



MANATEE COUNTY FAIR 2026
Market Swine Show

FAIR LIVESTOCK DIRECTORS: Lynn Howell/Gene Glassburn/Jerry Wolfe
AREA SUPERINTENDENT: Bob Brouwer

Failure to complete the on-line registration and check in, will result in disqualification.

SCHEDULE

Online Registration:

September 25 - October 2, 2025, 12am midnight.

- Go to [Youth Ag Exhibits \(manateecountyfair.com\)](https://youthagexhibits.manateecountyfair.com) then click on ShoWorks to complete on-line registration/purchase passes.
- **Entry fee \$25.00** due at time of online registration.
- **Exhibitor Pass \$30.00** due at time of online registration. Extra family member passes (limit 4) may be purchased for \$25 each on or before October 26th, midnight.
- **Swine must have an official USDA RFID low frequency scannable ear tag tied to a premise.** If your animal does not have an official USDA scannable ear tag you can contact your breeder or use one of your USDA scannable tags to replace it. If you do not have one, please contact Abby Smith with FDACS at 863-993-5458 to register for a premise ID, if needed, and to register the USDA official tag. If the USDA tag falls out it must be reinserted. If the USDA ear tag is lost, it is the Exhibitor's responsibility to replace it. If a New USDA ear tag is inserted the replacement number must be emailed to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com for fair records to be updated prior to fair check in

Mandatory Check-in



Saturday, October 4, 2025, 8am-3pm enter gate 8 (by fire station) and exit gate 5 (across from) Mosaic Arena.

- Swine, Exhibitor & Parent or Legal Guardian must be present, even if the exhibitor is 18
- FFA advisors & 4-H club leaders, with chapter animals, must be present.
- The fair will insert an official fair ear tag and apply a tattoo.

All exhibitors MUST complete and/or turn in the following.

- Bill of sale with USDA tag# on it
- Notarized MCF Exhibitor Liability/Photo release
- MCF Code of Conduct Form
- Sales contract signed by the exhibitor and parent or legal guardian (even if exhibitor is 18 years old)
- A side view picture of the swine with the fair tag and exhibitor may be taken.

FFA/4-H Clubs

Animal Exhibitors must be named/assigned/paperwork submitted by December 1, 2025, on the Club/Chapter Declaration form and email to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com

Swine Set up

Saturday, January 10, 2026, 1pm Mosaic Arena

Youth Steer Judging	Saturday, January 17, 2026 , Registration 7:30am, Start 8am, Mosaic Arena Breakfast afterwards for participants
FNGLA Horticulture ID Challenge	Saturday, January 17, 2026 , 9:30-11am in front of the Mosaic Arena
Swine Set up	Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 8am , Mosaic Arena
Equipment Load-in	Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 8-11am , Mosaic Arena enter gate 1
Fair Swine check-in	Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 1-6pm , Mosaic Arena enter gate 1
MANDATORY Meetings	Thursday and Friday, January 22 & 23, 5:00pm and Saturday, January 24 at 12:00, noon in Tack Area. Exhibitor and Parent must attend. FFA advisors & 4-H club leaders, with chapter animals, must attend the mandatory meeting.
Swine Show	Thursday, January 22, 2026, 6pm , Mosaic Arena
Swine Showmanship	Friday, January 23, 2026, 6pm , Mosaic Arena
Youth Goat & Swine Judging	Saturday, January 24, 2026 , Registration 7:30am, Start 8am, Mosaic Arena Breakfast afterwards for participants
Swine Sale	Saturday, January 24, 2026, 1pm , Mosaic Arena
Awards Ceremony	Saturday, January 24, 2026, 7:30pm , Mosaic Arena
Equipment Load Out	Saturday, January 24, 2026, 10pm or after the Awards Ceremony
Swine Load Out	Sunday, January 25, 2026, 7am , Mosaic Arena
Swine Tear Down	Sunday, January 25, 2026, 7am, All Hands-on Deck

