



2023 Fort Bend County Fair Livestock General Rules & Regulations

1. Exhibitors, entries, and awards must comply with the Fort Bend County Fair General Rules & Regulations, **all Auction Rules, Drug Testing Rules** and the following specific rules Interpretations and applications will be made by the Livestock Department Chairman, the Fair Manager, and/or the Livestock Department Committee. **OFFICIAL RULES ON FILE IN FAIR OFFICE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OTHER RULES.**
2. **Any Exhibitor, parent or guardian of the exhibitor, agriculture science teacher, 4-H leader, or county agent who knowingly violates or condones the violation of any rule or rules shall be subject to immediate discipline and possible removal of exhibitor and family members from all shows and/or forfeiture of all sale proceeds.**
3. **RESIDENCY** – All entrants in the Livestock Department Auction Classes **MUST**:
 - a) Be a **RESIDENT OF FORT BEND COUNTY** or **ZONED TO A SCHOOL** in Fort Bend County.
 - b) Be a **LEGAL U.S. CITIZEN WITH SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER** or **PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD**.
 - c) **Not** have shown a market animal or commercial heifer in any other county fair or county youth fair from January 1st through October 31st of the current calendar year.
 - d) All animals shall remain housed, in the regular/daily care of the exhibitor in Fort Bend County **at the address listed on the exhibitor's registration form. Animals are subject to random checks from Fort Bend County Fair officials. If the animal is found to be out of Fort Bend County for more than 72 hours without approval, it will result in project disqualification from the Fort Bend County Fair.** Eligible Katy I.S.D. students that do not live in Fort Bend County but are zoned to a Fort Bend County school must house their projects in Fort Bend County or the Katy I.S.D. school barn.
4. **ELIGIBILITY**
 - a) The exhibitor must be a member of a Fort Bend County FFA Chapter or a Fort Bend County 4-H Club and be under the supervision of an Agriculture Science Teacher, County Extension Agent, or County 4-H Leader. The exhibitor has until **Wednesday before the start** of the current year's Fair to designate chapter or club affiliation. **Animal stall assignments will be made based on chapter/club affiliation as of September 1st of the current year's fair. Stall assignments will not be changed in conjunction with club/chapter affiliation changes made after September 1st.** **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO SHOW.**
 - b) **GRADE INELIGIBILITY:** While the Texas Education Agency interpretation on extracurricular activities (as distributed May 2, 1985, and detailed under Update Number 2 example 1 and explanation 6 on page 240) remains intact, the following rule must be in effect for the Fort Bend County Fair. A Scholastically Ineligible Student planning to show livestock and/or poultry in the Fort Bend County Fair may request from the Livestock Committee that a substitute exhibitor be allowed to show their animal. The request will be considered by the Livestock Committee only if the Agriculture Science Teacher, County Extension Agent, 4-H Leader, or parent presents a document from the appropriate school. The document must state that the owner of the animal in question has not met the minimum scholastic requirements for participation in Extracurricular Activities and will not be able to show. It must be prepared and signed by an individual in the school authorized to make such a statement (principal, superintendent, assistant principal, etc.) The Department Chairman may use his/her own discretion as to whether a substitute showman will be allowed. If allowed, the substitute showman must be enrolled in the same school, FFA Chapter, or 4-H Club as the original exhibitor. The substitute must meet all requirements of a Junior Show Exhibitor including the scholastic eligibility requirement.
 - c) **SUBSTITUTE SHOWMAN:** Entries in the livestock show must be shown by their owner. Exhibitor substitution may be allowed under the following conditions. In all cases, the Livestock Superintendent must approve the exhibitor substitution and will do so only if all conditions have been met. If allowed, the substitute showman must

be enrolled in the same school, FFA Chapter, or 4-H Club as the original exhibitor or an immediate family member living in the same household.” (i.e., brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters.) *This does not include cousins, nieces, or nephews.* **Substitute showman shall not participate in showmanship.**

- i. **Type (A) Substitution:** Other School Activity – The substitution request must be made in writing by the parent. The parent’s request must include the name of the substitute. The substitute must meet the requirements of Rules #3 and #4 of the Livestock General Rules.
- ii. **Type (B) Substitution:** Sickness or Family Emergency – The substitution request must be made in writing by the parent. The parent’s request must include the name of the substitute. The substitute must meet the requirements of Rules #3 and #4 of the Livestock General Rules.

