

90TH ANNUAL CONTRA COSTA FAIR

Still Exhibitor Handbook



23rd District Agricultural Association Board of Directors

John Pence – President
Adam Noah – Vice President
Richard Hobin
Patrick Schoch
Robert Sherwood
Miguel Mauricio

CEO

Cheyenne Erickson



Dear Still Exhibit Exhibitors, Leaders, Parents, and Supporters,

My name is Cheyenne Erickson, and I am honored to serve as the CEO of the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds. It is a privilege to welcome you to the **2026 Contra Costa County Fair Still Exhibits Program**.

My roots are deeply planted in agriculture and youth development. I grew up in 4-H and FFA, spending countless hours preparing projects, entering competitions, and proudly displaying my work at my local county fair. Those experiences shaped who I am today. The fair was more than ribbons and placings; it was where I learned creativity, responsibility, attention to detail, perseverance, and the pride that comes from sharing your work with your community.

I later earned my bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University, but the lessons I learned through fair participation; both in and out of the show ring, have stayed with me throughout my career. The fair had a profound impact on my life, and I am honored to help provide those same opportunities for the youth, families, and community members of Contra Costa County through our still exhibits program.

As we look ahead to the 2026 Fair, we are working to strengthen and grow our still exhibits offerings. This includes enhancing exhibit opportunities, improving processes, and finding new ways to recognize the time, effort, creativity, and skill that go into each entry. I appreciate your patience as we implement new ideas and improvements. If something doesn't work as intended, we will learn from it and continue to build a stronger program year after year.

Our goal is to create a welcoming, rewarding, and educational experience for exhibitors of all ages; whether you are entering your very first exhibit or returning as a seasoned participant. I am excited to expand opportunities for learning, celebrate creativity and craftsmanship, and; just maybe, award a few more ribbons, prizes, and special recognitions along the way.

Thank you to our exhibitors, families, leaders, volunteers, judges, and sponsors for your continued dedication and support. I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the year and during fair time. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas, or feedback.

I am truly **Wild about the Contra Costa Fair 2026**, and I cannot wait to see your incredible still exhibits on display.

Cheyenne Erickson

Cheyenne Erickson
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds CEO
ceo@ccfair.org
(925) 354-8249

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome

Welcome Message - CEO	2
Table of Contents	3

General Information

What’s New in 2026	4
Exhibit Receiving (Drop-Off) Information	4
Exhibit Release (Pick-Up) Information	4
General Entry Rules	5
Refund Policy	6
Liability & Exhibitor Responsibility	6
Judging Systems (American & Danish)	7
Best of Show Awards	7

Youth/School Exhibits

Classroom Arts Contest	8
Ability in Action	10

Home Arts

Youth Home Arts.....	11
Special Contest Adult Home Arts.....	47
Adult Home Arts.....	39
Special Contest Youth Home Arts.....	46

Adult & Youth Photography

Adult & Youth Photography	18
---------------------------------	----

Adult & Youth Fine Arts

Adult & Youth Fine Arts	24
-------------------------------	----

Adult & Youth Floriculture/Ornamental Horticulture

Adult & Youth Floriculture/Ornamental Horticulture.....	29
---	----

Youth Agriculture/Horticulture

Youth Agriculture/Horticulture.....	32
-------------------------------------	----

Youth Agricultural Mechanics/Industrial Arts

Youth Agricultural Mechanics/Industrial Arts.....	36
---	----

Adult & Youth Fiber Arts

Adult & Youth Fiber Arts.....	38
-------------------------------	----

RULES, RECEIVING, AND RELEASE INFORMATION

NEW FOR 2026: Exhibit Drop-Off (Receiving)

Entries due Monday, May 4, 2026 at 11:59pm.

Receiving Hours:

All exhibits must be delivered to the administration office **1201 W. 10th Street Antioch, CA 94509** between **9:00 AM and 4:00 PM** on the approved dates listed below.

Perishable or Living Exhibits:

Items that may spoil, wilt, or die must be delivered on one of these dates only:

- Saturday, May 9
- Monday, May 11

Non-Perishable Exhibits

Items that will not spoil or die may be delivered on any of the following dates:

- Thursday, April 2
- Tuesday, April 7
- Thursday, April 9
- Tuesday, April 14
- Thursday, April 16
- Tuesday, April 21
- Thursday, April 23
- Tuesday, April 28
- Thursday, April 30
- Tuesday, May 5
- Thursday, May 7
- Monday, May 11

Please make sure your exhibit is delivered during the dates and times listed above.

Exhibit Pick-Up (Release)

Release Date

All still exhibits may be picked up on:

Sunday, May 17, 2026
8:30 PM – 10:00 PM

If you are unable to pick up on May 17

Exhibits may also be picked up:

Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Important Release Rule

No exhibit will be released without the claim ticket.

A fair clerk will assist exhibitors and escort them to retrieve their exhibits.
Please be patient during the release process.

Entry Rules

- Each exhibit may be entered in only one class.
- The Arts Supervisor may move an entry to the correct division or class if needed.
- All artwork must be created as part of a classroom project.
- Projects must be completed within one year of the opening day of the Fair.
- Each teacher may submit one (1) classroom project per class that best represents the participation of the whole class.

Artwork Requirements

- Each entry must include at least 6 pieces of student artwork.
- Each entry may include no more than 40 pieces of student artwork.

Each artwork piece must be labeled on the back with:

- School Name
- Teacher's Name
- Student's Name

Judging

- Youth exhibits will be judged using the American System of Judging.
- All judging decisions are final.

Publicity Release

By entering the contest, exhibitors agree that the Contra Costa County Fair may use the exhibitor's name, city, photograph, and recipe (if applicable) for promotional or publicity purposes.

