

Cattle Section

1. Breed champions are required to attend the interbreed championships. Failure to do so may result in prize money being withheld.
 2. It is essential that Isolation areas have been passed and licence issued - Any queries should be addressed to DAERA.
 3. Exhibitor numbers will be issued at Registration box on show day.
 4. Due to Bio-Security Measures, Straw is Prohibited for use at Ballymena Show – sawdust may be allowed.
 5. Cattle for Exhibition, showing signs of any kind of disease, will have to be removed by the Owner immediately.
 6. Exhibitors must follow parking and all other instructions issued by stewards.
 7. All cattle classes will be judged on Saturday 30th May 2026 commencing from 10.00am.
 8. Entry Fees: CAAA Members £10; Non CAAA Members £12 (unless otherwise stated) - CATTLE ENTRIES CLOSE ON SATURDAY 16th May 2026.
 9. Prize Money in Cattle Section 1st £20 2nd £15, 3rd £10 (except where otherwise stated).
 10. Cattle exhibitors are requested to display the animal number allocated while in the judging ring so that they be easily identified by the viewing public.
 - 11 All persons must sign the entry form as agreement to conform to the rules of the County Antrim Agricultural Association as organizers of Ballymena show.
 12. It is the responsibility of exhibitors to ensure that appropriate Insurance cover is in place for the showing of his/her exhibits at the show.
 13. Trophies are presented at the annual awards night being held on Saturday 14th November in Tullyglass Hotel.
 14. Snaffles must be worn by all cattle over one year old
 15. Prize money will be issued to the bank account given online
 16. All cattle entered for this show must be from OFFICIALLY TUBERCULOSIS FREE HERDS and each animal must be accompanied by a print out of the electronic movement report. ANIMALS WILL BE REFUSED ENTRY IF NOT ACCOMPANIED BY THE CORRECT PAPERWORK. Pre movement testing for Bovine Brucellosis is no longer required for movement to shows.
- Only animals free from disease restrictions, including Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Bluetongue and Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (herd or individual animal restrictions) may be permitted to move to a Show.
- Bovine Tuberculosis Controls**
- To minimise the risk to other livestock, exhibitors are encouraged to have “Show” animals tested for Tuberculosis by their Private Veterinary Practitioner in the 30 days beforehand.
- To minimise the risk to their own herd, exhibitors are encouraged to quarantine show animals and have them tested for Tuberculosis by their Private Veterinary Practitioner at least 42 days after their last appearance at a Show and before re-integration to the main herd.
- Bovine Brucellosis Controls**
- Only those animals with BVDN or INDNEG status on NIFAIS (negative BVD status) can be moved into a “Show” herd. NIFAIS will block the movement of animals which don't have BVDN or INDNEG status.
- For imported animals resident in a NI herd, a BVDN or INDNEG status is required before the animal can be moved into a Show herd. Statuses can only be obtained where samples have been tested in laboratories approved under the NI scheme. AHWNI can attempt to obtain BVD statuses for animals that have been imported from the ROI, so owners of any such animals should contact AHWNI, allowing time for a test to be carried out should a BVD Negative result not be available.
- In summary, only those animals with a BVD status of BVDN (negative) or INDNEG (indirect negative) can move into the Show Herd. Any animal with a NIFAIS status of BVDP, BVDI, BVDFEM, DAMPI, OFFPI or BVDU (unknown) status cannot be moved into the “Show” herd.
18. Please note - all drivers outside a radius of 65kms must have animal transporter authorisation certificate

SPONSORS OF BALLYMENA SHOW 2026

Ballymena Show would not exist without the support it receives through our sponsors and as such we are grateful to all those who support our event in this way.

AH Fuels - AHV UK & Ireland - Andrews Flour - Andrew Kennedy Plant - Ballymena Credit Union - Ben Vista Nursery & Garden Centre - BH Dickey & Sons - Black Agri - Breedon Group - Chestnutt Animal Feeds - Chipmaster - Creagh Concrete - D A Forgie - Darren Cumberland - D J McKay & Son Agricultural Contractors - Dairy Herd Management - Danske Bank - Datamars Livestock - Diamond Valais Blacknose - Donnelly & Taggart - DT Carson Accountants - Ernest O'Hara - Fane Valley Feeds - Farm Vet Services - Francis Dinsmore Ltd -George Hamilton - Gerard Kennedy and Sons - Glendale finance - Grassmen - Greenhill Systems - HA McIlrath & Son Ltd - Hamills recycling - Hitt The Diff Tractor Parts - Horse Finder - Irish moiled cattle society - JE McKernan - J & R Fuels - Jimmy Kernohan & Sons Ltd - John Thompson & Sons - JR Frew Accountants - JRC Cars - K & G McAtamneys - Kernohan Family - Kersia - Killyless Stores - Knox Electrical - Lakeland Dairies - Le Jardin Sauvage - Lisnafillan Vets - Masons Animal Feeds- MB motors - McCarroll Plant Hire - McCarroll McConnell Co Ltd - McCurdy fuels - McKay Quads - McKeown Accountants - McKervill Neilly Solicitors - McNeills Hardware - Mid and East Antrim Council - Mill Veterinary Centre - Moores Animal Feeds - Mrs Mary Knox - NI Horse Finder - NI Limousin Cattle Club - NI Pygmy Goat Club - Oldstone Veterinary Practice - Portequip - Rainey and Gregg - Ravelglen Furniture - Ringside Café - RJ Cherry & Son - Robin Rainey & Sons - Ross Companies Ltd - Sam Kelly Lime Spreading - Samore Plant Centre - Samuel Cumming & Son Solicitors - SH Coleman - Stephens Catering Equipment Co Ltd - Stevenson Quarries Ltd - Stirling Trophies - Suffolk Sheep Society - Texel Club - Tullyglass Hotel - Ulster Ayrshire Cattle Club - United Feeds - Wilsons of Rathkenny - Worldwide Sires - WR Kennedy & Co