5. **ENTRIES**

- a) **ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE OWNED BY EXHIBITOR.** All exhibits must be an actual part of the exhibitor’s current project, under his or her individual management and/or regular daily care. Net profits must terminate with the exhibitor. Exhibitors must present evidence of ownership from the date of validation of the project initiation as required by the various departments. All projects will be subject to inspection by the Livestock Committee Chairman and the Livestock Superintendent along with a Fair Board member at any time during the duration of the project. Exhibitors and their guardians will be given one-hour notice before a site inspection. Animals found to not be housed at the site-designated location and without proper documentation will be subject to disqualification. All exhibitors must comply with the general rules and regulations of the Livestock Department and the Fort Bend County Fair Association.
- b) All animals shall remain in Fort Bend County, **at the address listed on the exhibitor’s registration form**, under the daily care of the exhibitor. Fort Bend County Fair projects are subject to random facility checks by Fort Bend County Fair officials. If an animal is found to be out of the county, during an official check, it will result in the project being disqualified from the Fort Bend County Fair. Animals will be allowed to leave the county overnight for shows, grooming or hoof trimming. Any animal needing to be absent from Fort Bend County for more than 72 hours must notify **Fair Office to obtain approval from the Species Chairman and/or Livestock Superintendent.**
- c) *****All exhibitors must submit their division entries and the \$20.00 division entry fee online at <https://fbcfa.fairwire.com>.** Exhibitors are required to have their entries and the \$20.00 division entry fee submitted by the due date specific to each division. Online Entry will only allow the exhibitor to enter one animal online, however, you can still tag-in the allotted number of animals per division. Refunds will not be issued.
 - i. For each division an online entry **and /or paperwork (entry form, W9, and Release of Liability)** is not submitted **and/or not completed** by the deadline, there will be a late fee of \$50.00 per exhibitor.
 - ii. If late entry forms are turned in at FBCF tag-in, Fort Bend County Fair will access the \$50.00 late fee along with the entry fee for that division.
- d) Livestock entry forms, Exhibitor/Participant Release of Liability & W-9 must be submitted and completed by the designated deadline. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per auction class. Agriculture Science Teachers or 4-H Leaders plus Exhibitor and parent or guardian must sign entry form before submitting to Fair Office. The total entry fee will be paid through ShoWorks.
- e) Family tagging will be allowed. This will be interpreted as “immediate family living in the same household.” (i.e., brothers, sisters, stepbrothers and sisters, half brothers and sisters.) *This does not include cousins, nieces, or nephews.* This rule applies to Commercial Heifers, Steers, Swine, Lambs, Goats, Rabbits, and Poultry. All exhibitors must fill out an entry form when the animal or animals are tagged or when poultry is ordered. All exhibitors on the entry form must pay the entry fee. These exhibitors must declare their exhibit tag number at “official check-in.” Commercial heifer pen of two, commercial halter heifer and steer divisions have an entry fee of \$20.00 which includes ear tags. Pen of 3 broilers, roasters, and turkeys have an entry fee of \$20.00 plus the cost of poultry. Goat, lamb, and swine have an entry fee of \$20.00 which includes ear tags. Meat pen of rabbits have an entry fee of \$20.00 which includes tattoos for up to 25 bunnies. All exhibitors are required to have a current Release of Liability on file at the Fair Office in order to show on the Fairgrounds.

- f) RETAG POLICY – In the event that an animal needs to be retagged, the exhibitor, parent, 4-H Leader, or Ag Science Teacher must contact the **Fair Office and** Division Chairman or Livestock Superintendent within 72 hours. Animals will be retagged for loss of tag or infection only. No tag shall be removed without the consent of the Division Chairman or Livestock Superintendent.
- g) All decisions are subject to change by decision of the Fort Bend County Fair Board of Directors without prior notice.

