2015 Southern Iowa Fair Suggestions

Sale Barn: The Jefferson-Go-Getters did a wonderful job on renovating the sale barn! It looked fantastic! Thank you for your time, effort & support

-Helena Hayes

Rabbit Show: Microphone on rabbit judge

- Bleachers in by sale ring returned
  - Shemy Elliott

More Rabbit programs next year. - Amy

Congratulations on the higher entries in the Rabbit Show and the many entries in communications this year! – Kelly Pose

Horticulture: This year the horticulture superintendents allowed Exhibitors to sign in at 3:30p.m. In the fair book it said sign in for yourself only when you arrive. You may begin signing up at 1:30 p.m. you must sign up by 3:00p.m. The exhibitors that sign in 30 minutes late gave no why they were so late. For the eligible exhibitors that sign in at that right time slot had to wait for over an hour to be judge. I know the exhibitors have a lot of livestock check-in and =weigh-in along with the dog show and horticulture judging at 2:00. Were things can run late and can interfere with the judging rule. The horticulture superintendents may need to re consider the must sign-in by 3:00 - Kelly Pose

Beef Show: Tags for breeding beef

- Yearling Bull class for 2016 Fair
  - Beginner’s clinic or show
  - Kyle Shaw

Judging: I like to see that the judges are handing out Red & White Ribbons. Exhibitors should not be a shame of a red or white ribbon. It is all about having fun and learning about life skills. – Kelly Pose

Poultry: We were very disappointed the sound system never showed up for the “Birdless Birdshow” in the sale ring Tuesday morning. Even after confirming with the fair office on Monday and being reassured it would be there- it never came at all. It make it much more difficult to conduct the planned activities without it. It was also noted that during the previous year’s poultry show, it arrived late and delayed the start of the show. Please be aware that thirty-eight exhibitors ID poultry for the show this year. That is a record number. We had a fantastic turnout for the alternative poultry activities and lots of great comments about it. A senior 4-Her put in a lot of work to organize and conduct a birdless birdshow for the purpose of continued support for the poultry exhibitors despite the cancellation of the show across Iowa. We respectfully bring this matter to hand to demonstrate that the small
animal projects are highly viable and important part of the livestock shows at the fair. Please be sure to give them due attention. Thank you.

-Helena Hayes, Poultry Superintendent

Huge applause to all involved w/ the poultry show. It was a great event and the members had great way to continue and recognize their projects & exhibits. Special mention also for allowing them to not miss out on the auction as well kudos to all involved!

-Tina Marshall

**Bag ‘o’ Clay:** I like the Bag ‘o’ Clay contest. Hope you do it next year!

– Teale Pose

**Release time:** I am very disappointed with your decision to release the livestock on Sunday AM. Many families are regular church attendees and this will be a deterrent to those wishing to attend.

- Merry Anne Adair

In respect for those who attend Sunday morning Church services please provide Sat. PM time for removing projects.

- Kim Ferguson

Exhibit pick up on Sunday morning is a difficult time. Please Reconsider that schedule.

- Sylvia VanArkel

Please do not schedule livestock & exhibit release on Sunday. Our family attends church and ask that you be respectful of the Sabbath.

- Stacy Boender

Sunday mornings may conflict with church for people for livestock and exhibit release.

- Travis Abrahamson

To Whom it May Concern,

Please refrain from having us have to pick up projects on Sunday mornings. Our family attends church and we will not place any other priorities over the opportunity to worship at our church as a family.

Thank you,

Cassia Boender
Please do not schedule livestock and exhibit release for Sunday mornings.

- Tina Marshall

We would appreciate it if livestock and exhibits would not be released Sunday mornings. We would prefer Saturday evening or Sunday Afternoon beginning at noon or 1 pm.

Thank you so much!

- Eric & Amy DeBoef

We respectfully ask that the release times for the livestock & static exhibits not be held on Sunday but be moved back to Saturday evening.

Thank you,

Helena, Molly & Allen Hayes

We would appreciate it very much if exhibit release would not be on Sunday Morning. We are sure there are many concerned also.

