

# **2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show**

## **Merit Award Application**

**Application Due: Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> by 3:00 p.m.**

### **Purpose:**

The Merit Award Program is intended to assist in the purchase, care, and feeding of animals to be shown at the 2027 Stanislaus County Fair Junior Livestock Show. This award can be used for a Market Beef animal.

### **Qualifications:**

Applicants must be an exhibitor at the 2026 Stanislaus County Fair and be eligible to exhibit their project at the 2027 Stanislaus County Fair. PREVIOUS MERIT AWARD WINNERS **MAY NOT** APPLY FOR ANOTHER AWARD.

### **Criteria:**

Award recipients will be chosen on the basis of past records, home facilities, experience, and the ability to carry his or her project through to the 2027 Stanislaus County Fair. See attached judging sheet for specific criteria.

Upon selection, recipients will be required to complete additional agreements and forms. Among other requirements, the recipients will be required to write at least five 'Thank You' notes and/or progress reports to the award sponsor(s). These notes will be spaced out between the time of selection and the 2027 Stanislaus County Fair. Please see the enclosed agreements.

### **Application Process**

Only one application may be submitted.

The application packet consists of the following:

- **Merit Award Application** with the attached story.
- **Merit Award Requirements** for the beef animal. This form must be signed by the applicant, his/her parent or guardian and his/her project leader or advisor.
- **Merit Award Reference Report** from the applicants 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor. This form must be returned in a sealed envelope with the Leader/Advisor's signature across the seal and the applicant's name printed on the front of the envelope.
- **Two (2) Merit Award Reference Reports.** These must be done by two (2) separate people and may not be an immediate family member or 4-H Leader/FFA Advisor. Each form must be returned in a sealed envelope with the signature of the person completing the form across the seal and the applicant's name printed on the front of the application.

The above items make up the application packet.

**No late application packets will be accepted.**

**Must be turned into the Livestock Office or mailed to**

**Lori Marchy**

5049 Morgan Rd

Ceres, CA. 95307

**No later than July 15, 2026. Applicants will be contacted for interviews.**

**Recipients must be available to attend the awards dinner at the Diamond Bar Arena!**

Award Winners:

Merit Award winners will receive, toward the purchase, care, and feeding of their project:

- ❖ Purchase of Market Beef Animal: \$750.00
- ❖ Beef Animal Exhibited at the Stanislaus County Fair: \$750.00

Award winners will receive their award money after filling out and returning the additional required paperwork and sending copies of sponsor correspondence to the Stanislaus County Fair.

**The Awards Dinner will be held August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Diamond Bar Arena.**

### **Award Donors:**

These dynamic individuals and firms are dedicated to this special project. Winners are matched up with a donor and are responsible for keeping in contact with the sponsor during the year. This personal communication is imperative to the success of the Merit Award Program.

### **Questions:**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Lori Marchy  
(209) 678-1265  
lmarchy@aol.com

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show</b> <b>Merit Award <u>Judging Criteria</u></b></p>
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**Application:**

✓ <b>Story</b>	<b>110 points</b>
○ Size and Scope	(50 points)
○ 4-H/FFA involvement	(30 points)
○ Maintains Interest	(30 points)
▪ Creative	
▪ Grammatically correct.	
✓ <b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<b>30 points</b>
○ (list of involvement)	
✓ <b>Letters of Recommendation</b>	<b>40 points</b>
✓ <b><u>Neatness of Application</u></b>	<b><u>20 points</u></b>
	<b>200 points</b>

**2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show**  
**Merit Award Application**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever exhibited at the Stanislaus Country Fair before? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, how many times have you participated? \_\_\_\_\_

List the type(s) of livestock you have shown at previous Stanislaus County Fairs:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list your activities, memberships, and honors or awards in any organizations outside of 4-H or FFA (ex: school, livestock/Agricultural organizations, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Attach a story (300-500 words) explaining why you deserve a Livestock Merit Award. Please explain the size and scope of your project (past, present, and future), the knowledge and skills gained from your project as well as 4-H/FFA involvement including your leadership and community service experience. Please attach your story to your application.

**2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show**  
**Merit Award Requirements**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby make application for a Stanislaus County Fair Junior Livestock Merit Award. I agree that I will purchase a Market Beef Animal and own it at least 120 consecutive days prior to the opening day of the Stanislaus County Fair, as outlined by the Stanislaus County Fair Exhibitor's Handbook.

I agree that I will feed and fit my animal to the best of my ability and that I will follow a feeding and fitting program recommended or approved by my 4-H Project Leader or FFA Advisor.

I agree that I will exhibit this Market Beef Animal at the 2027 Stanislaus County Fair.

I understand that if I am selected as a winner, it is my responsibility to keep my sponsor apprised of my animal's progress.

I understand that if I do not complete the requirements apprised of the Merit Award Program or do not exhibit this animal at the 2027 Stanislaus County Fair, I will return all Merit Award monies advanced to me. I further understand that if all of the award money is not returned, I will forfeit my showing privileges at all California fairs.

I understand if I am selected as a winner, I cannot apply for this award again in the future. I also understand that I may not transfer this award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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I hereby agree to permit my son or daughter to apply for the 2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Merit Award. If he or she is selected as a winner, I will offer reasonable help and encouragement to see this project through to a successful conclusion.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent of Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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I consider this applicant a worthy individual to represent his or her 4-H Club or FFA Chapter if selected as a recipient of the 2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Merit Award by the committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent of Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show**  
**Merit Award Reference Report 1 of 2**

- This reference report must be returned by the applicant with his/her application packet.
- This reference report must be in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal and the applicant's name printed on the front of the envelope.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consider the applicant to be capable and qualified to raise a project animal for the Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show?       Yes       No

Merit Award recipients must communicate, in writing, with their sponsor. What indication do you have that the applicant will develop a rapport with the sponsor?

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What information do you know about the applicant that would assist the committee in determining his or her qualifications?

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Additional Comments, if any:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Reference

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Reference

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# 2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show

## Merit Award Reference Report 2 of 2

- This reference report must be returned by the applicant with his/her application packet.
- This reference report must be in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal and the applicant's name printed on the front of the envelope.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consider the applicant to be capable and qualified to raise a project animal for the Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show?       Yes       No

Merit Award recipients must communicate, in writing, with their sponsor. What indication do you have that the applicant will develop a rapport with the sponsor?

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What information do you know about the applicant that would assist the committee in determining his or her qualifications?

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Additional Comments, if any:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Reference

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Reference

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**2027 Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show**  
**Merit Award Reference Report**  
**4-H Advisor or FFA Instructor**

- This reference report must be returned by the applicant with his/her application packet.
- This reference report must be in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal and the applicant's name printed on the front of the envelope.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How long has the applicant been involved in 4-H or FFA in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consider the applicant to be capable and qualified to raise a project animal for the Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show?       Yes       No

Do you feel the applicant will fulfill his/her obligation to maintain monthly communication with the award sponsor?       Yes       No

Do you feel it would be financially feasible for this applicant to show at the Stanislaus County Fair Market Beef Show without the support of the Merit Award? If not, please explain:

Yes       No

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If the applicant is selected, will his/her project be under your supervision?  Yes       No

If not, please list the supervisor/Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

What information do you know about the applicant that would assist the committee in determining his/her qualifications?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments, if any:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name & Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date