

2026 PA FARM SHOW

DEPARTMENT 16 - POTATOES

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR PEOPLE!

Patrick Ruddy is the chair person for potatoes. He has been a avid volunteer for the show for many years. Patrick is passionate about the growers and shows his dedication while working with his committee to make sure all classes are accurate each year. He enjoys meeting with potato growers and industry enthusiasts during entry drop off.

Kelly Weisner - Potato Grading Chair



ENTRY DEADLINE

All entries must be made online using FairEntry software no later than 6:00 p.m., January 7, 2026.

Please be sure to review all general rules and department rules prior to entering.



New for 2026



America's 250th - Potato Basket Division p. 7



PA Secretary of Agriculture, Russell C. Redding

Pennsylvania's State Fair showcases top competitors from 108 county and local fairs, and the diversity and quality of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry, the innovative people who make it thrive, and the faces of our proud past and promising future. The show offers visitors a peek into the industry that supports 593,000 Pennsylvania jobs and contributes \$132.5 billion to Pennsylvania's economy every year. See you at the PA Farm Show!

RULES AND REGULATIONS

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Growing Requirements | 1. Exhibits shown must have been grown by the exhibitor in Pennsylvania since the 2025 Farm Show. |
| Tubers | 2. An exhibit shall consist of 20 washed tubers of a named variety, except for classes 8, 9, 10, and 19. |
| Entry Limits | 3. Exhibitors may enter in as many named varieties as desired within one division, but only one entry for each class unless otherwise specified. |
| Entry Blank | 4. If mailing your entries, every exhibitor must place inside the package containing the exhibit (or exhibits) an entry blank, giving the name, address, county, variety name, entry fee, and class in which the exhibit is entered. Unclassed exhibits will be disqualified. |
| Incomplete Entries | 5. Any entries delivered without online registration and payment before the deadline will be disqualified. |
| Premiums | 6. Only quality exhibits will receive premiums. |
| Farm Show Tags | 7. For entries made prior to December 15, pre-printed entry tags will be mailed to the exhibitor to attach to their exhibit(s) prior to delivery to the Farm Show. Exhibitors must keep all marks of identity off exhibits until judging is completed. |
| Check-In | 8. Check-in is from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2026, for pre-registered exhibits. All entries are accepted online only and new entries will not be accepted on site. |
| Judging Time | 9. Judging will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026. |
| Release | 10. All entries remain the property of the exhibitor providing the same are claimed at 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 17, 2026. No entries may be removed before the close of the show. If to be claimed by the exhibitor, "will call for" must appear on the Box-Master List. Unless called for, the exhibits become property of the show. Any exhibit removed prior to the close of the show without Show Management approval will result in forfeiture of all premiums. |

REGISTRATION

See General Rules, Regulations & Health Requirements online at
<https://www.farmshow.pa.gov/pafarmshow/exhibit/rules-regulations>

Use general entry blank online at <https://www.farmshow.pa.gov/pafarmshow/exhibit/forms-registration>

An entry fee of \$1 per OPEN SHOW entry will be charged for each entry registered by 12/15/2025.
An entry fee of \$2 per OPEN SHOW entry will be charged for each entry registered after 12/15/2025.

HOW TO ENTER



Use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox for best results.



Register all entries for each exhibitor in the family before proceeding to payment section.



Be sure to click the SUBMIT button when you have completed your entries.



Check your email inbox for a confirmation email with a list of your entries and invoice.



Be sure you receive the second email when your entries are approved by the Farm Show.



[Step by step entry video](#)



[Step by step entry document](#)



POTATO CLASSES

JUDGES

TBA

DATE/TIME

Potato Judging

Friday, January 9, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Main Hall Potato Exhibit

DIVISION 0001 - OPEN DIVISION

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Class 1 | Washed Exhibit of Katahdin, Eva, Reba, Superior, or Envol varieties. Specify variety. | Class 7 | Special Major Chipping Potato Class - One of the following washed exhibits of Andover, Marcy, Lamoka, Pike, or Snowden and any other variety. (Exhibitors in this class cannot also enter the same variety in another class.) |
| Class 2 | Washed Exhibit of Kennebec or other named white skinned varieties not listed in Class 1. Specify variety. | Class 8 | Washed Exhibit of red B's in a quart box. Specify variety. |
| Class 3 | Washed Exhibit of Yukon Gold, Lehigh, Norwis, or other named white skinned yellow flesh varieties. Specify variety. | Class 9 | Washed Exhibit of white B's in a quart box. Specify variety. |
| Class 4 | Washed Exhibit of Russet Norkotah, or other named russeted skin varieties. Specify variety. | Class 10 | Washed Exhibit of Fingerlings in a quart box. Specify variety. |
| Class 5 | Washed Exhibit of red skin varieties. Specify variety. | Class 11 | Champion Open Division |
| Class 6 | Washed Exhibit of named blue skin varieties. Specify variety. | | |

