

GENERAL INFORMATION

Competition Objective

1. Identify ambassadors to promote the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and the Agricultural Show movement across New South Wales.

Entry

1. The Competition is open to those who are permanent residents of Australia.
2. Entrants must be women aged from 18 years to under 26 years as at 1 May in the year of the State Final.
3. Entrants must reside, be educated, or work within New South Wales for at least three months prior to their local Competition to qualify to compete within the State.
4. Only candidates nominated by an Agricultural Show Society are eligible for Zone and State Final judging.
5. Previous entrants in the competition are eligible to enter however they are not to have been one of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd placegetters in a previous State Final.
6. The following individuals are not eligible to enter the Competition:
 - a. Staff, Directors and Councillors of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS).
 - b. The daughters of the Staff, Directors and Councillors of the RAS.
 - c. Current Rural Achiever finalists for the 2026 Sydney Royal Easter Show.
7. Winning entrants who are employed or engaged in full time studies will be required to obtain a leave of absence to attend Zone and State Final Judging.
8. The winning finalist is requested, where possible, to represent the RAS, AgShows NSW and their local Show Society at Agricultural Shows.
9. The State Final Judging will take place in Sydney during the Sydney Royal Easter Show Thursday 31 March – Sunday 5 April 2026, with specific program dates to be advised. Finalists will be guests of the RAS whilst in Sydney but will be required to pay their own travelling expenses to and from Sydney.
10. The first and second placegetters of the State Final will be asked to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS until to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.
11. All entrants are to abide by the Code of Conduct, as set out by the RAS and AgShows NSW, when acting as an ambassador for RAS, AgShows NSW, or their local Show Society. Refer to page 48 of this document for the Code of Conduct.

Zone Finals

1. Zone Finals are conducted over six weeks. All Zone Final Presentations are to be held on a Saturday evening.
2. Show Societies wishing to be a Zone Host for the following year's competition should submit an "Application to Hold a Zone Final" form to AgShows NSW prior to the May/June AgShows NSW Meeting. Successful Zone Hosts will be notified in writing by AgShows NSW of the date of their Zone Final.
3. Zone Final Judging for 2026 will be conducted from the 24 January 2026 – 28 February 2026.
4. On *written confirmation only* from Zone Hosts to AgShows NSW of final entry numbers at Zone Finals, a subsidy of **\$80.00** including GST (if applicable) per entrant will be paid to Societies conducting a Zone Final. **\$400.00** per judge will be provided by AgShows NSW to the Zone Final Hosts to assist with judge's accommodation costs for a maximum of two nights.
5. Representation of a local finalist at a Zone Final will only be permitted when all three Forms A, B & C and a photograph have been received by the AgShows NSW Coordinator.
6. Only one (1) representative from each local competition will be eligible to attend their Zone Final as a Finalist irrespective of the number of local entrants the local Competition attracted. If the winner is unavailable, then the 2nd Placegetter will attend the Zone Final as Zone Finalist for the local Show Society. If finalists from consecutive years are eligible for the Zone Final, the finalist from the earlier year is the eligible representative.
7. In the above case where the 2nd Placegetter attends the Zone Final, the original titleholder will retain all prizes, including title, unless there was a breach in the Conditions of Entry or Code of Conduct. In this case the matter is to be referred to the AgShows NSW Coordinator. A local sash must be made available for the 2nd Placegetter in this case.
8. The number of Zone Final representatives that can be chosen to attend the State Final in Sydney is dependent on the number of entrants a Zone has, and which is allocated as follows:

1 - 10 Zone Finalists	1 State Final Representative
11 – 17* Zone Finalists	2 State Final Representatives

**Zones 6 & 7 will have the opportunity to have 3 State Final Representatives if they receive more than 17 Zone Finalists.*

9. It is the responsibility of local Show Societies to pay the travelling and accommodation expenses (maximum of two nights) for their candidate to and from Zone Finals. It is the responsibility of the Zone Host to pay for the entrant's meal during the judging lunch and Zone Final Presentation.

