

2026 Fayette County Fair Queen Candidates Sought

We are excited again this year that in addition to town candidates having the chance to run for Fayette County Fair Queen other interested girls will also have the chance to run as at-large candidates. The crowning will take place Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00 PM with the pie auction to follow. Candidates must also be available for a mandatory information meeting Wednesday, July 1st at 7:00 PM. This is a great opportunity for all girls with community and fair involvement to have a chance to compete for the title of fair queen!

- Candidates need to be at least 16 years of age and not more than 21 years of age on August 13, 2026 (first day of the Iowa State Fair).
- Candidates have never been married or have been or are currently a professional model.
- Candidates need to live in Fayette County or an adjoining county and have the majority of their activities in Fayette County.
- Candidates need to be active members of at least one service organization in their community such as church group, Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, etc. (Eligibility is not limited to 4-H or FFA membership).
- Candidates cannot have been crowned a County Fair Queen previously. Candidates who have ran for a County Fair Queen Contest and have not been crowned Queen are eligible to run again if they choose.
- Candidates need to be available the day of Tuesday, July 22 from 7:30 AM to 8:00 PM for the contest, crowning, and pie auction. If they have conflicts that are due to fair involvement, arrangements will be made so they can still participate, but conflicts need to be made known to Megan Baumgartner, Queen Contest Coordinator as soon as possible.
- If crowned the 2026 Fayette Co. Fair Queen or 2026 Fayette Co. Fair Princess, they would need to be available to represent Fayette County at the remainder of the 2026 Fayette Co. Fair from July 21-25th and the Queen would need to be available to represent Fayette County at the Iowa State Fair Queen Contest, **August 11-15th**. The State Fair Contest asks that candidates be fully committed to their contest, and they are not able to honor requests to miss any of the State Fair Queen Contest.
- If crowned the Fayette County Fair Queen or Princess, you will also need to be available to represent Fayette County at various events including community parades, fair fundraisers, other county events, and the first two days of the 2027 Fayette County Fair.

Fair Queen Candidates who choose to run at-large will need to pay **\$85** to be a part of the contest which covers the \$60 entry fee and \$25 sash fee to be worn during the contest and kept by the candidate. Sashes will say, "Fayette Co. Fair At-Large Candidate." Candidates are encouraged to find a sponsor in their community to cover these costs (a candidate's family could also sponsor her).

Applications can be requested from Fayette County Fair Queen Contest Coordinator, **Megan Baumgartner** at (563) 380-2057 or via email at fayettecoiafairqueen@gmail.com. Application materials can be found on our website at www.fayettecoiafairqueen.com under Contest Information – Calendar of Events. If you are interested, please contact Megan right away to receive the application information, as applications along with fees and 2 current wallet sized pictures need to be **postmarked no later than June 30, 2026**, to be eligible to compete in the 2026 Fayette County Fair Queen Contest.

If you have been crowned a town winner, for example, "Miss Oelwein" you should receive Fayette County Fair Queen Contest information from your local town coordinator soon – if you haven't you can contact Megan for information as well. Town candidates' entry fees are \$60 as their town usually provides a sash. Towns may purchase sashes through the contest for an additional \$25 if done so by April 15th.