



Fayette County Fair

Junior Commercial Heifer Show and Sale

2026

Chairman: Lee Fritsch 979/966-7153, lfritsch@cvctx.com

Committee: Harvey Berckenhoff, Steven Bertsch, Drew Brossman, Jenifer Boening, Ray Goehring, Brandon Karisch, Curtis Karisch, Kory Kaspar, Bryan Kirts, Bradley Klesel, Casey Lange, Stuart Markwardt, Vincent Matocha, Jason McBroom, Tommy Riley, Melvin Schulze, Clint Sternadel, Bump Kubala, Russell Kallus, and Scott Willey

1. This program is designed to be educational and beneficial to the youth of Fayette County. Any parent or exhibitor found not adhering to any rule, pertaining to the commercial heifer show or exhibiting any inappropriate behavior may be banned for a period of one year from participation in this program. Two educational clinics will be held and all exhibitors are required to attend one. If an exhibitor fails to attend one of the clinics, they are not eligible to show or sell. The dates for the clinics are January 5, 2026 at 6:00 pm and January 17, 2026 at 9:00 am at the Fayette County Fairgrounds.
2. Each exhibitor and their parent or guardian must sign and turn in a form which states that he/she has read and understands all rules and dates set forth and agrees to follow them accordingly.
3. **This show is open to projects owned, fed and cared for by youth who reside in Fayette County or a surrounding county and attend school in Fayette County. Exhibitors must also be a Fayette County 4-H or FFA member in good standing and under the supervision of Ag Science Teacher(s) or County Extension Agent(s).** Exhibitors must be a member of 4-H or FFA at the time of the tag-in, show and sale and must abide by all Fair rules.
4. Exhibitors must own 100% of their heifers throughout the feeding period starting January 2, 2026. Exhibitor must feed and care for their heifers in Fayette County or neighboring county on their facilities and exhibit the heifers without any aid or assistance other than that of the Fayette County extension agents, Ag science teachers and/or 4-H adult leaders. Any exhibitor leaving Fayette County with their heifer during the feeding period must notify the heifer committee chairman and receive their permission.
5. All exhibitors must be in 3rd through 12th grade at time of tag in. Projects started by seniors in high school may be exhibited in the year of their graduation. Students must comply with the no pass/no play rules. If a student is ineligible on the show or sale date, their animals are ineligible to show or sell.
6. The Junior Commercial Heifer Show and Sale is an opportunity for junior exhibitors to show and sell commercial heifers. Halter, single pen and pen of two classes will be offered. Halter heifers will be allowed to show outside the Fayette County Fair if she is shown by the exhibitor that will be exhibiting that heifer at the Fayette County Fair. The exhibitor must notify the committee chair by e-mail of their intentions to show outside of the Fayette County Fair. If notification is not given the heifer will automatically be disqualified from the Fayette County Fair.

7. All heifers must be officially tagged in by January 2, 2026. Ear tags and the required paperwork will be available from the extension office or the heifer committee chairman beginning November 24, 2025. There will be a consignment fee of \$25.00 per heifer charged when the ear tags are picked up. The paperwork and a color headshot photo of each tagged heifer must be turned back into the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office or heifer committee chairman by January 2, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. If a heifer loses her ear tag, a new replacement tag needs to be picked up from the extension office or heifer committee chairman. It is required that the tags go in the heifer's left ear. A head shot color photo must be turned in showing new replacement tag on heifer.
8. All heifers must be Brucellosis vaccinated by the tag in date and have the official vaccination identification in their ear. The tag number must be entered in the tag in package. Tags will be checked at palpation. If a heifer loses a brucellosis tag, the heifer committee must be notified, and the new number of the new tag turned in.
9. At the time heifers are tagged in, they are under supervision of the exhibitor's County Extension Agent and/or Agriculture Science Teacher as well as the Commercial Heifer Committee. Projects are subject to periodic checks to determine that the exhibitor is adhering to all rules.
10. All heifers must be polled or dehorned; **any cattle with regrowth or scurs will be allowed to show at the discretion of judges.**
11. Each exhibitor may tag in a maximum of five heifers. Families with more than 1 exhibitor may tag-in entries for all exhibitors in that family.

