

GENERAL RULES, REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL EXHIBITORS

RULE 1. INTERPRETATION & VIOLATION OF RULES:

The Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, Inc. (at times in these rules referred to simply as “the Show”), reserve, to the Show’s Executive Committee, the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to settle and determine all matters, questions, protests, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, or connected with or incident to the Show, and the right to amend or add to the rules as its judgment may determine. All exhibitors by entry into the show hereby agree and contract to abide and be bound by these rules and that their rights and privileges as Exhibitors in the Show are solely defined by them. Any Exhibitor who violates any of these rules will be subject to specific penalty specified in any rule or rules violated plus one or more of the following as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Committee:

- Issuance of oral or written apologies in a form acceptable to the Show, to other exhibitors, Show Officials, sifters, judges, chapters, clubs and/or other persons or entities affected by the violation.
- Removal from the Showgrounds, along with any exhibits of his/her.
- Suspension or disqualification of the exhibitor, his or her immediate family, or both from the 2023 and/or future Rio Grande Valley Livestock Shows.
- Forfeiture of all premium, extra, or supplemental funds and/or sales proceeds applicable to the sale of his/her exhibit(s) as part of any Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show from which that exhibitor has been disqualified.
- Suspension or disqualification of his/her FFA Chapter or 4-H Club from the 2023 and/or future Rio Grande Valley Livestock Shows
- Suspension or disqualification of other persons with ownership interests in the exhibit(s) exhibited from the 2023 and or future Rio Grande Valley Livestock Shows
- And/or such other penalty as the Executive Committee otherwise orders

RULE 2. STATEMENT OF LIABILITY

All exhibits will be subject to the direction of the Show Management, but the Show will in no case be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur for any reason, including but not limited to, the condition of the premises or the refusal to consent to the administration of any drugs, chemicals, or other foreign substances. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss or injury to any exhibit exhibited by him/her and for its description as given in the catalog and shall indemnify the Show against all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto as well as damage or injury to any other person or property used by the exhibitor or any of the exhibits by him/her arising out of, or in any way connected with, such exhibit.

RULE 3. APPLICATION FOR ENTRY

The Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show will only accept entries through our online program. Entries may be submitted beginning November 1, 2022; however, they must be received in the Livestock Show Office by deadline. Entry Certification Forms (one per exhibitor), copy of State Validation Forms (Market Steer, Market Hog, Market Goat, Market Lamb, Jr Breeding Gilt and Jr Breeding Sheep), copy

of original registration forms (Jr Breeding Goats and Jr Breeding Heifers) and payment for entries are due in the Livestock Show Office no later than 10 calendar days after online entry date. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.** Please plan with your school district or club to make sure your payment is made on time.

- All FFA, 4-H and FCCLA entries must be submitted through the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show online entry system available on our website, www.rgvls.com. It is within the sole discretion of the Show to reject or accept conditionally any applications.
- Separate entries must be submitted on exhibits, which compete in more than one class
- **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM INDIVIDUAL FFA, FCCLA OR 4-H EXHIBITORS.** All entries of exhibitors from each individual 4-H Club, FFA or FCCLA Chapter from the State of Texas must be submitted online by the 4-H Club manager, county agent, Agriculture Science Teacher (AST) or FCCLA teacher. Payment must be made with one check, money order, cashier's check, or credit card payment for all the club or chapter entries. No cash please. Payment must be received in the Livestock Office no later than 10 days after online entry date deadline. Please make check payable to RGVLS. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS FULL ENTRY FEES ARE PAID. NO REFUNDS OF ENTRY FEES WILL BE MADE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.**

RULE 4. APPLICATION SUMMARY

All entries of exhibitors from each individual 4-H club, FFA or FCCLA Chapter must be submitted online by the 4-H Club manager, county agent, Agriculture Science Teacher (AST) or FCCLA teacher. The Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show requires a hardcopy of the Official ShoWorks receipt and the detailed ShoWorks summary of entries, in alphabetical order by exhibitor last name, delivered or mailed to the Livestock Show office no later than 10 calendar days after the online entry date deadline. A hardcopy of a W-9 must also be received on each exhibitor containing EXHIBITOR, NOT PARENT, INFORMATION.