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK (NI) ORDER 1978

In compliance with the above Order County Antrim Agricultural Association has produced an Event Management Plan. This is to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions for its employees or other persons who have reason to be present on premises and grounds occupied by the Association during Ballymena Show.

Specific responsibility is placed on all exhibitors, trade, craft or stock, for their own personal safety, fellow exhibitors and all other persons (including the general public) who have reason to be present. Exhibitors should acquaint themselves with the Rules and Regulations and Instructions to Exhibitors.

Exhibitors must adhere to all instructions given to them by the Stewards present and consult with the Section Chief Steward on any points relating to safety that may arise.

All livestock exhibitors must be deemed capable of handling any animal they are exhibiting.

Child Exhibitors must be accompanied by an adult. Any minors accompanying Exhibitors to the Show are the responsibility of the Exhibitor.

The completion of an entry form for Ballymena Show is deemed to be a full acceptance of an exhibitor of his intention to comply with all Regulations and Instructions as laid down under the Rules & Regulations of the Association.

Copies of the Event Management Plan can be obtained from the Secretary's Office at the entrance The Cattle Market

REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO EXHIBITORS

Intending Exhibitors are requested to read the Rules carefully, and not to lodge Entries unless they are prepared to comply strictly with the Regulations.

1. Lodging Entries. Entries can be completed online www.showingscene.com or all Entry Forms accurately completed and signed by the Exhibitor or Agent must be sent by post to the Secretary of CAAA together with the amount of the Entry Fees where applicable. Cheques to be made payable to the County Antrim Agricultural Association (CAAA). Entries on plain paper cannot be accepted. The Association requests that intending Exhibitors lodge their Entries with the Secretary as early as possible before the period for receiving Entries closes.
2. Entries Close. No Entry will be accepted unless it has been received on or before the closing date and is accompanied by the full amount of the fees.
3. Postponement. The Association reserves the right to postpone or abandon the Show but will not be responsible to any intending Exhibitor for loss incurred by reason of such postponement or abandonment.
4. Full Particulars. All particulars required in the Entry Form must be stated, otherwise the exhibit is liable to be disqualified and excluded from the Show. The exhibit must be that as described in the Entry Form, and no other.
5. Verification of Statements. Each Exhibitor or agent must be prepared to verify every statement contained in the Entry Form in any manner the Association may require.
6. Exhibits not sent. Any person entering an exhibit, and failing to send same for exhibition, shall forfeit the Entry Fee.
7. Rejection of Entries. The Association reserves to itself the right to reject any Entry without assigning any reason thereof. In the event of the Association being unable to accept any entry, notice will be given not later than six days before the show, and the fees lodged will be refunded, or in any case of there being insufficient entries in a class where the Association withdraws the class from competition, the Entry Fees will be refunded.
8. Amalgamation/Division/Cancelling of Classes. Where, in the opinion of the Association, there are either insufficient or too many entries in any one Class, the Association may, without reference to the Exhibitor or Agent, amalgamate, divide, or cancel such Class. Amalgamation may be affected with any other similar, or relevant Class, with or without increase of Prize Money, but where a Class is divided, similar Prize Money will be paid in each division.
9. Entry Fees will not be refunded should an exhibitor wish to cancel any of his/her entries. Failure to send same for exhibition or competition will also mean that any entry fees paid will be forfeited.
10. Due to Bio-Security measures, STRAW IS PROHIBITED for use at Ballymena Show.
11. Any minors accompanying Exhibitors to the Show are the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Child Exhibitors must be accompanied by an adult.
12. Should a judge encounter an animal or animals which he/she has bred, owned or in which he has had any interest, a request may be made to the chief steward of that section to appoint another suitable person to place such animals. If a chief steward is aware of such a situation, he should notify the judge.

Exclusion of Liability

Ballymena Show Committee will not be responsible for accidents or losses.

