

HOME ARTS AND GARDENS

THE STATE FAIR OF

WEST VIRGINIA

Summer's
Best

AUGUST 13-22

2026

Exhibitor's Guide

Premiums

1. Premiums will not be awarded simply because the item is the best of its kind exhibited. The judge retains the right to refuse to award a premium of any kind.
 2. **Premiums will be paid according to the records turned in to the Fair office by superintendents, not by ribbons presented.**
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General Rules and Regulations

1. All exhibitors will be charged a \$5 entry fee. Please make checks payable to the State Fair of West Virginia
 2. Exhibits will not be accepted or released outside of normal check-in and check-out times. No exceptions will be made to this rule.
 3. All limited classes MUST be entered by paper.
 4. Fair officials will take reasonable precaution for the safekeeping of exhibits after their final arrival and arrangement in the building but will NOT be responsible for any damage or loss that may occur.
 5. Fair officials reserve the right to dispose of any decomposing or deteriorating exhibits. Ribbons will be available during check-out time.
 6. The Judge maintains the right to dismiss exhibits that do not conform to the class description.
 7. All exhibits must be the product of July 2025 - August 2026, unless otherwise stated.
 8. Entry tags must be securely attached to exhibits prior to arrival.
 9. No professional exhibitors shall be allowed to exhibit. If discovered that an exhibitor receives more than 10% of their income from practicing the craft they enter, all premiums will be withheld, and the exhibitor will no longer be able to exhibit at the State Fair of West Virginia.
 10. Exhibitors are limited to ONE (1) entry per class unless otherwise noted.
 11. Fair officials retain the right to reclass exhibits based on size and class description.
 12. No checked-in exhibits will be available to be picked up until the designated check-out time for that department.
 13. A request can be made to have ribbons mailed after the fair. Ribbons will not be mailed unless a request is made.
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DEADLINES

Paper entries are due by 12 Noon Wednesday, July 15th

Online entries are due by 11:59 pm Wednesday, July 15th

Entry forms will be accepted beginning May 27th. Any entry forms received before May 27th or after July 15th will not be processed. No exception will be made.

The Fair office will accept paper entry forms from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. until 12 Noon on July 15th.

Online entries will be accepted at www.statefairfwv.com until 11:59 pm on July 15th.

Department I – Agricultural Products

Jennifer Sprouse Smith, Superintendent, Crawley, WV

Wendi Redman, Superintendent, Covington, VA

Angela Shumaker, Superintendent, Covington, VA

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, August 12th – 7 am – 10 am Dept. I Check-In

Noon – Judging

Thursday, August 13th – 9 am Fair Opens

Saturday, August 22nd – 8 pm – 9 pm Dept. I Partial Check-Out

No cars will be permitted on grounds for this check out

Sunday, August 23rd - 11 am – 3 pm Dept. I Check-Out

Please Note: Exhibits with excessive spray residue may be downgraded. No wash or oil may be applied to any exhibit.

Baskets will be provided for display.

Premiums for Division 1-14

1st - \$8.00 2nd - \$7.00 3rd - \$6.00 Best of Show - \$25

Division 1 – Corn

In stalk classes, stalk to be cut 6" above ground level or with root ball attached.

*In classes 4-5, corn must be in natural condition on **both** ends. Cutting off or removing kernels will result in disqualification.*

Sweet Corn can be found in the fresh vegetables section (Division 8)

1. Field Corn for Ensilage, 5 stalks
2. Field Corn for Grain, 5 stalks
3. Field Corn, husked, 10 ears
4. **Best of Show (Classes 1-3) (Do not enter)**
5. Popcorn, pint jar
6. Ornamental corn, 5, braided or joined at the husks