6. **ANIMAL HEALTH**

- a) HEALTH REQUIREMENTS. According to Texas Animal Health Commission publication 91-35 dated February 25, 1991, rule 5.D.2., livestock and poultry originating in Texas and entering all other shows, fairs, exhibitions (i.e., county and local shows) are exempt from entry permit, certificate of veterinary inspection and testing requirements, except poultry must originate from flocks or hatcheries free from pullorum disease and fowl typhoid or have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 30 days before the exhibition. All Breeding Beef must be and show proof of calf hood Brucellosis Vaccination. All Doe Goats and Ewe Lambs must have a scrapie tag in place at validation.
- b) If any animal requires emergency treatment while on Show Grounds, only a licensed Veterinarian will be allowed to administer any drug, chemical, or feed additives. An exhibitor may choose a licensed veterinarian other than the official Show veterinarian, but the Official Show Veterinarian MUST be notified in advance and he/she MUST be present. Official show Veterinarian(s) (including contact information) will be posted in the Livestock Office at fair time. **All treatment costs are the responsibility of the exhibitor and are due when services are rendered.** If an animal is treated by a licensed veterinarian while at the Show, and the medication administered exceeds 15 days' withdrawal time, the animal(s) will be disqualified and not allowed to be shown. All disqualified animals MUST be immediately removed from the show grounds by the exhibitor. Should a placing animal(s) receive treatment requiring a 15 day or less withdrawal period, the Fort Bend County Fair will feed the animal for the duration of the withdrawal period with a charge to the exhibitor for the feed. The Fort Bend County Fair reserves the right to condemn and/or disqualify any animal, either live or slaughtered, found in violation of the use of drugs, chemicals, or feed additives as described above and the exhibitor will forfeit all auction sale and/or premium money if the animal is disqualified. If an animal(s) is disqualified for testing positive and/or the carcass is condemned at slaughter, the class placing will not change. An exhibitor or any immediate family member of an exhibitor of an animal producing a sample having a quantity of diuretic or un-approved medication of any kind may forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit livestock in the future at the Fort Bend County Fair.

7. **ETHICS**

- a) Exhibitors are required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the 2023 Show. **Exhibitors will not be allowed to check in at fair time without a verification code on file.** The Quality Counts training and test can be found at <http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu/verification>.
- b) Evidence of sharp practice to improve the conformation or appearance of animals is strictly prohibited. Animals showing any signs of being unethically fitted will be disqualified.

8. **ANIMAL CARE AND SAFETY**

- a) STALLING AND CARING FOR EXHIBITS: Division Chairmen assign stall/open space and exhibit must remain in the assigned area. Exhibitors will bed, feed, keep exhibit clean and care for livestock throughout the Fair.
- b) Staying overnight on the Fairgrounds is not allowed, except with special written permission from the Livestock Superintendent and Fair Manager.
- c) Electrical equipment and cords will be used with caution and must comply with, and be used in compliance with, all Federal, State, and Municipal Occupational Safety and Health Regulations. Defective equipment or the overloading of circuits will not be allowed.

- d) No animals are to be fed, tied, practiced with, or let loose in the show arena after the arena committee has prepared the arena for an event. Animals may not be exercised in the show arena. Animals may be exercised in the arena provided in Barn H during the designated dates and times as posted in the livestock office. Exercising animals in the Barn H arena is at the exhibitor's risk. The FBCFA will not be held liable for injury to any animal or exhibitor exercising during this time.
- e) LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS' MUST, IF REQUIRED, FURNISH LIVESTOCK FOR THE JUNIOR LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST.
- f) Exhibitors are prohibited from feeding animals or cleaning feed pans in the wash racks.

9. **CHECK-IN AND JUDGING**

a) **UNLOADING ONTO FAIRGROUNDS**

- i. All poultry will be allowed to enter the fairgrounds no earlier than 30 minutes prior to check-in time as specified in division rules.
- ii. All hooved animals may begin to be unloaded no earlier than 2 hours prior to the designated check-in time as specified in division rules.

- b) Only scales approved by Livestock Committee will be allowed on the grounds.
- c) No excessive materials of any kind will be allowed on Steers, Lambs, Goats, Pigs (i.e., mud, excessive water, blankets, face guards) at Fair check-in.
- d) SIFTING. Any animal or bird that does not meet show health and market standards will be rejected and must be removed from the show. Livestock and Poultry must be clean and near-final grooming stage at check-in time. Poultry and rabbits are sifted as they are checked in. Other livestock can be sifted at check-in and before judging. No excessive materials of any kind (solid or liquid) will be allowed on animals at weigh-in.
- e) Show ring dress code for exhibitors and volunteers (excluding Fort Bend County Fair Junior Livestock Volunteers): Button up shirt or blouse with sleeves, slacks/jeans without holes, closed-toed shoes, or boots. No sandals or cros. Clothing may not contain writing affiliated with 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, along with writing or graphics.
- f) JUDGING: Judges will award the place the exhibit merits. Exhibitors placing 1st – 5th will receive an award. The judge's decision is final including classifiers and hair judge.
- g) Showmanship Judge will consider all contestants that have entries in each class. Exhibitors will be divided into three classes for the purpose of Showmanship judging in the divisions of commercial halter heifers, swine, lambs, goats, and steers. Juniors, grades 3-5, Intermediates, grades 6-8, and Seniors, grades 9-12. Exhibitors will not be divided into separate classes for the purpose of showmanship judging in the division of commercial pen of two heifers, scramble heifers, rabbits, and poultry. Exhibitors called back for showmanship must show their own project (animal) – no substitute (animal) allowed. Exhibitors called back for showmanship must show the animal they checked in. Substitute showmen are not eligible for Showmanship Contest. Finalists will be selected by the tag number on the animal they are exhibiting.
- h) SHOWING AND SELLING: Failure to appear in the arena to show or sell as the number is called automatically eliminates participant. An exception may be made if a substitute showman is approved by the Department Chairman.
- i) Protests MUST be filed in writing accompanied by a \$300 cash deposit to the Fair Manager within eight (8) hours of the incident. After the 8-hour time limit has lapsed, an incident will not be considered. The Fair Board shall serve as arbitrators. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded. If the protest is overruled, the deposit will become the property of the Fort Bend County Fair. A protest may be made by the Exhibitor, Parent, FFA

