2026 Jefferson County Fair
Animal Auction Rules & Information

Jefferson County Fair Animal Auction Misson Statement:

The Jefferson County Fair Animal Auction celebrates youth achievement by providing fair and equitable opportunities for exhibitors to showcase their hard work in animal management. Through community participation and goodwill, the auction strengthens awareness of the Fair's role in youth development and reaffirms the Fair Park as a vital community asset. By connecting learning, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship, the auction helps young people grow their skills, confidence, and appreciation for agriculture and business.

Successful Auction Participation Guidelines:

Auction Buyer Communication: Auction participants are strongly encouraged to communicate with their auction supporters, bidders and buyers after your animal sells and at the conclusion of the auction event. Personal contact and engagement are the best ways to show appreciation and thanks. Following up after the Fair with a written communication is also encouraged. Contact the Fair Office if you need assistance in obtaining accurate contact information. There are NO REQUIREMENTS from the Fair for how participants should demonstrate their appreciation to AUCTION, FAIR and YOUTH supporters.

Auction Supporters: Auction participants are strongly encouraged to promote the Auction by inviting prospective supporters and bidders to attend the Jefferson County Fair Animal Auction & Youth Celebration. Favorable auction price discovery will require a strong active support base and personal connections. To maintain and strengthen an active supporter/bidder base, it will be crucial to continue communications with current supporters but also by adding NEW prospective supporters/bidders**. Participants who have identified potential auction supporters/bidders should submit the prospective bidder information online. Listed below is the process the Fair will follow for actively soliciting 2026 prospective supporters/bidders:**

- **New Prospective Bidders:** Any new auction bidders that participants have identified must submit the bidders contact information to the Fair website at JCoFair.com/auction.
- **Bidders from 2025:** Information is automatically entered in the Fair Entry system for bidders that were entered for the 2025 Jefferson County Fair Animal Auction & Youth Celebration. If an exhibitor or bidder wants to verify their information is enter, contact the fair office at 920-674-7148. Check the Fair website for a list of available bidders.
- All bidders:
  - Bidders that are entered into the FairEntry system by May 31st will receive two (2) complimentary Fair admission tickets (good for Saturday July 11th ONLY). Admission tickets will be sent via mail no later than June 15th. If a bidder has not received their ticket by July 1st should contact the fair office at 920-674-7148.
  - Upon arrival to the fair on Saturday July 11th buyers will receive their bidder card and two (2) complimentary Auction hospitality wristbands at registration.

Auction Photographs: There will be at least two backdrops available for auction photographs. Each exhibitor is encouraged to seek out their supporters and invite them to have their picture taken.

Protest and Appeal Policy

Any participant or their immediate family may file a Protest or Appeal with the Jefferson County Fair if they would like consideration/reconsideration of a program violation. See Jefferson County Fair Entry Information for further protest and appeal procedures.

**Participant Eligibility:

1. Auction participants must meet Jefferson County Fair exhibitor eligibility requirements as stated in the Fair entry information (available online at JCoFair.com/enter) and successfully enter/participate in the respective market divisions (Department 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8) at the 2026 Jefferson County Fair. The auction will be organized by special awards and ribbon place.
   - Beef weigh-in on December 13, 2025 from 9am to 11am in the indoor arena is not mandatory, but you must attend if you would like to be involved in rate of gain
     - Any exhibitor not able to participate in weigh-in on December 13, 2025 must submit DNA to the fair office by 5PM on Monday, December 15, 2025.
   - Attendance at the Goat/Sheep weigh-in on Saturday, May 9, 2026 in the MAP building is not mandatory, but you must attend if you would like to be involved in Rate of Gain.
     - Any exhibitor not able to participate in weigh-in on May 9th must submit DNA to the fair office by 5PM on Monday, May 11, 2026.
       - Swine DNA must be submitted to the fair office by 5PM on Monday, May 11, 2026.
2. If an animal being entered in the Jefferson County Fair Auction has already been sold at another fair, the exhibitor will be ineligible to sell that animal in the Jefferson County Fair Auction.
3. Grand and Reserve Overall Champion from the live shows (not ROG or Ultrasound) must sell if they meet requirements
4. Exhibitors may sell in the auction in the following ways:
   - **Sell a Market Animal Lot:** Youth with market project(s) that meet all Jefferson County Fair Animal Auction & Youth Celebration requirements may sell one of the following:
     - One (1) large animal in departments Beef, Swine, Sheep or Goat.
     - Two (2) Poultry (Blue Ribbon)/ Rabbit (Any Ribbon)

