

Entry Fees and Deadlines
Entries Open: August 4, 2025
Online Entries Close: August 25, 2025
Postmarked By: September 1, 2025

Entries after August 25, 2025
\$500 Late Entry Fee; Per animal per show

A Release and Substitute W9 form for each exhibitor must be uploaded before passes and credentials will be released. Passes to be picked up by exhibitors upon arrival. See the **Passes** section in the general rules for additional details.

Entry Fees

Scholarship/Premium Breeding Heifer Show (<i>per head</i>)	\$100
<i>*Entry fee covers entry into both the Scholarship and Premium Show</i>	
Scholarship/Premium Steer Show (<i>per head</i>)	\$100
<i>*Entry fee covers entry into both the Scholarship and Premium Show</i>	
Scholarship/Premium Swine Show (<i>per head</i>)	\$100
<i>*Entry fee covers entry into both the Scholarship and Premium Show</i>	
Scholarship/Premium Goat Show (<i>per head</i>)	\$100
<i>*Entry fee covers entry into both the Scholarship and Premium Show</i>	
Scholarship/Premium Lamb Show (<i>per head</i>)	\$100
<i>*Entry fee covers entry into both the Scholarship and Premium Show</i>	
Breeding Gilt Show (<i>per head</i>)	\$50
Wether Doe Show (<i>per head</i>)	\$50
Agricultural Mechanics Project Show (<i>per project</i>)	\$40
Agricultural Public Speaking Contest (<i>per student</i>)	\$30
Agricultural Product ID Contest (<i>per student</i>)	\$15
Food Challenge Contest (<i>per team</i>)	\$30
Trap Shooters Extravaganza (<i>per event</i>)	\$100; \$125
Junior Livestock Judging Contest (<i>per student</i>)	\$15
Processing Fee (<i>per club/chapter</i>)	\$20

Passes

Parking Pass	\$20
Season Pass	\$50

Animal Health Requirements

Effective: June 5, 2025

These regulations are subject to change at any time.

The following summary is a condensed version of the [Texas Animal Health Commission regulations](#). The regulations will supersede this summary if there is a dispute between the two. For more information, contact the Texas Animal Health Commission by calling (512) 719-0777 (24 hours) or 1(800) 550-8242, ext. 777, or by writing the TAHC, P.O. Box 12966, Austin, TX 78711-2966.

The Heart O' Texas Livestock Shows are restricted to intrastate entries.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection: The certificate must indicate that the accredited veterinarian found the animals or fowl to be free of symptoms or evidence of communicable disease and that all tests, immunizations, or treatments required by the Commission were completed. For certain diseases, a specific statement may be required indicating disease-free status. The certificate is required to accompany animals and fowl entering the Heart O' Texas Livestock Show as stated in the following summary of entry requirements. **The certificate is valid for 30 days for all species.**

Cattle

Breeding Cattle

1. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI):** Required for HOT Livestock Show.
2. **Entry Permit:** Not required by TAHC
3. **Official Identification:** Within 7 days of change of ownership cattle parturient, postparturient, or 18 months of age or older must be officially identified.
4. **Trichomoniasis (Trich) Test:** Not required by the TAHC
5. **Tuberculosis (TB) Test:** Not required by the TAHC
6. **Brucellosis Test:** Not required by the TAHC

Market Steers

1. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI):** Not required by the TAHC
2. **Entry Permit:** Not required by TAHC
3. **Official Identification:** Within 7 days of change of ownership cattle parturient, postparturient, or 18 months of age or older must be officially identified.
4. **Trichomoniasis (Trich) Test:** Not required by the TAHC
5. **Tuberculosis (TB) Test:** Not required by the TAHC
6. **Brucellosis Test:** Not required by the TAHC

Swine

Breeding Swine

1. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI):** Not required by the TAHC
2. **Entry Permit:** Not required by TAHC

3. **Official Identification:** Sexually intact swine (6 months of age or older) changing ownership must be officially identified
4. **Brucellosis Test:** Not required by the TAHC
5. **Pseudorabies Test:** All breeding swine must be tested negative for pseudorabies and swine brucellosis 30 days prior to change of ownership in Texas.
6. **Vaccination Requirements:** Not required by the TAHC

