

# **Livestock Department**

*Superintendents - Brad Reich, Glen Bell, Johnny Savell, Cullen Standard*

## TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION SUMMARY OF TEXAS REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY OF LIVESTOCK (DOMESTIC AND EXOTIC), POULTRY AND RATITES INTO THE STATE AND INTO SHOWS, FAIRS, EXHIBITIONS, AND ASSEMBLIES

NOTE: 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.

### **Entering Shows, Fairs and Exhibitions**

A. Livestock, poultry and ratites entering from out of state must meet this state's entry requirements. Texas origin dairy cattle are not required to test for tuberculosis to participate in a show, fair or exhibition within the state.

B. Animals moving from out of state and entering for exhibition and sale must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection and a permit for entry when required by the entry regulations. The permit for entry is not required when livestock enter for exhibition and return to the state of origin.

C. Poultry entered in terminal public exhibition events shall be accompanied by a certificate of source which identifies the flock origin. Poultry entering in a non-terminal public exhibition shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection. The certificate of veterinary inspection shall state that poultry have been inspected and are free from evidence of infectious or contagious diseases, that the poultry have been vaccinated only with approved vaccines, and poultry have not originated from an area that has had an active avian disease within 30 days of entry. Poultry entering the state for public exhibition, from other states, must have either a negative flock or individual bird test for Avian Influenza, within 30 days of entry and the results of such test shall be recorded on the certificate of veterinary inspection.

D. Equine may enter Texas for shows, fairs, exhibitions, or assembly purposes when accompanied by a valid equine interstate passport or equine identification card and a completed VS Form 10-11 showing negative results to an official EIA test within the previous 6 months or a certificate of veterinary inspection and a completed VS Form 10-11 showing negative results to an official EIA Test with the previous 12 months.

E. Equine originating in Texas and

(1) Entering parimutuel racetracks - Must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection and a negative test for EIA conducted within 12 months. Foals nursing a negative dam are exempt from testing.

(2) Entering a show, fair, exhibition, assembly - Must have a negative test for EIA conducted within the previous 12 months. Foals nursing a negative dam are exempt from testing.

F. All other livestock, poultry, and ratites originating in Texas and:

(1) Entering interstate shows, fairs, exhibitions, and assemblies (those functions that permit livestock and poultry from other states to enter for show or exhibition and held in common facilities with Texas origin livestock and poultry of the same species) - Are exempt from an entry permit but must meet the same other requirements as for those entering from out-of-state and be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection. a. Ratites must be individually identified with an implanted electronic device (microchip) and tested for Avian Influenza and Salmonella pullorum-typhoid within 30 days of entry. b. Swine entered in terminal shows are exempt from brucellosis, leptospirosis and pseudorabies requirements. C. Breeding rams origination in Texas are exempt from the brucella ovis test.

(2.) Entering all intrastate shows, fairs, and exhibitions (those functions that require Texas livestock, poultry and ratites of the same species to be housed and exhibited separate and apart from livestock, poultry, and ratites from out of state) - Are exempt from the entry permit, certificate of veterinary inspection and testing requirements, except poultry must originate from flocks or hatcheries free of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid or have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 30 days before exhibition.

G. Rodeo stock from Mexico shall be tested for tuberculosis by an accredited US veterinarian within 12 months thereafter. This is in addition to the entry requirements set out in the section "Cattle Entering the State from Foreign countries".

H. For Commercial Heifer Shows: Cattle older than 12 months must be vaccinated for brucellosis. The orange bangs vaccination tag or a legible bangs ID tattoo number must be present on all female cattle 12 months of age or older as of 10-01-20.

### **Ear Tags for Sheep and Goats**

Beginning November 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that certain classes of sheep and goats have PREMISE identification ear tags applied BEFORE they are moved from their farm to be sold in interstate commerce co-mingled with sheep and goats from other farms. Compliance action in Texas will not be taken until April 1, 2002.