- One (1) large animal and one (1) Poultry (Blue Ribbon)/ Rabbit (Any Ribbon)
  - Market Poultry/Rabbit entries will sell independently, back-to-back. Youth will receive all auction proceeds from the market animal lot, minus a percentage of up to 5% off the gavel price, which changes year to year.
- **Dairy Youth Showcase**: Eligible exhibitors who receive one of the 10 designated awards which will allow them to be eligible for the Dairy Youth Showcase. There is an 11th spot to contribute to the Dairy Fund. Dairy Pledge Drive participants are still eligible to sell a market animal lot if they meet the requirements noted below
  - **New to 2026:** donations for the Dairy Youth Showcase will begin pre-Fair and end on the day of the auction at 5:30pm. Supporters may turn in donations before Fair to the Activity Center and during Fair to the Dairy Booth.
  - All proceeds from the pledge drive will be distributed equally to the 10 award-winning exhibitors and the 11th spot for furthering the Dairy Fund. A percentage of up to 5% will be taken from the total of the 10 spots to support funding Dairy Youth Showcase expenses. The 11th spot will not have a % taken off of it.
  - The 11th spot will be used to fund scholarships, grants, projects, and activities that members in the dairy department participate in. Any junior exhibitor in any club is eligible to receive portions of these funds.

***Pre-Fair Requirements/Deadlines:

1. **840 Ear Tag Identification**: All beef, swine, sheep and goats must have a 15-digit 840 ear tag identification will be accepted; RFID ear tags are preferred but not required.
   - Beef: if not attending weigh in, DNA is due to the Fair Office by Monday, December 15, 2025, by 5pm
   - Goat/Sheep: if not attending weigh in, DNA is due to the Fair Office by Monday, May 11, 2026, by 5pm
   - Swine: DNA is due to the Fair Office by Monday, May 11, 2026, by 5pm
   - DNA envelopes may list multiple exhibitors in the same family. Animals must be assigned to one exhibitor at the time of weigh-in.
2. **Jefferson County Fair Entries Due**: Online only at the Fair website by May 31, 2026, 11:59 p.m.
3. **Complete the Auction Guidelines** form on the Fair Website (JCoFair.com/auction) by May 31st, 2026. One form must be completed for each exhibitor, and includes the following:
   - **Youth for Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Certification completed**: The Fair believes the national YQCA program is beneficial for participants of the animal auction. Therefore, by May 31, 2026 all JCF auction participants must complete and submit a current YQCA certificate at JCoFair.com/Auction.
   - **W-9 form**: As a county entity, the Fair must follow county policy and applicable laws regarding having a W-9 on file with the county for all Fair participants who receive a check(s). The W-9 must have the exhibitor's current address and related information. W-9 should be on file with the fair office by July 10th. Complete online and submit at JCoFair.com/Auction OR submit to the Fair Office.
     - PLEASE NOTE: If you received a check in the past, you do not need to fill out a W-9 for 2026!
     - If you have had a change of address, you must fill out a new W-9
4. **Auction Exhibitor Meeting:** All auction participants must attend the auction exhibitor meeting which will be held at 5pm in the MAP building on Tuesday July 7, 2026 or the poultry barn at 7pm. This meeting will go over what each youth needs, timelines, and rules.

