



AUGUST 20, 2026

8:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

LAKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS

SUMMER FIELD DAY

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PROGRAM

8:00 A.M.

Summer Field Day Opens

Welcome to the county fair! After you pick up your name tag and swag, visit the exhibitors, check out the cool cars and prepare for a day of fun!

8:30 - 8:50 A.M.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Return to your Roots: Natives vs. Cultivars Location: Main Stage

Meghan Kohlmann and Mandy Leifheit, Midwest Groundcovers

9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

Tour of Prairie Crossing

Location: Meet at Lester's patio. Buses begin loading at 8:50 a.m.

Attendees are invited to take a short tour of Prairie Crossing, a nationally recognized conservation community located nearby. The tour will highlight the sustainable and ecological landscaping practices that guide Prairie Crossing residences, including native landscaping, biodiversity, stormwater management, and the community's broader commitment to preserving open space. Prairie Crossing was developed with more than 60% of its site preserved as open space, making it a unique nearby example of conservation-based community design.

9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

Container Wars - Finished Containers Location: Dining Tent B

Landscape designers will showcase their stunning, finished containers inspired by this year's County Fair theme. Each participant will share the story behind their creation, design intent and plant selection.

9:15 - 9:35 A.M.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Skynet has Become Self-Aware: AI is a Threat vs. AI is a Tool Location: Main Stage

John Joestgen, JJ Landscape Consulting; Tom Fritts, Author of AI for Business Owners

10:00 A.M.

Gnome Hunt Begins!

Gnomes are hiding among the exhibit booths. Find one and turn it in at the Registration Tent for a prize.

10:00 - 10:20 A.M.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Out of Gas: Gas vs. Electric Equipment Location: Main Stage

Andrew Guetler, STIHL; Tim Callahan, Greenworks North America

10:15 - 11:00 A.M.

The Hidden ROI of Snow Equipment Location: Dining Tent B *Dale Oberg, SnowWolf*

Wing plows vs. pushers, cutting-edge choices, salt use, downtime, replacement costs and long-term equipment value.

10:30 - 10:50 A.M.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: No Takebacks: Plant Warranties vs. No Warranties Location: Main Stage

Meagan Provencher, Wasco Nursery; Tom Lupfer, Lupfer Landscaping

10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Young Professionals Meetup Location: Meet at the Puppy Park

A great opportunity to meet members of the Young Professionals Committee and other young pros in the industry.

Puppy Park Hosted By:





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11:00 A.M.

Lunch Is Served! Beer Tent is Open!

Get your lunch ticket and join us for a picnic featuring hamburgers and hot dogs. Sponsored by:



Visit The Tree Connection in booth 317 for an ice cold beer!



11:30 A.M.

Kona Ice Truck Arrives!

Cool off after lunch with a sweet treat from the Kona Ice Truck. Located in booth 326!

12:00 - 12:45 P.M.

Salt Smart, Save More

Hanna Miller, The Conservation Foundation

Location: Dining Tent B

Use Salt Smart practices to improve winter safety, protect landscaping, reduce facility damage and save on salt.

12:10 - 12:30 P.M.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Old Roots vs. New Shoots: Old School and New School Work Ethics Location: Main Stage

Stephanie Serbedzija, Alan Horticulture; Ryan Heitman, Fisher Burton Company

12:30 - 12:50 P.M.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Let it Snow vs. Heck No: Snow Control vs. Time Off Location: Main Stage

Tyler Doering, Doering Landscape; Petros Kaimakis, JM Irrigation

12:30 - 1:30 P.M.

Tour of Prairie Crossing

A second opportunity to tour Prairie Crossing and its conservation-based landscape practices. Buses begin loading at 12:20 p.m.

12:30 - 1:30 P.M.

Container Wars - Live Showdown Location: Dining Tent B

Participants create a container on-site using a pre-selected assortment of plant material. Creativity, speed and design skills are put to the test.

1:00 - 1:15 P.M.

Landscape Illinois Snow Salary Survey Results

A short look at wage and compensation trends across the snow industry in Illinois.



Stop by the Car Show!
8:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.



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1:30 P.M.