4-H club managers and ASTs must submit a list of adult leaders who will be assisting their exhibitor during the Show.

RULE 5. DEADLINE CALCULATION

All deadlines specified herein that fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday other than during the Show itself shall be on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Any other extension of any deadline occurring other than during the Show itself such as for weather, natural disaster, Act of God, strike, or any other cause will be at the sole discretion of the Show Management. All deadlines occurring during the Show itself are final and will not be extended under any circumstances.

RULE 6. ENTRY FEES & DEADLINE SUMMARY

The following is a list of entry fees and deadlines for various animals and exhibits. It is agreed that all exhibitors that these fees are expressly NOT for the purchase of any goods or services or the chance to win any prize.

There will be a charge of \$50 per head/exhibit or \$250 per 4-H Club, FFA or FCCLA chapter for entries received after January 13, 2023. Late entries with additional fees will be taken until January 27, 2023. The online portal will close on January 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. A \$250 late fee will apply for club/chapters not submitting payment by deadline.

ENTRY DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2023

Market Steer (One per exhibitor)	\$30 per head
Market Hogs (One per exhibitor)	\$20 per head
Market Lambs (One per exhibitor)	\$20 per head
Market Goats (One per exhibitor)	\$20 per head
Market Rabbits (One pen of 3 per exhibitor)	\$20 per pen
Market Poultry (One pen of 3 per exhibitor)	\$85 per pen ONLINE deadline 12/16/2022
Horticulture	\$20 per entry
Western Art (One judged piece per exhibitor)	\$20 per entry
Photography (One judged piece per exhibitor)	\$20 per entry
Breeding Cattle (Jr and Open shows)	\$30 per head
Breeding Cattle – Exhibit Cattle Only (not judged)	\$50 per head
Jr Breeding Gilts	\$20 per head
Jr Breeding Goats	\$20 per head
Jr Breeding Sheep	\$20 per head
Jr Breeding Rabbits	\$20 per pen
Jr Dairy Goats	\$20 per entry
4-H & FFA Shop Projects	\$20 per exhibitor/team member
Beef Skillathon	\$20 per entry
Swine Skillathon	\$20 per entry
Ag Product ID (Early online registration)	\$5 per person
Ag Product ID Team (Onsite Registration)	\$25 per team (3-4 members)
Ag Product ID Individual (Onsite Registration)	\$8 per person
Prepared Public Speaking	\$20 per entry
All Valley Cotton Style Show	\$20 per entry
Livestock Judging	\$5 per person
Speed/Performance Horse Events	\$10 per class entered
Youth Archery	\$20 per class entered

Entries in Jr Beef Division and Open Show must be halter broken.

*Breeding cattle only will be allowed to stall in the Breeding Cattle area. Cattle Stalled that do not show in competition will be considered exhibit cattle and a fee of \$50 per head will be incurred. Exhibitors who fail to pay this fee may be asked to remove their animals from the showgrounds.

RULE 7. PROJECT/ANIMAL SUBSTITUTIONS

No substitutions of entries will be allowed under any circumstances in any Jr Division after entry deadline.

RULE 8. EXHIBITOR SUBSTITUTIONS

All animals must be exhibited by their owners, however, when an exhibitor has more than one project entered AND being judged at the same time at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show a substitute exhibitor may be used. The substitute exhibitor must be from the same FFA or 4-H club. The substitution request form must be filled out and turned in to the division superintendent prior to the event for approval.

If an exhibitor uses a substitute exhibitor in a Jr Breeding Division that shows an animal that qualifies for the Champion Drive, the original owner, not the substitute exhibitor, of the animal must show said animal in the Champion Drive.

RULE 9. SHOW CARDS

Each entry will be assigned a number. Exhibitors will receive a show card with corresponding number, which must be worn when entry is being judged.

