



## 2025 Illinois State Fair Master Showmanship Contest

The Illinois State Fair Master Showmanship Contest (MSC) will be **Friday, August 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. or 30 minutes following the conclusion of all junior livestock shows.** The contest will be held in the Junior Livestock Barn and the Open Swine Barn at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The beef division will be in the junior beef ring and the swine and sheep divisions will be in the open swine ring. The event will simultaneously run three species contests with a set of judges in each ring. Participants will be scored in each round based on overall showmanship abilities. **Participants must check in at the Illinois Farm Bureau tent outside the Junior Livestock Barn between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.** on the day of the contest. If the participant is unavailable during check-in time, they may send a representative to check in on their behalf.

*The Master Showmanship Contest is coordinated by the Illinois Farm Bureau and the RFD Radio Network. Contest results and photos will be posted on the "Illinois Farm Bureau" Facebook page following the contest.*

### Rules

1. The exhibitor must be a 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 (must be at least 14 but cannot have reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before September 1, 2024 - birthdate between 9/1/2005 and 9/1/2010).
2. The exhibitor must be enrolled in a 4-H livestock event in the county they are representing.
3. There may only be one (1) contestant per county.
4. All contestants must be selected through their designated county University of Illinois Extension 4-H show. There may only be one (1) contestant per county. Contestants from contests at other fairs will not be eligible to enter the State Master Showmanship Contest.
5. To participate in the state event, a county must select one (1) overall showmanship winner prior to the state event. This must be accomplished through a county-based contest or set of guidelines established and published to all available participants.
6. An exhibitor may participate in the state MSC for multiple years if the following permit:
  - a. The exhibitor has not previously been recognized as the Overall Winner of the state MSC.
  - b. The exhibitor is chosen as the overall county/fair winner.
  - c. County contest rules permit an individual to be the county winner multiple times.
  - d. County rules and guidelines adhered to and followed.
  - e. The exhibitor must be able to attend and participate in the state contest at the Illinois State Fair. If the county winner cannot participate in the state contest, then the county University of Illinois Extension office may select an alternate.
7. Participants must supply their own livestock for the competition. Each exhibitor must own or borrow each: a steer or heifer, a market or breeding lamb, and a market hog or breeding gilt. **THE MSC WILL NOT PROVIDE ANIMALS FOR COMPETITION.**
8. All state contest participants will receive a t-shirt and an exhibitor harness that are both required to be worn during the contest.
9. Prizes will be awarded to the Top 5 Overall and Top 3 in each specie division at the conclusion of the contest. **Winners are responsible for any and all applicable state or federal taxes due to the value of the prizes.**
10. **County contest coordinators must submit the intent to participate form by June 1.**

11. To participate in the state contest, the exhibitor must have all paperwork filled out correctly with required information. **The contest organizer must receive this information by August 1.** If a fair occurs after the deadline, exhibitor must submit the participant information immediately following the county contest.
12. Due to timing and scheduling constraints, no special accommodations will be made to allow an exhibitor to participate in simultaneous events on the fairgrounds the evening of the MSC. If the exhibitor is not present at the beginning of the state contest, he or she will be automatically disqualified from competition.
13. Contest organizers withhold the right to expel any individual who has violated any of the rules or regulations or exhibits improper conduct that is unbecoming of a 4-H member.
14. In the event of a state contest cancellation, contest organizers are not liable for any lost revenues, expenses incurred, or schedule inconvenience, and are not bound to issue any awards or prizes.
15. The state contest will adhere to any and all guidelines in relation to the Illinois State Fair issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and all livestock exhibited in the MSC must meet the Illinois Exhibition Animal Health Requirements of the State Fair.
16. Judges and emcees will only be furnished for the state contest.

**Tentative Schedule:**

Round # / Time	Beef Round	On Deck for Beef	Hogs Round	On Deck for Hogs	Sheep Round	On Deck for Sheep
1- 5:00 p.m.	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
2- 5:15 p.m.	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 1
3- 5:30 p.m.	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 1	Group 2
4- 5:45 p.m.	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
5- 6:00 p.m.	Group 5	Group 6	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
6- 6:15 p.m.	Group 6	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
6:45 p.m.	<b>Awards</b>					