

# HALTER HEIFER & MARKET STEER

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 18, 2025

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, Courtlyn & Cody Brantner, Dan Diezi, Scott Hauerland, Kelsye Janish, Doyle Krause, Matt Macat, Steve Malkowsky, Danielle Nelson, Kim Rinn and Dustyn Tiemann

## 2025 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. These validation forms will be available from the Fair Office, Agricultural Science Teachers, or County Extension Agents. **In order to speed up the tag-in process, it is advisable to obtain and complete the form prior to arriving at tag-in.**
3. All Halter Heifers and Market Steers must be weighed, tagged and DNA sample taken on **Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 7:00 – 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.
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 9, 2025, 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 20, 2025, 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. Animals failing to meet their weight requirement will be required to leave the fairgrounds as soon as possible.
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 12, 2025**.
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 11, 2025**, 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) Halter Heifers, two (2) Market Steers, or one (1) heifer and one (1) steer qualifying for the sale, he/she may choose which animal to sell, except for Overall Grand and Reserve Champions. However, the Fair Office must be notified of the decision upon completion of the respective heifer and steer shows. If not, the highest placing animal will sell.
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 5, 2025. 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 – 9:00 am on **Sunday, October 12, 2025**, 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 12, 2025**, 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 12, 2025**. 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 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>

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 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024.** See chart below for age divisions.

2. All

DIVISION	DATE CALVED	AGE	WEIGHT GAIN PER DAY	PREGNANCY
Sub Jr.	July '24 August '24 September '24	Under 15 Months	1 lb.	Open
Junior	April '24 May '24 June '24	15-18 Months	1 lb.	Open or Bred
Intermediate	January '24 February '24 March '24	19-21 Months	.5 lb.	Bred minimum of 60 days
Senior	October '23 November '23 December '23	22-24 Months	N/A	Bred minimum of 120 days

Halter Heifers must be either polled or dehorned, and Brucellosis vaccinated, prior to tag-in on **Saturday, May 10, 2025.**

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 upon arrival at the show with the Austin County tag as the ID number. **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 8, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** See schedule below for move-in process:
  - 5:00 a.m. – Gate 3 opens for Move-In**
  - 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. – Paperwork check. Ownership must be declared at this time.**
  - 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. – Classification and Weigh-In. Exhibitor will be responsible for declaring ABC or AOB to the classifiers.**
8. Judging of Halter Heifers will be on **Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 8:00 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. The remaining sale order will be selected by the Sale Order judge from the division. The judge’s decision shall be final.
10. **New Rule:** 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 selected for “**Call Back**” while showing their owned 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Intermediate 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and Senior 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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.
11. **Changes for the 2026 Halter Heifer Division:** There will be no predetermined age class breaks. Classes will be determined by the Halter Heifer and Market Steer Committee after heifers have been weighed and classified. Classes will be broken according to birthdate by the committee at their discretion.

Sale lots will be determined by class ranking. Halter Heifers will not go back into the ring for Sale Order.

Highest placing heifer in class must sell unless the exhibitor has another animal species in the sale.

## MARKET STEERS

1. All Market Steers must be surgically castrated and dehorned prior to tag-in on **Saturday, May 10, 2025**.
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 7, 2025**, 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 8, 2025**, 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.
7. **New Rule:** 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Intermediate 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and Senior 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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.