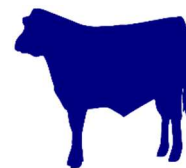




2026 FLORIDA AGRICULTURE & WILDLIFE EXPO (FAWE)
STEER SHOW AND SALE
RULES AND REGULATIONS



Entry due: September 19, 2025

Initial weigh-in: October 4, 2025

Ethics Course Completed by: January 31, 2026

Final Weigh-in: March 17, 2026

Show & Showmanship date: March 20, 2026

Sale date: March 21, 2026

Mandatory Clean up: March 22, 2026

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, events will occur at:

Rock Lake Cattle Demonstration Area, 8132 Croom Rital Rd, Brooksville, 34602.

Registration must be completed (including payment) on the Showman App website by **midnight September 19, 2025**. Incomplete registrations will not be accepted. **One backup project may be registered but MUST have a separate entry submitted – Only one entry fee required per species per exhibitor.** Any animal registered as a back up project may only be used by exhibitors of the same family registered in the event with the same home address.

Only one animal can be brought to final weigh in. Health certificates and RFID required.

There are additional rules listed as GENERAL rules for all FAWE livestock projects. All exhibitors are responsible for those in addition to these species-specific rules. By completing registration, all youth exhibitors and guardians agree to abide by all posted rules and understand the consequences of all violations.

1. INITIAL WEIGH-IN:

- A. Steers are required to be checked in, tattooed, ear tagged and weighed SATURDAY, October 4, 2026, beginning at 7:00 am. Exhibitors/steers must be in line no later than 9:00 am. At initial weigh-in, it is **recommended** that steers weigh a minimum of 550 lbs. NOTE: Vaccinations and other medications will be administered unless otherwise requested on your registration form.
- B. **All steers must be de-horned. Steers with horns more than 1 ½” in length will be disqualified immediately and not permitted to tag-in.** If horns grow after the initial weigh-in, they can be no longer than 1½” long at the final weigh-in. Measurement will be taken from hide to end of horn. Scurs are permitted.
- C. Animals must be steers. Evidence of testicles remaining on animals castrated by bloodless techniques may result in disqualification. Failure to detect that an animal has not been steered does not qualify the animal for entry.
- D. Steers must not be over 24 months of age on/or before Final Weigh-in or they will not qualify.
- E. Exhibitors will be issued an official record book which must be completed by the exhibitor and submitted to Ranch Hand Feed Depot (21029 Cortez Blvd, Brooksville, FL 34601) by March 6, 2026 at 5:00pm. Estimated final weights will be used. Hard copies and electronic copies will be provided. ***Current year versions must be used***

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2. POST INITIAL WEIGH-IN TO FINAL ENTRY

- A. Care, grooming, cleaning of stalls/pens, and feeding of projects are the responsibility of the exhibitor, with assistance only from FFA Advisor, 4-H Leader, Livestock Committee, Parent/Guardian, or fellow exhibitor. Care and feeding includes providing feed, water, hay, buckets, and tie ropes, etc.
- B. All steers must weigh at least 900 lb. at the Final Weigh-in.
- C. All exhibitors must attend a state fair association approved ethics course. Due date for completion of this course is Friday, January 31, 2026. Failure to complete an approved course will result in disqualification from all events. Proof of completion must be emailed to: notify.fawexpo@gmail.com by 5pm on January 31, 2026.
- D. RECORD BOOKS: Each exhibitor must complete a record book on their steer. Record books will be due March 6, 2026 and must be complete including estimates where required. All exhibitors must use the official 2025-26 FAWE Livestock Record Book. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification. **ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE ORIGINALS.** Record books not deemed to be complete by at least 75% will result in disqualification of the exhibitor and animal from all final events.
- E. The FAWE Board reserves the right to visit the steer within a reasonable amount of time at the location disclosed as their place of housing with at least 24-hour notice to exhibitor and parent/guardian. Notice will be in writing to the email address listed on the entry form. Refusal may result in disqualification of exhibitor and animal. Death of any animal registered to exhibit in the Florida Agriculture and Wildlife Expo must be reported to the FAWE Board within 24 hours. FAWE Board reserves the right to verify the death of any registered animal.

