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Dear Exposition Junior National Exhibitors,

The 2026 Exposition Junior National will be held June 6-12 in Des Moines, IA at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. In order to make this event run smoothly, we've included a few reminders.

Before You Leave Home

1. Be sure to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) (Health Papers) for all animals coming to The Exposition. Work with your veterinarian to make certain the CVI is filled out completely and accurately and meets all requirements for The Exposition health regulations.
2. Make sure all animals are identified with an official ear tag. Ear tags must be in the animal's ear and tag numbers should be listed on the health certificate to identify each animal.
3. Ear notches must also be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for each animal.
4. Make sure all purebred animals meet breed eligibility requirements for their respective breeds. For more information on breed eligibility requirements, visit nationalswine.com, cpsswine.com and americanberkshire.com.
5. Be sure to bring pedigrees for all purebred animals. Please review pedigrees to make sure they accurately meet all required information (exhibitor name, ear notch, sex, date of birth, transfer of ownership).

General Information

1. **We will be assigning pens as exhibitors arrive based on the number of pigs each family brought to the show! We will pen one pig per pen. Pen sizes range from 5x5 to 6x6 in size. Pen dividers will not be provided by show staff. Be sure to bring your own, if needed.**
2. If you have entries that are entered in both the Junior Show and the NSR Open Show, please email Megan Vanderburgh at meganv@nationalswine.com with your ear notches by June 4th.
3. The Exposition Junior National is open to all Team Purebred and NJSA members, ages 21 and under, as of January 1st, 2026. Divisions include Novice (8 & under), Junior (9-12), Intermediate (13-16) and Senior (17-21).
4. Shavings will not be provided.

Arrival, Unloading and Loadout Information

1. Trailers may begin arriving at the fairgrounds at 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 6th.
2. **EXHIBITORS THAT ARRIVE BEFORE 10 P.M. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH, WILL BE TURNED AWAY AT THE GATE AND TOLD TO COME BACK AFTER 10 P.M.**
3. All junior entries must be in place by 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 7th.
4. Trailers will be staged in a holding area prior to vet check and pen assignments.
5. Upon arrival, all animals and CVIs will be inspected. Please have original CVIs ready upon arrival.
6. Pens will be assigned during vet check-in.

7. All animals are released once they are done showing – **EXCEPT** All breed champions and reserves must stay until the completion of the grand drive or they will forfeit their awarded premiums.
8. Stay tuned to NJSA social media and future e-blasts for more information regarding unloading and parking.

Registration and Check-in Information

1. Registration will take place on Sunday, June 7th from Noon. -- 6 p.m. and Monday, June 8th from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. in the Cattle Barn.
2. Each exhibitor must have their **registration papers (1 copy), health papers (1 copy) and PQA Plus or YQCA certificate or card (1 copy)** present at registration. Please bring a photocopy of the registration papers along with the originals to speed up the registration process. **Please DO NOT make extra copies of your health papers until check-in because we will have to have a copy of the health paper that the veterinarian signed upon arrival to the show.**
3. Substitutions will be allowed at the show until registration is over but are not to exceed the number of originally entered hogs and must still meet the one purebred for every one crossbred shown.
4. All purebred gilts and light crossbred gilts must be ran thru breed eligibility checks on Monday June 8th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. during the eligibility check staff will collect purebred gilt weight cards.
5. All barrows and crossbred breeding gilts will be shown by declared weight. Exhibitors will receive a weight card at registration with a QR code on the back, please scan the QR code to submit animals' information including weight, lot number, dam & sire and exhibitor name. Crossbred weights are due at 12 p.m. On Monday, June 8th. Purebred Barrow weights are due at 9 A.M. on Wednesday, June 10th. Exhibitors are NOT permitted to bring their own scales into the barn. Practice scales will be available at the show.
6. **Junior purebred gilts classes will be broken first by month of birth, then by weight within month of birth.**
7. **All exhibitors ages 8-21 MUST be YQCA or PQA Plus certified.**
8. **Parents of youth ages 7 years old and under must be certified in Adult PQA Plus training.**
9. Any youth that are not PQA Plus or YQCA certified prior to The Exposition Junior National **will not be allowed to exhibit their hogs.**
10. **Youth PQA Plus training is available to be completed online at: yqcaprogram.com**