Swine

1. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI):** Not required by the TAHC
2. **Entry Permit:** Not required by TAHC
3. **Official Identification:** Sexually intact swine (6 months of age or older) changing ownership must be officially identified
4. **Brucellosis Test:** Not required by the TAHC
5. **Pseudorabies Test:** All breeding swine must be tested negative for pseudorabies and swine brucellosis 30 days prior to change of ownership in Texas.
6. **Vaccination Requirements:** Not required by the TAHC

Goats

Market Goats

1. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI):** Not required by the TAHC
2. **Entry Permit:** Not required by TAHC
3. **Official Identification:** All sexually intact exhibition goats must be officially identified with a Scrapie Eradication Program ear tag.
4. **Testing Requirement:** Not required by the TAHC

Wether Does

1. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI):** Not required by the TAHC
2. **Entry Permit:** Not required by TAHC
3. **Official Identification:** All sexually intact exhibition goats must be officially identified with a Scrapie Eradication Program ear tag.
4. **Testing Requirement:** Not required by the TAHC

Sheep

Market Lambs

1. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI):** Not required by the TAHC
2. **Entry Permit:** Not required by TAHC
3. **Official Identification:** All sexually intact exhibition sheep must be officially identified with a Scrapie Eradication Program ear tag.
4. **Brucella ovis Test:** Not required by the TAHC

General Rules and Regulations

Entries Open: August 4, 2025

Online Entries Close: August 25, 2025

Postmarked By: September 1, 2025

Entries after August 25, 2025

\$500 Late Entry Fee; Per animal per show

A Release and Substitute W9 form for each exhibitor must be received by our office before passes and credentials will be released. Passes to be distributed to the exhibitors upon arrival. See the **Passes** section in the general rules for additional details.

Statement of Liability: All exhibits are under the direction of the Show Management. The Heart O' Texas Livestock Show (HOT Livestock Show) is not responsible for any loss or damage that may occur even as a result of our own negligence. The exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage to, or occasioned by, or arising from, any animal or article exhibited by him/her and for its description as given in the catalog. He or she shall indemnify the HOT Livestock Show against all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto, as well as any damage or injury to any other person or property, caused by exhibitor or any of the animals exhibited with such exhibition or any of the animals exhibited, even if caused by the negligence of the HOT Livestock Show. Exhibitor and each signatory hereto, and any servant, agent, family member, or employee of the Exhibitor hereby waives all right to sue the HOT Livestock Show, even as a result of the Stock Show's negligence.

Homeland Security System Warning Statement:

Evacuation of Livestock/Equine: During such times as deemed necessary by local, state, or federal authorities, the HOT Livestock Show, and/or its officials may temporarily or permanently evacuate the Extraco Events Center (EEC) under the authority of the Homeland Security Act. Incidents such as, but not limited to, bomb threats, acts of war, declarations of war, code red of the Homeland Security System, etc. will be acted upon in accordance and cooperation with local, state, and federal authorities. Priority evacuation will be given to human life, then livestock and/or equine. In such cases, exhibitors and/or contestants will turn over the care of their livestock or equine to the HOT Livestock Show. Proper animal husbandry practices will be followed within reasonable expectations. At which time the evacuation notice is lifted, exhibitors/contestants will be allowed to reenter EEC and claim their livestock or equine.

By making entry into the Show, you authorize the HOT Livestock Show and its officials to detail your livestock/equine on these premises. Furthermore, you agree to hold harmless and without liability the HOT Livestock Show, its officials, show management, and staff for those animals under the reasonable care of the show.

Rules

All rules and regulations apply to all shows. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to know and understand each and all the rules applicable to them and their exhibits.

1. **The HOT Livestock Show reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these General Rules & Regulations, Judges Rules, and/or any applicable special requirements as published in this Exhibitor Catalog (collectively, the "Rules") and to reasonably settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to the Fair, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. An exhibit that violates any of the following rules may forfeit all privileges, fees paid, and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the HOT Livestock Show may order.**

The failure of the HOT Livestock Show to enforce any of the provisions, rules, rights, or remedies of this exhibitor catalog or to exercise any options or sanctions herein provided will in no way be construed to be a waiver of such provisions, rules, rights, remedies, sanctions or options.

If there is a conflict between the special rules or requirements of any department or division and the general rules & regulations, the special rules or requirements shall apply.

