

Iowa Horse Fair Cowgirl Queen Contest

May 8-10, 2026 Application deadline: April 1, 2026

Iowa Horse Fair Cowgirl Queen Contest Rules

Requirements:

Contestants must be ages 10-15, 16-26 to compete in Junior and Senior divisions by January 1, 2026. Contest fee is \$20.

This is an open contest, no title required.

Contest schedule- Friday Test at 4pm, Saturday horsemanship and crowning 4:15-6:15pm.

The first 20 applicants will be accepted in each division. Contestants will be finalized within 3 days of the deadline.

All application requirements will be available online at www.iahorsefair.com. Deadline is April 1. Once your entry has been processed and paid on the website, the coordinator will receive an email with your information. All emails will be kept in order received until final entries have been made final. You will get an email stating whether you have a spot or not. If under 18 your parent or legal guardian needs to sign you up. ** No refunds will be issued; exceptions may be approved by the Horse Fair Committee.

If you are sharing a horse contact Crystal Brown for information. Both contestants must pay \$20 entry fee.

Contestants must live in Iowa.

All contestants will be required to sign up for 1 volunteer slot at the fair. Each time slot is 2 hours.

All contestants will be required to wear sponsored T-shirt excluding contest or other presentations or clinics.

All contestants will adhere to sportsmanlike conduct during the contest in and out of the arena.

All contestants are required to wear western show attire: Show blouse, jacket, or vest. Show pants, jeans, and chaps. Cowboy hat or helmet with appropriate western tack. Helmets are not required but are strongly encouraged. There is no penalty for showing with helmet. No training equipment. No stallions allowed.

Contest rules:

Each age division will complete a 50-question multiple choice test based on general horse, horse industry and Iowa Horse Fair knowledge. It will count for half of the total score. Test will be held Friday evening at 4pm next to the Horse Fair office.

On Saturday at 4:15pm each contestant will complete a horsemanship pattern along with a queen salute. Junior division will walk/Jog in their pattern, while Senior division will be walk/jog/lope. Other elements will be included. A total of 50 points available, for the remaining of total score. A copy of judges' cards will be available after the contest has ended. In case of tie, each contestant will be asked a question.

Judging will be based on the AQHA scorecard and rulebook. All grievances will be reviewed by the coordinator, judge, rulebook and member of the Horse Fair board. Any slander will not be tolerated and may be subject to disqualifications.

Crowning- We will award a queen title and 3 attendants. If for any reason the queen is not able to keep her title it will be passed to the first attendant. The queen shall receive a crown, sash, belt buckle and bucket of prizes. Each attendant receives a bucket of prizes.

Requirements of 2026 queens- contract signing (immediately after crowning of senior queen), introductions at the rodeo performance immediately after crowning, paid membership to the Iowa Horse Council and return for appearances at the 2027 horse fair.

Patterns will be available after the written test.

All contestants must be available for introductions at the Friday rodeo performance unless prior commitments are relayed before hand.

All contestants must be checked in by noon on Friday.

Contestant will receive a packet at check in with the coordinator including extra tickets, thank you sheet, shirt, photographers' information and misc.

Contest will be held in the Pavillion.

Any other information or questions will be posted on the Facebook page or by contacting the coordinator, Crystal Brown.

