

The Iowa Holstein show will be on August 14 (Open) & 15th (Junior) at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. Registration can be found at iowastatefair.org

2026 District & State Iowa Holstein Show Classes

Class #	Class	Birth Dates
1	Spring Heifer Calf	March 1 – May 31, 2026
2	Winter Heifer Calf	December 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026
3	Fall Heifer Calf	September 1, 2025 – November 30, 2026
4	Summer Yearling Heifer	June 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025
5	Spring Yearling Heifer	March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025
6	Winter Yearling Heifer	December 1, 2024 – February 29, 2025
7	Fall Yearling Heifer	September 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024

Champion & Reserve Junior Champion

*Junior Best Three Females – 100% bred by exhibitor (all must carry the exhibitor's prefix, regardless of percentage owned)

8	Yearling in Milk	September 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023
9	Summer Jr 2-Year-Old Cow	June 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024
10	Spring Junior 2-Year-Old Cow	March 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024
11	Winter Senior 2-Year-Old Cow	December 1, 2023 – February 28, 2024
12	Fall Senior 2-Year-Old Cow	September 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023
13	Junior 3-Year-Old Cow	March 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023
14	Senior 3-Year-Old Cow	September 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023

Champion & Reserve Intermediate Champion

15	4-Year-Old Cow	September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022
16	5-Year-Old Cow	September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021
17	6-Year-Old Cow	Born after September 1, 2020
18	Lifetime Milk Production Cow Based on most recent test date, must bring proof of production	

*Best Three Females – all bred by exhibitor, exhibitor must own at least one in group *Produce of Dam – two females from the same dam

*Daughter/Dam – Cow and daughter shown in any class

Champion & Reserve Senior Champion

Grand & Reserve Champion

*Top Bred & Owned – from classes 8-18

Best Udder of Show – from classes 8-18

// Novice (6 years and younger as of 1/1/25) Refer to rule D.10 // Novice (7 & 8 years old as of 1/1/25)

Refer to rule D.10 // Dairy Herd

*Classes not included in the junior show

//Classes included in junior show only

Rules & Regulations for the 2026 Iowa Holstein Association Shows

A. Rules Apply to District and State Holstein Shows:

- 1a. Each exhibitor must be a current member or junior member of the Iowa Holstein Association.
- 1b. **ALL** owners/partners must be a member of the Iowa Holstein Association.

2a. All animals must have a minimum of 87% Registered Holstein Ancestry (RHA). Ownership shall be established by the name listed on the registration certificate or by presentation of the certificate along with a signed and completed transfer and fee which is to be retained by show management to be forwarded to the national office.

2b. For animals purchased shortly before a show, the transfer must be submitted with the paper prior to the show and the show chairman/clerk will take possession of the transfer to assure that the transfer is carried out. If the animal is in transfer, clarification from National must be known.

3. Iowa state health rules and regulations must be observed. Health papers and registration certificates must accompany the animals and be provided to show management for checking prior to one hour before the starting time of the show.

4. The point system for determining Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor Awards shall be as follows:

Placing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A (Jr Animals)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
B (Sr Animals)	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2

5. The Premier Breeder Award is presented to the breeder of no more than 6 animals all shown in the single classes which total the most points. No entry is required and the winner need not be an exhibitor at the show or the owner of any of the point-winning animals.

5a. Breeder Defined: The owner of the dam at the time of service shall be considered the breeder of the animals. Where a herd is registered in the names of different members of a family, and where the herd is one unit, and everyone is using the same prefix, all entries may be considered as exhibits of one breeder. Otherwise, when animals are bred in partnership, each unique partnership is considered a unique breeder.

6. The Premier Exhibitor Award is presented to the exhibitor of no more than 6 animals all shown in the single classes which total the most points. No entry is required.