***During Fair Requirements/Deadlines:

1. Submit Auction Declaration Card: Thursday July 9th by 5 pm
   - Youth intending to participate in the Auction must submit an Auction Participation Card to the Auction Office by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. This card includes information such as the type of sale participation, the specific animal being sold, and any future show right requests. Late submissions may result in removal from the Auction.
2. Future Show Rights: Thursday July 9th by 5pm
   - Exhibitors requesting future show rights must complete the Future Show Rights form found in the auction office or online at JCoFair.com/auction.
   - Request Future Show Rights: No animal will sell with Future Show Rights guaranteed. Exhibitors may express interest in requesting future show rights, but it **will always be the auction buyer's decision to grant the Future Show Rights**. Future show rights that are requested via the participation card will be printed in the catalog.
3. **Auction Catalog**: Friday July 10th
   - An initial draft of the catalog will be posted no later than 9 am on Friday, July 10th. Errors should be brought to the attention of the Auction Office staff no later than 11 am on Friday July 10th. Fair management will determine if any corrections will be made after this time or noted/announced during the auction. Youth not ready to sell their lot in catalog order will be moved to the end of the live animal portion of the auction.
4. Withdraw From Auction Participation: Saturday July 11th by 9 am
   - Youth may officially withdraw from participating in the auction by submitting an Auction Withdrawal Form to the Auction Office by 9 am on Saturday, July 11th**.** Failure to submit this form may result in future auction eligibility restrictions.
5. **Set-up/Take Down:** Participants are expected to help with auction set-up or take down. Check your respective superintendent board for details on your species set-up or take-down.

Weigh-in schedule: Tuesday July 7th

All species will be weighed in on Tuesday July 7, 2026. An animal will only be reweighed if there is a scale malfunction.

- 7:00-9:00am – Beef weigh-in & grading (& optional ultrasound)
- 9:00-10:00 am - Sheep (& optional ultrasound)
- 10:00-11:00 am – Goats (& optional ultrasound)

- 11:00am – Swine (& optional ultrasound)
- 1:00 to 7:00 pm – Poultry & Rabbits

1. Minimum Weight/Quality Grade Requirements:
   - **Steers**: 1,100 pounds
     - **Lowline**: 900 pounds
     - **Live Grader**: every steer must grade select plus or higher to participate
   - **Lambs**: 110 pounds
   - **Swine**: 230 pounds
   - **Goats**: 65 pounds
   - **Poultry**: Blue ribbon only
   - **Rabbits**: Must make weight & be determined market ready by judge
2. Animals must be assigned to one exhibitor before the animal leaves the scale
3. Unacceptable Market Animal Quality: The market judge from any species can determine if an animal is unsuitable for market. Unsuitable market animals could possess any of the following flaws: meat quality (odor/taste due to masculine characteristics), physical health issues/injuries, and/or testicles present. Post-harvest inspection may also determine if unacceptable market quality exists, and an animal is subject to an adjustment between the buyer and the seller under the guidance of Fair Management.
4. Animal Health/Injury: If an auction animal is injured or has any health concerns during or after the sale, the participant must immediately notify the Auction Superintendent/Fair Management.

Auction Schedule: Saturday July 11TH

All youth must be present to participate in the Auction unless prior approval has been granted from Fair management. Fair management reserves the right to adjust the sale order if the exhibitor is not present to participate. Exhibitors & parents will be needed to volunteer during the auction; sign-up online at JCoFair.com/Auction.

9:00 am – Registration is open

10:00 am – Poultry & Rabbits

Youth selling 2 poultry/rabbit entry lots will sell both animals independently back to back. Species rotations will continue until all animals are sold.