The exhibitors can only show and sell 3, provided that one heifer must be a halter heifer. The combinations allowed are as follows:

- 2 pens of one and 1 halter;
- 1 pen of two and 1 halter;
- 1 halter;
- 2 halters;
- 1 pen of two;
- 1 pen of one and 1 halter;
- 1 pen of one and 2 halters;
- 2 pens of one;
- 1 pen of one.

12. Substitution deadline for any heifer change after palpation are due by noon on August 27, 2026 to the Extension Office.
13. Heifers will be palpated by a Fayette County veterinarian between July 18, 2026, and July 25, 2026. Heifers will be palpated and toothed at this time. Heifers must be at least 90 days bred and have not calved by the show date. Exhibitor must be present when heifers are palpated and sign a form certifying pregnancy and age status. Exhibitors will have **\$50** per heifer deducted from the sale check if not present at time of palpation. Exhibitors are required to take a picture with them, their vet and one heifer and turned in with their record book. The heifer(s) must be under 26 months of age. Any heifer having their second pair of permanent teeth **breaking through** at palpation will be considered an "aged heifer" and will not be eligible to show or sell. If heifers are open at the time of palpation, ultrasound will be available at the request of the exhibitor and at the exhibitor's expense.

14. All heifers being palpated or shown must be manageable. **If a team of 5 Commercial Heifer Committee members** deems any heifer to be unruly, heifer(s) will be removed from the fairgrounds and be disqualified from the show and sale. There will be no harassment of the judges or committee members at any time during the duration of the project.
15. Animals are the responsibility of the exhibitor for the duration of the show and sale. The Fayette County Fair or it's volunteers will not be held responsible for animals that become injured, the death of or stray for any reason.
16. All heifers must comply with the Texas Animal Health Commission rules governing entry in the Fayette County Fair. Please check with your veterinarian for the regulations concerning stock shows and sales.
17. Record books may be turned in between July 20 – July 27, 2026 by 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Any exhibitor not complying with this requirement will not be eligible to show. The record books need to include: exhibitor information sheet, a full page or more story about your heifer project, pictures if desired, a record book summary sheet, breeding validation form, completed expense and income form from the date of purchase until the date of palpation. Record books need to reflect all animals tagged in. All exhibitors are encouraged to participate in the interview process. The interviews will take place on July 30, 2026. Those exhibitors not participating in the interviews will be fined **\$50** per head of exhibited heifers. Exhibitors will be divided into three classes for the judging: grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 (as of tag-in date). The record books are to remain on display until the end of the sale. A \$50 deduction from the sale check will be taken if the record book is picked up early. Premiums will be paid for the top record books/interviews.
18. A herdsman quiz will be offered on July 30, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., the same day as recordbook interviews. Those exhibitors not participating in the quiz will be fined **\$50** per head of exhibited heifers. Exhibitors will be divided into three classes for judging: grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 (as of tag-in date). Questions will follow a multiple choice and true/false format and a hands-on practical portion. Subject matter will cover general industry knowledge for cow/calf production. Ties will be broken according to pre-designated tie breaking questions.
19. Exhibitors must be present at the show and sale. If an exhibitor fails to be present for the show and/or sale, \$100 will be deducted from their sale check for each animal exhibited and they will forfeit any premium money earned on their entries.
20. Heifers will be checked in for the Fair on Friday, August 28, 2026 from 12:00-3:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Heifers will be pre-scored by the official judges during check-in and final judging will begin at 4:00 p.m.
21. Only the official fair ear tag along with the brucellosis vaccination identification is to be in the heifers when they are unloaded at the fair.
22. Water buckets will only be allowed in the pen, on the solid fence side opposite the gate, as Commercial Heifer Committee members approve safe to do so. After judging exhibitors will be allowed to feed, water, and hay heifers. The water and feed buckets must also be removed prior to the sale and **exhibitors are not allowed to empty water buckets in pen(s).**
23. There will be no harassment of the judges and or Commercial Heifer Committee members prior to, during or after the show. Judges will give reasons for their placing and this will be considered an adequate explanation of their placing. Judging will be conducted with a 3-judge system.