Pie Eating Contest

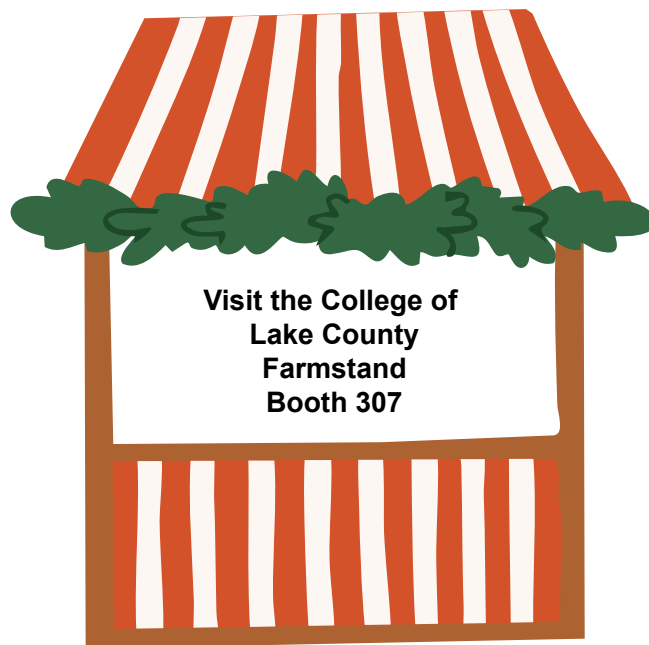
Sponsored by Hustler

Landscape Illinois committees - including the Board of Directors - go head-to-head in a winner-takes-all pie eating contest.

2:30 P.M.

Show Closes

Thanks for spending a day at the County Fair with the Landscape Illinois community!



Thank You Sponsors!

Premier Landscape Sponsor



Premier Snow Sponsor



Lanyards, Pie Eating Contest & Hay Bales



Beer Garden



Sunglasses



Fans



Car Show & Beverages



Drawstring Bags



Lunch



Raffles





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Exhibitor List and Booth Numbers

Please Note: Due to site conditions, some booths may have moved.

A Block Mulch & Marketing	213
Advanced Turf Solutions	1193
AHW LLC	309
Alta Equipment Company	329
Altorfer Cat	324
Arlington Power Equipment	227
Atlas Bobcat	104
Bad Boy Mowers	125
Blu Petroleum	501
Bobyard Inc	504
Casey Equipment Co., Inc.	208
Cherokee Manufacturing	507
Clesen Wholesale	218
Clesens	335
Conserv FS, Inc	1492
Dayton Bag & Burlap	316
ECHO Inc.	225
Envu Ornamentals	1292
Fox Ridge Nursery	206
Goodmark Nurseries	216
Greenworks Commercial	200
Halloran Mowerworks	311
Harrell's	1490
Home Nursery, Inc.	211
Homer Industries	219
Illinois Arborist Association	1294
Johnson's Nursery	118
Kankakee Nursery Co	312
Kaplan Liquid Solutions	121
Keen Edge Company	325
Knapheide Truck Equipment	120
Kramer Tree Specialists	310
Lurvey	101
McCann Industries	315
McCullough Kubota	201

McGinty Bros., Inc. Lawn & Tree Care	1391
Midwest Groundcovers	110
Midwest Salt	105
Midwest Trading	112
Monroe Truck Equipment	109
Mutual Rentals	327
North Star JCB	220
Oscar-Wilson Engines and Parts	318
Peerless Fence Enterprises	502
Perfect Turf, LLC	119
Poul's Nursery	304
Purple Wave Auction	506
Regional Truck Equipment	226
Reinders, Inc	228
Revels Turf & Tractor	333
Russo Power Equipment	321
SFI Topsoil	116
SiteOne Landscape Supply	108
STIHL	210
TCB Equipment Leasing	204
Ted's Greenhouse	223
The Conservation Foundation	505
The Davey Tree Expert Company	503
The Pizzo Group	217
The Tree Connection	317
Tru-Scapes	1195
Turfware Inc.	103
Turtle Creek Nursery	205
Twixwood Nursery	124
V & J Landscaping and Power Equipment	322
Vermeer Midwest	129
Voss Equipment, Inc	224
Weather Command	1393
Weber MT, Inc	500
Wilson Nurseries & Landscape Supply	117