DIVISION 0002 - JUNIOR DIVISION (VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE OR 4-H CLUB)

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Class 12 | Washed Exhibit of Katahdin, Kennebec, Superior, Norchip, Monona, or other named white skin varieties. Specify variety. | Class 16 | Washed Exhibit of named blue skin varieties. Specify variety. |
| Class 13 | Washed Exhibit of Yukon Gold, Lehigh, Norwis, or other named white-skinned, yellow-flesh varieties. Specify variety. | Class 17 | Special Major Chipping Potato Class - One of the following washed exhibits of Andover, Marcy, Lamoka, Pike, or Snowden. (Exhibitors in this class cannot also enter the same variety in another class.) |
| Class 14 | Washed Exhibit of Russet Norkotah, or other named russeted skin varieties. Specify variety. | Class 18 | Champion Junior Division |
| Class 15 | Washed Exhibit of red skin varieties. Specify variety. | | |

DIVISION 0003 - OVERSIZED POTATO

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Class 19 | Largest Potato. One entry per exhibitor. The variety must be named. Awards will be made based on weight and tuber appearance. |
|-----------------|---|

POTATO CLASSES

DIVISION 0004 - GRAND CHAMPION

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| Class 20 | Grand Champion Exhibit. The best exhibit in the show. | Rosette |
| Class 21 | Reserve Grand Champion Exhibit | Rosette |

UNCLASSSED

Unclassed. Small bags of grower samples will be accepted for exhibit at the show. Samples will not be judged, and no premiums will be awarded.

POTATO PREMIUMS

| Class # | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|--------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1-10, 19 | \$56.10 | \$44.88 | \$33.66 | \$22.44 | \$11.22 |
| 12-17 | \$33.66 | \$28.05 | \$22.44 | \$16.83 | \$11.22 |
| 11 & 18 | Champion Ribbons | | | | |
| 20 | \$280.50 - Grand Champion Rosette | | | | |
| 21 | \$112.20 - Reserve Grand Champion Rosette | | | | |

PREMIUM SPECIAL

First place Potato Class winners sponsored by the **Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc.**, Nathan Tallman, General Manager, 3107 N. Front St., Ste. 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Additional premiums offered in the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show Potato Dept. made possible by a \$500 matching grant.

Rohrer Seeds, Doug Rohrer, 2472 Old Philadelphia Pike, PO Box 250, Smoketown, PA 17576, will provide additional premiums to the following champions:

Class 11 Champion Open Division - \$50
 Class 18 Champion Junior Division - \$50
 Class 20 Grand Champion - \$75
 Class 21 Reserve Grand Champion - \$50

POTATO CONTESTS

DIVISION 0005 - MASHED POTATO CANDY

A confection that uses mashed potatoes as an ingredient. To be judged on general appearance (size, shape, and color) and sensory qualities (aroma, flavor, moistness, and texture). No commercial mixes are to be used. Place wrapped food items on a disposable base. The recipe, typed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, must be submitted with the entry. Entries open to the public.

Class 22. Candy

| Candy Premiums | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | \$39.27 | \$33.66 | \$28.05 | \$22.44 | \$16.83 |

DIVISION 0006 - FARM SHOW MR. SPUDS CONTEST

Contest open to all youth 18 years and younger as of January 1, 2026. Objective is to create the most original raw potato decorated as Farm Show Mr. Spuds. The exhibitor must use a real potato and may decorate it using any materials chosen by the exhibitor. Entries will be accepted in the Potato Department through 6 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 2026. Enter class based on age as of January 1, 2026.

Class 1. 8 years old and younger

Class 2. 9-14 years old.

Class 3. 15-18 years old.

| Mr. Spuds Premiums | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| | \$16.83 | \$13.46 | \$11.22 | \$8.98 | \$6.73 |

New!



