

GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Junior & Open Entry Deadline: August 1, 2023*

Exception: Open Poultry - August 19, 2023 and Open, Youth, and Youth Points Longhorn - August 5, 2023

The Livestock Secretary's Office is located in the Northwest corner of the First Financial Pavilion.

Stalling and releases will be handled from this office.

Shavings, straw, RV hookups will be sold at the Cashiers office located in the Guitar Arena.

Administration of Rules and Regulations

The West Texas Fair & Rodeo (WTF&R) reserves to its Executive Committee and /or its designated representatives referred to as the "Management" the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to settle all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with the show, and the right to amend or add to these rules within its sole discretion. An exhibitor who violates any of the following rules may forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the Executive Committee may order. Special rules are published in each department or category where necessary. If there is a conflict between the special department rules and these General Livestock Rules & Regulations, the special rules will govern. Each exhibitor is responsible for inquiry about and obtaining a copy of any such special rules where applicable in his/her category of exhibition.

Statement of Liability

RULE 1: All livestock exhibits will be under the control and direction of the Management, but the WTF&R will in no case be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur. Each exhibitor will be solely and individually responsible for any loss, injury or damage done to, occasioned by or arising from, any animal or article exhibited by him or her and for its description as given in the catalog, and shall indemnify the WTF&R against all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto, as well as damage or injury to any person or property, caused by the exhibitor, or any of the animals exhibited by him or her or in any way connected with such exhibition.

Eligibility for Entry

RULE 2: Competition is open to the world unless otherwise stated in the special rules governing a particular department.

RULE 3: All animals in the breeding classes must be recorded in the recognized books of record for their respective breed.

Exhibitors must produce certificates of registry at the request of the Management or Superintendent in charge. No pending registrations will be accepted. Original Registration paperwork must be presented at check in.

RULE 4: All animals entered singular or in groups, must be the legal property of the exhibitor. All entries must be made in the name of the owner/exhibitor. Firms and partnerships entering animals for competition must be in legal existence at the time of making entry, and in all cases must be bona fide. Exhibitors must have owned all animals entered at least 30 days prior to the date of exhibition.

RULE 5: No exhibitor will be allowed to show more than one entry for herds or groups except in Get-of-Sire and Produce-of-Dam classes and then only if entries are by different sire or out of different dams. No open exhibitor will be allowed to show more than two animals in an individual class unless otherwise announced in writing.

RULE 6: Diseased animals are barred entry (at all times) into the WTF&R area or grounds. Superintendents are instructed and authorized to refuse unloading privileges to animals showing any signs of disease.

RULE 7: Barren animals will not be eligible in breeding classes. An affidavit that the animal is a breeder must be furnished upon request.

RULE 8: To be eligible for entry, exhibitors and their livestock must meet and adhere to the requirements of Special Rules listed under the appropriate department(s).

RULE 9: Any exhibitor found in violation of any of the livestock show rules may be forever barred from showing at the WTF&R or any livestock show held under the auspices of the WTF&R. THE WEST TEXAS FAIR & RODEO LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ANY OPEN OR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW WHERE LESS THAN FIVE (5) EXHIBITORS OR TWENTY-FIVE ANIMALS ARE ENTERED. Entry deadline is August 1* without penalty. If sufficient numbers have not been entered by August 5, the exhibitors entered will be notified by phone and ENTRY FEES will be refunded.

Procedures for Entry

RULE 10: Entries must be submitted online at www.westtexasfairrodeo.com. for all entries except Rabbits, Poultry and Llamas.

