

CALLIE SONNEN MAYNARD HARRIS BOOK



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General Information

Congratulations! You have been awarded a purchase certificate during the 2025 Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo Calf Scramble!

The main purpose of the Calf Scramble program is to teach 4H and FFA members the fundamentals of selecting, caring for, feeding, and training a livestock animal.

With this purchase certificate comes certain obligations and responsibilities that are outlined in this handbook. Please review it thoroughly to prepare you for the year and keep it available for easy reference. Reporting and exhibiting are your responsibility and both are very important.

Contact Us

Mailing and Physical Address

Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo
Attn: Calf Scramble
4601 Bosque Blvd.
Waco, TX 76710

Contact:

Email: Livestock@hotfair.com
Phone: 254-224-8285

Website:

www.hotfair.com/calfscramble



2025-2026 Calf Scramble Project Checklist

December 31, 2025

- Thank-You Letter – mailed to your sponsor, copy turned in digitally to Calf Scramble office (instructions included in this handbook)

January 31, 2026

- January Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- January Expenses – turned in digitally

February 28, 2026

- February Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- February Expenses – turned in digitally

March 31, 2026

- March Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- March Expenses – turned in digitally

April 30, 2026

- April Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- April Expenses – turned in digitally

May 31, 2026

- May Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- May Expenses – turned in digitally

June 30, 2026

- June Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- June Expenses – turned in digitally
- **Heifers must be purchased, registered in your name, and validated**

July 31, 2026

- July Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- July Expenses – turned in digitally

August 31, 2026

- August Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- August Expenses – turned in digitally

September 1, 2026

- **Lamb, goat, and swine projects must be purchased**

September 15, 2026

- September Letter – mailed to sponsor, copy turned in digitally
- September Expenses – turned in digitally
- **All scholarship entries turned in**



First Steps

This program would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Your sponsor cares about you and your progress with your animal.

The first thing you need to do is write a thank you letter to your sponsor. Your sponsor's name and address were emailed to you.

You need to send a **handwritten** thank-you letter to your sponsor and submit a digital copy through our online portal. This needs to be done by December 31, 2025. If the letter is not received by the deadline, then your Purchase Certificate **will be voided**.

You may choose to write a letter or send a thank-you card. Either way, make sure that the Calf Scramble Office receives a copy through the online portal.

Remember, this opportunity is yours only because of your sponsor. All your correspondence with them is to thank them for their generous donation. Treat them as you would like to be treated.



Picking the Perfect Project

Your success during the Calf Scramble entitles you to a \$750 Purchase Certificate if you caught, or a \$500 Purchase Certificate if you received a Hard Luck. You have until **December 31, 2025**, to email the Calf Scramble office with your final species decision.

You cannot purchase animals from yourself, immediate family members (mother, father, brother, sister, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, half-brother, half-sister, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, cousin) or their ranches (family ranches or partnerships), your 4H club/FFA advisor or 4H club/FFA chapter. Payments will not be issued to 4H clubs, FFA chapters, students, parents, or supervisors.

You cannot purchase a calf that you have previously shown at the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo in any given year or any calf that has previously been recorded in their name or in an immediate family member's name.

Purchasing Requirements:

Heifers:

Heifers must be purchased, validated, and registered in your name by **June 30**. You should contact your AST/CEA for your local/county deadlines.

- If you choose to purchase a heifer that has not been weaned from the cow, you may choose to leave the heifer with the breeder after the date of purchase for a short time. You are still responsible for reporting to your sponsor and the Calf Scramble office during this time.
- Heifers cannot be born before September 1, 2024.
- Make sure the breeder transfers the registration papers into your name by the deadline and mails the original papers to the Calf Scramble office.

Lambs, Goats, & Pigs:

Lambs, goats, and pigs must be purchased by **September 1**.



Getting Paid

Payment will be made to the seller after the completed Purchase Certificate is received in the Calf Scramble office. For heifer certificates, payment will be made to the seller after the completed Purchase Certificate and the **original transferred registration papers** are received in the Calf Scramble office.

Purchase Certificates may be combined with certificates awarded from other stock shows as long as the animal is brought back to the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo in 2026. If a combination of certificates is being used for a heifer, the original papers must be sent to the Show that is earliest. The first Show will make copies of the original transferred registration papers and then forward the original transferred registration papers to the later Shows. The last Show of the year will receive and hold the original transferred registration papers and forward the original transferred registration papers to the exhibitor upon completion of the project at all the Shows involved.

Certificate Winner Instructions:

1. You, your parent, and your AST/CEA must sign the certificate once you have chosen your project. These signatures indicate that you fully understand the obligation and agree to abide by the rules of the Calf Scramble program outlined in this handbook.
2. If you are combining with other shows, check the box that corresponds with the appropriate show.
3. Give the signed certificate to the breeder. The breeder is responsible for turning in all paperwork to the Calf Scramble office in order to receive payment.