RULE 10. FEED & WATER

All exhibitors must provide all feed along with all watering and feed vessels. Every exhibitor must adequately feed and water each animal, which he or she has entered, all the way up to their division LOAD OUT time. Failure to do so may disqualify the exhibitor (at the Board's discretion) from showing next year.

RULE 11. ARRIVAL OF LIVESTOCK ENTRIES – SEE RULES UNDER EACH DIVISION

RULE 12. RELEASE OF LIVESTOCK – SEE RULES UNDER EACH DIVISION

FFA and 4-H Club exhibitors must stay with their market entries until buyers take charge of them or until released by the division superintendent.

RULE 13. CARE OF ANIMALS, STALLS & PENS

All stalls and pens must be cleaned before 9:00 a.m. each morning and animals in their stalls or pens from that time until 6:00 p.m., unless being judged or being prepared for judging.

All livestock will be stalled in the designated area assigned to that particular division. For example: Breeding Cattle – Event Center; Steers – Middle Barn; Goats and Sheep – North Barn, etc. Exhibitors will not be permitted to stall animals otherwise. To do so may result in an exhibitor being disqualified.

RULE 14. GROOMING OF ANIMALS

Only immediate family members, ASTs, 4-H Club managers, county extension agents and certified 4-H group leaders of the group, (for all Jr Shows) will be allowed to help/fit exhibitor's animals on the showgrounds during the 2023 Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, March 9-19.

Blocking Tables & Trim Chutes: No Market Lamb or Market Goat Blocking Tables are permitted on grounds. No Steer or Junior Heifer Trim Chutes are permitted on grounds.

Clippers: No clippers, with an electrical cord, are allowed to be used once animals arrive on the grounds. Cordless clippers are allowed.

RULE 15. GENERATORS

No generators will be allowed

RULE 16. STALL CARDS & SIGNS

Each 4-H and FFA exhibitor is required to post a stall card or sign of their exhibit giving the exhibitor's name, club or chapter and similar information, such as sponsor, etc. This sign may be of any design or shape provided the outside dimensions do not exceed 22 inches in the Junior Livestock Barns. The exception to this rule will be duty roster signs. These must be no more than three feet wide and four feet in height. Decoration of stalls will take place during designated times only.

Exhibitors showing in the junior show must stall with their respective 4-H club or FFA chapter, and they must post signs that reflect that club or chapter; they can only compete in Good Housekeeping Awards. If an exhibitor is entered in the Open Show only, they can compete for the Herdsman Award.

Exhibitors of Open Breeding Cattle are permitted to display a sign over the exhibit advertising their own herd. This sign shall be a reasonable size so as not to obstruct the view of other exhibitor's signs or exhibits of livestock. Signs not to exceed 22x28 inches may be used to advertise individual animals with an individual exhibit. No "For Sale" signs will be permitted. All other forms of signs or advertising must be approved by the Show.

The Show, at its sole discretion, may have any signs removed that violate these provisions or which it otherwise finds objectionable for any reason.

RULE 17. SIFTING OF LIVESTOCK

If the classifier, sifters, Show Management, or RGVLS Director determine that an animal is lacking in competitive merit or is not adequately controllable for any reason, it will be eliminated, disqualified from further competition in that year's Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show. All sifted market animals will be returned to the exhibitor and must be immediately removed from the showgrounds. Junior exhibitors must personally present their animals for sift. Substitute junior exhibitors may present an animal for sift only if approved by the division superintendent. No adults will be allowed in the sifting area.

RULE 18. JUDGING RULES

The time of judging the livestock will be announced prior to the Show. All exhibitors must be on hand at the time of judging to present their animal promptly on schedule. No complaint or protest that judges overlooked exhibits will be considered.

Only Jr exhibitors will be allowed in all holding areas. No other personnel will be allowed in the holding pens/areas.