Thank you,

Joel & Lisa Van Gilst Family

Please do not schedule livestock and exhibit releases for Sunday mornings.

- Ginger Boender

Please do not schedule livestock & exhibit release for Sunday Morning.

- Thanks

Lisa De Bruin

Please refrain from using Sunday during the fair. It is God’s day, we are to keep it holy. 6 days you shall labor & do all you work & rest on the Sabbath.

- Crystal Roberts

**Llama Show:** Like the Llama Show! - Teale Pose

I really enjoyed the llama show. Thank you to all those who put in the work & effort to make that happen. I REALLY enjoyed the announcer spending some time educating the audience about not only llamas but the details of the show. I wish there was more of that in other shows.

-Tina Marshall

**Bams:** have the Bams air condishind – Raeann Elliott
**Camping:** add another row of campers along fence/ opposite last row appears to be enough room and especially with huge waiting list (29)

-Melinda Groenendyk

Love, love, love the extra footage in the campgrounds. Thank you!

-Tina Marshall

**Stall Assignments:** not clear for beef. Appeared we had 1 space for tack & turned out to be 2, also appeared we were in next club stalls when they had 4 calves to 2 stalls each.

-Melinda Groenendyk

**Parking:** Don’t charge those that are bringing in livestock- they have to come in et many pull trailers back out that day, they don’t come to see sites.

-Melinda Groenendyk

**Grounds:** Could a drinking fountain be placed somewhere on grounds?

-Melinda Groenendyk

Free Water is available in the FFA Building – Pat Powers

**Bathrooms:** nice job @ keeping all bathrooms clean & stocked with paper products. Especially campground restrooms. It was nice to have a pleasant smell this year.

-Melinda Groenendyk

Nice looking bathrooms in auction ring building by concessions, nicely redone

-Melinda Groenendyk

**Bottle Animals:** Bucket Bottle Check in at 6:00pm.

If over 10 calves split class up

-Dennis Antolik

**Fair Facts:** like “fair facts”- keep all informed if weren’t able to see something

-Melinda Groenendyk

**Beef Barn:** outlets in East/West beef barn need attention, especially NW corner/side- cords have to be in just right to get connection.

-Melinda Groenendyk

**Exhibit Hall:** 1. Check on small photo ribbons for 4th grade special photos. 2. Rope off triangle for large projects so cars won’t park and block area when ready to move large items outside.
In exhibit hall-liked how extra room for large exhibits that way don’t cover up individual booth projects.

**Pictures:** suggest move State Fair picture to different day other than day livestock come in ? Tuesday 10:30 a.m.?

A set Photo Schedule will not be done in 2016. Photos will be taken by appointment and staff availability. Families may take own photos and email them to 4-H staff as well. – Amy

**Pavilion:** really enjoyed fans in pavillon that went up last year. Really noticed with hot fair this year.

- Melinda Groenendyk

**Name Tags:** Thank you for the lanyard name tags for leaders. Way more useful than the stickers.

- Tina Marshall

**Workshops:** I still strongly believe that every superintendent should offer workshops/clinics thru-out the year. They are the best resource for much needed interaction for new members of those needs to project areas. Many members find themselves un prepared for fair & showing. Educate/mentor along side- that is our mission!

- Tina Marshall

Again try for beef clinic-too bad wasn’t re-scheduled, still a lot of ?’s re: trimming & fitting.

- Melinda Groenendyk

**Extra Comments/Suggestions**

Dear Fair Board,

Words cannot express the disappointment from the last minute change to the poultry auction. Due to your timing, 4-H’ers showed up early dressed in 4-H shirts, with (expensive) 8x10 pictures, ready to go through an auction. This is what was announced Tuesday at the poultry show!!! Buyers, mostly businesses, were informed of this process (early in the week). They showed up Saturday morning only prepared for this process. They are limited in their budgets, names of employee’s and means of payment. Your last minute change meant many exhibitors lost their business sponsors. (It is unpractical to ask buyers to leave during auction to go across road to sponsor the poultry.)