2. **Invitational Show:** The HOT Livestock Show is an invitational livestock show, which reserves the right to extend, withhold, or revoke an invitation to any exhibitor or contestant.
3. **Interpretation and Violation of Rules:** The HOT Livestock Show reserves, to its Executive Committee, the final and absolute right to interpret these general rules and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard hereto, or otherwise arising out of the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. **The HOT Livestock Show also reserves the right to change the show schedule, delete classes or add breeds/classes at the discretion of the show officials.** An exhibitor who violates any of the rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the Executive Committee may order.
4. **Use of Drugs:** The use by non-veterinarians of animal drugs or other substances in any manner other than in accord with the labeling approved by the FDA is a violation of federal law. Exhibitor's and their parents and/or guardians agree that: (1) they are absolutely and completely responsible persons for the care and custody of their animals, (2) the HOT Livestock Show shall be entitled to disqualify an exhibitor whose animal tests positive for any drug, even if the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents and/or guardians are innocent of any wrongdoing and did not administer the drug, (3) the drug test results of the testing laboratories are final and binding upon the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents and/or guardians. Even if the source of the drug is unknown, the HOT Livestock Show shall be entitled to disqualify the exhibitor.

5. **Drug Testing Policy:** All entries are subject to random testing. The HOT Livestock Show reserves the right to test any animal officially entered in the livestock show for foreign substances including drugs, chemicals, or feed additives. All Grand and Reserve Grand Champions from each species will be tested at the conclusion of each Scholarship Show champion drive. Randomly selected animals will be tested after the completion of their respective class. The HOT Livestock Show maintains a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for unethically fitted livestock. This includes but is not limited to the use of off-label drugs and non-antibiotic therapeutic medications.
- A. **Approved Drug Use:** If an animal has been administered a drug that is Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved for its species and class, sufficient time must have passed so that the animal does not test positive for that drug upon arrival at the EEC. Animals must remain free and clear of all drug and chemical residues while on show grounds. Please note that elimination time (the time it takes for no drug residue to be found in the system) is generally longer than the labeled withdrawal time for most approved drugs. The show will not tolerate the presence of zilpaterol hydrochloride (Zilmax™) or ractopamine hydrochloride (Paylean™ Optaflexx™) in species for which they are not FDA approved.
- B. **Unapproved Drug Use:** The showing of any animal that has been administered during its life any quantity of any unapproved drug, chemical, or medication is strictly prohibited. Such drugs include, but are not limited to, any diuretic, unapproved growth stimulant, or other unapproved medication. Unapproved means not approved by the (FDA) and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for slaughter animals including animals that may be destined for human consumption.

Classes of Drugs:

Antibacterial Therapeutic Medications

Used to treat infection, these compounds don't create competitive advantage but can create food safety concerns if not used according to label directions. Many are only FDA-approved for particular species, meaning that extensive research has been conducted regarding the proper dosage and type of administration to be efficacious in that species as well as the withdrawal time that is necessary for meat products to be safe for human consumption.

Non-Antibiotic Therapeutic Medications:

Inclusive of anti-inflammatories, antipyretics, diuretics, and anesthetics, these medications can result in a competitive advantage by altering the physical appearance of the animal and/or concerns with food safety. Some are available over the counter and others can only be legally sourced and administered through prescription by a licensed veterinarian. Many are only FDA-approved for a particular species and may only be used in another species with a prescription from a licensed veterinarian.

Beta-agonists:

Originally developed as bronchodilators in humans, larger dosages have a growth-promoting effect in animals and result in increased muscle and decreased fat. The only beta-agonist that is currently FDA approved and available for use in livestock production is ractopamine, which is approved for use in cattle, swine, and turkeys with a zero-day withdrawal (i.e. research indicates that meat products are safe for consumption at any time during the feeding period). Use of ractopamine in any other

species or class within species, or any beta-agonist lacking animal approval in any species, creates concerns with both food safety and competitive advantage.

- C. **Inspection/Testing:** Each exhibitor, by entering or exhibiting an animal at the HOT Livestock Show, agrees that any animal entered by him or her may be subjected to inspection or examination by any veterinarian appointed by HOT Livestock Show and that HOT Livestock Show may subject any such animal to any tests, sample-takings, or inspections that HOTFR deems necessary or appropriate, including but not limited to testing for drugs or other substances, at any time. The HOT Livestock Show shall have the right to conduct or have conducted for it all tests, inspections, or analyses it deems appropriate or necessary, including but not limited to ultrasound, DNA, blood, tissue, and urine laboratory analysis, on any animal, entered in or exhibited at the HOT Livestock Show. The exhibitor and the exhibitor's parent, legal guardian, AST, or CEA must be present during the collection of an initial urine sample for testing and must witness, seal and sign the sample, thereby establishing that the sample was properly collected and prepared for analysis. Subsequent samples of any sort may be taken by or for HOT Livestock Show without the presence of the exhibitor or his/her parent, legal guardian, or AST or CEA.

