



General Livestock Rules

Livestock Shows Presented by



EXHIBITOR ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to show in the 2025 Hillsborough County Fair, youth must be in grades K-12 and either enrolled in Hillsborough County Public or Private Schools, homeschooled in Hillsborough County, or a member of Hillsborough County 4-H, FFA, or YLPA (see specie rules for specific age requirements). Though we encourage all youth to be involved in the 4-H or FFA programs, it is not required if all other eligibility requirements are met.

ENTRY TO FAIR

All exhibitors will receive an armband that will be worn the days of the fair that the youth is participating. Each species will be a different armband. Admission armbands for parents/guardians will be handed out at check-in. Each exhibitor will receive 1 armband and 2 parent/guardian armbands. If multiple exhibitors are from the same family, they will only receive 1 set of parent/guardian armbands. Advisors and leaders do not receive armbands with exhibitor tickets. **If an advisor/leader needs armbands and they are on grounds assisting students, contact the Livestock Director by October 1, 2025, rena70@aol.com.** Advisors/leaders must show entries for exhibitors for armbands.

ADDITIONAL GATE ADMISSION PASSES

Each exhibitor will receive 1 armband and 2 parent/guardian armbands for the days the exhibitor will be at their show. If more passes are needed for siblings, grandparents, or leaders/advisors, the fair offers discounted admission tickets. Discounted gate admission tickets can be purchased prior to Wednesday, October 29, 2025 by mail, email, or online. As a reminder, parking is free and children under 5 are free. Email

hillsboroughcountyfair@verizon.com or rena70@aol.com for advance ticket requests. Discounted advance tickets for the Livestock Shows are \$5 for adults.

LIVESTOCK ENTRANCE

The livestock entrance will be open for use and all livestock exhibitors will need to enter and exit using this gate, **except for the first day of check-in**. The initial check-in date exhibitors must enter the main gate and follow signs for their respective species to the check-in point. Exit of animals must use Livestock Gate.

TRAFFIC PATTERN FOR ENTRY

All trailers need to follow the signs for routes showing where to go for each species AND designated parking. Once exhibitors have unloaded their animals, trailers will be escorted to trailer parking, even if trailers will be taken home that day. Gates will be in place and manned by fair personnel at the load in/out areas and will be kept closed and locked after load in is completed. If for any reason additional tack needs to be brought in through gates, exhibitors must see Livestock Director. Trailers CANNOT park near or block the water tanks at the main entrance. Any trailers left on the fairgrounds during shows MUST PARK IN DESIGNATED TRAILER PARKING AREAS!!! The back gate will be open for departure ONLY when species release.

PARKING

Designated parking for livestock exhibitors will be available. You must have a hang tag in the window to park in the Livestock Parking areas. Hang tags and wristbands/tickets will be checked at the livestock entrance for ALL vehicles entering. Please be considerate to ticket takers at entrance. All vehicles entering livestock gate must stop at ticket box!! Exhibitors are not to park in designated committee parking area. All livestock campers will have to park in the trailer parking area also. Please keep in mind that they are “dry” parking areas. NO campers will be allowed in regular vehicle parking areas or near the livestock tents/buildings. **Any vehicle parked outside of designated areas will be towed.** The fair parking committee will be checking hang tags in vehicles. If a hang tag is lost, it is \$5 for a replacement. Additional hang tags can be purchased for parking at \$5 per hang tag.

ARRIVAL TIMES

Exhibitors must arrive with animals during designated check in times. Animals are not permitted off trailers or out of vehicles until inspected by DACS. Animals off trailers or out of vehicle prior to inspection will not be permitted to show and must leave the grounds.

RELEASE TIMES

Please be aware that species will be released only at designated release times stated in the premium rules unless approval has been given by the livestock director. If any exhibitor leaves prior to their release time without permission, they will forfeit all premiums and be placed on a 1 year expulsion period and unable to show/exhibit animals the following year and any remaining shows of the current year. All vehicles coming into gates for load out must use Livestock Gate.

ENTRY DEADLINE

All species (EXCEPT swine, market steer, market lamb, market goat, and market turkey) entry fees and entry forms will be due by October 1, 2025. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE!** Entries will be accepted online (except steer, please see rules). No faxes allowed. **All entries must include payment. ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY October 1, 2025 OR THE ENTRY WILL BE DENIED.** Fair office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 AM-1 PM. If there are issues or you need assistance with online entries, please contact Serena Stratton, rena70@aol.com. **NO LATE ENTRIES OR PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED! No additions to entries will be allowed after the deadline! Substitutions are only allowed if approved by the respective species committee. Exhibitors that did not register to show will not be permitted in the barns with animals. Be sure you enter your animal into a class, not just the showmanship class. There will be an entry fee for all animal classes so be sure you are entering correctly.** No additional animals that were not entered by deadline will be permitted. You must register all animals that are going to be exhibited.

