RA 26-392

FAIR BOARD[371]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 371—Chapter 6
"Competitive Exhibits and Competitions General Rules"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 173.14, 173.14A(7), and 173.17
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code chapter 173

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

December 1, 2026 11 to 11:30 a.m.	Microsoft Teams meeting teams.microsoft.com/meet/284948346636326?p=3dtap1LeQ4hdthk7kH Meeting ID: 284 948 346 636 326 Passcode: so2iy3TJ

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Fair Board no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Jeremy Parsons
Iowa State Fair
P.O. Box 57130
Des Moines, Iowa 50317
Email: jparsons@iowastatefair.org

Purpose and Summary

This proposed chapter outlines the rules and regulations governing competitive exhibits and competitions at the Iowa State Fair. This proposed chapter was reviewed as part of the Red Tape Review process laid out in Executive Order 10. As a result of this review, restrictive terms were removed, areas that were duplicative were combined or eliminated, and editorial updates were made to processes and procedures to ensure they reflect current policies and procedures.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**

- **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

Competitive exhibitors who participate in the Iowa State Fair will be required to pay nominal entry fees and pen and stall rental fees.

- **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

Competitive exhibitors who participate in the Iowa State Fair will benefit from having clear, concise, and accurate rules. Iowans who attend the Iowa State Fair will benefit from a well-organized and safe program of exhibits.

2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**

- **Quantitative description of impact:**

While this proposed rulemaking contemplates nominal entry fees and other costs for the exhibitor, those fees are necessary for the Board to ensure a safe, competitive, and collegial environment for exhibition.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

While this proposed rulemaking contemplates nominal entry fees and other costs for the exhibitor, those fees are necessary for the Board to ensure a safe, competitive, and collegial environment for exhibition.

3. **Costs to the State:**

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

No costs are expected.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There is no anticipated effect on State revenues.

4. **Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

The benefit will be an updated chapter revised in compliance with Executive Order 10 and clear, concise rules to assist exhibitors in making their entries to the Iowa State Fair. The entry fees will help ensure the exhibits are thoughtfully submitted and improve the environment for the exhibition.

5. **Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable.

6. **Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

Not applicable.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

There are no alternatives because this revision is required by Executive Order 10.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

There is no expected impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 371—Chapter 6 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 6
COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS AND COMPETITIONS
GENERAL RULES

371—6.1(173) Composition of exhibits.

6.1(1) The fair board shall sponsor, organize, produce and stage competitive exhibits and competitions that it deems are educational, enjoyable or possess social redeeming value for the participants and spectators. The composition of all competitive exhibits and competitions shall be determined by the fair board annually.

6.1(2) All competitive exhibits and competitions shall be coordinated by a superintendent appointed by the fair board. The superintendent's duties shall consist of assisting with the preparation and execution of rules and regulations of the competition with the approval of the secretary of the fair.

371—6.2(173) Filing date. All entries must be filed with the secretary on the date determined by the fair board and printed in the premium book.

371—6.3(173) Fees. All entry fees and stall and pen rent shall be as determined by the fair board and printed in the premium book. The management shall return any entries received beyond the capacity of the facilities offered.

371—6.4(173) Placement and release of exhibits. Time of placement and release of exhibits will be as determined by the fair board and printed in the premium book.

371—6.5(173) Time of judging. The time of judging in all departments shall be as determined by the fair board and printed in the premium book.

371—6.6(173) Entries. Entries into competitive exhibits or competitions may be made online at www.iowastatefair.org or on printed forms, which may be obtained free at www.iowastatefair.org or by writing the Entry Department, Iowa State Fair, P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, Iowa 50317.

371—6.7(173) Fraud and misrepresentation. Should any individual enter an animal or article in a name other than that of a bona fide owner or attempt to perpetrate a fraud by misrepresenting any fact, the entry shall not be allowed to compete for or receive any premium.

371—6.8(173) Erroneous entries. An exhibit that has been erroneously entered may, at the discretion of the secretary, superintendent or authorized person of the department, be transferred to the exhibit's proper class previous to the judging. If that class has been judged, it shall not be rejudged.

371—6.9(173) Transportation charges. The fair board will not assume or pay the transportation charges on articles sent for exhibition or assume or pay any expense in their delivery to the grounds.

371—6.10(173) Exhibit safety. The fair board will use diligence in caring for the safety of livestock or articles after their arrival but will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.

371—6.11(173) Early removal of exhibits. Gatekeepers and police are instructed to restrict any person from leaving the grounds with stock or other articles that have been on exhibition, before the hour of release, without written permission of the superintendent of the department.

371—6.12(173) Protests. All protests must be made in writing and accompanied by a deposit as set by the fair board and published in the premium book of the current year, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. No protest based upon the statement that a judge is incompetent will be considered.

371—6.13(173) Judges. Competitors may not, in any way, whether in person or by agent, interfere with the judges while judging. Any disrespect shown judges will be cause for an apology and will expel the exhibitor from further competition, and no premiums will be paid to the exhibitor.

371—6.14(173) Premiums. Premiums paid will be as determined by the fair board and printed in the premium book.

371—6.15(173) Entries by creator. Articles that are the result of mechanical or artistic skill must be entered by the artist, inventor, manufacturer or authorized agent.

371—6.16(173) Substitution of animals. Substitution of animals entered for reasons satisfactory to the management of the fair will be permitted prior to the time set out in the premium book, provided that the animal meets all the applicable regulations.

371—6.17(173) Health requirements. All animals presented for exhibition shall be subjected to examination before exhibition and to daily inspection during the Iowa state fair. The office of the veterinary department, at which place official health certifications must be presented and approved for all livestock exhibited, is located south of the cattle barn. Please read official health requirements under each livestock department. All buildings, stalls, and pens at the Iowa state fairgrounds will be disinfected prior to opening of the Iowa state fair.

371—6.18(173) Health rules. Rules governing the health of all animals shown at the Iowa state fair will be as determined by the Iowa department of agriculture, division of animal industry, and published in the premium book.

371—6.19(173) Clean stalls. Livestock exhibitors must keep the space in the rear of their stalls and pens and all alleyways clear and clean. All litter must be deposited in areas designated by the superintendent and assistants.

371—6.20(173) Rent refund. No refunds of any kind will be made unless cancellation is made before July 20.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 173.14.