All decisions, determinations, and conclusions based on any test, inspection, analysis, or examination shall be final and conclusive without recourse against HOT Livestock Show or any of its Show Management, directors, volunteers, and employees, or any veterinarian appointed by HOT Livestock Show.

EACH EXHIBITOR, BY ENTERING AND EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL OR PROJECT IN OR AT THE HOTFR, WAIVES AND RELEASES HOT LIVESTOCK SHOW FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, SUITS, CAUSES OF ACTION, LIABILITIES, DAMAGES, DEMANDS, COSTS, EXPENSES (INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES) AND OTHER LOSSES OF EVERY SORT BASED ON, ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THE INSPECTION OR TESTING OF ANY SUCH ANIMAL AND ANY RULING, DECISION, OR ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF OR IN RELIANCE ON THE RESULTS OF ANY TEST OR INSPECTION, WHETHER OR NOT SUCH TESTING OR INSPECTION WAS CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES. THE FOREGOING WAIVER AND RELEASE APPLIES TO ANY CAUSES OF ACTION, CLAIMS, AND DEMANDS BASED ON HOTFR'S ACTUAL OR ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE.

6. **Drug Testing/Residue Avoidance Program is in effect.**
7. **Eligibility of Exhibitors:** To be eligible in the HOT Livestock Show, exhibitors must be Texas residents and a member of a Texas 4-H Club or FFA Chapter. Exhibitors must have continuously owned and personally fed and cared for their animal under the direct supervision of a County Extension Agent (CEA) or Ag Science Teacher (AST). Exhibitors must meet a 4-H age which is eight (8) years old and in 3rd grade or nine (9) years old before August 31, 2024, and not older than eighteen (18), and must be enrolled and attending a public, private, or home school. All animals entered for competition in classes - steers, swine, goat, and lamb divisions - must have been owned by the exhibitors not less than the period specified for each division. Registry certifications of ownership or transfer for all registered

breeding animals must be produced, showing the exhibitor to be the owner. The transfer will indicate the period of ownership.

8. **Social Security Requirement:** Every exhibitor will be required to provide their social security number with their entry.
9. **Foreign Exchange:** Foreign Exchange students are ineligible to compete in Heart O' Texas Livestock Show and Competitive Events.
10. **Non-United States Citizens:** Non-United States Citizens are ineligible to compete in the Heart O' Texas Livestock Show and Competitive Events.
11. **Scholastic Eligibility:** All 4-H and FFA members are considered eligible by the HOT Livestock Show for participation in the HOT Livestock Show at the time the entry applications are received from the CEA or AST. The HOT Livestock Show has a **No Pass, No Play** rule. Exhibitors must meet scholastic and academic requirements, and it is the responsibility of the CEAs and ASTs to ensure the eligibility of each exhibitor. If an exhibitor is ineligible, then the entry is ineligible and no refunds will be given.
12. **Quality Counts:** To be eligible to compete in the HOT Livestock Show, exhibitors will need Quality Counts verification. The Quality Counts verification number must be recorded on the HOT Livestock Show Entry Form when entering the project. Please refer to the website <https://agrillife.org/qualitycounts/> for information on how to become verified.
13. **Substitute Exhibitors:** All entries in both the Scholarship Show and Premium Show must be exhibited by the owner. A substitute exhibitor will be allowed to show in place of the owner under the following circumstance(s) only:
 - a. An exhibitor has more than one entry in one class
 - b. Visible physical medical condition (cast, crutches, etc.)The exhibitor must notify and get the substitution approved by the show superintendent **before** the show. In the case of a medical condition, the exhibitor must be present at the ring while the exhibit is being shown. The substitute must be an eligible exhibitor from the owner's 4-H or FFA Chapter; if none are available, a substitute will be chosen by show management. Parents, teachers, extension agents, or other adult individuals will not be allowed to show. **Substitutions are not allowed for any other reason than those listed above.**
14. **Disqualification:** In the event an exhibitor engages in any conduct which results in disqualification, the HOT Livestock Show may, in its sole discretion, prohibit future participation by the exhibitor in any event which is sponsored.