GENERAL RULES

NO LATE ONLINE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Submission of entries is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor. Failure of a leader, advisor, or parent to submit entries online does **not** constitute grounds for a variance.

All entries must be submitted online at <https://showman.app/shows#/contra-costa-fair-bf43> by **Monday, May 4, 2026 at 11:59pm.**

Paper entries will not be accepted.

If you have questions regarding the online entry process, please contact the Stills Superintendent at exhibits@ccfair.org

Contra Costa County Fair Administration Office

1201 W. 10th Street
Antioch, CA 94509
Phone: (925) 757-4400

Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm

Premium Payments

Premium checks will be mailed to exhibitors within **30 days following the close of the Fair.**

Ribbons, tags, or award cards have no monetary value.

Only the official judging sheet results determine final placings and premium payments.

Exhibitor Responsibility

Submission of an online entry by the exhibitor, leader/advisor, or parent signifies acceptance of all rules and regulations governing the 23rd District Agricultural Association as printed in the Official Exhibitor's Handbook.

Refund Policy

- No refunds under **\$10.00** will be issued.
- Refund requests must be **submitted in writing** to Fair Management.
- Requests must be received by the **Administration Office no later than 4:00 PM on April 25, 2026.**
- Approved refunds are subject to a **\$10.00 administrative fee.**

Liability

Each exhibitor is solely responsible for any loss, injury, or damage caused by animals or articles they exhibit and agrees to **indemnify the Contra Costa County Fair** against all related legal claims.

The Fair will take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of exhibits and property while on the Fairgrounds. However, the Fair **assumes no liability** for any loss, damage, or injury to persons, animals, or property.

Submission of an online entry receipt constitutes **acceptance of this policy**.

Exhibit Pickup

All items must be picked up before **June 1st, 2026**. Items not claimed within this period will become the property of the Fair and may be disposed of accordingly.

Rule Changes

Due to early publication deadlines, all information contained in the Exhibitor Handbook is subject to change or amendment by Fair Management, staff, or the Board of Directors. Any updates or revisions will apply to the 2026 Fair.

State Rules

All rules contained in the 2026 State Rules for California Fairs, as established by the Division of Fairs & Expositions, apply to this Fair.

For more information visit:
www.cdfa.ca.gov/fairs_and_expositions

Exhibit Delivery and Display

- Exhibits must be delivered during the specified entry times for each department.
- Failure to comply with entry deadlines will result in disqualification.
- Exhibits will be placed in locations assigned by Fair Management.
- Exhibits must remain in their assigned location until the official release date and time.

No entry, exhibit, or display may be removed from the Fairgrounds before the designated release time without written permission from Fair Management.

Fair Management reserves the right to remove any exhibit deemed inappropriate, unsafe, or not in good taste.

Judging Systems

American System

Exhibits are judged against each other and ranked first, second, third, etc.

Danish System

Each exhibit is judged on its own merit using a scorecard or standard. Multiple first, second, or third place awards may be given based on quality.

Best of Show Awards

Best of Show awards will be presented in the following categories:

Adult Divisions

- Home Arts – Sewing/Quilting
- Home Arts – Baked Goods
- Home Arts – Preserved Foods
- Home Arts – Textiles
- Photography
- Fine Art

Youth Divisions

- Home Arts – Sewing/Quilting
- Home Arts – Baked Goods
- Home Arts – Preserved Foods
- Home Arts – Textiles
- Photography
- Fine Art

CLASSROOM ARTS CONTEST

Entry Fee

- Free

Premiums (Prize Awards)

- 1st Place: \$75
- 2nd Place: \$50
- 3rd Place: \$25

Judging

All entries will be judged using the **American System of Judging**.

Department Rules

Participation is limited to schools located in:

- **Contra Costa County**
- Alameda County
- Solano County
- San Joaquin County

Divisions

Division 18: Preschool

Division 19: Kindergarten – 1st Grade

Division 20: 2nd – 3rd Grade

Division 21: 4th – 5th Grade

Division 22: 6th – 8th Grade

Division 23: 9th – 12th Grade

Classes (Divisions 18–23)

Entries may be submitted in the following categories:

- **Drawings** — Any medium
- **Paintings** — Any medium
- **3-Dimensional Artwork**
- **Fair-Themed Art Project**
Theme: “Wild About the Fair” — Any medium
- **Coloring Page**
Theme: “Wild About the Fair”
- **Short Story**
- **Poetry**

ABILITY IN ACTION

These classes are open to exhibitors of all abilities, including individuals with emotional, developmental, physical, or learning disabilities.

Entry tags will not identify or disclose any disability designation.

The Contra Costa County Fair believes that every individual has the ability to create, learn, and succeed, and that no physical or mental disability should limit creative expression or participation.

Each department allows exhibitors to enter assisted works when appropriate. Exhibitors who independently produce their work are also welcome to participate in the standard competitive classes offered in each department.

All entries must follow the rules and guidelines of the department entered. Please refer to the individual department pages for specific entry requirements and additional information.

Entry Fee

- Free

Premiums (Awards)

- Ribbons awarded for 1st – 3rd Place

Judging

- All entries will be judged using the Danish System of Judging.

Divisions

Home Arts

Division 24: Ceramic

Division 25: Holiday Decoration

Division 26: Group Project

Division 27: Jewelry

Division 28: Sewing

Division 29: Any Other Art & Craft

Fine Arts

Division 30: Painting

Division 31: Drawing

Photography

Division 32: Photo (4" × 6") mounted on mounting board or foam core

Division 33: Photo (8" × 10") mounted on mounting board or foam core

Floriculture

Division 34: Potted Plant

Division 35: Floral Arrangement

Division 36: Stepping Stone

Agriculture & Horticulture

Division 37: Vegetables

Division 38: Fruits

Division 39: Fresh Herbs

Fair Theme Coloring Page

Division 40: *"Wild About the Fair" Coloring Page*

Classes

Classes for Divisions 24–38

Class 1: Junior — 18 years & younger

Class 2: Senior — 19 years & older

YOUTH HOME ARTS

Entry Fee

\$2.00 per entry

Premiums (Awards)

- **1st Place:** \$5
- **2nd Place:** \$4
- **3rd Place:** \$3

Special "**Best of Show**" awards will also be presented.