State Finals

1. The State Final Judging will take place in Sydney during the Sydney Royal Easter Show Thursday 31 March – Sunday 5 April 2026, with specific program dates to be advised, with the judging concluding at the State Final Presentation. Finalists will be guests of the RAS whilst in Sydney but will be required to pay their own travelling expenses to and from Sydney.
1. Two placegetters will be announced on the day of the State Final Presentation: Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman (winner - 1st place) and First Runner Up (2nd place)
2. Further details regarding the itinerary of the finalists' stay in Sydney will be sent to all State Finalists by the RAS Coordinator once the Zone Coordinator advises the AgShows NSW Coordinator, in writing, of the winning finalists' name and contact details
3. Show Societies wishing to invite State Finalists or the Winners of the competition to their Shows should be prepared to pay for travelling costs and accommodation if warranted. The rate of travel can be obtained from AgShows NSW.
4. The winner of the State Final and first runner up will be required to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, unless granted an exemption by the RAS of NSW.

SYDNEY ROYAL AGSHOWS NSW YOUNG WOMAN

Zone Final Groupings

ZONE 1 (Groups 1 & 2)	ZONE 2 (Groups 4 & 5)	ZONE 3 (Groups 6 & 7)	ZONE 4 (Groups 13 & 14)	ZONE 5 (Groups 3 & 12)	ZONE 6 (Groups 10 & 11)	ZONE 7 (Groups 8 & 9)
Alstonville Bangalow Bellingen Bonalbo Camden Haven Casino Coffs Harbour Comboyne Gloucester Grafton Kempsey Kyogle Lismore Macksville Maclean Mullumbimby Murwillumbah Nabiac Nimbin Taree Wauchope Wingham Woodenbong	Albion Park Berry Blacktown Bowral Camden Castle Hill Dapto Hawkesbury Kangaroo Valley Kiama Luddenham Menangle Park Milton Minto Moss Vale Nowra Penrith Picton Robertson St Ives	Adelong Batlow Bega Bemboka Bombala Boorowa Braidwood Bungendore Canberra Candelo Cobargo Cooma Crookwell Dalgety Delegate Eurobodalla Goulburn Gundagai Gunning Jerrawa Nimmitabel Pambula Queanbeyan Tarago Taralga Tumbarumba Tumut Yass	Armidale Ashford Barraba Bingara Bundarra Brewarrina Dorriggo Glen Innes Gunnedah Guyra Inverell Manilla Moree Mungindi Narrabri Quirindi Tamworth Tenterfield Uralla Walcha Walgett Wyallda Wee Waa	Baradine Binnaway Bulahdelah Cessnock Coonabarabran Dunedoo Dungog Gosford Gresford Gulgong Lithgow Maitland Mendooran Merriwa Morisset Mudgee Muswellbrook Newcastle Oberon Rydal Rylstone-Kandos Singleton Stroud Wyong	Bathurst Bedgerabong Blayney Bourke Canowindra Carcoar Cobar Condobolin Coonamble Cowra Cudal Cumnock Dubbo Eugowra Forbes Gilgandra Grenfell Gulargambone Koorawatha Molong Morongla Murrumburrah Narromine Neville Nyngan Orange Parkes Peak Hill Sofala Tooraweenah Trundle Trunkey Creek Tullamore Warren Wellington Woodstock Yeoval Young	Albury Ardlethan Aria Park Barellan Barham Berrigan Bribbaree Cootamundra Corowa Culcairn Deniliquin Finley Ganmain Griffith Hay Henty Hillston Holbrook Illabo Junee Lake Cargelligo Leeton Lockhart Narrandera Silver City Temora The Rock Ungarie Wagga Wagga Wakool Walbundrie Weethalle Wentworth West Wyalong

ZONE FINAL DATES – 31 JANUARY TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026

ZONE 1 – KYOGLE Saturday 14 February

Contact: Ashleigh Dell

Address: 155 Lamberton Lane, Ettrick NSW 2474

Phone: 0497 861 605

Email: ashleigh@connecta.com.au

ZONE 2 – ALBION PARK Saturday 21 February

Contact: Diane McParland and Lexie Mayo

Address: 104 Factory Lane, Jamberoo NSW 2533

Phone: 0427 360 403

Email: sdmpc01@gmail.com

ZONE 3 – GUNNING Saturday 28th February

Contact: Kelly Dowling

Address: 388 Felled Timber Road, Dalton NSW 2581

Phone: 0448 274 366

Email: nedkellyphillip@gmail.com

ZONE 4 – WARIALDA Saturday 7 February

Contact: Nicole Butler and Laura Lockhart

Address: 352 Oakey Creek Road, Warialda Rail NSW 2402

Phone: 0427 846 866 (NB)

