

2026 Botetourt County Fair Youth Livestock Fair Rules

Showmanship

Market/Breeding Showmanship Classes (age as of January 1, 2026)

Senior Showmanship	16-19 years
Intermediate Showmanship	13-15 years
Junior Showmanship	9-12 years
Novice Showmanship	9-12 years & 1st year showing

Peewee Showmanship: Peewee Showmanship 5-8 years old (age as of January 1, 2026)

Peewee showmanship will take place at the end of each species showmanship classes.
Peeweess will not be placed.

Rules:

1. Peeweess need to be able to exhibit their animal on their own. Parents will not be permitted into the showing.
2. Animals traditionally shown with a halter or neck chain must be halter/chain broken to enter the ring.
3. Animals will not be placed and are not eligible for championship drive.
4. Pen space is limited and reserved for Botetourt exhibitors before opening to other counties.

Non-Owner Showmanship:

Rules:

1. Participation is limited to a maximum 1-year as a peewee (ages 5-8) and 1-year as a junior (ages 9-12) Not to exceed 2 years total.
2. Exhibitor is expected to have worked with the animal enough to answer showmanship questions in the ring and maintain control of the animal without the help of an adult or owner. The Livestock Show Committee reserves the right to remove any participant from the class if they feel this rule has not been met and safety becomes an issue.*
3. Entries are limited to the following counties:
Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, Roanoke & Rockbridge
4. Pen space is limited and reserved for Botetourt market & breeding show exhibitors before opening it up to other counties. Please be prepared to show off your trailer.

*Animal owner may require additional requirements to exhibit their livestock in the Non-Owner Showmanship class.

Market and Breeding Class Rules

Swine

Classes

Market Hogs Classes broken by weight the day of the show

Grand & Reserve Champion Market Hog

Breeding Gilts Classes broken by weight the day of the show

Grand & Reserve Champion Breeding Gilt

Best of Botetourt Swine (Exhibitors from Botetourt County only)

Rules

1. Ownership deadline of 5/1/2026 applies.
2. Exhibitor must show their own animal in showmanship. Animal must be entered in the hog show.
3. Entries are limited to 4 market hogs and 2 breeding gilts per exhibitor.
4. Market hog classes will be divided by weight. **Hogs must be between 220-310 lbs to be eligible to show**
5. Market hog classes will be open to both barrows and gilts shown and judged together.
6. Animals must have RFID tag at check in
7. Entries are limited to the following counties:
Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, Roanoke & Rockbridge
8. Pen space is limited and reserved for Botetourt exhibitors before opening it up to other counties. Please note below if you can show off your trailer.

Beef

Classes

Junior Heifer Calves	Calved 1/1 - 4/30/2026
Senior Heifer Calves	Calved 9/1 - 12/31/2025
Intermediate Yearling Heifers	Calved 5/1 - 8/31/2025
Late Junior Yearling Heifers	Calved 3/1 - 4/30/2025
Early Junior Yearling Heifers	Calved 1/1 - 2/28/2025
Senior Yearling Heifers	Calved 9/1 - 12/31/2024

Grand Champion & Reserve Females

Prospect Steers (Weighing 999lbs or less)

Market Steers (Weighing 1000lbs +)

Dairy Beef Feeder Steers (Weighing 799lbs or less)

Grand & Reserve Champion Steer

Best of Botetourt Beef (exhibitors from Botetourt County only)

Rules:

1. Commercial heifers will show in a separate class regardless of entry numbers.
2. Ownership deadline of May 1, 2025 applies.
3. Cattle must have a RFID Tag at check in.
4. Fitting of breeding heifers in an ethical manner is allowed. Unethical fitting shall include (but is not limited to) the following:
 - a - Use of paints, paint products and colored adhesives or other fitting products are subject to breed association rules.
 - b - The addition of any hair or hairlike substances, including false tail heads and false polls.
 - c - The cutting, tearing or gluing of the hide, underneath the hide or removal of tissue in an attempt to alter the shape of an animal.
 - d - The injection of any gas solid or liquid under the hide to alter the normal confirmation.
 - e - Any product/solutions/liquids administered internally or externally to alter the confirmation of the animal is prohibited. This includes the use of steroids, growth promotants, and the act of artificially filling the animals internally, which would include stomach pumping, drench tubes or any other method.
5. Exhibitors must show their own animal in showmanship. The animal must be entered in the beef show.
6. Steers will be show by weight. Show management reserves the right to conduct show on check in weight or declared weight.
7. Cattle must remain on show grounds until the conclusion of the livestock sale. If an animal is removed prior to release, all premiums will be forfeited.
8. Entries are limited to the following counties:
Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, Roanoke & Rockbridge
9. Pen space is limited and reserved for Botetourt exhibitors before opening it up to other counties. Please note below if you are able to show off your trailer.