Judging

- Most divisions will be judged using the **Danish System of Judging**.
- **Youth entries** will also follow the **Danish System**.
- **All judging decisions are final**.

Department Rules

Participation is limited to residents of:

- **Contra Costa County**
- **Alameda County**
- **Solano County**
- **San Joaquin County**

Additional rules:

- Entries must be home produced and completed by the exhibitor within one year of the opening day of the Fair.
- An item may be entered in only one class.
- The Home Arts Supervisor may move an entry to the correct division or class if necessary.
- Buildings are closed to the public during judging.
- Perishable food entries become the property of the Fair and will be disposed of after the Fair in the interest of public health and safety.
- Exhibits not picked up within 30 days after the Fair closes will become the property of the Fair and may be disposed of.
- Food entries must be placed on a disposable paper or plastic plate and covered or sealed in a plastic bag.
- Recipes must be included with all food entries.
- By entering, exhibitors agree that their **name, city, photograph, and recipe** may be used for promotional purposes.

Skill Level Definitions

Beginner: First-time exhibitor in the division.

Intermediate: Exhibitor entering for the second time or who has not previously placed in the Intermediate category.

Advanced: Exhibitor who has placed in the Intermediate category at a previous fair.

Best of Show

“Best of Show” awards may be given in the following areas:

- Arts & Crafts

- Baked Foods
- Clothing & Textiles
- Preserved Foods
- Table Settings

Table Settings

Table Setting Rules

- All accessories must be provided by the exhibitor.
- Include an easy-to-read menu card that matches the theme.
- A 2 ft × 2 ft display space will be provided for each place setting.
- Tablecloths are optional but must be 2 ft × 2 ft with up to 6 inches of front overhang only.
- Centerpieces and displays must use non-perishable materials (no fresh flowers).
- The Fair will take precautions to protect displays but is not responsible for loss or damage.
- Classes may be combined if fewer than three entries are received.
- Please include a photo of the completed table setting with your entry to ensure it is displayed correctly.

Divisions

Division 160: Single Place Setting — Beginner

Division 161: Single Place Setting — Intermediate

Division 162: Single Place Setting — Advanced

Classes (Divisions 160–162)

- Any Theme
- Fair Theme — **“Wild About the Fair”**

Collections

Collection Rules

- A collection must include **at least 10 items**.
- An **index card** must be included with:
 - Date the collection was started
 - Description of the collection
 - Date of the oldest item
- Individual items should be **labeled**.
- The display must be **set up or ready for display** by the exhibitor.

Division

Division 163: Collections

Class

- Any Collection

Arts & Crafts

Divisions

Division 164: Applied Designs (Pattern or Kit)

Division 165: Basketry

Division 166: Leather Craft

Division 167: Novelty Crafts (Including Legos/Building Blocks)

Division 168: Ceramic

Division 169: Dolls & Toys – Hand Constructed (no purchased dolls or toys)

Classes (Divisions 164–169)

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Paper Art

Divisions

Division 167: Scrapbooking – One 12" × 12" Page (Any Theme)

Division 168: Scrapbook – Full Book (Any Theme)

Division 169: Handmade Cards – Any Occasion

Division 170: Origami

Division 171: Other Paper Crafts (Quilling, Paper Mache, Handmade Paper, etc.)

Classes (Divisions 167–171)

- 6 – 8 Years Old
- 9 – 12 Years Old
- 13 – 16 Years Old
- 17 – 18 Years Old

Jewelry

Jewelry Rules

All jewelry entries must be **handmade by the exhibitor**.

Division

Division 172: Jewelry

Classes

- Single Item
- Set (Display on black board)

Wood & Metal Craft

Wood Craft Divisions

Division 173: Wood Craft – Hand Crafted

Division 174: Wood Craft – Built from Kit

Division 175: Wood Craft – Combination Kit & Hand Crafted

Classes (Divisions 173–175)

- Toys
- Carvings
- Wood Burning
- Bird Feeder
- Whittled Piece
- Furniture
- Bird House
- Doll House
- Any Other Wood Craft

Metal Craft Division

Division 176: Metal Craft

Class

- Any Non-Welded Metal Craft

Clothing & Textiles

Clothing & Textile Rules

- Exhibits must be **clean and pressed**.
- Items should be submitted **on a hanger** (hanger will not be returned).
- Quilts must have a **4-inch rod pocket on the back** for hanging.

Clothing Divisions

Division 177: Beginner Clothing

Division 178: Intermediate Clothing

Division 179: Advanced Clothing

Classes

- Any (please specify)

Miscellaneous Sewing / Quilts

Division 180: Beginner

Division 181: Intermediate

Division 182: Advanced

Class

- Any (please specify)

Needlework

Division 183: Beginner

Division 184: Intermediate

Division 185: Advanced

Class

- Any (please specify)

Youth Sewing

Division 186: Mommy & Me Sewing Project (Ages 5–8)

Adult assistance is allowed.

Class

- Any (please specify)

Baked Goods & Confections

Rules for Baked Goods

- A **recipe must be included** with each entry.
- Entries without a recipe **will be disqualified**.
- Baked goods will remain on display as long as possible and discarded only if necessary.
- All items must be on **disposable plates and covered or sealed in plastic bags**.