I’ve heard that maybe you thought it would take too much auction time- how can it possibly take any more time than the actual birds have in the past? I’ve heard that maybe you thought it would confuse the process. I think a last minute change, for an event in
another building, before the event is supposed to start is confusing. Exhibitors, leaders, parents, & superintends are all confused by the logic for your decision change. This is unfair and unpractical. I do believe that exhibitors, superintendents, parents and buyers deserve an apology and an explanation.

I do thank you for your fabulous agreement/proposal on Tuesday to accommodate the poultry exhibitors. Allowing for them no to miss out on one more thing (auction $) by “selling” a picture was a great idea. They did put in the work & money for those projects this year. The State bird flu was out of their control.

- Tina Marshall

Clarification – The poultry photos in the auction were not approved by the Fair Board at the time the information was shared with members. This was a miscommunication. The Fair Board made the final decision regarding poultry photos and the auction on Wednesday.

Verbal Comments from Post-Fair Meeting August 4th

Exhibit Hall:
Please look into renting or purchasing coolers for food & cut flower (4-H & Open Class) to keep them preserved during the fair. – Mark Moore

Livestock Shows:
Remove X in FFA Column on Show Orders – Pat Powers

Overall Fair:
We commend the Fair Board on the midway selection, lots of great feedback about the fair this year. Great job. – Jim Marshall

We appreciated the Veteran’s Day activities, wood carver, carnival, and children’s area (concern about adult supervision). Thank you to the Fair Board and 4-H Staff – Jerry Rempe

Special Thanks to the Fair Board for the changes in the FFA Building this year – Pat Powers

Pens/Gates for Barns:
Livestock pens/gates from Wapello County – Could we continue using those or purchase them for our use? – Jerry Rempe
(Cost to purchase all of the gates from Wapello County is nearly $6000 and funds are not available for that at this time.)

Livestock Auction:
Who sets the number of animals per member that is allowed to go through the auction? Please consider the Advanced Feeder Pens (of 3-5 animals) vs. 1 head of Beef that can go through, does not seem fair – Jerry Rempe
Pen of 3 Lambs – book says only 2 lambs can sell. How to handle this for the auction in the future. What will be acceptable, please make that clear. – Steve De Jong

Hopefully this will not need to be dealt with in the future, but in the case that poultry can’t show again, would like to have clear details for having poultry photos go through the auction. – Jim & Tina Marshall

Ag Olympics:
Good event, needs more publicity and prizes – Jerry Rempe

Non-Livestock Static Exhibits:
How do we determine which class 4-H exhibits need to be in and then which building the exhibits need to be judged in? This has gotten harder with the revised class descriptions in the fair book. – Jerry & Kathleen Rempe

Clarification – All exhibit classes are selected by the members based on their goals. Members must choose a class that best fits their goal for the exhibit, rather than choosing a goal that fits the class. Goals must have been set prior to completing the exhibits. Ultimately, the judge will decide if the exhibit is in the appropriate class based on the exhibitor’s write up and verbal feedback during conference judging. It is not the place of the 4-H volunteers or staff to tell a member specifically which class to put an exhibit in, their role is only to provide guidance. – Amy

Sheep:
Can we provide monetary awards for the Derby Lambs and Advanced Lamb Pen of 3 contests? Some kind of incentive to build the classes up. 1st, 2nd, 3rd place cash prizes. Would like class details (rules, criteria, etc.) listed in January-February 4-H newsletters so families are informed early in the year. – Steve De Jong

Release Time:
All exhibits (open/4-H) could potentially release from 9:00-10:00 PM on Saturday of the fair. This would include livestock and static exhibits. Exhibit buildings would then also be opened from 1-3 PM on Sunday. This is something that will need to be approved by the Fair Board in the future. – Rita Antolik with clarification from Fair Board representatives

Camping:
One row of campers had an extra camper in it and did not have extra space, but all other rows were provided with 1 ½’ of extra space. The board is working on plans for additional spaces. – Carrie Vander Beek

Parking:
There is no charge to park at the fairgrounds until 8:00 PM on Monday of the fair. This allows trailers to come in and weigh/check animals in all day on Monday. Exhibiting families are encouraged to purchase a week-long parking pass for the fair. – Carrie Vander Beek
**Stall Assignments:**
Look into a numbering system in the barns and reflect those numbers on the stall assignment sheets that get posted (especially for lower beef barn). This will help with any confusion. – Clayton Hester