No exhibitor shall be eligible to compete, or having competed, be eligible to win a premium, if he/she has been disqualified from competition in a show belonging to the North American Livestock Show & Rodeo Manger's Association, or has had a premium withheld or withdrawn on the grounds of rule violation involving misrepresentation, fraud of deception, practice, or attempted. Any non-approved equipment becomes the property of the HOT Livestock Show. The following steps will be taken if any rule is broken:

1st Offense: Animal will be disqualified

2nd Offense: Penalties will be decided by Management based on rule violation

In the event of a disqualification, placings and awards will **not** be moved down to the next qualifying exhibitor.



- 15. Exhibitor Code of Ethics:** The HOT Livestock Show is a family friendly event. As such, an individual's conduct as an exhibitor or patron should be exemplary, and violators are subject to disqualification of the exhibitor and/or forfeiture of fees, premiums, and awards. In certain cases, the exhibitor or associated persons may be removed and banned from the Grounds and/or future competition. Violations included, but are not limited to:
- Disruptive or improper conduct
 - Public display of profanity of any sort
 - Violence of any sort
 - Aggressive or unwarranted behavior towards any individual
- 16. Application for Entry:** All entries in the HOT Livestock Show must be made by the CEA or AST under whose supervision the animals were fed and cared for. It is the responsibility of the CEA or AST to read all rules and check each online entry form carefully before signing it. If forms are not correctly submitted, they will be returned. Entries must be submitted online by the CEA or AST at www.hotfair.com. **A \$20 Processing Fee will be charged per FFA Chapter or 4-H County.** Once online entries are completed and submitted, it is important to print a summary sheet. For each exhibitor, the CEAs and ASTs must upload an Release and Substitute W9 form with **original** signatures from the exhibitor, exhibitor's parent/guardian, and the CEA or AST overseeing the project. The Release Form can be found with the Entry Worksheet on hotfair.com.

Instructions on how to upload documents can be found on hotfair.com. Copying the entries before submitting them for personal records is allowed and encouraged.

All entries must be made together and paid by one check or credit card payable to the HOTFR and sent in by the CEA or AST with the entry forms. Entries submitted by individual club or chapter members will not be accepted. Payment must be in the form of a school check, 4-H Club check, money order, or cashier's check. Personal checks will not be accepted for any entries. Please send to:

**Extraco Events Center
Attn: Livestock Office
4601 Bosque Blvd
Waco, TX 76710**



- 17. QR Code:** Exhibitors will scan the QR Code found around the barn to turn in entries. All information must match entry info and will prevail in the instance of discrepancy.
- 18. Refunds:** There will be no refund of fees or passes. No exceptions.



- 19. Passes:**
- Exhibitors:** Each exhibitor will receive three (3) passes per show they're entered in (i.e. 3 for the lamb show and 3 for the goat show), good for gate admission for the HOTFR.

Each exhibitor will receive one (1) parking pass. All passes will be picked up by the exhibitor at their first move-in.

- b. **CEAs and ASTs:** CEAs and ASTs who are supervising projects will be issued one (1) gate pass and one (1) parking pass good for admission for the entire HOTFR.
- c. **Extra Passes:** You may order as many extra passes as needed; however, additional passes **must** be ordered with the Livestock Show entries. Season passes will be available for \$50 and will be good for the entire HOTFR.
- d. **Parking Passes:** Each exhibitor will receive one (1) parking pass. Additional parking passes may be purchased. Passes must be clearly visible and hanging from the rearview mirror. Failure to comply will result in confiscation of car pass and loss of parking privileges. A parking pass does not guarantee an available parking spot in the livestock parking lot.
- e. **Contest Participants:** Any student participating in only contests will not need passes and no passes will be provided to them.



20. **Pets:** No pets are allowed on Grounds. Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities. Such animals are welcome in areas where the public is normally allowed to go. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control through voice, signal, or other effective controls.



21. **Generators/Fuels:** Generators and flammable fuels are prohibited on show grounds.
- a. Generators will be allowed for the Heifer and Steer Shows, but must remain outside the buildings.
 - b. Generators are not allowed during sheep, goat, or swine shows.

22. **Fans:** Only rear fans permitted if mounted on display. No on-ground fans or Port-A-Cools allowed.

23. **Cooking:** Cooking is **not** allowed on the grounds at any time. No cookers, crock-pots, microwaves, coffee pots, warmers, or any other cooking utensils are permitted in the barn or on the grounds. Any cooking utensils, including coffee pots, brought on to the grounds will become the property of HOTFR.