Divisions

- Division 187:** Biscuits, Rolls & Muffins (enter 6)
- Division 188:** Breads (½ loaf plus one slice)
- Division 189:** Cakes (enter ½ cake)
- Division 190:** Cupcakes (enter 6)
- Division 191:** Brownies
- Division 192:** Confections (enter 6 pieces)
- Division 193:** Cookies (enter 6)
- Division 194:** Pies
- Division 195:** Any Other Baked Good (specify)
- Division 196:** Fair Theme Baked Goods — **“Wild About the Fair”**

Classes

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Decorated Cakes

Division

Division 197: Decorated Cakes

Classes

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Note:

Exhibitors may use a **real cake or artificial base**. Judging is based on **decoration only**.

Preserved Foods

Preserved Food Rules

- Entries must be **home prepared and canned by the exhibitor within one year.**
- Items shown at previous fairs **are not eligible.**
- **Two identical jars** must be submitted for judging.
- **Clear glass jars only** (wide or narrow mouth).
- **No paraffin seals** allowed.
- Jars must be labeled with:
 - Contents
 - Processing method
 - Date canned
- **Do not include names on labels.**
- Non-acid foods must be **pressure canned.**
- Fruits and tomatoes must be **processed in a boiling water bath.**

Divisions

Division 198: Butters

Division 199: Canned Fruits

Division 200: Canned Vegetables

Division 201: Dried Foods

Division 202: Jams

Division 203: Sugarless Jams

Division 204: Jellies (Clear)

Division 205: Marmalades

Division 206: Preserves

Division 207: Syrup & Toppings

Division 208: Pickles & Relishes

Division 209: Salsa

Classes (Divisions 198–209)

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

ADULT + YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry Fees

- \$3.00 per entry

Premium Awards

Youth Photography

- 1st Place: \$5.00
- 2nd Place: \$4.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Amateur Photography

- 1st Place: \$7.00
- 2nd Place: \$5.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Professional Photography

- No Premiums Paid

Special awards will be given for Best of Show

General Photography Rules

Eligibility

Participation is limited to residents of:

- Contra Costa County
- Alameda County
- Solano County
- San Joaquin County

Photographer Categories

- **Amateur:** Photography is a hobby and not a source of income.
- **Professional:** Photography generates income or is part of a profession.

Photo Requirements

- Photos must be taken **within the past 12 months**.
- Photo size must be:
 - **Minimum:** 8" x 10"
 - **Maximum:** 16" x 20"

Mounting Requirements

Photos must be **dry mounted or spray mounted** on:

- 11" x 14" backing board **or**
- 16" x 20" backing board

Accepted mounting materials:

- Foam core
- Photographic mounting board
- 4-ply mat board

A window mat may be used.

Information Required on Back of Mount

Write the following on the back:

- Exhibitor name
- Address
- Division number
- Class number
- Photograph title

All photographs must have a title.

“Untitled” is **not allowed**.

Entry Limits

- Maximum **5 prints per class**

Restrictions

- Photos previously entered in the **Contra Costa County Fair** are **not eligible**.

Amateur Photography

Judging System: American System

Divisions

- **Division 247:** Color Prints
- **Division 248:** Black & White Prints
- **Division 249:** Computer Enhanced / Fantasy Prints

Classes (All Divisions)

- Animals
- Seascapes
- Transportation
- Children
- Sports

- Portraits
- Architecture
- Floral
- Bugs & Insects
- Landscapes
- Nature
- Any Other People
- Agriculture

Close-Up Photography

Division

- **Division 250**

Requirements

- Photos must be taken **12 inches or less from the subject**
- Includes **macro and micro photography**
- Prints may be **color or black & white**

Classes

- Living Subjects
- Non-Living Subjects

Professional Photography

Divisions

- **Division 251:** Color Prints
- **Division 252:** Black & White Prints

Classes

- Animals
- Seascapes
- Transportation
- Children
- Sports
- Portraits
- Architecture
- Floral
- Bugs & Insects
- Landscapes

- Nature
- Any Other People
- Agriculture

Youth Photography

Includes **4-H, FFA, Grange, and Independent Juniors**
Judging System: Danish System

Eligibility

Participants must live in:

- Contra Costa County
- Alameda County
- Solano County
- San Joaquin County

Photo Requirements

- Photos must be taken **within the last 12 months**
- Size requirements:
 - Minimum **8" x 10"**
 - Maximum **16" x 20"**

Mounting

Mount on:

- **11" x 14" board** or
- **16" x 20" board**

Accepted materials:

- Foam core
- Photographic mounting board
- 4-ply mat board

Information Required on Back

- Exhibitor name
- Address
- Division number
- Class number
- Photograph title

All photos **must have a title**.

Entry Limit

- **Maximum 5 entries per exhibitor per class**

Restrictions

- Photos previously entered in the fair are **not allowed**.

Youth Divisions

Division 253

Color or Black & White Prints
Age 12 and Under

Division 254

Color or Black & White Prints
Age 13–18

Classes (Both Divisions)

- Animals
- Seascapes
- Transportation
- Children
- Sports
- Portraits
- Architecture
- Floral
- Bugs & Insects
- Landscapes
- Nature
- Any Other People
- Agriculture

Selfies

Division 256

Photo Requirements

- Photo size: **4" x 6"**

- Must be mounted on **8" x 10"** mounting board or foam core

Classes

- Any Subject – Adults
- Any Subject – Youth 12 and Under
- Any Subject – Youth 13–18

ADULT + YOUTH FINE ARTS

Entry Fees

- \$3.00 per entry

Premium Awards

Youth Fine Art

- 1st Place: \$5.00
- 2nd Place: \$4.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Amateur Fine Art

- 1st Place: \$7.00
- 2nd Place: \$5.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Professional Fine Art

- No Premiums Paid

Fine Arts Rules

Liability

All precautions will be taken to protect entries. However, the Fair Association and its agents **assume no responsibility for loss or damage.**

Eligibility

Participation is limited to residents of:

- Contra Costa County
- Alameda County
- Solano County
- San Joaquin County

Original Work

- All artwork must be **original**.
- Copies of other artists' work or **photographs are not allowed**.
- Artwork must be completed **within one year prior to the opening of the Fair**.
- Items previously entered in the **Santa Barbara County Fair** are not eligible.

