

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY Carefully review this guide as it contains all of the applicable information regarding the exact rules and deadlines for this specific category, ensuring you are entering the correct classes in advance. When you submit your entry online you agree that you understand the rules and regulations.

ENTRIES ACCEPTED ONLINE ShoWorks will be available on Monday, January 1, 2026

SHOWORKS If you plan to make changes to your entries or need to leave ShoWorks at any time - **SAVE YOUR CART** before exiting out! Once you select **PAY NOW** your entry will be submitted and you will not be able to make changes to your cart online.

PAYMENT Credit card payments are the preferred method to enter your exhibit. If you would like to pay with cash or check, select **PAY LATER** and print out your detailed receipt and mail it in or hand deliver your payment to the:



Riverside County Fair & NDF Entry Office
46-350 Arabia Street, Indio, CA 92201

LAST DAY TO ENTER ONLINE - NO EXCEPTIONS! Monday, January 19, 2026

Any entry or payment submitted past the deadline will not be accepted!

JR LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

Kelly Secord – Supervisor

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2026 JR. LIVESTOCK SCHEDULE & RULES

MASTER SHOWMANSHIP MINIS DO NOT COMPETE

Friday, February 20
Livestock Pavilion #12

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Saturday, February 21 – 10 am
Livestock Pavilion #12

AWARDS CEREMONY: ALL AWARDS MUST BE PICKED UP PRIOR TO LEAVING THE FAIR

Sunday, February 22
Livestock Pavilion #12



2026 LIVESTOCK SPECIAL RULES & GUIDELINES

1. It is the right of the Riverside County Fair Junior Livestock Superintendent and/or, along with the recommendations of the Riverside Junior Livestock Committee (RJLC), to accept and or deny any entries submitted to the Riverside County Fair junior livestock show for any reason without cause. The RCJL Superintendent has the right to exercise their decision, with or without the RJLC recommendations, as they see fit, and may notify the potential exhibitor and their parents, leaders, and advisor by any means possible.
2. It is the right of the Riverside County Fair Junior Livestock Superintendent and/or, along with the recommendations of the Riverside Junior Livestock Committee (RJLC), to require proof of ownership on any entry.
3. All JUNIOR livestock is limited to FFA Chapters and 4-H Clubs based in Riverside County and Grange and Independents who reside in Riverside County only. All independent exhibitors must raise their animals in Riverside County.
4. To participate as a 4-H member in 2026, individuals must be at least 9 years old by December 31st, 2025. This means that eligible members are those who are 9 years old through December 31st of the year in which they turn 19.

For the Poultry, Rabbits, and Cavy divisions (excluding Meat Pen competitions), younger participants are permitted. Members ages 5 to 9 may participate in these divisions; however, they are not eligible to receive premiums (monetary awards or prizes).

Members who are less than 9 years old are not permitted to show large livestock. However, they may participate in specific competitions as independent exhibitors, including Rabbit Meat Pens, Single Fryers, Poultry Meat Pens, and Market Turkeys. All exhibitors must be at least 5 years old by January 1, 2026, to participate in any division.

5. Market and feeder animal Divisions: No more than two (2) entries per species, per exhibitor.
6. Entry must be completed online by **January 19, 2026**.
7. Complimentary Season Passes (\$0) will be provided to all livestock exhibitors and leaders. Discounted Season Passes (\$25) are available online only through January 31, 2026, at this link: <https://www.datefest.org/p/about/exhibitor-season-pass>, Password: REDBARN. Discounted Season Passes require completion of an online form that will be cross-referenced with club rosters. All Complimentary and Discounted Season Passes are only good for admission through Gate 7 along Oasis. Regularly priced Season Passes are available at [datefest.org](https://www.datefest.org) (\$40) through February 13, 2026. No Season Passes will be offered once the Fair & Date Fest begins.
8. Junior exhibitors must be the bona fide owner of all animals for at least 60 days (120 days for market beef) before the opening day of the Fair. The exhibitor's 4-H Leader, 4-H Youth Advisor, Agricultural Instructor, or Livestock Office shall determine any questions as to the eligibility of a project under this rule. Independent exhibitors must provide photos of the