Once online entries are completed and submitted it is important to print the receipt for your records. Payment for entries should be made online with a debit/credit card. However, if you are a County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher and need to submit payment through the US Postal Service, please print the receipt with all exhibitors information and send payment along with the receipt for each exhibitor entered. The Breeding Livestock Entry Worksheet and the Market Animal Entry Worksheet can be found on our website at www.westtexasfairrodeo.com. The individual Entry Receipt may be printed out upon completing the online process. If submitting entries and payment online, no documents need to be mailed in. If submitting paper entries (Rabbit, Poultry, and Llama entries only)

please complete entry form pertaining to that division and registration forms with original signature and mail with payment of one check payable to the West Texas Fair & Rodeo. These entry forms may be found on our website www.westtexasfairrodeo.com. Online, mail and all other forms of the submission of livestock entries, either by the exhibitor or by anyone acting for the exhibitor, constitutes an unconditional agreement to abide and be completely bound by these and all rules and regulations issued by the management. For further information, consult www.westtexasfairrodeo.com

- RULE 11:** In all cases, the Management reserves the right to reject, accept or accept conditionally, an application for entry. No one, except designated officials, will be allowed to see the entry forms until after the awards are made. All entry forms will remain the property of and in the custody of the WTF&R Office.
- RULE 12:** All entries in group classes must be shown in their respective single classes. Animals to comprise a competitive group need not be named in application for entry, but exhibitors shall indicate in which group class they expect to compete.
- RULE 13:** Animals entered in the Junior shows may also be shown in the Open shows. An Open show entry must be completed online in addition to the Junior entry and fees for both must be paid by the deadline. Junior exhibitors, also defined as a “youth” entry and someone age 21 or younger at the time of show, must comply with all rules and regulations of the Open shows. Exhibitors will be issued a weeklong pass which covers admission for both Junior and Open shows.
- RULE 14:** Erroneous entries may request to be transferred to their proper classes prior to judging. However, the Management will determine each matter upon its merits. Strict adherence is paid to entry deadlines. All entries must be submitted by their respective deadline dates if submitting a Rabbit, Poultry, or Llama entry, which are the only divisions accepted with a paper entry form, the postmark must be dated no later than the official deadline for that division to be accepted. Entries postmarked or hand delivered to the office after the deadline will be required to pay the late fee. A \$100.00 per head late fee will be charged after the deadline unless entering Open Boer Goat, which has a late fee of \$15.00, and Jr and Open Llama, which has a late fee of \$25.00. **Absolutely no entries will be accepted after August 5***, unless otherwise stated in Special Division Rules.
- RULE 15:** To be accepted, the correct ENTRY FEE(s) must accompany applications for entry as stated in the special rules of each division. There is no charge for group classes in Cattle and Sheep departments.
- RULE 16:** No refunds will be made after entries close. Substitutions may be made within the breed with the Management’s approval, however a \$5.00 per head fee may be charged.
- RULE 17:** Rabbit, Poultry, and Llama entry applications must be made out on forms provided by the WTF&R. These forms are found online at www.westtexasfairrodeo.com and should be mailed to:

West Texas Fair & Rodeo
Livestock Department
1700 Hwy. 36
Abilene, Texas 79602

- RULE 18:** Grounds Passes good for the duration of the fair will be issued to the exhibitors based on the schedule listed below. Exhibitors will receive their allocated passes upon entry at Gate 6/H.

Showing	No. of Entries	Passes Issued
Cattle, Sheep }	1	1
Goats, Swine }	2-3	2
Llamas per head }	4-6	3
	7-10	4
	11 & up	5
Poultry, Rabbits	3*	1
	4-10	2
	11-17	3
Horses	1	2
	2	3
	3	4

Passes will NOT be issued to an exhibitor with less than 3 entries for poultry and rabbits

A charge of \$10.00 for reissuing a grounds pass will be made if passes are lost. Grounds passes are good at any walk-through gate at the WTF&R. A signature will be required in order to receive passes. Ag Teachers/County Agents may NOT pick up passes for their students/exhibitors. Family members may purchase a general admission pass good for that day only. Additional livestock grounds passes may be purchased for \$15.00 each to be used by family members of the exhibitor(s). Regular gate admission fees are listed below:

Adults: \$8 Weekdays
\$11 Weekends
Students K-college: \$4
Under age 5: Free

RULE 19: Vehicle passes will be required for exhibitors, Ag Teachers and County Extension Agents in order to park in the exhibitors' parking lot. ASTs and CEAs will be issued one vehicle pass that will be good all week. **ONLY VEHICLES HAULING LIVESTOCK WILL BE ISSUED VEHICLE PASSES.** All other vehicles must park in the public parking area which is free of charge. Security will affix the pass to the windshield at the time of entry, and it is non-transferable. The pass must remain affixed to the windshield or the exhibitor will lose parking privileges. You will be required to sign for your passes. No trailers will be parked in the exhibitor's lot. There will be a special parking area for large trucks and trailers.

