2026 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. **ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER** – All entrants in the Livestock Department Auction Classes MUST:

   a) **Residency**: Be a RESIDENT OF FORT BEND COUNTY or ZONED TO A SCHOOL in Fort Bend County.

   b) **Citizenship**: All exhibitors must be a United States citizen and possess a valid social security number.

   c) **FFA/4-H Affiliation:** Exhibitors must be a 4-H or FFA member, having joined a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter by the ownership deadline of their Fair project and be in good standings with their Club or Chapter. (Note: Any Exhibitor that joins FFA at the beginning of their high school year must show under 4-H , be in good standing with their club unless they were an active Junior FFA member.) High School graduates are ineligible to show.

   d) Not have shown a market animal or commercial heifer in any other county fair or county youth fair from January 1st through December 31st of the current calendar year.

4. **GRADE INELIGIBILITY:**

   a) **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. Scholastically ineligible exhibitors **SHALL NOT** have a substitute showman.

5. **ENTRIES**

   a) ***All exhibitors must submit their division entries and payment ONLINE before the due date for each specific division (https://fbcfa.fairwire.com). Entry fees are $50 per division. Entries are not considered complete unless they have been submitted online, payment received and physical copies of the Entry Form with required signatures, EXHIBITOR W9 and Release of Liability have been submitted by the due date to the Fair office. Incomplete entries will automatically be charged a $50 late fee. Refunds will not be issued.

Approved by Board 12/11/2025

Entries Fees per Species:

Steer	$50 per exhibitor
Replacement Pen of 2	$50 per exhibitor
Replacement Halter Heifer	$50 per exhibitor
Swine	$50 per exhibitor
Goat	$50 per exhibitor
Roaster	$50 per exhibitor
Lamb	$50 per exhibitor
Broiler	$50 per exhibitor
Bucket Calf	$20 per exhibitor

b) Exhibitors are required to pass the Quality Counts Verification test for entry into the current year show. Entries will not be accepted without the verification code for each exhibitor. The Quality Counts training and test can be found at Quality Counts | Courses | AgriLife Learn.

c) ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE OWNED BY THE 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.

d) 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.

i. All exhibitors must fill out an entry form when the animal or animals are tagged or when poultry is ordered. Exhibitors must declare their exhibit tag number at "official check-in."

e) **Housing and Leaving the County**

i. 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. 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. 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 *or not at the designated address* 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.

ii. Any animal needing to be absent from Fort Bend County for more than 72 hours must notify the Fair Office in writing using the **official form at least five (5) business days in advance** to obtain approval from the Species Captain and Livestock Chairman. The form must be completed by the exhibitor and/or parent/guardian in its entirety. Animals may not be out of county for more than 4 days

iii. Commercial Heifers, Steers, Swine, Lambs, Goats, Rabbits, and Poultry. All exhibitors must enter online, **IF AN ANIMAL IS IN NEED OF EMERGENCY CARE AND MUST LEAVE THE COUNTY, NOTIFY THE FAIR OFFICE THE SAME DAY OR THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY.**

f) 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 fill out an entry form with required signatures, complete and turn in an EXHIBITOR W9 along

with an EXHIBITOR Release of Liability and each exhibitor must pay the $50 entry fee by the Division deadline. Crossing of species is not allowed for family tagging.

g) **Retag Policy**: In the event animal needs to be retagged the exhibitor, parent and/ or guardian must contact the Fair Office and Division Captain or Livestock Chairman within 48 hours. Animals will be retagged for loss of tag or infection only. Tags shall not be removed without the consent of the Division Captain or Livestock Chairman.

h) All decisions are subject to change by decision of the Fort Bend County Fair Board of Directors without prior notice.

6. **SUBSTITUTE WEIGH/CHECK IN & SHOWMAN**

Entries in the livestock show must be **WEIGHED IN AND SHOWN** by their owner. Substitution forms must be submitted prior to the first day of the Fair unless there is a medical emergency. Exhibitor substitution may be allowed under the following conditions:

i. Type (A) Substitution: Other School Activity – The substitution request must be made in writing by the parent. The parents' 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 parents' request must include the name of the substitute. The substitute must meet the requirements of Rules #3 and #4 of the Livestock General Rules.

In all cases, the Livestock Chairman must approve the exhibitor substitution and will do so only if all conditions have been met and the official FBCFA form is used with all the required signatures. 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.

7. **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 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.

8. **ETHICS**

a) 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.
b) Any tampering with projects entered in the Fort Bend County Fair, along with their associated materials and supplies, will not be tolerated. Any exhibitor found to be tampering with the project of another exhibitor will be subject to immediate disqualification and removal from the Fairgrounds as well as forfeiture of any placings, awards and sales proceeds. Criminal charges could be filed against any person found to be tampering with the project of an exhibitor, based on the totality of the circumstances.

9. **ANIMAL CARE AND SAFETY**

a) STALLING: Division Captains will assign stall/ open space based on Chapter/ Club affiliation as of September 1st of the current year's Fair. Animals must remain in their designated area and are NOT allowed to enter the Carnival or Vendor areas.

b) CARE of ANIMALS: It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to provide proper and humane care and treatment to animals for the duration of the show. Show Management reserves the right to disqualify or remove from the Fairgrounds as well as forfeiture of any placings, awards and sales proceeds any exhibitor deemed to be in violation of this basic principle of animal husbandry.