County Antrim Agricultural Association, as organisers of Ballymena Show 2026, requires all entrants and exhibitors as a fundamental condition of entry to undertake and accept that Ballymena Show Committee shall not be liable in any way for any claim for compensation or otherwise which may arise out of or be connected with the Show including without prejudices to the generality of the foregoing, the holding, abandonment or alteration of the date of the Show, omission of any entry, the rejection or removal of any animals or other exhibit, the removal or exclusion of any owner, groom, rider or attendant from the Show, or the appointment decision, act or omission of any Judge, Officer, Official, employee or other persons be in any way responsible or accountable for anything that may happen (from any cause or circumstance whatsoever) to the Exhibitors or their Attendants or to any exhibit or property brought into Ballymena Show, or for anything else in connection with, or arising out of, or attributable to Ballymena Show. Each Exhibitor shall be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, Injury or Damage done to or occasioned by or arising from any animals or item exhibited by him/her, and for its description as given in the Catalogue. Exhibitors shall indemnify the Ballymena Show committee against all legal or other proceedings in regards thereto.

30/05/2026 10:30

Beef Section

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Gary Henderson (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
1	Junior Beef Class	<p>This class must be entered</p> <p>Prize money kindly sponsored by W.R. Kennedy & Co is 1st £50, 2nd £30, 3rd £20.</p> <p>The Junior Beef Shield will be awarded to the winner of this class</p> <p>All beef animals born on or after 1st March 2025 who have been entered in their appropriate section may enter this class</p>
2	Open Pair of Beef Animals of at least one year old on day of show	<p>Enter on show day</p> <p>Kindly sponsored by Hamills Recycling</p> <p>Prize money 1st £50, 2nd £30, 3rd £20</p> <p>The animals must be the property of one exhibitor and entered in their respective breed classes</p> <p>The James McWhirter Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class</p>
SP 2	NISA Pedigree Junior Bull Championship 2026	<p>For the best Junior Bull born on or after 1st January 2025</p> <p>NISA Pedigree Junior Bull Championship Final is being held this year at Clogher Valley Show on 29th July 2026. All exhibitors wishing to qualify for this Championship must enter the name of their animal(s) and exhibitor details, in their respective class at the qualifying Shows. Only the 1st & 2nd placed exhibits in Junior Bull Classes at Ballymena Show are eligible to go forward to the NISA Pedigree Junior Bull qualifier that day.</p> <p>To maximise attendance of qualified exhibits at the Championship Final, those who qualify must confirm their intention to be present at Clogher Valley Show on 29th July 2026 for the Championship Final. In the event of qualified exhibitors not wishing to attend the Final, the next placed animal will qualify.</p> <p>No exhibitor may qualify more than two exhibits for the Championship Final. Animals cannot qualify at Clogher Valley Show for the Championship.</p> <p>NISA will present rosettes to the exhibitors for both qualifying animals at each qualifying show and Champion & Reserve Champion Rosettes at the Final</p> <p>Prize money at the Final:</p> <p>1st £300 2nd £200 3rd £100 4th £50</p> <p>Prize money will be forwarded to the named exhibitor following the Final. It is important that all those who qualify register their intention to attend the Final with the NISA administrator.</p> <p>The Qualifying Shows for the Bank of Ireland/NISA Junior Bull Championship are: - Ballymena, Ballymoney, Lurgan, Armagh, Saintfield, Newry, Omagh, Castlewellan, Limavady, and Antrim.</p>

Overall Beef Championship

overall beef championship

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Gary Henderson (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
3	Overall Beef Championship	Kindly sponsored by Danske Bank. Prize money = Champion £100, Reserve Champion £70, 2nd Reserve £50, 3rd Reserve £30 No entry required - Exhibits confined to the Champion and Reserve Champion of each of the beef sections The Overall Beef Champion will be awarded the Ivomec and the Carplant Trophy

Beef Young Handlers - enter on show day

Kindly sponsored by McCarroll McConnell and John Thompson & Sons Ltd

Prize money = 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10, 4th £5, 5th £5, 6th £5, 7th £5, 8th £5, 9th £5

Kindly sponsored by W.R. Kennedy & Co

Entry free - Entry forms to be completed and signed on show day but will not be catalogued

Animals must be 30 months or under on show day

It is expected that the young handler is experienced in handling the animal prior to the show.

