Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

FARM OF THE FUTURE COMPETITION SCHEDULE



RNA | THE ROYAL NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

Welcome from the President



The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) presented by the Bank of Queensland (BOQ) continues its proud tradition of recognising excellence and achievement through its 2027 competition program.

Since the first Ekka in 1876, competitions have been at the heart of the Show, providing generations of Queenslanders with the opportunity to showcase their skills, passion and dedication.

In 2026, almost 23,000 entries were received across 59 competitions, supported by a $759,000 prize pool. More than 5,000 exhibitors took part, contributing to the strongest entry numbers in more than five years as the Ekka celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Driven by strong demand in this milestone year, many sections reached entry capacity, including Led Steer, which recorded a record number of cattle. Several Arts and Cookery sections also achieved their highest participation in a decade.

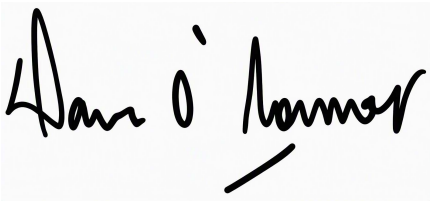
The 2026 Ekka welcomed more than 423,000 people through the gates, with the past two shows attracting the largest crowds in almost 20 years.

In 2027, the Ekka will run for nine days from Saturday 7 to Sunday 15 August, across two weekends.

For more than 150 years, the Ekka has remained committed to championing agriculture and showcasing the best of Queensland, including though our diverse competition program.

As the new RNA President, I look forward to building on this proud legacy and continuing to champion the people, industries and communities that make Queensland so special.

Best of luck with your entries. We look forward to celebrating your achievements at the 2027 Royal Queensland Show.



Dan O'Connor OAM
RNA President

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST – SUNDAY 15 AUGUST

FARM OF THE FUTURE

Councillor – Education Chairman
Caitlin Crothers

ENTRY FEE	$26.50 per group (Four (4) students per group)
COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY	Students in Years 8-10 may form groups of up to four and submit one entry per group. A total of 10 groups will be selected as finalists.
COMPETITION OPENS	Tuesday 27 January 2027
SUBMISSION DUE DATE	3:00 PM Friday 12 March 2027
FINALISTS ANNOUNCED	Friday 2 April 2027
PROJECT START	Term 2
DIARAMAS DELIVERED BY	Wednesday 4 August 2027
PITCH & INNOVATION SHOWCASE	8:30 – 11:00 AM Tuesday 10 August 2027
WINNERS ANNOUNCED	Tuesday 10 August 2027
	Working prototypes to be displayed at this year's Ekka (Saturday 7 – Sunday 15 August) in the Ag Education Hall.

ALL STEM INNOVATION KITS & MYSTERY BOXES REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE RNA & ENTRANTS AGREE TO RETURN PROPERTY
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR OF THE FARM OF THE FUTURE COMPETITION, PLEASE CONTACT THE SPONSORSHIP TEAM | E: SPONSORSHIP@EKKA.COM.AU | T: 07 3253 3928

FARM OF THE FUTURE COMPETITION

The Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) and *STEMPunks Education* are proud to present the 'Farm of the Future - AgTech Innovation Challenge', a state-wide STEM education and innovation program that empowers Queensland students to design real-world agricultural solutions.

This initiative brings together schools, industry, and the agricultural sector to address real challenges facing farmers and producers such as crop health, water efficiency, pest/disease detection, sustainability, and farm automation.

The Farm of the Future program is an 8-week innovation challenge delivered across Queensland schools, culminating in a live Innovation Sports Showcase at the Ekka (Tuesday 10 August 2027).

All STEM Innovation kits & Mystery Boxes Kits remain the property of the RNA and working protypes will be returned to the Brisbane Showgrounds to be displayed at Ekka 2027.

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

First Round
Applications are open to groups of four students from Years 8–10.

Second Round
The 10 selected teams will participate in an 8-week program (delivered across Term 2 & 3), divided into four phases:

Phase 1: Foundations of Future Farming
Kick-off webinar, introduction to future farming and AgTech, and challenge reveal.

Phase 2: Capability Building
Teacher PD and student skill development through coding, sensors, data, and prototyping, supported by Innovation Learning Guides.

Phase 3: Prototype Design & Build
Teams create working prototypes using STEM kits and Mystery Boxes, with online mentoring and troubleshooting.

Phase 4: Pitch & Showcase at Ekka
Live student pitches, digital twin presentation, and judging by an industry panel.

Awards
First: Trophy, Sash & four JB Hi-Fi vouchers supplied by *STEMPunks Education*.
Second: Trophy, & Sash.
Third: Trophy & Sash.

FARM OF THE FUTURE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. A $26.50 entry fee applies per group.
   Multiple groups from the same school may enter.