24. **RV Spots:** There are no RV parking spots or RV hook ups available during the HOT Livestock Show. This includes trailers with living quarters.

25. **Signs:** In show barns, livestock exhibitors are permitted to display a sign over each exhibit advertising their own herds. All other forms of signs or advertising must be approved by the Show Management, and it reserves the right to have objectionable signs removed. **No sign which reflects in any way to any commercial product may be placed over any livestock exhibit.**

26. **Special Rules:** Special rules or conditions are published in each department when necessary. If there is a conflict between the special rules of any department and the general rules, the special rules will govern.

27. **Drugs/Alcohol:** Use or possession of drugs or alcoholic beverages by any exhibitor on the fairgrounds will result in immediate expulsion from the grounds and the disqualification of that exhibitor's entry/entries.
28. **Rule Infraction Data Base:** Each exhibitor understands and agrees that the HOT Livestock Show is entitled to report any and all rule infractions to the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Manager's Association (NALSRMA) Rule Infraction Database (RID). The exhibitor agrees that this information will be available to the membership of NALSRMA.
29. **Verification:** The exhibitor specifically represents that no animal entered by him/her is unethically fitted and that the breeding, age, and milking status is correctly stated. All animals will be required to have signatures on each entry form stating that the animal was not unethically fitted. The forms must be signed by all of the following:
- Livestock Show Exhibitor
 - Parent or Guardian
 - CEA or AST
30. **Objectionable Exhibits:** Show Management reserves the right to remove from the grounds any exhibit, animal, or entry that may be falsely entered, deemed unsuitable or objectionable, without assigning a reason therefore. **All fees will be forfeited.**
31. **Unauthorized Projects:** Any project that is brought onto the grounds which is not entered for competition or exhibition is not allowed.
32. **Show Ring Competition:**
- Entry Numbers:** Each entry will be assigned a back number. The numbers will be on the exhibitor's entry card and must be displayed by exhibitors during judging.
 - Arena Promptness:** Judging will not be delayed for animals entering the arena late. An exhibit not presented promptly at the scheduled time is barred from competition in the class. **The HOT Livestock Show is not responsible for exhibitors missing their class.**
 - Disqualification:** If an animal is disqualified after having won awards or premiums, the exhibitor will forfeit their winnings. For more information, please see **Rule 10.**
33. **Judging Contests:** If and when an exhibitor is called upon to furnish one or more animals for the HOT Livestock Judging Contests, he or she will cooperate with Show Management. Refusing to allow an animal to be used in this manner, without Show Management approval, will result in the forfeit of any prizes or such other action as Show Management deems necessary. Selection of the animals will be made under the discretion of the department Superintendent and Show Management.
34. **Exhibitor Safety:** If exhibition of an animal poses a danger to the exhibitor and/or other parties, Show Management reserves the right to allow a substitute exhibitor or remove the animal from competition.
35. **Project/Animal Care/Security:** All owners or persons in charge of property, or livestock, shall care for, guard, protect, and preserve same, as the HOTFR does not undertake to do so, and it shall not be held responsible for any loss, shrinkage or damage to said property or livestock or the owners or exhibitors thereof. All exhibitors are responsible for security of

their own animal/project(s) until they depart for their final destination (processing/ranch). The exhibitor is the absolute insurer of and is responsible for the condition of their animal/project(s). The HOT Livestock Show is not responsible for acts of a third party.