Owners of livestock must supervise from a safe distance

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Erin Nelson (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
4	Beef Young Handlers - ENTER ON SHOW DAY - free entry	Open to children 8 - 11 years of age as of 1st May in current year Prize money 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10, 4th £5, 5th £5, 6th £5, 7th £5, 8th £5, 9th £5 Exhibitor must be capable of handling the animal being shown.
5	Beef Young Handlers - ENTER ON SHOW DAY - free entry	Open to children 12 - 15 years of age as of 1st May in current year Prize money - 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10, 4th £5, 5th £5, 6th £5, 7th £5, 8th £5, 9th £5 Exhibitor must be capable of handling animal being shown
6	Beef Young Handlers - ENTER ON SHOW DAY - free entry	Open to teenagers 16 - 18 years of age as of 1st May in current year Prize money - 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10, 4th £5, 5th £5, 6th £5, 7th £5, 8th £5, 9th £5 Exhibitor must be capable of handling the animal being shown.
7	Best Beef Young Handler	No entry required The Ernest O'Hara BEM Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class First prize winners from classes 4, 5 and 6 qualify for this class Prize money kindly 1st £30, 2nd £20
SP11	Dunbia/Nisa Beef Young Handlers Championships 2026	<p>Beef Young Handler – age 12 – 15. Beef Young Handler – age 16 – 18. Age as of 1st May in current year. Animals to be 12 months or under on 1st May, in current year.</p> <p>The Dunbia / NISA Beef Young Handler Championship is being held this year at Limavady Show on Saturday 18th July 2026. All exhibitors wishing to qualify for this Championship Final must enter the name of their animal(s) and exhibitor details, at the qualifying Show. It is important that the date of birth, contact details (phone number and/or email address). and parent/guardian details, where these differ from the exhibitor details are all available.</p> <p>The qualified exhibitors will be the top three Young Handlers in each age group of the Dunbia / NISA Beef young handler class at each qualifying show.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians are requested to ensure that exhibitors are competent and capable of handling the animal. One adult is welcome to enter the ring to ensure safety. In these classes the appearance and skill of the exhibitor will be considered.</p> <p>Rosettes will be awarded to each qualified Young Handler. Champion & Reserve Rosettes will be awarded at the final.</p> <p>Prize Money at the final: 1st £100 2nd £75 3rd £50</p> <p>The Qualifying Shows for the Dunbia/NISA Beef Young Handler are: Ballymena, Ballymoney, Lurgan, Armagh, Saintfield, Newry, Omagh, and Limavady.</p> <p>Ballymena Show requires all exhibitors intending to put forward an animal for use in the Young Handler section to already have the animal entered and forward in a previous class at the Show.</p>

Commercial Cattle

Kindly sponsored by James Kernohan & Sons and Donnelly & Taggart - Donnelly Group

See also classes 1 and 2 - Junior & Open Pair of Beef Animals

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Trevor Shields (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
8	Animal - under 1 year old	
9	Animal - 1 year old and over	
10	Champion Commercial Cattle	Kindly sponsored by Danske Bank No entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 8 and 9 qualify for this class Prize money - Champion £50 Reserve Champion £30 and 2nd Reserve champion £20

Limousin

Kindly sponsored by Rainey & Gregg, McKeown Accountants and Stevenson Quarries

See also classes 1 and 2 - junior and open pair of beef animals

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Trevor Shields (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
11	Cow, any age in calf or having had a calf in the last twelve months	
12	Heifer born in 2024	
13	Heifer born in 2025	
14	Senior bull born before 2025	
15	Junior bull born on or after 1st January 2025 but on or before 31st August 2025	
16	Bull or heifer calf born on or after 1st September 2025	
17	Pair of animals	Bonafide the property of one exhibitor and entered in the above classes for which they are eligible
18	Champion Limousin	Kindly sponsored by Danske Bank No entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 11 - 16 qualify for this class Prize money Champion £20 and Reserve Champion £10 The Allam Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class
SP 3	Limousin Show Team of the Year	The N.I. Limousin Cattle Club presents the following awards annually, to exhibitors, who have shown their animals in Limousin classes, at local shows, throughout the summer months. Ballymena Show is a qualifying show for these awards and the points for each award will be administered by the NILCC. In the event of a tie, the NILCC may, at their discretion, consider additional criteria for each award and their decision will be final. "Limousin Show Team of the Year" kindly sponsored by Danske Bank - Points will be awarded for class placements as follows, 1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points and 3rd = 1 point.
SP 4	Limousin Show Champion of the Year	The N.I. Limousin Cattle Club presents the following awards annually, to exhibitors, who have shown their animals in Limousin classes, at local shows, throughout the summer months. Ballymena Show is a qualifying show for these awards and the points for each award will be administered by the NILCC. In the event of a tie, the NILCC may, at their discretion, consider additional criteria for each award and their decision will be final. "Limousin Show Champion of the Year" - Points will be awarded to animals achieving Limousin Champion and Limousin Reserve Champion.
SP 5	The Gordon Bull	The N.I. Limousin Cattle Club presents the following awards annually, to exhibitors, who have shown their animals in Limousin classes, at local shows, throughout the summer months. Ballymena Show is a qualifying show for these awards and the points for each award will be administered by the NILCC. In the event of a tie, the NILCC may, at their discretion, consider additional criteria for each award and their decision is final. "The Gordon Bull" - Points will be awarded to exhibitors achieving Limousin Champion and Limousin Reserve Champion

Charolais

Kindly sponsored by Portequip and HA McIlwrath

The AJC Lamont trophy will be awarded to the best Charolais Exhibit

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

George Nelson (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
19	Senior bull, born before 1st January 2025	
20	Junior bull, born on or after 1st January 2025 & on or before 31st August 2025	
21	Cow, in calf or milk, born on or before 31st December 2023	
22	Cow, in milk or calf, born in 2024	
23	Heifer, born in 2024	
24	Heifer, born on or after 1st January 2025 but on or before 31st August 2025	
25	Heifer or bull, born on or after 1st September 2025	
26	Open pair of animals	bonafide the property of one exhibitor and entered in the above classes for which they are eligible
27	Champion Charolais	No entry required - 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 19 - 25 will qualify for this class Champion £20, Reserve Champion £10

Any Other Continental Beef Breeds

Section kindly sponsored by Sam Kelly Lime Spreading and McCarroll Plant Hire
Includes Simmental, Blondes and British Blue Breeds.

