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LETTER FROM LIVESTOCK SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Austin County Fair Exhibitors,

Welcome to the 99th edition of the Austin County Fair! Since our inception in 1927, the Austin County Fair has been about empowering young people and promoting agriculture through competitive events that help foster growth through livestock and agricultural related activities.

For the latest updates on schedules and for a run down of the livestock rules, I would encourage you to refer to the Austin County Fair Website <http://austincountyfair.com>. Our fair is scheduled to take place on October 4-11, 2026, at the Austin County Fairgrounds in Bellville.

Your commitment and dedication to your projects is a primary motivation for the fantastic support displayed by our community each year in our Youth Livestock Auction (YLA). Last year alone, our YLA topped out at over \$3 million dollars that was distributed to exhibitors that qualified.

Our Youth Livestock Auction will take place on Friday, October 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Online bidding will again be an option through <https://www.live-ag.com> for anyone that is not able to attend the event in person. You are strongly encouraged to thank your buyers with a gift and a thank you letter is still required, however please refrain from giving your buyer(s) a gift while the auction is in progress.

I want to wish each of you the best of luck at this year's Austin County Fair. The Fair Board and your fair committees have been working hard to ensure this will be another successful year.

Sincerely,

Philip Shackelford

Philip Shackelford

ACF Livestock Superintendent

GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES AND REGULATIONS

INTERPRETATION AND VIOLATIONS OF RULES

The Austin County Fair Association's Executive Committee reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to determine the matters in regard thereto and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. Conduct deemed unacceptable by the Executive Committee may result in the expulsion from the grounds and further Austin County Fair sponsored activities. Any exhibitor who violates any of the following rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums, and he/she shall be subject to such penalty as the Executive Committee may order.

All exhibits will be under the control of the Board of Directors, but the organization will in no case be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage done to or occasioned by, arising from any animal exhibited by him/her. He/she shall indemnify the organization against all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto, as well as damage to any of the animals exhibited by him/her or arising out of or in any connection with such exhibitors or any of the animals solely exhibited. **All protests must be filed in writing at the Fair Office with a non-refundable fee of \$250 per exhibitor.**

ALL ENTRIES IN THE LIVESTOCK DIVISIONS OF THE AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR MUST COMPLY WITH THE TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSIONS REGULATIONS AND ANY REGULATIONS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION AND ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS GOVERNING ADMISSION OF LIVESTOCK INTO SHOWS, FAIRS AND EXHIBITORS.

INTERFERENCE WITH JUDGES

If an exhibitor or parent in any way, whether in person or by agent or servants, interferes with judges during their adjudication or as a result of the show, shows any disrespect toward them or the show, the management may demand a proper apology from such exhibitor or it may also withhold from such exhibitor such premiums that may have been awarded or take such steps as they deem necessary. **This includes remarks spoken, in print or in electronic format that are deemed derogatory or defaming to Judges, Livestock Officials and/or committee members.**

All judge's (including sifting judges) descisions and weights are final.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **ENTRY PROCEDURE:**

Exhibitors will go to the Austin County Fair's website (www.austincountyfair.com). Click on "Online Fair Entry" tab & follow step by step instructions to complete their entry form.

Payment must be made online during this transaction.

Exhibitors will need their Social Security number and access to some type of payment form to complete entry.

Online entries will open from 8:00 a.m. on August 1st to August 17th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Extension Agents & FFA teachers will verify the exhibitor's eligibility to show in the 2026 Austin County Fair after online entries close.

When completing entry, only **MAILING** address is needed.

In addition, **ONLY parent(s)/guardian(s) listed on the entry will be given any Youth Auction Sale/Add-On checks.** If

either parent or more than one guardian can pick-up the check, both names need to be listed on online entry. **Phone number** and **email address** listed should be that of **parent(s)/guardian(s)** as this is how the Fair will communicate to

Exhibitor families for work assignments or any other necessary communications.

Late entries turned into the fair office from August 18th - August 31st, 2026, will be charged all standard entry fees and will be assessed an additional \$250 fee per entry.

Entries turned into the fair office from September 1st – September 7th, 2026, at 5:00 pm will be charged all standard entry fees and will be assessed an additional \$500 fee per entry. No entries will be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on September 7th, 2026.

2. All exhibitors must be permanent residents in Austin County or be enrolled in a public school, private school or home school in Austin County and enrolled in a 4-H or FFA Chapter in Austin County and have not graduated high school in order to exhibit at the Austin County Fair.
3. If an exhibitor EXHIBITS an animal at an adjacent county fair within A CALENDAR YEAR of the Austin County Fair, then he/she is ineligible to show or sell another market animal at the Austin County Fair. This does not include major shows.
4. All exhibitors and their families will respect judges, committee members, Austin County Fair volunteers, and staff, as well as other exhibitors and their families. No disrespect will be tolerated on the Austin County Fairgrounds.
5. Family tagging and tattooing is allowed. This will be interpreted as immediate family living in the same household. This rule applies to Market Steer, Halter Heifer, Commercial Pen of Heifers, Market Lambs, Market Swine, Market Broilers, Market Turkeys, Market Goats, Home Bred & Owned Meat Pen Rabbits, and Horse divisions.

COMMERCIAL PEN OF HEIFERS TAG-IN DATE:

Friday, May 8th, 2026 at Four County Auction Barn,
from 5:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.

**Exhibitors will be charged \$20.00 per animal tagged and a
\$55.00 validation fee per pen.**

MARKET STEER & HALTER HEIFER TAG-IN DATE:

Saturday, May 9th, 2026 at Four County Auction Barn, from
7:00a.m. - 10:00a.m.

Exhibitors will be charged \$20.00 per animal tagged.

MARKET SWINE TAG-IN DATES:

Saturday, June 27th, 2026 at the Austin County Fairgrounds, from
6:00a.m. - 8:00a.m.

Saturday, July 11th, 2026 at the Austin County Fairgrounds,
from 6:00a.m. - 8:00a.m.

Exhibitors will be charged \$20.00 per animal tagged.

**ALL MARKET SWINE MUST BE PROPERLY IDENTIFIED
WITH EAR TAGE BY
SATURDAY, JULY 11th, 2026**

MARKET LAMB & GOAT TAG-IN DATES:

Saturday, June 27th, 2026 at the Austin County Fairgrounds, from
7:00a.m. - 8:30a.m.

Thursday, July 9th, 2026 at the Austin County Fairgrounds, from
6:00p.m. - 7:30p.m.

Exhibitors will be charged \$20.00 per animal tagged.

**ALL MARKET LAMBS & GOATS MUST BE PROPERLY
IDENTIFIED WITH EAR TAGS BY
THURSDAY, JULY 9th, 2026**

6. All exhibitors of Market swine, Beef Cattle, Market Lambs, Market Goats and Market Rabbits will be required to complete a validation form (not an entry card) when animals are tagged. Exhibitors of Market Broilers and Market Turkeys will be required to complete an information sheet (not an entry card) when ordering. The form will include a statement as to the physical location of the animal with a release stating that this is for committee use in project visits.

7. All families of exhibitors who SHOW OR SELL in the Livestock Division of the Austin County Fair are required to provide two adults to work a minimum of three (3) full hours (total 6 hours) at either the entrance gate or refreshment facilities. Families with 3 or more exhibitors showing will be required to work an additional 3 hour shift (one adult only) in addition to the 6 hour shift requirement. **Families who choose not to work their full shift(s) will be assessed a fee of \$750.00 per family.** Work assignments must be fulfilled by at least one parent/guardian and another adult over 18 years of age. You must notify the fair office if you choose not to work in order for the exhibitor to be eligible to show or sell. You may make payment to the Austin County Fair by October 1st, 2026 or the fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's check. THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO 4-H, FFA CONCESSIONS or YOUTH AUCTION SALE. Funds will be deducted from exhibitor's checks for parents that do not work their FULL scheduled shift.

8. All market animal exhibitors will be allowed as many entries as desired but can only present to the sifting committee a maximum of two sale animals and may only sell one. in the Market Steer, Market Swine, Market Lamb, Halter Heifer, Market Goat and Horse divisions, an exhibitor may have two entries with no back up animal. If an exhibitor shows two entries in a division, he/she will be ineligible to show in any other division, excluding Scramble Heifer and Single Fryer Rabbits.

Market Broiler, Market Turkey and Market Rabbit exhibitors may have one entry in these divisions with one back up entry. No back up entries are to be unloaded if the first animal passes sifting. **Exhibitors will be allowed to enter and show ONE PEN of commercial Pen of Heifers; therefore, exhibitors will be allowed to show an animal in another division if they choose.** Market Broiler, Market Turkey and Market Rabbit exhibitors will be eligible to show one entry in another division. Scramble Heifer and Single Fryer Rabbits are not considered market animals; therefore, an exhibitor may enter two sale animals along with the Scramble Heifer or Single Fryer Rabbits but may only sell one market animal. NO ENTRY FEES WILL BE REFUNDED.

9. Exhibitors feeding at a location other than their own home must bring it to the attention of the Livestock Superintendent and/or show officials at the time validation sheets are due or at any time this changes.

10. If an exhibitor has two (2) entries that qualify for the sale, he/she has the right to choose which entry will be sold with the exception of Champion and Reserve in the species, which must sell. In the event that the same exhibitor has Champion or Reserve in the same and/or different species, that exhibitor is only allowed to sell one Champion animal.

11. All animals (including poultry and rabbits) leaving the fairgrounds prior to Sunday move-out must obtain a signed release form from the committee chairman unless part of sifting procedure. Forms may be obtained at the Fair Office.

12. All Market Steers and Halter Heifers must be halter broken and easy to handle by the mandatory Progress Show on **Saturday, August 8th, 2026.**

13. All animals must be in their assigned place on time according to the daily schedule. They must be kept in their assigned places until designated to move-out time on **Sunday, October 11th, 2026**, Unless released by division chairman or superintendent. Lamb & Goats move-out through gate 2 from 6:00a.m. - 8:00a.m.; Rabbits move-out through gate 2 at 8:00 a.m.; Polutry move-out through gate 2 at 9:00a.m.; Cattle, Swine, & Colts move-out through gate 3 at 10:00a.m. All other species must be kept in their assigned place until 11:00a.m. on **Sunday, October 11th, 2026**, unless released by a division chairman or superintendent. Removal of animals without a release from the division chairman or superintendent will result in the possible forfeiture of sales proceeds and/or prizes.

14. Livestock exhibitors will be permitted to display a sign over each exhibit advertising the exhibitor's project; however, they may be no longer than the standard exhibitor stall or pen and must be approved by the species superintendent. **NO FOR SALE SIGNS PERMITTED.**

15. All exhibitors will be required to bring their own feed, hay, water buckets, etc. to the show.

16. All cords & hoses not in use need to be buried and not stretched across in aisles. No frayed cords allowed. All cords and hoses must be in good condition. Any cords or hoses stretched across aisles or frayed will be disconnected. An attempt will be made to find the owner but after that, they will go in to the Livestock Office to be claimed by the exhibitor at the end of Fair. All cords and hoses left after the end of the Fair become the possession of the Ausin County Fair Association.

17. All exhibits areas are to be kept clean during visitor hours. Animals, including poultry and rabbits, must be fed and cleaned each morning. A **\$100.00** fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's sale check if the area is not maintained or cleaned upon move-out.

18. **DRESS CODE:** All exhibitors must wear appropriate clothing while in the show ring and in the sale ring. Any exhibitor whose wardrobe is deemed inappropriate by the Committee Chairperson or Livestock Superintendents may be disqualified from the show.

19. **UNETHICAL FITTING AND SHOWING OF LIVESTOCK:** Unethical practices performed on any livestock entry or entry form in order to deceive judges or the sifting and project committee members is prohibited, and the exhibitor shall be barred from this show and all future shows. Unethical practices will be determined by the Executive Committee of the Austin County Fair Association with assistance from anyone deemed necessary.

20. All entries will be exhibited and sold by their owners unless he/she is physically unable to do so or if the exhibitor has more than one entry showing in different division at that time. Exhibits to be shown or sold by someone else other than the owner must be approved in writing by the respective committee chairman. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain and complete the required form. Forms will be available at the Fair Office. The **ONLY** permissible excuses for "physically unable to do so" are a **DOCUMENTED** medical or family emergency and/or **DOCUMENTED** and sanctioned school function of which the exhibitor is a **PARTICIPANT**. If an exhibitor is **academically ineligible** to show, the exhibitor **AND THEIR PROJECT** are ineligible to participate in the Austin County Fair.

21. All animals in this show and sale must have been fed and cared for by the exhibitor in an approved location of the show. If the exhibitor does not meet the qualifications above, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the show and sale.

22. The feeding and care of all livestock projects are the sole responsibility of the exhibitor and their family from the beginning of the project until the animal leaves the fairgrounds. All livestock exhibitors will continue to feed, water, and clean stalls/pens of their projects through dismissal on Sunday after the Fair or until delivered per buyer's direction. Any exhibitor not doing so will forfeit their Youth Auction Sale and Add-On checks to the Austin County Fair Memorial Scholarship fund.

23. Resale list is final.

24. No Pass Out (PO) will be allowed in any department.

25. All animals will be subject to use during the Livestock Judging Contest on **Saturday, October 10th, 2026**.

26. All exhibitors must be entered through the fair website by **August 17th, 2026, by 11:59p.m.**

27. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy, ALL exhibitors are now required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2026 show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without a verification code for each exhibitor. Verification codes are not required for Agriculture Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at:
<https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>

28. THANK YOU NOTES AND ISSUANCE OF YOUTH AUCTION SALE CHECKS:

- * The Austin County Fair Office will not be mailing exhibitors a list of buyer(s) and person(s) that added on to their exhibitor.
- * Exhibitors will be notified via email from their 4-H Leader and/or FFA Advisor, Austin County Fair website and Social Media pages that their list of buyers and persons that added on to their projects is ready for pick up at the Austin County Fair Office.
- * Exhibitors will be notified via email from their 4-H Leader and/or FFA Advisor, Austin County Fair website and Social Media pages when Youth Auction Sale Checks are ready for pickup.
- * Exhibitors will have the opportunity to pick up checks at the Austin County Fair Office, following the receipt of the notifications on **Monday - Friday, from the hours of 8:30a.m. - 12:00p.m. & 1:30p.m. - 5:00p.m.**
- * Handwritten thank you notes must be completed and presented to Austin County Fair Office personnel in a stamped and addressed envelope at or before the time of check issuance. All checks must be endorsed by the exhibitor to be cashed/deposited.
- * Only parents(s)/guardian(s) listed on the entry form will be allowed to pick up checks for exhibitors.

29. In order to cash the Youth Auction Sale checks, the EXHIBITOR must endorse the check. Exhibitors will have 30 days after checks are printed to turn in thank you notes and pick up checks. After this time, the Sale and Add-On monies will go to the Austin County Fair Scholarship Fund.

30. If an exhibitors family owes money to the Austin County Fair Association, their Youth Auction Sale check will be WITHHELD UNTIL PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING BALANCES. This must be handled prior to 30 days after checks are printed. Please refer to the rule above.

31. These rules are current as of publishing. Any updates will be posted on the fair website.

Please consult www.austincountyfair.com for any changes.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY & INDEMNITY, AND DRUG CERTIFICATION

AGREEMENT FOR THE 2026 AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

As valid consideration for entry into and participation in the Austin County Fair, the Exhibitor and his/her Parent or Legal Guardian, enter into this RELEASE OF LIABILITY & INDEMNITY and DRUG CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT.

The owner and/or exhibitor (if a minor, the parent or legal guardian of the minor) acknowledges that there are inherent risks in regard to livestock show activities and equine activities. These inherent risks include the risk of death or bodily injury due to: (1) the propensity of equine or livestock animals to behave in ways that may result in personal injury or death to a person on or around it; (2) the unpredictability of an equine or a livestock animal's reaction to sound, a sudden movement, or an unfamiliar object, person, or other animals; (3) a collision with another animal or object; (4) the potential of a participant to act in a manner that may contribute to injury of the participant or another, including failing to maintain control of the equine or livestock animal or not acting with the participant's ability; (5) with respect to equine activities, certain land conditions and hazards, including surface and subsurface conditions. I, as an owner, participant/exhibitor (or in case of minor, the parent or legal gaurdian of a participant or exhibitor) hereby acknowledge that I assume the risk of all injury and/or death ir property damage through participation in the show, event, rodeo or fair and as a participant and/or exhibitor, even if the injury or death or property damage is caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the sponsor or the Austin County Fair Association (herein after called the "Fair") or Lisa Lynn Mewis Cannon, including, but not limited to alleged defects in the premises. (The "Fair" means the Austin County Fair Association, including its officers, directors, agents, servants and/or employees).