Email: nicolesimmons2529@gmail.com

ZONE 5 – MUDGEE Saturday 24 January

Contact: Peyton Ford and Ninoska Birchall

Address: 25B Dewhurst Drive, Mudgee NSW 2850

Phone: 0457 552 944 (PF)/0487 174 394 (NB)

Email: mudgeeshowyouth@gmail.com

ZONE 6 – EUGOWRA Saturday 28 February

Contact: Janet Moxey

Address: PO Box 9, Eugowra NSW 2806

Phone: 0418 962 008

Email: secretary@eugowrashow.com.au

ZONE 7 – GANMAIN Saturday 31 January

Contact: Kristie Smith

Address: 1242 Pamandi Road, Grong Grong NSW 2652

Phone: 0429 311 277

Email: bksmith698@gmail.com

HOW DOES IT ALL WORK

An Overview for New Coordinators

The following is a brief explanation on the running of Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition from Local Level to the State Final in Sydney. It is meant as a guide only for newcomers to the Competition and for those who are unsure of the Competition's structure.

1. The RAS and AgShows NSW Coordinator's will prepare after Sydney Royal each year, an updated copy of the Conditions & Guidelines and promotional poster, which can be downloaded from <https://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/competitions/youngwoman>
Promotional information can be displayed in shops and/or local newspapers etc. by the local Show Society. Young women enter the competition by contacting the Show Society or by nomination and must complete Form A "Conditions of Entry" and Form B "Entrant's Details" prior to entering. There is no entry fee for the competition and money does not need to be raised by the entrant.
2. The winning entrant of a local Show Society reigns for one year until the next Show and performs various tasks which could include opening the Show, public speaking throughout the year, presenting prizes for winners in agricultural events, assisting in organising the next year's Competition and encouraging entry by speaking with potential candidates.
3. On completion of a local Competition, each Show Society emails Forms A, B, C, and a digital photograph of the winning entrant to the AgShows NSW Coordinator and their Zone Final Coordinator.
For Zone Final photo guidelines go to https://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/files/Form_B_-_Photo_Guidelines.pdf
4. Following an entrant's success at their local Show, they then go on to a Zone Final. Each local Show Society is a member of one of fourteen groups who come under the umbrella of AgShows NSW. Two groups combine to form one of seven Zones that make up the NSW area. In January, February and March of each year, at Zone Finals the Zone judges select from all the local winners put forward by each of the individual Societies, a representative for the State Final. The number of representatives a Zone can have is based on the total number of entrants that are put forward by their two groups: if 1–10 Zone Finalists then a Zone can have one (1) State Final representative; 11–17 Zone Finalists then a Zone can have two (2) State Final representatives. If Zone 6 and 7 have more than 17 Zone Finalists, they can have three (3) State Final Representatives. The sponsors of the event provide the judges for the Zone Finals. AgShows NSW advises each Zone who their judges will be. At no time should the judges' names be promoted or advertised prior to the judging.
5. The State Final for the Competition is conducted by the RAS at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and can host between 14 and 16 entrants. Judges are selected by the RAS. Judging criteria is based on general and rural knowledge, ambition and life goals, involvement in their local show and community, personality, confidence, presentation, and speech. In addition to a twenty-minute interview, the finalists partake in various social functions in which the above elements are also judged. A Presentation Ceremony is held at the Show where two prizes are awarded - the State Final Winner (1st Place) and First Runner Up (2nd Place). All finalists stay in Sydney for seven days as guests of the RAS while the winner of the State Final and the second placegetter will be asked to remain in Sydney as guests of the RAS to perform official duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Other finalists may leave Sydney after all official program Functions.

HOW DOES IT ALL WORK

An Overview for New Coordinators (continued)

6. Whilst in Sydney the finalists attend a variety of functions and activities in addition to presenting prizes/awards to various winners in agricultural competitions taking place at the Show. The winner acts as an ambassador for NSW during her year and represents the RAS, AgShows NSW and her local Show Society at any function to which she is invited during the year.

