

# CALF SCRAMBLE

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
SEPTEMBER 10, 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, and Rodney Melnar

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS PRIOR TO THE 2026 CALF SCRAMBLE**

- 1. ELIGIBILITY** – Any boy/girl who has reached his/her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday by or on **September 1, 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](http://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 require 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 2025 Austin County Fair shall be limited to the 2024 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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month beginning with the first report in February through September. Dates are provided in the Scramble Bible. If the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.
29. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.**