

2026 Manatee County Fair Steer and Swine Sale New Buyer Information and Previous Buyer Reminders

To our new buyers we want to provide a basic understanding of the 4-H or FFA exhibitor's livestock sale and to our previous buyers we do this as just a reminder of the sale process. By purchasing a steer and/or swine at the livestock sale, you will be helping 4-H and FFA members add to their educational savings and develop the agricultural leaders of tomorrow.

Steers: Steers at final weigh-in must weigh between 950 lbs. and 1750 lbs. and have gained an average of 1.75 lbs. a day and have a minimum of .25 inches of back fat as determined by ultra-sound or be a quality grade of select or better to exhibit. Any steer weighing over 1500 lbs. will sell at 1500 lbs., regardless of weight. All steers must go to slaughter. The average price per pound for steers at the 2025 sale was \$5.95 and the average sale weight was 1,240 lbs.

Swine: Swine at final weigh-in must weigh between 230 lbs. and 300 lbs. and have a minimum of .50 inches and a maximum of 1.10 inches of back fat as determined by ultra-sound. The average price per pound for swine at the 2025 sale was \$7.99 and the average sale weight was 261 lbs. Due to Florida regulations for a market swine show, all hogs must go to common slaughter at an inspected facility. All hogs will be transported by these facilities. Hogs are not allowed to go home with the buyer.

Buyers will be responsible for paying for the processing (cutting and wrapping) of their purchased animal. Cutting and wrapping prices will be available prior to the start of the sale.

Options for you as the buyer: 1) straight sale, whereas you pay for the steer and/or swine as calculated by the price per lb. you bid on, 2) purchase the steer and/or swine for a re-sale, whereas you pay for the steer and/or swine as calculated by the price per lb. you bid on less the difference of market price and 3) purchase of the steer and/or swine as a donation in either meat or money for your favorite charity or non-profit group such as the 4-H Foundation or FFA. Depending on your option for purchase, a portion of your purchase may be tax deductible, please check with your tax advisor. If you choose option 3 you will need to provide the charity or non-profit and a contact person at the sale table. The Fair Board requests that you pay for your steer and/or swine at the sale and you may pay with a credit card at the sale table or by coming to the Fair Office after the sale. **All payment is due by**

February 15, 2026. At the sale table, please provide a business card or give complete mailing address information, contact person and a telephone number.

In lieu of purchasing or in addition to purchasing an animal, you may wish to contribute money to an exhibitor. This can be done by filling out an add-on form completely (included). The included form may be copied or forms will be available at the sale, in the Fair Office or on the website, www.manateecountyfair.com.

Add-On Procedure: If you cannot attend the auction or cannot purchase an animal, but still wish to support a child in their 4-H / FFA career, you may participate in the add-on program. There are two ways to give an add-on: 1) If their animal's final weight is 1000 lbs., and you add-on \$.10/lb., you have contributed \$100; or 2) You may donate a flat dollar amount. You may add-on the day of the auction at the Fair (with check attached) or the add-on invoice may be mailed to the fair office by February 15, 2026, with a check or money order included. Make payable to Manatee River Fair Association, 1402 14th Ave. W., Palmetto, FL 34221. **Please fill out the form completely, as we send a copy to the exhibitor for them to have your information for a thank you.**

NOTE:

- If you choose to add-on, the fair requests a minimum of \$25.00 if it is to be handled through the Fair Office. Any amount under \$25.00 may be paid directly to the exhibitor.
- Any Add-on Form given or mailed and not paid for by the deadline date of February 15, 2026 – will be returned to you.