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISING A LOCAL COMPETITION

Show Societies need to be aware of changes to the Privacy Act and may need to seek advice as to how it might apply to the conduct of their competition at their show.

There are no set guidelines on how Show Societies must run their Young Woman Competition. Some Show Societies hold a Competition each year, some only every second year and some do not hold one at all but will put forward an entrant to Zone if they are approached by an eligible candidate.

The suggested guidelines below for organising a Competition at a local Show are modelled on the Zone Final format. The benefit of following these guidelines is that it prepares the entrants for the Zone and State Finals.

Entrants

Participating Show Societies in Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition have either a committee or a coordinator who is responsible for conducting their local competition. It is one of their responsibilities, whether they do it themselves or are assisted by the whole Committee, to obtain entrants for the Competition.

There are several ways to encourage young women to enter a few of which may include:

- Advertising in the local paper with a section that the entrant can fill out and return to the Committee.
- Letters to young women who are likely to enter or that members of the Show Society think may be interested.
- Approach local businesses to sponsor/provide prizes and at the same time ask if they have any suitable candidates in their organisation who they would like to nominate – this is a good way to get your supporters really involved.
- Involve your current representative– she may be able to talk with senior/college students or there may be some youth clubs that she could address. It is very beneficial to have someone who is the same age as the entrants to speak with them about the benefits of the Competition.
- Have an information stand at the local shopping centre, field days, fetes etc. to promote not only Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition but also other competitions that your Show Society runs. This is also a good opportunity to try and increase your membership.

It may also be worthwhile to provide those interested with a copy of “The Competition - An Overview for Entrants”. It will provide potential entrants with some background information on the Competition and what to expect.

Obtaining applications takes time so start early and be prepared to use your imagination in encouraging entries. Do not be disheartened if you are unable to attract as many entrants as you would like – it is quality, not quantity that we are all looking for.

Section 7D (1)(a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (SDA) allows the NSW Young Women Competition to only be open to female applicants, as a positive discrimination to take 'special measures' to foster greater equity by supporting women's leadership in rural and regional NSW.

The application for entry should ask for the applicant to positively identify herself as a female to determine the eligibility for entry. This positive confirmation should not require any further evidence. However, if required, the government guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender provides that sufficient evidence of being a female could be one of the following documents:

- A valid Australian passport; or
- A birth certificate; or
- A statement from a Registered Medical Practitioner which specifies their gender; or
- A statement from a Registered Psychologist which specifies their gender.

Organisation Prior to the Judging Day

The secret to organising a successful competition is to prepare everything well in advance and not leave everything until the last minute. This not only ensures that everything runs smoothly but also takes a lot of pressure off the Coordinator on the day and makes it a much more enjoyable event for everyone involved.

- Approach local businesses etc. for sponsorship.
- Sashes to be ordered.
- All entry forms are to be filled in and given to the Coordinator prior to judging.
- Select three judges and confirm their availability. It is preferable to have at least one male and at least one female judge however this is not mandatory. Ensure they receive ample notice of the date for the judging and that a copy of the Judges Guidelines and each of the entrants' Form B is given to them prior to the day. At least one of the judges should have knowledge of the local area and try to ensure that no judge is closely related to any entrant.
- Keep your local media advised of entrants and supply photographs, background information or contact details of the entrant if required – first check with the entrants that they do not mind their contact details being given out. Do not forget to include the name of sponsors/supporters in any media releases that you send out. Ensure that any media releases are in good faith. Prior to your Show you may also like to gain a little more media exposure by taking the entrants, for example, for a visit to a nursing home (a great experience for all concerned), a livestock auction, to visit school children, a visit to a local property preparing exhibits for the Show etc. There are a lot of good promotional opportunities for both the finalists and your Show. Just remember to let your local media know.
- Organise for the nominated people e.g., President, Group Delegate etc. to speak at the Presentation – give them a copy of the Presentation program so they know when they are required to speak.
- Select and book, if required, a suitable venue at which to conduct the interviews and the Presentation function if you are having one.