24. All heifers will show in one age group, however the committee reserves the right to split the halter division as it deems necessary.
25. A salesmanship contest will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., prior to the sale. All participating exhibitors must be at their pens at this time. Three unidentified judges will be interviewing the exhibitors and judging which exhibitors did the best job of convincing the judges that their heifers would be the best one to buy. **Exhibitors will be divided into three classes for the judging: grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 (as of tag-in date).** Premium money will be awarded to first and second place in each class. **Exhibitors who choose not to participate will be fined \$50 per head exhibited.**
26. All bred heifers must sell in the sale on Saturday, August 29, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. A 5% sales commission will be deducted from each sale. In order to comply with the Beef Check Off Referendum, two dollars will also be deducted from the sale price of each heifer.
27. A resale will be allowed for those buyers who wish to resell the heifers they purchased. Their sale will take place immediately following each lot sold, when requested by the buyer.
28. All heifers will be released after the sale and must be picked up after the sale on Saturday. **It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to see that the heifers are removed from the fairgrounds on Saturday night and/or delivered to the buyer.** The heifer becomes the property of the buyer once they are sold.
29. Exhibitors are expected to keep pens clean throughout the show, the committee will perform official inspection. If a pen is deemed to have been unmanaged or unkept a fine of \$50 will be assessed.
30. Premiums will be paid to exhibitors on a point system set up by the heifer committee. The top ten heifers in each class will receive premium money. Premiums on the pen of two heifers will be double the amounts for the singles and halter heifers.
31. There will be an overall point-based system for the Grand Overall and Reserve Overall Commercial Heifer Exhibitor. This system will include points for the interview/recordbook, quiz, highest heifer placing, and salesmanship.

Place	Heifer/Pen (Highest Placing Points Only)	Quiz	Interview/Recordbook	Salesmanship
1	25	25	30	20
2	23	22	27	17
3	21	19	24	14
4	19	16	21	11
5	17	13	18	8
6	15	10	15	
7	13	7	12	
8	11	4	9	
9	9		6	
10	7		3	

32. All exhibitors who sell must have their thank you letters to the buyers and resale buyers submitted to the extension office or appropriate agriculture science teacher for approval by September 25, 2026. Exhibitors receiving premium money and/or awards will be required to write thank you letters to assigned sponsors. Checks will not be issued until the buyer pays and thank you letters are written. **If thank you letters are late, a weekly \$50 fine will be assessed until completed.**
33. The commercial heifer committee reserves the right to amend these rules at any time.

Important dates to know, please refer to the rules for clarification if mandatory attendance is required and deductions/forfeitures of premiums are applicable.

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| ➤ | November 24, 2025 – January 2, 2026 | Ear tags, paperwork and photos |
| ➤ | January 5, 2026 and January 17, 2026 | Educational clinics |
| ➤ | July 18, 2026 – July 25, 2026 | Palpation |
| ➤ | July 20, 2026 – July 27, 2026 | Recordbooks, Palpation forms and photos due |
| ➤ | July 30, 2026 | Interviews and Herdsman Quiz |
| ➤ | August 27, 2026 | Heifer Substitution Deadline |
| ➤ | August 28, 2026 | Heifer check in and show |
| ➤ | August 29, 2026 | Salesmanship Contest |
| ➤ | August 29, 2026 | Heifer sale |
| ➤ | September 25, 2026 | Thank you letter due |

Edited 10/30/2025