

2025 GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR & RODEO, INC.
GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES

1. All exhibitors are cautioned to read carefully the following rules and regulations, as well as each division rules, as same will be strictly enforced.
2. All animals will adhere to the Texas Animal Health Commission Rules. The Livestock Committee will issue updates as necessary. However, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to comply with the Texas Animal Health Rules.
3. Market divisions are restricted to the following:

Steers	County Steer Division	Poultry	Market Broiler Division
Steers	Market Steer Division	Poultry	Market Turkey Division
Pigs	Market Swine Division	Rabbits	Market Rabbit Division
Sheep	Market Lamb Division	Goats	Market Goat Division
4. Breeding divisions are restricted to the following:

Junior Commercial Heifer Division	Breeding Beef Division
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5. A. Exhibitors/Substitute/Stand-in Exhibitors must be enrolled and attending classes in a Galveston County I.S.D. public school, Galveston County private/parochial school or be a home educated student in Galveston County, elementary or secondary, or is a resident of Galveston County, and is a current member of a Galveston County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, **HAVING A FAIR PROJECT ENTERED, TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.**
B. **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO SHOW. Exception:** Exhibitors who have completed academic requirements for graduation at mid-term of the current school year and are a current member of a Galveston County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, are eligible to participate.
6. Tag-in dates, order dates and times will be published in each division's rules.
7. **Family tag-ins will be allowed for immediate family members only. The meaning of Family Tag shall be "immediate family living in the same household" (i.e. brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, half brother and half sisters, or legal guardian of). All eligible exhibitors must be listed on tag-in or order form in order to be eligible to enter an animal in that division.**
8. Exhibitors must accompany his/her animal at tag-in, be present to pick-up their Poultry orders, and at check-in. Signature of exhibitor and parent/guardian, or representative is required at Tag-in. Prior approval from the Livestock Chairperson and Livestock Superintendent will be required for any exhibitor who has a TEA/UIL event or any conflict with this rule.
9. **Only the GCF&R or TX validation tag numbers will be used for identification. All ear tags except the GCF&R and TX validation tag must be removed prior to or during tag-in and these should be the only tags present at check-in. Exception: Scrapies tags for Lamb & Goats can stay in the ear. During the show the scrapies tags will be covered. Alterations to the GCF&R or TX validation tags – change to size, shape, form or color – will void the tag.**
10. Animals which are tagged with an Official Texas Tag approved by the Texas Agriculture Extension Service and which are the property of the same Exhibitor (as indicated on the official state 4-H or FFA validation forms), will not be required for re-tagging. However, all such animals must be present for recording of the Texas Tag Number and tag-in procedures.
11. Any exhibitor wishing to tag-in more than one (1) market animal in a division may do so with approval of the Chairman or Livestock Superintendent at the time of tag-in.
12. **The Show Chairperson/Livestock Superintendent must be notified immediately if an ear tag is lost or if a TX validation tag is replaced.** The animal will be re-nose printed for verification by the Livestock Committee at time of re-tagging. The animal will be subject to review by such committee and may be subject to disqualification. **All animals will be subject to nose print verification (ear notch verification for swine) at any time. Do not remove the ear tag from your animal after they are shown. This is your animal's identification number that is used by the Livestock Committee, Buyers and Meat Packing Companies for that purpose.**
13. **The exhibitors must own their animals at the beginning of and throughout the feeding periods. Exhibitors must feed and care for animals on a daily basis without any aid or assistance during the entire period, except from their County Extension Agents, Ag Teachers, 4-H Leaders, or family. The Livestock Superintendent and/or Show Chairperson reserves the right to visit the facility where the exhibitor's animals are housed at any time.**
14. **NO FAMILY ENTRIES.** One entry form is required for each individual exhibitor. Exhibitor must specify which animal he/she will show at the time of check-in. No animal shall be entered or exhibited under a name other than that of a bona fide owner.
15. Exhibitor Entries must be submitted by 4-H Leaders and Ag Teachers along with a summary sheet with cash or one check/money order made payable to GCF&R for the club/chapter's entries. **NO REFUNDS FOR ANY REASON.**
16. **Required forms** - Each Exhibitor is required to submit a completed **Indemnity Form** and **Emergency Medical Authorization Form** (signed by the exhibitor and parent/guardian) as well as a **COMPLETED W9 FORM WITH THE EXHIBITOR'S INFORMATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AS IT IS ON THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY CARD** (signed by the exhibitor). Rabbit Exhibitors must also complete a **Meat Pen Rabbit Entry Verification Form**. Failure to