Identification requirements extend to:

All sheep 18 months of age or older. All breeding sheep regardless of age. Sexually intact show or exhibition sheep and goats. All goats 18 months of age or older that are or have been co-mingled with sheep. All breeding goats that are or have been co-mingled with sheep. NOTE: Identification of goats: Tattoos may be used to identify registered or meat and dairy show goats, as long as the animals are accompanied by their registration papers. A PREMISE identification number should be obtained and the ear tags should be applied to animals being culled or animals no longer accompanied by registration papers. For more information and to get your PREMISE identification number and order free tags and tag pliers, call the toll-free designated "tag line" at 1-866-873-2824 or the web site: [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie.htm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie.htm)

## **General Livestock Department Rules and 4-H and FFA Junior Show Rules**

### **General & Exhibitor Requirements**

UNDER TEXAS LAW (CHAPTER 87, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE), A LIVESTOCK SHOW SPONSOR IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN A LIVESTOCK SHOW RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF LIVESTOCK SHOW ACTIVITIES.

1. An exhibitor, parent or guardian, Agricultural Science Teacher, 4-H leader or County Extension Agent, who violates any of the following General Fair Rules and Livestock Department Rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the Executive Committee may order including disqualification from both the upcoming fair and the following fair.
2. All entries must comply with the general rules and regulations of the Fair except as otherwise designated.
3. All animals must be exhibited by the validated exhibitor unless excused by the Livestock Superintendents. In the event of a death in the immediate family, doctor-verified illness, participation in a Texas Education Agency sanctioned activity, or scholastic ineligibility, special permission to allow a substitute exhibitor may be granted by the Livestock Superintendents. The request for substitution must be made to the Livestock Superintendents no later than one (1) hour before the event in which substitution is requested.
4. All student participants entered in a BCFA event must be registered in an accredited state, private or home school system. Students must also meet all scholastic eligibility requirements.
5. All Junior Livestock exhibitors must be residents of Brazoria County, a member in good standing in a Brazoria County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter and must be enrolled in a school (as stated above) with this exception: an exhibitor may show at the next Fair following graduation from high school, and they have not reached their 21st birthdate by September 1st of current year. This will be their last show.
6. Exhibits must be listed under one owner or exhibitor family.
7. Any member of a Junior Livestock Committee must be a member of the Fair Association.
8. Payment vouchers must be cashed by 5 pm on the last Saturday of the fair of current year. Vouchers may not be honored after that date.
9. Parents, family members or friends are not allowed in the show arena during show, without permission from the Chairman or Co-Chairman of the show.
10. All cattle, 6 months of age and older, shown at the Brazoria County Fair must be polled or dehorned.
11. Any animal that exhibits signs of being unethically altered or fit will be disqualified.  
Unethical Fitting: Unethical fitting means any attempt to alter the natural appearance,

conformation, musculature, or weight of an animal by any unnatural means. Examples of unethical fitting include, but are not limited to the following:

use of injections

- draining of fluids
- surgical alterations with the exception of surgical dehorning, castration, and tail docking.
- artificially filling animals by airing injections
- modification of dewlap or sheath

12. It is prohibited to use stall space for use of tables, furniture, etc. The stall space is to be used for the stalling of the animal that is exhibited in the BCFA.

### **Eligibility**

13. Prior to the opening of the Fair, the Fair Association will make available to the exhibitors a form that may be filled out by the appropriate school official which will fulfill requirements of this rule. Documentation on official school district letterhead may be substituted. This information must be received prior to the issue of the livestock exhibitor wristband.

14. In the event the validated exhibitor is scholastically ineligible under the no pass/no play rule, a substitute exhibitor may be allowed provided the ineligible exhibitor presents a signed document from their school prior to the opening of the fair. The document must state that the owner of the animal is scholastically ineligible and will not be eligible to show the animal. It must be prepared and signed by the appropriate school registrar. Once the document has been presented to the Livestock Office, the Livestock Superintendents will use their own discretion as to whether a substitution will be allowed. The scholastically ineligible exhibitor will receive a feed pass rather than a wristband for the week of the fair.

15. If a positive decision is rendered, the substitute exhibitor shall be a family member. If a family member is unable to show the exhibit, a member of the same 4-H Club or FFA Chapter may be substituted. If a member of the same 4-H club or FFA chapter is unable to show, a substitute exhibitor, approved by the Livestock Superintendents, may be allowed to exhibit the animal. The substitute must also meet all requirements of a junior livestock show exhibitor in the Brazoria County Fair. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor and exhibitor's family to verify scholastic standing and take the appropriate action to assure that the requirements of this rule are met.

