

# Schedule of Events for 2025 IAAF Convention

## “Rockin’ It Forward”

114<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs

Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Express – Springfield, IL

All events open only to registered guests with a convention badge.

### Thursday, January 16, 2025

- 8:30 – 11:00 AM Queen Registration ~ *Plaza Lobby-Registration Desk*
- 1:00 – 5:00 PM Registration Desk Open ~ *Plaza Lobby*
- 1:00 PM Queen Pageant Rehearsal ~ *Ballroom*
- 4:00 – 6:00 PM Carnival Amusement Safety Board Mtg. ~ *Winter Garden, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor*
- 8:00 – 11:00 PM “Let’s Have Fun” Pre-convention hospitality and fun ~ *Capital View, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor*

### Friday, January 17, 2025

- 8:00 AM Registration Desk Open ~ *Plaza Lobby*
- 8:00 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal ~ *Ballroom*
- 10:00 AM IAAF Board Meeting ~ *Lincoln Board Room*
- 1:30 PM Opening Session
- “First Impressions”  
Special Guest Mike Bradley
- Remarks by Illinois FFA President
- “What did your fair do differently in 2024?”  
Moderated by Bill Jennings, IAAF Director at Large ~ *Plaza F-G, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor*
- 3:00 PM Trade Show opens with a reception. Skinners Amusements ~ Host of Trade Show and Sponsors of Snacks ~ *Plaza A-E*
- 4:00 PM Fairs and Exposition Fund Meeting  
~ *Capital VI, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*

5:30 PM Audit Committee Meeting ~ *Turquoise, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

6:00 PM Trade Show closes for the day

7:00 PM **Showcasing ~ *Plaza H-J***

**Drinks and Snacks Sponsored by Etix, Illinois Wine by Tom & Pam Schahrer, Ice Cream by Prairie Farms**

**MC: Kent Casson of Central Illinois Farm Network**

**Bands:**

7:00 – 7:20 Next Thing Smokin'

7:25 – 7:45 Bordertown & Co.

7:50 – 8:10 Silver Lake Band

8:15 – 8:35 Will King

8:40 – 9:00 Rook Richards

9:05 – 9:25 Chase McDaniel

9:30 – 10:15 Dirty Grass Soul

Sound checks begin at 3:00 PM

**Associates who have hospitality rooms may be hosting during other hours than those listed for the trade show.**

**Saturday, January 18, 2025**

7:00 AM Registration Desk Opens ~ *Plaza Lobby*

7:30 AM "Looking to the Future" Breakfast doors open ~ *Plaza F-G Tickets Required*  
Sponsored by Luehrs Ideal Rides  
Special door prize for breakfast participants ~ \$50 Cash

7:45 AM Opening remarks: IAAF President Dave Hake  
Color Guard: Abraham Lincoln Council Scout Troop  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Queen Natalie Evans  
Invocation

8:00 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal ~ *Ballroom*

8:15 AM All non-ticket fair members and associates are welcome to join the meeting after breakfast

8:30 AM Welcome: IAAF President Dave Hake

8:45 AM Presentation of "Friend of Illinois County Fair" Awards ~ Ron Meyer  
Drawing for "Early Bird" door prize

9:00 AM Remarks: Illinois Department of Agriculture

9:30 AM **Mike Bradley, Keynote Speaker** ~ Presented by Luehrs Ideal Rides

10:30 AM All door prize winner must be present to win at the time of each drawing

10:45 AM Secretaries and Treasurers Meeting ~ Jeannette Watkins, IDOA ~ *Plaza F-G*

11:00 AM Trade Show and Associate Rooms open ~ *Plaza A-E*  
*Skinnners Amusements* ~ Host of Trade Show  
*Grandstand Concerts* ~ Sponsor of Trade Show Box Lunches for Associates

1:00 PM Afternoon Queen Pageant Preliminaries ~ *Ballroom*

1:30 PM Jr. Talent Competition ~ *Plaza H-J*

2:00 PM Past Presidents Meeting ~ *Capital View, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor*

3:30 PM All Zones Meeting ~ *Capital View, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor*

4:00 PM Trade show closes

5:15 PM Past State Queen Dinner ~ *Plaza F-G*

6:00 PM Sr. Talent Competition ~ *Plaza H-J*

6:00 PM Catholic Mass ~ *Winter Garden, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor*

7:00 PM Evening Queen Pageant Preliminaries ~ *Ballroom*

8:00 PM Registration Desk Closes

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### Sunday, January 19, 2025

8:15 AM Protestant Worship ~ *Winter Garden, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor*

8:50 AM Enjoy a Breakfast Sandwich & Coffee ~ *Sponsored by A Fantasy Amusements, Plaza F-G*

9:00 AM Queen Pageant Rehearsal ~ *Ballroom*

9:15 AM Convene for Round Tables ~ *Plaza F-G* ~ *Sponsored by Edwards Marketing, Grandstand Concerts and Illinois Tractor Pulling Association*

Moderated by Dave Hake & Todd Cotter

Roundtables: First Session

- Volunteers of All Ages
- Recruitment – More for Your Buck
- Promoting Your Fair
- Wildcard – Anything Goes
- Agriculture Education & Community Involvement

Help Us, Help You  
Sponsorship  
Entertainment & Attractions  
Computer Age – Online Entries & Software  
Livestock Meeting

10:00 AM Roundtables: Second Session (Same Agenda as First Session)  
11:00 AM Annual Business Meeting ~ *Plaza F-G*  
Please Register for Door Prizes  
A Crowne Plaza Package for the 2026 IAAF Convention will be awarded

Welcome ~ IAAF President Dave Hake  
Minutes  
Introduction of Directors

**Committee Reports:**

- Secretary-Treasurer Report ~ Charlyn Fargo Ware
- Audit Committee Report ~ Gary Mielke
- Grievance Committee Report ~ Tom Moore
- Advocacy Fund Report ~ Bridget Dougherty
- Legislative Committee Report ~ Bill Jennings

Drawing for prizes donated by *Swyear Amusements* and others. All door prize winners must be present to win.

1:00 PM Illinois Standardbred Association ~ *Capital View, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor*  
4:00 PM Doors Open for Banquet ~ *Plaza A-J*  
4:30 PM Banquet Served  
6:30 PM Queen Pageant Finals ~ *Ballroom*  
9:30 PM Meet the New Queen ~ *Lobby*

Monday, January 20, 2025

8:00 AM IAAF Director and Spouses Breakfast ~ *Ruby Room*  
9:00 AM IAAF Directors Meeting ~ *Ruby Room*