

# Old Time Farming Festival - No entry fee is required (contains 4 pages)

## Horticultural Show “Rules of Competition and Category Guidelines”

### Registration / Pre-registration Entry Check-in

#### 1. Pre-Registration

- a. Pre-registration opens at 12:01am Monday, September 1st, 2025 and closes at mid-night Sunday September 14th, 2025.
  - i. NOTE: Pre-registered entries will require the exhibitor to be present during check-in of the entry items.
- b. Pre-registration can be completed electronically online via the <https://www.oldtimefarmingfestival.com/> website or via a paper form.
  - i. Paper forms can be printed from the website or by pick-up at the Evans Insurance Agency (22 W. Main Street, Centerburg) (Monday thru Friday from 9:30am - Noon / 1:00pm to 4:30pm).
  - ii. Paper Pre-registration forms must be submitted to the Horticultural Chairperson, Donna Strosnider, at Evans Insurance Agency no later than 12:00 midnight Sunday September 14th - **after business hour entries can be slipped in the mail slot at the bottom of the office door.**

#### 2. In-Person Registration

- a. In-person registration is open on Friday September 19th beginning 6:00pm and closing 8:00pm at the Horticultural Pavillion (#2)
- b. In-person registration re-opens at the pavilion on Saturday from 9:00am until Noon.
  - i. No entries will be accepted after 12:00 Noon on Saturday September 20th.
- c. Exhibitors must be present at registration and children under 12 years old need to have an adult with them.
- d. Exhibitors are responsible for tagging their entries and placing in the Category station as numbered on the tables or tall plant/weed staging area.
  - i. **Tall plant/weed entries must have the roots lopped off by the contestant during check-in or before. Loppers will be provided.**
- e. Exhibitors, by virtue of entry, agree to all Show/Exhibit guidelines and rules.
- f. Exhibitors are only permitted 2 entries per category. Entries must be viable according to the judging guidelines of the items' category specified below.

#### 3. Entry Check-In

- a. Exhibitors that have pre-registered will stop at the “**CHECK-IN**” table of the Horticultural Pavillion to pick up their packet of tags for their entries.
- b. Exhibitors are responsible for tagging their entries and placing in the appropriate Category station as numbered on the tables or tall plant/weed staging area.
  - i. **Tall plant/weed entries must have the roots lopped off by the contestant during check-in or before. Loppers will be provided.**
- c. Exhibitors, by virtue of entry, agree to all Show/Exhibit guidelines and rules.
- d. Exhibitors are only permitted 2 entries per category. Entries must be viable according to the judging guidelines of the items' category.

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### Judging:

In an effort to keep this show/exhibit/contest/ fair to all, the JUDGES will follow all the rules without exception: *(note: these rules were written many years ago by the festival founders and will be followed exclusively)*

All decisions by the judges and/or Exhibit Chairperson are final.

All entries must be the current year crop except “Painted Gourd” class.

The same plant (sunflowers) can not be entered in classes/categories 1, 2, and 3.

All entries must be cut off by the exhibitor.

All entries must be healthy, clean, undamaged, and with no alterations.

Accessories may be used in classes “Creative Garden Art, Harvest Basket, & Patriotic Display, Old-Time Forgotten Plant Use, and Best Use of Field/Garden Grown Plant or Plant Biproduct”.

Only 2 entries per class/category per contestant is permitted.

“Junior Division” is for students in High School at the time of judging and younger.

“Adult Division” is for individuals beyond High School at the time of judging.

Class/category specific guidelines are listed beside the respective number below.

Judges and/or the Festival Committee members are not responsible for theft of any property.

Contestants are responsible for reading the rules of competition - any entry not in compliance with the rules of competition will be disqualified.

- Entries need to remain on display until **3:00pm Sunday** or until after the awards are presented.

- **INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITORS AGREE TO PICK UP THEIR ENTRIES AT THE CLOSE OF THE FESTIVAL, Sunday before 5:00pm**

Judging begins at 1:00pm on Saturday of the Festival and continues until all items have been measured/weighed/examined; this is typically completed by about 3:00pm. The exhibit table area is closed to the public at this time but other areas of the Horticultural Show will continue with demonstrations and games. Awards are scheduled for 3:40pm on Sunday September 21st at the main stage.