36. **Electronic Communication:** The use of electronic communication devices (i.e. two-way radios, cell phones, smart watches, etc.) by exhibitors during competition, including judging contests and livestock shows, is prohibited.
37. **Official Protests:** All protests must be made in writing and accompanied by a fee of \$250 cash, which will be refunded if the protest is sustained. Such protests and fees must be submitted to Show Management. Protests must clearly state the cause of complaint or appeal, giving good and sufficient reasons therefore, and must be delivered to the Livestock Office immediately upon the occasion for such protest. Protests must officially be filed before the conclusion of the species show. These cases are referred to the General Manager, Livestock Committee Chairman and General Superintendent, who will have full power to act. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation. **No protests will be accepted on judges' decisions, scales, or classifiers.**
38. **Photographs:** Exhibitors agree to present their animal(s) at the request of show management for official photographs. All photographs taken by the official photographer(s) become property of the HOT Livestock Show. Unofficial (i.e. personal) photographs may not be published without written approval of Show Management. Exhibitors wishing to purchase photographs must contact the Official Photographer. Commercial photography and filming are often conducted at the HOT Livestock Show. You may appear in resulting pictures or film which may be used in connection with advertising, news reporting, public relations or other activities regarding the HOT Livestock Show. Entering the grounds and competitive events associated with the HOT Livestock Show constitutes your consent for the HOT Livestock Show to use any pictures or films it deems appropriate without payment, inspection or review.
39. **Staging Area:** No one is allowed in the staging area except for exhibitor, animal, Livestock Show staff, or Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent of the show in progress.
40. **Validation:**
- Heifers:** To be eligible, all breeding beef heifers (including potential substitute heifers) **must** be validated with the Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Heifer Validation Program. The deadline for heifer validation is June 30, 2025, but exhibitors need to check with their local CEA or AST for local/county deadlines. Show Management will collect DNA samples on Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion heifers as well as any other heifer designated by Show Management. Show Management will make the final decision regarding any potential disqualification. All tags other than state and county validation must be removed.
 - Steers:** All steers must be State Validated. All tags other than state and county validation must be removed.
 - Gilts:** To be eligible, purebred and crossbred gilts must be validated with, and adhere to, all the rules of the Texas 4-H and FFA Gilt Validation Program administered by the

Texas FFA. Exhibitors need to check with their local CEA or AST for local/county validation deadlines. Failure to abide by these rules will result in disqualification.

- d. The following do **NOT** need to be state validated:
 - A. Lambs
 - B. Goats
 - C. Wether does
 - D. Barrows, boars, or gilts NOT being exhibited in the breeding gilt show

41. Ownership:

- a. **Ownership and Feeding:** The exhibitors must own their animals at the beginning of and throughout the feeding period, and must feed, care for, and exhibit animals entered. The feeding and fitting period shall begin no later than June 30, 2025, unless exempted by Special Rules. Exhibitors will not be permitted to purchase fitted animals and then show them in any division.
- b. **Heifer Ownership/Registration:** Animals entered in the heifer show must be owned by the exhibitor **and** registered in the records of the respective breed association (in the name of the exhibitor) on or before June 30, 2025. Permanent identification (i.e. brand or tattoo) must be present and must match the registration paper of the animal. Original registration papers must be solely in the name of the exhibitor. Partnerships of any form will not be allowed.

42. Animal Substitution: Substitutions will be allowed within the same breed and division as the original entry at the time of check-in. Substitutions will not be allowed once check-in is completed. Any animal substituted must meet any and all requirements for the show it is to be entered. **Substitutions may only be made within the same show** (i.e. a heifer for a heifer is allowed, a heifer for a gilt is not) otherwise it is considered a separate entry and subject to a late entry fee.

- a. **Heifers:** Heifer substitutions will only be allowed if the substituted heifer has been validated in the Texas 4-H and FFA Breeding Heifer Validation Program.
- b. **Gilts:** Purebred gilts can be substituted for a crossbred gilt, only if the crossbred gilt is validated.



Animal/project substitutions turned in to the Livestock and Competitive Events office **before** the day of show check-in will have no charge. Substitutions made **at the show** will be charged \$50.

43. ID Verification: The tattoo or brand will be checked on the top two (2) placing heifers at the conclusion of each class and must match the permanent ID that appears on the original registration paper. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure the brand or tattoo is legible prior to arrival on show grounds. Exhibitors will be disqualified if their heifer does not have a matching tattoo or brand, or if the tattoo or brand is illegible. In the event of a disqualification, placings and awards will not be moved down to the next qualifying exhibitor. The Show will not be responsible for branding heifers or any heifers that need to be tattooed or be re-tattooed.