NO partnerships or leases of animals are allowed. Heifers must be solely owned by the scrambler or the animal will be disqualified.

Breeder Instructions:

1. Complete the Seller Information sections of the purchase certificate.
2. Mail the completed certification to the Calf Scramble office.

Heifer Breeders:

1. Heifers cannot be born before September 1, 2024.
2. Transfer heifer registration into the certificate recipient's name.
3. Have original registration papers returned to you. (Having papers sent directly to the new owner will cause a delay in payment).
4. Once the original registration paper displays the new owner's name, mail the purchase certificate along with the papers to the Calf Scramble office.



Upon Receipt of your Paperwork:

Heifer exhibitors, you will receive a stamped, copy of your registration papers will be sent to you with a Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo stamp. If you do not receive a copy promptly, please contact the Calf Scramble office. The original papers will be given back to you when you check in for the Calf Scramble show.

We will remit a check to the seller for the payment of your animal. **Payment will not be made for more than the amount of the Purchase Certificate.** If an animal is purchased for more than the amount of the Purchase Certificate, you are responsible for paying the difference. If payment is combined with another Show, you are responsible for ensuring the other Show has the correct documentation to pay their portion.



Monthly Requirements

In addition to your initial thank-you letter, you are required to update your sponsor and the Calf Scramble office monthly on you and your project. This comes in two parts: sponsor letters and expense reports.

Sponsor Letters:

- The monthly letter to your sponsor will consist of correspondence and pictures from the previous month.
- You are responsible for mailing a copy of your letter to your sponsor. We will be following up with your sponsor occasionally to ensure that you are fulfilling your obligation.

Expense Reports:

- Expense reports are required for every month you have your project.
 - **No expense reports are to be sent to your sponsor.**
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Additional Notes:

- Must be completed through the online reporting system **ONLY** (instructions on page 10). Do not mail or email a copy to the Calf Scramble office. Reports submitted anywhere other than the online portal will not be accepted.
- Monthly reports are due by the last day of every month. For example, March's report is due by March 31.
- It is your responsibility to upload your letter each month.
- Reports are due even if you have not purchased your animal. Since you won't have your project yet these letters can include details about your decision-making progress for what breed you are going to buy, what preparations you are making for the animal, or anything else you want to update them on.
- If you do not have a personal computer, it is your responsibility to find one to ensure your reports are submitted every month. If you need assistance locating resources, please contact your AST/CEA.
- Keep in mind, the more you write your sponsor the better. These are the bare minimum requirements to satisfy your calf scramble obligation. We encourage you to do more.
- Scramblers who fail to fulfill their obligations as stated in these rules may have their Calf Scramble Purchase Certificate revoked, will be required to repay the certificate value to the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo and will be required to provide a letter of explanation to the donor and the Calf Scramble office.



Online Reporting System

All your sponsor letters and expense reports must be submitted online.

Step 1: Go to hotfair.com/caljscramble

Step 2: Scroll until you see the Calf Scramble Monthly Reports headline, click the Calf Scramble Report link

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the HOT Fair & Rodeo website. The main content area features a section titled "2025 CALF SCRAMBLERS" which is circled in red. This section includes a "Presenting Sponsor" logo for IBMU Brazos Valley Masonry, a paragraph explaining the program's reliance on sponsor support, and a link to an "Expense Report Template". Below this section is a large banner for the "HEART O' TEXAS HOT FAIR & RODEO" presented by HEB.

Step 3: Fill out the Scrambler's First Name, Last Name, and Email Address

The screenshot displays the "Calf Scramble Monthly Report" form. The form includes a congratulatory message and instructions for submitting reports. It features three input fields: "Name *" (split into "First Name" and "Last Name" boxes), and "Email *".



Step 4: Select what month you are reporting for. Remember your letters and expense reports are due by the last day of the month. For example, everything for the month of August is due by August 31.

Step 5: Upload a copy of your letter and expense report. Your letter and expense report **must be a PDF file**. Make sure whatever you are uploading is clear and easy to read. The files you are uploading to this platform are what the committee will use to judge the scholarships. If they can't read your letter, they can't judge it.

- **HOT Tip from HOT Fair:** Put everything you want to submit (letter and pictures) into one Word Doc then export to a PDF to upload.

Step 6: Hit Submit. You're done! The Calf Scramble office will **not** send you a confirmation email after every report, if you have done these steps we have received your submission.



