

BARN QUILT DECORATING CONTEST

Chairperson: Amy Higginbotham

Entry should be made as a 4-H / FFA / YLPA Group Project

Use your imagination! Be creative!

Theme: "79 Years of Southern Nights & Fairground Lights!"

NO FEE TO ENTER!

Plywood Size 4' X 4'

Enter by September 1, 2026

Club/Chapter Awards:

1st Place - \$100

2nd Place - \$75

3rd Place - \$ 50

Contest Rules:

1. 4-H / YLPA Clubs FFA chapters must enter by using the entry form attached by September 1st, 2026. Participation will be limited to the first 10 Clubs/Chapters registered. The Northeast Florida Fair will notify you by September 5th, 2026 if your entry has been accepted.
2. 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.
3. 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 completing the entry.
4. The pattern design is up to you but should reflect the quilting traditions and appearance. All entries must promote the fair theme "79 Years of Southern Nights & Fairground Lights!" The sketch/diagram must clearly outline the decoration of the barn quilt. There is no sewing required for this contest.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Please bring your quilt and check-in at the Livestock Office on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. No entries will be accepted after this time.
9. Entries will be judged on Thursday, October 8, 2026. Winners will be announced during the Parade of Champions, which takes place on Sunday, October 11, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Each quilt will also have a QR code for fair patrons to vote for the "People's Choice" Award.
10. The back of all barn quilts must be labeled with the Club/Chapter name.
11. The Northeast Florida Fair will host a silent auction throughout the fair. Each quilt will have a QR code for individuals to scan and bid. The quilt will go to the highest bidder as of 9:00 p.m., Saturday, October 17, 2026. The highest bidder will be notified by the chairperson. All quilts must be picked up and paid for on Sunday, October 18, 2026, 8:00-11:00 a.m. Barn quilts not removed by 11:00 a.m. will be property of the Northeast Florida Fair Association. The Fair Association is not responsible for any barn quilts after Monday, October 19, 2026. The funds raised will be sent to the clubs/chapters.

E-mail your entries to: livestock@neflfair.org

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:

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.