Only the exhibitors, the official judges, his/her certified assistants, and authorized show personnel will be allowed in the judging ring. During the judging, exhibitors shall not speak to the judge except when asked to do so by the judge. No exhibitor, at any time or in any way, whether in person or by agent, servant, parent, or any other person, may interfere with the judges and/or sifters in their official capacity or exhibit disrespect to them or other Show Officials.

In classes where competition does not exist, the judge shall make his award in accordance with the merits of the animal being exhibited. The judge will not and cannot award a premium or other award to an unworthy animal.

RULE 19. SHOWING FOR ADJUDICATION

All exhibitors, in accordance with the rules, must bring their animals into the arena for judging at times and locations specified for the type and/or class in which competing.

RULE 20. ETHICS

The following shall be considered unethical in the entry, care, handling and/or showing of any animal.

- Misrepresenting the age of the animal for the class in which it is shown
- Striking the animal to cause swelling or depressed area
- Surgery of any kind performed to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body, body parts, hide or hair, except for the removal of warts, teats or horns or clipping and dressing of hair and trimming of hooves.
- Insertion of foreign material under the skin including, but not limited to, air, liquid, or natural substances from other portions of the same or other animals such as blood, urine, fat or tissue of any kind.
- Changing the color of hair at any point, spot, or area on the animal's body.
- The act of artificially filling animals internally by stomach pumping is prohibited
- The use of alcoholic beverages in the feed or administered as a drench
- Mishandling, abuse, or neglect of animals

RULE 21. PROTESTS

Any disagreement, dispute, claim or challenge to any decision of the Show Management, its officials, or judges, under these rules or otherwise arising out of the presence of any exhibitor on the showgrounds or in any competition as part of the Show, must be made by protest in writing within 15 calendar days of the event or decision made based on the disagreement, dispute, claim or challenge. If protesting an animal, protest must be made prior to completion of judging of that animal. All protests must be supported by affidavit based upon the person knowledge of the affiant supporting the protest together with a deposit of \$250. The deposit will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. No protest will be accepted challenging the policy reflected in any rule, only its application or administration. All policy decisions of the Show reflected in these rules are final. No protest will be accepted regarding the merits of the judge's decision unless it is alleged that such decision was made in violation of these rules. The Executive Committee of the Show shall have the sole right and authority to review and decide the protest. In so doing, it may use the information contained therein and any and all other information, which it may be able to acquire from any source. The protesting party will be notified of a time and place within twenty (20) days of the date of the protest when the protesting party, in person or by representative so authorized in writing, may appear before the Executive Committee to state his/her position or present additional evidence competent under the Texas Rules of Evidence. Each such presentation shall be limited to ninety (90) minutes of total time. Non- appearance at the time scheduled will constitute a default of the protest. The Show will not be required to produce any controvert evident at the presentation but may RULE discuss such evidence with the protesting party at the presentation if the Executive Committee desires to do so. The protesting party will be allowed to request advance production of any controvert evidence to the extent it is available when requested. Within ten (10) days of the date of the scheduled presentation, the Executive Committee will forward its decision in writing to the protesting party at the address on that party's application and to any representative so authorized in writing. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final in all respects. Compliance with this rule in all respects shall be an absolute administrative prerequisite to any further action of any kind.

RULE 22. SPECIAL RULES

Special rules or conditions are published in each division where necessary. If there is a conflict between the special rules of any division and the general rules and regulations, the special rules will govern.

RULE 23. STAYING OVERNIGHT ON THE SHOWGROUNDS

Only bona fide ASTs, CEAs, Assistant CEAs, 4-H club managers, exhibitors, their parents/guardians and/or family members and other persons authorized by the Show management will be allowed to stay on the grounds overnight.