SWINE RULES & REGULATIONS

1. All exhibitors must be a ***bona fide*** member of a Manatee County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter, which is related to your project. No one who has graduated from High School will be eligible to show.
2. Exhibitors must be in good standing with their respective clubs/chapters to exhibit at the Manatee County Fair. All exhibitors will show in the 4-H Club or FFA Chapter in which they registered their swine at their initial registration.
3. All Exhibitors at the Manatee County Fair must have completed **one class of ethics training** to exhibit at the Manatee County Fair. **The exhibitor is responsible for keeping their ethics number.** If the exhibitor loses their number, they will need to retake the class. Exhibitors are not required to take the class in Manatee County, as the training is sponsored by the Florida State Fair. Classes are offered throughout the state. **Manatee County will offer an Ethics Training on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 9:00am.** Exhibitors will be required to sign up for the class at <https://floridastatefairag.com/ethics/> The last date for exhibitors of the Manatee County Fair to take an ethics class is Saturday, December 6, 2025. **All ethics numbers must be submitted to vquattlebaum@manateecountyfair.com no later than December 15th to be eligible to show.**
4. All exhibitors must be 8 years of age as of September 1, 2025. Exhibitors age as of September 1, 2025 will determine the class of showmanship in which the exhibitor will show. (Juniors ages 8-10, Intermediates ages 11-13, Seniors ages 14 and up.)
5. At initial and final check-in, Exhibitor and Swine must be together for animal to be checked in. **A parent or legal guardian must be present to complete all required documentation.** The Manatee River Fair Association encourages parents to be involved in their child's 4-H and FFA Projects.
6. **** Exhibitors are not allowed to change animal exhibits after the initial check-in****

7. Each exhibitor will be permitted to enter one of the following, one steer or one swine, not both. Anyone weighing in a steer at first weigh-in is not eligible to register a swine project. **Once you have registered your Swine on-line you cannot change your animal.** Shared ownership of a swine entry is not permitted.
8. FFA Chapters and 4-H Clubs will be permitted to exhibit one swine. However, no person can raise or exhibit more than one sale animal. **The chapter/club swine must be shown by a member who is not showing a swine or a steer of their own in the fair.**
9. Liability: Each exhibitor must assume all liability in case of death or injury to his or her hog until removed from the Fairgrounds property, at which time it becomes the liability of buyer.
10. Exhibitors are encouraged to wear boots when handling hooved animals or are in animal areas on Fairground's property, including the initial check-in and continuing forward.
11. FFA members must show in Official Dress and leather boots. 4-H members are required to wear white long sleeve button down dress shirts, black pants (No Denim Blue Jeans!) and leather boots. No hats allowed during the shows or sales.
12. No Substitute exhibitors are allowed unless there are extreme reasons and granted permission by the Manatee County Fair Livestock Committee.
13. All Exhibitors participating in their respective showmanship areas must utilize only the animal that was registered under their name. The top five will be selected for showmanship.
14. All record books, which include a copy of 3 letters sent to prospective buyers with names and addresses, must be up-to-date and checked into the designated committee at time of final check-in to be eligible to show in the Manatee County Fair. 4-H club and FFA chapter animals must also turn in an up-to-date record book.
15. All livestock must follow Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) State Health Guidelines and be transported to the Manatee County Fair in accordance with those guidelines.
16. On-site inspections of any livestock may be made by authorized agents of the Manatee River Fair Association at any time, after registration and until Fair check-in.
17. All Swine must be housed in Manatee County from the time of registration until fair. Any exceptions must be approved by the MRFA Livestock Committee prior to registration. Exhibitors must fill out an Animal Housing Appeal Form and submit it to the fair office for the Livestock Committee to review for approval. Once approved, the exhibitor will be notified. Any animal found not to be housed in Manatee County will be disqualified. See rule #26
18. Animals that appear lame or injured will be disqualified. If the Fair Livestock Committee considers the physical condition of the swine to be a problem, it may result in the Committee not accepting an entry or not allowing the swine to participate in the shows and sale. Example: Crippled, limping, herniated, skin disease, lame or injured (must be able to walk naturally on their own around the arena) etc., but not limited to these examples. If the disqualification occurs at any time following the final check-in, the swine will not be permitted to leave the barn until after the sale and must go directly to one of the approved Manatee County Fair Livestock slaughterhouses at the exhibitor's expense. See rule #26
19. **All animals are subject to DNA verification** if deemed appropriate by the Manatee County Fair Livestock Committee. At initial and final check-in hair samples may be taken for DNA verification. The top 5 animals of the show will have their samples sent for testing. If an individual wants to contest an Exhibitor's animal,