### **Entry Requirements**

16. Application for entry for animals, Ag mechanics, and Livestock judging must be made out on printed forms provided by the Fair Association and turned into the 4-H leaders or Agricultural Science Teachers, who will then submit them to the Fair Association online using ShoWorks. Summary sheets, fees, Release of Liability, Indemnification and Certification for all livestock exhibitors must be in the Fair Office by 4 pm Friday, September 5, 2025. No entries will be accepted after this date. All entry fees must be submitted by club check or money order for the amount shown on the summary sheet. All eligible members of a family exhibit must be listed on all validation and entry forms. Exhibits entered as a family exhibit shall declare which exhibitor will show at the check-in or weigh-in at the Fair. EACH APPLICABLE EAR TAG NUMBER MUST BE ON FORMS WHEN SUBMITTED.

17. The age of an exhibitor will be determined by their age as of September 1st of each calendar year. Showmanship times will be set by each department. Ages as follows: Junior (8-10 years old), Intermediate (11-13 years old), and Senior (14-19 years old). All exhibitors entered in or called back for showmanship must show or exhibit his or her own animal. Exhibitor must be the owner of the animal they exhibit in showmanship, and the animal must be entered in the show.

18. A maximum of three (3) entries per exhibitor per department for market shows.

19. In cases of conflict, individual departmental rules will take precedence over General Livestock Rules.

20. ANY ANIMAL ENTERED AND STALLED IN LIVESTOCK DIVISION MAY BE USED FOR JUDGING PURPOSES BY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK JUDGING COMMITTEE.

### **Care and Feeding**

21. Shavings may be brought in at the exhibitor's expense. No additional sand may be brought in. Shavings will also be provided by the Fair Association during the week of the fair at the exhibitor's expense.

22. No Junior exhibitors will be permitted to spend the night on the Fairgrounds during the fair except at designated areas. Exhibitors will be released from responsibility of caring for their livestock between 12 midnight and 6 am each day except in special cases such as the auction sale, at which time the exhibitors will be released immediately following the clean up after the sale. The Fair will furnish night security that will be on duty in the Livestock Barns all night.

23. Exhibitor must feed, bed, care for, and keep his/her animal and stall properly cleaned for the entire time the animal is stalled. All halter cattle will be cross tied. All stalls and pens must be clean before 11 am each morning. All exhibits are to be in respective stall or at tie-outs after 11 am. All vehicles involved in the care of animals and exhibitions must adhere to the Livestock Gate schedule. Exercising of all animals, cattle, and sheep, is restricted to the livestock area. Beginning Friday night upon check-in, no one will be allowed in the Cattle Barns, Swine Barn, Lamb Barn, Scramble Barn, or Poultry Barn between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 am.

24. Livestock feeding gate will be open 6 am - 9 am daily.

25. All agricultural exhibits must have been cared for by the exhibitor or exhibitor family under the direct supervision of his/her County Extension Agent, 4-H Leader, or Agricultural Science Teacher.

26. Beginning at validation and ending at fair check-in, no agricultural exhibit will be allowed to leave Brazoria County for longer than seven (7) continuous days without prior written authorization of a Brazoria County Fair Association Livestock Superintendent. Livestock exhibits will be subject to random checks by Livestock Superintendents or delegates of the Livestock Superintendents. Any exhibitor found not in compliance with this rule will be subject to penalty outlined in Rule #1 of the General Livestock Rules. All exhibits of livestock and poultry must have been owned by the exhibitor or exhibitor family for at least 90 days prior to the fair unless otherwise specified.

27. Grand and Reserve Champions from each department must be placed and remain on Champion Row after their show between the hours of 2pm and 9pm each day for the remainder of the Fair. The animal or exhibit may be removed for feeding and cleaning of the stall area. Stall areas need to be kept clean at all times. Champion Row will be designated by the Livestock and General Sales Superintendents.

28. All areas around the livestock barns are designed for the use of livestock grooming and/or livestock feeding only. These areas shall not be used for any other purposes. Tents and awnings maybe used temporarily for grooming purposes and must be removed daily.

29. No trailer of any type will be permitted to be parked in the general parking area of the parking lot. All trailers will need to be parked in the designated area of the parking lot. Stock trailers with living quarters will not be permitted to be used for overnight camping. If found in violation of this rule you will be forced to remove the trailer from the grounds.

