



Iowa Bulletin: IA360-26-2

Date: June 12, 2026

Subject: PER – Staffing the USDA Booth at the 2026 Iowa State Fair

Action Required By: July 31, 2026

Purpose. To inform NRCS employees of the opportunity to provide conservation education at the 2026 Iowa State Fair.

Expiration Date. August 23, 2026

Background. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is joining other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies to host a booth at the Iowa State Fair, August 13-23, 2026. All NRCS employees are invited to staff the USDA booth and share conservation information with thousands of fairgoers. Duties include distributing USDA materials, interacting with farmers and fairgoers, answering questions, and being a positive representative of our agency and department.

Explanation. The USDA booth will again be in the southwest corner of the second floor of the John Deere Agriculture Building.

Employees who wish to work at the State Fair must get prior approval from their supervisor. After receiving approval, you may sign up for a shift online through [2026 Team USDA State Fair Booth Signup](#) (NRCS staff may begin signing up for shifts on June 15).

Shift options include:

- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 11 p.m. - 2 p.m.
- 1 - 5 p.m.
- 3 - 6 p.m.
- 5 - 8 p.m.

Note: Shifts on Monday, August 17, 2026, are reserved for USDA veteran employees in honor and celebration of Veteran's Day at the Iowa State Fair. If you are a Veteran and would like to work at the fair on August 17, 2026, please contact Jason Johnson, State Public Affairs Specialist, at jason.r.johnson@USDA.gov or (515) 323-2701.

Here's how to sign up for a shift

1. Click this link to see our Sign-Up on SignUp.com: [2026 Team USDA State Fair Booth Signup](#)
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. Please put NRCS behind your name when you sign up (e.g., Jason Johnson – NRCS).

Weekday shifts are authorized up to eight hours of official time for traveling to and from the USDA booth and for time working in the booth. Since employees are volunteering, approved employees who sign up for an evening or weekend shift may earn compensatory time (Comp Time). Employees may receive Comp Time for the length of their shift, plus up to two hours of travel time, if the employees' home or duty station exceeds 50 miles, whichever is closest.

Admission tickets and parking information will be provided. Government vehicles may be used for transportation. Personal vehicles may be used without mileage reimbursement. Free parking options and low-cost shuttle options are available. For more information, please go to <http://www.iowastatefair.org/visit/parking-park-ride>.

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Team USDA State Fair Volunteer Meeting: A Microsoft Teams meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2026, for those who sign up. The link and time will be emailed out to all the volunteers. This meeting will be recorded for those unable to join.

Dress Code

Please wear an NRCS or USDA collared shirt or a nice NRCS or USDA t-shirt while working the booth. If you do not have one, please wear a plain white, green or blue collared shirt. Pants, capris, and nice shorts are acceptable. A free USDA shirt can be ordered through the following link: [#TeamUSDA Shirts \(google.com\)](#).

Contact. Jason Johnson, State Public Affairs Specialist, at (515) 323-2701 if you have questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jala Fischer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jala Fischer
Acting State Conservationist