there will be a \$250.00 fee for the inquiry. If the animal is found to be different, through DNA verification, the \$250 will be refunded to individual making the inquiry. In the event the animal is found to be the same, the \$250.00 will be forfeited. Any animal failing DNA verification will be disqualified and all proceeds forfeited. Any Exhibitor found in violation of this rule will be banned from participating for life in the Manatee County Fair. See rule #26

20. Ractopamine HCl (ex. Paylean or Engain) is prohibited from being used in Swine being entered in the Manatee County Fair. Some feeds and supplements contain Ractopamine be sure to read labels. Any Swine registered for the Manatee County Fair may be tested at any time. **If Ractopamine HCl is found to be used it will result in immediate disqualification.** Testing may occur at the will of Livestock Directors. See rule #26
21. Use of drugs not in compliance with manufacturer's label as to method of use, dosage, time limitations and show regulations is prohibited. The use of any calming agent on animals during the fair or the possession of same by an Exhibitor (4-H or FFA member) or anyone assisting said member with his or her animal is prohibited. Violation of this provision shall disqualify the animal from competition and any awards or premiums, including sale price of animal, shall be forfeited. If medical treatment is deemed necessary, the exhibitor or parent must notify the Area Livestock Director and/or Barn Superintendent, prior to administering treatment to the animal in any way. See rule #26
22. All animals are subject to being examined and urine or blood tested for any drug usage at any time. Refusal by the Exhibitor (4-H or FFA member) to submit their animal to such examination or test will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all premiums, awards, including sale proceeds. See rule #26.
23. All entries must be market hogs. All will have teeth cut and barrows will be castrated before the mandatory check-in. Castration will be verified by fair officials. No open wounds will be allowed. See rule #26.
24. All breeds and crosses of domestic type hogs will be eligible. Absolutely no wild hogs or crosses will be accepted. Violations of this rule will result in disqualification. See rule #26
25. Force filling/pumping of swine with any substance, water included, is prohibited. This includes use of pumps, drenches, tubes, hoses, etc... All swine must be shown in their natural conformation and structure without alteration by modification except for the grooming and treatment of the hair and the trimming of the hooves. The use of any cosmetics on a show animal may result in that animal being disqualified. Example: oil, powder, creams or altering agents. Exhibitors may use professional swine grooming products only. See rule #26.
26. Upon disqualification, pursuant to Paragraphs No. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, & 25, the affected swine shall be removed from competition. Exhibitor may not be eligible for final weigh in or may not be eligible to show and/or sell their animal at the sale. If animal has made final weigh in and then disqualified, the animal must go directly to one of the approved Manatee County Fair Livestock slaughterhouses at the exhibitor's expense. Disqualification will result in forfeiture of all premiums, awards, add-ons, and sale proceeds.
27. Any banners or displays in your assigned area must be limited to a maximum of 2'x 2' anything larger will be removed.
28. Any graphics or wording in the barn or displayed on the panels deemed inappropriate by the Livestock Committee will be removed.
29. Barrows and gilts must have been owned by the exhibitor on or before October 2, 2025.