See also classes 1 and 2 - junior beef and open pair

The Northern Constitution Trophy will be awarded to the best Simmental exhibit

The NI Simmental Cattle Breeders Club Cow Bell will be awarded to the best opposite sex from the Best Simmental exhibit

The NI Blonde Cattle Club trophy will be awarded to the best Blonde exhibit

The Smallcost Trophy will be awarded to the Best Blonde Junior Heifer exhibit

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

George Nelson (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
28	Cow or heifer, in calf or milk, born before 31st December 2023	
29	Senior Heifer, born between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024	
30	Heifer, born between 1st January 2025 and 31st December 2025	
32	Senior Bull, born before 31st December 2024	
33	Junior Bull, born between 1st January 2025 and 30th April 2025	
34	Bull born between 1st May 2025 and 31st August 2025	
35	Bull or heifer calf, born on or after 1st September 2025	
36	Champion Any Other Continental Beef Breed	No entry required - 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 28 - 35 will qualify for this class Champion - £20, Reserve Champion - £10

Salers

Kindly sponsored by MB Motors and Stevensons Quarry

See also classes 1 and 2 - Junior & Open Pair of Beef Animals

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Gareth Henderson (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
37	Bull or heifer calf born on or after 1st September 2025	
38	Cow in calf or with own calf at foot	
39	Heifer born on or before 31st December 2024	
40	Heifer born on or after 1st January 2025 but on or before 31st August 2025	
41	Bull born on or before 31st August 2025	
42	Pair of animals	bonafide the property of one exhibitor and entered in the above classes for which they are eligible
43	Champion Saler	Kindly sponsored by Danske Bank No entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 37 - 41 qualify for this class The Saler Champion Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class on show day Prize money champion £20 and reserve champion £10

Beef Shorthorn

Kindly sponsored by James Kernohan & Son Ltd.

Classes may be amalgamated, divided or cancelled by organising committee - see rule 8.

See also classes 1 and 2- Junior & Open Pair of Beef Animals

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Gareth Henderson (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
44	Senior bull born before 1st January 2025	
45	Junior bull born on or after 1st January 2025 but on or before 31st August 2025	
46	Cow any age in calf or having had a calf in the last twelve months	
47	Heifer born in 2024	
48	Heifer born between 1st January 2025 but on or before 31st August 2025	
49	Calf born on or after 1st September 2025 (class may be split depending on numbers)	
50	Pair of animals	The Beef Shorthorn Pair Award will be presented to the winner of this class on show day Animals must be the property of one exhibitor
51	Young Handlers	cup to be presented to winner
52	Champion Beef Shorthorn	No entry required - 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 44 - 49 qualify for this class Prize money Champion £20 and Res champion £10 The Bab McQueen Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class

Galloway

Kindly sponsored by Donnelly and Taggart - Donnelly Group and TJ Hamill and Sons

See also classes 1 and 2 - Junior & Open Pair of Beef Animals

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Colm O'Neill (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
53	Cow in calf or with calf at foot born on or before 31/08/2023	
54	Heifer born on or after 01/09/2023 and on or before 31/08/2024	
54A	Heifer born on or after 01/09/24 and on or before 31/08/2025	
55	Bull or heifer born on or after 01/09/2025	
55A	Bull born on or before 30/09/2025	
56	Champion Galloway	No entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 53 - 55A qualify for this class Prize money - champion £20 and res champion £10 The Galloway Cattle Society Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class

Belted Galloway

Section sponsored by WR Kennedy & Co

See also classes 1 and 2 - Junior and Open Pair of Beef Animals

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Colm O'Neill (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
57	Cow in calf or with calf at foot born on or before 31/08/2023	
58	Heifer born on or after 01/09/2023 and on or before 31/08/2024	
58A	Heifer born on or after 01/09/24 and on or before 31/08/2025	
59	Bull or heifer born on or after 01/09/2025	
59A	Bull born on or before 30/09/2025	
60	Champion Belted Galloway	No entry required - 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 57 - 59A will qualify for this class. Champion = £20. Reserve Champion = £10 The O'Neill Supplies Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class

Dexters

Kindly sponsored by The Mill Veterinary Clinic and McCurdy Fuels

See also classes 1 and 2 - Junior & Open Pair of Beef Animals

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Andrew Ewing (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
61	Bull born on or before 31st December 2023	
62	Bull born on or after 1st January 2024 but on or before 31st December 2025	
63	Cow or heifer born on or before 31st December 2023	
64	Heifer born in 2024	
65	Heifer born in 2025	
66	Calf born in 2026	
67	Pair of Animals	Bonafide the property of one exhibitor and entered in the above classes for which they are eligible
68	Young Handlers - age 7 - 14 years	entries will be taken on the day and will not be catalogued
69	Young Handlers - 15 - 21 years of age	entries will be taken on the day and will not be catalogued
70	Champion Dexter	No entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners from classes 61 - 66 are eligible Prize money champion £20 and reserve champion £10 The Montgomery's Food Hall Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class