America's 250th - Potato Basket Division

30 At least 10 red, white, and blue potatoes grown in Pennsylvania, attractively placed in a basket

Commemorative ribbon will be given to 1st - 3rd place - no premiums.

4-H POTATO GRADING AND IDENTIFICATION

DATE/TIME

4-H Potato Grading and Identification

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Keystone Conference Center

ENTRIES CLOSE DECEMBER 26, 2025

1. Entries: There are three categories of competition: A Team and B Team, plus an Honors Division. Any county in the state may enter one A Team and one or more B Teams. Each team will consist of either three or four 4-H Club members. When four members have been entered, the three individuals attaining the highest scores will be considered the team. Members of the winning A Team, including the alternate, are ineligible

to compete again in the contest. Members of the winning B Team are eligible to compete on either A or B Team. The Honors Division is open to youths who have participated and won the event as a member of an A Team in previous Farm Show Potato Judging competitions. This is an individual competition. Youths cannot compete in both the team events and the Honors Division. Entries must be certified by the County

Agricultural Agent. Registration information must be submitted by the county extension 4-H agent by December 26 (no exceptions). Electronic submission encouraged. Attn: Kelly Weisner, Penn State Cooperative Extension - Lehigh County, 4184 Dorney Park Rd., Room 104, Allentown, PA 18104. Phone: 610-391-9840. Email: Lehighext@psu.edu.

Class 25. A Team

Class 26. B Team

Class 27. Individual Awards

Class 28. Honors Division

Class 29. Cloverbuds - participation only

2. Basis of Award: Awards will be made on a team basis. The judging will be done according to the rules and under the supervision of the Pennsylvania State Extension Service.

3. Participants should register at 9:00 a.m. in the Allegheny Room (Room D), 2nd Floor, Main Farm Show Building. All Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon.

4. Premiums:

- **Category A (per team):** first - \$67.32; second - \$49.98; third - \$33.66; fourth - \$22.44
- **Category B (per team):** first - \$39.27; second - \$30.29; third - \$22.44; fourth - \$16.83; fifth - \$15.71; sixth - \$14.59; seventh - \$13.46
- **Individual Awards:** Ribbons 1st - 3rd
- **Honors Division:** first - \$16.83; second - \$11.22; third - \$5.61
- Appropriate ribbon awards will be made to each member of the first four teams in the A category, the first seven teams in the B category, and the first three high-scoring individuals. The top three individuals in the Honors Division will also receive ribbons.

FIRE REGULATIONS

1. All exit corridors and emergency exits must be kept clear; no partial blocking will be permitted.
2. All fire alarm pull stations must be kept clear.
3. Fire extinguishers may not be covered by any drapes or hidden by any type of displays.
4. No motorized camping units or vehicles may contain more than one (1) gallon of fuel while on display.
5. All pressurized fuel tanks may be drained.
6. All fuel fills must be locked and fuel caps must be taped closed with duct tape.
7. Any living trees and shrubs are acceptable as long as the shrubbery is individually bagged and baled.
8. Artificial trees and shrubbery must be treated with a flame proofing material. The fire official may request certification of flame proofing.
9. Any type of mulch materials must be treated with a flame proofing material or watered daily. If treated with a flame proofing material, certification may be requested by the fire official.
10. Smoking is prohibited in the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center.
11. No open flames, fires or burning of any kind will be permitted within the Complex. No exterior burning is allowed unless the Department of Environmental Protection and the Bureau of Fire grant permission.
12. Vendors setting up tents, canopies and membrane covering must provide fire department with fire rating of material. Vendors must also provide any required portable fire extinguishers as needed.
13. Outside propane tanks shall be protected by posts or other approved physical barriers (Jersey barriers).
14. Extinguishers need to be visible, accessible and located in a conspicuous location where they will be readily accessible and immediately available for uses. These locations shall be along normal paths of travel.
15. Doors shall never be blocked or tied off.
16. The Fire Prevention Code of Harrisburg will be strictly enforced.

Contact the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire with any questions regarding the above regulations at 717-255-6464 or fax to 717-255-6448.

