

Exhibiting at the Fair

RULES AND PROCEDURES

The Competitive Exhibits Divisions are the heart of the Tanana Valley State Fair. Through these Divisions, the Fair accomplishes its primary mission of education. Competition and comparison are the keys to educating thousands of exhibitors and tens of thousands of Fairgoers who participate in the Fair each year. The exchange of ideas that takes place is part of a valuable tradition that dates back to the early 1800s. By participating in the Competitive Exhibits, you are entering into the educational process. Seeing your products side by side with others will show you the relative quality of your work as well as ways to improve.

The purpose of exhibiting at the Fair is to showcase the products that represent the community's best efforts, to improve skills through comparison and competition, and to educate the public. Thank you for taking part and enjoy the Fair!

ENTRY RULES

1. Entries are open to all people.
2. Every exhibit must be entered in the name of the grower or maker, except for livestock which must be entered in the name of the owner.
3. Junior exhibitors (age 16 and under) must enter Junior Divisions with their current age written on the exhibit tag. This will be used only to determine age group and for labels.
4. Exhibitors may enter as many exhibits as they wish, but only **one entry per lot**. Refer to the livestock rules in Division 4 for livestock entry information.
5. No entry may be allowed to compete in more than one lot.
6. The right is reserved to refuse any exhibit not deemed appropriate for Fair entry. These decisions are made at the discretion of the Fair staff and Superintendents.
7. With the exception of live animals or plants, **no entry shall have been previously exhibited at the Tanana Valley State Fair.**
8. No smoking, drinking, or eating is allowed in the exhibit areas. No drugs or drug paraphernalia are allowed on the Fairgrounds. Beer and wine may be consumed only in areas designated by the Board of Directors.
9. No animals are permitted on the Fairgrounds, with the exception of guide dogs and animals entered as exhibits or as part of a Fair-sanctioned special event.
10. No "For Sale" signs, business cards, etc. are permitted on any exhibit during the course of the Fair.
11. **Any exhibitor found plagiarizing, turning in entries from previous years, or turning in an entry that is not their own work will forfeit ALL premiums and placing for the year.**
12. Entering an exhibit into the Fair indicates that the exhibitor accepts and agrees to abide by all rules and procedures as presented in the Exhibit Guide and other incidental materials.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

Exhibits are accepted only during the entry period stated in each division. If you are unable to attend the entry day and wish to compete, please ask a relative or friend to take your entry to the Fair. The Tanana Valley State Fair Association is NOT responsible for early and late entries and they are NOT accepted.

HOW TO ENTER

Exhibiting at the Fair can be fun and easy – just follow these few simple steps. If you have questions, contact the Division Superintendent for guidance. The Tanana Valley State Fair Association also offers exhibitor handbooks which clarify judging and specific exhibiting instructions. **Exhibitors are responsible for adhering to specific instructions found in the handbooks.** These instructions may or may not be in the Exhibit Guide.

1. **Obtain your Fair ID number.** Each exhibitor must have a unique Fair ID number. This number is used on the exhibit tag to identify the exhibitor and all exhibits entered by the exhibitor. The same number is used by the exhibitor each year as long as an exhibitor enters at least once every three years.
2. **Pick up exhibit tags.** Each exhibit must be accompanied by an exhibit tag. The exhibitor is responsible for accurately filling out the exhibit tag.
3. **Know your deadlines.** Exhibitors are responsible to know the entry periods and to enter at that time. (See **Competitive Exhibits at a Glance** for details for specific Divisions.)

4. Enter your exhibit. Turn in your exhibit with its exhibit tag to the Superintendent or clerk at the Division locations listed in **Competitive Exhibits at a Glance**. You can get help on entry Day from the Fair Office. The Superintendent or clerk will remove the middle copy of the exhibit tag and return it to you as a claim check. The remaining portions of your exhibit tag are attached to the exhibit.

5. Pick up your exhibits, score sheets, premiums, and ribbons on the scheduled pick-up day.

JUDGING

All judges at the Tanana Valley State Fair are volunteers, with the exception of livestock judges. The Tanana Valley State Fair Association recognizes its role in education and that qualified and impartial judges are the most important part of the process.

Quality judging is recognized as one of the keys to quality exhibits at the Fair. The other key is exhibitor understanding of how things are judged. The following is an explanation of the two methods of judging used at the Tanana Valley State Fair.

