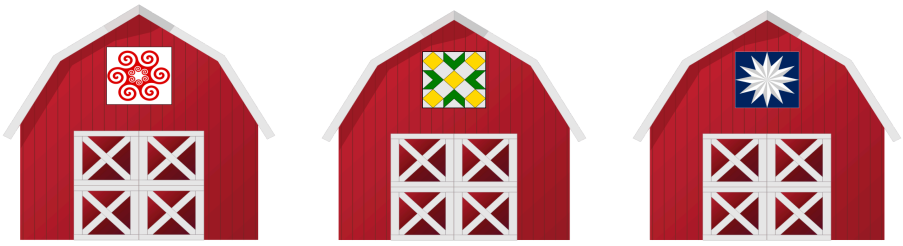
BARN QUILT DECORATING CONTEST



4-H Club / YLPA Club / FFA Chapter Group Project

Decorating Theme: “Here We Grow!

Plywood Size 4’ X 4’

No Entry Fee

Register by October 1st, 2026

Questions? livestock@jacksonvillefair.com

Club/Chapter Awards:

1st Place - $250
2nd Place - $150
3rd Place - $ 100

The Greater Jacksonville Fair is looking for 4-H and YLPA Clubs and FFA Chapters to create beautiful barn quilts to display at the 2026 fair. Barn quilts have been a part of the rural heritage for years and we are hoping to continue that tradition by making them a part of the fair.

Contest Rules:

1. 4-H and YLPA Clubs and FFA chapters must turn in a registration form to the Fair Office by email by October 1st, 2026. Participation will be limited to the first 10 Clubs/Chapters registered. The Greater Jacksonville Fair will notify you by October 5th, 2026 if your entry has been accepted.
2. All entries must submit a color version sketch/diagram of their barn quilt. All sketches/diagrams must be in square format and not exceed 8” x 8” in size. This can be designed on a computer or hand drawn on paper. All entries designed on the computer must be uploaded when emailing an application.
3. The pattern design is up to you but should reflect the quilting traditions and appearance. All entries must promote the Jacksonville Fair theme *“Here We Grow!”*. The

sketch/diagram must clearly outline the decoration of the barn quilt. There is no sewing required for this contest.

4. Barn quilts are painted or stained. Mosaics can be added that are made of wood or tile to create the barn quilt. Barn Quilt styles: Geometric Quilt Patterns: Typical of those found in sewn quilts, Freeform Quilt Patterns: Designs that utilize geometric shapes that don't necessarily radiate out from the center of the square, Mosaic Style Quilt Patterns: Made from individual pieces of wood or tiles. Wood can be stained or painted.
5. Entries will be judged on eye appeal, color combination, line definition, neatness, creativity, and the fair theme. The pattern design is up to you, but it should reflect the quilting traditions and appearance. The quilts should be decorated with a good, clean, wholesome nature. No vulgar or suggestive decorations will be allowed. NO Commercial or Political signs of ANY KIND are allowed.
6. The plywood for each barn quilt must measure 4' X 4'. The club/chapter must provide **one** sheet of plywood at the measurements listed above to design. The Jacksonville Fair will provide a stipend of $20.00 to help with the cost of the plywood and supplies.
7. Please bring your quilt and check-in at the Livestock Office. You can deliver the barn quilts on Monday, November 2nd or Tuesday, November 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
8. Entries will be judged on Thursday, November 5th, 2026. Winners will be announced during the Hamburger Bash, which takes place on Saturday, November 7th, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Tent.
9. It is the responsibility of each Club/Chapter to pick up their barn quilt after the fair on Monday, November 16th, 2026, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Barn quilts not removed by 5:00 p.m. will be property of the Jacksonville Fair Association. The Fair Association is not responsible for any barn quilts after Monday, November 16th, 2026.
10. All members of the participating Clubs/Chapters MUST be youth members of the Clubs/Chapters. Adults should not be doing the work for the youth, only assisting as needed.
11. The back of all barn quilts must be labeled with the Club/Chapter name.

E-mail your entries to: livestock@jacksonvillefair.com

NO FAXED ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

It is your responsibility to make sure your entry form was received.

2026 Barn Quilt Contest Registration –

E-mail your form and a sketch of your design using the info below:

Club / Chapter Name:

_____

Address:

_____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Leader / Advisor Contact Name: _____

Contact Person's Phone (not a school number): _____

Contact Person's E-mail: _____

Date of when you plan to deliver your quilt:

Monday, November 2, 2026 OR Tuesday, November 3, 2026

_____

Estimated time drop off (quilts accepted 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.):

_____

Sketch:

EXAMPLES AND HISTORY OF BARN QUILTS

History of barn quilts: “A barn quilt is basically a large piece of wood that is painted to look like a large quilt block. We have a long history in our country of hanging barn quilts outside our homes and barns. They were thought to bring good luck and prosperity. Some 200 years ago when there wasn't enough paint to paint an entire barn, women would take a pattern of a quilt block that grandma had made and would paint a barn quilt to hang on their barns. It was a way to decorate their farms and also was a source of family pride.” -TweetleDee Design Company (https://www.tweetledeedesignco.com/2015/05/how-to-make-barn-quilt.html

Barn quilts, which are essentially quilt patterns painted on large wooden panels and displayed on barns or other buildings, represent a form of folk art that celebrates rural communities, quilting traditions, and local history. They can serve as a visual representation of family heritage, promote tourism, and tell stories about the past.

Barn Quilts, large painted quilt patterns displayed on barns and other buildings, have a history stretching back nearly 300 years to central European immigrants from Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands who brought the tradition to America, particularly to Pennsylvania. It then spread to much of the New England and Midwestern states. Originally, these painted quilt squares served as both decoration and a way for travelers to identify specific families or landmarks. The practice gained widespread popularity in the early 2000s.