

# The Grandest Drive

*Engaging Branch County Youth Livestock Mentors with Special Needs Participants*

*for the Growth and Development of the Entire Community*



The Grandest Drive is a program to enhance the connection of the livestock community with the larger community by providing a shared learning experience for Branch Co Fair exhibitors paired with community members with special needs around the care and showmanship of livestock projects. Exhibitors and community members will be paired together to work toward a collaborative show experience during the Branch Co Fair.

- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Goats
- Pigs
- Starter Calves

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## Program Activities

- June 1 – Mentor Applications Due
- July 28 - “Meet & Greet” with the Special Needs Apprentice: We will provide a training session for Branch Co Fair exhibitor mentors prepare information for teaching the apprentices about showing livestock. This will include considerations for supporting individual differences. Apprentices will join the second portion of the event to meet the mentors and get to know all the types of animals that show in The Grandest Drive. Following the event, apprentices will have the opportunity to rate their interest in showing each animal during The Grandest Drive at the fair.
- Branch County Fair Visit: Apprentices will visit the mentor and animal for 1-hour during a pre-arranged time during the Branch County Fair to practice for the show!
- Saturday, August 15 (11am-1pm) The Grandest Drive Event: Apprentices, accompanied by their mentor, will exhibit an animal on at the Branch County Fair. Professional judges will give commentary during each specie show. All mentors and participants will be recognized.  
**Family and friends are encouraged to come watch the pairs exhibit the animals together!**



## Additional Information

- Mentors are responsible for the safe handling of animals during all activities.
- Apprentices will be accompanied by a caregiver for all aspects of the program, who assume responsibility of the care of the participant.
- It is a goal of the program to be flexible to accommodate the needs of each mentor/apprentice pair.
- The Meet and Greet will be held at the Branch County Career Center, in Coldwater, to provide an opportunity to learn about and handle each type of animal before the fair.
- The event on Saturday, August 9 is open to the public. Mentors and apprentices are encouraged to decide how to work together to exhibit the animal, taking into account the comfort of the participant.
- Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions regarding the program.

**We look forward to another successful program!**



