

MANATEE COUNTY FAIR 2025
Market Youth Steer Show & Sale

FAIR LIVESTOCK DIRECTOR: Hugh Taylor/Mitchell John
AREA SUPERINTENDENT: Susan Grainger

Failure to complete the on-line registration, and initial weigh-in will result in disqualification.

SCHEDULE

On-line Registration

August 1-8, 2024, 12am midnight.

- Go to [Youth Ag Exhibits \(manateecountyfair.com\)](http://manateecountyfair.com) then click ShoWorks to complete the on-line registration and purchase passes
- **Entry Fee \$25.00** due at time of online registration.
- **Exhibitor Pass \$30** due at time of online registration. Extra family member passes (limit 4) may be purchased for \$25 each on or before October 27th, midnight.
- **Steer must have an official USDA RFID low frequency scannable ear tag tied to a premise.** If your animal does not have an official scannable ear tag a FDACS inspector will be at the initial weigh-in to provide one and will be able to register you for a premise ID, if needed, to register the USDA official tag. If the USDA tag falls out it must be reinserted. If the USDA ear tag is lost, it is the Exhibitor's responsibility to replace it. Contact your breeder or use one of your Premise ID tags to replace it. If you do not have one, please contact Abby Smith with FDACS at 863-993-5458. If a New USDA ear tag is inserted the replacement number must be emailed to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com for fair records to be updated prior to fair check in

Weigh-In & Ownership

Saturday, August 10, 2024, 8-11am, enter in gate 8 (by fire station) and exit out gate 5 across from Mosaic Arena

- Steer, Exhibitor & Parent or Legal Guardian must be present.
- FFA advisors & 4-H club leaders, with chapter animals, must be present.
- The fair will insert an official fair ear tag and apply a tattoo.
- Deworming, growth implants and vaccinations are available, but not required.

All exhibitors MUST turn in or complete the following.

- Bill of sale
- Notarized MCF Exhibitor Liability/Photo release
- MCF Code of Conduct form
- Sales contract signed by the exhibitor and parent or legal guardian (even if exhibitor is 18 years old)

FFA/4-H Clubs:

Animal Exhibitors must be named/assigned by December 1, 2024, on the Club/Chapter Declaration form and emailed to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com.

**Beef & Steer Set Up
Equipment Load in
Fair Steer check-in**

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 9am, Mosaic Arena

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 6am-12 noon, Mosaic Arena enter gate 1

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 2-6pm, Mosaic Arena enter gate 1



- Fair Check-In includes weigh-in, ultrasound, and animal handling to qualify for the fair.

MANDATORY Meeting

Held at the conclusion of final weigh-in, about 6:30pm, in the Mosaic arena bleachers.

- Attendance will be taken.
- Exhibitor and Parent must sign in to receive show package
- FFA advisors & 4-H club leaders, with chapter animals, must attend the mandatory meeting.

 **Animal Handling**

All exhibitors will be required to walk their animals in the show arena following the mandatory meeting, as called upon.

Steer Show

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 6pm, Mosaic Arena

Steer Showmanship

Friday, January 17, 2025, 6pm, Mosaic Arena

Youth Steer Judging

Saturday, January 18, 2025, Registration 7:30am, Start 8am, Mosaic Arena
Breakfast afterwards for participants

FNGLA Horticulture Challenge **Saturday January 18, 2025**, 9:30-11am in front of the Mosaic Arena

Market Youth Steer Sale **Saturday, January 18, 2025, 1pm**, Mosaic Arena

Steer Load out **Saturday, January 18, 2025, 10pm**

Equipment Load Out **Saturday, January 18, 2025, after all steers are loaded**

Youth Goat & Swine Judging

Saturday, January 25, 2025, Registration 7:30am, Start 8am, Mosaic Arena
Breakfast afterwards for participants


Awards Ceremony

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 7:30pm, Mosaic Arena

**MARKET STEER
RULES & REGULATIONS**

1. All exhibitors must be a *bona fide* member of a Manatee County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, which is related to your project. No one who has graduated from high school will be eligible to show.
2. Exhibitors must be in good standing with their respective clubs/chapters to exhibit at the Manatee County Fair. All exhibitors will show in the 4-H Club or FFA Chapter in which they registered their steer at the initial registration.