RELEASE

I do hereby agree to fully release (if a minor, the parent or legal guardian do hereby agree) the sponsor of the event, Lisa Lynn Mewis Cannon and the Austin County Fair Association, including its officers, directors, agents, and/or employees (hereinafter called the "Fair") from any and all claims of any kind or character for personal injury and/or death arising in any way and/or manner out of my presence on the fairgrounds, Harold Luhn Livestock Barn, Livestock Barn, Koerth Arena or Horse/Polutry Barn and/or my engaging in participation and/or exhibiting activities. This Release shall apply regardless of whether or not injury and/or death are caused in whole or in part by the negligence of Lisa Lynn Mewis Cannon, the "Fair", or sponsor of the event.

INDEMNITY

I, on behalf of myself, my heirs and representatives (if a minor, the parent or legal guardian of the minor) do hereby agree to fully indemnify and hold harmless the "Fair", Lisa Lynn Mewis Cannon and the sponsor of the event, of and from any and all claims of any kind or character for personal injury and/or death or property damage arising in any way out of participation or presence at the fairgrounds, Harold Luhn Livestock Barn, Livestock Barn, Koerth Area, or Horse/Polutry Barn and/or an exhibitor at the Fair or event sponsored on any of the aforesaid properties, regardless or whether or not such injury and/or death or property damage is caused in whole or in part by the negligence or other conduct of the "Fair", Lisa Lynn Mewis Cannon or sponsor of the event.

WARNING

UNDER TEXAS LAW (CHAPTER 87, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE), A LIVESTOCK SHOW SPONSOR IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN A LIVESTOCK SHOW RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISK OF LIVESTOCK SHOW ACTIVITIES.

WARNING

UNDER TEXAS LAW (CHAPTER 87, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE), AN EQUINE PROFESSIONAL IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN EQUINE ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES.

DRUG CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT

The undersigned certify that each has read, understands, and will abide by all rules by the current Austin County Fair Junior Livestock Rule Book and all rules and regulations of the Austin County Fair Association (ACFA). Furthermore, the undersigned certify that all entries will be FREE OF ALL DRUG AND CHEMICAL RESIDUES upon arrival to the Austin County Fairgrounds and will remain free of all drug and chemical residues while on show grounds. We, the undersigned, understands that the times it takes for drugs and chemicals to be entirely excreted from the body through urine of animals is generally longer than the labeled FDA and USDA withdrawal times for most approved drugs and chemicals.

Veterinarians/Medications: If an animal requires emergency treatment while on show grounds, only the Official ACFA Veterinarian will be allowed to administer any drug, chemical or feed additive and a written medication record must be filed. All treatment costs are the responsibility of the exhibitor. Animals receiving performance-enhancing drugs (e.g. steroids, diuretics, anti-inflammatories, tranquilizers, and painkillers, etc.) in this manner are ineligible for competition. Each year, the Austin County Fair Association solicits the service of a licensed veterinarian to serve in the capacity as the “Official Fair Veterinarian”. The need for a substitute veterinarian may arise from time to time due to the unavailability of, or conflicts that may arise with the Official Fair Veterinarian.

Any actions or decisions of the Official Fair Veterinarian or substitute veterinarian will be considered to be the veterinarian's professional judgment for the best interest of the animal's health and well-being. An exhibitor may choose a licensed veterinarian other than the Official Fair Veterinarian, but the Official Fair Veterinarian **MUST** be notified in advance, and he/she **MUST** be present during treatment.

The Official ACFA Veterinarian reserves the right to treat any animal if, in the opinion of the Official ACFA Veterinarian, it is in the best interest of the animal's health and well being to be treated. If an animal is treated by the Official Fair Veterinarian while at the Show then the exhibit must then be held for a sufficient time, typically the withdrawal period, by the exhibitor prior to slaughter as recommended by the Official Fair Veterinarian.

ALL GRAND AND RESERVE CHAMPIONS WILL BE DRUG TESTED ALONG WITH ONE RANDOM ANIMAL FROM EACH SPECIES IN THE ACFA JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW.

The exhibitor agrees to submit any animal, breeding and/or market entered by him/her to inspection by any veterinarian or testing agency appointed by the ACFA and agrees to have such animal submitted to such tests as may be requested at any time. ACFA reserves the right to ultrasound, D.N.A., blood, tissue, feces and/or urine laboratory analysis made any animal entered for competition. The exhibitor, including his/her parent or legal guardian, must be present during the collection of testing. The conclusions reached by the testing agency and analysis shall be final and conclusive without recourse against ACFA or any officer, director, employee, independent contractor or agent thereof, even if the source of the Drug is unknown, including without limitation, any veterinarian or testing agency appointed by the ACFA.

ACFA maintains a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy, therefore the exhibitor waives any right of action or formal protest which he might have for any action taken under these rules.

As breeding animals (Colts, Halter Heifers and Pen of Heifers) are not entering the food chain, the USDA Wholesome Meat Act does not apply; however, breeding animals will be closely screened for any performance-enhancing compounds. This includes, but is not limited to, steriods, diuretics, anti-inflammatories, tranquilizers and painkillers. All horses must be shown free of a prohibited substance (medication) in accordance with the AQHA Rule 441 (H) or forfeit its sale check and all other awards. Non-sale animals will forfeit all awards.

The ACFA reserves the right to condemn and/or disqualify any animals, either live or slaughtered, found in violation of the use of drugs, chemicals, or feed additives as described above.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF DRUG POLICY:

1st violation: In the event any animal is declared by the testing agency to be in violation of the use of drug, chemical, or feed additives as described above, the animal shall be disqualified and the exhibitor will forfeit all awards, prizes, auction proceeds, premium money and/or add-on money, as well as recognition associated with placing included, but not limited to, ACFA website for the positive tested animals.

2nd violation: In case of a second violation of the use of drugs, chemicals or feed additives as described above, the animal shall be disqualified and the exhibitor will forfeit all awards, prizes, auction proceeds, premium money and/or add-on money, as well as recognition associated with placing including, but not limited to, ACFA website for the positive tested animal. The exhibitor will also be banned from entering in any ACF Junior Livestock Show activities or awards for the duration of their Junior Show Career.

Animals that were subject to Drug Testing must wait until a negative result is confirmed prior to delivery. Exhibitors will be notified once this has been confirmed.

YOUTH AUCTION SALE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE

AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

In order to hold the number of sale lots to one that will encourage good prices for all livestock, and will give every 4-H and FFA member a chance to participate in the sale, the Austin County Fair Association has adopted the following rules for the 2026 4-H and FFA Youth Auction Sale:

All entries not sold in the Youth Auction Sale are eligible for sale on the resale truck, if the exhibitor notifies the Committee Chairman by **5:00p.m. Thursday, October 8th, 2026**. Otherwise, the exhibitor will be responsible for all animals left.

The Youth Auction Sale Committee will determine the total number of sale lots in the Youth Auction Sale.

1. Each 4-H club and FFA member shall be limited to one sale lot. If the exhibitor has more than one entry eligible for the sale, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to let the Species Superintendent know which animal he/she wished to sell. If the exhibitor does not let the Species Superintendent know which animal he/she wishes to sell, the sales committee will select the first one that comes from the following order: 1st Steer, 2nd Halter Heifer, 3rd Horses, 4th Pen of Heifers, 5th Swine, 6th Lamb, 7th Goat, 8th Broiler, 9th Turkey Tom, 10th Turkey Hen and 11th Rabbits.

2. Only animals passing sifting and subject to other regulations will be sold in the Youth Auction Sale.

3. All sales in the Youth Auction Sale shall be limited to 4-H Club and FFA members. Members must be permanent residents in Austin County or be enrolled in a public, private, or home schooled in Austin County. Exhibitors must be a member in good standing and be in compliance with all rules and guidelines of a 4-H Club and FFA Chapter in Austin County and have not graduated high school.
4. if an exhibitor EXHIBITS an animal at any county fair within the calendar year of the Austin County Fair, then he/she is ineligible to show or sell at the Austin County Fair. This does not apply major stock shows.
5. All animals in this sale must have been fed and cared for by the exhibitor.
6. The feeding and care of all livestock projects are the sole responsibility of the exhibitor and their family from the beginning of the project through dismissal on Sunday after the Fair or until delivery per Buyer's direction. Any exhibitors not doing so will forfeit their Youth Auction Sale and Add-On checks to the Austin County Fair Association Memorial Scholarship Fund.
7. There will be a 7% deduction from all sales through the 4-H Club and FFA Auction Sale, including the resale animals, donations, added money which will be used to help defray the expenses of the Youth Auction Sale.
8. All Grand Champions and Reserve Champions in the junior market show must be sold in the Auction Sale unless the sale contradicts rule number one (1) above.
9. **It is absolutely unethical for anyone to ask the buyer of an exhibit to donate or sell back a sale lot to an exhibitor. The Fair Board will not tolerate exhibitors asking for animals to be donated or sold back.**

The vioation of this rule could result in the forfeiture of any monies and/or prizes earned and be subject to other penalties assessed by the Austin County Fair.

10. No request to change the destination of the purchased animal(s) may be made by the exhibitor or parent, the buyer's written request is final. Once the buyer submits the written form to the salesclerk, the buyer is the only individual allowed to make changes to delivery or destination.

11. All entries will be exhibited and sold by their owners unless he/she is physically unable to do so or if the exhibitors has more than one entry showing in different divisions at the same time. Exhibits to be shown or sold by someone else other than the owner must be approved in writing by the respective committee chairman. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain and complete the required form. Forms will be available at the Fair Office. The **ONLY** permissible excuses for "physically unable to do so" are **DOCUMENTED** medical or family emergency and/or **DOCUMENTED** and sanctioned school function of which the exhibitor is a **PARTICIPANT**. If an exhibitor is academically ineligible to show, the exhibitor **AND THEIR PROJECT** are ineligible to participate in the Austin County Fair.

12. No Pass OUT (PO) will be allowed in any department.

13. When Youth Auction Sale checks are ready, exhibitors will be notified. In order to receive their checks, exhibitors must bring to the Fair Office **STAMPED** and **ADDRESSED HANDWRITTEN** thank you notes for each buyer and add-on donor. Once the Fair Office has checked their thank you notes, exhibitors will seal them and then receive their check. Only parents(s)/guardian(s) listed on the entry form will be allowed to pick up checks for exhibitors.

14. In order to cash the Youth Auction Sale checks, the EXHIBITOR must endorse the check. Exhibitors will have 30 days after checks are printed to turn in thank you notes and pick up checks. After this time period, the Sale and Add-on monies will go to the Austin County Fair Scholarship fund.

15. If an exhibitor family owes money to the Austin County Fair Association, their Youth Auction Sale check will be withheld until payment of outstanding balances. This must be handled 30 days after checks are printed. Please refer to rule above.

COMMERCIAL PEN OF HEIFERS

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 17, 2026

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Chad Fishbeck 832-335-8036

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN: Wesley Tobola 361-798-0857

COMMITTEE: Jacob Diezi, Barbara Klein, Brittney Klein, Brandi Fishbeck, Christy Tobola, Bryan Vacha, Tanner Vacha, Linsey Angus, Peter Angus, Stephanie Adamcik, Keith Linseisen, Brett Linseisen, Dalton Kasper, Luke Luedeker, Cody Harkey, Dan Diezi

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. This project is part of the market division of the Austin County Fair; therefore, an exhibitor CAN sell this project in the Youth Auction Sale.
2. All entries in the Commercial Pen of Heifers Show will be subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair.
3. The Commercial Pen of Heifers Project is an opportunity for Junior Exhibitors to learn more about the beef cattle industry. Crossbred heifers are desired but purebred heifers will be permitted to show provided they have not been shown anywhere previous to the Commercial Pen of Heifers Show.
4. Each exhibitor is eligible to validate and raise as many heifers as they wish but only two (2) will be entered and exhibited by an exhibitor. The remaining heifers that were tagged in will not be allowed to sell in the Youth Auction Sale or be brought to the fairgrounds.
5. Grand and Reserve Champion Commercial Pen of Heifers must sell according to the Youth Auction Sale rules. The remaining sale order will be determined by the exhibitors' overall placing.

6. Heifers entered in the Commercial Pen of Heifers Show must be no older than 30 months at the time of the show.
7. All heifers must be tagged in and DNA sample taken on Friday, May 8, 2026, beginning at 5:00 p.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m. at Four County Auction Barn in Industry.
8. All heifers entered in the Commercial Pen of Heifers Show must be polled or dehorned, Brucellosis vaccinated and tested per Texas Animal Health Commission regulations at tag-in.
9. Family tagging will be allowed. This is interpreted as immediate family members living in the same household.
10. There will be a \$20.00 per head tag in fee and a \$55.00 validation fee per pen at tag-in.
11. Heifers tagged in for the Austin County Fair Halter Heifer Show may not be used to make a Commercial Pen of Heifers.
12. All heifers must have health papers to present at the Show and must be palpated by a licensed veterinarian no more than 30 days prior to the show. Palpation results must be listed on TAHC Health Certificate with seal and in the exhibitor's name.
13. Palpation of heifers and health papers can be done from **SEPTEMBER 12th – SEPTEMBER 18th OF 2026**. ANY HEIFERS PALPATED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 12th, 2026, **WILL NOT HAVE CURRENT HEALTH PAPERS**.
14. Heifers must be bred at the time of the show. Any heifer that is not bred at the time of palpation will not receive any heifer points for that heifer.
 - a. Heifers will NOT be allowed to have calves at their side.
 - b. Any heifer that has a calf is no longer a heifer and will be disqualified.

15. Due to space limitations, live evaluation of the heifers will be on October 3rd at Four County Auction Barn. Exhibitors will take written test on October 3rd at Bleiberville VFD. Interviews will take place on October 5th at the Austin County Fair Grounds. Once all results are finalized, the top 32 overall exhibitors will bring heifers to the ACF.
16. All Exhibitors will be required to turn in an Official Project Record Book. Directions for Record Book can be found on the ACF website.
17. Scoring System: 100 Points Total
 - a. Live Evaluation of Heifers 40 points
(20 points per heifer)
 - b. Exhibitor Record Book 10 points
 - c. Written Exam 25 points
 - d. Exhibitor Interview 25 points
18. In case of a tied overall score between two (2) exhibitors, the tiebreakers will be handled in the following order:
19. Exhibitors 3rd - 8th grade will be classified as Juniors. Exhibitors 9th - 12th grade will be classified as Seniors. Best Test will have junior and senior winner as well as for Rookie of the Year.
20. Exhibitors will be expected to maintain their pens and care for their animals at all times. Exhibitors that fail to maintain their area will be issued one (1) warning from the Pen of Heifers Committee. If no improvement is made to the condition of the stalls, a **fine of \$250.00** will be assessed and deducted from the exhibitor's check. Only pelletized shavings will be used in stalls and provided by POH Committee.
21. If the exhibitor qualifies for the Youth Auction Sale and chooses to sell their pen, then the cattle will sell. No PO allowed.

22. Exhibitors shall be responsible for the delivery of their projects listed for sale at the time mutually agreed upon between buyer and seller to any destination in Austin County. Failure to comply with this delivery rules will result in the forfeiture of the money paid by the buyer to the exhibitor. The Austin County Fair Association assumes no responsibility for the delivery or loss of the exhibitor's project. Delivery receipts must be signed for by the exhibitor before the animals will be released by the committee chairman.
23. Pens must be clean and free from any feed, manure, hay, and all signs when heifers are loaded out. A **fine of \$100.00** will be assessed and deducted from the exhibitor's check for each pen that is not properly cleaned out.
24. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion and one (1) random. No interfering with testing area and testing official.
25. When Youth Auction Sale checks are ready, exhibitors will be contacted. In order to receive their check, exhibitors must bring **STAMPED and ADDRESSED HANDWRITTEN** thank you notes to their buyers and add on donors to the Fair Office. Once the Fair Office has checked their thank you notes, exhibitors will seal them and then receive their check.
26. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy, ALL exhibitors are now required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2025 show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without verification code for each exhibitor. Verification codes are not required for Agricultural Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at: <https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>

SCHEDULE

Pen of Heifers Tag In	May 8, 2026	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Mandatory Meeting	September 2, 2026	6:00 p.m.
Close out Record book	September 18, 2026	
Heifer information sheets, and Video Due Date	September 18, 2026	By 5:00 p.m.
Record Book Due	September 25, 2026	By 5:00 p.m.
Live Evaluation of Pen of Heifers & Test	October 3, 2026	8:00 a.m.
Pen of Heifers Interviews	October 5, 2026	8:00 a.m.
Pen of Heifers Results and Awards	October 5, 2026	6:00 p.m.
Pen of Heifers Arrival	October 8, 2026	5:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.
Sale of Cattle	October 9, 2026	10:00 a.m.
Move Out & Clean Up	October 11, 2026	11:00 a.m.

