

2026 Poweshiek County Fair Queen Contest

The Poweshiek County Fair Queen judging will be held on Saturday, July 11th time TBA. Judging will be held in the Heritage Park buildings on the fairgrounds. The crowning of the 2026 Poweshiek County Fair Queen will take place during intermission at the Extreme Bull Ride event that evening at the fairgrounds. Bull Ride begins at 7 pm.

Immediately following crowning, there will be a photo session (all contestants are required to stay for photos)

Point System Used For Judging

Return entry form (photo included) by **June 1st** – 15 points
Grammar on entry form – 15 points
Attend parent/contestant meeting TBA – 15 points (no deduction if parent does not attend)
Essay – 210 points
Personal Interview – 330 points
Self Introduction – 120 points
Speech – 240 points
Impromptu Question – 90 points
Total Possible – 1035 points

Prizes and Awards Given

Queen – Prize package includes \$100 cash (which she will receive at the 2027 crowning after completing her year as queen), arm bouquet, plaque, a county fair sash & state fair sash, sash pin and tiara. The queen will also be provided a camping spot to use during the fair if she chooses to. (If you are queen and your parents have a paid camping spot no refunds or credits will be given)

Court – Arm bouquet & plaque

All awards & prizes have been donated by county & area businesses & individuals.

PAST POWESHIEK COUNTY FAIR QUEENS

- 1985 - *Jacqueline Hall, Brooklyn*
1986 - *Colleen Cheney, Deep River*
1987 - *Stacy Sanders, Montezuma*
1988 - *Kris Hauser, Grinnell*
1989 - *?*
1990 - *Marcia Klenk, Brooklyn*
1991 - *Jennifer Dale, Brooklyn*
1992 - *No Pageant Held*
1993 - *Melissa Bryan, Montezuma*
1994 - *Sara Larsen, Grinnell*
1995 - *Cari Smith, Brooklyn*
1996 - *Sara Rutherford, Grinnell*
1997 - *Mandy VanOmmen, Montezuma*
1998 - *Kelly Hafkey, Grinnell*
1999 - *Tyne' Steele, Grinnell*
2000 - *Amanda Urfer, Montezuma*
2001 - *Kim Iverson, Grinnell*
2002 - *Jessica Lang, Brooklyn*
2003 - *Katee VanArkel, Malcom*
2004 - *Amanda Crawford, Grinnell*
2005 - *Jessica Crawford, Grinnell*
2006 - *Ciara Doll, Newton*
2007 - *Abby Renbarger, Grinnell*
2008 - *Hilary Iverson, Malcom*
2009 - *Stephanie Haines, Grinnell*
2010 - *Courtney Latcham, Montezuma*
2011 - *Alexis Ferguson, Barnes City*
2012 - *Aly James, Searsboro*
2013 - *Taylor McDaniel, Brooklyn*
2014 - *Alyssa James, Brooklyn*
2015 - *Catelyn Graham, Grinnell*
2016 - *Brooke Kuesel, Victor*
2017 - *Sterling Kriegel, Brooklyn*
2018 - *Mya Pargon, Montezuma*
2019 - *Theresa Crawford, Grinnell*
2020 - *Hailey Heishman, Malcom*
(limited pageant, no Iowa State Fair pageant)
2021 - *Hailey Heishman, Malcom*
2022 - *Ireland Sebetka, Chelsea*
2023 - *Jordan Ranfeld, Montezuma*
2024 - *Anna Johnson, Brooklyn*
2025 - *Gracie Kaufman, Grinnell*

Poweshiek County Fair Association 2026 Fair Queen Contest

The 2026 Poweshiek County Fair Queen Contest will be held Saturday, July 11th. Judging will be held in the Heritage Park buildings on the fairgrounds. You need not be a member of 4-H or FFA to participate. Contestants are judged on essay, personal interview, self- introduction, speech and impromptu question. Points are also earned for returning the entry form by the June 1st deadline (including photo) and attending pre-pageant activities. **Contestants are not judged on their physical appearance. This is not a beauty pageant!** To be eligible you must be 16 by the first day of the 2026 Iowa State fair which is August 13th and not older than 21 on the same day.

Our 2026 county fair queen must be present everyday of the county fair. The queen will also return the following year to assist with static judging. The queen must also be able to compete at the Iowa State Fair Pageant. **It is very important that you are available for all the events and judging at the state fair. It has become a real problem for the state pageant organizers trying to plan around contestant conflicts.** As county fair queen you must be prepared in the event that you would be crowned the ISF Queen. This would be a wonderful honor but it would change your schedule dramatically as you would be spending the next 7 days attending the state fair. There may be some additional public appearances such as participating in the county 4th of July parades the following year. **It is important that you check your summer schedule to be sure you could fulfill your duties as the queen or a member of the court.**

Some of the responsibilities of the queen and court during the county fair are handing out ribbons and awards at the livestock shows, greeting the public, helping with static judging, presenting the community sponsored awards and helping out where needed. The queen is also responsible for announcing the winners of the Herdsmanship Awards & the Bucket of Junk contest winner on the last day of the fair. The queen may also be asked to help with Open Class judging and the talent show. Being the Poweshiek County Fair Queen is an honor but it is also a big time commitment and a lot of work. The court may need to fill in for the queen if the queen is showing livestock.

The reigning “Poweshiek County Fair Queen” is expected to conduct herself in a manner that reflects positively on herself, her family and on the Poweshiek County Fair. Should the reigning “Poweshiek County Fair Queen” become involved in any activity, including but not limited to a drug, alcohol or tobacco related offense that reflects negatively on herself, her family or the Poweshiek County Fair, she may be required to forfeit her crown, title and rights to any prizes awarded. **The queen is advised to use good judgement when posting on social media.** The first runner up would then become the reigning Poweshiek County Fair Queen.

A meeting will be held after the June 1st entry deadline.

Time and date to be announced. Attendance by the contestant at this meeting is worth 15 points. This is an informal meeting and a good time to ask questions. The currently reigning queen will be present to answer any questions you may have.

If this is something you would like to participate in, fill out the enclosed entry form, include a **billfold size** photo and send it to PCFA, Attn: Queen Pageant, P.O. Box 372, Grinnell, IA 50112 by **June 1st**. Entries may also be dropped off at the Fair Office.

Read all information carefully so you understand the time commitment you will be making if you are chosen the 2026 Poweshiek County Fair Queen or are in the queen's court.

If you have any questions please feel free to email Katie Iverson (dyson2014@gmail.com) or call her at 641 777-5263. You may also contact the fair office by email (poweshiekcountyfair@gmail.com) or phone 641 236-7959.

We'll be looking forward to receiving your entry!

Poweshiek County Fair *July 11th, 14th – 19th*