Division 2 – Gourds

May be 2025's or 2026's crop

1. Gourds, bottle, 1
2. Gourds, apple/rounded/elongated 1
3. Gourds, turbans cap, 1
4. Ornamental Gourds – an exhibit of at least 3, but no more than 6 same or mixed collections of gourds. Gourds are to be judged on the quality and attractiveness of the display. No plastic or artificial decoration allowed in display. The display may not

exceed 15" in length or 8" in width. *Natural Materials ONLY*

Division 3– Melons

1. Cantaloupe
2. Watermelon, long or round, 1
3. Any other type of melon

Division 4 – Pumpkins

1. Pumpkin, field, 8 inch or larger
2. Pumpkin, sweet, 7 inch or smaller
3. Pumpkin, jack-be-little, 3

Division 5 – Squash

1. Squash, summer, scallop variety 3
2. Squash, crooked neck, summer, yellow, 3
3. Squash, straight neck, summer, yellow, 3
4. Winter squash, 3
5. Squash, Hubbard, any variety, 1
6. Squash, zucchini, green, 3

Division 6- Potatoes

Potatoes are to be exhibited unwashed, named, and true to type

1. Russet Potatoes, 6
2. Kennebec Potatoes, 6

3. Red Bliss Potatoes, 6
4. Yukon Gold Potatoes, 6
5. Any other color Potatoes (blue, purple, etc.), 6
6. Sweet Potatoes, any variety, 6
7. **Best of Show (Classes 1-6) (Do not enter)**

Division 7- Tomatoes

1. Tomatoes, red, 5
2. Tomatoes, yellow, 5
3. Tomatoes, Cherokee, 5
4. Tomatoes, beefsteak, any color, 5 (Includes Mr. Stripey)
5. Tomatoes, cocktail, red, preserving/dwarf, 5
6. Tomatoes, cocktail, yellow, preserving/dwarf, 5
7. Tomatoes, Italian or paste type, 5
8. Tomatoes, Heirloom or any other variety, 5

9. Best of Show Tomatoes (Classes 1-8) (Do not enter)

Division 8- Fresh Vegetables

All exhibits must be grown by exhibitor & all articles must be placed in water, where applicable.

1. Beans, green snap/ bush/ half-runner/ pole, 24
2. Beans, October, 24
3. Beans, any other color or type, 24
4. Beets, 5
5. Cabbage, any color, flat, 1 head
6. Cabbage, any color, round, 1 head
7. Carrots, tops attached or cut, 5
8. Cucumbers, slicing, 5
9. Cucumbers, pickling, 12
10. Garlic, 5 bulbs
11. Elephant Garlic, 3 bulbs
12. Okra, red or green, 10 specimens
13. Onions, red, dry, unpeeled, 5
14. Onions, yellow, dry, unpeeled, 5
15. Onions, white, dry, unpeeled, 5
16. Onion sets, on paper plate, 1 pint
17. Peppers, green, bell-type, 5
18. Peppers, any other color, bell-type, 5
19. Peppers, banana, 5
20. Peppers, hot jalapeno, 12
21. Pepper, hot, any other type. 8
22. Shallots, 5
23. Sweet corn, any color, husked, wrapped in plastic wrap, 5 ears
24. Bundled/Braided onions, 5 onions bunched or braided with a loop/hook attached for hanging
25. Bundled/Braided Garlic, 5 heads of garlic bunched or braided with a loop/hook attached for hanging
26. **Best of Show Fresh Vegetables (classes 1-25) (Do Not Enter)**

**Corn must be in natural condition on both ends. Cutting off or removing kernels will result in disqualification*

Division 9 – Organic Vegetables

Growers may only use materials approved by the OMRI.

Visit their website www.omri.org for more information.

1. Beans, green snap, 24
2. Onions, yellow or white, dry, unpeeled, 5
3. Peppers, any variety, 5
4. Potatoes, any variety, 6
5. Tomatoes, any variety, 5

Division 10 – Fruits

1. Grapes, any color, 3 bunches
2. Blackberries, 1 pint
3. Blueberries, 1 pint
4. Berries, any other variety, 1 pint

Division 11- Herbs

Pots can be a maximum of 8" and must have a saucer.