- 27. It is absolutely unethical for anyone to ask the buyer of an exhibit to donate or sell back a sale lot to the exhibitor. The Fair Board will not tolerate exhibitors asking for animals to be donated or sold back. The violation of this rule could result in the forfeiture of any monies and/or prizes earned and be subject to other penalties assessed by the Austin County Fair.**
- 28. No request to change the destination of the purchased animal(s) may be made by the exhibitor or parent, the buyer's written request is final. Once the buyer submits the written form to the salesclerk, the buyer is the only individual allowed to make changes to delivery or destination.**

BEEF SKILLATHON CONTEST

ENTRY DEADLINE: CONTEST CHECK-IN

ENTRY FEE: FREE

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Lee Compton 979-676-1937

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. This contest will be open to any Austin County 4-H or FFA Member.
2. All contestants are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair.
3. A link to online entry submission will be posted to the Austin County Fair website (www.austincountyfair.com). This link will be separate from the online livestock entry portal.
4. Contest Date is October 3rd, 2026 at Four County Auction Barn.
5. Contestants will be divided into three age divisions, based on contestants' school grade as of September 1, 2026:
 - a. 3rd – 5th grade
 - b. 6th – 8th grade
 - c. 9th – 12th grade
6. During the competition, contestants will be further divided into groups and will remain with that assigned group throughout the round of stations. While completing the individual stations, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials.
7. Conferring among contestants (talking, gestures, etc.) will result in immediate dismissal from the contest. Contestants may not carry any electronic communication device (cell phones, watches, etc.).

Any contestant found in possession of such a device at any time during the contest will be immediately removed from the competition.

8. All testing materials required to complete the individual competition stations will be provided, except that contestants will be allowed to bring their own clipboard. The contestants may bring no books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area.
9. Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual competition stations.
10. No questions concerning the contents of the individual competition stations will be answered during the contest.
11. Parents are invited to review contest materials in the contest area at the conclusion of the contest.
12. The contest will consist of skill stations on the following topics:

Beef Cattle Equipment	Breeds of Cattle
Disease Identification	Anatomy of Beef Cattle
Feed Ingredients	Feed Labels
Medications and Vaccines	Meat ID
Expected Progeny Differences	Hands on Skills
13. In the event of a tied score, the tie will be broken based on having the correct answer for specific questions at specific stations. These questions will be randomly selected by drawing question numbers. Drawing of random questions will only take place in the event of a tied score.
14. Awards will be given in each age division. These awards will be presented on Saturday, October 10th, 2026 following the livestock judging contest awards at the Brandes Entertainment Center. The approximate time of the award will be provided at the conclusion of the contest.

15. Contest questions will be created using information obtained from the following websites or any other public source of information the committee deems applicable. It is the individual contestant's responsibility to access these websites as well as any other source to obtain study materials pertaining to the topics listed in these rules and regulations:

<https://beefskillathon.tamu.edu> - San Antonio Beef Skill-a-thon

Study Guide 1 and 2

agrilifeextension.tamu.edu

www.valleyvet.com

www.jefferslivestock.com

16. Any special circumstances will be handled on an individual basis. Please refer all questions or special circumstances to the Chairman of the Beef Skillathon contest.

HALTER HEIFER & MARKET STEER

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 17TH, 2026

ENTRY FEE: \$30.00

HALTER HEIFER CHAIRMAN: Eddie Freeman 979-231-6823

MARKET STEER CHAIRMAN: Jacob Diezi 281-433-0098

COMMITTEE: Baylee Adams, Cory Barrett, Ben & Amanda Boyer, Kortlynn & Kody Brantner, Dan Diezi, Scott Hauerland, Kelsye Janish, Doyle Krause, Matt Macat, Steve Malkowsky, Danielle Nelson, Kim Rinn and Dustyn Tiemann

2026 GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. All Halter Heifer and Market Steer entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair and to the rules governing the Youth Auction Sale.
2. A validation form must be completed for each Halter Heifer or Market Steer to be tagged in. **In order to speed up the tag-in process, it is advisable to obtain and complete the form prior to arriving at tag-in. Electronic Validation Forms will be available on the fair website and should be submitted prior to tag-in day.**
3. All Halter Heifers and Market Steers must be weighed, tagged and DNA sample taken on **Saturday, May 9th, 2026, from 7:00 am – 10:00 am at the Four County Auction Barn in Industry.**
4. In addition to being weighed and tagged, Halter Heifers and Market Steers will have hair samples collected for identification purposes.

5. Halter Heifers must weigh at least 500 pounds at tag-in. There is no minimum tag-in weight for Market Steers.
6. Halter Heifers and Market Steers must be owned by the exhibitor at time of tagging.
7. There will be a \$20.00 charge for each animal tagged. Family tagging is allowed. This will be interpreted as immediate family living in the same household.
8. Corrections to information on the validation form must be brought to the attention of the committee chairman within 30 days following the date of tag-in.
9. You must notify the committee chairman immediately if you have a Halter Heifer or Market Steer that loses an ear tag so that they can issue you a new one. A Re-Tag form will be completed and new DNA samples taken. There is a \$5 Re-Tag fee.
10. Any breed or cross from any of the beef breeds is eligible to enter the show. Halter Heifers and Market Steers will be divided into two (2) divisions: American Breeds & Cross (Brahman influence – ABC) and All Other Breeds (exhibiting no Brahman influence – AOB)
11. A champion and reserve champion will be selected from each division with an overall Grand Champion and Reserve Champion from the entire show.
12. A mandatory progress show will be held on **Saturday, August 8th, 2026, at 8:00 am** at the Austin County Fairgrounds. Halter Heifers and Market Steers must be present at the progress show in order to be eligible to show at the Austin County Fair. Halter Heifers and Market Steers should be exhibited by their owners unless he/she is physically challenged and unable to do so. All Halter Heifers and Market Steers must be halter broke and easy to handle by mandatory progress show.

Unmanageable heifers and steers will be required to return to the Fairgrounds on **Saturday, September 19th, 2026, at 10:00 am** for a second evaluation.

13. Halter Heifers or Market Steers that fail the second evaluation will not be allowed in the show. Any heifer or steer deemed unmanageable by show officials during the Fair will be required to leave the grounds immediately.
14. All entries will be exhibited and sold by their owners unless he/she is physically challenged, or if the exhibitor has more than one entry showing in divisions at the same time. Exhibits to be shown or sold by someone other than the owner must be approved in writing by the respective committee chairman. Forms will be available in the Fair Office.
15. Animals owned by an exhibitor who is academically ineligible will not be allowed to enter the show.
16. A 10-pound tolerance for minimum weight will be allowed. Animals failing to make the required weight will be removed from the scale. The scale will be recalibrated, and the animal will be placed back on the scale before the scale closes per schedule. Animals failing to meet their weight requirement after the second weighing will be required to leave the fairgrounds immediately.
17. Only ACF & Major Show ear tags are allowed during the fair. All other ear tags will be removed prior to classification.
18. Hay may be fed loose in the barn, but each exhibitor is responsible for clean-up of their area each day.
19. Exhibitors will be allowed to use shavings in the barn. Each exhibitor will be responsible for cleaning out shavings prior to load-out on **Sunday, October 11th, 2026**.
20. No trim chutes will be allowed.
21. No Free-Standing Fans will be allowed. Fans must be mounted to a panel.

22. No electronic/hydrotherapy to be done on the premises.
23. No Chiropractic work to be done at the stalls.
24. There will be no “pumping” allowed on premises other than by a state licensed veterinarian.
25. Unethical Fitting and Show of Livestock – Unethical practices performed on any livestock entry in order to deceive the judges or the sifting committee is prohibited, and the exhibitor shall be barred from this show and any future shows. Unethical practices will be determined by the Executive Committee of the Austin County Fair with the assistance of anyone deemed necessary.
26. Hair grooming products may be used prior to the start of the show, but the animal must be washed out and free of residue prior to entering the holding area. Animals will be checked for residue prior to entering the holding area. Any animal found with residue will not be allowed to enter the holding area. The use of adhesives, paints, dyes, etc. will be prohibited.
27. Every exhibitor will be eligible to participate in the Herdsman Contest (Halter Heifer/Market Steer) – stalls will be inspected for Good Housekeeping periodically on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Exhibitors will be judged on timely activities such as daily feeding and watering of exhibits of friendliness and cooperation among exhibitors. Awards will be announced on **Saturday, October 10th, 2026**, after Livestock Judging Awards.

28. Any exhibit requiring medication during the Fair must have treatment made in accordance with the current Release of Liability & Indemnity, And Drug Certification Agreement. This form must be signed by the exhibitor and parent/guardian prior to submitting entry cards.
29. During the show, only the exhibitor and one (1) adult will be allowed in the holding area.
30. No animal will be permitted to leave the fairgrounds without the consent of the committee.
31. If an exhibitor has two (2) Market Steers, or one (1) heifer and one (1) steer, or one (1) Halter Heifer/ Steer and one (1) of another species qualifying for the sale, he/she may choose which animal to sell, except for Overall Grand and Reserve Champions. However, the Halter Heifer or Steer Species Chairman must be notified of the decision within 15 minutes of the completion of the respective heifer and steer sale order. Halter Heifer and Steer Chairmen will be located in the Livestock Office during this time. If not notified, the highest placing animal will sell if same species, or if different species, the committee will select the first one that comes from the following order: 1st Steer, 2nd Halter Heifer, etc. as indicated in the Youth Auction Sale Rules.
32. Non-selling Halter Heifers and Market Steers may move out early. This will take place at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday. Exhibitor must have a release form signed by the committee chairman. Release forms will be available in the Fair Office. Animals must be walked out through Gate 3; no trailers are to pull through the side of the barn.
33. For any non-selling Halter Heifer or Market Steer that the exhibitor wishes to put on resale, it will be the exhibitor's responsibility to deliver that animal directly to the resale buyer, at a time designated by the resale buyer. Resale buyer information will be available in the Fair Office during the Fair.

34. Early drop-off of show boxes and tack will be on **Sunday, October 4th, 2026. See Fair schedule for times.** Vehicles are to enter through Gate 3 (exhibitor parking) on highway 159 and exit through Gate 1. Tack and personal property arriving prior to the designated move-in time will be removed.
35. Show boxes and tack can be removed 5:00 am – 9:00 am on **Sunday, October 11th, 2026,** or after all Volume Buyers have been loaded out from the barn or released by the chairman.
36. Exhibitors must be at their stalls by 9:00 am on **Sunday, October 11th, 2026,** in order to clean them out and assist with loading-out according to schedule.
37. Exhibitors will be expected to maintain their stalls and care for their animals at all times. Exhibitors that fail to maintain their area will be issued one (1) warning from the Halter Heifer and Market Steer committee. If no improvement is made to the condition of the stall or care of the animal, a fine of \$100.00 will be assessed and deducted from the exhibitor's sale check
38. Stalls must be clean and free of hay, manure, shavings, and excess feed prior to the animal's load-out on **Sunday, October 11th, 2026.** A fine of \$100 will be assessed and deducted from the exhibitor's sale check if committee must clean out stall after exhibitor's departure.
39. Exhibitors will be responsible for the delivery of their projects to any destination in Austin County, as designated by the buyer. Failure to comply with this delivery rule will result in forfeiture of the money paid by the buyer to the exhibitor. The Austin County Fair Association assumes no responsibility for the delivery or loss of the exhibitor's project.
40. Exhibitors may exhibit two (2) Halter Heifers, two (2) Market Steers, or one (1) heifer and one (1) steer.
41. A maximum of two (2) stalls will be assigned to an exhibitor for all beef projects.

42. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champions and one (1) random animal in accordance with the current Release of Liability & Indemnity, And Drug Certification Agreement. No interfering with the testing area and testing official will be allowed.
43. When Youth Auction Sale checks are ready, exhibitors will be contacted. In order to receive their check, exhibitors must bring **STAMPED and ADDRESSED HANDWRITTEN** thank you notes to their buyers and add on donors to the Fair Office. Once the Fair Office has checked their thank you notes, exhibitors will seal them and then receive their check.
44. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy, ALL exhibitors are now required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2026 Show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without verification code for each exhibitor. Verification codes are not required for Agricultural Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at: <https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>
- 45. It is absolutely unethical for anyone to ask the buyer of an exhibit to donate or sell back a sale lot to the exhibitor. The Fair Board will not tolerate exhibitors asking for animals to be donated or sold back. The violation of this rule could result in the forfeiture of any monies and/or prizes earned and be subject to other penalties assessed by the Austin County Fair.**
- 46. No request to change the destination of the purchased animal(s) may be made by the exhibitor or parent, the buyers written request is final. Once the buyer submits the written form to the sales clerk, the buyer is the only individual allowed to make changes to delivery or destination.**

HALTER HEIFERS

1. Halter Heifers must be calved between **October 1st, 2024, and September 30th, 2025.** See chart below for age divisions.

DIVISION	DATE CALVED	AGE	WEIGHT GAIN PER DAY	PREGNANCY
Sub Jr.	July '25 August '25 September '25	Under 15 Months	1 lb.	Open
Junior	April '25 May '25 June '25	15-18 Months	1 lb.	Open or Bred
Intermediate	January '25 February '25 March '25	19-21 Months	.5 lb.	Bred minimum of 60 days
Senior	October '24 November '24 December '24	22-24 Months	N/A	Bred minimum of 120 days

2. All Halter Heifers must be either polled or dehorned, and Brucellosis vaccinated, prior to tag-in on **Saturday, May 9th, 2026.**
3. Halter Heifers in each division may be split into classes based on the number of heifers in the show at the discretion of the Halter Heifer & Market Steer committee.
4. **Sub-Junior** Halter Heifers must not be bred. **Junior** heifers may be bred or open. Sub-Junior or Junior heifers that are open **should have evidence of palpation noted on the certificate of veterinary inspection (health paper) which states that the animal is a “satisfactory potential breeder”.** **Intermediate** heifers must be bred a minimum of 60 days. **Senior** heifers must be bred a minimum of 120 days.

Breeding information and health papers will be required on all Halter Heifers.

5. Halter Heifers calving prior to the show date will be ineligible to show.
6. All Halter Heifers must have an individual certificate of veterinary inspection (health paper) as per the Texas Animal Health Commission including record of palpation prior to upon arrival at the show with the **Austin County tag as the ID number**. Health Papers will be emailed to ACFBeefProject@gmail.com and are due Wednesday, September 30th, 2026 at midnight. **Exhibitors having more than one heifer may have all animals documented on one original health paper, but a separate copy of that original must accompany each heifer upon arrival at the show.**
7. Halter Heifers will move in and be weighed and classified into ABC or AOB divisions on **Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** See schedule below for move-in process:
 - 5:00 a.m. – Gate 3 opens for Move-In**
 - 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. – Classification and Weigh-In.**
 - Ownership must be declared at this time.**
 - Exhibitor will be responsible for declaring ABC or AOB to the classifiers.**
8. Judging of Halter Heifers will be on **Thursday, October 8th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** followed by sale order and then showmanship.
9. The Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Halter Heifers must sell according to the Youth Auction Sale rules. An exhibitor's highest placing heifer in class must sell unless the exhibitor has another animal species in the sale. Heifers placing 1st and 2nd in class will not go back into the ring for Sale Order. Heifers placing 3rd in class and below will go back into the ring and the remaining sale order will be selected by the Sale Order judge from the division. The judge's decision shall be final.

10. A showmanship contest will be held immediately following the conclusion of the Halter Heifer sale order. To qualify for showmanship, exhibitors will have been evaluated and animal during the Halter Heifer Show. Exhibitors can bring any heifer that they own, and that has been tagged-in as an Austin County Fair Halter Heifer and shown in the Halter Heifer division. Classes will be Juniors 3rd – 5th grade, Intermediate 6th – 8th grade, and Senior 9th – 12th grade. Exhibitors in each class may be split into heats based on the number of participants at the discretion of the Halter Heifer & Market Steer committee.

MARKET STEERS

1. All Market Steers must be surgically castrated and dehorned prior to tag-in on **Saturday, May 9th, 2026**.
2. Market Steers will be slick-sheared according to the ¼ inch rule. Shearing must be done prior to the arrival at the show.
3. Market Steers will move in and be weighed and classified into ABC or AOB divisions on **Tuesday, October 6th, 2026**, from 8:00 am – 9:30 am. Ownership must be declared before steer is classified or weighed. Exhibitors will be responsible for declaring ABC or AOB to the classifiers. Official classifiers decision will be final. Minimum weight is set at 1,000 pounds.
4. Classes will be determined by the Market Steer Committee after steers have been weighed and classified. Classes will be broken by the committee at their discretion.
5. Judging of Market Steers will be on **Wednesday, October 7th, 2026**, followed by showmanship.
6. The Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Market Steers must sell according to the Youth Auction Sale rules. The remaining sale order lots will be determined by class ranking. Steers will not go back into the ring for sale order.
7. A showmanship contest will be held immediately following the conclusion of the Market Steer show. To qualify for showmanship, exhibitors will have been evaluated and selected for **“Call Back”** while showing their owned animal during the Market Steer Show. Exhibitors can bring any steer that they own, and that has been tagged-in as an Austin County Fair Market Steer and shown in the Market Steer division. Classes will be Juniors 3rd – 5th grade, Intermediate 6th – 8th grade, and Senior 9th – 12th grade. Exhibitors in each class may be split into heats based on the number of participants at the discretion of the Halter Heifer & Market Steer committee.

