

Helpful Tips for Competitive Exhibits

The Cabarrus County Fair will take place September 5-13 at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center. Now is the time to select your category and prepare your entry. Each year, the fair receives thousands of entries in hundreds of categories. Follow these steps to make sure your entry is competition ready.

Decisions: Your first step is to visit the Cabarrus County Fair website, www.cabarruscountyfair.com. Click on the Competitions tab and look for Competitive Exhibits. From there, you can view the Full Fair Catalog, divided into easy-to-follow departments (categories), with very specific classes within the departments. For example, Photography is a department. Within that department, competitors can enter in the “Landscape, Color” class.

Process: Take your time and read through general information on exhibits, rules and regulations, and maps. This tells you what’s required for entry and what’s expected of you as an exhibitor. Carefully review and complete forms, which include required information from participants. Complete just one entry form and W-9 tax form per contestant, no matter how many entries. Mark the department(s) and class(es) (aka code for entry) you want to enter. The fair collects entry fees for select livestock departments and the pageant contest only.

Categories include: Field Crops, Horticulture, Miscellaneous Ag Products, Youth Division, Educational Booths, Food Preservation, Baked Goods, Home Sewing, Needlework, Crafts, Flowers, and Home Arts.

Competition: Send the entry form and W-9 (just one per contestant) directly to the Cabarrus County Fair Office. **Please do not duplicate your entry by sending it through multiple formats—it could disqualify your entry.**

Mail: PO Box 707, Concord NC 28026-0707 **Fax:** 704-920-3978 **Email:** fair@cabarruscounty.us

Leading up to the deadline, contestants may also submit forms on nights and weekends in the afterhours drop box outside the Fair Office door (4759 Hwy 49 North, Concord, NC 28025), located directly behind the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center.

Deadlines: Entry form, W-9 tax form for departments J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, S, and T must be received by the Cabarrus County Fair Office by noon on Wednesday, August 20, 2025. Entry form, W-9 tax form for departments A B C R and V must be received by the Cabarrus County Fair Office by noon on Tuesday, August 26. Incomplete forms will not be accepted. You won’t drop off your physical entry item(s) until closer to fair time. For more information on drop off, review general information on the fair website. Unless it is noted on the department page, there is not an entry fee.

Judging: Entries are judged on Thursday, September 4, with ribbons placed on items in time for fair opening on Friday, September 6. Entries will remain on display for patron viewing in the Gold Hall of the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center for the duration of the fair unless otherwise noted. Baked goods and items that could spoil may be disposed of prior to the end of the fair as needed. All ribbons are saved and available during the designated entry pick-up time.

Helpful Tips:

- You can only enter one item into each code for entry.
- You need to have created your competitive exhibit entry item within the last year (**after September 6, 2024**).
- Contestants who place must have submitted a W-9 tax form alongside their Entry Form to be paid prize money. If you prefer NOT to fill out a W-9 form you cannot be paid, but you will still receive a ribbon. Please note on your entry form if you are selecting “not to be paid”.
- Select one method for sending in your paperwork. Using more than one method could result in duplication and disqualification of your entry.

More Information: Please visit www.cabarruscountyfair.com for more information. Have questions after reviewing the department and key documents online or trouble filling out the entry form? Call the Fair Office at 704-920-3992 and someone will walk you through the process.

Important Dates:

Entry forms and W-9: Wednesday, August 20 or Tuesday, August 26, noon. *Due date depends on entry department.*

Physical Entries: Dropped off & picked up at the Gold Hall Lobby, Cabarrus Arena & Event Center on the dates below.

Entry Drop Off: Tuesday, September 2, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm & Wednesday, September 3, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Entry Pick Up: Sunday, September 14, Noon - 4:00 pm