RULE 24. GENERAL CONDUCT RULES

No excessive noise of any kind will be allowed after twelve midnight. No exhibitor, family member of any exhibitor, AST, CEA, 4-H club manager or assistants may use abusive language, be disruptive, interfere with the exhibits of others, exhibit lewd or lascivious behavior, possess, or use non-prescription narcotics or controlled substances as defined by federal law, or otherwise create a nuisance or obstacle to the orderly continuation of the Show. Any person on the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Showgrounds who refuses to allow a search of his/her person, exhibit area, supplies, overnight living quarters, vehicles or other facilities under their possession or control within the confines of the Showgrounds for substances prohibited by these rules may be subject to the penalties as specified in Rule 1. Constructive possession is the existence of substances in or within the areas specified herein other than on the person.

RULE 25. GROUND SECURITY

All exhibitors are always solely responsible for the security and condition of their animals until delivered on or to the truck or other conveyance of the buyer. The Show is in no way responsible for security of any animal or exhibit. Each FFA Chapter and 4-H Club must supply the name and phone number of a person who can be reached at all times during the Show in case an emergency arises.

RULE 26. WRISTBANDS & GATE TICKETS

- One exhibitor wristband will be provided to FFA, FCCLA and 4-H Club advisors for each exhibitor listed on their summary sheets. Wristbands must always be worn during the Show. The wristband will serve as the exhibitor’s admission to the showgrounds. Double entry in the Open and Jr Divisions by a Jr exhibitor does not entitle the exhibitor to additional passes and/or parking permits. No lost or stolen wristbands will be replaced.
- Agriculture Science Teachers and 4-H club managers: Complimentary season gate tickets will be allowed each AST and 4-H club manager based on the following number of exhibitors as show on their summary sheet. CEAs and Assistant CEAs who have exhibitors from their county will each be allowed one season gate ticket. Additional season gate tickets may be purchased at the discounted price of \$35.

NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS	NUMBER OF COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS
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1-10 Exhibitors	2 Season Tickets
11-20 Exhibitors	3 Season Tickets
21-30 Exhibitors	4 Season Tickets
31 or more Exhibitors	5 Season Tickets

- **Adult Livestock Exhibitors:** Listed below is the maximum number of season gate tickets that will be issued. Each exhibitor will be dealt with separately and if the maximum number of tickets is not required, the maximum will not be issued. Additional season gate tickets, more than the allowed amount, may be purchased at the discounted price of \$35.

NUMBER OF HEAD	NUMBER OF COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS
1 Head	1 Season Ticket
2-3 Head	2 Season Tickets
4-6 Head	3 Season Tickets
7-10 Head	4 Season Tickets
11 or more head	5 Season Tickets

Note: All gate tickets of every character are good only for admission of the person to whom issued. Tickets are not transferable and will be forfeited if misused in any manner.

27. SALE – MARKET ANIMALS

As this is a terminal show, exhibitors must sell all market steers, hogs, lambs, goats, poultry, and rabbits that show in competition during the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show. There will be no take-home market animals, except those ordered by the Show to be removed due to sickness. All market steers, hogs, lambs, and goats will be sold by the pound. Market rabbits and poultry will be sold by the pen. The Show reserves the right to return market animals to their exhibitors in the event a bid cannot be obtained by the Show.

28. CHECKS FOR SALE PROCEEDS

The annual Sale of Champions will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2023. Buyers should make checks payable to RGVLS. Payment is due on the day of the sale.

29. OWNERSHIP & ANIMAL IDENTITY

Ownership of all terminal projects will remain with the exhibitor until the project is delivered on or to the truck or other conveyance of the buyer.

Animal Identity DNA Testing – As a condition for participation in the Show, every exhibitor must agree to submit DNA Validation/Registration samples of any and all animals entered by the exhibitor for purposes of identifications. The Show requires the animal exhibited at the Show be the same as the animal enrolled at the validation/registration event. The Show specifically reserves the right to obtain and maintain hair and/or blood DNA samples and have analysis made on any animal entered for the competition. The conclusion reached by the testing company/laboratories shall be final, without recourse against the Show or its service providers. If the animal's identity (Show sample) is found to differ from its validation/registrations sample, then the exhibitor will forfeit any awards, prize money and/or sale proceeds and may forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit in the future at the Show.