- complete these forms will result in disqualification. These forms are to be submitted with payment for the entries to the 4-H Leader/Ag Teacher. The 4-H Leader/Ag Teacher will then submit these forms and payment for their entire club/chapter to the Fair Office.
17. Exhibitors must check-in and show under the same Chapter or Club name as registered on the Exhibitor Entry Application. If an FFA member changes schools to another Galveston County ISD prior to check-in, then he/she may change to a different chapter or become a member of a Galveston County 4-H Club as long as it is done prior to the beginning of fair and eligibility can be obtained for that exhibitor.
 18. All youth exhibitors **MUST** be academically eligible to participate in the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. – in accordance with House Rule #72 “NO PASS – NO PLAY”. Eligibility will be determined by designated school officials in total cooperation with the GCF&R, Ag Instructors and/or Galveston County Extension Agent. Once eligibility status is received from designated school officials, all ineligible exhibitors will be immediately notified by the Ag Instructor or the Galveston County Extension Agent. Discrepancies with eligibility status must be resolved between the exhibitor, the exhibitor's parent(s)/guardian(s), and the designated school officials as soon as possible. Any change resulting from a discrepancy in eligibility status must be documented in writing and relayed only by the designated school officials to the GCF&R, Ag Instructors, or Galveston County Extension Agent **PRIOR TO CHECK-IN.**
 19. Exhibitors must show their animals in the Show Ring. If unable to do so for any of the following reasons, a substitute exhibitor may be obtained:
 - a. Death in the immediate family.
 - b. Conflict with another TEA/UIL sanctioned event where participation is required.
 - c. Verified medical condition.
 - d. Ineligibility due to House Rule 72 "No Pass-No Play". **Exception: Rules pertaining to “No Pass-No Play” set by your school district or individual clubs/chapters that prohibit the showing of your projects if you are not passing supersede this rule.**
 20. All substitute exhibitors must meet the following requirements:
 - a. The substitute exhibitor is eligible under "No Pass-No Play" (See Rule #18 above);
 - b. The substitute exhibitor is a current member of a Galveston County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter and **must have a fair project entered** (See Rule #5 above). However, the substitute exhibitor cannot have entered an animal in the same show, except for immediate family.
 - c. The substitute exhibitor has completed and submitted to the Livestock Committee a Substitute Exhibitor Form signed by the Ag Teacher/4-H Club Leader, Parents, and Exhibitors.
 21. All stand-in exhibitors must meet the following requirements:
 - a. The stand-in exhibitor is eligible under "No Pass-No Play" (See Rule #18 above);
 - b. The stand-in exhibitor is a current member of a Galveston County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, and **must have a fair project entered** (See Rule #5 above).
 - c. The stand-in exhibitor has completed and submitted to the Livestock Committee a Stand-in Exhibitor Form signed by the Ag Teacher/4-H Club Leader, Parents, and Exhibitors.
 22. If for any reason there is a question about a weight of any animal, the animal will be backed off of the scale, the scale balanced, and the animal will be immediately re-weighed **ONLY** one more time. No time shall lapse between first and second weighing.
 23. **The Livestock Superintendent/Chairperson shall have the right to refuse the entry of any animal, which in their judgment, is unworthy of exhibition for injury or illness, or which may be a menace to the physical/medical safety of other livestock, the exhibitors or spectators.**
 24. Animals must remain in livestock area throughout the duration of the fair.
 25. All animals and equipment will be assigned a pen or stall in the appropriate area for that division, and must remain in their assigned pens or stalls for the duration of the Fair. **Designated areas for show boxes are provided. (See Map) SHOW BOXES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE LIVESTOCK PAVILION PRIOR TO 12:00 NOON THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025. Absolutely NO show boxes will be allowed along the Turkey railing. THE GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR & RODEO IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SHOW BOX.**
 26. No one will be allowed in the livestock area between 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. without permission from the livestock superintendent.
 27. **Exhibitors are responsible for feeding, watering and caring for their animal projects for the duration of the fair.** Exhibitors must furnish their own feed, feeders, water containers and are responsible for keeping the pens and stall areas clean at all times. Exhibitors must abide by Division feeding rules. **All divisions have Feeding Areas provided. Please feed, water and clean the feed pans only in the area designated for that division.** Any Exhibitor failing to feed, water or keep the pens or stall areas clean will be issued a written warning. After the third written warning, the Exhibitor shall remove their animal project from the fairground premises, shall forfeit all prizes and awards for that animal project, and the Exhibitor will be disqualified from entering an animal project in the next year's livestock show.
 28. Only battery operated fans will be allowed.
 29. The use of extension cords are strictly prohibited in the Livestock Pavilion.