- Put together a schedule for the day's activities e.g., interview timetable, morning and afternoon teas, lunch etc.
- Advise all entrants of the judging day's schedule so that they can arrange to have this time available. You may need to change some of the judging times around to suit everyone.
- Arrange for a lunch or morning/afternoon tea to be served during the day to enable judges to interact in a social environment with the entrants.
- Pre-arrange for someone to be available to greet the entrants on arrival and to introduce them to the judges. Utilising past finalists to act as hostesses during the day often works well.
- Have a meeting with the Committee and entrants prior to judging. Explain what the procedure will be on the day and ensure that they have a copy of the timetable. Any questions can be answered at this time. It is also a very good opportunity for the girls to get to know each other and to feel a little more at ease – this is supposed to be fun.
- It is advisable for the MC/Compere to briefly meet the entrants prior to the Presentation ceremony to prepare them for the Presentation interview and subsequent speech to follow.
- Organise a gift for each of the entrants such as flowers etc. (optional), and/or Certificate of Appreciation for entering the Competition and a small token of appreciation for the judges.

Judging Day

- Start on time and keep as close to schedule as possible. Allow a minimum of 15 minutes for judging and five minutes for discussion between judges once the entrant leaves the room.
- Make sure the room is set up with adequate chairs, water/glasses, paper, pens, tea, coffee etc.
- Judges to each be issued with a separate judging sheet for each entrant. Note that these sheets are to be destroyed by the judges at the conclusion of the judging process.
- Have extra copies of entrants' Form B available for judges who forget to bring their copy.
- Greet the entrants and make them feel as comfortable as possible. When their interview time comes around, take the entrant into the room, and introduce them to each of the judges.
- Provide an envelope/s for the Judges in which to place the winner's name. A separate envelope is required for each placegetter, if more than one. Please note that unlike a Zone's entrant/s into the State Final, which may be greater than one person depending on the entry numbers, a local Show Society can only have one entrant in a Zone Final.

Announcement of the [Local Show] Young Woman Winner

- The announcement of the Winner is a major attraction for your Show so make the most of it. Ensure that the local media has been advised of the time for the impending announcement so that they can organise to have someone present.
- Most of the Show Societies make the announcement on the day of their Show prior to the Official Opening. However, due to the timing of Zone Finals, with some local Shows only being a week or

two prior to the Zone Final, some Show Societies may decide to announce the winner of their Competition at a function several weeks, or sometimes even months, before their Show. This allows the winner time to prepare herself for the Zone Final and allows both the Zone Final Coordinator and the AgShows NSW Coordinator enough time to receive the relevant documentation prior to Zone Finals. In some instances, it also allows the entrant to compete in the current years' Competition rather than waiting until the following year, which happens when a local Show falls after their Zone Final date. Both the above methods work well, and it is therefore up to the circumstances of the individual Show as to which one is most suitable for their situation.

- Involve the previous year's Winner at the announcement e.g., sashing the new winner, making an exit speech etc.
- Being a representative in Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman competition means being involved in your local Show.

Post-Show

- Thankyou letters should be sent out to all concerned including entrants, judges, sponsors/supporters, volunteer helpers etc.
- **A photocopy of Form B and a photograph of the winner** should immediately be sent to your **Zone Final Coordinator** with another digital photograph and the **original** copy of **Forms A, B and C** being emailed and sent to the **AgShows NSW Coordinator**. The Zone Final Coordinator has a lot to do, and it is imperative that all information regarding each of the Zone Finalists is received as soon as possible. Please note that **entry into Zone Finals will only be accepted on receipt of the above documentation**.
- Ensure your winner is briefed on what to expect at the Zone Final. Some of the issues to cover include judging criteria, presentation speech, dress requirements, accommodation, travel, and meals. See "Zone Finals – An Overview for Zone Finalists". The Zone Final Coordinator will have a list of accommodation that she has put on hold until a specified date for the Zone Final entrants. Prior to this date the Show Society will need to confirm the booking for their entrant.
- In the case of the winner not being able to attend the Zone Final, the 2nd placegetter should be invited to take her place. Under these circumstances, the original winner retains any prizes that were awarded in addition to her title for the following year. A local sash must be made available for the 2nd placegetter in this case.
- Should the winner not be able to attend the Zone Final due to a breach in the Conditions of Entry or Code of Conduct, the individual case is to be referred to the AgShows NSW Coordinator for consideration.