Advisor, or 4-H Leader. **Harassment of any committee chairman, director, or show official by any exhibitor, parent, FFA advisor, 4-H leader, or any other advocate will not be tolerated and will be grounds for disqualification of the project**

10. CHECK-OUT – DISPOSITION

- a) No animal of any kind will leave the Fairground Livestock Area from check-in until checkout unless required by Livestock Department and FBCFA. Stock and Poultry releases must be signed by the Division Chairman before removal from the Fairgrounds. **Exhibitors making the Livestock Auction and the Freezer Sale must appear at checkout on Sunday, October 8, 2023. Check out for all livestock and poultry making the Jr. Livestock Auction or the Freezer Sale will be on Sunday, October 8, 2023, from 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM as outlined in the Fort Bend County Fair Livestock Schedule. Exhibitors must attend to clean up their pen/stall/area/tear down one pen of four panels to receive their disposition papers.**
- b) All auction steers, swine, goats, and lambs will be hauled by a hauler contracted by the Livestock Committee of the FBCFA. Fort Bend County Fair is responsible for hauling only these auction animals. Disposition paperwork from Livestock Office is final and only signed written changes from the buyer **submitted by 5:00 PM, Saturday after the auction** will be acknowledged. The animal will be loaded and sent to where the paperwork is stated and any changes will have to be handled by the buyer at the buyer's expense.
- c) Any animal remaining at the Fairgrounds beyond 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 8, 2023, becomes the property of the Fort Bend County Fair Association.
- d) If after slaughter, any animal has been found to be tampered with or altered, the exhibitor will not receive any auction sale money. The exhibitor may also be barred forever from showing at the Fort Bend County Fair.

11. THANK YOU LETTERS

- a) All sellers **MUST** submit a thank-you letter to his/her buyer and add-on contributors which must be received at the Fair Office, unsealed on or before November 7, 2023 at 4:00 PM. The Fair Office will forward thank-you letters to the buyer(s) and add-on contributors. Thank-you letters **MUST** be addressed to the buyer/add-on contributors, have the exhibitor's return address and first-class stamp (see below for reference).

Exhibitor Name Address City, State Zip	Stamp
Business Name Contact Name Address City, State Zip	

- b) Auction payments will not be released until Buyer Thank You Letters, Add-On Contributor Thank You Letters, and required paperwork (signed disposition) are received by Fair Office.
- c) Auction checks will be available for pick up in the Fair Office on Thursday, November 30th from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. All thank you letters and required paperwork must have been received by November 7th to pick up your check on November 30th. **Checks that are not picked up on November 30th will be available for pick up in the Fair Office during normal business hours ONLY. Checks not processed by January 31, 2024 will be forfeited and the monies will go directly to the Fair Scholarship Fund.**

- i. If thank you letters were turned in after the deadline, you will be notified when your check is available for pick up. **There will be a two-week processing period for letters and required paperwork turned in after the November 7th deadline. The check will be available accordingly. **
- ii. If Parent/Guardian is picking up the check, they must present a valid driver's license that matches the address listed on ShoWorks.
- iii. If the Exhibitor is picking up the check, they must present a student photo ID.

d) **CHECKS WILL NOT BE MAILED.**

- e) Exhibitors who sell poultry or rabbits, **MUST** make arrangements with the buyer within two weeks of the last day of the Fair to determine delivery.