30. All animals exhibited in the GCF&R Livestock Shows must be trained, fitted and dressed for show by the exhibitor, County Extension Agent, Ag Teachers, 4-H Leaders or family all of which must be residents of Galveston County.
31. The showing of unethically fitted livestock or livestock of any ineligible age for exhibition in the class is prohibited. Unethical fitting will be deemed to consist of any method of altering the natural conformation of any part of the animal's body. Animals showing signs of having been operated upon or tampered with for the purpose of concealing faults in conformation or with intent to deceive relative to the animal's soundness, will be disqualified. As a condition for participation in the Galveston County Livestock Shows, every exhibitor must agree to submit any animal so entered by him/her to inspection by a veterinarian. Exhibitors must also agree that the conclusions reached by the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc., and/or their representatives shall be final, without recourse against Galveston County Fair and Rodeo, Inc. or its representatives. **Galveston County Fair and Rodeo, Inc. reserves the right to have blood or urine laboratorial analysis made on any animal entered for competition, subject to substance residue policy.** Galveston County Fair and Rodeo, Inc. also reserves the right to order the timely slaughter of any placing animal(s), and the evaluation of such carcass(es) after slaughter. If unethical fitting of livestock is determined, any and all sale monies will be withheld and participants may be barred from future participation at Galveston County Fair and Rodeo, Inc. An exhibitor of an animal producing an analysis with a quantity of diuretic or any unapproved medication will be barred from future competition at the Galveston County Fair and Rodeo, Inc. No painting or dyeing will be allowed. Any grooming material that causes color to be removed from the animal will not be allowed. No grooming powders or graphite will be allowed on animals.
32. All animals must be presented for competition when called.
33. Spectators will not be allowed in the Show Ring.
34. When the entries in any class are fewer than the number of premiums offered, or when there is no competition in a class, the judges will make placings and awards strictly on the merit of the animals shown, or two or more classes may be combined.
35. There will be no prize money on ribbon placings in the GCF&R Livestock Shows.
36. In no instance will judges make placings or awards to an animal which, in their opinion, is not worthy or deserving.
37. The decision of the Judge is FINAL.
38. **A Completed animal release form is required to remove your animal from the fairgrounds for all check outs.** All animals not released by designated release time on Sunday, April 13, 2025, will become the property of the Fair. Exhibitors failing to comply will be subject to review by the Executive Committee.
39. The Livestock Committee will take every precaution to insure the safety and well-being of exhibitors and animals. However, the Fair will not be responsible for any loss or damage to animals or articles while on the Fairgrounds or in transit thereto or therefrom, from any cause whatsoever.
40. To file an official protest, the fee will be **\$200.00 CASH**, which will be forfeited if protest is not sustained.
41. **The Livestock Committee reserves the right to use any animal for the participation in the Livestock Judging contest and the Pee Wee Swine Show to be held during the Fair. No Grand & Reserve Champion animals will be used for either of these shows. On the day of the Livestock Judging Contest, absolutely NO youth exhibitors will be allowed in the Livestock Pavilion from 7:00 am until the conclusion of the contest (approximately 10:30 – 11:00 am). For the Pee Wee Swine Show the committee will select the swine to be used during the show.**
42. All sales of market animals, which have been shown during the week of the Fair, will be handled through the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. Office. **Soliciting sales of animals will not be permitted on the premises of the fairgrounds. "FOR SALE" signs will not be allowed to be displayed on or adjacent to any animal entered in this show.**
43. For information on Junior Auction and Commitment procedures, see the Junior Auction Rules and/or Junior Livestock Commitment Rules. **PLEASE NOTE: NO BUYER GIFTS ALLOWED ON GCF&R PREMISES.**
44. It is **MANDATORY** that the exhibitor bring a stamped envelope with a "Thank You" card addressed to the buyer and a proof of delivery form (when applicable) to the Fair Office before checks will be released. The Fair Office will mail the thank you cards. **ALL EXHIBITORS MUST COME TO THE FAIR OFFICE TO SIGN FOR THEIR CHECK.** Checks will be ready for pick up no later than 60 days after the close of the Fair (usually in June) and the checks **must be picked up by September 1** of the same year. **If your check has not been picked up by this date it will then be voided and reverted to the scholarship fund.**
45. For policies on Substance Residue, see Substance Residue Policy Rules.
46. **Classes will be posted as soon as they are completed. NO information on classes will be available until the chairperson has verified all of the information. Failure to cooperate in this matter will only further prolong the process.**
47. **ONCE A CLASS HAS BEEN PLACED AND IT IS DETERMINED THAT THERE IS A DISQUALIFICATION OF A PLACING ENTRY, ALL PRIZES AWARDED TO THAT PLACED ENTRY ARE DEEMED FORFEITED AND ALL REMAINING PLACED ENTRIES WILL BE ADJUSTED UP TO FILL THE VACATED PLACING.**
48. **ANY FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY APPLICABLE GCF&R RULES MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR & RODEO, INC. FOR THE YEAR IN WHICH THE**