Entry Limits

- **Maximum 3 entries per class per exhibitor**.
- One framed item counts as **one entry**.
- Multiple items **cannot be entered as a single entry**.

Entry Approval

- The **Fine Arts Superintendent or Judge** may refuse any entry considered **obscene or objectionable**.
- The Superintendent or Judge may **move an entry to another class** if it is incorrectly classified.

Display Requirements

- **Class 1 – Oil/Acrylic Paintings**
 - Must be **framed and ready to hang**
 - Must use **screw eyes and wire**
 - **Sawtooth hangers are not allowed**
- **Classes 2–5 – Aquamedia, Mixed Media, Graphics, and Drawings**
 - Must be **framed under glass**
 - Must be **ready to hang with screw eyes and wire**
 - **Sawtooth hangers are not allowed**

Size Limit

- Maximum exhibit size: **48" x 48"**

Restrictions

- Entries not complying with rules **will be rejected**.
- **Weapons or knives are not allowed on display**.

Class Definitions

Oil / Acrylic / Pastel

- Artwork on canvas, masonite, or paper.

Aquamedia on Paper

- Includes watercolor, gouache, or egg tempera on paper.

Mixed Media

- Artwork created using **more than one medium**.

Graphics

- Original printmaking such as:
 - Aquatint
 - Dry point
 - Etching
 - Lithograph
 - Serigraphy (silk-screen)
 - Woodcut
 - Monoprint
- Entries must clearly state the **exact media used**.

Drawing

- Artwork using:
 - Pencil
 - Pen
 - Brush
 - Charcoal
 - Crayon
 - Pastel
 - Stylus

Sculpture

- Materials may include:
 - Wood
 - Metal
 - Stone
 - Clay
- Work must be original by a **single exhibitor**.
- Limited edition reproductions of the exhibitor's original work are allowed.

Poetry

- Poems must be the **original work of the exhibitor**.

Pottery

- Created by **wheelwork or hand construction**.
- Must be original work.
- Items made from **commercial molds or purchased and painted pieces are not allowed**.

Stained Glass

- Only **two-dimensional work ready for hanging** is accepted.
- Maximum size: **30 inches in height or width**.
- Includes **glass etching**.
- **Kits and commercial patterns are not allowed**.

All Media

- Must meet the requirements described in the class definitions above.

Terms and Definitions

Professional

- A person who practices an activity as a **livelihood**.

Amateur

- A person who practices an activity as a **hobby or pastime**.

Junior Age Groups

(Age as of the opening day of the Fair)

- **Ages 13–18** – At least 13 but less than 19 years old
- **Ages 9–12** – At least 9 but less than 13 years old
- **Ages 6–8** – At least 6 but less than 9 years old

Professional & Amateur Fine Art

Judging System: American System

Divisions

- **Division 260 – Professional**
- **Division 261 – Amateur**

Classes

- Oil / Acrylic / Pastel
- Sculpture
- Aquamedia
- Pottery
- Mixed Media
- Stained Glass
- Graphics
- Flyers
- Logos
- Poetry
- Drawing
- Collage

Junior Fine Art

Includes 4-H, FFA, Grange, and Independent Juniors

Judging System: Danish System

Divisions

- **Division 262 – Ages 13–18**
- **Division 263 – Ages 9–12**
- **Division 264 – Ages 6–8**

Classes (All Junior Divisions)

- All Media
- Poetry
- Single Page Short Story
- Multiple Page Story (Small Book)
- Newsletter / Article
- Oil/Acrylic/Pastel

ADULT + YOUTH FLORICULTURE/ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Entry Fees

- \$3.00 per entry

Premium Awards

Juniors

- 1st Place: \$5.00
- 2nd Place: \$4.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Adults

- 1st Place: \$7.00
- 2nd Place: \$5.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Professionals

- No Premiums Paid

Floriculture Rules

Eligibility

- Exhibits must be **grown by the exhibitor** within the county, district, or community represented by the exhibitor.
- Exception: **Arrangement divisions.**

Participation is limited to residents of:

- Contra Costa County
- Alameda County
- Solano County
- San Joaquin County

Containers

- Containers for **arrangement divisions** must be **provided by the exhibitor.**
- Containers are entered **at the exhibitor's own risk.**

Condition of Entries

- Entries in **poor condition or unsuitable for display will not be accepted.**

Accessories in Arrangements

Accessories and decorative materials **are allowed in arrangement classes**, including:

- Figurines

- Natural materials (branches, vines, roots, etc.)
- Wire
- Scrap metal
- Rope
- Other creative materials

These items may be used to express **creativity in contemporary floral design**.