3. FINAL WEIGH-IN

- A. FINAL WEIGH-IN: March 17, 2026 beginning at 4:00pm. YOU MUST BE IN LINE BY 6:00pm. There will be a brief MANDATORY meeting immediately after check in is complete, approximately 6:15pm. Any exhibitor not in attendance will be disqualified from exhibiting their project.
 - Steers weighing more than 1400 pounds will be sold at 1400 pounds.
 - LIGHTWEIGHT STEERS:** Steers not meeting minimum weight requirements will be referred to as Lightweights. Lightweight steers are eligible for record book and showmanship competitions and will be sold at the end of the auction.
- B. During Final Weigh-in, no equipment/tack/supplies will be unloaded until after the final steer is weighed. Exhibitors having supplies that must be removed to unload their animal will be sent to the end of the line. All equipment must be kept in their designated areas for the duration of the expo. ***Each club/chapter can only have one trailer in the designated area (an additional trailer may be allowed for those with a high number of participants but must be requested); any unauthorized vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. If the trailer your animal is riding in is ready to be unloaded, and you are not present, your animal will go to the end of the line.***
- C. Health Regulations are subject to the Florida Department of Agriculture regulations in effect at the time. The FAWE Board will keep you informed of these regulations. No animal showing visible signs of illness or infestation will be accepted at the FAWE grounds. Any animal displaying warts or external parasites at either initial check in or final weigh-in will not be permitted off the trailer (unless approved by a veterinarian or designee) and will be refused entry into the FAWE. Animals will be inspected prior to unloading. All withdrawal times must be observed for any medication given to a market animal. **As of 5/28/24, all steers must have a valid OCVI (health certificate) at final weigh-in per USDA.**

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- D. No steer may be exhibited in competition that cannot be effectively managed and led by the exhibitor from the scale to the tie area. A reasonable length of time (approx. 1 hr.) will be given to exhibitor of an unruly animal to demonstrate that the animal can be calmed and safely exhibited. If the animal is dismissed from the showgrounds at this time, the exhibitor will be ineligible for participation. If an animal is unmanageable in the show arena, the animal may be tied or dismissed based on the judge's or livestock committee designee's discretion. No nose tag, nose rings, or other mechanical devices are allowed. Once a judge or FAWE Board member excuses an animal from the arena, or if the animal is tied or dismissed during the show, that animal will not be permitted to return for showmanship.
- E. Pen spaces will be assigned as club groups at random by the FAWE Livestock Committee. Exhibitors may not change pen locations without approval of the FAWE Board.

4. EXHIBIT PERIOD

- A. Steers must be cared for from the time of arrival until steers are removed. Steer Exhibitors - Feeding of animals must be completed daily by 10:00 a.m. and again by 9:00p.m. If there is a show going on, the deadline will be an hour after show is completed in the evening. Steers are recommended to be exercised daily. There will be no feeding or bathing of animals during any livestock show.
- Additional emergency care may be provided, at the discretion of the FAWE Board.
 - Water containers must be tied in steer pens. Ask livestock committee if you need supplies to tie.
- B. **FEED AND BEDDING: LIMITED** Bedding will be provided by Management. Feed and water buckets must be provided by the exhibitor. Management reserves the right to stipulate the bucket type. Materials that may be dangerous, such as fences, metal pitchforks, metal rakes, hay nets, etc. will not be allowed in the **show or barn** area. No flowers or plants will be allowed in the exhibit area, except those provided by management. Additional bedding supplied by exhibitors is permitted.
- Show boxes or other tack may NOT be placed in the animal pen, wash rack, or show area.
 - Each club will be assigned a trailer area for supply and equipment storage.
- C. All steers must be secured with halters AND neck ropes simultaneously while tied in the stall.
- D. **MEDICATIONS:** The administration of medication for bloat, scours, or other conditions shall be done under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or steer committee member; this includes calf calm. The steer committee chairperson must be notified that medication is being administered. Unauthorized dispensation of medications is considered unethical and may result in disqualification of the animal and exhibitor.