Judges and Judging Procedures

RULE 20: Policies for selecting judges and determining judging systems rest solely with the Management.

RULE 21: Judges will be familiar with all rules, regulations, and procedures of the WTF&R.

RULE 22: The decision of the judges will be final in all cases. No appeal will be considered except in the case of one submitted in the form of a written request and payment of protest fee of \$100.00.

RULE 23: If an exhibitor or his representative in any way interferes with the Judges or shows disrespect to any Judge, Show Official, or to the WTF&R, the Management may withhold from such exhibitor any premium monies that may have been awarded or take any other steps deemed appropriate by Management.

RULE 24: No one will be allowed to act as judge in the show in which he or she exhibits.

RULE 25: All animals properly entered in any show class and passed by the sifting committee appointed by Management as eligible for competition must be brought into the show ring for competition. Each entry will be assigned a number in the official catalog, and exhibitors will receive cards with numbers to correspond with the catalog numbers. These numbers must be displayed by the exhibitor while the animal is being shown. Exhibitors refusing, for any cause not approved by Management, to lead out entered animals for parade or for competition in the show ring and/or refusing to show their animal at such times and places as may be directed and/or refusing to furnish information concerning their stock as may be requested by the Management, will not only forfeit any prizes previously won, but may be required to remove their stock from the WTF&R grounds immediately.

RULE 26: Judging will not be delayed for animals entering the arena late. Any exhibit not presented promptly at the scheduled time may be barred from competition in the class. Protests that the judge overlooked exhibits will not be considered.

Eligibility for Exhibition and Competition

RULE 27: Committees to sift livestock may be appointed in such departments as the Management deems advisable. It is the duty of the sifting committee to pass upon the eligibility of animals for show purposes before judging begins. These committees shall be empowered and required to eliminate from the Show any animal which, in their judgment, is not qualified to compete.

RULE 28: The Management reserves the right to remove from the grounds any exhibit, animal or show they deem unsuitable or objectionable, and to return any money already paid for space or stalls. Management will not be required to furnish reasons for such actions; the return of the exhibitor's money exonerates the WTF&R from any claim by the exhibitor.

RULE 29: Exhibitors not cooperating with security personnel or officials of the WTF&R in all matters of policy, including parking, will have their entries cancelled and will be ordered to remove their exhibit from the grounds immediately.

RULE 30: The showing of unethically fitted livestock or livestock of any ineligible age for exhibition in the class entered is prohibited. Unethical fitting consists of any method altering the natural conformation of any part of the animal's body. Animals showing, in the opinion of the judge, signs of having been operated on 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.

RULE 31: Any animal that becomes wild or unruly at any time may be eliminated from competition at the discretion of the Management and will be ordered to be removed from the grounds immediately.

Care of Animals, Stalls, and Pens

RULE 32: The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited. Mistreatment of animals by owners or handlers is strictly forbidden. Show management may disqualify exhibitor and appropriate measures may be taken.

RULE 33: All stalls, pens, and exhibition places must be cleaned before 8:00 a.m. each day and refuse matter disposed of as directed by the Management. Exhibitors are required to keep their tack area, stalls, aisles, and exhibits in an organized, orderly, and clean condition at all times.

RULE 34: There will be no straw used for bedding cattle or llamas in the exhibition barn. Straw may be used in the tie-out areas. Pine shavings will be provided for cattle stalls. No bedding will be provided for sheep and swine pens. Sheep and swine exhibitors may provide their own bedding or may purchase bedding from the WTF&R livestock office. Straw may be used for breeding sheep.

RULE 35: Livestock exhibitors are permitted to display a sign over their exhibit advertising their own herd. This sign shall be of a reasonable size, in the opinion of Management, so as not to obstruct the view of other exhibitor's signs or exhibits of livestock. The Management reserves the right to have objectionable signs removed.