Amateur Definition

An **amateur** is a person who does **not earn their livelihood** as:

- A floral designer
- Floral arrangement teacher
- Floral shop owner
- Nursery owner

Adult Floral Arrangements

Judging System: American System

Division 266 – Flower Arranging

Classes

- Designer’s Choice – Create something fabulous
- Miniature Arrangement (not to exceed **4 inches in any direction**)
- “I Can’t Believe It’s Not Real” – Use **dry and silk materials**
- Fair Theme: **“Wild About the Fair”**

Adult Cut Flowers

Judging System: American System

Division 267 – Cut Flowers

Classes

- Roses (Any Color – Single Stem)
- Gladiolus (Any Color – Single Stem)
- Dahlias (Any Color – Single Stem)
- Any Other Cut Flower (Single Stem)

Adult Ornamental Horticulture

Judging System: American System

Division 268 – Plants

Classes

- Foliage Potted Plant (Specify)
- Dish Garden (Cactus)
- Flowering Plant (Specify)
- Dish Planter (Blooming Plants)
- Terrarium
- Dish Planter (Succulents)
- Hanging Planter

Junior Floriculture

Includes **4-H, FFA, Grange, and Independent Juniors**

Judging System: Danish System

Division 269 – Cut Flowers

Class

- Any Cut Flower (Single Stem)

Division 270 – Garden Bouquet

A **mixed bouquet of flowers** displayed in a **quart-size container** (such as a mason jar).

Judging is based on:

- Overall quality
- Color matching
- Mixture of flowers

Arrangement style **is not judged**.

Classes

- Mixed Bouquet of Flowers **Grown by Exhibitor**
- Mixed Bouquet of Flowers **Not Grown by Exhibitor**

Junior Ornamental Horticulture

Includes **4-H, FFA, Grange, and Independent Juniors**

Judging System: Danish System

Division 271 – Plants

Classes

- Foliage Potted Plant (Specify)
- Dish Garden (Cactus)
- Blooming Plant (Specify)
- Dish Planter (Blooming Plants)
- Hanging Plant
- Dish Planter (Succulents)
- Terrarium

YOUTH AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE

Includes 4-H, FFA, Grange, and Independent Youth Exhibits

Entry Fees

- \$2.00 per entry

Premium Awards

- 1st Place: \$5.00
- 2nd Place: \$4.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Judging System: Danish System

Department Rules

- **All State and Local Rules apply.**
- The quality desired in agriculture and horticulture exhibits is the quality that would bring the **best financial return in the commercial market.**
- Exhibits must meet maturity standards described in the **Food and Agriculture Code Section 42523** to qualify for premium awards.

Definition of Mature

According to **Section 42513 of the Food and Agriculture Code:**

“Mature” means having reached the stage of ripeness that will allow the product to complete the ripening process and ensure palatability after removal from the tree, plant, or vine.

Feature Exhibits

Specimens included in **Feature Exhibits are not eligible for competition** according to Section 42523.

Ownership of Perishable Items

All **perishable items become the property of the Fair** upon submission.

Production Requirement

All display products must have been **produced by the exhibitor since the last Fair**.

Experience Levels

Where specified:

- **Beginner:** First-time exhibitor in a division
- **Intermediate:** Second-time exhibitor
- **Advanced:** Exhibitor who has previously placed in the intermediate category

Judging Note

A **single entry in a class does not automatically qualify for first place**.

Pickup Policy

All items **not picked up within 30 days after the close of the Contra Costa County Fair** become the property of the Fair and may be disposed of.

Junior Fruit and Vegetable Show

Junior Agriculture Rules

- Each entry **must be grown by the exhibitor**.
- Entries are limited to **one entry per class per exhibitor**.
- The **number of specimens required** is listed in each class.
- All **perishable items become the property of the Fair** upon submission.

Division 278 – Fruit & Pod Vegetables

Classes

- Beans, Green Lima – 4 pods
- Tomato, Cherry – 4 each
- Stone Fruit – 3 each (specify variety)
- Beans, Snap – 4 pods
- Tomato – 2 each
- Peppers, Bell – 2 each
- Peas, Snap – 4 pods
- Berries – 6 each (specify)
- Peppers, Chili – 3 each
- Citrus – 3 each (specify)
- Any Other (specify)

Division 279 – Leafy & Stem Vegetables

Classes

- Cauliflower – 1 head
- Chard – 1 bunch
- Rhubarb – 3 stalks
- Broccoli – 1 bunch
- Corn, Sweet – 1 ear
- Spinach – 1 bunch
- Brussels Sprouts – 5 sprouts
- Green Onion – 1 bunch
- Cabbage – 1 head
- Lettuce, Iceberg – 1 head
- Celery – 1 head
- Lettuce, Leaf – 1 head
- Any Other (specify)

Division 280 – Root, Bulb & Tuber Vegetables

Classes

- Beets, Garden (not topped) – 1 bunch
- Onions – 2 each
- Carrots, Long (not topped) – 1 bunch
- Radishes (not topped) – 1 bunch
- Carrots, Short (not topped) – 1 bunch
- Turnips – 1 bunch
- Garlic, Bulbs (dried) – 2 bulbs

- Kohlrabi (not topped) – 1 bunch
- Any Other (specify)

Division 281 – Vine Crops

Classes

1. Cucumbers – 2 each
2. Gourds, Ornamental – 3 each
3. Squash, Zucchini – 1 each
4. Squash, Crookneck – 1 each
5. Squash, Other Summer – 1 each
6. Squash, Winter – 2 each
7. Any Other (specify)

Division 282 – Herbs

(Fresh Herbs Only – Not Dried)

Display herbs in a **clear plastic container**.

Classes

- Basil
- Chives
- Cilantro
- Mint
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Thyme
- Any Other (specify)

Display Board Rules

1. All **State and Local Rules** apply.
2. Display boards must be **tri-fold and self-standing**.
3. All information must be **readable from a distance of 4 feet**.
4. Open to **all youth exhibitors**, including 4-H, FFA, Grange, and independent exhibitors.