MARKET SWINE

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 17TH, 2026

ENTRY FEE: \$30.00

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Kathy Ignasiak

979-865-2261 or 979-877-5153

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN: Marsha Siptak

979-357-2709 or 979-525-3875

COMMITTEE: Bruce Chandler, Greg Giebel, Karen Giebel, Christopher Henske, Clayton Ignasiak, Kevin Ignasiak, Carl Kokemor, Dr. Ted Lamp, Dewayne Lange, Rebecca Luedke, Frankie Macat, Marlene Macat, Bonnie Peschel, Kyle Peschel, William Peschel, Dwayne Schulz, Ben Shupak, Gary Shupak, Terry Shupak, Shane Siptak, Charlie Tallerine, and Joe Mike Young.

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All Market Swine entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair and to the rules governing the Youth Auction Sale.
2. Only Barrows will be permitted to show in the market class.
Weights are 230-290 +/- 3 lbs.

There will be only two (2) tag-in dates:

Saturday, June 27th, 2026, 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 11th, 2026, 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Both tagging dates will be at the Austin County Fairgrounds in Bellville. Exhibitors will be charged \$20.00 per animal tagged.

3. All Market Swine must be properly identified with an ear tag by **Saturday, July 11th, 2026**. Family tagging will be allowed in **2026**. This will be interpreted as immediate family living in the same household

4. **All Market Swine must be castrated before tagging.**
5. Market Swine exhibitors may exhibit two (2) entries in this division and will be allowed no back up animal or be eligible to show in any other division.
6. Second animal must move out **Tuesday, October 6th, 2026.**
THIS RULE WILL BE ENFORCED DURING THE 2026 FAIR.
7. Weighing and sifting will be done when you unload your Market Swine. Weighing will be from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on **Monday, October 5th, 2026.** Exhibitors must be present to bring their Market Swine to the scale. If the exhibitor has a school related event, their parent, brother or sister may bring the Market Swine. **Each exhibitor must declare ownership before each Swine enters the scale.** A re-weigh will be conducted only if over or under weight. The animal will be backed off, scale cleaned and rebalanced for re-weigh.
8. **All Market Swine in this show and sale must have been fed and cared for by the exhibitor in an approved location for the show. Feeding, fitting and handling of Market Swine will be limited to exhibitors and immediate family member only. If the exhibitor does not meet the qualification above, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the show and sale.**
9. Judging will be at 5:00 p.m., **Tuesday, October 6th, 2026.**
10. Market Swine will be sifted on show quality and must be clean.
11. Market Swine will be divided into eight (8) equal weight classes after weigh-in.
12. Exhibitors placing two (2) Swine in the top 10 in any weight class will have the option of which Swine to sell, provided they notify the Market Swine Committee chairman immediately following the Swine Show.

13. To qualify for showmanship, the exhibitor must show his/her own Market Swine. Exhibitor may use either of his/her own Market Swine if chosen for final showmanship run. The classes will be divided according to the exhibitor's school grade as of **September 1st, 2026**. Classes will be Juniors 3rd – 5th grade, Intermediate 6th – 8th grade, and Senior 9th – 12th grade.
- 14. Automatic water devices will be allowed, but only at feeding time. Water or feed pans will be allowed in the swine pens but should be removed once feeding and watering is done. Failure to remove pans and water devices will result in a strong verbal warning. Failure to remove them a second time will result in a \$100.00 fee assessed to the exhibitor's fair check.**
15. NO LOOSE CARPET! Any exhibitor may use a board with carpet in his/her pen prior to or during the judging of the Market Swine but must remove it from the barn immediately following the completion of the show. Failure to comply with this rule will be in violation of the Good Housekeeping Rules (See General Rules #36).
- A. Shaving will be allowed again this year. **NO PELLETT SHAVINGS.**
16. Pens will be inspected for Good Housekeeping on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. This will include proper watering and feeding. Awards will be announced **Saturday, October 10, 2026**, following the presentation of the Livestock Judging awards.
17. On weigh day, show day and sale day, only exhibitors and adults are allowed in the alleyways for safety reasons.
- 18. NO EAR TAG, NO SHOW! You must call the committee chairperson the day the tag is lost so that proper measures can be taken into effect. THE TAG MUST BE WITH THE EXHIBITOR ON TUESDAY OR THE SWINE WILL NOT ALLOWED TO BE UNLOADED. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED DURING THE 2026 FAIR.**

19. DUE TO THE LIMITED SPACE IN THE SHOWBARN, WE ASK THAT THERE BE ONLY ONE SHOWBOX PER FAMILY. THIS RULE WILL BE MONITORED DURING THE **2026 FAIR**.
20. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion and one (1) random. No interfering with testing area and testing official.
21. When Youth Auction Sale checks are ready, exhibitors will be contacted. In order to receive their check, exhibitors must bring **STAMPED and ADDRESSED HANDWRITTEN** thank you notes to their buyers and add on donors to the Fair Office. Once the Fair Office has checked their thank you notes, exhibitors will seal them and then receive their check.
22. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy, ALL exhibitors are required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2026 Show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without verification code for each exhibitor. Verification codes are not required for Agricultural Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at: <https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>
23. It is absolutely unethical for anyone to ask the buyer of an exhibit to donate or sell back a sale lot to the exhibitor. The Fair Board will not tolerate exhibitors asking for animals to be donated or sold back. The violation of this rule could result in the forfeiture of any monies and/or prizes earned and be subject to other penalties assessed by the Austin County Fair.
24. No request to change the destination of the purchased animal(s) may be made by the exhibitor or parent, the buyers written request is final. Once the buyer submits the written form to the sales clerk, the buyer is the only individual allowed to make changes to delivery or destination.

SWINE SKILLATHON CONTEST
ENTRY DEADLINE: DAY OF CONTEST
ENTRY FEE: FREE

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Cassie Malinowski

1. This contest will be open to any person exhibiting a project at the 2026 Austin County Fair.
2. All contestants are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair.
3. A link to online entry submission will be posted to the Austin County Fair website (www.austincountyfair.com). This link will be separate from the online livestock entry portal.
4. Contest will be held on **Thursday, October 8th, 2026**
 - a. 6:00 pm – Contestant check-in, American Legion Hall
 - b. 6:15 pm – Review rules and contest procedures, followed by start of contest.
5. Contestants will be divided into three age divisions, based on contestants' grade as of September 1, 2026:
 - a. 3rd to 5th Grade – Junior Division
 - b. 6th to 8th Grade – Intermediate Division
 - c. 9th to 12th Grade – Senior Division
6. During the competition, contestants will be further divided into groups and will remain with that assigned group throughout the round of stations. While completing the individual stations, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials.
7. Conferring among contestants (talking, gestures, etc.) will result in immediate dismissal from the contest. Contestants may not carry any electronic communication device (cell phones, etc.).

Any contestant found in possession of such a device at any time during the contest will be immediately removed from the competition.

8. All testing materials required to complete the individual competition stations will be provided, except that contestants will be allowed to bring their own clipboard. The contestants may bring no books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area.
9. Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual competition stations.
10. No questions concerning the contests of the individual competition stations will be answered during the contest.
11. Parents are invited to review contest materials in the contest area at the conclusion of the contest.
12. The contest will consist of skill stations on the following topics:

Swine Equipment	Breeds of Swine
Disease Identification	Parts of the Body
Feed Ingredients	Feed Labels
Medications and Vaccines	Cuts of Pork
	Ear Notches
13. In the event of a tied score, the tie will be broken based on having the correct answer for specific questions at specific stations. These questions will be randomly selected by drawing questions numbers. Drawing of random questions will only take place in the event of a tied score.
14. Awards will be given to the top five scoring individuals in each age division. These awards will be presented on Saturday, October 10th, 2026, under the Entertainment Pavilion immediately following Livestock Judging awards.

15. Contest questions will be created using information obtained from the following websites or any other public source of information the committee deems applicable. It is the individual contestant's responsibility to access these websites as well as any other source to obtain study materials pertaining to the topics listed in these rules and regulations.

<https://www.jefferspet.com/pages/swine>

<https://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestock-species/swine/skillathon/>

<https://texaspork.org/swine-skill-a-thons/>

<https://quizlet.com/subject/swine-skillathon/>

16. Any special circumstances will be handled on an individual basis. Please refer all questions or special circumstances to the Chairman of the Swine Skillathon contest.

MARKET LAMBS & GOATS

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 17TH, 2026

TAG IN FEE: \$20.00 PER ANIMAL

ENTRY FEE: \$30.00 PER ANIMAL

LAMB COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Alfred Hall 713-560-5644

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN:

David Bartay 979-540-0248

GOAT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Gregory Kaspar 979-421-0093

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN:

Leisha Chandler 979-221-5128

COMMITTEE: Bruce Chandler, Marlee Childress, Charles Havemann, Gaylen Krebs, Anthony Davila, Kristi Davila, Jared Williamson, Joe Speckmaier, Cliff Burton, Kevin Gross, Emma Jackson, Mike Jackson, Lisa Kaspar, Elizabeth Rinn, Anthonette Short, Pam Heard, Hope Zaruba, Shelly Duty, Dana Speckmaier, Ashlyn Davila, Jordyn Davila

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please check the Austin County Fair website for any updates or changes throughout the year.

1. All Market Lamb and Goat entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair, to the rules governing the Youth Auction Sale and the rules of the Market Lamb and Goat livestock committees. Violation of these rules may result in disqualification or sifting.
2. Only wethers may be shown.
3. Market Lamb and Goat exhibitors may exhibit two (2) entries in these divisions and will be allowed no back up animal and will be ineligible to show in any other division.

3. All Market Lambs and Goats must be properly identified with tattoos and ear tags by **Thursday, July 9th, 2026**. Family tagging will be allowed. This will be interpreted as immediate family living in the same household. All Market Lambs and Goats must be in their designated locations by **Thursday, July 9th, 2026** (refer to validation form). There will be two (2) tag-in dates - **Saturday, June 27th, 2026** from 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and **Thursday, July 9th, 2026** from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Austin County Fairgrounds.

In the event of a lamb or goat losing or getting an infected ear tag the exhibitor must notify the chairman and send a picture of the animal and ear tag within one week. The animal must be retagged with the tag before crossing the scale.

5. There will be a Mandatory Progress Evaluation and optional showmanship contest opened to 4-H and FFA exhibitors on **Saturday, August 8th, 2026**. Evaluation will be from **7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.** followed by a Mandatory Meeting at **8:15 a.m.** at the Austin County Fairgrounds. Failure to attend the Mandatory Progress Show will forfeit your eligibility to show at the Austin County Fair. All tagged Market Lambs and Goats must be present at the Mandatory Progress Evaluation to be eligible to show at the Austin County Fair. All Market Lambs and Goats should be exhibited by their owners unless he/she is physically challenged and unable to do so. Showmanship will begin at **8:30 a.m. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
6. All Market Lambs and Goats in this show and sale must have been fed and cared for by the exhibitor in an approved location for the show.
7. Minimum weight of show **Market Lambs** is 80 pounds. Minimum weight of show **Market Goats** is 60 pounds.
8. All **Market Lambs** must be sheared within one (1) week prior to sift date. Boots will be permitted. No shears, blow dryers (with the exception of battery operated dryers), fans or items of a similar nature will be permitted on the fairgrounds.

All **Market Goats** are preferred to be dehorned but are required to have horns tipped blunt and no longer than 1 inch prior to arrival on the show grounds. Tipping or removal of horns on show grounds will result in disqualification.

No artificial paint, powders or coloring may be used on lambs or goats during the shows. Market Goats must be uniformly sheared with no hair longer than 3/8 inch above the knee and hock joints before arrival at the fairgrounds. Market Goats may have longer hair on the end of the tail. No clipping of goats will be allowed on the fairgrounds. No shears, blow dryers (with the exception of battery-operated dryers), fans or items of a similar nature will be permitted on the fairgrounds.

9. All showboxes, supplies and canopies should be dropped off between **8:00 a.m. and 12:00 pm on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026. Any items dropped off before the designated time will be removed from the grounds.**

No unloading of show boxes and supplies will be allowed during the arrival of the lambs and goats. Any additional show boxes and supplies can be brought in after lambs and goats have been checked in and weighed. Unloading of show supplies after designated drop off time must be done in the exhibitor parking lot due to safety reasons.

Designated areas will be identified and marked to indicate where show boxes and personal items are not allowed.

Included in these areas are all roads. Please remember we have new exhibitors each year and limited room so please share space.

10. **Market Lambs** will move in and be weighed on **Monday, October 5th, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.** Exhibitors will be allowed to enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (Gate 2A). After unloading animals, exhibitors vehicles and trailers must exit the fairgrounds. No vehicles will be allowed on grounds. Committee Members will be able to unload earlier.

All **Market Goats** will move in and be weighed on **Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.** Exhibitors will be allowed to enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (Gate 2A). After unloading animals, exhibitors vehicles and trailers must exit the fairgrounds. No vehicles will be allowed on grounds. Committee Members will be able to unload earlier.

Any exhibitor that has both a lamb and goat entered may bring their goat at the same time as the lamb and stall it in its assigned pen and take it across the scale on Tuesday during weigh-in for goats.

11. **Ownership must be declared before entering the scales.** A re-weigh will be done, only in case of an underweight lamb or goat. In the event an underweight lamb or goat is identified, the lamb or goat will be immediately re-weighed. The animal will be backed off, scale cleaned and rebalanced for re-weigh.

The second weight will become the official and non-challengeable weight. Market Lambs and Goats will be sifted at scales. The judge's decision will be final. Market Lambs and Goats sifted must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately after sifting.

LAMBS - There will be six (6) weight classes. Classes will be determined after weigh-in.

GOATS -There will be six (6) weight classes. Classes will be determined after weigh-in.

12. All exhibitors must attend a mandatory meeting on:
Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 for Lambs @ 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 for Goats @ 9:00 a.m.

Exhibitor numbers will be distributed at the end of the meeting to the **exhibitor only!**

JUDGING of the **Market Lambs** will be on **Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**

JUDGING of the **Market Goats** will be on **Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**

13. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion and one (1) random. No interfering with the testing area or testing official. **Animals that are drug tested must be taken home on Sunday, October 11th, 2026 and fed and cared for until notified of drug testing results and then delivered as specified by the buyer.**
14. All Grand & Reserve Champion lambs and goats need to be placed in the designated champion pens immediately following their show! NO EXCEPTIONS!
15. If a substitution exhibitor is needed for your second lamb or goat for show purposes, you will be required to complete a substitution form. Following the show, all second lambs or goats MUST leave the fairgrounds with a RELEASE SLIP from the committee chairperson. The second lamb or goat should be designated for take home or resale immediately following the show. Second lambs must be removed from the grounds on **Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 between the end of the show and 4 p.m.** Second goats must be removed from the grounds on **Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 between the end of the show and 4 p.m.** **There will not be a resale truck after the shows.** Exhibitors are to lead lambs and goats off the fairgrounds to the parking area for loading and are not to enter any other livestock building or other buildings with lamb or goats while in route to load their animal. All other lambs and goats will be required to stay on the fairgrounds until **Sunday, October 11th, 2026** when they can be removed with a RELEASE SLIP before **8:00 a.m.**
16. **IMPORTANT: Load out designation of the exhibitor's second lamb or goat must be finalized in writing by Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m. for Lambs and Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m. for Goats.**

Failure to give destination designation of second lamb or goat will result in default of the lower placing animal to resale on Sunday, October 11th, 2026.

13. If an exhibitor shows two (2) animals in these divisions and chooses to sell in the Youth Auction Sale, the Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Champion must sell. The sale order will be Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, Class Grand Champions and Class Reserve Champions, and all other sale lots will be determined by the class placings. Exhibitors must advise the committee in writing by **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7th, 2026 if they choose to sell a lower placing lamb or goat or if they are also showing a second species.**
18. **The Committee suggests after the sale and weather permitting, please remove blankets and sleeves so the public can view the animals.**
19. Absolutely no feed, water buckets or shavings or any other type of bedding other than what is provided by the Fair Association are allowed in the lamb or goat pens. **If in shared pens, animals must be muzzled unless excused by chairman.** Market Lambs and Goats are to be fed in designated feeding areas. Lambs and Goats must be fed daily. No feeding or watering in the barn. All Market Lambs and Goats must be in their assigned pens by **7:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 11th, 2026.**
20. **Release of second animals and drug testing lambs and goats will be Sunday, October 11th, 2026 from 6:00 am till 8:00 am. This also includes show boxes and tents. The barn will be closed down at 7:00 a.m. to sort animals for load out destinations. Volume buyer and resale trucks will load out at 9:00 a.m. and the remaining animals will be released after 11:00 a.m. All lambs and goats must be removed no later than 12:00 p.m. from the fairgrounds on Sunday.**
21. Show boxes can be removed on Sunday from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. or after 11:00 a.m. when all poultry and rabbits have been removed from the barn.