Livestock projects must be raised at the physical address of validation record. Prior approval must be granted by the “Species Specific County-Level State Validation Committee” in the event the animal will be outside the direct care of the exhibitor, immediate family and/or the supervising CEA or AST. Failure to gain approval from the supervising AST/CEA and the Species-Specific County Level State Validation Committee will result in the disqualification of all state validated livestock.

30. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (Health Certificate) issued within the past 30 days is required for all **BREEDING CATTLE**. The health certificate must be location specific to the Show. The health certificate must specify “Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, Mercedes, TX”.

All livestock exhibited must meet the health requirements of the Texas Animal Health Commission and any additional requirements that the Show may, in its sole discretion, require.

Cattle and horses from tick and scabies quarantined areas must be accompanied by a certificate issued by a state or federal inspector showing freedom from infection or exposure thereto and have been dipped immediately prior to shipment. These animals will be checked against health certificates at the gate of the showgrounds. Any animal may be inspected, refused entry, or be required to be removed from the showgrounds due to disease or external parasites. Animals that show any evidence of abnormal discharge will not be admitted and all cows calving will be isolated.

HORSES: Effective January 1, 1997, all equines, regardless of origin, entering any show, fair and exhibition (interstate or intrastate) must have a negative test for EIA conducted within the previous 12 months.

RULE 31. FOREIGN SUBSTANCES

The Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, in its sole discretion, may, any number of times and at any time, test any animal officially entered in any division for unethical fitting or any foreign substance, including any type of drugs, chemicals or prohibited feed additives other than drugs or chemicals. Feed additives are prohibited if they are so indicated by the USDA or FDA at the time of the test. Unethical fitting is any physical or physiological attempt to alter the natural confirmation, musculature, or weight in any animal.

RULE 32. MEDICATIONS

Exhibitors who have animals on the grounds and service of a veterinarian is needed, should report to the superintendent of their division who will call a veterinarian. After that, exhibitors should wait near their animal until a veterinarian arrives. If an animal of an exhibitor needs medication, the decision to give it or allow it to be given is solely that of the exhibitor, regardless of consent or lack thereof from the Show and the effect on the animal of its administration, or lack thereof, is solely the responsibility of the exhibitor. If the medications used to treat the animal are, or could be, hazardous to humans if consumed, the animal must be removed from the showgrounds immediately. If the animal of an exhibitor is medicated without the expressed consent of the Show’s General Manager or Official Veterinarian, and it tests positive for the substance administered, the provisions of Rule 1 will apply. Payment of veterinary fees is the responsibility of the exhibitor.

Rule 32 establishes a zero tolerance for any type of medication in an animal, unless the Show’s General Manager or Official Veterinarian, has given expressed written consent. Should any such medication be found in the actual or constructive possession of any other person, that person may be expelled from

the showgrounds for a length of time to be determined in the sole discretion of the Show. Veterinarians bringing such medications onto the showgrounds for the possible treatment of animals pursuant to this rule should advise the Show's General Manager or Official Veterinarian before doing so or they will expose themselves to the provisions of this rule.

RULE 33. TATTOOING, BRANDING, ETC.

Absolutely no tattooing, branding, or ear notching will be allowed on the showgrounds. Any violations of this rule will result in the exhibitor and project being subject to disqualification.

RULE 34. SALE OF CHAMPIONS

Details of the Sale of Champions, including but not limited to, date, time, place levels and eligibility of exhibitor is subject to change at the sole discretion of the board of directors of The Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show

RULE 35. SHOW BOXES

All tack, feed, and equipment, including but not limited to show boxes, dryers, chairs, brooms, shovels or scoops and bags, must be kept in the designated feed alley. None of these items will be allowed in any public walkways. Failure to follow this rule will result in disciplinary action to the school or 4-H club.

RULE 36. COOKING

No cooking grills, crockpots, roasters, hot plates, electric skillet, or BBQ grills are allowed within the showgrounds or in any barn areas.

RULE 37. TENTS

No personal tents, pop up tents or shade are allowed within the showground or barn areas.