R. E. Gallatin Jr.
Fire Inspector
123 Walnut St. Suite 220
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: 717-225-3105



2026 PA FARM SHOW

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

EARLY DETECTION

- Early detection is the most effective way to prevent emergencies or lessen their impacts.
- Vendors and exhibitors will likely be the first to witness, experience, or report incidents.
- You can be the difference in preventing something harmful from happening.
- To report any type of threat or emergency incident, notify the PA State Police Command Post.

BOMB THREATS

- Threats can be made in person, by phone, or in written message.
- Collect as much detailed information as possible about the threat (when, why, how, exact wording of threat, type of voice, personal appearance, clothing description, name, gender, phone number, physical address).
- It is especially important to know the perpetrator's timeline for activation of the device (when will it occur?).
- Immediately report the threat to the State Police Command Post.
- Authorities will investigate the threat and make the proper decisions accordingly in coordination with facility management.

LOST CHILDREN

- Be sure to get the full name of the lost child and keep them safe with you. Notify the Farm Show security desk or closest security/law enforcement team. PSP or Farm Show staff will help to reunite lost children with loved ones.

STATE POLICE

717-787-4171

FARM SHOW SECURITY

717-231-6565

SHELTER IN PLACE

- Although rare, there could be incidents that occur outside the facility that could put people at risk (chemical fire, very severe weather). In these instances, a shelter-in-place plan will be implemented for the welfare of all occupants.

SUSPICIOUS OBJECT

- Do not touch or disturb the object.
- Maintain a safe distance from the object and attempt to isolate the area.
- Notify the State Police Command Post with a description and location of the object.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

- Observe the circumstances and behavior of the suspicious activity.
- Notify the State Police Command Post and provide as much detail as possible.
- Details about the person should include direction of travel, appearance, height and weight, build, clothing, speech, and anything about the behavior that indicates suspicion.

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

Security and Law Enforcement Stations are located at the Cameron Street Lobby entrance and the Crossroads Security Office

EMERGENCY

PREPAREDNESS TIPS

STATE POLICE

717-787-4171

FARM SHOW SECURITY

717-231-6565

FLOODING

- Facility management will attempt to mitigate the effects of flooding and natural disasters before they happen and will work with all show vendors during this type of event.
- The Maclay and West parking lots are susceptible to flash flooding.
- Avoid contact with flood water.
- If major interstates or surrounding roads are being closed, facility management will make announcements accordingly.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

- Notify the State Police Command Post and they will dispatch emergency medical services to the location.
- Describe the nature and severity of the medical incident and location of the victim.
- Do not attempt to move the person unless you are a trained medical responder.
- Stay with the victim and seek help from others if necessary.
- If rendering aid due to your training, be careful not to expose yourself to hazards such as fire, electricity, hazardous materials, or blood borne pathogens

FIRE & EVACUATION

- If you see a fire, activate the nearest alarm or notify the Farm Show Security Desk.
- The City of Harrisburg Bureau of Fire will respond to the alarm.
- When the building evacuation alarm is activated, leave by the closest and safest exit and alert others to do the same.
- Quickly take all personal belongings.
- Please listen to the instructions of the PA system announcements, Farm Show Complex employees, or responders.
- Do not use elevators!
- The facility is equipped with sprinklers and ABC fire extinguishers.
- Once outside, move a safe distance from the building.
- Do not return to an evacuated building until the 'all-clear' sign is provided by the Fire Chief, a Police Officer, or any other official first responder.
- Do not operate cell phones during an evacuation until the 'all-clear' is given

VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

- Your safety comes first. Use your best judgement to preserve your life.
- Report any physical abuse to the State Police Command Post.
- If there's an active shooter in the facility but not in your area, evacuate the facility and find safety.
- If the active shooter is near your area and preventing your escape, go to a room that can be lock or barricaded or hide and remain silent.
- If the shooter knows you are there but you feel you can flee, quickly evacuate the area.
- If you feel like fleeing is not possible, you can either confront, or attempt to overpower the person.
- If there is a shooter, messages regarding the known location of that person may be broadcast over the PA System.

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!

Security and Law Enforcement Stations are located at the Cameron Street Lobby entrance and the Crossroads Security Office

FAMILIAR FACES

MAIN HALL

Lizzie Bailey and Madi Shaw

have once again committed to being your Main Hall floor managers. In addition, they will coordinate and host all activities on the Main Hall stage.

Interested in giving a presentation? Reach out!



PAFARMSHOW.GOV