- animal with the exhibitor and a copy of the Bill of Sale for said animal 60 days prior to the opening day of the Fair.
9. Registration papers for breeding animals will be submitted to the Livestock Office at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the showing of the breeding animals.
 10. All unregistered breeding animals must check in with the Livestock Office.
 11. Each exhibitor is responsible for the care and feeding of his/her own animals. Other junior exhibitors may assist. Advisors, leaders, and parents are to give instructions **ONLY**. Any violation of this rule will result in the disqualification of animals from the show and forfeiture of premiums.
 12. No **FOR SALE** signs will be allowed in the barns.
 13. FIRE SAFETY RULES: Unauthorized use of lighting fixtures provided in the barns for water heaters, heating lamps, space heaters, etc., will result in the removal of the appliance. Smoking or open flame devices are not permitted within the barns.
 14. ALL exhibitors, clubs, and chapters must stay and clean the livestock facility before being released. Exhibitors must check out with the livestock office staff; \$100 penalty will be taken from the exhibitor's auction check if they are not present for cleanup.
 15. Brand inspection papers **MUST** be available at the weigh-in for all market beef.
 16. All Sheep, Boer, and Market Goats must have Scrapie tags at the time of arrival.
 17. In the event that Livestock Facilities reach capacity, the Fair Management reserves the right to reject entries. The Fair Management reserves the right to combine any class where fewer than five (5) entries or inadequate competition exists.
 18. Any animal found to be diseased, in poor condition, or unsound will be excused.
 19. One (1) beef shoot stanchion for every four (4) animals.
 20. All beef heads must be clipped prior to arrival.
 21. All Exhibits are entered and shown at the owner's risk. The National Date Festival is not responsible for the loss by fire, accident, theft, or providential destruction. Every precaution will be taken to eliminate danger and mistakes in the handling and return of livestock.
 22. This is a SHAVINGS-ONLY show. Not provided by Fair.
 23. ALL PREMIUM CHECKS AND AUCTION CHECKS MUST BE CASHED WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE DATE ON THE CHECK.
 24. Exhibitors must clean out their pens prior to checkout.
 25. Sheep, goats, and hogs **MUST** always have access to water (water bucket or tube).
 26. Exhibitors are responsible for the care and well-being of their auction animal until it leaves the grounds.

27. All cattle must have neck ropes.
28. It is recommended that Hogs should not be clipped shorter than ½ inch.
29. AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING unless noted otherwise.
30. All-State Rules will be strictly enforced. To view state rules:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Fairs&Expositions/FairInformation/StateRulesforCaliforniaFairs.asp>
31. The California Department of Food & Agriculture is requiring that all youth livestock exhibitors showing at Fairs throughout California in 2026 must have completed the applicable Youth Quality Assurance (YQCA) program training. **To show at the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, every exhibitor is required to have completed an approved YQCA training program and have proof of YQCA certification.** The YQCA will give a confirmation number upon completion of the program courses. Exhibitors are required to enter their YQCA Certification Numbers online when registering their exhibits.

2026 JR. LIVESTOCK AUCTION

1. **New Rule: Exhibitors are not to solicit buyers on Auction day.**
2. **New Rule: Exhibitors and exhibitor families who are not purchasing through the junior livestock auction shall not sit at a buyer's table during the auction**
3. Only beef, sheep, goats, and swine-graded MARKET READY will be eligible for sale.
4. LIMIT: Each exhibitor is only allowed to sell one (1) animal. The only exception is that if said exhibitor has a champion, then that exhibitor may sell the champion plus one (1) other qualified animal.
5. All Market Grand Champions, Reserve Grand Champions, Division Champions, and Reserve Division Champions **MUST** be sold at the Junior Livestock Auction.
6. Each small stock exhibitor is limited to entering two meat pens per division. - defined as two meat bird pens, two meat rabbit pens, and two meat turkey pens. The top five meat pens in each species (division) are eligible for sale in the Junior Livestock Auction. Each exhibitor may only sell a maximum of two meat pens unless they receive Grand Champion and/or Reserve Champion. If an exhibitor receives more than two Grand Champions and/or Reserve Champions, then all Champions will sell, but no extra (3-5 placing entries) can sell. The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion meat pens must stay on the fairgrounds and are required to sell at the Junior Livestock Auction. Small stock exhibitors are eligible to sell one large livestock animal. Meat pens placing 3rd - 5th place will be sold in the Junior Livestock Auction and must be brought back to the fairgrounds to be sold in the auction unless pen space is available.
7. The owner is the ONLY person allowed to take the animal through the auction.
8. Exhibitors must show their own animal unless they have approval from livestock management, or if they have 2 in the same class, then they may have assistance from another exhibitor from the same organization (4H, FFA, Grange, or Independent).
9. Ear tags will be available to leaders and advisors, and all market animals must be tagged prior to the weigh-in time. No animal marked by a hole in the ear or by a tattoo of the word sold may be exhibited as a market animal at the fair (State Rule #29).