2. Competition entrants must submit their details through the Ekka Exhibitor Portal.

3. Participating groups' selection is at the discretion of the Ekka Education Committee and *STEMPunks* as the project facilitator.

4. Participating groups must complete the Farm of the Future project in accordance with the guidance provided by STEMPunks. This includes, but is not limited to:
   i. A diorama with a maximum footprint of 600mm x 600mm.
   ii. A mandatory project poster to support the student presentation and assist the judging process.
   iii. A Digital Twin designed using Tinkercad.
   iv. A two-minute presentation video showcasing the project, design process, and outcomes.

5. Diorama's must be delivered to the Loading Dock, Royal International Convention Centre, 600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills, QLD 4006 unless other arrangements are made. Please ensure the package label clearly includes the school's name, class, and student's name. All dioramas must be returned by Wednesday, 4 August 2027.

6. Working diorama's to be displayed at the Royal Queensland Show 7 - 15 August 2026. Winning groups will be awarded at the Pitch & Innovation Sports Showcase at Ekka (Tuesday 10 August).

7. Winners' names will be listed on the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) website www.ekka.com.au.

8. Exhibitor passes for the in-person Pitch & Showcase (Tuesday 10 August) at Ekka will be issued as follows:

   Exhibitor passes will be allocated based on the number of group members (up to a maximum of four), plus one pass for their educator. Passes will be emailed to exhibitors during the month prior to Ekka, using the email address provided.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judging criteria will be based on:

Weighting (out of 20)	Criteria & Description
5	VIABLE SOLUTION Team matched their design to as close to a real-world solution as possible and made it simple for judges to understand.
5	TEAM RESILIENCE Your Club's team has displayed teamwork and resilience throughout the whole process

5	CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING Build shows creativity and innovative thinking as well as analysis of Kick-off card
5	TECHNICAL Build shows technical ability with the build tool.

Full judging criteria will be provided by STEMPunks. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact hello@stempunks.com.au

Judge's decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into by the judging panel.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

The attention of Exhibitors is drawn to the fact that all entries that are accepted will be subject to the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Act 1971, as well as to the By-Laws, General Regulations of the Association and any Competition Specific Regulations which appear in this schedule.

Judging will be performed by a panel of Judges appointed by the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland.

No refunds will be made after close of entry. No refunds will be given for entries not presented or not adhering to the schedule regulations.

NOTICE TO INTENDING EXHIBITORS

Entries for the Royal Queensland Show can ONLY be made online through our Exhibitor Portal. Entries submitted other than on the online portal will be returned to the Exhibitor and, unless all requirements are submitted online by 5.00pm on the Application to Enter closing date, as shown in the Schedule, they will not be considered.

As a condition for acceptance of all entries, all exhibitors/ competitors agree to the following:

- All information submitted as part of my exhibitor profile is true and correct, including taxation status and bank account information.
- Neither myself nor my family members will indulge in any social, professional or other interaction with an official or judge contracted or sub- contracted by the RNA before or during the Royal Queensland Show.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

You can be assured that the privacy of your personal information is of the utmost importance to us. The information provided by you in any application for membership or application to enter is used by the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) to offer member services or to organize and conduct competitions at the Royal Queensland Show. By applying for membership or entering such competitions you consent to provide such details as your name, address and exhibit details. Competition information may be made available to the media and included in RNA publications.

The exhibitor irrevocably consents to the RNA publishing or reproducing in any manner whatsoever any particulars or information in relation to their exhibits; the publication or reproduction may be in a printed form or visual image through electronic means and/or on the internet. Your information will not be disclosed without your consent for any other purpose unless required by the law. By providing your email address you are consenting to receive communications from us relating to the Royal Queensland Show. For full privacy details visit https://www.rna.org.au/privacy-policy.aspx

PRIZE MONEY

1. Prize Money stated in the Schedule excludes GST.
2. All Prizes and Prize Monies are SUBJECT TO CHANGE at the discretion of the Competition Committee
3. GST will be added to the Prize Money for Exhibitors who are registered for GST purposes.
4. Prize money will be paid into your nominated bank account by 31 October following the Show.
5. The Association will provide a "Recipient Created Tax Invoice" to Exhibitors who are registered for GST purposes
6. All cash prizes and trophies must be claimed within six months from the closing date of the Royal Queensland Show. Prizes not claimed and by that date will be considered to have lapsed, and the amount will become a donation to the Association. (RNA By-Laws)