Show Information

1. Showmanship will be held on Monday, June 8th, at 2 p.m. Juniors will be first followed by Seniors and in Ring B. Novice will be first, followed by Intermediates in Ring A.
2. The Crossbred Breeding Gilt Show will take place in both Ring A and Ring B beginning at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13th. Crossbred breeding gilts must weigh 375 lbs. or less and will have a 15 lb. weigh-back.
3. The NJSA Bred and Owned show will take place on Tuesday June 9th 30 minutes following the crossbred gilt show in Ring A.
4. The Crossbred Barrow Show will take place in Ring B beginning at 5:00 p.m. or TBD on Tuesday, June 13th. Crossbred Barrows must weigh between 215-290 lbs. and will have a 15 lb. weigh-back.
5. **The Purebred gilt show will take place on Wednesday June 10th in Ring A & B in the swine barn starting at 8am.**
6. **The Purebred Barrow Show will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 11th. Berkshire will be first followed by Duroc, Hampshire, Landrace and Yorkshire Barrows in Ring A. Chester will be first followed by Hereford, Poland, Spotted and Tamworth Barrows in Ring B. Barrows must weigh between 215-290 lbs. and will have a 15 lb. weigh-back.**
7. The Night of Champions will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 11th in the Swine Barn. All Purebred Overall Champions will be selected at the Night of Champions. We will start our evening celebrating

contest results and then recognize our Bred and Owned Gilts, Team Purebred Gilts then NJSA Gilts and ending the night with our Team Purebred barrows and NJSA barrows.

Contest Information


1. Between 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Judging Contest registration will take place in the Sheep Barn. this registration includes all exhibitors (Novice, Junior, Intermediate and Senior). Although you signed up for the Judging Contest at show registration on Sunday or Monday, you **MUST** still register during this period to participant in the Judging Contest on Thursday to receive your judging cards and contestant number. If you have a team, please make sure you all register together at the same time.
2. The Judging Contest will begin one hour after the conclusion of the barrow show in the Swine Barn. The contest will consist of six placing classes and three sets of oral reasons for Seniors, six placing classes, one set of oral reasons and two classes of questions for Intermediates, and six placing classes and two classes of questions for Juniors.
3. The Novice Judging Contest will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Swine Barn. Following a short judging instructional lesson, Novice contestants will evaluate two classes and answer questions on one class. No parents will be allowed near the judging contest. Assistants will be on hand to help Novices mark cards and view classes.
4. **Please note that it is an NJSA policy that any gilt or barrow exhibited at an NJSA show is eligible to be selected for use in the Judging Contest. If your hog is selected, you have the option to drive it during the contest yourself, but you may not decline its use. Please be cooperative if your hog is selected to be used in the Judging Contest.**

Additional Information

1. The awards ceremony will take place during the Night of Champions.
2. All premiums will be mailed
3. Any contest awards must be picked up during the Night of Champions no contest awards will be mailed.

On behalf of NJSA, we are all looking forward to a great event in Des Moines. If you have any questions, please call Carin Vickrey, NJSA, at 765-463-3594. The complete schedule and rules are online at www.nationalswine.com. We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Exposition Junior National!

Sincerely,



Carin Vickrey
National Swine Registry
Youth Activities and Programs Manager

The Exposition Junior National Rules

The following rules and regulations are applicable to The Exposition Junior Nationals. Additional rules and regulations that apply to NJSA may be found in the handbook.

General Information

- 6 gilts with a max of 2 crossbred gilts and 6 barrows with a max of 2 crossbred barrows
- Each exhibitor must show (not just enter) one purebred for every one crossbred.
- All participants who do not show a gilt or barrow at this event will pay a participation fee of \$5 per contest if they wish to exhibit in showmanship or the judging contest.
- All hogs must be identified with a federally approved, permanently numbered ear tag.
- No snaring of hogs is allowed on the show grounds.
- No laser therapy or nebulizer treatments are allowed on the show grounds.
- NJSA reserves the right to randomly test for the presence of unapproved drugs in swine entries. Complete details can be found in the NJSA Handbook.
- No entries will be accepted at the show.
- Entry fees are non-refundable.
- NSR and NJSA are not liable for accidents.