3. All Exhibitors at the Manatee County Fair must have completed **one class of ethics training** to exhibit at the Manatee County Fair. **The exhibitor is responsible for keeping their ethics number.** If the exhibitor loses their number, they will need to retake the class. Exhibitors are not required to take the class in Manatee County, as the training is sponsored by the Florida State Fair. Classes are offered throughout the state. **Manatee County will offer an Ethics Training on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 8:00am.** Exhibitors will be required to sign up for the class at <https://floridastatefairag.com/ethics/> **All ethics numbers must be submitted to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com no later than November 16th to be eligible to show.**
4. All exhibitors must be 8 years of age as of September 1, 2024. Exhibitor age as of September 1, 2024, will determine the showmanship class in which the exhibitor will show. (Juniors ages 8-10, Intermediates ages 11-13, Seniors ages 14 and up.)
5. At Final check-in the exhibitor and animal must be together for animal to be checked in. **A parent or legal guardian must be present to complete all required documentation.** The Manatee River Fair Association encourages parents to be involved in their child's 4-H and FFA Projects.
6. ****Exhibitors are not allowed to change animal exhibits after the initial check-in.****
7. Each exhibitor will be permitted to enter one of the following, one steer or one swine, not both. Anyone weighing in a steer at first weigh-in is not eligible to show a swine project. **Once you have registered your Steer on-line you cannot change your animal.** Shared ownership of steer entry is not permitted.
8. FFA chapters and 4-H clubs will be permitted to exhibit one steer. However, no person can raise or exhibit more than one sale animal. **The chapter/club steer must be shown by a member who is not showing a swine or steer of their own in the fair.**
9. **Liability:** Each exhibitor must assume all liability in case of death or injury to his or her steer until removed from the fairground's property, at which time it becomes the liability of the buyer.
10. Exhibitors are encouraged to wear boots when handling hooved animals or are in animal areas on Fairground's property, including the initial check-in and continuing forward.
11. FFA members must show in Official Dress and leather boots. 4-H members are required to wear white long sleeve button down dress shirts, black pants (No Denim Blue Jeans!) and leather boots. No hats allowed during the show.
12. No Substitute exhibitors are allowed unless there are extreme reasons and granted permission by the Manatee County Fair Livestock Committee.
13. All Exhibitors participating in their respective showmanship areas must utilize only the animal that was registered under their name. The top five will be selected for showmanship.
14. All record books, which include a copy of 3 letters sent to prospective buyers with names and address, must be up-to-date and checked into the designated committee at time of final check-in to be eligible to show in the Manatee County Fair. 4-H club and FFA chapters must also submit an up-to-date record book.
15. All livestock must follow Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) State Health Guidelines and be transported to the Manatee County Fair in accordance with those guidelines.