Division 283 – Educational Display Boards

Classes

- Animal Education Display Board
- Crop / Horticulture Educational Display Board
- Other Educational Display Board

YOUTH AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS/INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Entry Fee

- \$2.00 per entry

Entry Limit: One (1) entry per class

Premium Awards

- 1st Place – \$10
- 2nd Place – \$7
- 3rd Place – \$5

Judging System: Danish System of Judging

Rules

- Exhibitors may enter more than one article from the same pattern.
- Display cards must be completed and attached to each exhibit in this department.
- Display cards must correctly label the exhibit and include a brief summary of the student's project.
- Entries must be made by the exhibitor.

YOUTH WOODCRAFT

Divisions

- **Division 285** – Beginning Students
- **Division 286** – Intermediate Students
- **Division 287** – Advanced Students

Classes

- Furniture Construction
- Free Form Design / Carvings
- Wood Turning
- Other Projects Not Listed (Specify)

Youth Metal Working

Divisions

- **Division 288** – Beginning Students
- **Division 289** – Intermediate Students
- **Division 290** – Advanced Students

Classes

- Acetylene Welding
- ARC (Stick) Welding
- Metallic Inert Gas (M.I.G.) Welding
- Tungsten Inert Gas (T.I.G.) Welding
- Innershield Welding
- Sheet Metal Fabrication
- Casting, Sculpture, or Decorative Items
- Machined Items
- Other Projects Not Listed (Specify)

ADULT & YOUTH FIBER ARTS

Entry Fee

- \$2.00

Premium Awards

Youth Fleeces

- 1st Place: \$5.00
- 2nd Place: \$4.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Adult Fleeces

- 1st Place: \$7.00
- 2nd Place: \$5.00
- 3rd Place: \$3.00

Fiber Arts Rules

Eligibility

Participation is limited to residents of:

- Contra Costa County
- Alameda County
- Solano County
- San Joaquin County

Entry Rules

- All entries **must be delivered on the scheduled receiving days.**
- All items must be **home produced and completed by the exhibitor within one year prior to the opening date of the Fair.**
- No article may be **entered in more than one class.**
- The **Home Arts Supervisor** may move an entry to the appropriate division or class for judging.

Publicity Agreement

By entering, the exhibitor agrees that **their name, city, and photograph may be used for publicity purposes.**

ADULT HOME ARTS

Entry Fee

- **\$2.00 per entry**

Premium Awards

- **1st Place: \$7**
- **2nd Place: \$5**
- **3rd Place: \$3**

Judging System: American System

Special awards will be given for Best of Show

Department Rules

- No late entries will be accepted.
- Exhibitors must be residents of:
 - Contra Costa County
 - Alameda County
 - Solano County
 - San Joaquin County
- All perishable foods become the property of the Fair and will be disposed of after the Fair for public health and safety.

- Buildings are closed to the public during judging.
- No article may be entered in more than one class.
- The Home Arts Supervisor may move an entry to the correct division or class.
- All entries must be home produced and completed within one year of the opening date of the Fair.
- Food entries must be placed on a disposable paper or plastic plate and sealed in a plastic bag or covered.
- Recipes must be included with all food entries.
- By entering, exhibitors agree that their name, city, photograph, and recipe may be used for publicity.
- A single entry in a class does not automatically qualify for first place.
- All judges' decisions are final.

Table Settings

Rules for Table Settings

- All accessories must be provided by the exhibitor.
- Each entry must include four place settings.
- A 4 ft × 4 ft table will be provided by the Fair.
- An easy-to-read menu card must accompany the table setting.
- The Fair will take precautions but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.

Division 100 – Adult Table Setting

Classes

- **Any Theme**
- **Fair Theme: “Wild About the Fair”**

Arts & Crafts

Divisions

- **Division 101:** Applied Designs (Item made from pattern or kit)
- **Division 102:** Basketry, Coiling & Twining
- **Division 103:** Leather Craft
- **Division 104:** Novelty Crafts
- **Division 105:** Ceramics
- **Division 106:** Any Other Arts & Crafts

Class (Divisions 101–106)

- **Adult**

Paper Art

Division 107 – Paper Art

Classes

- Single Item
- Multiple Pages

Jewelry

Division 108 – Jewelry

(All jewelry must be handmade)

Classes

- Single Item
- Set (displayed on black neck board)

Wood & Metal Craft

Divisions

- **Division 109:** Wood Craft
- **Division 110:** Metal Craft

Classes

- Furniture
- Any Metal Craft
- Any Other Wood Craft

Knitting & Crocheting

Divisions

- **Division 111:** Crocheted Afghans
- **Division 112:** Crocheted Thread Articles
- **Division 113:** Crocheted Yarn Articles
- **Division 114:** Hand Knitted Articles

- **Division 115:** Machine Knitted Articles

Class (Divisions 111–115)

- Any (Please Specify)

Sewing

Rules for Sewing

- Items must be clean, pressed, and on hangers.

Divisions

- **Division 116:** Clothing
- **Division 117:** Any Other Sewing Item (Non-Quilted)

Class (Divisions 116–117)

- Any (Please Specify)

Quilts

Quilt Rules

- Quilts must be completed within one year of the Fair opening date.
- Quilts must be handmade by the exhibitor, except where specified.
- Quilts made from purchased kits are allowed where noted.
- Dirty or torn quilts will not be displayed.
- Group quilts must be entered under the group name with a contact person listed.