30. No one allowed in any barns until the Saturday prior to the start of fair. Stall assignments will be posted by 8 am that morning.

31. No generators over 6500 watts will be allowed. Generators shall be placed respectfully.

### **Show Boxes, Displays and Equipment**

32. All fans must be hung from stalls or on displays. No fans or fan stands will be allowed to sit/stand on the ground, except port-a-cools that must be completely contained within your stall area.

33. Show boxes, tack, feed, hay feeding equipment or watering equipment shall be kept clear of any designated area, aisle, or walkway. No more than one show box will be allowed per exhibitor. Show boxes shall not extend into the aisle. Show boxes exceeding the space available in the barn will be moved to a designated area. The Livestock Superintendents will make this determination. Trimming chutes and tables must be removed from all exhibit areas immediately after judging of the various departments.

34. There will be no alterations to any facilities in the livestock division without the expressed written consent of the Livestock Superintendents. Any club, chapter or group that places exhibits in any of the barns must plan to do so without altering the facility. Minor alterations, no matter how small, must be approved prior to being done.

35. Each club will be limited to bring onto the Fairgrounds one trim chute for the first 8 head of cattle entered and one trim chute for each additional 8 head of cattle entered. Trim chute tags will be issued to FFA Chapters and 4-H Clubs per the cattle entries. Untagged trim chutes will be removed from the fairgrounds.

### **Release**

36. No exhibit may be removed from the Fairgrounds before 7 am, Sunday, October 19, 2025 except during designated early release time for the Livestock Department. Exhibitors must remove livestock Sunday, October 19, 2025, 7 am to 11 am. Animals that become ill during the Fair will not be released until the nature of the illness has been diagnosed by a licensed

veterinarian. THE FAIR ASSOCIATION WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ANIMAL DURING THE FAIR OR NOT REMOVED BY 11 AM SUNDAY.

37. All Grand and Reserve Grand Champions from Junior Livestock Department will remain until closing of the Fair.

38. All animals which are unruly or uncontrollable will be released and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. Such ruling will be made by the chairmen of the committee involved and the livestock superintendents.

**See individual department rules for more information on early release.**

#### **Drug Compliance/Substance Avoidance Program**

39. The Brazoria County Fair Association shall have the authority to randomly drug test any animal entered into the Fair.

40. Unless otherwise established by the FDA or USDA, samples collected from show animals shall have a zero tolerance for any identifiable drug, chemical or feed additive that could be considered performance enhancing.

41. Any animal that has been given any nonperformance enhancing drugs must declare this at check in with a signed and dated letter from their attending veterinarian, stating why the animal is under their care and what they prescribed, including name of medicine, dosage, and withdrawal time. It shall be understood that if the exhibitor's animal sales it is the exhibitor's responsibility to maintain that animal until the end of withdrawal time and then deliver according to disposition papers. Any animal testing positive for ANY drug without a declaration will be subject to disciplinary action.

42. Exhibitor and parent/guardian must sign an agreement to permit animals to be tested for drugs, chemicals, and feed additives.

43. A certification statement must be signed by exhibitor and parent/guardian stating the entry is not, nor will it be, within any withdrawal time relative to the administration of any drug, chemical or feed additive at the time the animal is entered, or a declaration must be sent in with entry. If the animal becomes ill before the fair a declaration must be presented at the time of check in. This declaration will be the letter from the veterinarian stating purpose of the drug and withdrawal time. Refer to rule 39 and 40 above.

44. The Livestock Superintendents must be notified prior to administering any drug, chemical or feed additive to any livestock exhibit. The drug, chemical or feed additive shall be documented and include date, product, amount, route, administered by, medical reason for administration and withdrawal time. A Livestock Superintendent must be present at time of administration. A drug, chemical or feed additive may be administered only after consultation and under the direction of a licensed veterinarian.

45. Market animals are subject to random drug testing as determined by the Livestock Superintendents. Animal placings to be tested shall be determined prior to judging. Animals shall be tested for drugs, chemicals, and feed additives. All Grand and Reserve Grand Champion animals will be tested.