16. On-site inspections of any livestock may be made by authorized agents of the Manatee River Fair Association at any time after registration and until fair check-in.
17. All Steers must be housed in Manatee County from the time of registration until fair. Any exceptions must  be approved by the MRFA Livestock Committee prior to registration. Exhibitors must fill out an Animal Housing Appeal Form and submit it to the fair office for the Livestock Committee to review for approval. Once approved, the exhibitor will be notified. Any animal found not to be housed in Manatee County will be disqualified. See rule #23
18. Animal's that appear lame or injured will be disqualified. Animals must be able to walk naturally on their own around the arena or they will not be eligible to show and/or sell. See rule #23.
19. All animals are subject to DNA verification if deemed appropriate by the Manatee County Fair Livestock Committee. At initial weigh in hair samples may be taken for DNA verification. If an individual wants to contest an Exhibitor's animal, there will be a \$250.00 fee for the inquiry. If the animal is found to be different, through DNA verification, the \$250 will be refunded to individual making the inquiry. In the event the animal is found to be the same, the \$250.00 will be forfeited. Any animal failing DNA verification will be disqualified and all proceeds forfeited. Any Exhibitor found in violation of this rule will be banned from participating for life in the Manatee County Fair. See rule #23
20. Use of drugs not in compliance with manufacturer's label as to method of use, dosage, time limitations and show regulations is prohibited. The use of any calming agent on animals during the Fair or the possession of same by an exhibitor (4-H or FFA member) or anyone assisting said member with his or her animal is prohibited. Violation of this provision shall disqualify the animal from competition and any awards or premiums, including sale price of animal, shall be forfeited. If medical treatment is deemed necessary, the exhibitor or parent must notify the Area Livestock Director and/or Barn Superintendent, prior to administering treatment to the animal in any way. See rule #23.
21. All animals are subject to being examined and urine or blood tested for any drug usage at any time. Refusal by the exhibitor (4-H or FFA member) to submit their animal to such examination or test will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all premiums, awards and including sale proceeds. See rule #23.
22. Force filling/pumping of Steers with any substance, water included, is prohibited. This includes use of pumps, drenches, tubes, hoses, etc... All steers must be shown in their natural conformation and structure without alteration by modification except for the grooming and treatment of the hair and the trimming of the hooves. No graphite, hair, cotton twine, etc. may be applied. No alteration of steers natural color or pattern will be allowed. See rule #23.
23. **Upon disqualification, pursuant to Paragraphs No. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, & 22 the affected steer shall immediately be removed from the Fairgrounds. Exhibitor may not be eligible for final weigh in or be eligible to show and/or sell their animal. Disqualification will result in forfeiture of premiums, awards, add-on's and including sale proceeds.**
24. Any banners or displays in your assigned area must to be limited to a maximum of 3' x 4' any larger will be removed.
25. Any graphics or wording in the barn or displayed on the panels deemed inappropriate by the Livestock Committee will be removed.

26. All Steers must be shown and sold by the registered exhibitor. All qualified Steer exhibits must be sold during the sale. All steers must go to Slaughter. All sale animals are ineligible to be shown after sale. Any Exhibitor found exhibiting a sale animal will be ineligible to show the following year.
27. No minors will be allowed in any barn after 10 pm without Parent or Guardian supervision.
28. Steer barn will be closed to the public during feeding and handling periods specified by the Barn Superintendent.
29. Equipment may not leave the barn on sale day until after animal load out. **★ A \$200 fine for graduating seniors removing equipment early and all other exhibitors will be fined \$100 and ineligible to show the following year.**
30. Exhibitors with saleable animals must present buyer with a thank you card and plaque if applicable. It is strongly suggested as a thank you that you give a gift or a gift basket when you get your Buyer's verification card **signed by the Buyer or Buyers representative**. The signed verification card must be turned into the Fair office to pick up their sales check prior to July 1st, to be eligible to exhibit a project at the next Manatee County Fair. Sales proceeds and add-on's will not be distributed until payment is received from Buyer(s). If a Buyers card is found to be forged the Exhibitor will be banned from participating in the Manatee County Fair Livestock programs.
31. Fair premium money must be picked up within 90 days of the end of the fair or it will be forfeited.
32. Food and Drink are not allowed in the animal areas including wash rack and grooming area.
33. The Manatee River Fair Association will only handle add-on's totaling \$25.00 or more. Add-On forms can be printed from Manatee County Fair's website (manateecountyfair.com) under Livestock Records. Add-on's must be received by February 15, 2025.
34. Saleable animals including Steers, Swine, Plants, Rabbit and Poultry Meat Pens will have six percent (6%) of each exhibitor's sale price and any add-ons deducted by the Fair Association to help defray expenses.
35. **★ All protests must be in writing and accompanied by \$100.00.** Monies to be refunded if protest is decided in petitioner's favor. Only violations of rules by participants in the Fair will be considered as a protest. Protest to be decided upon by the Manatee River Fair Board Livestock Committee.
36. One chute spot per Exhibitor will be issued, same families with multiple exhibitors may be limited by Barn Superintendent due to space. No grooming chutes will be allowed to come into barn prior to 6am on Wednesday before check in.
37. No provision will be made to sell animals disqualified. Only animals that are shown are eligible for auction sale.
38. 4-H and FFA steer classes will be shown and judged together. Selection of the **top 5 animals** shall be made from first place blue ribbon winners from each class. The second-place blue ribbon to the Champion will qualify to compete for Reserve Champion. This pattern will remain to select the next 3 winning animals to recognize the top 5 steer in the barn.