VIOLATION OCCURS AND THE EXHIBITOR WILL FORFEIT ALL AWARDS AND/OR PROCEEDS. THE EXHIBITOR WILL ALSO BE DISQUALIFIED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE 2026 FAIR.

49. **NO pets or “emotional support animals” will be allowed on the fairgrounds at any time.** Only service animals are permitted on the Galveston County Fairgrounds. (Service animals are individually trained to perform tasks or do work for the benefit of a person with a disability. The tasks or work the animal does must be directly related to the person's disability). The Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. reserves the right to remove any service animal that poses a threat to the safety and/or welfare of its patrons, employees, volunteers, or property. However, you (the patron with the disability) are liable for any damages your service animal causes to the property or to another person.

***SPECIAL RULES OR CONDITIONS ARE PUBLISHED IN EACH DIVISION WHERE NECESSARY. IF THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE SPECIAL RULES OF ANY DIVISION AND THE GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, THE SPECIAL RULES WILL GOVERN.

SHOWMANSHIP RULES

1. There will be a Junior and Senior Showmanship class as follows:
 a) Steer c) Market Lamb e) Jr. Breeding Beef
 b) Jr. Commercial Heifer d) Market Swine f) Market Goat
2. Only the eligible owner of the animals will be allowed to participate in the showmanship class. No substitute exhibitor will be allowed to compete in Showmanship.
3. All eligible youth exhibiting in the Steer, Jr. Commercial Heifer/Pen of 3, Market Lamb, Jr. Breeding Beef and Market Goat divisions are subject to compete in showmanship with their own animal. Showmanship in the Market Swine division will be at the Judge's discretion; however, eligible youth exhibitors will only be allowed to compete with their own animal.
NO Bulls will be allowed to return to the ring for showmanship.

JUNIOR - Exhibitors 13 and under as of August 31, 2024
SENIOR - Exhibitors 14 and over as of August 31, 2024

JUDGE SELECTION:

1. A minimum of three qualified candidates will be turned in to the livestock committee chairperson for each division. The Executive Committee will approve the contract.
2. The judge will be selected annually by the committee.
3. Announcement of the judges will be made upon verbal acceptance by the judge.
4. If a judge cannot fulfill their contract for any reason, the livestock superintendent and division chairperson will select another judge.

Fair officials reserve the right to change the rules, dates, times and places due to unforeseen circumstances.