Division 118 – Quilts (Novice)

Classes

- Any Type of Quilt (Specify)
- Any Other Quilted Item

Division 119 – Large Quilts / Comforters

(Must be at least 84 inches long)

Classes

- Appliquéd and quilted by hand
- Appliquéd and quilted by machine
- Appliquéd – mixed techniques
- Appliquéd (no sew) – wonder under
- Embroidery and quilted by hand
- Embroidery and quilted by machine
- Embroidery – mixed techniques
- Pieced and quilted by hand
- Pieced and quilted by machine
- Pieced – mixed techniques
- Christmas
- Kits
- All Others (Specify)

Quilt Technique Divisions

- **Division 120:** Hand Pieced & Hand Quilted
- **Division 121:** Mixed Quilting Techniques
- **Division 122:** Machine Pieced & Hand Quilted
- **Division 123:** Machine Pieced & Machine Quilted

Classes (Divisions 120–123)

- Appliqué – Wall Hanging
- Mixed Techniques – Wall Hanging
- Patchwork – Bed Size
- Appliqué – Infant / Child
- Mixed Techniques – Lap Size
- Christmas
- Appliqué – Lap Size
- Mixed Techniques – Bed Size
- Kits
- Appliqué – Bed Size
- Patchwork – Wall Hanging
- Mixed Techniques – Infant / Child
- Patchwork – Lap Size
- All Others (Specify)

Division 124 – Quilts (Group Entries)

Classes

- Embroidery
- Memory / Friendship Quilted
- Whole Cloth
- Appliqué

- Memory / Friendship Tied
- Kits
- Patchwork
- Mixed Techniques
- All Others (Specify)

Division 125 – Quilts (Paper Piecing)

Classes

- Wall Hanging
- Wearables
- Kits
- Quilt
- Household Items
- Combination
- Christmas
- All Others (Specify)

Division 126 – Quilted Articles

Class

- Any Quilted Article (Specify)

Needlework

Division 127 – Needlework on Wearing Apparel

Classes

- Needlework on Handmade Items
- Needlework on Purchased Items

Division 128 – Stamped Cross Stitch

Class

- Work from a commercially sold chart or kit

Division 129 – Needlepoint Counted Threads

Includes counted thread, blackwork, assist, pulled thread, drawn thread, and color-charted continental stitch on canvas.

Division 130 – Counted Cross Stitch on Fabric

Includes counted threads, cross-stitch, assist, and blackwork on aida, linen, or damask.

Division 131 – Embroidery

Classes

- Hand Embroidery
- Machine Embroidery

Additional Needlework Divisions

- **Division 132:** Rugs
- **Division 133:** Weaving
- **Division 134:** Tatting

Class (Divisions 132–134)

- Any (Please Specify)

Baked Goods & Confections

Rules

- A recipe is required for each entry.
- Entries without recipes will be disqualified.
- Baked goods will remain on display as long as possible.
- Entries must be on disposable plates and sealed in plastic bags or covered.

Divisions

- **Division 135:** Biscuits, Rolls & Muffins (6 items)
- **Division 136:** Breads (½ loaf and 1 slice)
- **Division 137:** Cakes
- **Division 138:** Frosted Cupcakes (6 cupcakes)
- **Division 139:** Confections (6 pieces)
- **Division 140:** Cookies (6 cookies)
- **Division 141:** Pies
- **Division 142:** Any Other Baked Goods

Class (Divisions 135–142)

- Adult

Division 143 – Decorated Cakes

(Cake or artificial base allowed – judged on decoration only)

Classes

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Preserved Foods

Rules

- All entries will be checked during receiving.
- Items not meeting requirements will not be accepted.
- Items must be home-prepared within one year.
- Previously exhibited items are not eligible.
- All judged jars will be opened.
- Dried foods should be in clear glass jars with lids.

Jar Requirements

- Use standard clear glass jars.
- No paraffin seals.
- Two identical jars must be entered:
 - One for judging
 - One for display
- Jars must have a white label including:
 - Contents
 - Processing method
 - Date canned
- Do not include names on labels.

Preserved Food Divisions

- **Division 144:** Butters (2 identical ½-pint or pint jars)
- **Division 145:** Canned Fruits (2 identical pint or quart jars)
- **Division 146:** Canned Vegetables (2 identical pint or quart jars)
- **Division 147:** Dried Foods (6 pieces in glass jar)
- **Division 148:** Jams (2 identical ½-pint or pint jars)

- **Division 149:** Sugarless Jams (2 identical ½-pint or pint jars)
- **Division 150:** Jellies – Clear (2 identical ½-pint or pint jars)
- **Division 151:** Marmalades (2 identical ½-pint or pint jars)
- **Division 152:** Preserves – Chunky (2 identical ½-pint or pint jars)
- **Division 153:** Syrups & Toppings (2 identical ½-pint or pint jars)
- **Division 154:** Pickles & Relishes (2 identical pint or quart jars)
- **Division 155:** Salsa (2 identical pint or quart jars)

Class (Divisions 144–155)

- **Adult**

SPECIAL CONTESTS ADULT HOME ARTS

Entry Fee

- **\$2.00 per entry**

Premium Awards

- 1st Place: \$25
- 2nd Place: \$20
- 3rd Place: \$15

Judging System: American System of Judging

Painted Rocks

Division

- **Division 156** – Painted Rocks

Class

- Any Painted Rock

Upcycle

Division

- **Division 157** – Upcycle

Description

- Any wearable item or accessory created entirely from recycled materials, including clothing that has been thrifted or reconditioned.

Classes

- Wearable Clothing Item
- Accessory

“Wild About The Fair” Mask

Division

- **Division 158** – Wild About the Fair Mask

Description

- Create and decorate a mask inspired by animals, carnival fun, agriculture, or the “**Wild About the Fair**” theme.
- Masks may be wearable or display-only.

Class

- Any Decorated Mask

SPECIAL CONTESTS YOUTH HOME ARTS

Entry Fee

- **\$2.00** per entry

Premium Awards

- 1st Place: \$25
- 2nd Place: \$20
- 3rd Place: \$15

“Wild About The Fair” Mask

Division

- **Division 159** – Wild About the Fair Mask

Description

- Create and decorate a mask inspired by animals, carnival fun, agriculture, or the “**Wild About the Fair**” theme.
- Masks may be wearable or display-only.

Class

- Any Decorated Mask