Exhibitor Requirements

- Exhibitors must be 21 years of age or younger as of January 1st, 2026.
- Exhibitors must wear their exhibitor numbers given to them at registration during the gilt show, barrow show and showmanship.
- If exhibitor is not present to show his/her hog, the hog cannot be exhibited unless previously approved by NJSA staff. If a hog is exhibited by anyone other than the registered exhibitor without permission from NJSA staff, the exhibitor will be completely disqualified from the show and all premiums and awards will be revoked. This includes incidences of illness, double-entry in a class, and emergencies.

Arrival/Dismissal

- All pigs must go through the vet check line upon arrival.
- Participants must pen their entries in the designated area, even if they are entered in the open show. No moving or switching of pen cards is allowed at the show.
- All animals are released once they are done showing – **EXCEPT** All breed champions and reserves must stay until the completion of the grand drive or they will forfeit their awarded premiums.

Purebred Gilt Requirements

- Purebred gilt entries must be registered Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc, Hampshire, Hereford, Landrace, Poland China, Spotted or Yorkshire gilts that are farrowed on or after November 1st, 2022.
- All NJSA bred and owned animals **MUST** be declared during their online show registration and complete check in thru the bred and owned line.
- All ABA, CPS, and NSR Breed Champions and Reserves will be DNA tested after the conclusion of the Grand Champion Gilt Drive.

- Purebred gilt classes will be broken according to farrowing dates and weights with class size as equal as possible.
- Purebred gilts must be farrowed on or after November 1, 2025.
- Purebred gilt entries may be purchased females, but must be owned by the junior exhibitor, the exhibitor's family name, or exhibitor's farm name by May 13th, 2026.
- Purebred gilts must be registered in the junior exhibitor's name, exhibitor's family name, or exhibitor's farm name.
- Junior exhibitors must bring their original pedigree and a copy of their pedigree to check-in.
- Substitutions will be allowed at the show.
- If an animal is double-entered in The Exposition, it must be entered in the junior exhibitor's name for both show the junior and open shows.

Crossbred Breeding Gilt Requirements

- Exhibitors must show one purebred (either Team purebred or NJSA breeds qualify) gilt or barrow for every one crossbred gilt.
- All crossbred gilts will be shown by declared weights. Test scales will be available.
- Crossbred gilts must weigh 375 pounds or less, and must weigh-back within 15 pounds of their declared weight. The top-five gilts in each class will be weighed during the show.
- Each exhibitor will receive a weigh card with a QR code located on the back , please scan the QR code and complete the google doc with all information including lot number, exhibitor name, dam & sire, breeder and their crossbred gilt's weight. Scales will be available at the show.
- Crossbred Gilt weights are due by 12 P.M. on Monday, June 8th, by google form submission.
- If showing a Purebred influenced crossbred gilt, you must declare at check-in with a purebred influence crossbred pedigree.
- If an animal is double-entered in The Exposition, it must be entered in the junior exhibitor's name for both the junior and open shows.

Purebred & Crossbred Barrow Requirements

- Exhibitors must show one purebred gilt or barrow (either Team Purebred or NJSA breeds qualify) for every one crossbred barrow.
- Purebred barrow entries must be registered Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc, Hampshire, Hereford, Landrace, Poland China, Spotted or Yorkshire barrows born November 1st, 2025, and after.
- All barrows will be shown by declared weights.
- All barrows (purebred and crossbred) must weigh between 215 and 290 pounds. The top-five barrows in each class will be weighed back. All barrows must weigh-back within 15 pounds of their declared weight.
- Each exhibitor will receive a weigh card with a QR code located on the back, please scan the QR code and complete the google doc with all information including lot number, exhibitor name, dam & sire, breeder and their barrows weight. Scales will be available at the show.
- Crossbred weights are due at 12 P.M. on Monday, June 8th , by google form submission.
- Purebred Barrow weights are due by 9 AM on Wednesday, June 10th, by google form submission.
- Purebred barrow entries may be purchased barrows, but must be owned by the junior exhibitor, the exhibitor's family name, or exhibitor's farm name by May 13, 2026.

- Purebred barrows must be registered in the junior exhibitor's name, exhibitor's family name, or exhibitor's farm name.
- Junior exhibitors must bring their original pedigree and a copy of their pedigree to check-in.
- If showing a Purebred influenced crossbred barrow, you must declare at check-in with a purebred influence crossbred pedigree.
- Substitutions will be allowed at the show.
- This is not a terminal show.
- All ABA, CPS, and NSR Breed Champions and Reserves will be DNA tested after the conclusion of the Grand Champion Drive.