

COMMERCIAL PEN OF HEIFERS

ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 18, 2025

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, Brian Vacha, Tanner Vacha, Linsey Angus, Peter Angus, Stephanie Adamcik, Keith Linseisen, Brett Linseisen, Dalton Kasper, Luke Luedeker

2025 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 9, 2025**, 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 the health papers.
13. Palpation of heifers and health papers can be done from SEPTEMBER 10TH – SEPTEMBER 19TH OF 2025. ANY HEIFERS PALPATED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10, 2025, **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 4th at Four County Auction Barn. Exhibitors will take written test on October 4th at Bleiberville VFD. Interviews will take place on October 7th 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.
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:
 - e. Live Evaluation of Heifers
 - f. Written Exam
 - g. Exhibitor Interview
 - h. Exhibitor Record Book
19. 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 \$100.00 will be assessed and deducted from the exhibitor's check. Only pelletized shavings will be used in stalls.

20. If the exhibitor qualifies for the Youth Auction Sale and chooses to sell their pen, then the cattle will sell. No PO allowed.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. Drug Testing will be performed on Grand and Reserve Champion and one (1) random. No interfering with testing area and testing official.
24. 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.

SCHEDULE

Pen of Heifers Tag In	May 9, 2025	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Mandatory Meeting	September 3, 2025	6:00 pm
Close out Record book	September 19, 2025	
Heifer information sheets, and Video Due Date	September 19, 2025	By 5:00 p.m.
Record Book Due	September 26, 2025	By 5:00 p.m.
Live Evaluation of Pen of Heifers & Test	October 4, 2025	8:00 a.m.
Pen of Heifers Interviews	October 7, 2025	8:00 a.m.
Pen of Heifers Results and Awards	October 8, 2025	6:00 p.m.
Pen of Heifers Arrival	October 9, 2025	5:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.
Sale of Cattle	October 10, 2025	10:00 a.m.
Move Out & Clean Up	October 12, 2025	11:00 a.m.

25. 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>
26. **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.**
27. **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.**