6a. Exhibitor Defined: The Exhibitor must be the owner. In case a herd is registered or bred in the names of different members of a family, residing on one farm or breeding establishment and where the herd is one unit all entries may be considered as a single exhibitor for all group classes. However, members of one family where cattle are not housed as one unit will not be considered as a single exhibitor. Any partnership animal is a separate exhibitor with the exception of family partnerships.

7. Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor of the heifer show (state open show only) The same rules apply as listed above for Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor. Spring heifer calves through fall yearlings (not in milk) will be eligible for points for these awards. The animals may also be eligible for Overall Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor.

8. All exhibitors shall adhere to the Iowa Holstein Association Show Ring Policy. The agreement to adhere to this policy on the entry form must be signed to be an eligible entry.

B. Special Rules Applying to Iowa District Holstein Shows:

1. Partnership cattle may be shown in any district, but in only one district show in any given season.

2. Every District show must offer the same classes as the State Show except for the Iowa Holstein Futurity which is on a state-wide basis only. Intermediate champion and Top Bred & Owned by exhibitor are optional for district shows. Districts with less than 50 head entered may combine classes 4 & 5, 6 & 7, 11 & 12, 13 & 14, and 17 & 18.

C. Special Rules Applying to the Iowa Holstein Show:

1. The entry deadline is **July 1**. Entries should be made by completing the online form available at www.iowastatefair.org.

2. Verification of production for Class 18 is necessary. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to provide a copy of form DHIA-203 to show management.

3. An animal cannot be exhibited in any other State Show prior to the Iowa State Show

D. Special Rules Applying to the Iowa Junior Holstein Show:

1. Each exhibitor must be a junior member of the Iowa Holstein Association and be 9 years of age as of January 1 of the current year and under the age of 21 years as of January 1 of the current year.

2. All animals exhibited must be registered by the Holstein Association in the name of the junior member or parents' name or farm prefix or be certified as a bona fide 4-H project by the County Extension Director or as an FFA project by the FFA Advisor. Certification must be brought to the Iowa Junior Holstein Show. The animal must be in the junior's name to be eligible for Junior All-American.

3. Ribbons at the State Junior Holstein Show will be awarded in ribbon groups. Animals that place first and second in their class shall be named Junior All-Iowa and Reserve Junior All Iowa.

4. Juniors must show their own animals. Excusing a member from personally exhibiting his or her animal(s) defeats one of the most important objectives of Holstein work. Hence, the Junior Advisory Committee does not approve the use of substitute showmen except in extreme cases. If a youth is injured or seriously ill at the time of the show or is involved in another activity with a non-flexible schedule at which their presence is mandatory, the youth may submit an application for a substitute showman. They must be a Holstein junior member & approved in advance of the show by the advisory committee.

5. Production awards • There will be one for top milk based on 305 day or less actual records. The most recently completed lactation record will be used unless the current incomplete lactation record is higher. The winning cow's record cannot be used more than once. Production information must be submitted to Jeff Hammerand and will be accepted until the start of the show.

6. For the Best Udder of Show, the judge will select one cow in each class and the winner will then be selected from that group.

7. Showmanship classes will be held at the completion of the show with the following order: seniors, intermediates, then juniors. The Showmanship classes will be divided into three classes. The junior division will be for exhibitors 9-12 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Intermediate exhibitors will be 13-16 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Senior exhibitors will be 17-21 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. The award can be won by an exhibitor only once in each division. They must have shown this animal in a previous class.

8. Novice classes will be held for junior members younger than the age of 9 years as of January 1 of the current year. The animal can be another junior member's project. The class will be judged 100% on the showmanship of the individual exhibitor. There is no entry fee for these classes. The classes will be held following the selection of the Grand Champion and before the start of the heifer classes.

9. The State Holstein Junior Advisory Committee reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules of the Iowa Junior Holstein Show and will arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions or differences in regard hereto arising out of or in connection with the junior show. All possible rule infractions should be brought to the attention of the Junior Advisory Committee at least one hour before the show. Once the class is placed, all placings will stand.