

2026 GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR & RODEO, INC.  
JUNIOR COMMERCIAL HEIFER RULES  
CHAIRPERSON: Kody Kahla 409-682-5423

TAG-IN:	Saturday, October 25, 2025, 8:00 a.m. - 11 a.m.
ENTRIES DUE:	All entries, fees and required paperwork will be due to the fair office no later than 6:00 p.m. January 22, 2026 and must be submitted by 4-H Leader or Ag Teacher, ONLY NO REFUNDS FOR ANY REASON
ENTRY FEE:	\$30.00 per animal or \$75.00 per pen of three (3)
CHECK-IN, SIFTING & CLASSIFICATION:	Thursday, April 23, 2026, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
JUDGING:	Friday, April 24, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Pen of 3 class will start and Single Heifers will follow.
CHECK-OUT:	<u>Sunday, April 26, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.</u>

1. All entries for this division will be subject to the General Livestock Rules of the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. except where they conflict with the requirements of this division in which case the division rules will prevail. In the event of special circumstances that may arise, or a conflict between rules, decisions of the Show Chairperson and the Livestock Superintendent will be final.
2. All heifers must be at least four (4) months old and must be Brucellosis vaccinated prior to Tag-in. **All non-vaccinated heifers are not eligible to be tagged and therefore are not eligible to show in April. There Will Be No Exceptions.**
3. All Commercial Heifers must be owned by Exhibitor by the date of Tag-in, Saturday, October 25, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Exhibitors must bring their cattle to the fairgrounds for Tag-in. Signature of exhibitor and parent/guardian, or representative is required at Tag-in. Only the GCF&R or TX validation tag numbers will be used for identification. All ear tags except the GCF&R and TX validation tag must be removed prior to or during tag-in and these should be the only tags present at check-in. Alterations to the GCF&R or TX validation tags – change to size, shape, form or color – will void the tag. (See General Rule #9)
4. All commercial heifers must be haltered (exception: pen of three (3)). The Tag-in process will consist of: sifting based on physical soundness, nose-printing, and ear tagging for identification on Saturday, October 25, 2025.
5. Each exhibitor is entitled to enter and show one (1) heifer per class with no bump-ups. Pens of three (3) will be limited to one pen per exhibitor.
6. For safety reasons, all heifers must be de-horned prior to Check-in date. All heifers found to have grow backs and/or loose horns will be subject to review and possible disqualification by the Heifer Chairperson/Livestock Superintendent at check-in.
7. **All heifers 12 months of age and older must be palpated by a veterinarian and designated as open or bred. This should be done within 30 days of check-in.** A Palpation Certificate must be furnished and turned in at check-in. Any heifer calving prior to show time, April 24, 2026, will be ineligible to show in the Junior Commercial Heifer Show.
8. All exhibitors must lead their heifer from trailer to Check-in Area. Any heifer which cannot be handled by Exhibitor during check-in will be sifted.
9. Any heifer with the (2) permanent incisors up even with the rest of the teeth or are 24 months of age on or before April 23, 2026, will be ineligible to show in the Junior Commercial Heifer Show. Heifers will be toothed by any licensed veterinarian or associate. All heifers will be toothed, nose printed for verification and sifted at check-in. **All heifers are subject to age classification as of April 23, 2026.** The decision of the veterinarian at check-in will be final. Valid registration papers from recognized association will override the toothing rule.
10. Single heifers must be halter broken for the Fair and cross-tied with one rope around the neck and one rope from the halter.
11. **All Commercial Heifers will be classified at check-in.** The classifier will be a non-Galveston County Cattleman chosen and approved by the Commercial Heifer Committee. **The decision of the Classifier at Check-in will be final.**
12. The Junior Commercial Heifer Committee reserves the right to expel unruly animals from the Fairgrounds. Any Junior Commercial Heifer which cannot be handled by the exhibitor during judging will be removed from the show ring and disqualified. Animals expelled before, during or after the show will not be eligible for the sale.
13. Only Scissors or cordless clippers may be used for cosmetic clipping hair touch up prior to entering the show staging area. All animal grooming of your cattle before the show must be done in the designated grooming/power plant

area only. Blow dryers will be allowed to be used only at the designated grooming/power plant area. No generators will be allowed under the livestock barn.

14. NO hay for bedding will be allowed. Shavings will be permitted at exhibitors' expense, but not provided by GCF&R. Exhibitors' shavings cannot be stored on fairgrounds. All bedding must be cleaned up at time of release.
15. Heifer classes may be split based on the number of heifers in a class.
16. The Pen of 3 Class will also be judged on Showmanship during the judging of that class.
17. Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, Class Champion (1st) and second (2nd) place heifers and Grand Champion *and* Reserve Champion Pen of Three heifers ***must*** sell in the Junior Commercial Heifer Auction. All other Exhibitors who choose not to sell are excused from the Auction. Two lots per exhibitor will be allowed in the Junior Commercial Heifer Auction. (See Junior Commercial Heifer Auction Rules.)
18. Drench guns may be used. Stomach pumping, drenching tubes or any other method (by esophagus) is prohibited. No heifer may be shown that has been artificially filled with any amount of liquid at anytime, once the heifer enters the grounds of the show. The only exception will be a medical problem, such as dehydration, bloat, etc. where a veterinarian will be consulted by the Livestock Superintendent or Show Chairperson at the owner's expense. The Livestock Superintendent or Show Chairman must be present when the veterinarian's recommended treatment is administered.
19. A Proof of Delivery Form (when applicable) and thank you card (see General Rule #43) will be required before Exhibitor's check can be released. All exhibitors must come to the Fair Office, with these items, to sign for their check.

Fair officials reserve the right to change the rules, dates, times and places due to unforeseen circumstances.

### CLASSES

1.	Pen of Three	
2.	Scramble Class *	
3.	Less than 1/2 Brahman	10 – 12 months of age
4.	Less than 1/2 Brahman	12 – 16 months of age
5.	Less than 1/2 Brahman	16 – 20 months of age
6.	Less than 1/2 Brahman	20 – 24 months of age
7.	1/2 or More Brahman	10 – 12 months of age
8.	1/2 or More Brahman	12 – 16 months of age
9.	1/2 or More Brahman	16 – 20 months of age
10.	1/2 or More Brahman	20 – 24 months of age
11.	Non Brahman	10 – 12 months of age
12.	Non Brahman	12 – 16 months of age
13.	Non Brahman	16 – 20 months of age
14.	Non Brahman	20 – 24 months of age

### BIRTH DATES FOR AGE DIVISIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

10 – 12 months of age	April 23, 2025 – June 24, 2025
12 – 16 months of age	December 23, 2024 – April 24, 2025
16 – 20 months of age	August 23, 2024 – December 24, 2024
20 – 24 months of age	April 23, 2024 – August 23, 2024

### \* SPECIAL SCRAMBLE HEIFER SHOW RULES

1. Scramble Class is open only to 2025 Galveston County Fair & Rodeo Calf Scramble Heifers.
2. Must be entered in the Junior Commercial Heifer Show are required to show in the Scramble Class.
3. Placing in the Scramble Class does not make heifer eligible for Auction.
4. To be eligible for Championship Placings and/or Auction, heifer must also be shown in one of the other Classes 3-14.
5. Exhibitors with Scramble Heifers are excused from participating in the Junior Commercial Heifer Show (Classes 3-14), if they so desire.