1. Basil, red leaf
2. Basil, green leaf
3. Chives
4. Dill, 5 stems
5. Mint
6. Parsley
7. Rosemary
8. Thyme
9. Pepper, hot
10. Lavender
11. Lemon Balm
12. Cilantro
13. Oregano
14. Sage
15. Stevia
16. Savory
17. **Best of Show Herbs (Classes 1-16) (Do not enter)**

Division 12 – Beginners Gardening

For children aged 5-10 by July 15th, 2026

1. Beans, green snap, 24
2. Tomatoes, red, 5
3. Squash, straight neck, yellow, 3
4. Squash, Zucchini, green, 3
5. Cucumbers, 3
6. Corn, 3 ears
7. Peppers, any, 5
8. Plant or herb in any decorated pot no larger than 10"
9. **Best of Show Beginners Gardening (classes 1-8) (Do Not Enter)**

Division 13 – Eggs

****Egg classes are now HALF DOZEN classes. Eggs must be displayed in a half dozen carton. Dozen cartons cut in half will NOT be accepted. Half dozen cartons will be available for purchase in the fair office prior to check-in or at check-in for \$2 a carton**

1. Half Dozen eggs, white
2. Half Dozen eggs, brown
3. Half Dozen eggs, pastel
4. Half Dozen eggs, rainbow/mixed/or assorted colors

Division 14 – Funny Stuff

Exhibitors are responsible for all props used in Division 10.

Exhibits must not exceed 10"x10" in any direction.

Vegetables and fruits must be recognizable. Only one fruit or vegetable may be used in each display

1. Best Decorated Apple (5-10 years of age)
2. Best Decorated Apple (11-18 years of age)
3. Best Decorated Apple (adults 19+)
4. Best Decorated Potato (5-10 years of age)
5. Best Decorated Potato (11-18 years of age)
6. Best Decorated Potato (adults 19+)
7. Best Decorated Unmentioned Vegetable
8. Most Unusual Vegetable or Plant
9. Best Decorated Vegetable Showing the State Fair's Theme "Summer's Best"

Division 15 – Big Stuff

1. Largest Pumpkin, by circumference
1st - \$65.00 2nd - \$50.00 3rd - \$40.00
2. Largest Tomato, by weight
1st - \$8.00 2nd - \$6.00 3rd - \$5.00
3. Largest Potato, by weight
1st - \$8.00 2nd - \$6.00 3rd - \$5.00
4. Tallest Cornstalk, by height
1st - \$8.00 2nd - \$6.00 3rd - \$5.00
5. Largest Zucchini, by weight
1st - \$8.00 2nd - \$6.00 3rd - \$5.00

Premiums for Division 18-20

1st - \$11.00 2nd - \$9.00 3rd - \$8.00 Best of Show - \$25

Division 18 – Forage Crops

All exhibits must be the equivalent of about one-fourth of a standard square bale taken from the middle of a bale of hay. No loose or uncured hay will be accepted.

**Check the Special Contests for the Forage Crops Sweepstakes! **

1. Alfalfa Hay (less than 10% grass)
2. Alfalfa Hay (20-80% grass)
3. Orchard Grass – First Cutting (less than 10% legumes, less than 20% other species)
4. Timothy – First cutting (less than 10% legumes, less than 20% other species)
5. Aftermath Grass (regrowth grass less than 10% legumes)
6. Mixed Species Hay – First Cutting, more than 20% each of three (3) or more species (grass and/or legumes)
- 7. Best of Show (Classes 1-6) (Do not enter)**

Premiums for Division 16-18

1st - \$8.00 2nd - \$7.00 3rd - \$6.00

Division 16 – Nuts

May be 2025's or 2026's crop

1. Black walnuts in shell, ½ gallon, displayed in ½ gallon jar
2. Chestnuts in shell, ½ gallon, displayed in ½ gallon jar
3. Hickory nuts in shell, ½ gallon, displayed in ½ gallon jar
4. Allegheny chinquapins, ½ gallon, displayed in ½ gallon jar