Dairy

Classes:

Junior Heifer Calves	Calved 1/1/2026 or later
Senior Heifer Calves	Calved 9/1 - 12/31/2025
Intermediate Yearling Heifers	Calved 5/1 - 8/31/2025
Junior Yearling Heifers	Calved 1/1 - 4/30/2025
Senior Yearling Heifers	Calved 9/1 - 12/31/2024

Dry Cow - Two years of age or older by show date

Cow In Milk - Two years of age or older by show date

Grand Champion & Reserve Females

Best of Botetourt Dairy (exhibitors from Botetourt County only)

Rules:

1. All cattle must be clean and dry. Fitting is left to the discretion of the exhibitor.
2. Dairy steers will show in the dairy beef class of the beef show.
3. Exhibitors must show their own animal in showmanship. The animal must be entered in the dairy show.
4. Ownership deadline of May 1, 2026 applies.
5. Cattle must have a RFID Tag at check in.
6. Entries are limited to the following counties:
Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, Roanoke & Rockbridge
7. Pen space is limited and reserved for Botetourt exhibitors before opening it up to other counties. Please note below if you can show off your trailer.

Goat

Classes

Market Goat (classes broken by weight, day of the show)

Grand Champion & Reserve Market Goat

Commercial Doe (classes broken by weight, day of the show)

Grand Champion & Reserve Commercial Doe

Best of Botetourt Goat (exhibitors from Botetourt County only)

Rules:

1. Ownership deadline of 5/1/2026 applies.
2. Each exhibitor may show a maximum of 3 market goats and 3 breeding does.
3. Goats must only be shown in one division, one class. Market goats may not be shown in the breeding classes and commercial does may not show in the market class.
4. All goats; breeding or market will be shown by weight on the day of the show. **Goats must be between 65-130 lbs to be eligible to show.** No separate classes for registered vs commercial. There will be no separate show or classes for dairy breeds.
5. All goats must be washed and dry prior to entering the ring. Fitting is up to the discretion of the exhibitor.
6. Goats may be shown with halters or neck chains but **MUST** be halter or neck chain broken. Unbroken animals will not be allowed to show.
7. Animals will be checked for sore mouth, foot rot, fungus, or any other infectious or contagious disease at check in. Animals showing signs will be excused from the fairgrounds.
8. Animals must have a UDSA Scrapie tag at check in.
9. Entries are limited to the following counties:
Alleghany, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Montgomery, Roanoke & Rockbridge

10. Pen space is limited and reserved for Botetourt exhibitors before opening it up to other counties. Please note below if you are able to show off your trailer.

Lamb

Classes:

Market Lamb (classes broken by weight, day of the show)

Grand Champion & Reserve Market Lamb

Commercial Ewe (classes broken by weight, day of the show)

Grand Champion & Reserve Commercial Ewe

Best of Botetourt Sheep (exhibitors from Botetourt County only)

Rules:

1. Ownership deadline of 5/1/26 applies.
2. Entries are limited to 3 market lambs and 3 commercial ewes per exhibitor.
3. Market lamb classes will be divided by weight. **Lambs must be between 90 and 160 lbs to be eligible to show.**
4. Market lambs must be shown with 1/4" of wool or less above the knees and hocks. Fleece length will be checked at weigh in.
5. Market lambs must be either wethers or ewes. Wethers must show no evidence of testicular tissue and complexly healed from castration.
6. Animals must have a UDSA Scrapie tag at check in.
7. Entries are limited to the following counties:
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