DANISH: The DANISH system of judging uses an established standard of perfection as the basis for judging. Each exhibit is judging individually in comparison to the standard. The judge then decides whether the exhibit is deserving of a Blue Award (Excellent), Red Award (Good), White Award (Worthy), or no award. It is possible and in fact quite common, to have several Blue Awards in the same lot. The Danish system is used in the 4-H/FFA and Girl Scouting Divisions.

AMERICAN: THE AMERICAN system of judging is a competitive system. Exhibits are placed before a judge or group of judges who rank the exhibits. The exhibits are then awarded prizes based on the quality of the exhibits. A standard of quality is employed here also, but the exhibits are judged against the standard as well as each other. Most often the best exhibit receives a First Prize ribbon, the next best exhibit a Second Prize, and so forth. However, the judge may determine that there is no exhibit worthy of First Prize and would award the best exhibit a Second Prize, or even no prize at all. A judge is not required to award any prizes at all, but may not award the same prize to more than one exhibit (i.e. no ties allowed).

Premiums Awarded

Danish

Blue ----- \$3
 Red ----- \$2
 White ----- \$1
 Class Champion extra \$2

American

First Prize ----- \$5
 Second Prize ----- \$3
 Third Prize ----- \$1
 Class Champion ---extra \$2

Ribbons Awarded

American

First ----- Blue
 Second ----- Red
 Third ----- White
 Fourth ----- Yellow
 Fifth ----- Green
 Sixth ----- Pink
 Seventh ----- Light Green
 Class Champion ----- Purple
 Grand Champion ---- Theme Colors
 Participant ----- Lavender

Danish

Blue ----- Blue
 Red ----- Red
 White ----- White
 Class Champion ----- Purple
 Grand Champion -Theme Colors
 Cloverbud ----- Rainbow

JUDGING RULES

1. Judging may begin in any Division immediately following the close of entries. If judging is on a point system, judging may begin as entries come in.
2. The Tanana Valley State Fair Association reserves the right to close the exhibit areas to public viewing until judging is complete.
3. Superintendents have the right to disqualify an entry if entry procedure or preparation has not been followed.
4. Superintendents may reclassify an exhibit that has been entered in the wrong class or lot, or may create a new lot for any misclassified entry as appropriate. This must be done before judging begins or the entry will be disqualified. Although Superintendents are encouraged to reclassify exhibits when appropriate, **it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to enter their exhibit in the correct class and lot.**
5. When there is one exhibit per lot, the judges may recommend no prize, First, Second, or Third Prize, as merit warrants. Prizes shall not be withheld merely because there is no competition. All prizes are awarded on the individual worth of the exhibit. **In no case will an exhibit be given a prize that it would not merit in full competition.**
6. If entries exceed 15 per lot, or if merit exists, 4th through 7th places will be awarded in adult classes. In the junior classes, 4th through 7th places will always be awarded if appropriate. All junior entries that do not place will receive a lavender Exhibitor Ribbon.
7. All judging is final. A protest may be submitted if the exhibitor feels he/she has been unfairly judged.

TVSFA PROTEST POLICY

Please read the Protest Policy completely before submitting a formal protest.

If an exhibitor feels the rules and/or procedure regarding his or her entry into the Tanana Valley State Fair have been improperly followed or interpreted, a protest may be submitted to the Fair Office. Questions regarding entry should be addressed to the Division Superintendent. **No appeal based on alleged incompetence of the judge(s) will be considered.** Decisions of the judges are final.

Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to confer with the Division Superintendent and/or Competitive Exhibits Manager prior to initiating a formal protest. Should a resolution not be reached after conferring with the Superintendent and Manager, a formal protest must be submitted in writing within 24 hours of the event or of the results being made public.

Protests must plainly state the cause of complaint or appeal. Protests will be accepted only from exhibitors or parents or guardians of exhibiting minors directly affected by the outcome of judging being protested. All protests shall be accompanied by a \$25 protest fee that will be returned if the protest is upheld.

The Protest committee convenes within 24 hours of receiving a formal complaint. Interested parties will be notified of the time and place and will be given the opportunity to submit evidence. The protest Committee is designated by the Board of Directors to consist of:

- 1 Board Member
- Division Superintendent for that area or other expert
- Competitive Exhibits Manager or other staff member

The decision of the Protest Committee is final.

All protests require a \$25 protest fee that will be returned if the protest is upheld.

Judging results for all entries received July 31 or August 5, 2010 are made public at noon opening day of the Fair, August 6, 2010. Judging results for entries received on August 10, 2010 are made public at noon on August 11, 2010.