

# 2026 ADCA National Dexter Show Regulations

## Cost to enter:

- Open Show entries - \$35
- Youth Show entries - \$35
- Bonus Classes are free to enter but animals must be shown in their own class to be eligible. Bonus classes include Cow/calf pair, Best of Udder, Get of Sire and Produce of Dam. \*see class listing for more information on bonus class requirements.

## Animal Identification and Health Regulations:

- All animals will be given a visual check by the individuals supervising the checking-in of animals. Any animal deemed unhealthy or showing signs of contagious diseases will be sent to a quarantine area. Any animal sent to the quarantine area will be examined by a veterinarian and/or the ADCA President, Expo Committee Chair and Show Committee Chair. These people will have the final say if the animal is allowed in the barn. Animals from quarantined areas are not permitted to enter the show or sale event.
- All animals must be properly identified. Legible identification such as tattoos, 840 tags, calf-hood metal clips are acceptable. This number must appear on registration and health papers. Failure to have proper identification will be grounds for dismissal from the event.
- Health Certificates with approved identification (840 Tags, Brucellosis metal clips, etc), are required for all animals entered for show and/or sale. Out of state entries must comply with the regulations of the State in which the show and/or sale event is taking place. It is advised to have your veterinarian call the State prior to the event.
- No drugs are to be administered at any time except under the guidance of the event veterinarian.

## Animal Manageability Regulations:

- All animals in the barn must be halter-broke to lead & tie. There are no pen classes in the show and all sale animals must comply with these regulations. If an unruly animal is attending, it will have to be confined to a livestock trailer.
- Any animal deemed unmanageable by the Show Committee supervisor, before or during the show, will be required to leave the show arena. Cattle dismissed in this fashion are not eligible for sale or show placing, and all entry fees will be forfeited. Any animal deemed unmanageable will have to be confined to a livestock trailer.
- No holding pens will be available.

## General Barn Regulations:

- All animals must be double tied in the barn with both a halter and a neck-tie. Nursing calves may run loose with their dam if both are contained in a secure pen area, but the dam must still be double tied.
- All cattle, stalls, and equipment areas must be kept clean and presentable for the duration of the Expo.
- Every precaution will be taken to protect participants and their animals. However, neither the ADCA, the Show Committee, the location of the event, nor the supervisors or their assistants will be responsible for the accidents or loss associated with the participants and their animals.
- Initial bedding (pine shavings) will be supplied; Replacement bedding may be purchased on site. Pine shavings are the only acceptable. **Absolutely no other types of bedding will be allowed.**
- Hay and feed may also be available for purchase on site or from a feed store nearby.
- Electrical outlets will be available for fans and other needs. To be shared.
- Outdoor wash racks are available.
- Exhibitors may bring their own grooming chutes.

## General Photo Contest Regulations:

All photos submitted for the Photo Contest must be of ADCA-registered animals. You can find more information about the photo contest on the Expo Info page of the ADCA website: [dextercattle.org](http://dextercattle.org)

### **General Show Regulations:**

- Check in is on Thursday and check out is after the Open show as late as Sunday morning 10:30 AM. (LEAVING EARLY WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF PREMIUMS)
- YOUTH SHOW will be held on Friday at 9:00am and is open to ages 5 through 18 (Age is determined by age on the day of the show)
  - For ages 5-6 a Parent/Guardian must accompany the child and hold the tail of the lead rope at all times. The child must be able to manage and present animal with verbal coaching allowed. If the child is unable to do so, they will be dismissed from the class and deemed ineligible for placement.
  - Animals do not need to be owned by the exhibitor in the youth show.
- OPEN SHOW is scheduled for Saturday at 9:00am
- Open Show - open to 7 years old and up, but animals entered in the open show must be owned by the exhibitor. The exhibitor must have owned the animal for a minimum of three months prior to the show.
- Youth older than 7 are eligible to compete in both the youth and open shows.
- Youth younger than 14 who choose to show in the open show cannot show bulls over one year of age.
- An exhibitor's age on the day of the show will determine class eligibility.
- All animals in the show must be registered with the ADCA.
- For more than first-place premiums to be paid, a class must have more than one exhibitor. If a class has only one animal, only the first-place premium will be paid.
- Calves being shown ONLY in Cow/Calf class, if less than 3 months of age, need not be registered but must have a Record of Birth.
- For female classes, winners of the Divisional Championships compete for Grand and Reserve Grand Champions, with the Divisional Reserve Champions standing ready.
- For bull and steer classes, the Dexter placing first place in each class will compete for Grand and Reserve Grand Champions, with the second-place animals standing ready.
- All bulls 12 months and older must have an affixed nose ring or nose clamp. A lead strap must be affixed to the ring prior to entry into the show ring. **NO STRAP - NO ENTRY.**

### **Show Entry Guidelines:**

- All cattle, including steers, must be registered with the ADCA prior to entry deadline.
- Animal substitutions will be allowed at check-in ONLY in the same sex, same age & same class.
- All Entries must be made through the Expo Store on the ADCA website by May 24, 2026. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ALLOWED. Entry fees for animals entered but not brought to the show or sale will not be refunded.
- All animals must be accompanied by their registration papers.

### **Exhibitor Guidelines**

- The Show Committee, under advisement of the Board of Directors, will have final authority to uphold established rules and regulations.
- Exhibitors must be current members of the American Dexter Cattle Association.
- If an exhibitor wants to show two or more animals in the same class, the exhibitor MUST show ONE; any other non-professional individual in attendance may show the additional animal.