44. Bedding: Stalls will not be pre-bedded. Exhibitors may purchase shavings on the grounds or bring their own.

45. **Weighing:** Steers, swine, goats, and lambs will turn in their official show weight. The management reserves the right to weigh-back any animal at any time.
46. **Animal Health Requirements:** See the [Animal Health Requirements](#) section of this catalog. Management is allowed to impose animal health regulations that are more restrictive than those imposed by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). Specific TAHC regulations will supersede the Show requirements if there is a dispute between the two in which the show rules are less restrictive than TAHC regulations. See Texas Animal Health Commission Rules for details. Refer to the TAHC website for these details at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/>. The show considers itself an intrastate (accepting entries of livestock ONLY from within Texas) show for livestock entries.
47. **Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo Animal Care Statement:** The HOTFR has developed an Animal Care Committee with representatives from across the state of Texas. The committee is charged with determining proper care is given to all species of livestock while they are at the show as well as upholding high standards of animal husbandry and ethical practices of exhibiting animals.
48. **Trim Chutes/Blocking Tables:** Trim Chutes and blocking tables are **not** allowed on grounds. Security will monitor grounds continually.
49. **Stall and Pen Space:** All animals will be stalled upon arrival. To stall together, you must arrive together.
a. **Swine:** All Swine will be stalled two to a pen. You must provide your own dividers.
50. **Coloring:** No animal entered in any livestock division of the HOT Livestock Show may show evidence of artificial coloring, oil, paint, powder, glues or adhesives. The only acceptable coloring shall be dressing to be used on hooves only. All livestock will be checked for body coloring.
51. **Unethically Fitted Livestock:** The showing of unethically fitted livestock, the showing of livestock of any ineligible age for exhibition in the class entered, or the misrepresentation of breeding or milking status is prohibited. Unethical fitting will be deemed to consist of changing the normal conformation of any part of the animal's body or using drugs, including over the counter and/or extra-label, or mechanical devices to alter the physical makeup and/or performance of the animal. The HOT Livestock Show maintains a **zero-tolerance policy** for unethically fitted livestock. This includes but is not limited to the following:
a. Pumping will not be tolerated.
b. Animals that are in milk due to unnaturally induced lactation.
c. Balancing the udder by any means other than leaving naturally produced milk in any or all quarters.
d. Treating or massaging any part of the animal's body, internally or externally, with an irritant, counterirritant, or other substance to temporarily improve conformation.
e. Minimizing the effects of cramping by feeding or injecting drugs and depressants or applying packs or using any artificial contrivance or therapeutic treatment except normal exercise.
f. Blocking the nerves to prevent limping or switching of the tail.
g. Striking the animal to cause swelling in a depressed area.

- h. Surgery or other practices performed to chance the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body, hide, hair, or feet (this is to include any materials added to the feet of an animal) except the removal of warts or horns and the permitted clipping and dressing of hair and trimming hooves.
 - i. Insertion of foreign material under the skin.
 - j. Changing the color of hair at any point, spot, or area on the animal's body. Any grooming material that allows color to come off from any animal will not be allowed at the show.
 - k. The act of artificially filling animals internally, which would include stomach pumping, drench tubes, or any other method per os (by esophagus).
 - l. The use of alcoholic or carbonated beverages in the feed or administered as a drench.
 - m. The use of diuretics is prohibited.
 - n. Administration of drugs internally or externally is prohibited. Animals under the care of a licensed veterinarian and/or taking any type of medication are ineligible.
52. **Diseased Animals Barred:** Special care will be taken that no animal having a disease of any character will be admitted onto the grounds at any time. The Show Management is instructed and authorized to refuse unloading privileges to any stock having a disease or undesirable ailment.
53. **Nurse Cows:** Nurse cows are not permitted.
54. **Eligibility of Animals:** All animals in the breeding classes must be recorded or accepted for record in the recognized books of record for their respective breeds. Exhibitors must produce certificates of registry at the request of the Superintendent in charge any time during the HOT Livestock Show. No photocopies of registration papers are acceptable, except in case of scramble animals. The exhibitor must give, on our application of entry, the breed, date of birth, registration number and name under which animal is registered in the record association; otherwise, entry will not be accepted. This does not apply to animals entered in classes, i.e. steers, swine, crossbred gilts, goats, wether does, and lambs. Any animal that has been offered for auction is ineligible to show.
55. **Restraint/Unruly Animals:** The Show Management may remove any unruly animal from the show; there will be no appeal. Cattle must be shown with halter and be sufficiently gentle to be properly handled by one attendant on foot.
56. **Erroneous Entry:** Exhibits that have been erroneously entered may be transferred to their proper class, prior to judging, upon application to the Show Management who will determine the matter upon its merits. If such classes have been judged, however, they shall not be reopened.
57. **Care of Animals:** All owners of property, livestock or others having same in charge, shall care of, guard, protect, and preserve same as the HOT Livestock Show does not undertake to do so and it shall not be responsible for any loss or damage to said property or the owners thereof.
58. **Arrival Time:** All animals must be in place according to the schedule for each division.