Division 17 – Grains

May be 2025's or 2026's crop

1. Amaranth, 1-3 stems cut and placed in a jar of water (weight jar if necessary to prevent tipping)
2. Sheaves of Grain, at least 8 inches tall, 1-2" thick in the stem bundle's diameter

Division 19 – Honey

**All honey will be displayed in a locked display after judging*

1. Three 1 lb. jars of honey, extracted, light
2. Three 1 lb. jars of honey, extracted, amber
3. Three 1 lb. jars of honey, extracted, dark
4. Three division boxes or three circular sections of comb honey
5. Cut comb honey, 4" square, displayed in 4"x4" plastic box, no plastic bags.
6. Beeswax, solid shape or candle

Division 20 – Maple Products

All entries must be a product of 2025-2026.

1. Maple Syrup, light, 500ml
2. Maple Syrup, dark, 500ml

Premiums for Division 21

1st - \$50.00 2nd - \$40.00 3rd - \$30.00 4th - \$20.00

Bring a clean (free of debris) bundle that is tied. The Natural Colored and White Fleece classes are now combined for any color fleece. You may enter one White AND one Natural Colored Fleece per class.

Division 21– Fleece

1. Fine Merino, Rambouillet, and crosses with counts of 60 and above
2. Medium Dorset, Suffolk, etc. And crosses with counts of 48's to 58's
3. Long Romney, Lincoln, etc. and crosses with counts of 47 and below
4. Coarse or Carpet-Karakul, Scottish Blackface
- 5. Champion Fleece (Do Not Enter)**
- 6. Reserve Champion Fleece (Do Not Enter)**
- 7. Spinner's Choice (Do Not Enter)**

Additional Guidelines

Wool

1. Fleeces must be entered in the name of the grower.
2. All wool will be placed in a clear plastic bag. (Exhibitor must provide their own bag). Please indicate the breed in which the wool came from on your entry.
3. Exhibitors are limited to two (2) entries in any class; however, no fleece can compete in more than one (1) class.
4. Each fleece must have been shorn in 2021 and represent no more than 12 months growth, except yearling fleeces, which 16 month growth will be allowed.
5. Any fleece entered in the competition should be clean, free of vegetable contamination, dung locks or tags and show no evidence of moths. It should be properly skirted and tied with a paper twine, flesh side out, in a manner to allow it to be handled without falling apart.

Honey

Scoring for honey will be as followed:

- Density -20 points
- Absence of Crystals -10 points
- Cleanliness -24 points
- Flavor 8 points Color -8 points
- Container appearance -10 points
- Accuracy/ Uniformity of filling -20 points
- Total 100 points**

Maple Syrup Scoring

- Density**– Should be greater than or equal to 66.0° Brix and less than or equal to 68.9° Brix. The Brix will be determined by judges using a refractometer.
- Color**– All entries must conform to the new grading standards and will be judged accordingly.
- Clarity**– Should be clean and clear with no visible impurities (cloudy, sugar sand, etc.)
- Flavor**– Should be free of off-flavors

Maple Candy Scoring

- Appearance**– color, form good no separation or white areas.
- Texture**– Hardness, crystallinity, surface texture.
- Flavor**– Representative of maple candy with no off flavors.

DEPT. I- Special Contests

Divison 22

REMEMBERING WHEN GARDEN & FARM IMPLEMENT ARRANGEMENT

Show off the invaluable tools your parents and grandparents passed on to you in this contest!