### **Premiums Per Class:**

- First: \$75.00
- Second: \$50.00
- Third: \$35.00
- Grand Champion Female or Bull: \$250.00

- Reserve Grand Champion Female or Bull: \$150.00
- Grand Champion Steer: \$150.00
- Reserve Grand Champion Steer: \$75.00
- Best in Show: \$500 - The Grand Champion Female, Bull and Steer of the **Open Show** will be eligible for this award.
- Because the ADCA wants to encourage and applaud youth-ownership of ADCA registered Dexters, a special Premium Bonus will be awarded to top placing youth that own the cattle they are showing in the **Youth Show**. The Youth-Owner placing the highest in a class will receive a \$35 premium bonus, the second highest will receive a \$25 premium bonus, and the third highest will receive a \$15 premium bonus. These bonuses will be awarded after the show. This premium bonus is not offered to youth showing animals owned by their parents, grandparents, farm, or other breeder. To qualify for the premium bonus, the animal must be solely registered under the youth's own member number. Animals that are jointly owned with an adult do not qualify.

### **Showmanship Classes:**

- **Absolutely** no bulls may be shown in any Showmanship Class – Peewee, Junior Youth, Senior Youth or Adult.
- Peewee Showmanship: 6 years and younger (ribbons only awarded)
- Junior Youth Showmanship: youths 7-12 years old
- Senior Youth Showmanship: youths 13-17 years old
- Adult Showmanship – 18 years and older

### **Dress Code:**

The following show attire will be required and enforced in the show ring for anyone presenting cattle:

- Collared/buttoned shirts (full button or polo/golf) with sleeves (length of the sleeves will be determined by the season/weather/temperature).
- **ABSOLUTELY NO** personal names, farm names and/or association names/logos other than the approved official ADCA Member Logo is permitted. This includes 4H/FFA logos.
- Long pants (jeans or slacks) that are dark in color and have no tears or holes are required.
- Boots or fully enclosed heavy footwear must be worn for safety reasons.
- Long hair must be tucked in a hat or tied back for safety reasons.
- Optional: belt, western hats, gloves or the use of show sticks and combs.

*Prohibited items include the following:*

- Baseball caps
- Baggy, low riding pants that drag on the ground, for safety reasons
- T-shirts or crop top shirts that leave the midriff skin showing
- Sandals or canvas shoes, for safety reasons
- Overalls

### **Cattle Grooming Regulations:**

The Show Committee will advise the judge regarding grooming requirements and expectations prior to the show. This will encourage the judge to look at the animal closely, not at the grooming capability of the exhibitor. The Expo is considered a "Blow and Go" show with the following guidelines:

*Prohibited Items:*

- Painting or polishing of horns or hooves with colored polish
- Artificial coat coloring
- Growth implants
- Drugs to alter the disposition of the animal (Xylazine/Rompun, Calf Calm Paste, etc)
- Adhesives or any compounds that have adhesive qualities that, when applied, cannot be combed or brushed through.
- These products and similar ones are prohibited: Prime Time, EZ Comb, Tail Adhesive, Ultra White Touch Up, Black Touch Up, Black Finisher, black show foam, etc.

*Alcohol, water, oil, or any product that is alcohol or water-based and have no adhesive or glue qualities are the types of grooming products that are permissible. These items include such products as Kleen Sheen, Revive, Final Bloom, Show Sheen, and white show foam.*

The ADCA reserves the right to physically inspect any animal where suspected prohibited products may have been used.

## **ADCA National Expo Cattle AUCTION Rules – New for 2026**

- **Commission:** All animals are assessed with a 2% commission on the final bid of sale.
  - Seller to pay commission to the ADCA via cash or check.
- **Registration:** All animals for sale must be ADCA-registered and accompanied by a registration copy.
- **Compliance:** Every animal must meet all Expo health, identification, manageability, and check-in requirements and must additionally comply with OH movement guidelines for breeding animals. <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/animal-health/animal-movement-identification/01-animal-movement-and-identification-movement>. Additional health/travel papers are the responsibility of buyer.
- **Entry Fees:**
  - Animals already entered in the show may be listed in the auction catalog at no extra charge.
  - Animals entering the auction only are required to pay a \$35 barn-space stall fee.
- **Sale Requirement:** All entered animals must go through the auction unless withdrawn for health reasons; private sales prior to the auction are prohibited for animals registered in the auction.
- **Identification:** Sale animals will receive neck tags matching catalog numbers provided by the Show and Sale Committee.
- **Sale Order:** The committee sets the order by random drawing and communicates it, along with other sale details, in advance.
- **Reserve Bids:** Sellers may set a reserve. If unmet, the seller may accept or decline the final bid.
- **Responsibility Transfer:** The sellers remain responsible for the animal until sold; responsibility then passes to the buyer. Seller is responsible for transfer of ownership in the ADCA.
- **Buyer Numbers:** Issued only after verification of identification. Holders are liable for all bids and purchases under their number.
- **Payment:** Cash or check payable directly to the seller (Or any other payment method agreed upon by seller and buyer)
- **Load-Out:** No animal may leave the barn or grounds without a load-out order, issued by the cashier upon payment.

### **Digital Catalog**

- Submit one - three photo(s) of the animal, one each of sire and dam, and a concise description of the animal's traits. (Editors may edit submissions.) The digital catalog will be posted and shared widely.

### **Print Catalog**

- Submit one photo of the animal and a brief description. (Inclusion depends on space).

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