30. All Swine entries will be screened by a sifting committee.
31. All swine will be weighed-in one time on scales certified by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service in the presence of at **least one fair board director**. That weight will be final.
32. ***All swine at the final weigh-in must weigh a **minimum of 230 pounds and a maximum of 300 pounds** and have a minimum of .50 inches of back fat and a maximum of 1.10 inches of back fat as determined by ultra-sound.
33. All animals must be checked in by a FDACS inspector. All exhibitors must comply with FDACS Animal Industry guidelines, and all animals must meet minimum health standards as determined by the Fair veterinarian. **All Swine will be sold in the sale and must be transported to a Manatee County Fair Livestock committee approved slaughter facility.** Swine exhibited at the Manatee County Fair are not allowed to return home as this is a Terminal Swine Show.
34. All animals will be trained and under control during the check-in, show and sale, a Crop/Whip may be used.
35. All swine must remain within the paneled off swine area under the Mosaic Arena.
36. One designated person may be able to help in the pen with the exhibitor during pre-show and post-show times and can follow the exhibitor up to the ring and back to the pen.
37. Only the exhibitor will be allowed to care for the show animal and will be required to help clean the barn.
38. **Waterers and Feeders will be supplied by the exhibitors.** The fair does have a limited number of waterers and feeders available. Exhibitors are responsible for watering and feeding their own animal. All waterers must **remain in the pens until 7am Sunday**. Only clip on feeders may remain in pens for shows if they are clipped to back of the pens. Exhibitors not properly feeding, caring for and/or managing hogs will be charged a fee and forfeit the right to all premiums won. Equipment must be removed from pens.
39. **On sale day all swine must be fed before 9am.** All feeders found in swine pens after 9am will be removed. Feeding may resume after the close of the sale.
40. 4-H and FFA Swine classes will be shown and judged together. Selection of Champion shall be made from the first-place blue ribbon winners in each Division. The second-place blue ribbon to the Champion in that Division will qualify to compete for Reserve Champion. This pattern will remain to select the next 3 winning animals to recognize the top 5 swine in the barn.
41. No decorations on animals or the exhibitor at any time. (i.e. glitter, paint, signs, or use of unnatural hair dyes)
★ This does not pertain to grooming. Exhibitors may have 1 ribbon or banner on them during sale.
42. All grooming of hogs will be done in their pens. The wash rack area will be available at designated times determined by the Swine Superintendent or Director.
43. All Swine must have a minimum of 1/2 inch of hair.
44. Only Initial bedding will be supplied by the Fair association. Extra bedding will be at the exhibitor's expense. No bedding hay is allowed.

45. All Swine must be shown and sold by the registered exhibitor. All qualified swine must be sold during the sale and go to approved slaughter facilities. All sale animals are ineligible to be shown after sale. Any exhibitor found exhibiting a sale animal will be ineligible to show the following year.
46. No minors will be allowed in any barn after 10 pm without Parent or Guardian supervision.
47. The swine barn will be closed to the public during feeding and handling periods specified by the Swine Barn Superintendent.
48. Equipment may not leave the barn on sale day until after the end of the Awards Ceremony or 10pm whichever is later. **A \$200 fine for seniors removing equipment early and all other exhibitors will be fined \$100 and ineligible to show the following year.**
49. Exhibitors with saleable animals must present buyer with a thank you card and plaque, if applicable. It is strongly suggested as a thank you that you give a gift or a gift basket when you get your Buyer's verification card **signed by the Buyer or Buyers representative**. The signed verification card must be turned into the Fair office to pick up your sale check prior to July 1st, to be eligible to exhibit a project at the next Manatee County Fair. Sales proceeds and add-ons will not be distributed until payment is received from Buyer(s). If a Buyers card is found to be forged the Exhibitor will be banned from participating in the Manatee County Fair Livestock programs.
50. Fair premium money must be picked up within 90 days of the end of the fair or it will be forfeited.
51. Food and Drink are not allowed in the animal areas including wash rack and grooming area.
52. The Manatee River Fair Association will only handle add-on's totaling \$25.00 or more.
Add-On forms can be printed from Manatee County Fair's website (manateecountyfair.com) under Livestock Resources. Add-on's must be received by February 15, 2026.
53. Saleable animals including Steers, Swine, Plants, Rabbit and Poultry Meat Pens will have six percent (6%) of each exhibitor's sale price and any add-ons deducted by the Fair Association to help defray expenses.
54. Violation of any of these rules may result in expulsion, suspension, or loss of premium and or sale proceeds.
55. All deviations from any livestock rules must be requested in writing to the Manatee River Fair Board Livestock Committee as soon as possible, but at least two weeks before first check-in. Each request will be handled on an individual basis.
56. **All protests must be in writing and accompanied by \$100.00.** Monies to be refunded if protest is decided in petitioner's favor. Only violations of rules by participants in the Fair will be considered as a protest. Protest to be decided upon by the Manatee River Fair Board Livestock Committee.
57. No provision will be made to sell animals that are disqualified. Only animals that are shown are eligible for auction sale.
58. ***Final Interpretation and intent of these rules will be vested in the Manatee River Fair Board Livestock Committee. This includes, but is not limited to, violating the code of conduct and all previous rules. The Manatee River Fair Association has the right to "No Trespass" and disqualify any individual or exhibitor.***