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### **Category # Specifics:**

1. Biggest SUNFLOWER Head
  - Must contain at least 50% of the flower’s seeds
2. Tallest SUNFLOWER plant
  - Plant must be cut off above ground by exhibitor
3. SUNFLOWER w/most heads or buds
  - All buds & heads will be counted even if color is not showing.
4. Heaviest PUMPKIN (soft stem)
  - Pumpkins must be clean with a stem of no longer than 5” in length.
5. Heaviest PUMPKIN (hard stem)
  - Pumpkins must be clean with a stem of no longer than 5” in length.
6. Heaviest SQUASH (Fall)
  - Squash must be clean with a stem of no longer than 5” in length.
7. Heaviest SQUASH (Summer)
  - Squash must be clean with a stem of no longer than 5” in length.
8. Heaviest CUCUMBER
  - Stems must be no longer than ½” in length
9. Heaviest TOMATO
  - Stems must be no longer than ½” in length
10. Heaviest IRISH POTATO
  - Potato must be washed clean
11. Heaviest Turnip
  - Stems must be no longer than ½” in length and all dirt washed clean
12. Heaviest CABBAGE
  - Roots must be cut off flat against the last leaf
13. Heaviest SWEET POTATO
  - Potato must be washed clean
14. Heaviest RED BEET
  - Stems must be no longer than ½” in length and all dirt washed clean
15. Heaviest PEPPER
  - Stems must be no longer than ½” in length
16. Heaviest ONION
  - Stems must be no longer than ½” in length and roots trimmed flush to the bulb.
  - Bulb must have all dirt removed
17. Heaviest GOURD
  - Stem must be no longer than ½” in length
18. Longest CARROT
  - Stem must be no longer than ½” in length
19. Longest BEAN
  - Stem will not be measured
20. Longest GOURD
  - Stem will not be measured

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21. Longest EAR OF CORN (YELLOW)
  - Measured from the bottom kernel to the top kernel (no measurement on the cob)
22. Most pods on SOYBEAN plant
  - Pods must contain at least one bean and still be on the plant upon entry
23. Longest EAR OF CORN (ANY COLOR)
  - Measured from the bottom kernel to the top kernel (no measurement on the cob)
24. Largest MARIGOLD head
  - Measured across the diameter from longest petal to longest petal
25. Largest ZINNA head
  - Measured across the diameter from longest petal to longest petal
26. Largest DAHLIA head
  - Measured across the diameter from longest petal to longest petal
27. Tallest CORNSTALK
  - Must be cut off above ground, no roots, Will measure from bottom to tip of tassel
28. Tallest GIANT RAGWEED plant
  - Must be cut above ground, no roots
29. Tallest BULL THISTLE plant
  - Must be cut above ground, no roots
30. Tallest MARES TAIL plant
  - Must be cut above ground, no roots
31. Tallest ANY OTHER THISTLE plant
  - Must be cut above ground, no roots
32. Favorite MISC SPECIMEN
  - **Judges Award** - Can not be part of any entry from any of the other categories, must be a separate, individual entry item.
33. PAINTED DRIED GOURD
  - **The Grand Marshall Award** - best representation of the festival theme
34. HARVEST BASKET
  - **President's Award** - basket arranged with fresh vegetables and/or plants
35. CREATIVE GARDEN ART
  - **Mayor's Award** - Must incorporate plant life from the garden (Vegetables, Flowers, Herbs, Seeds, etc.)
36. PATRIOTIC DISPLAY
  - **Veteran's Award** - red, white & blue - fresh flowers and/or vegetables

### NEW CLASSES INTRODUCED IN 2024 (37, 38, & 39)

37. MOST FRAGRANT
  - **Centerburg Garden Club Award** - flower, vegetable, herb
38. Best PRESENTATION OF OLD-TIME FORGOTTEN PLANT USE
  - **Local Business Award** - The Junior will present the finished product of dried, live or fresh grown or foraged vegetable/plant/flower/herb as would have been used pre-1971
39. Best USE OF FIELD OR GARDEN GROWN PLANT OR PLANT BI-Product
  - **Local Business Award** - The Adult will present a finished product or item that was made from a home grown or locally foraged plant/fruit/herb/vegetable item.