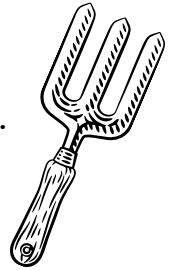
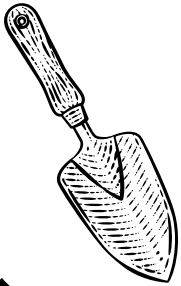
Rules:

1. Implements include anything you use in the garden, i.e. hoes, rakes, spades, etc.
2. Arrangements must hang and be fixed with a hanger able to support its weight.
3. Implement arrangement must not exceed 6' tall
4. Arrangements must be decorated with dried or fresh material.
No artificial fruits, vegetables, or plants
5. Arrangements will be judged for aesthetic appeal and creativity.

Please Enter Department I, Division 22, Class 1

Premiums

1st - \$30.00 2nd - \$20.00 3rd - \$15.00



BASKET LOAD OF BLUE-RIBBON VEGGIES

Basket Load of Blue-Ribbon Veggies

Any kind of vegetables and any amount,
displayed in ½ bushel basket.

Judged for quality.

Please Enter Department I, Division 22, Class 2

Premiums

1st - \$35.00 2nd - \$25.00 3rd - \$15.00

DEPT. I- Special Contests

Divison 22

Rules:

1. Vegetables must be in bloom or actively producing.
2. Container may be no larger than 30" tall.
3. Exhibits will be judged for creativity of container, aesthetic appeal, and health and vigor of vegetable plant.
4. Vegetable must be actively growing in container and not recently transplanted.
5. You may have more than one (1) plant in the container, but the plants must be of the same species and variety. This includes coloring.

Please Enter
Department I, Division 22, Class 3
Premiums
1st - \$30.00
2nd - \$20.00
3rd - \$15.00

Join the party & bring your best vegetable in the most unique container*.

*Get creative and find the most unique container to grow your vegetable.
Please no boots, shoes or fabric items.

**VEGGIES IN
UNIQUE CONTAINERS**

GARDEN Scarecrow

Create the most entertaining scarecrow you can for this contest!

Rules:

1. Scarecrows must be between 3'-6' tall with total arm span not exceeding 4'.
2. Scarecrow must be secured to or combined with a 6' pointed stake. The Fair will provide a 5-gallon bucket filled with sand to secure your scarecrow.
3. Scarecrow is to be traditional farm or garden variety made of hay, straw, or other natural materials. A pumpkin, melon, or traditional head may be used but must be securely fastened to the scarecrow's body. If material is used, faces may be painted, sewn, or drawn on burlap, cotton, or muslin mat.
4. Clothing for scarecrow should be traditional with optional hat, gloves, and shoes. Additional decoration should reflect the 2024 Fair theme "Mountain Memories"
5. Contest is limited to the first five (5) entries.

Please Enter Department I, Division 22, Class 4

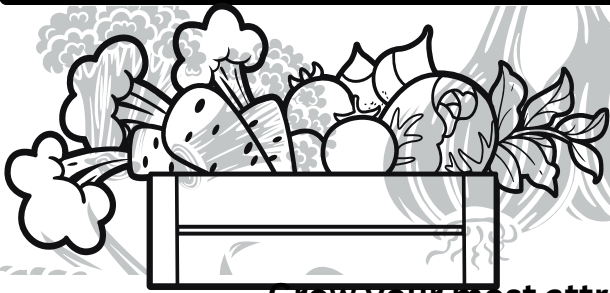
Premiums

1st - \$10.00 2nd - \$8.00 3rd - \$7.00



DEPT. I- Special Contests

Division 22



EDIBLE Window Box

Grow your most attractive display of edible plants in a window box.

Rules:

1. Boxes must be able to fit into the window box display (32"x 6 ½ x 6 ½ in.)
2. Window box must contain at least 5 different varieties of vegetables, fruits, or herbs. Edible flowers may be grown in the box for attractiveness, but will not count towards the minimum number of varieties required.
3. All plants must have been grown together in the window box and not recently transplanted for show.
4. No accessories/decorations permitted
5. Small plant markers are permitted to label varieties, but not required.
6. A list of all plants used in the window box must be written/typed and included with exhibit upon entry.
7. Exhibits will be judged based on above rules, quality of plants used, attractiveness, and creativity.