Exhibitor and Parent Security Passes

Exhibitors will be required to make a one-time purchase of a \$30 Exhibitor Security Entrance Pass that will give unlimited access for the ten days of the fair. Families will be allowed to purchase (4) additional Security Entrance Passes at \$25 each which also gives unlimited access to the fair.

Only one gate 8 parking pass per family will be issued for the time their animals are on exhibit, NO EXCEPTIONS. Parking is on a first come basis.

Passes can be purchased when you register your animal on-line through ShoWorks
If not purchased by October 26, 2025, additional family member passes will be \$30 each with same limits as above at the Livestock Office starting on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 9:00am.

****THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS ON PASSES****

Animal Drop-Off/Pick-Up & Parking

MANADTORY Check-in: Saturday, October 4, 2025, 8am-3pm, enter gate 8 and exit out gate 5 across from Mosaic Arena.

Fair check-in: Wednesday, January 21st, 1-6pm, enter the fairgrounds at Gate 1 on the corner of 17th St. and 14th Ave. Line up for the weigh-in will start at the corner of 14th Ave and 17th St and extended South down 14th Ave along the canal. Areas around the Mosaic Arena are for drop-off and pick-up only. No equipment may be dropped off during fair check-in. Equipment will be unloaded after all animals have been checked in and then vehicles will proceed to the parking area.

Any Vehicle without proper parking pass or in an unauthorized area will be towed at owners' expense

1. Vehicles blocking Gate 1 or 9 will be towed at the owner's expense.
2. Exhibitors may use Gate 9 in the morning before 9AM when coming to feed and water animals.
3. There will be no parking along the west end of the Mosaic Arena or Stewart Bldg at any time! Vehicles will be towed
4. Essentials may be dropped off and then vehicles will proceed to the livestock parking area. Areas around the Mosaic Arena are for drop-off and pick-up only.

Manatee County Fair Web-Site

Rule books and Record books are posted and can be printed from (manateecountyfair.com).
Please check the web page periodically to see if there are any updates that pertain to your livestock area.
Registration paperwork for all animal areas is located on the Fair website.

QUESTIONS

If you have a question about your entry into the Manatee County Fair, please follow the chain-of-command as listed below:

1st – Contact your **CLUB LEADER**; if they are unable to answer your question, then

2nd – Contact your **AREA SUPERINTENDENT** – Swine, **Bob Brouwer at 941-345-3748**

3rd – Contact the **FAIR LIVESTOCK DIRECTOR** – Swine, **Lynn Howell at 941-322-1311**
Gene Glassburn 863-838-3502
Jerry Wolfe 941-737-8820