22. Every exhibitor will be eligible to participate in the Memorial Herdsman Contest (Market Lamb/Market Goat) – Pens will be inspected for Good Housekeeping periodically on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Exhibitors will be judged on timely activities such as daily feeding and watering of exhibit, removal of feed buckets from designated feeding areas, cleanliness of area around show box and exhibits of friendliness and cooperation among exhibitors. Awards will be announced on **Saturday, October 10th, 2026**, with the Livestock Judging Awards.
23. Exhibit area must be kept clean, Tuesday – Sunday; failure to do so will result in a \$100.00 fee deducted from your sale check.
24. All animals are subject to be used during the Livestock Judging Contest on **Saturday** of fair week. If selected, you will be advised, and the animal will need to be fed prior to usage.
25. A **LAMB** showmanship contest will be held immediately following the conclusion of the Market Lamb Show. Exhibitors are allowed to bring any lamb that they own and have shown in the fair back for the showmanship competition. The classes will be divided according to the exhibitor's school grade as of **September 1st, 2026**. Classes will be Juniors Grades 3-5, Intermediate Grades 6-8, and Senior Grades 9-12. Awards will be given for the first 3 exhibitors placing in each showmanship class.

A **GOAT** showmanship contest will be held immediately following the conclusion of the Market Goat Show. Exhibitors are allowed to bring any goat that they own and have shown in the fair back for the showmanship competition. The classes will be divided according to the exhibitor's school grade as of **September 1st, 2026**, classes will be Juniors Grade 3-5, Intermediate Grade 6-8, and Senior Grade 9-12. Awards will be given for the first 3 exhibitors placing in each showmanship class.

26. Absolutely no parking is allowed inside the fairgrounds after Monday of fair week.
27. Any items put in or above the exhibitor's pen will require advanced approval from the exhibitor sharing the pen and the lamb and goat committee chairman.
28. When Youth Auction Sale checks are ready, exhibitors will be contacted. In order to receive their check, exhibitors must bring ***STAMPED and ADDRESSED HANDWRITTEN*** thank you notes to their buyers and add-on donors to the Fair Office. Once the Fair Office has checked their thank you notes, exhibitors will seal them and then receive their check.
29. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy, ALL exhibitors are now required to pass the "NEW" Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2026 Show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without verification code for each exhibitor. Verification codes are not required for Agricultural Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at: <https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>
30. **It is absolutely unethical for anyone to ask the buyer of an exhibit to donate or sell back a sale lot to the exhibitor. The Fair Board will not tolerate exhibitors asking for animals to be donated or sold back. The violation of this rule could result in the forfeiture of any monies and/or prizes earned and be subject to other penalties assessed by the Austin County Fair.**
31. **No request to change the destination of the purchased animal(s) may be made by the exhibitor or parent, the buyer's written request is final. Once the buyer submits the written form to the salesclerk, the buyer is the only individual allowed to make changes to delivery or destination.**

LAMB & GOAT
SKILLATHON CONTEST
EARLY REGISTRATION DUE:
AUGUST 1, 2026
ENTRY FEE: FREE

COMMITTEE Chairman: Leisha Chandler

Any updates for the Skillathon will be given at the mandatory show in August and on the Fair website.

1. This contest will be open to any person exhibiting a project at the 2026 Austin County Fair.
2. All contestants are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair.
3. A link to online entry submission will be posted to the Austin County Fair website (www.austincountyfair.com). This link will be separate from the online livestock entry portal.
3. Contest will be held on **Thursday, October 8, 2026**. This year the contest will be held in the Luhn Barn.
 - a. 1:00 p.m. – Contestant check-in
 - b. 1:15 p.m. – Review rules and contest procedures, followed by start of contest.
4. Contestants will be divided into three age divisions, based on contestants' school grade as of September 1, 2026:
 - a. 3rd – 5th grade: Junior
 - b. 6th – 8th grade: Intermediate
 - c. 9th – 12th grade: Senior
6. During the competition, contestants will be further divided into groups and will remain with that assigned group throughout the round of stations. While completing the individual stations, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials.

7. Conferring among contestants (talking, gestures, etc.) will result in immediate dismissal from the contest. Contestants may not carry any electronic communication device (cell phones, etc.). Any contestant found in possession of such a device at any time during the contest will be immediately removed from the competition.
8. All testing materials required to complete the individual competition stations will be provided, except that contestants will be allowed to bring their own clipboard. The contestants may bring no books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area.
9. Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual competition stations.
10. No questions concerning the contents of the individual competition stations will be answered during the contest.
11. Parents are invited to review contest materials in the contest area at the conclusion of the contest.
12. The contest will consist of 8 individual stations. The topics covered at the stations will be:

Lamb & Goat Equipment	Breeds of Lamb & Goats
Disease Identification	Anatomy of Lamb & Goats
Feed Ingredients	Feed Labels
Medications and Vaccines	Fair Rules & Current News
13. Each individual station will consist of up to 10 questions. Question numbers will be based on school grade. Contestants will be allowed 5 minutes to complete each individual station.
14. In the event of a tied score, the tie will be broken based on having the correct answer for specific questions at specific stations. These questions will be selected by the Committee on the day of the contest. The tie breaker questions will be posted prior to the start of the contest.

Any special circumstances will be handled on an individual basis. Please refer all questions or special circumstances to the Lamb & Goat Skillathon committee.

MARKET POULTRY

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 17TH, 2026

ENTRY FEE: \$30.00

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Chris Holub 979-877-5542

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN:

James Herrmann (Turkeys) 979-836-2878

Michelle Majewski (Broilers) 979-885-9565

Combined Committee: Ben Hajdik, Virgil Hajdik, Diane Moore, Kathy Supak, Kristian Pier, Mark Swonke, Kirk Thomas, Becky Thomas, Justin Tielke, Tonya Tipp, and Christy Tobola.

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The below section contains rules that are common to both Broilers and Turkeys, later sections will describe species specific Rules.

1. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair and to the rules governing the Youth Auction Sale.
2. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion and one (1) random. No interfering with testing area and testing official. Please see General Rules for more details.
3. **Ractopamine Hydrochloride (Topmax™) THE AUSTIN COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PRESENCE OF RACTOPAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE (Topmax®) IN MARKET POULTRY. Though FDA approved for use in market turkeys, ractopamine is not commercially available for this use. The use of this compound in market turkeys and market broilers will be governed by the Junior Show Rules. The Austin County Livestock Show will continue to use feather testing to detect performance enhancing drugs, including Ractopamine, in poultry.**

4. **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The threat of avian influenza and other reportable diseases continues to be of serious concern to poultry in Texas. The situation is being monitored on a continuous basis. Any requirements for testing, limitations on the movement of poultry or other activities related to this or similar matters will be handled under the authority of show officials and/or the Texas Animal Health Commission.
5. Any entry showing symptoms of disease or lacking show quality will be excluded from exhibition at the discretion of the Official Judge. The Official Judge's decisions are final. No Stock, except in the above instances, will be removed from the exhibition until the close of the fair.
6. All birds must be the property of the person entering them but birds from one family may be housed in the same facilities.
7. The Committee will provide for each exhibitor two (2) clean, one gallon coffee cans for feed and water. Each exhibitor may bring one (1) plastic container in which to store feed and supplies. No paper containers or bags will be allowed around the cages.
8. If a bird dies or is injured after it makes it through sifting, the bird is still eligible for the show.
9. The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion birds must sell in the Youth Auction Sale unless this contradicts with the General Rules #1. If an exhibitor shows two (2) animals at the Austin County Fair and both animals qualify for the Youth Auction Sale, the exhibitor must notify the Chairman which animal they want to sell by Wednesday, October 7, 2026, by 5:00p.m.
10. The poultry exhibit area needs to be kept clean during visitor hours. Birds must be fed, watered and pens cleaned by 9:00 a.m. each day. In addition, exhibitors are required to change out shavings sometime between Thursday evening (5:00 p.m.) and sale day, Friday (9:00 a.m.). The Poultry Committee has assigned a group of committeemen to enforce this rule during the Fair.

An exhibitor will be first given a YELLOW WARNING TAG. If the problem is not corrected by the following day, the Housekeeping Committee will then tag the pen with a RED PENALTY TAG; the exhibitor will then be subject to a \$100.00 fee. This fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's check. Tags should only be removed by Poultry Committee. This rule will be STRICTLY enforced during the 2026 Fair.

11. A Herdsman award will be given for the top exhibitors who keep their pens clean during the Fair
12. To qualify for showmanship, the exhibitor must be present and exhibit his/her own birds during the show. Showmanship will start during the show and at the completion; exhibitors interested in showmanship may be required to bring one (1) broiler back to the show ring and possibly answer questions. No parents/guardians are allowed in the ring during showmanship. If the child cannot hold their bird, a poultry committee member will assist them. The classes will be divided according to the exhibitor's school grade as of September 1, 2026. Showmanship will be divided into two (2) groups: Juniors – 3rd thru 7th grade and Seniors – 8th thru 12th grade
13. If your birds die after the show and before the Sunday move out it must be replaced with another bird.
14. Exhibits will move out between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Sunday, October 11, 2026. Pens must be clean upon departure. If any birds are not picked up and the Broiler Committee is not notified of their status, they will become the property of the Poultry Committee
15. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy, ALL exhibitors are required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2026 Show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without verification code for each exhibitor.

Verification codes are not required for Agricultural Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at:

<https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.asp>

16. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to have their birds processed (please verify with buyer how they would like the birds processed) and delivered to their buyer within two (2) weeks after the close of the Austin County Fair. Birds that were subject to Drug testing must wait until a negative result was confirmed prior to delivery. Exhibitors will be notified once this has been confirmed.

MARKET BROILERS

1. All broiler chicks must be bought from the same place and same hatch through FFA advisors or 4-H agents. Orders must be placed and paid for by Friday, May 8th, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. There will be no exception to this rule. Exhibitors must use the official order form provided by their 4-H leader or FFA advisor. Each exhibitor is limited to the birds he/she ordered; no replacement birds will be issued.
2. Market Broiler exhibitors may have one (1) entry in this division with a backup pen of no more than three (3) broilers allowed at time of sifting.
3. Entries in the Market Broiler Show will move in and sift from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 4th, 2026. All Market Broilers must be in line for sifting at 6:00 p.m. Judging will immediately follow.
4. Broiler exhibitors will be allowed to enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (GATE 2A), follow as directed by committeemen to unload their Broilers and then to move their vehicle as directed by the committee. The Market Broiler Show will not begin until all vehicles are removed.

5. Three (3) Market Broilers will constitute one entry. The 2026 Market Broiler Show will be a straight run show (roosters or hens).
6. Only one (1) bird will be allowed in pen after the Market Broiler Show. Exhibitors must remove the remaining two (2) birds after completion of the Market Broiler show.
7. Please note: families with multiple exhibitors are NOT required to place a single order for the entire family. Family orders are an option. A family unit order MUST be placed on ONE order form only, either 4-H or FFA. Do not split family orders across order forms from different organizations. On the order form you must designate which organization each exhibitor will be exhibiting under. Place all members of the same family on one order form. Please provide a current phone number for each exhibitor or family.
8. All birds will be wing-banded for the **2026** Austin County Fair Market Broiler Show. Only wing-banded birds will be allowed to show. A minimum of 50 birds must be ordered per exhibitor or Family Unit. Additional birds may be ordered in increments of 50 not to exceed 100 birds per exhibitor or Family unit. Therefore, each exhibitor or family may order 50 or 100 chicks. Each exhibitor MAY order an individual set of birds (up to 100) OR siblings within the same household may order and share a set of birds (up to 100). In other words, a family with multiple exhibitors can order an individual set of birds for each exhibitor in the family, OR if they wish, they can order one set of birds for the entire family. In either case, the maximum number of birds in a set that an exhibitor or Family unit can select from for the show is 100 birds.
9. Family with more than one exhibitor showing separately, each exhibitor will be assigned a set of consecutive numbered wing-bands. Exhibitors in the family may exchange sets but no intermingling of birds between the sets will be allowed. Each exhibitor MUST choose their pen from separate sets.

Once a pen of broilers is selected for show, the wing-band numbers of the entire pen (and alternates) must correspond from within the range of wing-band numbers assigned to the exhibitor at the time of distribution. (Wingband numbers between family exhibitors cannot be combined to make up a pen and no two pens can come from the same set.)

Example for family Tagging:

Family - 2 exhibitors, order 2 set of birds

At Distribution

Set #1 is assigned wing-band #1-100

Set #2 is assigned wing-band #101-200

Time of Show

Selecting the Pen

One pen must come from Set #1 and the other from Set #2

The family can decide which child shows which pen.

10. Birds with missing wing-bands will not be allowed to show. Bands that are not legible will not be allowed to show.
11. Evidence of tampering with wing-bands will not be tolerated. The decision of the Official Broiler Judge is final.
12. All Broiler wing-bands will be checked when they are brought to the sifting line and are subject to being checked anytime during the Market Broiler Show.

MARKET TURKEYS

1. All poults must be bought from the same place and same hatch through FFA or 4-H agents. Orders must be placed and paid for by Friday, March 6th, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Exhibitors must use the official order form provided by their 4-H leader or FFA advisor. Each exhibitor is limited to the birds he/she ordered. No replacement birds will be issued.

2. Turkeys must be ordered in lots of five (5) birds per exhibitor with a maximum of 20 birds (of each sex). For example – five (5) toms and/or five (5) hens. Exhibitors from the same family may purchase poults collectively, however all exhibitors' names must appear on the order form.
3. Market Turkey exhibitors will be allowed one (1) entry in the Turkey Tom division and/or Turkey Hen division (per General rule). Each exhibitor will be allowed one (1) backup bird per division if their first bird is sifted.
4. Entries in the Market Turkey Show will move in and be sifted from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 4th, 2026. All turkeys must be in line for sifting at 9:00 a.m. Judging will immediately follow.
5. On the morning of the show, the Market Turkey exhibitors will be allowed at 8:00 a.m. to enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (GATE 2A), follow as directed by committeemen to unload their Turkeys and then to move their vehicle as directed by the committee. The Market Turkey Show will not begin until all vehicles are removed.
6. Exhibitors who show both a Tom and a Hen will be required to take one of the two home after completion of the Turkey judging. They must be removed immediately following the show, no extra pens will be available, with the exception if both of the birds shown are Champion birds. All Champions birds (Grand and Reserve) for both Toms and Hens must remain for the full fair.

MARKET (MEAT PEN) RABBITS

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 17TH, 2026

MARKET RABBITS ENTRY FEE: \$30.00

HOME GROWN MARKET RABBITS

VALIDATION FEE: \$15.00/EXHIBITOR

PURCHASED MARKET RABBITS

VALIDATION FEE: \$15.00/PEN

SHOWMANSHIP ENTRY FEE: \$10.00

DIRECTOR IN CHARGE & COMMITTEE CHAIR: Lynette Lee
acfrabbitproject@gmail.com

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR: Karen Coopersmith

COMMITTEE: Jada and Robert Conrad, Karin Kins, Mike Korenek, Kelli Stark, Maggie and Kendall Thuesen, Madison & Nate Compton, James Lee, Lari Samford

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please see rules for both divisions (home bred & purchased)

Home Bred Division:

1. This is not an A.R.B.A or T.R.B.A sanctioned show. However, it will be governed by the American Rabbit Breeders Association guidelines as outlined by the A.R.B.A Standard of Perfection. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair. Market Rabbits are also governed by the Youth Auction Sale rules.
2. Any entry showing symptoms of disease such as malocclusion, sore bleeding hocks, signs of a cold or sniffles, ear canker, mite or mange, vent disease, sore and runny eyes, mix breeds or other disqualifying features, will be excluded from exhibition at the discretion of the Judge and/or Rabbit Show Director in Charge. No stock, except in the above instances, will be removed from the exhibition until the close of the Rabbit Show.
3. All Rabbits must be the property of the person entering them. The exhibitor must own the buck and does before June 1, 2026.

Exhibitors must breed their own does to their own bucks & kindle their own kits. Each exhibitor should have at least 2-3 does and a buck

4. Breeding stock is limited to the following meat pen breeds:
A. Californian D. Palomino
B. New Zealand E. Champagne D'Argent
C. Satin F. Rex
5. All entries must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor. Breeding should be done 100 days prior to the show. **No crossbreeds may be bred or shown.**
6. **MANDATORY:** All exhibitors of Market Rabbits will be required to fill out a Market Validation Form (not entry card). This form will include a statement as to the physical location of the breeding stock (number of bucks and does with their permanent left ear tattoo) with a release stating that this is for committee use of random checks. Random checks can begin the first of June.

This rule is an enforcement of rule #6 of the General Livestock Rules. The validation form can be acquired online on the fair's website. **The validation form must be completed and turned in at Fair Office no later than June 1, 2026 at 5pm, or emailed to acfrabbitproject@gmail.com by 5pm on June 1, 2026. NO MONEY IS DUE AT THIS TIME.**

7. **ALL VALIDATED EXHIBITORS MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE RABBIT PROJECT MEETING TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SHOW AT THE 2026 FAIR.** Project meeting dates will be posted on the fair website. The approved meetings will be held in the months of June, July, and September. One of these meetings must be attended.

ALSO MANDATORY, is attendance to the August Progress Show Rabbit Showmanship Clinic. There will be an optional showmanship contest following.