MARKET ANIMAL ENTRIES

Entries for market animals are due according to each species rules. **Payment MUST accompany market entries/applications. Those exhibitors drawn for the Swine Show/Sale, Market Lamb Show/Sale, Market Goat Show/Sale and Market Turkey Show/Sale must pay their entry fee the night of the drawing.** Any entries/applications turned in without payment, where applicable, will **NOT** be accepted, no exceptions! **Market Lamb, market Goat, and Market Turkey exhibitors will be drawn like the Swine Show.** This is to help make it more fair for those that may not have been able to get in on time and spaces full.

ONLINE ENTRIES

Online entries will be required for all species (except steer entries, please see steer rules). Entry fees must be paid when doing online entries. Please be sure you are entering the correct classes and not just a showmanship class. Visit the website for more details.

EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

One purpose of the Hillsborough County Fair is to provide Agricultural Producers, and especially Youth, the opportunity to showcase the results of their efforts. In addition, we hope to provide a pleasant and safe experience for visitors and guests at the Fair. With these purposes in mind, all Fair Exhibitors, and parties associated with the exhibitor, are expected to conduct themselves according to the rules set forth by the Fair Board and more directly the Livestock Committee.

Youth are expected to be sincere, honest, and act in sportsmanlike ways at all times. Youth represent the entire program and their behavior reflects on their parents, leaders, club, and the entire youth program. All adults involved with the youth program, leaders/advisors as well as parents/guardians, are expected to set positive examples and serve as positive role models by what they say and do. Any youth, advisor/leader or parent/guardian who breaks the code of ethics or allows another person (adult or peer) to talk them into violating the code of ethics agrees to forfeit all prizes, awards, and premiums. The youth, parents or guardians may also be prohibited from exhibiting/attending at this and future exhibitions.

The following guidelines should be followed, as any violation will be handled at the discretion of the Livestock Committee.

Livestock Exhibitors will:

- Keep alleyways and stalls clean and neat and orderly
- Maintain and care for their animals during the Fair
- Respect the rights of others
- Observe the rules in respect to those listed in the GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES in regard to vehicles on the grounds including the new parking guidelines for livestock parking
- Obey all local, State and Federal laws
- Ensure that your animals are properly restrained while on the fairgrounds
- Be respectful to the general public

Livestock Exhibitors will not:

- Be allowed to show an animal that is unruly/dangerous, or not in show condition
- Use inappropriate or offensive language
- Behave in a manner which is a detriment to their, or the Fair's reputation
- Destroy or damage property belonging to others
- Drugs, Underage Drinking, Fighting, and Immoral Behavior will not be tolerated.

The Hillsborough County Fair and Youth Livestock Committee consists of volunteers that donate their time and wisdom to put on an educational and rewarding experience for the exhibitors. The Hillsborough County Fair staff and volunteers shall be treated with the upmost respect and “entitled” behavior will not be tolerated.

BARN MANAGER

NEW! The Hillsborough County Fair will have a barn manager in place to help with logistics in the barn at the fair. The barn manager will work with Serena Stratton, our livestock director, and our livestock committees to ensure that animal movement, set up and tear down are efficient.

HCF LIVESTOCK ETHICS COMMITTEE

NEW! The HCF Livestock Ethics Committee will be throughout the barns regularly checking. Any ethical concerns will be handled by the ethics committee through the Livestock Director.

LIVESTOCK SHOW RULES

1. Rejected or sick animals must be removed from the grounds IMMEDIATELY!!
2. Thank you cards are REQUIRED for each species. Please see specific specie rules for the number of thank you cards required.
3. Final interpretations of all general and specie rules made by the Hillsborough County Fair livestock committees and all pertinent people, are the rights of those officials and ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL. The Hillsborough County Fair Livestock Ethics Committee will be active in the livestock barns as well.
4. When using blowers, fans, clippers, etc., no equipment over 15 amps may be plugged into barn outlets. Any equipment over specified amps will trip a breaker and will not be able to be used. Equipment pulling high amperage, exhibitors must bring a generator to use. Additionally, if you are using a generator, they must be outside of the barns to follow Fire Marshal guidelines. You cannot run generators under the barns at any time.
5. Any animal fitting/grooming must be done in the exhibitor tack area or in the barns. No animals are permitted beyond chain link fencing.
6. Appropriate dress is expected at all times while in the barns and participating in the livestock shows, including CLOSED TOED SHOES at all times. See your species rules for show attire.

7. Owner or custodian of property of any kind brought to the fairgrounds, either for exhibit or other purposes, assumes all risk and/or responsibility for loss, damage, or theft.

8. No claims for injury to any person or damages to or loss of any property (including all livestock animals) on account of fire, theft, the elements (mother nature), accidents, or other conditions or causes, whether to exhibits, property of exhibitor, vehicles on the grounds, and articles left therein or any other property of any nature whatsoever, will be tolerated or accepted.