5. SHOW, SHOWMANSHIP & SALE

- A. Judging will take place March 20, 2026, beginning at 6:00 pm. The auction of steers will take place March 21, 2026 not beginning before 5:00 pm. **No supplies or tack may be removed until final cleanup: March 22, 2026 between 12:00pm and 1:00 pm.**
- B. Final classes will be determined by weight as necessary to assure manageable numbers in Show Classes. Premiums will be paid in all weight classes. All blue-ribbon class winners will compete for Grand Champion. The steer standing second in the Grand Champion's class will be eligible to compete for Reserve Grand Champion if earning a blue ribbon.
- C. **SHOWMANSHIP** participation is mandatory. Exhibitors not participating in showmanship will forfeit earned premiums for that species. Club/Chapter/Family entries are eligible for up to two age divisions, one each. Group entries must make a declaration of participation at final weigh in when their steer clears the scale.

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- D. All who bid and purchase must be pre-registered and must have a buyer number. Buyers are requested to pay the night of the sale. If the buyer requires an invoice to pay, invoices will be mailed no later than 7 days after the sale and payment is expected in 30 days. FAWE will charge a late fee of 10% on any invoices not paid within the 30 days, any invoices not paid within 60 days will incur a 20% late fee and any invoice remaining unpaid after 60 days will be referred to additional collection proceedings.
- E. Buyers gifts are highly recommended for your projects. These gifts do not have to be expensive it is the thought that counts. Examples: Plants, BBQ supplies, Gift Cards, Gift Baskets of anything you feel your buyer will love.
- F. ALL ANIMALS SOLD MUST GO TO SLAUGHTER. As a condition of acceptance in the sale, Exhibitor (seller) agrees that all animals exhibited must be sold and slated for processing. Animal must go straight to processor. No buyer is obligated to buy. There is no certain price per pound guaranteed.
- G. All Exhibitors will pay their bills relating to their project within 30 days of checks being issued. The FAWE Board reserves the right to refuse entry into the show, or subsequent shows, because of any failure of Exhibitor to uphold their financial responsibilities relative to their project. This includes any monies owed to a farmer, rancher, individual, feed mill, or store who supplied/provided an animal, boarding, tack, feed, or hay to an Exhibitor, with the promise of payment to them, once monies were received from the FAWE, and said promise has not yet been fulfilled. The exhibitor will **NOT** be allowed to show any animals at the FAWE until said debts have been paid in full. The debtor must contact the FAWE to advise that said debt has been paid in full.

6. POST SALE

- A. Loading of animals after the sale will be supervised by the FAWE Board members ONLY and will be done in pre-designated areas. Any individual loading an animal without appropriate personnel in attendance or in a non-designated area will be fined \$250. If said individual has youth participating in the FAWE sales, their checks will be held until the fine is paid. It is not our intention to penalize the youth exhibitors but to stress the importance of these strict policies.
- B. No equipment shall be removed until after load-out, during clean-up March 22, 2026. Exhibitors are mandated to be at clean-up for the entire hour of 12:00-1:00pm. Exhibitors are asked to tag their halters with a name label after the sale and before loading out. Labels will be provided if necessary. FAWE Board members are not responsible for lost halters if appropriate labeling is not done.
- C. The FAWE is not responsible for, nor assures the buyers of, carcass quality grade, meat color, or palatability. The FAWE is not responsible for spoilage after slaughter. Any carcass that is condemned due to disease damage, drug residue, or injury incurred prior to the loading after the sale is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
- D. All exhibitors must participate in the mandatory clean-up March 22, 2026 from 12:00-1:00 pm. Youth must remain present the entire hour and check-in and out at the table. Failure to do so will result in a fine and possibly a loss of premiums.

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