Show Time

You must return to the 2026 Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo and show the project in the Livestock Show. As a Calf Scramble participant, you are **required** to show in the Scholarship & Premium Shows **and** the Scramble Show. When you enter the Scholarship & Premium Shows, you are **automatically** entered into your respective Scramble Show at no additional cost.

- **HOT Tip from HOT Fair:** if you submit all of your letters, and they're on time, the Calf Scramble committee will refund your entry fees when you check in for the show

All livestock entries must be entered by your AST/CEA online by the entry deadline.

Please review the rules in the Heart O' Texas Livestock & Competitive Events Catalog, available at hotfair.com/livestockshow. These rules will be strictly adhered to.

4H and FFA members are considered to be eligible for the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo for participation in the Livestock Show at the time of application. Any AST/CEA who has a member who becomes ineligible to participate, for any reason, must provide written and signed notification to the Calf Scramble office at least 24 hours prior to the Show. **If an exhibitor is determined ineligible, then the entry is ineligible resulting in repayment of the certificate amount.**

All scramble animals **must** be exhibited by the certificate recipient. Substitute exhibitors will only be allowed at the discretion of Show Management. Official written notification must be provided to the Calf Scramble office at least 24 hours before the animal arrives on the grounds. If a substitute exhibitor is allowed by Show Management, the substitute showman must be from the same county or club as the original exhibitor and meet all eligibility requirements.

Show Format:

Scramble Heifers will be shown in two divisions: American and British/Continental breeds.

Scramble lambs, goats, and swine projects will be shown for showmanship.



Scholarship Opportunities

The Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo offers several different scholarship opportunities. Scholarships will be given in the following categories: Essay, Multimedia, and Monthly Reports. Two scholarships will be given in each category. First place will receive \$1000 and second place will receive \$500. Submissions for the Essay and Multimedia project must be entered by **September 15**.

Scholarships will also be awarded in the Scramble Shows. Grand Champion will receive \$500 and Reserve Grand will receive \$250.

Essay

The exhibitor will submit a 1,000-word essay explaining their calf scramble project and their experience purchasing and raising the animal. The essay should include things learned during the project, difficult things, and how this experience impacted you. This essay should highlight your entire year, **not just the night you scrambled**. It is a good idea to have a parent or AST/CEA proofread the essay before submission. Essays must be received by the due date and can be emailed or mailed.

Multimedia

The multimedia scholarship will be based on submission on the Heart O' Texas Calf Scramble Facebook page, as well as a final video. The video must creatively retell your calf scramble experience from the night you scrambled to the due date. The video must be **between 2-3 minutes long**. Anything past the 3-minute mark will not be judged. Your video will be scored based on the following: quality, creativity, originality, and relevance to the Calf Scramble program.

Monthly Reports

This category will be judged on sponsor letters and expense reports received. All sponsors will be contacted by the Calf Scramble committee for feedback on your correspondence with them. Your letters will be scored based on quality, originality, and creativity. Your expense reports will be judged on accuracy and comprehensiveness. Scholarships will be given to first and second place for each species (heifer, lamb, goat, and swine)



Additional Information

- Check the Calf Scramble website and Facebook page for information and updates throughout the year
- Calf Scramble participants must email the Calf Scramble office should any contact information change or problems are encountered throughout the project.
- In the event that a scramble animal is lost, injured, becomes ill or dies, the Calf Scramble office must be contacted immediately (by phone or email) by either the scrambler, scramble parent, or supervising AST/CEA. Depending on the situation, the following may be required:
 - Official letter from a veterinarian/health records
 - Photos of the animal showing injury
 - Letter from scrambler, scramble parent, and/or AST/CEA
 - Inspection of the animal by Show Management

If the Calf Scramble office is not contacted immediately following the death of a scramble animal, the scrambler may be required to repay the purchase certificate amount regardless of the circumstance surrounding the death of the animal.

- In the event that a scramble animal is unable to be safely shown, the Calf Scramble office must be contacted immediately (by phone or email) by either the scrambler, scramble parent, or supervising AST/CEA. Depending on the situation, the following may be required:
 - Another animal may be substituted in, in the case of a heifer, the animal must already be validated in the scrambler's name
 - Official letter from a veterinarian AND AST/CEA stating the animal cannot be safely shown

In the event that false information is presented in regard to the health/status of the scramble animal, the scrambler, scrambler's family, AST/CEA, and/or club/chapter may face sanctions for future participation in HOTFR competitions and events.

- We hope that this will be the opportunity of a lifetime! However, to make sure the obligations and responsibilities of the Calf Scramble program have been met, we will request verification from your CEA/AST when necessary. If the obligations and responsibilities are not met, you may be required to return the amount of the Purchase Certificate or sell the animal and return the proceeds to HOT.