8. Those exhibitors breeding their own stock may also purchase a meat pen in the event their breeding stock does not breed, kindle enough kits, or dies prior to the fair. However, they may only enter in one meat pen division at the fair. The purchased pen will be tattooed separately from any home raised kits. This must be declared on the validation sheet.
9. **All meat pens shown must have the special tattoo in the right ear which will be placed there by an Austin County Rabbit Validation Committee member Monday, September 7, 2026 without exception.** Family tattooing will be allowed for the Home Bred & Owned division only for the 2026 fair. Meat pens without this validation tattoo will be disqualified from showing at the Austin County Fair. Tag in fees are per exhibitor for the 2026 fair.

****Each meat pen kit must have a permanent tattoo in their left ear prior to tag-in. This permanent tattoo will not be placed by Austin County Rabbit Committee during tag-in validation. This tattoo will be noted at tag-in and must match when weighing in at the sift portion of check-in prior to the start of the rabbit show at the fair. Parent/Guardian must sign confirmation of ACF tattooing prior to leaving the grounds. Once meat pen kits have left the fairgrounds, NO modifications or re-entry will be allowed.**
10. Tag-in fee must be paid at time of tag-in.
11. Exhibitors may have only one (1) entry (pen of 3) in this division but are eligible to exhibit one other entry in another livestock division.
12. A meat pen entry will consist of only – three (3) rabbits, either sex, not over 70 days old and not exceeding 5 ½ pounds each in weight. Rabbits exceeding 5 ½ pounds at the show day sift will be disqualified from showing.

13. Entries in the Rabbit Show will move in on Monday, October 5, 2026. Exhibitors MUST enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (Gate 2A), unload Rabbits under the Luhn Barn, and then exit the vehicle out to the parking lot (See map in Junior Livestock Show Rule Book). If necessary, you will be allowed to bring a vehicle back in after the Rabbit show to pick up Rabbits not staying and/or carrying cages. All exhibitors, parents, and guests must park in the designated parking lot. No queuing will be allowed on FM 529. If a line forms, staging will occur in Parking Lot 2, with each division in separate lines.
14. Sifting and judging will be conducted under the Luhn Barn. Home Bred meat pens will be sifted starting promptly at 7:00am and will be judged immediately following. Arrival time is 6:45am – 7:15am. **No exhibitors will be allowed to unload prior to 6:00am.**
15. Youth Auction Sale General Rule #12 still applies if not physically or academically able to show. Forms should be turned in before judging starts.
16. The showmanship contest may begin, with a specific showmanship judge, during the meat pen show and continue throughout the rabbit show. There will be 3 classes/divisions. The classes will be divided according to the exhibitor's school grade as of September 1, 2026. Classes will be Juniors: 3rd – 5th grade, Intermediate: 6th – 8th grade, and Senior: 9th – 12th grade. The contest may include a hands-on portion, oral questions and/or written test. This is up to the discretion of the judge. To be eligible for showmanship, you must have a meat pen or single fryer entered into the market rabbit show.

If checking in or showing another animal, the Director in Charge of the show should be notified so you can show out of order. Exhibitor still must show by the end of the showmanship judging to be eligible for prizes.

17. The exhibitor is responsible for feeding their rabbits before 9am every morning and needs to supply their own feed and water bowls or bottle (can be secured with a zip tie) for all rabbits staying on the grounds overnight. All three (3) meat pen rabbits will be caged together in one pen. A zip tie should be used to secure the cage doors from being opened. There will be no containers of feed, etc. allowed on top or in the cages. Exhibitors are required to provide a water container holding at least 16oz for every pen. A small tote/box will be allowed under the rabbit cages that does not exceed 24 inches in height or width.

Exhibitors are responsible for the cleanliness and upkeep of their rabbit cage trays. All exhibitors are required to empty their tray of shavings, rinse and apply fresh shavings (which the committee provides) on Wednesday and Friday of the fair week before 9am.

18. Exhibitors will move out at 8:00a.m., **Sunday, October 11, 2026**. No rabbits are to leave the fairgrounds before this stated date and time without prior consent from the Rabbit Director in Charge!
19. Self-addressed & stamped thank you cards for all buckles, trophies, prizes and cash awards won on Monday at the Rabbit Show **MUST** be turned into the Rabbit Director in Charge before moving out on **Sunday, October 11, 2026** at 8:00 a.m.
20. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to have their Market Rabbits processed (if applicable) and delivered, dressed or alive to their buyer within two (2) weeks after the close of the Austin County Fair, but not until the drug testing results have returned.
21. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion and one (1) random pen chosen before the show starts. There will be no interfering with testing area and testing official. The drug tested animals are not allowed to be processed for their prospective buyers until results are back and the exhibitor has been notified.

22. When Youth Auction Sale checks are ready, exhibitors will be contacted. In order to receive their check, exhibitors must bring **STAMPED** and **ADDRESSED HANDWRITTEN** thank you notes to their buyers and add on donors to the Fair Office. Once the Fair Office has checked the thank you notes, exhibitors will seal them and then receive their check.
23. Quality Counts: In keeping with the Austin County Fair drug residue avoidance policy, ALL exhibitors are required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2026 Show. Junior market and breeding show entries will not be accepted without a verification code for each exhibitor. Verification codes are not required for Agricultural Mechanics exhibitors and Judging Contest contestants. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at:
<https://www.texaslivestockvalidation.com/qc/qcregister.aspx>
24. **It is absolutely unethical for anyone to ask the buyer of an exhibit to donate or sell back a sale lot to the exhibitor. The Fair Board will not tolerate exhibitors asking for animals to be donated or sold back. The violation of this rule could result in the forfeiture of any monies and/or prizes earned and be subject to other penalties assessed by the Austin County Fair.**
25. **No request to change the destination of the purchased animal(s) may be made by the exhibitor or parent. The buyers' written request is final. Once the buyer submits the written form to the sales clerk, the buyer is the only individual allowed to make changes to delivery or destination.**

PURCHASED DIVISION:

****RULES #6-#25 ABOVE ALSO APPLY TO THIS DIVISION****

26. This is not an A.R.B.A or T.R.B.A sanctioned show. However, it will be governed by the American Rabbit Breeders Association guidelines as outlined by the A.R.B.A Standard of Perfection. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair. Market Rabbits are also governed by the Youth Auction Sale rules.
27. Any entry showing symptoms of disease such as malocclusion, sore bleeding hocks, signs of a cold or sniffles, ear canker, mite or mange, vent disease, sore and runny eyes, mix breeds or other disqualifying features, WILL be excluded from exhibition at the discretion of the Judge and/or Rabbit Show Director in Charge. No stock, except in the above instances, will be removed from the exhibition until the close of the Rabbit Show.
28. The following meat pen breeds will be allowed:
- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| A. Californian | D. Palomino |
| B. New Zealand | E. Champagne D' Argent |
| C. Satin | F. Rex |
29. Meat Pens are to be 70 days and no older with a breed date of 100 days prior to our show (July 1st). **A purchased pen will consist of no more than 10 kits. No crossbreeds may be shown.**
30. **MANDATORY:** All exhibitors of Market Rabbits will be required to fill out a Market Validation Form (not entry card). This form will include a statement as to the physical location that the project will be raised with a release stating that this is for committee use of random checks. Random checks will be at the discretion of the committee.

This rule is an enforcement of rule #6 of the General Livestock Rules. The validation form may be acquired at Rabbit Project Meetings, the Fair Office, the County Extension Office, or it is now available online on the fair's website.

The validation form must be completed and turned in at Fair Office no later than June 1, 2026 at 5pm, or emailed to acfrabbitproject@gmail.com by 5pm on June 1, 2026. NO MONEY IS DUE AT THIS TIME.

- 31. ALL VALIDATED EXHIBITORS MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE RABBIT PROJECT MEETING TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SHOW AT THE 2026 FAIR.** Project meeting dates will be posted on the fair website. The approved meetings will be held in the months of June, July, and September. One of these meetings must be attended.

ALSO MANDATORY, is attendance to the August Progress Show Rabbit Showmanship Clinic. There will be an optional showmanship contest following.

- 32. All meat pens shown must have the special tattoo in the right ear which will be placed there by an Austin County Rabbit Validation Committee. Meat pens must be validated/tagged-in at the Austin County Fairgrounds on Monday, September 7, 2026 without exception. Meat pens without this validation tattoo will be disqualified from showing at the Austin County Fair.**

****Each meat pen kit must have a permanent tattoo in their left ear prior to tag-in. This permanent tattoo will not be placed by Austin County Rabbit Committee during tag-in validation. This tattoo will be noted at tag-in and must match when weighing in at the sift portion of check-in prior to the start of the rabbit show at the fair. Parent/Guardian must sign confirmation of ACF tattooing prior to leaving the grounds. Once meat pen kits have left the fairgrounds, NO modifications or re-entry will be allowed.**

- 33. Tag-in fee must be paid at time of tag in.**
- 34. Tag-in is per exhibitor, NO family tag-in is allowed for purchased pens.**
- 35. Limit of (1) tagged pen of 10 or less kits per exhibitor.**

36. Purchased Kits only will be weighed at time of tag-in and a maximum weight of 2 pounds 8 ounces will be allowed. **Any kits weighing more at tag-in will not be allowed to be tagged.**
37. A meat pen entry will consist of only – three (3) rabbits, either sex, not over 70 days old and not exceeding 5 ½ pounds each in weight. Rabbits exceeding 5 ½ pounds at the show day sift will be disqualified from showing.
38. Exhibitors may have only one (1) entry in this division but are eligible to exhibit one other entry in another livestock division.
39. Entries in the Rabbit Show will move in on **Monday, October 5, 2026**. Exhibitors MUST enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (Gate 2A), unload Rabbits under the Luhn Barn, and then exit the vehicle out to the parking lot (See map in Junior Livestock Show Rule Book). If necessary, you will be allowed to bring a vehicle back in after the Rabbit show to pick up Rabbits not staying and/or carrying cages. All exhibitors, parents, and guests must park in the designated parking lot. No queueing will be allowed on FM 529. If a line forms, staging will occur in Parking Lot 2, with each division in separate lines.
40. Sifting and judging will be conducted under the Luhn Barn. The Purchased meat pens will be judged immediately following the Home Bred Division Show. Purchased Pen exhibitors are to arrive in line between 7:30am and 8:00am. **No exhibitors will be allowed to unload prior to 6:00am.**
41. The judge will determine the overall Market Rabbit Champion and Reserve Champion from the two divisions. The sale order will then be allocated giving 65% of the eligible sale slots to the Bred & Owned division and 35% to the purchased division. If all sale lots allotted to a division are not used by that division, any remaining slots will be added to the other division.
42. **PLEASE SEE HOME BRED RULES #15 - #25 AS THEY ALSO APPLY TO PURCHASED DIVISION EXHIBITORS!**

SINGLE FRYER RABBIT

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 17TH, 2026

ENTRY FEE: \$15.00

1. This is not an A.R.B.A or T.R.B.A sanctioned show. However, will be governed by the American Rabbit Breeders Association guidelines as outlined by the A.R.B.A Standard of Perfection. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair.
2. Any entry showing symptoms of disease such as malocclusion, sore bleeding hocks, signs of a cold or sniffles, ear canker, mite or mange, vent disease, sore and runny eyes, mix breeds or other disqualifying features, WILL be excluded from exhibition at the discretion of the Judge and/or Rabbit Show Director in Charge. No stock, except in the above instances, will be removed from the exhibition until the close of the Rabbit Show.
3. Home Bred single fryers will show with Purchased single fryers in this show only.
4. Single Fryer breeds are limited to the following commercial breeds:

A. Californian	D. Palomino
B. New Zealand	E. Champagne D'Argent
C. Satin	F. Rex
5. All exhibitors of Market Rabbits will be required to fill out a Market Validation Form (not entry card). This form will include a statement as to the physical location that the project will be raised with a release stating that this is for committee use of random checks. Random checks will be at the discretion of the committee.

This rule is an enforcement of rule #6 of the General Livestock Rules. The validation form can be acquired online on the fair's website.

The validation form must be completed and turned in at Fair Office no later than June 1, 2026 at 5pm, or emailed to acfrabbitproject@gmail.com by 5pm on June 1, 2026.

6. **ALL VALIDATED EXHIBITORS MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE RABBIT PROJECT MEETING TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SHOW AT THE 2026 FAIR.** Project meeting dates will be posted on the fair website. The approved meetings will be held in the months of June, July, and September. One of these meetings must be attended.

ALSO MANDATORY, is attendance to the August Progress Show Rabbit Showmanship Clinic. There will be an optional showmanship contest following.

7. All single fryer rabbits shown must have the special tattoo in the right ear which will be placed there by an Austin County Rabbit Validation Committee member during mandatory tag-in at the Austin County Fairgrounds Monday, September 7, 2026.
8. Entries shall consist of one (1) single meat fryer only – not over 70 days old, either sex, be a minimum of 3 ½ pounds and not exceeding 5 ½ pounds in weight. Rabbits exceeding 5 ½ pounds will be dis-qualified from showing. Fryers are to possess the same qualities as meat pen rabbits but are judged as a single rabbit on its own merit. **No crossbreeds may be shown.**
9. Exhibitors may have only one (1) entry in this division and it may not be taken from the meat pen that was shown. This is a **prize only division** and will not be a market animal in the Youth Auction Sale.
10. To show in this division you must be entered in the Meat Pen division as well.
11. Sifting and judging will be conducted under the Luhn Barn. Single Fryer rabbits will be weighed, sifted and judged immediately following the completion of the meat pen show, however no earlier than 9am.

Entries in the Rabbit Show will move in on **Monday, October 5, 2026**, no earlier than 9:00a.m. Exhibitors **MUST** enter the fairgrounds from FM 529 (Gate 2A), unload rabbits under the Luhn Barn, and then exit vehicle out to the parking lot ([See map in Junior Livestock Show Rule Book](#)). If necessary, you will be allowed to bring a vehicle back in after the Rabbit show to pick up rabbits not staying and/or carrying cages. All guests must park in the designated parking lot.

12. Youth Auction Sale General Rule #12 still applies if not physically or academically able to show. Forms should be turned in before judging starts.
13. The Grand and Reserve Champion Single Fryer will stay at the fair on exhibition. The remaining single fryers will be released after the show to go home. These exhibitors are responsible for feeding/watering their rabbits before 9am every morning and needs to supply their own feed and water bowls or bottle (can be secured with a cable tie). A zip tie to secure the cage doors from being opened is required. There will be no containers of feed, supplies, etc. allowed on top or in the cages. There will be no containers of feed, etc. allowed on top or in the cages. Exhibitors are required to provide a water container holding at least 16oz for every pen. A small tote/box will be allowed under the rabbit cages that does not exceed 24 inches in height or width.

Exhibitors are responsible for the cleanliness and upkeep of their rabbit cage trays. All exhibitors are required to empty their tray of shavings, rinse and apply fresh shavings (which the committee provides) on Wednesday and Friday of the fair week before 9am.

14. Exhibitors **MUST** move out at 8:00 a.m., Sunday, October 11, 2026. No rabbits are to leave the fairgrounds before this stated date and time without prior consent from the Rabbit Chairmen or Director in Charge!

15. Self-addressed & stamped thank you cards for all buckles, trophies, prizes and cash awards won on Tuesday at the Rabbit Show **MUST** be turned into the Committee Chairman before moving out on **Sunday, October 11, 2026** at 8:00 a.m.

RABBIT SKILLATHON CONTEST

ENTRY DEADLINE: CONTEST CHECK-IN

ENTRY FEE: FREE

**CONTEST CHECK-IN BEGINS 15 MINS PRIOR TO
CONTEST START TIME**

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Lynette Lee

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. This contest will be open to any Austin County 4-H or FFA Member.
2. All contestants are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair.
3. A link to online entry submission will be posted to the Austin County Fair website (www.austincountyfair.com). This link will be separate from the online livestock entry portal.
4. Contest will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 10am in the American Legion Hall located near the FM 529 entrance to the fairgrounds, behind the Luhn Barn. *(Subject to change, please stay updated via ACF website)*
5. Contestants will be divided into three age divisions, based on contestant's school grade as of September 1, 2026:
 - a. Junior: 3rd – 5th grade
 - b. Intermediate: 6th – 8th grade
 - c. Senior: 9th – 12th grade
6. During the competition, contestants will be divided into stations. While completing the individual stations, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials.

7. Conferring among contestants (talking, gestures, etc.) will result in immediate dismissal from the contest. Contestants may not carry any electronic communication device (cell phones, etc.). Any contestant found in possession of such a device at any time during the contest will be immediately removed from the competition.
8. All testing materials required to complete the individual competition stations will be provided. The contestants may bring no books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area.
9. The contest will consist of:
 - *written exam (multiple choice, true/false & fill in the blank formats) over materials covered in any of our 2026 rabbit project meetings, any materials written in the 2026-2030 ARBA Standard of Perfection, as well as the 2026 Austin County Fair Livestock Rule Book.
 - *written exam on rabbit diseases
 - *rabbit breed identification
 - *hands on judging of live rabbitsEach section will have a set time limit. Skillathon Director or assignee may elect to ask bonus questions during the hands on judging of the rabbits.
10. It is the individual contestant's responsibility to access the materials, as well as any other material sources listed, pertaining to the topics listed in these rules and regulations. These study materials will not be published on the fair website.
11. Awards will be given in each age division. These awards will be presented on Saturday, October 10, 2026, following the Livestock judging contest awards under the Brandes Entertainment Pavillion. The Livestock Awards begin at 12:30pm.