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. The Brisbane Showgrounds are a designated Workplace within the meaning of the Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 and exhibitors/competitors are required to ensure that they and all persons under their direction or control, including their contractors or sub-contractors, comply with all requirements of the Act and the RNA holds each exhibitor responsible to discharge its obligations to provide and maintain a safe place and system of work during occupation by the exhibitor of any area of the Showgrounds.
2. Each exhibitor/competitor will assess the risk to themselves, staff, volunteers, family, other exhibitors, RNA staff, show visitors, children and any person foreseeably affected by the presentation of their exhibit.
3. Risks identified by exhibitors/competitors will be eliminated or controlled by the exhibitor/competitor and particular attention will be paid to ensuring public safety and safety of other exhibitors/competitors.
4. Exhibits will only be held and handled by competent persons whose experience is known to the exhibitor/competitor.
5. A "No Smoking Policy" will be strictly adhered to and policed by exhibitors/competitors and all are advised that the use of Primus stoves, any heating or lighting appliances of a like character, or any naked light, is strictly prohibited in the pavilions.
6. Any exhibitors/competitors intending to bring electrical equipment to the Showgrounds will be required to ensure that such equipment is fitted with residual current protection and that all electrical leads, tools and appliances have been inspected by a licensed electrical contractor and currently tagged. The use of double adaptors is prohibited, and all power boards must also be tested and tagged.
7. All exhibitors/competitors will comply with the requirements of the Act and its Regulations and Standards in every other respect. This is essential for the safety of all exhibitors/ competitors and the general public. The Act imposes very severe penalties in the event of noncompliance with its provisions. Anyone who do not comply will not be allowed to exhibit at the Royal Queensland Show.
8. The Brisbane Showgrounds is subject to a Special Facility License issued under the Liquor Act 1992 and strict laws related to the consumption and possession of liquor across the Brisbane Showgrounds site. The consumption or possession of liquor outside of the licensed bar areas is not authorized by the RNA and in many cases may be an offence for which on the spot fines can be issued by Police and Liquor Licensing Investigators.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

140. It there is any inconsistency between By-laws 141 - 162 and any other By-laws of the Association, By-laws 141 - 162 will prevail.
141. The functions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be to hear and determine all complaints, allegations and other matters relating to:
    a. prohibited substances, as defined in these By-laws or Sectional Regulations.
    b. any alleged breach of the Rules, By-Laws and Regulations of the Association by an exhibitor and relating to an exhibit or to a competition, except if the alleged breach is of a kind that the Chairman of a Sectional Committee considers is of a less serious nature and should properly be dealt with by the Sectional Committee, and
    c. any other alleged breach of the Rules, By-Laws and Regulations of the Association that may be referred to Disciplinary Committee pursuant to By-Law 145.

155. The Disciplinary Committee may announce its decision orally or in writing. A decision that is announced orally shall have effect in accordance with its terms.
156. If the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee is not unanimous, the decision of the majority shall prevail. If the Disciplinary Committee are equally divided on any question concerning the guilt or innocence of a person, the question shall be resolved in that person's favour.
157. If the Disciplinary Committee considers that there has been a breach of the rules, By-laws or regulations of the Association, it may impose such a penalty as it considers to be appropriate, including without limitation:

    a) a reprimand.
    b) a monetary fine (payable at such time/s as the Disciplinary Committee may determine)
    c) withdrawal or withholding of any award or ribbon.
    d) disqualification in respect of any class.
    e) expulsion from the Showground.
    f) where the person concerned is a member, a suspension or termination of that membership.
    g) a ban.
    h) exclusion.
    i) prohibiting a Person from exhibiting or competing at the current Show or at any future Show.
    j) a direction that an Exhibit be removed from the Showground.
    k) any other mandatory requirement; and
    l) any other penalty provided for in other regulations of the Association.

158. There shall be no appeal from any decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

INSURANCE

170. The RNA may (but is not obliged to) take out a policy of insurance in respect of the legal liability on the part of an Exhibitor for loss or damage suffered by a third party caused by any act or omission of an Exhibit or the Exhibitor.
171. The RNA, RNA Staff Members and Officials of the RNA are not liable to any Exhibitor if the RNA fails to take out a policy of insurance effectively protecting any Exhibitor or Exhibit, or if any such policy does not operate to indemnify the Exhibitor in respect of the loss or damage in question.

REGULATIONS & BY-LAWS

All Entries and Exhibitors are subject to RNA Regulations and By- Laws set out in this schedule as well as other By-Laws that may pertain to this competition.

The RNA always reserves the right at its absolute discretion without assigning any reason to:
a) substitute a Judge when necessary.
b) re-allocate Judging days for a particular breed.
c) if entries numbers require an extra Judge, appoint an additional Judge if necessary.

Full copies of the RNA By-Laws may be obtained upon application to the Competitions Department.

If you are unsure of any of the rules stated in this schedule or your eligibility to enter the competition, please contact the entries department at entries@royalqueenslandshow.com.au

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The RNA's ABN is 41 417 513 726

Ekka

ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

EDUCATION