46. A Parent/guardian, exhibitor, or immediate family member must remain with their market animal in the designated area and collect sample, and then turn the sample over to an appointed drug official. No more than 2 family members per animal in the drug testing area.

47. Animals positive to drug tests shall be disqualified and the ranking of animals in the show remain unchanged regardless of drug test results (i.e. Reserve Champion would not be moved to Grand Champion should the Grand Champion be disqualified because of a positive drug test).

48. All sale monies shall be held until drug tests are completed. Any exhibitor with a positive test will lose all market animal monies and this money will be returned to the buyers. Any Add-on monies will be returned to their sponsor.

49. An exhibitor of an animal producing an analysis with a quantity of diuretic, unapproved growth stimulant, or any other unapproved medication will be disqualified from current years Market Shows and may forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit livestock in the future at any Brazoria County Fair Association Show. This forfeiture may include exhibitor's family members (parents/guardian and brothers/sisters). Exhibitor must return any awards from Market Shows (example; buckles, ribbons, voucher money, etc.) to BCFA if test positive for drugs.

50. A security procedure for handling test samples that would preserve the legality of test results shall be followed.

### **Disciplinary Action**

51. Any person that engages in conduct that interferes with or disrupts any fair event, or any other unacceptable conduct, or fails to cooperate with security personnel, employees, or officials of the Fair Association in all matters of policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, the loss of all fair privileges for a period to be determined by the Disciplinary committee. Any person who violates any of the general or special rules as published in the premium list of rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums and may be subject to other penalties as may be ordered by the Disciplinary Committee.

### **Protests**

52. A determination that a party has violated a Fair Association rule may only be protest by a contestant, exhibitor, parent, guardian, 4H Leader or FFA Advisor. Protests must be made in writing and be accompanied by a CASH deposit of \$250, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. If the protest concerns livestock substance abuse, an additional \$2,000 CASH deposit must accompany the written protest to cover the cost of a second drug test and related expenses. The additional \$2,000 is not refundable regardless of the outcome of the protest. Selection of a laboratory to conduct the second drug test will be at the sole discretion of Fair Association. If protest is withdrawn prior to Disciplinary Committee meeting, refund will be issued. A signed and dated statement of protest must plainly explain the cause of complaint or appeal and must be delivered to the Fair Manager. Protests will be accepted prior to, during and up to noon the day immediately following the occasion that prompted the protest. After noon the following day, you will forfeit your right to a protest. The Disciplinary Committee shall serve as the arbitrators.



### **Disciplinary Committee**

53. The Disciplinary Committee has the responsibility for the resolution of all protests and disciplinary issues, including, but not limited to, the determination of discretionary penalties for rule violations. As part of this responsibility, the Committee is charged with the responsibility of investigating and hearing all evidence developed in connection with a rule violation or other disciplinary matter, and then reaching a binding decision based on that evidence. A party has 10 days to appeal such a decision to the Committee if there is additional evidence to present. The final decision of the Committee may be appealed to the full Executive Committee upon filing a written request for appeal within the above referenced ten-day period.

### **Animal Health Rule**

54. All Commercial Heifers that are 12 months of age or older as of October 1st must be palpated.

55. No bangs testing, no palpating, and no Artificial Inseminating on the fairgrounds.

56. HEALTH - See Texas Animal Health Commission Rules in the fair catalog.

57. Sheep and goats Premise tags - See Texas Animal Health Rules in the fair catalog.

### **Judging**

58. Merit must exist to win an award.

59. Any exhibitor attempting to interfere with the judges before the decision is rendered will automatically disqualify his/her entry in that department.

60. The decision of the judges is final.

61. Any person other than designated Weigh Master who interferes with scales during any official weighing process will cause Exhibitor to be automatically disqualified.

62. The judges will pass on the merits of the animals exhibited and their soundness.

63. Animals showing, in the opinion of the judges, 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

### **Scramble Calves**

64. Scramble Heifer exhibitors must be in good standing within the respective scramble department to be eligible to exhibit in any Junior Livestock Show/Department. Failure to meet all Scramble Show requirements will result in the exhibitor being prohibited from exhibiting in any Livestock Show/Department until such time as all requirements are met or the dollar value of the Scramble Certificate is refunded to the Brazoria County Fair Association.

NOTE: SEE INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENT RULES FOR MORE INFORMATION.