39. No decorations on animals or the exhibitor at any time. (i.e. glitter, paint, signs, banners, ribbons or use of ★ unnatural hair dyes) This does not pertain to grooming.
40. Violation of any of these rules may result in expulsion, suspension, loss of premium and or sale proceeds.
41. All deviations from any livestock rule must be requested in writing to the Manatee River Fair Board Livestock Committee as soon as possible, but at least two weeks before first check-in. Each request will be handled on an individual basis.

Steer Qualifications

1. If the Steer Committee considers the physical condition of the steer to be a problem, it may result in the Steer Committee not accepting or allowing the steer to participate in the show and sale.
2. Sifted steers deemed by the Fair Livestock Committee to be dwarfs, bullocks, or stags will not be eligible to show.
3. Steers must have been owned by the exhibitor on or before Thursday, August 8, 2024. Proof of purchase shall be furnished at initial weigh-in.
4. At least **158** days, pre-Fair weigh-in and registration is required. **(August 10, 2024)** All animals shall be weighed, marked, mouthed, and registered on the date and time established by the Steer Committee, on or before **158** days prior to the Fair. This must occur on scales certified by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service in the presence of at **least one fair board director**. It is the intent of the Fair Livestock Committee, for fairness of the exhibitors, for the animal to be between the ages of 14 months and a maximum cap of 24 months of age at final weigh-in.
5. It is the intent of the Board of Directors, Fair Livestock Committee to allow only steers which fairly and accurately represent the Beef Industry. NO dairy cross steers will be accepted. If discovered after weigh-in, animal will be disqualified.
6. All Steers will have a Manatee County Fair provided ear tag inserted at the time of the initial Check-in. If the Manatee County Fair provided ear tag falls out at any time, the exhibitor and or parent should reinsert the fair tag or notify the exhibitor's respective 4-H leader or FFA Advisor to have it reinserted. If a tag is lost or unable to be reinserted notify the Steer Superintendent so arrangements may be made for tag to be reinserted or replaced.
7. All steers must be neutered prior to first weigh-in. No steers will be castrated or dehorned at first weigh-in. No exceptions.
8. Steers with horns longer than two inches will be rejected by the Steer Committee at final weigh-in. Dehorned steers must be completely healed at final weigh-in, "Completely healed" will be determined by the either the FDACS Inspector on site or Manatee County Fair Livestock Director assigned to that area. Any small scurs or horns must be filed smooth. No sharp tips will be allowed. No open wounds will be allowed.
9. No steer may be exhibited in competition that cannot be properly managed and led at the animal handling ★ screening may be sent home. Steers that are unmanageable during the show will be dismissed and placed at the bottom of the class. Steers that are unmanageable during showmanship will be dismissed from the class.

