to issue these.

Automobiles and all other vehicles will be admitted to the grounds for a small charge for parking. They are admitted for the convenience of the owners and/or drivers and the charge paid covers the privilege only and is to be so accepted otherwise vehicle admission will be denied. Vehicles must be parked in space designated by the management and not elsewhere. The Fair Society shall not be liable under any circumstances, whether of negligence of itself, its agents or otherwise for any injury to his or her person or for any theft, loss of injury to his or her property or vehicle while within the fairgrounds. Articles left in vehicles are done so at owner's risk.

The County Sheriff's Deputies, with the N.Y.S. Police also being in attendance will police the fairgrounds.

COMPETITION DEFINED: Competition is defined, as a contest for supremacy between two or more products or articles or animals owned by separate exhibitors. Exhibitors have no competition in a class or section will be awarded one premium (the first or second as the judges think they deserve) unless otherwise noted under special department rules. All premiums shall be awarded subject to the action of the management fair.

OWNERSHIP: See State Standard 350.0 and department rules.

Every animal, all products and every object intended for exhibit must be recorded in the Fair Office and tags obtained. **No premium will be paid on any entry not made through the Fair Office.** Entry fees are listed on each Department page. Entry fees must be paid at the time of making entry. **Entries made by mail should be mailed to Gouverneur Fair Office, 85 E. Barney Street, Gouverneur, NY 13642. Entries will be accepted in person at the Fair Office, 85 E. Barney Street, Gouverneur NY 13642. Fair Office Hours: Week of July 5th and July 12th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Week of July 19th and July 26th, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Make all checks payable to GOUVERNEUR FAIR. There is no entry fee for Junior Fair entries in 4-H department.

NO refund of entry fees. Exceptions to this rule may be permitted at the discretion of the Board of Managers in cases where cancellation of classes, lack of housing or similar reasons may prevent exhibition of entry.

The superintendents will have charge of exhibits, their employees, allot space for exhibits, reject entries not complying with the rules, check entries, certificates and papers if requested, and present the classes for judging, all subject to approval by Fair Board.

All articles are under control and subject to the order of the department Superintendent and may not be removed or withdrawn without his/her permission.

Health Requirements – All NYS Animal Health Requirements for the County and New York State Fair can be found on the following site: [Animal Health Requirements](#)

****NYS VET CHECK** – Before animals enter facility NYS Vet will be conducting a pre-vet check at a designated area TBD. Monday 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. All animals in place by 1:00 p.m.

All animals in the Open Classes (except for the Harness Races/Horse Shows) MUST be on the grounds and in place by Tuesday, August 4th, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. except by special request. No animal may be on the grounds before Monday, August 3rd, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Unless otherwise indicated in this book, they must remain for the duration of the Fair or premium may be withheld. 4-H Horses are governed by rules of the Junior Fair Book.

Dairy Cattle Exhibitors will be expected to provide their own livestock bedding (shavings may be used if mixed with straw,) feed, feeding utensils, pails and all necessary equipment, likewise, to keep the stall and surroundings in a neat and clean condition. All litter must be deposited in the place designated by the Superintendent.

No entry in an open-class competition can be judged at any time for an animal with papers pending.

Any artificial means of removing or remedying physical defects or conformation in exhibition animals will be considered as fraud and deception, and all animals giving evidence of such treatment will be barred for exhibition at this Fair.

All attendants in charge of animals will be subject to the orders of the Superintendent of the Department. All animals on arrival will be stabled under the department superintendent's direction.

Space is assigned for cattle **ONLY**. No requests for extra space will be honored unless there is extra room available in the barns. Exhibitors are required to notify the Dairy Cattle Superintendent one week prior to the beginning of the fair if a significant number of cattle entered will be scratched.

Any exhibitor who deliberately changes signs that allot spacing without the permission of BOTH the dairy superintendent and the exhibitors involved will forfeit entry fees. Their animals will be sent home immediately, and the exhibitor will be barred from showing at this fair in both the current and the following year. If animals are entered in another dairy cattle show that coincides with fair week, they will not be housed in the dairy cattle barns.