Potential Sale Order will be as follows:

Supreme Market Poultry
Supreme Market Rabbit
Reserve Supreme Market Poultry
Reserve Supreme Market Rabbit
Other Market Champions (CH & RCH) Poultry
Other Market Champions (C &RCH) Rabbit
Poultry Showperson Winning Exhibitor Animals (*If market exhibitor*)
Rabbit Showperson Winning Exhibitor Animals (*If market exhibitor*)
Last year of Eligibility Market Animal Participants
Remaining animals by ribbon ** (Exhibitor will sell top ribbon lot first followed by their next lot back-to-back)

11:00 am – Hospitality tent is open

Noon – Special recognition schedule TBD. Dairy Youth Showcase in the MAP time TBD

1:00 pm – Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goat

Species rotations will continue until all animals are sold. Order will be as follows:

Grand Champion Market Animal
Reserve Grand Champion Market Animal
Other Market Animal Champions (i.e. weight or Breed)
Showperson Champion Exhibitors (If market)
Bred & Owned Champions (G & RG – if market)
Rate of Gain Champions (G & RG)
Ultrasound Champions (G & RG)
Last Year of Eligibility Market Animal Youth
Remaining animals by ribbon ** (Exhibitor will sell top ribbon lot first followed by their next lot back-to-back)

2:30 pm –Food in hospitality tent will close – snacks and beverages will be available until 5:30pm

***Post Auction:

1. Supporter/Buyer Recognition Card: Saturday, July 11th
   - All auction lots are to be identified by a SUPPORTER/BUYER RECOGNITION CARD (provided by the Fair) which must be properly displayed in the exhibitor's pen/stall area within **one** hour after the completion of the auction. Failing to display a SUPPORTER/BUYER RECOGNITION CARD provided by the Fair may result in a $100.00 fine off the exhibitor auction check.
2. Auction Animal Load Out:
   - Auction animal load out information will be posted on superintendent boards as soon as possible after the auction.
     - The Fair will arrange for Auction animal transportation to the designated harvest location.
     - The Fair is not responsible for the loading, transporting, or disposal/removal of animals not being sent to a designated harvest location on behalf of an auction buyer.

- Auction participants are recommended to be present to load their animals and confirm animal identification. If not present, Fair management will have authority to load the animal and will be held harmless.
- The buyers are responsible for picking up their auction purchases from the designated harvesting facility they identified.
- Poultry will have a designated processor which will be communicated by the Poultry superintendent

3. **Animal Residue/Carcass Inspections or Identification Verification:** The Fair reserves the authority to conduct residue testing, carcass inspections, or any other recognized process available to verify USDA, Fair or IAFE rule compliance. Evidence of ethics violations, tampering or testing violations as identified and determined by Fair management may result in sale proceeds being held, retained, or forfeited, in which case any additional expenses involved with animal harvest, testing, and/or carcass disposal will be the sole responsibility of the youth participant. The Jefferson County Fair has the discretion to determine appropriate penalty in all situations for deemed rule violations which may include forfeiture of sale proceeds, penalties, future restrictions and/or expulsion from future Fair and/or Auction participation.
4. **Auction Checks**: After completion of all auction requirements including W-9 submission to the Fair Park Office, exhibitors will receive their auction checks by mail. Please note that checks may be sent out in mid-September. If you do not receive an auction check by the end of September, please contact the Fair office.
    - Commission: The Fair will deduct a maximum of 5% off the commission which will be figured off the gavel price.
        - This covers the costs of postage, bidder entrance tickets, hospitality tent/lunch, etc. The commission is calculated once sponsorships and expenses have been calculated to only collect the needed percentage for costs.

Independently Processing Animal Post-Fair:

- Exhibitors are responsible for communicating and collecting any processing fees and market value costs directly from the buyer. The fair will pay based on the activity of the auction only.

The Jefferson County Fair Animal Auction & Youth Celebration is a program of the Jefferson County Fair. The Fair and Fair Park is a quasi-municipal corporation of Jefferson County and is governed by its rules and regulations. The Jefferson County Fair logo, letterhead and bidder/buyer list is for the exclusive use of conducting business for the Jefferson County Fair Animal Auction & Youth Celebration. Any unapproved use is prohibited and may result in disciplinary actions, which may include auction privileges. Auction participants agree to assume the risk of property damage, personal injury or bodily harm and release the Jefferson County Fair/Fair Park and Jefferson County from all liability for personal injury and loss of property.