

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 EXHIBITIONS.

INTERFERENCE WITH JUDGES

If an exhibitor or parent in any way, whether in person or by agent or servants, interferes with the 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) decisions and weights are final.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. ENTRY PROCEDURE: (NEW FOR 2025)

Exhibitors will go to the Austin County Fair's website (www.austincountyfair.com). Click on "Online Entry" tab & follow step by step instructions to complete 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 18th, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Extension Agents & FFA teachers will be granted access to verify the exhibitor's eligibility to show in the 2025 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 19-September 2, 2025, 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 3 – September 10, 2025, 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 10, 2025.

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 will be allowed in 2025. 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:

Fri., May 9, 2025, Four County Auction in Industry, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Exhibitors will be charged \$20.00 per animal tagged and a \$55 validation fee per pen.

MARKET STEER & HALTER HEIFER TAG-IN DATE:

Sat., May 10, 2025, Four County Auction in Industry, 7:00-10:00 a.m.

Exhibitors will be charged \$20.00 per animal tagged.

MARKET SWINE TAG-IN DATES ARE:

Saturday, June 28, 2025, Fairgrounds in Bellville, 6:00-8:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 12, 2025, Fairgrounds in Bellville, 6:00-8:00 a.m.

Exhibitors will be charged \$15.00 per animal tagged.

ALL MARKET SWINE MUST BE PROPERLY IDENTIFIED
WITH EAR TAGS BY
SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025

MARKET LAMB & GOAT TAG-IN DATES ARE:

Saturday, June 28, 2025, Fairgrounds in Bellville, 7:00-8:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 10, 2025, Fairgrounds in Bellville, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Exhibitors will be charged \$20.00 per animal tagged.

ALL MARKET LAMBS & GOATS MUST BE PROPERLY
IDENTIFIED WITH EAR TAGS BY
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025.

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 the 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 each (total of 6 hours) at either the entrance gates 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, 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 Heifers 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 only 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 other 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 9, 2025.**
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 move-out time on **Sunday, October 12, 2025**, unless released by a division chairman or superintendent. Lambs & Goats move out

through gate 2 from 6-8 a.m.; Rabbits move out through gate 2 at 8 a.m.; Poultry will move out through gate 2 at 9 a.m.; Cattle, Swine, & Colts will move out through gate 3 at 10 a.m. All other species must be kept in their assigned places until 11:00 a.m. on **Sunday, October 12, 2025**, 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 aisles. No frayed cords allowed. All cords & 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 into the Livestock Office to be claimed by the exhibitor at the end of the Fair. All cords & hoses left after the end of the Fair will become the possession of the Austin County Fair Association.

17. All exhibit 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 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 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 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 the stalls/pens of their projects through dismissal on Sunday after the Fair or until delivered 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.
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 11, 2025.**
26. All exhibitors must be entered through the fair website by **August 18, 2025, by 5:00 p.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 2025 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>

28. New Rule for 2025 Thank You Notes and Issuance of Youth Auction Sale Checks

- The Austin County Fair Office will not be mailing exhibitors a list of buyers and persons that added on to their project.
- Exhibitors will be notified via email that their list of buyers and persons that added on to their project is ready for pick up at the Austin County Fair Office.
- Exhibitors will be notified via email 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 email on Monday-Saturday, from the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Handwritten thank you notes must be completed and presented to Austin County Fair office personnel **in a stamped and addressed envelope** at the time of check issuance. All checks must be endorsed by the exhibitor to be cashed/deposited.
- Only parent(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 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 prior to 30 days after checks are printed. Please refer to 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.**