12. In the event of a tied score, the tie will be broken based on having the correct answer for specific questions at specific stations. These questions will be randomly selected by drawing question numbers. Drawing of random questions will only take place in the event of a tied score.
13. The ARBA Standard of Perfection is available for purchase online <https://arba.net/product/standard-of-perfection/> or at any of the rabbit project meetings, until sources run out.
14. Any special circumstances will be handled on an individual basis. Please refer all questions or special circumstances to the Chairman of the Rabbit Committee.

CALF SCRAMBLE

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2026

FAIR ENTRY FEE: \$30.00

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Chair, LeAnn Hein 979-885- 9512

Co-Chair, Lee Compton 979-676-1937

COMMITTEE: Lee Compton, Nate Compton, Erika Guerrero,
LeAnn Hein, Anna Krueger, Troy Oliver and Rodney Melnar

RULES AND REGULATIONS PRIOR TO THE 2026 CALF SCRAMBLE

1. **ELIGIBILITY** – Any boy/girl who has reached his/her 12th birthday by or on September 1st, 2026, and has not exceeded his/her junior year in high school, is eligible to participate in the Calf Scramble. The boy/girl must reside in Austin County or be enrolled in a public school, private school or home school in Austin County AND be enrolled in a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter in Austin County. Participants may apply as many times as desired and may receive up to two (2) certificates. For any reason a Scramble project is returned or not completed, he/she may not be eligible to scramble again.
2. **PARTICIPANT APPLICATIONS** – Application for participation must be submitted by interested persons to the Austin County Fair Office located at 1076 East Hill Street, Bellville, Texas or the Austin County Extension Office, located at 803 E. Wendt Street, Bellville, Texas. Applications are available online at austincountyfair.com/calf-scramble. Applications are available in a fillable format and must be printed and acquire appropriate signatures. All applications for participation are DUE on or before September 10, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. The Scramble Committee reserves the authority to determine the number of calves, number of participants and awards to be given based on committed sponsorships.

3. **MINOR RELEASES** – A complete and notarized minor's release **MUST** be submitted along with the application. An incomplete minor's release **WILL NOT** be accepted. All information must be complete, and the form must contain the signature of both parents. However, one (1) signature will be sufficient in the event the parents are divorced or if one parent is deceased. It must be noted if one of the above situations apply.
4. **SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS** – Participants will be selected based on the following: Adequate facilities, Availability of resources and Desire to raise and show a heifer. The selection process will also include a Review of the Scramble application, and A typed essay prepared by the applicant. Consideration will be made if you have previously participated in the Calf Scramble. The essay will be required to contain information regarding the above mentioned special requirements.
5. **SCRAMBLE PARTICIPATION** – All participants and at least one (1) parent must be present by 5:30 p.m. on the day of the Austin County Fair Calf Scramble or forfeit the right to participate in the Calf Scramble.
6. **LIABILITY** – The Austin County Fair Association of the State of Texas and any person associated with the Calf Scramble Committee will not be held liable for any accidents which may occur to any participant of the Calf Scramble, before, during or after this event.
7. **CERTIFICATES** – The total award for all calf scramble recipients is \$1,200; a \$1,000 of which will be used to purchase the heifer and \$200 of which will be received upon return to the Austin County Fair provided that all obligations are fulfilled. Purchase certificates in the amount of \$1,000 must be used in the purchase of a registered breeding heifer or a haltered commercial heifer prior to **December 31, 2026**.

If you purchase a registered heifer and you wish to show, at the major livestock shows, you **MUST** purchase your animal prior to **November 1, 2026**, and have the registration paper in your name before **November 1, 2026**. Check with the 4-H Extension Agent or FFA Advisor for information on Major Shows and Validation.

- A. The County Extension Agent, Committee Member or the Ag Science Teacher (the same one that is stated on the original application for participation), **MUST** sign the certificate once they have inspected the animal to be purchased. The calf must have been born between **January 1, 2026**, and **May 31, 2026**. Please refer to the Austin County Fair rules for Commercial Heifer requirements for breeding. The certificate also requires the signature of the Scramble winner. Upon completion of selection, the scramble winner/breeder/seller must present the certificate to the Austin County Fair Office to submit for payment of the animal.
- B. The payment will not exceed the amount of the certificate which is \$1,000. If a heifer is purchased for less than the certificate amount, a check will be issued to the seller/breeder for the actual cost of the animal. If the heifer purchased is more than the value of the certificate, then the additional cost will be at the expense of the Scramble winner.
- C. The certificate may also be used for a heifer that was purchased by a Calf Scramble participant between **August 1, 2026**, and the **2026** Calf Scramble. In this case, the check will be issued directly to the participant.
- D. The completed certificate and a **COPY** of the registration papers or Bill of Sale, **MUST** become the property of the Austin County Fair Association by **January 11, 2027**. The seller will not receive payment until required documents are in the possession of the Austin County Fair.

- E. The division selected on your scramble certificate will be the division you will show in at the Austin County Calf Scramble Show.
8. **PURCHASING** – The heifer to be purchased with the certificate **MAY BE** a purebred or full-blood or any breed recognized by any Texas Major Stock Show. The heifer may also include any beef breed or cross eligible to enter the Austin County Fair Halter Heifer Show. Any halter heifer (non-registered or commercial) must be tagged/entered in the Austin County Fair Halter Heifer Show. Commercial Heifers will not be eligible to show at Major Stock Shows.
- A. The Scramble winner will be allowed to purchase their animal from any breeder offering registered or commercial heifers.
- B. Due to the purchase date requirements for Major Stock Shows, the Scrambler must have a bill of sale and registration papers for the animal.
- C. The Scramble certificate for the current year can be used to purchase an animal from a family member or themselves for \$1,000.00.
- D. Halter heifers (non-registered or commercial) **MUST BE TAGGED** with the option of entering in the Austin County Fair Halter Heifer Show.
- E. Scramble/halter heifers are eligible and may be exhibited in the Austin County Fair Halter Heifer Show and are eligible for the Youth Auction Sale. Heifers must be registered in Fair Entry **SEPERATELY** in the Halter Heifer Show. Halter heifers must meet **ALL** requirements of the Austin County Fair Halter Heifer Show to remain eligible to compete in the Scramble Show.

- 9. VACCINATION/ DEHORNING** - All heifers **MUST** be dehorned or polled to be eligible to show by Tag In in May. All heifers must be brucellosis vaccinated between the ages of 6 months to 1 year of age and be tattooed with a brucellosis tattoo as well as an identification tattoo or brand. The heifers **MUST** be dehorned by tag-in, which is held in May. Any growth implants used by the rancher or exhibitor **MUST** be approved for use in breeding heifers. Heifers should **NOT** be bred prior to March.
- 10. HALTER BREAKING** - If a Scramble heifer cannot be halter broken, it will become the responsibility of the Scramble winner to notify the breeder and the committee by **January 31, 2027**. The Calf Scramble Committee will determine the course of action.
- 11. MOVING** - Any Scramble winner who moves out of Austin County, withdraws from a school in Austin County or is not in good standing with 4H and/or FFA in Austin County (See Rule #1 of Scramble rules) will be required to pay \$1,000.00 cash to the Austin County Fair Association. A written notification of the move **MUST** also be presented to the Calf Scramble Committee 30 days prior to the move or as soon as possible.
- 12. All Scramble heifers and Scramble winners are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair Association and the Calf Scramble Program. The Scramble Show at the 2026 Austin County Fair shall be limited to the 2025 Austin County Calf Scramble winners ONLY.**
- 13. The winner is required to read all correspondence received from the Calf Scramble Committee, abiding by ALL rules and responsibilities set forth by the Committee and the Austin County Fair Association.**

14. MONTHLY REPORTS – Monthly reports are due by the 10th of each month beginning with the first report in February through September. Dates are provided in the Scramble Bible. If the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday, the report is due on the next business day. Monthly reports are due at the Austin County Fair office by 5:00 p.m. The monthly report can be hand delivered or dropped in the drop box at the fair office. Each winner will be required to submit an adequate number of copies for each sponsor, provide self-addressed stamped envelopes and appropriate postage. A copy of the monthly report will then be sent to each Sponsor(s), and a copy will be kept on file by the Calf Scramble Committee for judging. Monthly reports should include activities for the month, what you have learned, how much and what type of feed you are feeding, shows attended, challenges, memorable moments, vet visits, etc.

Late reports – If a late report is received the scrambler will receive a written warning. If a late report is received a second time the scrambler will forfeit the \$200.00 bonus incentive at the end of the program. Late reports will not be judged.

15. MANDATORY MEETINGS – All Scramble exhibitors must bring their heifers to the first meeting of the year held in January (date to be determined on an annual basis). Exhibitors and their heifers MUST attend the TAG-IN at Four County Auction Barn in Industry at the discretion of the Scramble Committee the Mandatory Progress Show (evaluation of manageability) scheduled to be held in August. The heifer will be required to participate in the Austin County Jubilee/Sizzler calf show (date to be determined on an annual basis). If an emergency arises, you must notify the committee IN ADVANCE if you cannot attend.

16. BEEF PROJECT MEETINGS/ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES – You can earn extra points for beef project meeting attended and by participating in Beef Project Meetings, (1 point), Advocacy Opportunity Points such as Newspaper Articles (3 points), Referrals (2 points),

Facebook posts (2 points), and Speaking Events (5 points). Additional details are listed in the Scramble Guide Book.

- 17. HEIFER DISPLAY PICTURE** –With your final monthly report, 5 x 7 picture must be provided of the heifer to the Scramble Committee to be used at the fair for sponsor recognition. In the picture, the heifer should be clean and clipped with a show halter. The Scramble winner must be dressed in show clothes. **It is requested that the picture only contain the scramble winner and their heifer. It is highly recommended that you use a picture taken at a show with a professional backdrop.**
- 18. ENDING ESSAY** – A typed Ending Essay with a minimum of 500 words entitled **“What My Calf Scramble Project Means to Me”**, **MUST** be submitted to the Calf Scramble Committee on or before, the date provided in your Scramble supplemental handbook. You may use stationary. You may include what you have learned, new experiences, plans you have for your calf in the future, if you will continue to raise cattle, etc. Be creative and be sure and check for grammatical errors. **A copy of the Ending Essay must be provided WITHOUT the exhibitor name for judging.**
- 19. PHOTOGRAPHY** – This contest is optional. Once this contest is entered, you **MUST** participate on a monthly basis. Failure to participate during any one month will result in disqualification from the contest.
- A. Scramble winner shall submit one (1) 5x7 picture per month due February through September.
 - B. The photo of the heifer should be taken by the exhibitor. If someone else takes the photo, the pictures should include both the heifer and the Scramble exhibitor.
 - C. The back of each photo(s) should include labeled with the exhibitor’s name and month the photo was taken.

- D. Photo(s) will be analyzed as a means of promoting the Calf Scramble project as well as the beef cattle industry.
- E. Any type of enhancement to photographs will be left to the discretion of the Scramble winner.
- F. Pictures submitted for this contest will be displayed in the Scramble display during the Austin County Fair.

20. SCRAPBOOK –The scrapbook is optional. If submitting a scrapbook, it must be submitted with the following:

- A. Maximum size being no larger than 14x14, 5” thick and cannot exceed 20lbs.
- B. The Scrapbook should be a minimum of 25 pages.
- C. The cover must be decorated. Please use standard covers.
- D. Scrapbook should contain only scramble project activities and a maximum of 2 pages about the exhibitor.
- E. Electronic Scrapbook programs can be used to generate your book.
- F. The Scrapbook should consist of the following: Cover, cover page, table of contents, application, 2 pages of who you are, sponsors correspondence, your calf sponsor thank you note, monthly expense reports, ending essay and fighting heart essay.
- G. The Scrapbook competition will be judged in accordance with the supplemental handbook provided at the first Scramble meeting. Each Scrapbook must be completed and submitted to the Committee by the date provided in your Scramble supplemental handbook.

21. FIGHTING HEART ESSAY – This essay is optional.

The essay needs to be your scramble project and must be a minimum of 500 words typed. It is suggested you write about hardships during your project, how you overcame the hardship, and why you think you have a fighting heart.

A copy of the Fighting Heart Essay WITHOUT the exhibitors name for judging.

- 22. SHOW YOUR CALF** – You get 1 point towards the overall point prize for each show you attend. Multiple shows on the same day at the same location will only be awarded 1 point. You must fill out the Points Form and must be signed by a show official or a scramble committee person in attendance.
- 23. HERDSMAN** – **Herdsman will be selected by your peers.**
One overall Herdsman award will be awarded. Factors judged on will include but not be limited to: Heifer must be fed and watered by 9:00 a.m. You must be picking up and cleaning your area. Being a good neighbor and being considerate of others. Keeping your animal clean. Helping maintain the scramble area and keeping it neat and clear of trash. Talk to visitors in the Scramble area during fair week. Being with your heifer when you are not participating in other fair activities.
- 24. STALL BOARDS** – The stall board should be limited to the front of the stall **ONLY** and should not contain any lights, electrical or battery-operated features, mirrors and glass or reflection material. The display shall not exceed **3 ft. in width and 3 ½ ft. in height**. No decorations should extend past the outside of the 3' x 3 ½' perimeter. Use ¾" plywood and frame it with 1x4's around entire border on the backside. Make sure the nails/screws do not stick through the backside. Display should not have legs. Stall boards will be installed prior to the show by the committee. Date and time will be provided. All stall boards must be completed and installed at the stated date and time. Boards must contain the Calf name, Scrambler name, Breed, Sponsors, and Date of Birth of the calf.
- 25. STALL SET UP** – Scramblers and at least one parent is required to be at the fairgrounds to install the stall boards on a date to be provided. Please be prepared to work on the Scramble area display. At this time, you will need to bring shavings, a rake, and shovel and be dressed and prepared to work.

NO stall dividers will be used except at the discretion of the committee.

Feed and water buckets must not be left in the stall unattended and a neck tie must be on the heifer at all times while in the stall.

The use of a circular fan on an “L” bracket is permissible. Butt fans on a stand are NOT allowed. The Scramble Committee will determine the number and placement of fans.

Scramble winners are responsible for daily care of animals and stall space. Scramble heifers are to be fed, watered, cleaned and in the stall space by 9:00 a.m. and must remain in the stall until 5:00 p.m. each day

26. SHOWMANSHIP – Showmanship is a very important aspect of presenting your animal. All Scramblers must participate in showmanship. Prizes, cash and points will be awarded.

27. AWARDS -in the Scramble Program will be presented as follows: Grand Champion Heifer, Reserve Champion Heifer, Division Champions, Reserve Division Champions, Showmanship, Best Monthly Reports, Ending Essay, Photography, Best Scrapbook, Best Stall Board Presentation, one (1) Fighting Heart Award and one (1) Herdsman. Incentive prizes will be awarded per category.

28. OVERALL POINT CHAMPIONS PRESENTATION – We will meet at Sunday 9:00 a.m. to announce the herdsman awards as well as the Overall Point Champion and Reserve Champion. All Scramblers must be present at this meeting.

All entries will be exhibited and sold by their owners unless he/she is physically unable to do so or if the exhibitor has more than one entry showing in different divisions at the same time. Exhibits to be shown or sold by someone else other than the owner must be approved in writing by the respective committee chairman.

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to obtain and complete the required form. Forms will be available at the Fair Office.

- 30. If an exhibitor is academically ineligible to show, the exhibitor AND THEIR PROJECT are ineligible to participate in the Austin County Fair.**
31. No trim chutes will be allowed. This show is a blow and go show so no filling products, adhesives or oils are allowed. All rules regarding grooming of cattle shall comply with Austin County Fair Halter Heifer show rules.
32. Heifers will be shown by their division. Divisions will consist of Registered Heifers: American, British and Exotics and Commercial Heifers (ABC & AOB Together).
33. Health papers are not required to participate in the Calf Scramble Show. If you are showing in the Halter Commercial Heifer show, you **MUST** obtain health papers. **Please bring the appropriate number of copies to Check-in.**
- 34. Fair Entries – Exhibitors showing in the Halter Heifer Show MUST ENTER their calf as a SEPARATE ENTRY for the Calf Scramble.**
- 35. CALF INSPECTIONS** - County Extension Agents, Ag Science Teachers and members of the Calf Scramble Committee reserve the right to inspect these projects at any time to insure proper condition and health. Mentors are assigned to each scramble exhibitor.
36. In the case if a Scramble Calf dies, proof of death will be required. It will be at the discretion of the Calf Scramble Committee to allow the exhibitor to participate in the remainder of the program. In the case of Showmanship, the Committee may allow the exhibitor to use a substitute calf to participate.