In accordance with Section 42.09 as defined in the TX Health and Safety code, any exhibitor found in violation may face criminal charges if you are found in violation of the TX Health and Safety code. Section 42.09 "Cruelty to Livestock Animals" of the TX Health and Safety code prohibits a person from intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cruelly treating an animal. The following defines cruel punishment.

1. *Torturing an animal or in a cruel manner kills or causes serious bodily injury to an animal;*
2. *Without the owner's effective consent, kills, administers poison to, or causes serious bodily injury to an animal;*
3. *Fails unreasonably to provide necessary food, water, care, or shelter for an animal in the person's custody;*
4. *Abandons unreasonably an animal in the person's custody;*
5. *Transports or confines animal in the person's custody;*
6. *Without the owner's effective consent, causes bodily injury to an animal;*
7. *Causes one animal to fight with another animal, if either animal is not a dog;*
8. *Uses a live animal as a lure in dog race training or in in dog coursing on a racetrack; or*
9. *Seriously overworks an animal.*

c) Staying overnight on the Fairgrounds is not allowed, except with special written permission from the Livestock Chairman and Fair Manager.

d) 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.

e) No animals are to be fed, tied, practiced with, or let loose in the show arena, Picture and/or Residue area at any time. Exercising animals in the 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.

f) LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS' MUST, IF REQUIRED, FURNISH LIVESTOCK FOR THE JUNIOR LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST.

g) Exhibitors are prohibited from feeding animals or cleaning feed pans in the wash racks.

h) **Butt fans are prohibited for all species.**

10. **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 the Livestock Committee will be allowed on the grounds.

c) CHECK IN: Exhibitors must be present with their animal at their respective check-in. If a substitute is needed, the exhibitor must adhere to rule #6 in the General Rules.

d) 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.

e) 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.

f) 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 crocs. Clothing may not contain writing affiliated with 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, along with writing or graphics. **It is not the intent of the Fort Bend County Fair to discriminate against any exhibitor. A request for variance to this rule must be made in writing and will be reviewed by the Livestock Chairman, Co-Chairman and Directors in Charge to determine acceptance.**

g) JUDGES, CLASSIFIERS & HAIR JUDGE

i. Selection of Judges, Classifiers and Hair Judge: Show Management is solely responsible for selecting judges. Judges will be familiar with all rules, regulations and procedures of the Ft. Bend County Fair.
ii. Judges Decision: The judge's or classifiers decision is final.
iii. Interfering with Judges: An exhibitor or his representative who interferes with or displays disrespect to a judge or classifier could be disqualified or forfeit any monies earned or be subject to other penalties assessed by the Show.

h) SHOWMANSHIP: Exhibitors will be divided into three classes for the purpose of showmanship judging, Juniors (grades 3-5), Intermediates (grades 6-8) and Seniors (grades 9-12). Replacement and scramble heifers, rabbits and poultry will not be divided into separate classes. Exhibitors must exhibit their own animals. All exhibitors will have the opportunity to compete in showmanship. The Captain of the species reserves the right to break the divisions into heats by using their back numbers. For example, evens and odds. The judges' decision will be final for placing purposes.

i) 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 Captain.

j) 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**

11. **CHECK-OUT – DISPOSITION**

i. 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 Captain before removal from the Fairgrounds. Exhibitors making the Livestock Auction and the Freezer Sale must appear at checkout on Sunday, **October 4, 2026**. Check out for all livestock and poultry making the Jr. Livestock Auction or the Freezer Sale will be on Sunday, **October 4, 2026**, 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. **Non-placing animals must check out at the posted time and are not allowed back on the premises.**

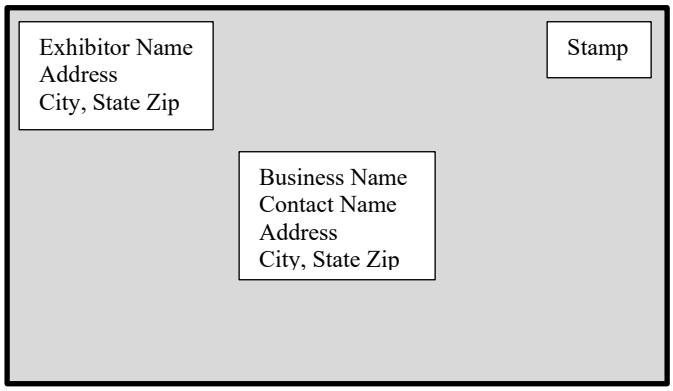
ii. All auction steers, swine, goats, and lambs will be hauled by a hauler contracted by the Livestock Committee of the FBCFA. Fort Bend County Fair is responsible for hauling only these auction animals. Disposition paperwork from Livestock Office is final and only signed written changes from the buyer 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. Exhibitors must place their animal on the trailer for their final destination.

iii. Any animal remaining at the Fairgrounds beyond 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 4, 2026, becomes the property of the Fort Bend County Fair Association.

iv. 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.

12. **THANK YOU LETTERS**

a) All sellers MUST submit a thank-you letter to his/her buyer and add-on contributors and AWARD DONORS which must be received at the Fair Office, unsealed on or before **November 3, 2026, at 5:00 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).



b) Auction payments will not be released until Buyer Thank You Letters, Add-On Contributor and Award Donor Thank You Letters, along with required paperwork (signed disposition) are received by Fair Office.

c) Auction checks will be available for pick up in the Fair Office on Tuesday, November 17th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. All thank you letters and required paperwork must have been received by November 3rd to pick up your check on November 17th. Checks that are not picked up on November 26th will be available for pick up in the Fair Office during normal business hours ONLY. Checks not processed by January 30, 2027 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 5th 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.