10. Statement of Medication Releases must be turned in at the time of weigh-in.
11. Additional contingency charges to be 4% for beef and 5% for sheep, market goats, swine, rabbits, and poultry of the gross selling price per animal for the Contingency Fund.
12. The deadline for signing a Declaration of Intent or choosing to withdraw animals is Thursday, February 20, 2026, at noon. If the form is not signed, the animal will automatically be withdrawn from the Auction.
13. Weight will only be used for classification during the show. All large animals will be sold by the head, and small animals will be sold by the pen
14. The exhibitor (owner) will be responsible for the proper care, including feeding and watering of all auction animals until delivered to the purchaser or until Fair Management releases responsibility.
15. Resale animals will be released first on Sunday, February 22, 2026. All other animals will be released at the Fair Management's discretion.
16. THIS IS A CASH SALE. Cash, credit card, or personal check payments must be made on the date of the sale for animal purchases. Exceptions to these requirements must be arranged prior to the sale.
17. SETTLEMENT – BUYERS: The National Date Festival will serve as a fiscal agent for the sale. Their office will be located adjacent to the sale ring.
18. SETTLEMENT – SELLERS: Exhibitors selling animals at the Auction will need to fill out the **AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF EXHIBITOR CHECK FORM** and mail it to the entry office by February 16, 2026. All auction checks must be cashed within 90 days of the date issued.
19. No exhibitor, advisor, leader, parent, guardian, or any other party associated with the livestock department shall approach any JLA buyer with the intent to purchase back or ask that the animal be donated after it has been sold through the Auction. If this rule is broken, then the exhibitor(s) associated with the offender will be released from the fair, forfeiting any and all awards, premiums, and sale of all animals through JLA, and said exhibitor(s) will not be allowed to show at the RCFNDF the following year.

2026 LIVESTOCK UNIFORM SPECIAL RULES & GUIDELINES

1. **Wash Boots, Rain Boots, Rubber Boots, and or Muck Boots are not the official dress code and will NOT be permitted in the show ring.**
2. All FFA, 4-H, Grange, and Independent members exhibiting livestock must wear the official uniform of their organization while showing or selling their animals. Ring stewards will check for a complete organization uniform when the member enters the show ring.
3. For the Fair the official **FFA show uniform** to be worn by all FFA exhibitors and by helpers, in individual and chapter groups while showing at fairs and livestock shows, shall consist of ankle-length white trousers or blue denim jeans, white dress shirt (short or long-

sleeved t-shirts are not acceptable) with the FFA emblem attached to the left pocket, and the official FFA four-in-hand necktie. The official FFA jacket is optional: if worn, the shirt emblem is not required. Hats or headgear of any kind shall not be worn with the official show uniform while showing.

4. For the Fair, the official **4-H uniform** consists of White or off-white slacks or white, blue denim or off-white jeans (ankle length), a white tailored blouse/shirt (not knit or t-shirts), a long or short-sleeved (no sleeveless) green 4-H collar or green 4-H tie, and a 4-H cap.
5. For the Fair, the official **Independent Juniors uniform** consists of white or blue denim pants, a white long or short-sleeve shirt (no sleeveless or t-shirts permitted), a belt, and closed-toed shoes.

Tag ID# _____

Species: _____

Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival CODE OF ETHICAL PRACTICES

I, _____ believe that my participation in the Riverside County Fair Junior Livestock show demonstrates my own ability, knowledge, and skills as a feeder and fitter of livestock. I will do my own work and only accept advice and support from others.

I have not used abusive or questionable techniques in the feeding, fitting, and showing of my animal. I have not resorted to fraudulence, illegal or deceptive practices when fitting them for show. I will not allow my parents, my supervisor, or any other adult to employ such practices on my animals. I have asked my parents and supervisors of my project animal not to break the rules or make exceptions on my behalf.

I have read and understood all the General and Livestock Rules of the Riverside County Fair & NDF. I wish for my livestock project to be an example of how to accept what life has to offer – good and bad – and how to live with the outcome. I realize that I am responsible for the proper care and treatment of my animals; the production of wholesome food and the development of sound moral character in myself and others.

MANDATORY SIGNATURE REQUIRED The Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, and all associated with the above-mentioned will assume no responsibility for death or injury to livestock or persons as well as any damage to property of others during the said event.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Club/Chapter Name: _____

Name of Advisor/Leader Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name of Exhibitor's Parent/Guardian: _____ Signature: _____

Junior Livestock Auction Certificate of Animal Medication: Every market animal exhibitor at the Riverside County Fair Junior Livestock Show must complete this form prior to the sale of an animal at the Junior Livestock Auction. The animal will not be eligible for sale if the form is not filled out and signed.

UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, WE THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFY THAT: No unauthorized chemicals have been used which would cause the carcass to fail USDA and Food & Drug Administration Standards and the withdrawal time required of any medication (including medicated feed) or pesticide administered must be adhered to.

As the owner of this market animal, I acknowledge I will be responsible for my animal if it is rejected at a processing center due to the presence of drug residues. If drug residue is detected I may be liable to the buyer for an amount equal to three times the purchase price and may also be liable for attorney's fees and civil penalties (Food and Agriculture Code Section 14363).

Exhibitor signature: _____ date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ date: _____

Leader/Advisor signature: _____ date: _____

**This form must be filled out where applicable or entry will not be accepted.
TURN IN AT SCALE - ONE PER MARKET ENTRY NEEDED**

2026 Livestock Camping Rules and Guidelines

1. There are a limited number of spaces on the fairgrounds for dry camping only.
2. Chapter or club advisors must request camping space by completing the livestock campground request form and returning it to the fair office. The form is online and must be returned by Saturday, January 19, 2026, to the entry office.
3. Fair will notify chapter and club advisors as to the space size location and move-in time at a later date.
4. Camp curfew is 10:00 PM through 6:00 AM
5. No loud noises during this time
6. No alcohol or smoking
7. No dogs
8. No greywater dumping.
9. Fire lanes must be clear at all times.
10. All vehicles not used to camp must be off the grounds by 9:00 am or they will be towed.
11. Any materials that do not fit in the assigned camp space must go in the overflow area. There will be a charge for the use of the overflow area.
12. No running, playing, or destruction of another camp will be tolerated if any member is found intentionally destroying another person's property, the entire club will be excused from the fair and all premiums will be forfeit.
13. Any club or chapter violating these rules will be fined \$50.00 for the first violation; \$100 and for any additional violation period any club or chapter with more than one violation will not be allowed to use the campground the following year.

Junior Livestock Campground Request Form
RIVERSIDE COUNTY FAIR & NATIONAL DATE FESTIVAL

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY
PLEASE DO NOT COMBINE GROUPS OR CLUBS (EXCEPT FFA)
EACH TRAILER/TENT CAMPER NEEDS THEIR OWN FORM

Exhibitor Name: _____

Ranch/Chapter/Club Name: _____

Contact name & phone number for the person transporting the trailer or setting up the tent:

Name & phone # of adults camping if different than above:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

CAMPGROUND SPACE REQUESTS

Dairy Goats/Poultry (**February - Thursday 13 – Saturday 15, 2026**) –must be cleared out by 2/15/25

Jr. Market/Breeding (**February - Sunday 16 – Monday 24, 2026**)

Trailer Info	Bumper Pull	5 th Wheel
Total length (from rear bumper to end of hitch or end of 5 th wheel)		
Total width (include measurement with pop-outs extended)		
Door Location	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger	AND <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear
Pop-out Locations	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger	<input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear <input type="checkbox"/> Middle
Clarify		

Please Email this request form by January 19, 2026

showlivestock@gmail.com

Payment for camping must be made through the show website datefest.com

NOTE: ELECTRICITY AND WATER ARE SCARCE AND NOT GUARANTEED. SPACE IS LIMITED. WE WILL TRY TO PLACE GROUPS TOGETHER TO ALLOW FOR "COMMON SPACE" AT THE CLUB CAMP. TRAILERS WILL BE MOVED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE FITS. EVERY TRAILER/CAMPER MUST HAVE THIS FORM ON FILE. FFA ADVISORS, PLEASE ATTACH TENT AND TRAILER SPECIFICATIONS.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FAIR & NATIONAL DATE FESTIVAL
Presented by Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
Authorization for Release of Exhibitor Checks Form

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS
Requests for the release of any checks must be made in advance.
Please submit this form by February 17, 2026

**Request for the release of all auction checks must be made by an authorized FFA
Advisor or 4-H Leader of the Club or Chapter's Auction Animal Projects**

MAIL ALL AUCTION CHECKS DIRECTLY TO THE EXHIBITOR

Name: _____

Address: _____

MAIL ALL AUCTION CHECKS DIRECTLY TO:

FFA Advisor: _____ Phone: _____

Chapter: _____ School: _____

Address: _____

4H Leader: _____ Phone: _____

Club: _____ School: _____

Address: _____

I WILL PICK UP ALL THE AUCTIONS CHECKS

Leader or Advisor: _____ Club or Chapter: _____

Please email this request form by February 16, 2026

Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
Attn: Entry Office – Exhibitor Checks
82503 Hwy 111, Indio, CA 92201