

2026 Harvest Hay Bale Trail

Rules and Reminders

1. **Eligibility:** Participant must be a business or organization located within, or partnered with, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).
2. **Maintenance:** Decorations must remain in good condition for the entire duration of the competition.
3. **Emergency Contact:** A contact must be designated and available to address any damage. Repairs must be completed within 24 hours of notification, or the hay bale may be removed.
4. **Decoration Timeframe:** Hay Bales can only be decorated from September 16-23 and must be complete by end of day September 23.
5. **Clean Up Timeframe:** Any decoration, including additional hay bales or organic material, must be removed from your hay bale by 5 PM on Monday, November 2, 2026.
6. **Durability:** Materials used must withstand outdoor elements including wind, rain, and possible snow.
7. **Content Standards:** Decorations must be family-friendly and align with a healthy, positive community image. No references to alcohol, tobacco, or other substances are permitted.
8. **Prohibited Content:** No political, violent, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate themes or messaging will be allowed.
9. **Previous Participation:** Decorators must be in good standing from previous years' competitions, with no history of violations.
10. **No Blocking Walkways, Entrances or Sight Lines:** Decorations must not obstruct sidewalks, entryways, or create hazards.
11. **One Hay Bale:** Each organization is limited to one large hay bale.
12. **Additional Hay Bales:** Participants may not add their own large hay bales. Small square bales are acceptable as additional decorations.
13. **Hay Bale Placement:** All hay bales will be placed and kept on their sides, with the flat ends perpendicular to the ground. This will help the round shape shed water and keep the hay drier.
14. **Spray Paint:** Spray paint is **not permitted** on the hay bales this year so the bales can remain usable after the competition.

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