- 37. TEAR DOWN** – Sunday after the Overall Points presentation we, as a group, (Scrambler and at least one parent) will tear down the Scramble area. This will include taking down stall boards, cleaning up all shavings, etc. Please bring a rake and shovel. Both the Scrambler and a parent must be present and assist in the cleanup in order to receive the final \$200.
- 38. THANK YOU NOTES** – Final thank you notes to all sponsors must be submitted to the Austin County Fair Office by December 1st. Thank you notes **MUST** be addressed correctly and the correct postage applied. The project **WILL NOT** be deemed complete until this requirement has been met. Thank you notes will be reviewed at the fair office, upon completion, the exhibitor will receive the remaining \$200.
- 39. SPECIAL NOTE ***FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY AND ALL OF THE ABOVE STATED CALF SCRAMBLE RULES WILL RESULT IN TERMINATION FROM THE PROGRAM AND REIMBURSEMENT OF THE 1,000.00. \$1,000 CASH MUST BE PAID TO THE AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE TERMINATION.***
- 40. Each participant will be given a Scramble Guide book at the January Mandatory Meeting.**
- 41. ALL DECISIONS BY THE CALF SCRAMBLE COMMITTEE ARE FINAL.**

COLT PROJECT

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 17TH, 2026

FAIR ENTRY FEE: \$30.00

Committee Chairman: Will Wingo 979-270-1568

Committee Vice Chairman: Tyler Parker 405-474-0859

Committee members: Dr. Ted Lamp DVM (Vet Evaluations), Chelsea Parker (Documentation), Ashleigh Wingo (Secretary), Katie Heidemann (Communications & Social), Libby & Nick Cifuni (Marketing), Wade Whatley, Savannah Madison, Clay McKnight, Kelly Kaminski, Ryan Hawk, Jason & Sara Burson

The purpose of the Austin County Fair Colt Project is to provide 4-H and FFA members an opportunity:

1. To set personal goals.
2. To show pride in oneself and his/her horse.
3. To work together as a team with other project members.
4. To demonstrate sportsmanship, discipline, and responsibility for their horse's care.
5. To learn and apply sound nutritional, hoof, and health practices.
6. To provide a continuing program for exercise, fitness, and conditioning.
7. To instill a knowledge of proper grooming and handling of a horse to ensure each horse will reach its ultimate growth potential.
8. Exhibitors will demonstrate knowledge of showmanship to exhibit their horse to its best possibility.

Exhibitors must attend 5 out of 6 of the following Weigh-in/Evaluations:

April 12, Sunday 6pm @ Austin Co Fairgrounds - Mandatory

May 3, Sunday 6pm @ Rice Ranch 5812 Crosstree Ln, Sealy, TX

June 7, Sunday 6pm @ Austin Co Fairgrounds

No Meeting In July

August 2, Sunday 6pm @ Austin Co Fairgrounds

September 13, Sunday 6pm @ Austin Co Fairgrounds

October 4, Sunday 6pm @ Austin Co Fairgrounds - **Mandatory**

*1 early evaluation is allowed with the prior approval of the Committee Chairman. Meeting times/locations are subject to change at the discretion of the Committee Chairman.

Mandatory Events (Exhibitors must attend)

Saturday, August 8, 9am – Showmanship Progress Show

Monday, Sept. 14 – Pre-Fair Cleanup

Monday, Sept. 21 - Pre-Fair Cleanup

Monday, Sept. 28 - Pre-Fair Cleanup (optional)

Wednesday October 7, 6-8am - Colts move into fairgrounds

Wednesday October 7, 6pm - Show

Friday October 9, 10am – Youth Auction Sale

We utilize an app for all communication updates and reminders.

Please download the app and request to be added to Colt Project group.

Rules and Regulations

1. It is required that a gelding or filly from performance horse bloodlines be chosen. Exhibitors in the Austin County Colt Project will exhibit colts from the performance/stock horse lineage with qualities that preserve the working American Quarter Horse type (AQHA or APHA). Exhibitors will select well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness (straight legs), and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. Colts will be judged on quiet-mindedness and willingness to perform for the exhibitor, as well as their capability to be a good performance horse. The judge will give preference to colts with conformation, structure, balance and quality of movement that is related to the colt's ability to perform under saddle, and who also display a quiet-minded, willing attitude.

This class will be judged as a Performance Horse Halter Class. Colts with 20% or more of non-performance bloodlines will not be eligible to be shown.

- 2. All horses in the Austin County Fair Colt Show and Sale must be fed and cared for by the exhibitor in an approved location for the duration of the project. Daily care, fitting and handling of the horses is exclusively limited to the exhibitor and his/her immediate family members. If notified, the Austin County Fair Colt Project Committee members, Austin Co. Extension Agents or Bellville, Brazos, Faith Academy, or Sealy FFA advisors will be allowed to assist. Rules 20 and 21 in the General Livestock Rules and Regulations will be strictly enforced. If the exhibitor does not meet the qualification above, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the show and sale.
- 3. All stud colts must be gelded by the first weigh-in.
- 4. All colts/fillies must have HERDA test results prior to being checked in at the first weigh-in/evaluation.
 - a. Colts with a HERDA test result of HRD/HRD are NOT eligible to be shown.
 - b. Fillies/Geldings with a HERDA test result of N/HRD are eligible to be shown.
 - c. Additionally, if a colt/filly is a descendant of any halter-bred lineage, then he/she must also have a negative HYPP test result prior to being checked in on April 5. If HYPP is not labeled on the colt's registration papers, then the colt/filly must be tested for HYPP. Colts AND/OR fillies with a test result of HYPP H/H or HYPP N/H will NOT be eligible to be shown.

Acceptable test results for eligibility:

<u>SEX</u>	<u>TEST</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
Filly/Gelding:	HERDA	N/N or N/HRD

5. Colts must have 2 rounds of VEWT, Flu, Rhino, and West Nile Virus. There is a 4-week period between initial shot and booster. Strangles vaccines is highly recommended but not mandatory. A copy of negative Coggins, HERDA results, and clearly documented proof of VEWT, Flu, Rhino, West Nile Virus, and Rabies vaccinations must be turned in at April check-in.
6. A current-year negative Coggins are required for all entries and horses must be sound and in good health upon arrival at any venue, including the Austin Co. Fairgrounds.
7. Exhibitor or immediate family member must own horse(s) on or before the horse's first required evaluation and continue to own horse(s) throughout the project period.
8. The 1st colt project tag-in and mandatory weigh-in and evaluation is 1st Sunday of April at the Austin Co. Fairgrounds. There will be no other registration date. **Horses will be halter broken and manageable.**
9. If a colt is permanently injured or dies before the 2nd weigh-in, a substitute colt can be accepted for exhibition. This acceptance will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and be based upon a decision by the project committee and a vet chosen by the committee. This vet will check the colt for verification of permanent disability, which would prevent the colt from being shown or sold at that year's fair. **If a colt has a serious injury at any time during the project, the exhibitor is required to inform the committee.**
10. The final mandatory soundness evaluation for all exhibitors will be on the 1st Sunday in October at 6 pm. At this meeting, a soundness exam will be administered by a licensed veterinarian and members of the Colt Project Committee. Exam results must be acceptable for the horse to be exhibited and/or sold at the Fair.

11. If a substitute showman is needed to show a colt during the Fair due to a conflict with another show animal, the substitute must be chosen from the Colt Project exhibitors. Also, if a substitute is needed, he/she will only show the colt in the appropriate halter class. He/she will not show the colt in showmanship. Final approval will be made by the ACF Livestock Superintendent.
12. All entries are subject to the General Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair and to the rules governing the Youth Auction Sale.
13. The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion mare and gelding in the Yearling division must sell in the Youth Auction Sale. The remaining number of sale-eligible colts will be allocated and established each year by the Austin County Fair Youth Auction Committee. If the exhibitor has another higher placing animal in the sale, the next placed colt of the same gender will move up to sell.
14. The winning horse in this division will be designated Grand Champion Performance Yearling Filly, Reserve Champion Performance Yearling Filly, Grand Champion Performance Yearling Gelding and Reserve Champion Performance Yearling Gelding.
15. In keeping with the Austin Co. Fair drug residue avoidance policy, exhibitors are required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the Austin Co. Fair. Entries will not be accepted without a verification code for each exhibitor. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at <http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu/verification/>. All entries, release & indemnity form, drug certification form, W-9, and applicable fees are due to the Fair Office by the Fair entry deadline.
16. The show will be conducted according to AQHA rules and regulations where applicable and will be judged as a Performance Horse Halter class by AQHA/APHA carded judges. Austin Co. Fair General Rules and Colt Project Rules take precedence over AQHA rules.

17. During the Fair, all horses are subject to blood, urine or saliva tests and re-evaluation conducted by a veterinarian and supervised by the Livestock Superintendent or the Committee Chairman before being administered by a veterinarian. **During the Austin Co. Fair, all medications must be administered by the official Fair veterinarian.**
18. All horses must be shown free of a prohibited substance (medication) in accordance with AQHA rule 441(h) or forfeit its sales check and all other awards. Non-sale animals will forfeit all awards. A prohibited substance is defined as any stimulate (Example: Epinephrine), depressant (Example: Demerol), tranquilizer (Example: Acepromazine), or local anesthetic (Example: Procaine), which may affect the performance of a horse, or any drug classified as a steroid. Also prohibited are any drugs, regardless how harmless or innocuous they might be, which may interfere with the detection of the aforementioned drugs. Such drugs are masking drugs. Some examples of masking drugs are as follows: Polyethylene glycol, Thiamin, Dipyrone, Furosamide, and other potent diuretics, Sulfa drugs, Benzimidazole Anthelmintics (wormer) and Isoxsuprie.
19. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion Geldings and Fillies and one (1) random Gelding and Filly. No interfering with testing area and testing official.

Divisions

- a) Divisions are Performance Yearling Fillies at Halter, Performance Yearling Geldings at Halter, and Non-Sale Performance Yearlings at Halter. A 4-H or FFA member cannot show both a Performance Yearling at Halter and a Non-Sale Performance Yearling at Halter.
- b) All horses must be foaled between **January 1st** and **December 31st** of the preceding year of the Fair.
- c) All exhibitors are required to have registration papers showing exhibitor name or an immediate family member as owner.

- d) Show Classes:
 - Performance Yearling Filly at Halter
 - Performance Yearling Gelding at Halter
 - Non-Sale Performance Yearlings (if needed)
 - Junior Showmanship at Halter
 - Intermediate Showmanship at Halter
 - Senior Showmanship at Halter
- e) If there are two (2) horses or less in a class, the project reserves the right to combine classes
- f) Exhibitors must show their own colt in Showmanship Class.

Requirement Checklist for April Weigh-in/Tag-in Meeting:

- a) Hard copy of registration papers
- b) Hard copy of Coggins (current year)
- c) Hard copy of HERDA test results (see Rule 4)
- d) Proof of vaccination (see Rule 4)

For any additional info or questions please contact:

Will Wingo – Committee Chairman

979-270-1568

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2026

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Troy Oliver
(281)734 - 9766 toliver@sealyisd.com

COMMITTEE:

Avery Oliver, Brian Owen, Joe Vykukal, Kyle Peschel

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Registration for Contest
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	Orientation
9:00 a.m.	Judging Begins
12:30 p.m.	Contest Results

1. The purpose of this activity is to provide an educational activity to evaluate livestock.
2. Entries will be accepted the day of the contest. Entry fees will be \$16.00 per individual day of contest.
3. Entries can be made prior to Wednesday October 7th on judgingcard.com Entry fees will be \$12.00 per individual prior to deadline.
4. Information for judging contest can be found on judgingcard.com
5. The number of teams per organization entering the contest will not be limited.
6. Teams will consist of three (3) or four (4) individuals. Persons wishing to compete as individuals may do so. All team members will be counted as separate individuals to decide high individual awards.
7. There will be eight (8) classes and two (2) classes of questions.
8. Contestants will be allowed eight (8) minutes per class.

9. **Scores will be on placing** – no reasons. The tie breaking classes will be decided by standard deviation (meaning the most consistent throughout the judging) as determined by the computer judging program.
10. Question classes will be announced during the orientation.
11. There will be NO talking by contestants during the contest. Cellular phones must be turned off and cannot be used during the contest. Violation of this rule will cause the contestant and the team to be disqualified.
12. The Senior Division consists of those students grades 9-12. The Intermediate Division consists of students grades 6-8. The Junior Division consists of individuals, ages 10, grades 3-5.
13. Results and awards will be presented at approximately 12:30 p.m., **Saturday, October 10, 2026**, in the Livestock Arena. Contestants and coaches should be present. The results as announced shall be final.
14. Results can be found on www.judgingcard.com.
15. Awards will be presented to the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Divisions as individuals and as teams. The top placing individuals from Austin County will also be recognized.
16. The “official placing” of the classes will be given immediately following the judging contest.

BUCKET CALF SHOW

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2026

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Megan Kendrick
979-885-9707 or jewel8511@hotmail.com

Meeting and Show Dates

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month. Participant must attend 3 Bucket Calf Project meetings between February and September and the mandatory Progress Show in August 2026 in order to show at the Austin County Fair. (The Progress Show attendance does not count towards the 3 meetings.)

Attendance is tracked at each meeting through a QR code check-in. Please be sure to check in before the start of each meeting.

Meeting Schedule

Meeting #1	Monday, March 16, 2026, 6:30 @ Austin County Fairgrounds
Meeting #2	Monday, April 20, 2026, 6:30 @ Austin County Fairgrounds
Meeting #3	Monday, May 18, 2026, 6:30 @ Austin County Fairgrounds
Meeting #4	Monday, June 15, 2026, 6:30 @ Austin County Fairgrounds
Meeting #5	Monday, July 20, 2026, 6:30 @ Austin County Fairgrounds
Progress Show	Sunday, August 9, 2026, 9 am @ Austin County Fairgrounds MANDATORY PROGRESS SHOW - BRING YOUR CALF
Meeting #7	Monday, September 21, 2026, 6:30 @ Austin County Fairgrounds

Rules and Information

We are excited that you have chosen to participate in the 2026 Austin County Fair and Livestock Show Bucket Calf Show. The project was started to expose youth to the basic care and responsibility of caring for a calf.

Guidelines

Eligibility

- Open to Austin County youth ages 4 - 8 years old, Pre-Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Participants turning 9 as of August 31, 2026, are ineligible.
- Participant must attend 3 Bucket Calf Project meetings between February and September.
- Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month.
- Participant must be able to halter break and lead a calf
- Participant and their calf **must attend** the mandatory Progress Show in August 9, 2026 in order to show at the Austin County Fair. (*The Progress Show attendance does not count towards the 3 meetings.*)

Calf Requirements

Project calf must be born between May 1, 2026, and July 8, 2026 (must be born 6 weeks prior to Progress Show).

- All bucket calves are required to be vaccinated by **August 1, 2026**, of current year.
- Calf must be bottle fed. No nurse calves.
- Project calves can be any gender/breed.
- If a calf becomes ill and/or dies, a replacement calf can be purchased as long as it is born before July 8, 2026.

Project Requirements

- Entry Form completed and fee of \$40 due at Progress Show.
- Participant will complete vaccination records as part of their entry form at Progress Show.
- Read and be familiar with the general rules stated in the Rules and Regulations of the Austin County Fair & Livestock Association, including the NO PASS- NO PLAY policies and the Substance Avoidance Program.

Follow the ACF Bucket Calf page on Facebook for project updates and announcements. fb.me/AustinCountyFairBucketCalf

LIVESTOCK SUPERINTENDENT – Philip Shackelford
Asst. Livestock Superintendents: Brian Owen and Troy Oliver

HALTER HEIFERS – Eddie Freeman

MARKET STEERS – Jacob Diezi

COMMERCIAL PEN OF HEIFERS – Chad Fishbeck
Vice Chairman: Wesley Tobola

BEEF SKILLATHON CONTEST – Lee Compton
Vice Chairman: LeAnn Hein

MARKET SWINE – Kathy Ignasiak
Vice Chairman: Marsha Siptak

SWINE SKILLATHON CONTEST – Cassie Malinowski

LAMBS – Alfred Hall
Vice Chairman: David Bartay

GOATS - Gregory Kaspar
Vice Chairman: Leisha Chandler

LAMB & GOAT SKILLATHON CONTEST–Leisha Chandler

BROILERS/TURKEYS – Chris Holub

Vice Chairman, Broilers: Michelle Majewski

Vice Chairman, Turkeys: James Herrmann

RABBITS – Lynette Lee

Vice Chairman: Karen Coopersmith

RABBIT SKILLATHON CONTEST - Lynette Lee

COLT PROJECT – Will Wingo

Vice Chairman: Aaron Brandt

CALF SCRAMBLE – LeAnn Hein

Vice Chairman: Lee Compton

LIVESTOCK JUDGING – Troy Oliver

BUCKET CALF – Megan Kendrick