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

Limited to five (5) competitors. Visit the fair office to sign up.

Department I, Division 22, Class 5

When: Saturday, August 15th and August 22nd

Time: Three (3) races beginning at : 11:00 am
2:00 pm 4:00 pm

Where: West Virginia Building, Department I

Entrants: Children ages 5-12

Pick your favorite vegetable and see if it is the first to the finish line! All materials will be provided to entrants.

Limited to the first (6) fairgoers who sign up.

NO PRE-REGISTRATION

**VEGGIE
500**

DEPT. I- American Gardener

Division 23



RED, WHITE, & BLUE OPEN CLASS

Any vegetable, fruit, plant, or crop that is red, white, or blue (or any combination of those colors)

Please Enter Department I, Division 23, Class 1

Premiums

1st - \$15.00 2nd - \$10.00 3rd - \$8.00

All American GARDEN DISPLAY

Showcase your favorite parts of American agriculture with a decorative display of at least 10 different varieties of agricultural products grown or raised by the exhibitor and as many decorative items as desired.

Rules:

1. Decorations may contain pictures, historical implements and antiques, garden tools, and any other type of item that enhances the display.
3. Display must not exceed 36" long and 7" wide.
4. Exhibits will be judged based on creativity, ability to showcase and celebrate America's rich agricultural identity, quality of agricultural products, and overall attractiveness.

Limited to the first 5 entries.

Please Enter Department I, Division 23, Class 2

Premiums

1st - \$30.00 2nd - \$20.00 3rd - \$15.00

DEPT. I- Special Awards

Grand Champion Junior Gardener

A \$25.00 award will be awarded to a junior exhibitor who gains the most points in Division 12. Points will be awarded as follows:

- 1st – 3 points
- 2nd – 2 points
- 3rd – 1 point



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VICTOR TESSARO



award

BEST OVERALL VEGETABLE – JUDGES' CHOICE

An exhibitor for 20 years, Victor Tessaro was known for his gardening knowledge. At 70 he still loved to garden and spent much of his time digging in the dirt.

Victor passed away
October 2, 2005.

Prize

\$50.00 + Rosette



Jan Chase

PREMIER GARDENER AWARD

In memory of longtime exhibitor, Jan Chase, the 19th annual Jan Chase Premier Gardener Award shall be given to the exhibitor receiving the greatest number of first places in Divisions 2-9. (Gourds, melons, pumpkins, squash, potatoes, tomatoes, fresh vegetables, and organic vegetables)

In the event of a tie, the winner will be the tying exhibitor receiving the most second places: should a tie still exist, the winner will be tying the exhibitor with the most third places.

Prize

Rosette + Special Blenko Glass Award

Dr. Rodebaugh's MONSTER TOMATO

The largest tomato exhibited in Division 15, Class 2 will receive a **\$100 bonus**. If this tomato surpasses WV record the exhibitor will be awarded an **extra \$150**.

(at the time of publication the WV record is 7.46 lbs. but is subject to change.)

Award will be based on record at day of judging)

DEPT. I- Special Awards

Champion HERB GARDENER

A \$50.00 bonus will be awarded to an exhibitor who gains the most points in Division 11.

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Forage Crop SWEEPSTAKES

A \$50.00 award and a rosette will be awarded to an exhibitor who gains the most points in Division 18, classes 1-6. Points will be awarded as follows:

- 1st - 3 points
- 2nd - 2 points
- 3rd - 1 point

champion CURCURBIT

A \$50.00 bonus will be awarded to the best item from gourds, melons, pumpkins, squash, and cucumbers divisions.

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Grand Champion EGGS

A \$25.00 bonus will be awarded to the best item from

Division 13, Eggs.

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