

Talent Contest Rules for Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs State Competition January 17, 2026

(Professional entertainers are not eligible as defined in rule #1)

PLEASE THOROUGHLY READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL RULES!

PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO RULES NUMBER 1, 3, 4 AND 9!

1. A professional entertainer is someone who has a lot of experience or skill in a particular job or activity. For this contest you **may not participate** if you have been paid fees for performing in your area of talent. **Example:** A dancer who has been paid may enter as a singer. The dancer may not enter as a dance contestant. Engaged in a specified activity as one's paid occupation rather than as a pastime.
2. The entry or act can only represent one county fair. Each fair may enter only one Junior and one Senior act per year. Entries must represent the county in which they won an actual talent competition in 2025. The runner up act can represent if the winner cannot compete.
3. Any act that performs over the 4-minute time limit will be disqualified. **The contestant is not to give an introduction to their act.** The MC will announce the County or Fair they represent and the act begins.
4. Age limits each division:
 1. Junior Division: All contestants can be 14 years old or younger on the day and date of the local contest. Junior Division contestants can be 15 years old when competing at the State Level in January, if they met the age requirements at their local contest.
 2. Senior Division: Contestants cannot be over 21 years of age on the day and date of their local contest. Senior Division contestants can be 22 years old when competing at the State Level in January, if they met the age requirements at their local contest.
5. One piano and floor mikes are the only equipment furnished. Floor mats and lavalier mikes will need to be furnished by the contestants.
6. The panel of judges' decisions will be final.
7. There will be a setup time limit of 4 minutes per act. This will be controlled and timed if necessary.
8. To lessen sound prop confusion, when using a USB Drive taped accompaniment, **only the song the contestant is using shall be on the USB Drive. No like talent is allowed on the recording. ie. vocal, tap dancing, any like instrument, etc.** This will be carefully monitored.
9. Entries and fees must be received by November 20, 2025. Late entries are not recommended. An entry fee of \$75 per division entry is due with the application by November 20, 2025. Checks are payable to the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs. (IAAF). One check that includes both divisions is acceptable and preferred.
10. In December, Fair Talent Directors or Participants will be sent or emailed information needed for the January 17th contest. The Junior Contest will be held in the afternoon and the Senior contest will be in the evening.
11. All guests aged 10 and over must purchase a badge, (\$25.00). **Actual talent contestants will receive complimentary badges.**

Kris Lowe
Asst. Talent Chairman, IAAF
16328 Old Carlyle Rd
Carlyle, IL 62231
Email: clintoncofair@gmail.com
C 1-618-660-5708

David O. Engelbrecht
Talent Chairman, IAAF
1282 E Water Rd
Leaf River, IL 61047
Email: dave.engelbrecht@hughes.net
C 1-815-262-2161
(please contact with your questions)