Irish Moile

Kindly sponsored by Ravelglen Furniture and TJ Hamill Recycling

See also classes 1 and 2 - Junior & Open Pair of Beef Animals

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Andrew Ewing (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
71	Senior bull born before 1st January 2024	
72	Senior cow born before 1st January 2024	
73	Intermediate bull born in 2024 - 2 years old	
74	Intermediate heifer born in 2024 - 2 years old	
75	Junior bull born after 1st January 2025	
76	Junior heifer born after 1st January 2025	
77	Irish Moile Junior Champion	No entry required chosen from 1st place winners in classes 75 and 76
78	Irish Moile Overall Champion	No entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 71 - 74 qualify for this class Champion £60 Reserve champion £40 2nd Reserve champion £20

Any Other Native and Traditional Beef Breeds

Includes Herefords and Aberdeen Angus. Also rare or re-established breeds that do not have their own section at Ballymena Show
see also classes 1 and 2 - junior beef and open pair

The Templeton Trophy will be awarded to the best Aberdeen Angus exhibit

The Hereford Trophy will be awarded to the best Irish Bred Hereford exhibit

The Newsletter Trophy will be awarded to the best Hereford exhibit

Aughnakealie Trophy will be awarded the the best native and traditional breed exhibit in the show

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Gareth Henderson (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
79	Cow or heifer, in calf or milk, born before 31st December 2023	
80	Senior Heifer, born between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024	
81	Heifer, born between 1st January 2025 and 31st August 2025	
82	Senior Bull, born before 31st December 2024	
83	Junior Bull, born between 1st January 2025 and 31st August 2025	
84	Bull or heifer calf, born on or after 1st September 2025	
85	Champion Any Other Native and Traditional Beef Breed	Kindly sponsored by John Thompson & Sons Ltd Prize money Champion - £20, reserve champion - £10 No entry required - 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 79 - 84 will qualify for this class

Dairy Sections

All rosettes must be removed before entering judging rings

Ayrshires, Holsteins and Coloured Dairy

Production and Inspection Classes (88,98 and 106) Points Allocation

a) milk - 1 point for each 100kg

b) fat protein - 1 point for each 10kg

c) maximum of 100 points for general conformation. An addition not exceeding 15% of the award under a) may be made when the lactation is that of a heifer, and commenced before she reached three years of age

Official Production Certificate of last lactation must be included with the entry form or emailed to secretary@ballymenashow.co.uk

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Colin Laird (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
86	Junior dairy class	This class must be entered. All dairy animals born on or after 1st March 2024 who have been entered in their appropriate section may enter this class Prize money kindly sponsored by HA McIlrath & Son 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10 The Junior Dairy Shield will be awarded to the winner of this class
87	Group of Three Pedigree Dairy Animals	from the same exhibitor, in calf or in milk This class must be entered. All exhibits must be drawn from one breed and entered in their respective breed classes Prize money kindly sponsored by Greenhill Systems 1st £100, 2nd £70, 3rd £30 The Robert King and The McLarnon Feeds Trophies will be awarded to the winner of this class
88	Pair of Pedigree Dairy Animals	from the same exhibitor and entered in their respective breed classes This class must be entered. Prize money kindly sponsored by United Feeds 1st £70, 2nd £30, 3rd £20 The best pair of Pedigree Dairy animals will be awarded the United Feeds Trophy
89	Interbreed Dairy Heifer	in milk, must be calved before 3 years of age This class must be entered. Prize money kindly sponsored by Fane Valley Feeds 1st £100, 2nd £60, 3rd £40, 4th £20
SP 6	THOMPSONS/NISA DAIRY COW CHAMPIONSHIP 2026 (pedigree or non pedigree)	To include "Junior Champion and Reserve Junior Champion" Thompson's / NISA Dairy Cow Championship is being held this year at Antrim Show on Saturday 25th July 2026. All exhibitors wishing to qualify for the Final must enter the name of their animal(s) and exhibitor details in their respective classes, at the qualifying show. The Dairy Interbreed Champion and Reserve Champion at Ballymena Show are eligible to go forward to the Thompson's Dairy Cow Final, however, if they do not wish to take up their place at the Final, this will go to the next highest place cow in the Interbreed Championship. Three animals per Show will qualify for the Final to include a maximum of 2 adult cows in milk (lactation 2+) and one heifer-in-milk cow (lactation 1). To maximise attendance of qualified exhibits at the Championship Final, those who qualify must confirm their intention to be present at Antrim Show on 25th July 2026 for the Championship final. In the event of qualified exhibitors not wishing to attend the Final, the next placed animal will qualify. An exhibitor can qualify a maximum of four exhibits for the Championship Final. An exhibit can only bring their first 4 cattle qualified forward to the final, no substitutions are permitted. After winning a qualifying place at a Show, the exhibitor must accept or decline their qualifying place so that the qualifying place can be awarded down the line if necessary. THOMPSON'S will present special rosettes to the exhibitors of qualified animals at each qualifying Shows. Each animal forward at the Championship Final, will receive a Thompson's £50 Feed Voucher. Animals placed 1st to 6th in the Championship will receive Prize Money as follows: Champion £500 Junior Champion £300 Reserve Champion £300 Reserve Champion £150 3rd Place £200 4th Place £150 5th Place £100 6th Place £50 In addition, £100 plus sash will be awarded to the highest placed Exhibitor-bred animal at the Championship (born on farm, not purchased embryo), and the exhibit with the Best Udder will also receive £100 plus sash. The Junior Champion will receive a sash and rosette, and the Reserve Junior Champion a rosette. The THOMPSON'S Perpetual Shield will be presented to the Champion. The Qualifying Shows for the Thompson's Dairy Cow Championship are: Ballymena, Ballymoney, Lurgan, Armagh, Saintfield, Newry, Omagh, Castlewellan, Limavady and Antrim.