Please communicate animal numbers (identified in May) with the Superintendents & Fair Board well in advance of the fair to make sure enough stalls, cages, gates, etc. are available. (especially cages for poultry & rabbits) – Adam Antolik

Make sure that members are educated on reserving stalls. Give ideas for how many animals go in a cage/stall/pen, so they know what to reserve on their club’s stall assignment sheet. Ex: Poultry, several birds usually go in one cage and newer families don’t know that. – Jenny Van Zante

**Fans:**
Please put an extra fan on the 4-H side of the Exhibit Hall for the building monitors. – Jim Marshall

Please look into putting the large fans in the ceiling of the pavilion (like state fair has). We understand this is extremely pricey and will need a fundraiser to become a reality. – Pat Powers & several others

**Pavilion Sound System:**
PA in Pavilion was hard to hear for audience. – Tom Stodghill

Check with the sound company before and during the fair to make sure speakers are adjusted just right. Hard to hear in the bleachers and especially on the east end of the pavilion where there are no speakers at all. – group comments

**Ag, Mech, Tech class:**
Strongly considering a change to FFA only and eliminating Open. – Pat Powers

**Regional Fair:**
Please consider a regional fair. It would be a good idea to get more exhibitors at our fair. Adding Wapello or a smaller fair to our fair will help them and us. If space is an issue for the smaller animals, could try having a staggered schedule for the cages. Ex: Poultry check-in and show within 3 days and check-out, then rabbits come in or vice versa. Auction animals could stay in a separate row or two, that way birds or rabbits are there throughout the week for people to see. – Pat Powers and group comments

**Fair Book:**
The Fair Board attended a great seminar at the State Fairs Convention last year where they learned more about bringing technology/online and new ideas to county fairs. This brought up the idea of having an online-only fair book. Several books were leftover this year and that is money that was wasted. Would like to know what people think of an online-only book. 4-H could still possibly print the 4-H & FFA Fair Rule Booklets if a paper copy is needed.
Fair Board could potentially do a pre-order for printed books and charge a small fee to help cover those costs. If anyone has any ideas or feedback about this, please contact the Fair Board at 673-7004 or email sifair@mahaska.org. – Carrie Vander Beek and group comments

**Affidavits:**
Affidavits will continue to be due at the Extension office prior to the fair. These are required for Swine, Sheep, Market Beet, Meat Goats, and Horses. Anyone who plans to sell their animal in the auction MUST have an affidavit on file prior to the auction. At the time of auction designation, the Affidavit book will be checked and if anyone is missing a form, they will be given a blank form to fill out and turn back in to the Fair Board Office prior to the auction. This will eliminate the need to track people down after the auction/fair is over.

**Honey Producers & Contests:**
The Honey Producers are interested in adding some honey contests to the Southern Iowa Fair. Would like to have the contests/displays in the Varied Industries Building with the Honey Producers booth. Categories can be similar to those in the Ag Building at the Iowa State Fair, Ex: bee related photos, jarred honey, observation hives, etc. Would like to see the bee/honey area grow and this will help. Could be open to other counties as an open class. – Jim Marshall

**Lower Beef Barn:**
The lower beef barn floods and has setting water in it, is there anything that can be done? – Clayton Hester
Clarification – We know there is a problem and there isn’t much that can be done by way of construction until we have the funds and resources available to do it. We are always open and interested in building a new barn, but will need to secure the resources first. – Fair Board

**Yearling Bulls:**
These animals can be tricky to show. They can be a tame puppy dog one minute and wild the next. I am not in favor of adding this class, if it were to be added, we need to consider ages and stalling (possibly show and go home) due to animals being in heat and the temperaments of bulls. Would like to see it limited to older exhibitors, if anything. – Clayton Hester

**Horses:**
Two members who exhibit horses noticed members riding bareback and without helmets in the pavilion during the fair. The superintendent was present and did not stop it. This needs to be addressed. – Sharis Claver