9. All exhibitors are to represent the Hillsborough County Fair, 4-H, FFA, and Hillsborough County in a positive manner. All exhibits are for entertainment and education for the general public and for exhibitors of the other species. Interaction with the public and other exhibitors must be conducted in a manner that promotes good will. Unbecoming conduct may result in disqualification, probation status with the fair, exclusion from future fairs, or immediate dismissal.

10. Specie committees or other fair volunteers are in NO WAY responsible for exhibits or any accidents that occur.

11. Inappropriate behavior or activities will not be tolerated for any reason by exhibitors or parents/guardians while on the fairgrounds (Includes bullying and substances). Offenders will be asked to leave immediately by committees if deemed appropriate. Conflicts and issues that cannot be resolved directly with the Exhibitor's specie committee chairs, should contact Serena Stratton for assistance. Issues may be escalated to the Hillsborough County Fair Board of Directors if an acceptable resolution cannot be reached with the Livestock Committee. Exhibitors and parents agree to refrain from publishing comments on social media that would negatively reflect on the Fair Livestock events or the integrity of the Hillsborough County Fair.

12. All exhibitors are responsible for their animals and must keep all exhibit areas and animals clean, and all exhibits fed and watered appropriately (unless otherwise stated by the specie committee). Exhibitors must show/sell their own animals unless otherwise stated in specie rules or permission has been granted by specie committee chair. If any exhibitor does not show/sell their own animal without permission, the exhibitor will forfeit all premiums and sale proceeds.

13. Any exhibitor who violates ANY of the General Livestock Rules or specific specie rules, will forfeit all privileges and premiums won. Failure to cooperate with fair officials can also result in premium forfeiture and immediate dismissal. Additionally, exhibitors, parents/guardians, and leaders/advisors may be placed on probation with the Fair if deemed necessary.

14. Only animals being exhibited are allowed on the grounds. **No dogs allowed in the barns!!! If you have service animals, they must be approved prior to fair time.**

15. No smoking/vaping in the barns.

16. There will be no personal golf carts/utvs/atvs allowed on fair property due to insurance liability reasons.

17. Anyone who has dropped out of school, is currently suspended or expelled, or not participating in their club/chapter or agriculture classes, will not be permitted to show.

18. All exhibits are educational and are youth shows. It is expected from the Hillsborough County Fair and all committees that the exhibitor entering animals is the caretaker of their project with parental/guardian oversight and guidance as age appropriate/needed, this includes fitting and grooming of your animals. Professional fitters are frowned upon as this is a youth show and exhibitors are expected to care for and fit their own animals with guidance as needed as stated above.

19. Exhibitors are required to assist in either set-up, tear down, or fair clean up day, depending on your species show schedule.

20. All exhibitors and parents/guardians, please remember, this is a youth county fair, not a national show. Your species committees are volunteers that take time out of their lives to put together the shows for the youth. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL!! The Hillsborough County Livestock Committee welcomes constructive feedback in efforts to improve our livestock events.

21. For ALL Market exhibitors, you must Show and Sell your own animal. Another exhibitor cannot exhibit or sell your animal for you. Please speak with the respective committee chair for any questions.

22. For ALL Market Animals, checks will not be issued until **THE BUYER HAS PAID**. NO EXCEPTIONS! If all funds are not received by February 1, 2026, a check will be issued for what money has been received at that time, not before. Any remaining funds will be issued once received.

23. ALL Market Animal Sales will have a 2% deduction from the animal sale owed to exhibitors, to help defray expenses within the Livestock Program as well as to help with items that need to be purchased to help improve the exhibit areas and shows.

24. All premium and/or sale checks must be cashed within 180 days of issuing. If checks are not cashed within 180 days, they will be void. Reissuing of checks will not be allowed after 180 days.

By entering the youth livestock shows at the 2025 Hillsborough County Fair, I acknowledge that I have read the above rules and agree to abide by them or will accept dismissal from the Hillsborough County Fair and forfeiture of all premiums

and the rights to participate in the Livestock Show and Sale. Moreover, I acknowledge that my actions may result in not being allowed to participate in future fairs. As an exhibitor, I give consent to have my entry fully inspected. I agree to abide by the decision of the Hillsborough County Fair and agree not to take legal action against the Hillsborough County Fair Association. As an exhibitor, I will abide by the decision of the Ethics Committee.

Livestock Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

Beef: Megan Sewell, Chanse Huggins

Dairy: Gene Holcomb

Goat: Jessica Switzer, Rebekah Moyer

Market Lamb: Brittany Coleman

Market Steer: TBD

Market Turkey: Greg Messick

Market Goat: Jessica Switzer, Rebekah Moyer

Rabbit: Joanna Patino

Sheep: Brittany Coleman

Swine: Marty Boykin, Kassy Mendenhall

Poultry: Brittany D'Azzo

Livestock Director: Serena Stratton rena70@aol.com

Barn Manager: TBD