RULE 36: Trimming chutes will not be allowed down main aisles. Chutes must be kept in designated areas only. Any Chutes Not In A Designated Area Will Be Moved. This Will Be Enforced.

RULE 37: Floor fans and Port-A-Coolers will NOT be allowed in the First Financial Pavilion, formerly known as the " Livestock Barn. Fans must be hung from above. Limit one fan per animal.

RULE 38: The Management reserves the right to reassign any space, stall, or pen not occupied on or before the required arrival time. No exhibitor or concessionaire will be allowed to sublet or sell any space, privilege, stall, pen, or coop without the written permission of the Management.

Composite Rules and Regulations

RULE 39: Dogs will not be allowed in the Show Barn or Buildings, except for dogs accompanying visually or physically impaired individuals which must be kept on a leash at all times.

RULE 40: Nurse cows will not be allowed on the show grounds in accordance to the rules of the I.A.F.E. and the American Breed Association.

RULE 41: Anyone desiring to exhibit cattle not entered in official livestock classes must request and receive special permission from the Management. ALL REGULATION HEALTH RULES WILL APPLY. Exhibit space will be issued only if room permits. No additional animals may be brought on the grounds.


RULE 42: Any animal on exhibition may not be removed from the grounds prior to its release time without a special order given by the Livestock Department. Releases will be given once the accounting has been completed after each show, which normally takes one hour. Steer releases will be given at 1:00 p.m. if exhibitor has finished showing. All livestock must have an approved release form in order to be removed from the grounds. Gate personnel will prohibit removal of any livestock or exhibit without a written release. Any violation of this rule will cause forfeiture of all premiums earned by exhibitor. Vehicle tag numbers will be required for a release.

RULE 43: Any equipment brought in to be used in a stall or other space by an exhibitor must comply with and be used in compliance with all federal, state, and municipal occupational safety and health regulations.

RULE 44: Exhibitors will not be allowed to bring portable scales into the building.

RULE 45: No demonstrations, trophies, decorations, portals, fountains, signs, banners, advertising matter or exhibits of any kind will be allowed in the aisles or public passageways or attached to the Show building's walls, posts, or doors.

RULE 46: All livestock for exhibition are subject and governed by the Rules and Regulations of the Texas Animal Health Commission and the West Texas Fair & Rodeo. Official health certificates covering all entries shall be presented to gate personnel upon arrival. The **only** exceptions to this rule are Open Breeding Sheep, Jr. Steers, and Youth Jackpot Swine.

RULE 47: Premiums will be paid by cash immediately after placings are called for each show. An envelope will be presented to exhibitors containing the cash value of their placing and their placing ribbon. 

Protests

RULE 48: Protests must be in writing and be accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00, which will be forfeited if protest is not sustained. Such protest must state plainly and in writing the cause of complaint or appeal and must be delivered to the Management immediately after occasion for such protest. No protest will be accepted for consideration if not submitted in writing and within 12 hours of the action upon which the protest is based.

RULE 49: No complaint or appeal based upon the statement that the judge or judges are incompetent or have overlooked an animal or article will be considered by the Management.

RULE 50: The right of an exhibitor to appeal the decision of the judge to the Board will be only when it is charged that the award has been made in violation of the rules governing the exhibit or when it is charged that the decision of the judge has been influenced or interfered with.

RULE 51: All questions of dispute shall be referred to the Board of Directors of the WTF&R, whose decision shall be final.



Attention West Texas Fair & Rodeo Livestock Exhibitors

The WTF&R is incredibly fortunate to have generous award, premium, and cash prize sponsors and donors. Individuals, ranches, businesses, and associations selflessly give their resources to the WTF&R Livestock Shows. In order to receive your award, you must write a "Thank You" card to the individual, ranch, business, or association. The WTF&R will provide blank "Thank You" cards and cover the postage expense. At the conclusion of your class, visit the Livestock Office, located in the First Financial Pavilion, and write your "Thank You" card. Envelopes and postage will be handled by the Livestock Secretary. The WTF&R appreciates your understanding and shares your gratitude for the individuals, ranches, businesses, and associations that are dedicated to the growth of our industry.