Overall Dairy Championship

no entry required

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Colin Laird (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
90	Overall Dairy Championship	No entry required Exhibits confined to Champion and Reserve Champion of each of the dairy sections Prize money kindly sponsored by Moore Animal Feeds Champion £120, Reserve Champion £80, 2nd Reserve £60, 3rd Reserve £40 Overall dairy champion will be awarded the Dale Farm Trophy and The Fourtowns Trophy ----- The best udder in show will be awarded £100 semen voucher sponsored by World Wide Sires. No entry required Selected from best udder in each dairy section

Dairy Young Handlers - ENTER ON SHOW DAY

Kindly sponsored by Masons Animal Feeds, Lakeland Dairies & John Thompson & Sons Ltd

Prize money = 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10, 4th £5, 5th £5, 6th £5, 7th £5, 8th £5, 9th £5.

Entry free - Entry forms to be completed and signed on show day but will not be catalogued

To be judged at the cattle rings at 10am

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Colin Laird (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
91	Dairy Young Handlers	open to children 7 - 14 years of age on 1st May in current year Prize money, kindly sponsored by Lakeland Dairies - 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10, 4th £5, 5th £5, 6th £5, 7th £5, 8th £5, 9th £5 Exhibitor must be capable of handling animal being shown
92	Dairy Young Handlers	Open to teenagers 15 - 21 years of age on 1st May in current year Prize money, kindly sponsored by Lakeland Dairies - 1st £20, 2nd £15, 3rd £10, 4th £5, 5th £5, 6th £5, 7th £5, 8th £5, 9th £5 Exhibitor must be capable of handling animal being shown
93	Best Dairy Young Handler	No entry required First prize winners from classes 91 and 92 qualify for this class Prize money kindly sponsored by Lakeland Dairies - 1st £30, 2nd £20 The WD Perry Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class
SP10	BANK OF IRELAND/NISA Dairy Young Handler Championship 2026	<p>Dairy Young Handler – age 7 – 14 Dairy Young Handler – age 15 – 21 Age as of 1st May in current year. Animals to be 12 months or under on 1st May, in current year.</p> <p>The Bank of Ireland / NISA Dairy Young Handler Championship is being held this year at Clogher Valley Show on Wednesday 29th July 2026. All exhibitors wishing to qualify for this Championship must enter the name of their animal(s) and exhibitor details, at the qualifying show. It is important that the date of birth, contact details (phone number and/or email address), and parent/guardian details, where these differ from the exhibitor details are all available.</p> <p>The Qualified exhibitors will be the top three Young Handlers in each age section of the Bank of Ireland / NISA qualifying class at each qualifying show.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians are requested to ensure that exhibitors are competent and capable of handling the animal. One adult is welcome to enter the ring to ensure safety. In these classes the appearance and skill of the exhibitor will be considered.</p> <p>Rosettes will be awarded to each qualified Young Handler. Championship & Reserve Championship rosettes will be awarded at the Final.</p> <p>Prize Money at the final: 1st £100 2nd £75 3rd £50</p> <p>£15 will be paid to all other competitors who have qualified and attend the Final, kindly sponsored by Bank of Ireland.</p> <p>The Qualifying Show are Ballymena, Ballymoney, Lurgan, Armagh, Saintfield, Newry, Omagh, Castlewellan, Limavady, Antrim and Clogher Valley. Ballymena Show requires all exhibitors intending to put forward an animal for use in the Young Handler section to already have the animal entered in a previous class at the Show.</p>

Ayrshires

Kindly sponsored by Dairy Herd Management and Kersia

The Ulster Ayrshire Cattle Club donate £50 to the prize fund for this section

Ayrshires: Animals entered must be registered in the appendices or fully pedigree section of the Ayrshire Herd Book, Ayrshire Hybrid or Red and White Sections of the Ayrshire Society Herd Book and be at least one half Ayrshire. If black and white in colour, animals must be registered in the Herd Books Full Pedigree Ayrshire Section.