All exhibits, papers or any other property not called for by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, following the Fair, are left at the owner's risk and shall be forfeited to the Fair, who may dispose of them.

The Fair electricians must inspect all electrical devices and appliances before making connections.

All materials used to decorate booths, racks, exhibits, tack rooms, stalls or pens must be made from non-flammable material or treated and maintained in a flame-retardant condition.

No smoking, or lighted candles, lamps, matches, etc. will be allowed in stables, stalls, or exhibition booths on the grounds or in the buildings.

If sufficient entries for all well-balanced shows are not received in a named breed of livestock for two successive years that breed may be dropped from the Exhibitor's Guide for the following year, as there must be competition for premium money from the State.

Nothing shall be sold or given away or otherwise disposed of by an exhibitor, which in any way will conflict with or which is the subject matter of any privilege or concession granted or sold by the Fair Society.

An exhibitor, when once barred, cannot exhibit at Gouverneur & St. Lawrence County Fair for a period of 5 years, unless, following special investigation by the Board of Management, it is deemed wise to suspend this rule.

The judges shall withhold a premium where the article or animal is unworthy of an award, except for educational exhibits. Judges are especially directed to withhold first premium to animals or articles without competition if they are not qualified for first.

All awarded or entry books must be properly signed by the Judges and returned to the Office immediately after the completion of judging.

All articles, exhibits and stock entered but not shown, MUST BE SO MARKED on the entry books by the Judge or Clerk assisting him. Judge should write "Not Worthy" in award book.

Judges are requested to report on objects of merit and to make such recommendations as circumstances may suggest but must not award extra prizes. Special awards will be made only after the Judge and the Management agrees that such award should be made.

The decision of the Judges shall be final in all cases, except where mistakes, errors, frauds, misrepresentations, or collusion (not discovered at time the award was made,) is proven. In such cases the decision of the Directors, or such referee as the Directors may select shall be final.

Any Exhibitor who in any way, whether in person or by his agents, interferes with Judges during their adjudication, or show any disrespect for them or who violates and rule or regulation of the Society, will be barred from competition. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

All protests must be in writing and filed at the Business Office before 10:00 a.m. on the last day of the Fair. The Society assumes no responsibility in case of injury, loss, theft or damage to any animal, person or property from any case and upon this condition only are entries received; and the Society will not assume any liability for personal injury sustained by exhibitors, helpers, visitors, or the public. The Fair Association shall not be responsible for any accident, which may occur to or by reason of any animal exhibited at the Fair, and the exhibitors are spectators shall hold them harmless and indemnify them against any legal proceeding arising from any accident.

NO CATTLE, SHEEP, OR POULTRY MAY BE REMOVED FROM BARNs AND/OR TENTS OR LOADED UPON TRUCKS BEFORE 3:00 P.M. ON SUNDAY. Furthermore, at the risk of forfeiting premium placing and state premium money, ALL exhibits shall be kept intact (no part of the exhibit displaced or removed) for the viewing public until that time.

NOTICE: Sale or distribution of any merchandise, including printed or written material, except under licensed issued by the Gouverneur Agricultural & Mechanical Society and/or from duly licensed location shall be prohibited.

Under no circumstances will any person or firm be allowed to distribute or sell written materials or solicit funds from other patrons of the Fair, without regard to the content of the information being distributed or sold, and regardless of the purpose of solicitation of funds unless one or more of those activities takes place from a booth or concession stand rented for one or more of those purposes.

The rental of a booth or other concessions stand shall be on a "first-come, first-served basis." Nothing herein contained shall be construed to deny a person the right to express their views within or without the Fairgrounds.

EXHIBITOR'S & CONCESSIONAIRE PARKING

One-week long parking pass will be issued per exhibitor or concessionaire. One additional parking pass per exhibitor or concessionaire will be available for five dollars (\$5.00.) Each additional will be available for fifteen dollars (\$15.00.) Passes must be adhered to the windshield, or parking fee will be charged at the gate.