10. Only halters approved by Manatee County Fair Livestock Committee will be allowed. Which include rope, cloth (cotton/nylon) chain halters and leather show halters. Use of nose tongs, cable type halters and training halters are prohibited.
11. All steers shall be cross-tied with at least ½” inch neck and lead rope and halters of good quality.
12. All steers at final weigh-in must weigh a minimum of 950 pounds and a maximum of 1750 pounds and ★ gained an average of 1.75 pounds per day. Also, all steers must have a minimum of .25 inches of back fat as determined by ultra-sound or be a quality grade of select or better. Steers will only be weighed once.
13. Any steer weighing over 1500 pounds will sell as 1500 pounds, regardless of weight.
14. Steers found to have been on a nurse cow during the feeding period shall be considered an ineligible animal for show and sale. If it is discovered after the sale, the exhibitor must make restitution to the buyer and cover all expenses incurred to the Fair Association.
15. No steer shall have access to grass pastures with the exception of extreme weather conditions or while exhibitor is exercising the animal. It is the intent of the Fair Board Livestock Committee to supply ONLY grain fed beef to buyers.
16. Steers may be mouthed and any steer with evidence of eruption of any permanent teeth other than two center incisors will not be eligible to show. Discrepancies between physiological age (dental structure) and chronological age (certified age certificate) will be resolved by relying on age as determined by dental structure. A steer must be no older than 24 months at Fair time.
17. Bedding will be supplied by the Fair Association. No bedding hay allowed.
18. Feed and water pails must be provided by the exhibitor.
19. All exhibitors of steers are required to keep the steer's space clean and removal of litter and filth a minimum of twice daily.
20. All exhibitors found not properly feeding and caring for his or her steer may be disqualified from show and/or sale at any time during Fair week.
21. ***Final Interpretation and intent of these rules will be vested in the Manatee River Fair Board Livestock Committee. This includes, but is not limited to, violating the code of conduct and all previous rules. The Manatee River Fair Association has the right to “No Trespass” and disqualify any exhibitor or individual.***

Exhibitor and Parent Security Passes

Exhibitors will be required to make a one-time purchase of a \$30 Exhibitor Security Entrance Pass that will give unlimited access for the ten days of the fair. Families will be allowed to purchase (4) additional Security Entrance Passes at \$25 each which also gives unlimited access to the fair.

Only one gate 8 parking pass per family will be issued for the time their animals are on exhibit, NO EXCEPTIONS. Parking is on a first come basis.

Passes can be purchased when you register your animal on-line through ShoWorks

If not purchased by October 27, 2024, additional family member passes will be \$30 each with same limits as above at the Livestock Office starting on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 9:00am.

****THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS ON PASSES****

Animal Pick-up/Drop-off & Parking

Weigh-in: Saturday, August 10, 2024, 8-11am, enter gate 8 exit out gate 5 across from Mosaic Arena

Fair check-in: Wednesday, January 15th, 2-6pm, enter the fairgrounds at Gate 1 on the corner of 17th St. and 14th Ave. Line up for the weigh-in will start at the corner of 14th Ave and 17th St and extend South down 14th Ave along the canal. Areas around the arena are for drop-off and pick-up only. No equipment may be dropped during fair check-in. Equipment will be unloaded after all animals have been checked in.

Any Vehicle without proper parking pass or in an unauthorized area will be towed at owners' expense.

1. Vehicles blocking Gate 1 or 9 will be towed at the owner's expense.
2. Exhibitors may use Gate 9 in the morning before 9AM when coming to feed and water animals.
3. There will be no parking along the west end of the arena at any time! Vehicles will be towed
4. Essentials may be dropped off and then vehicles will proceed to the livestock parking area. Areas around the arena are for drop-off and pick-up only.

Manatee County Fair Website

Rule books and record books are posted and may be printed from (manateecountyfair.com)

Please check the web page periodically to see if there are any updates that pertain to your livestock area.

Registration paperwork for all animal areas is located on the Fair website.

QUESTIONS

If you have a question about your entry into the Manatee County Fair, please follow the chain-of-command as listed below:

1st –Contact Your **ADVISOR/CLUB LEADER**; if they are unable to answer your question.

2nd -Contact your **AREA SUPERINTENDENTS** – Steers, Susan Grainger, text 386-853-0956

3rd – Contact the **FAIR LIVESTOCK DIRECTOR** – Steers, Hugh Taylor 941-737-0745
Mitchell John 941-737-0705