See also classes 86,87,88 (Junior, Group & Pair of Dairy Animals)

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

John Liggett (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
94	Heifer born on or after 1st September 2025	
95	Heifer born between 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025	
96	Heifer in calf, with first calf born between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024	
97	Cow in calf but not in milk	
98	Heifer in milk under 3 years of age at date of calving	
99	Cow in milk in second lactation	
100	Cow in milk in third or later lactation	
101	Production and Inspection Class, Cow or Heifer in Calf or Milk, Any Age	Cows in this class will be judged not only on appearance but also on their last qualifying milk and butter-fat yields. Note:- Official Production Certificate of Last Lactation MUST be included with entry or emailed to secretary@ballymenashow.co.uk
102	Pair of animals	Bonafide the property of one exhibitor and entered in the above classes for which they are eligible Prize money 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10 The Robert Kerr Trophy will be awarded to the winner of this class
103	Champion Ayrshire	No entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners in classes 94 - 101 qualify for this class Champion and Reserve Champion Ayrshire will receive rosettes and prize money, kindly sponsored by AHV UK and Ireland of 1st £30, 2nd £20 The best udder in the Ayrshire Section will be awarded a £50 semen voucher, sponsored by World Wide Sires The Bibby and The Francis Graham Trophies will be awarded to the winner of this class

Holsteins

Kindly sponsored by Kersia, Dairy Herd Management and A Kennedy Plant & Fencing

All exhibitors should wear the breeds show outfit whilst in the judging ring. All entries to be entered in the Holstein UK Herd Book proper or in classes B or C of the Supplementary Register. All classes are open to both black and white and red and white registered animals.

Holstein NI provide an award to the exhibitor of the Champion Holstein presented at their AGM. Points are also allocated to exhibitors towards the Bibby Salver trophy.

See also classes 86,87,88 (Junior, Group & Pair of Dairy Animals)

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Roy Cromie (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
104	Heifer born on or after 1st September 2025	
105	Heifer born between 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025	
106	Heifer in calf, with first calf born between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024	
107	Cow in calf but not in milk	
108	Heifer in milk under 3 years of age at date of calving	
109	Cow in milk in second lactation	
110	Cow in milk in third or later lactation	
111	Production and Inspection Class, Cow in Calf or Milk, Any Age	confined to cows which have been recorded under an Official Recording Scheme. Cows in this class will be judged not only on appearance but also on their last qualifying milk and butter fat yields Note:- Official Production Certificate of Last Lactation must be presented on the day Prize money 1st £ 30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10 The cow awarded the most points in this class will be awarded the Hugh A Clarke trophy
112	Pair of Animals	bonafide the property of one exhibitor and entered in the above classes for which they are eligible Prize money 1st £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10
113	Champion Holstein	No entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners in classes 104 - 111 qualify for this class Holstein Ni present an award to the Champion Prize money kindly sponsored by AHV UK & Ireland - Champion £30 Reserve Champion £20 The best udder in the Holstein Section will be awarded a £50 semen voucher, sponsored by World Wide Sires The Champion Holstein will be presented with the Hinds Trophy The best Holstein cow in the show will be awarded the Co-Operative Trophy The Juniot Holstein Champion will be awarded the AI services trophy
SP 9	Holstein UK Rosettes	Holstein Uk offers rosettes to the Champion, Reserve Champion, Best Exhibitor Bred, Junior Champion and Best Udder in Show

Coloured Dairy including Jersey and Dairy Shorthorn

Kindly sponsored by Kersia

All exhibits must be pedigree and entered in the relevant societys Herd Book.

Exact age, colour markings and full pedigree must be given.

See also classes 86,87,88 (Junior, Group & Pair of Dairy Animals)

The Thompson Trophy will be awarded to the best pedigree Jersey exhibit

Ring: cattle ring

Judges

Izzy Laird (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
114	Heifer born on or after 1st September 2025	
115	Heifer born between 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025	
116	Heifer in calf, with first calf born between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024	
117	Heifer in milk under 3 years of age at date of calving	
118	Cow in milk	
119	Production and Inspection Class, Cow in Calf or Milk, Any Age	confined to cows which have been recorded under an Official Recording Scheme Cows in this class will be judged not only on appearance but also on their last qualifying milk and butter- fat yields Note:- Official Production Certificate of Last Lactation MUST be presented on the day of show Prize money 1st £30, 2nd £20
120	Pair of Animals(same breed)	the property of one exhibitor and entered in the above classes for which they are eligible Prize money £30, 2nd £20, 3rd £10
121	Champion Coloured Dairy Breed	NO entry required 1st and 2nd prize winners of classes 114 - 119 qualify for this class Prize money - Champion - £20, Reserve Champion £10 The best udder in the Coloured Section will be awarded a £50 semen voucher, sponsored by World Wide Sires