

2024-2025 Sumter County Fair Market Steer Show & Sale Rules

GENERAL RULES

Your completion of the online application indicates that you have read and understand the rules and consequences. You are stating that there is not a rule listed that you feel you cannot abide by.

INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The Sumter Fair Association, Inc.'s Board of Directors reserves the right to amend, change, or add to, and interpret the following rules and dates at any time and to arbitrarily settle and determine all questions and differences connected with or incident to the Fair. Provided notice of such amendments, changes, or additions shall be furnished to all registered exhibitors, FFA Advisors and 4-H Agents. Final interpretation, consideration, enforcement, and intent of the rules and important dates shall be at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

The rules (including those listed on the important dates) that are broken, that have no monetary consequences, will result in the exhibitor being ineligible to show and/or sell the animal. Animal must leave premises immediately. Youth will no longer be considered an exhibitor. *Rules with monetary consequences: 1st offense \$250.00 fine, 2nd offense \$500.00 fine, 3rd offense immediate disqualification.

LIMITED ENTRIES

To maintain the quality of the show and sale, the Fair reserves the right to limit the number of market steer entries to **73 steers**. Steer exhibitors must be at least 10 years of age by September 1, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

1. A \$60.00 non-refundable application fee will be required with each application. This will include two non-voting passes (value of \$60.00), that may be upgraded to voting membership passes for an additional \$10.00 per pass. Passes will be mailed out one month prior to fair.
2. Applicant must not have completed the 12th grade. Applicant must be enrolled in a Sumter County school or applicant must live or reside in Sumter County, with exception to those who were exhibitors during the 2021 fair due to an immediate family member owning property in Sumter County. Animals must be owned and shown by a bona-fide Sumter County FFA or 4-H member. See your FFA advisor or 4-H agent for qualifications. (Chapters/clubs, please note that a member of named chapter/club must exhibit designated animal.)
3. Completed application and fee are due on or before Friday, May 12, 2024, by 11:59pm. Application must be approved by FFA Advisor or 4-H Agent (fair office will send applicants name to designated organization for eligibility).
4. If more than 73 steer applications are received, a drawing will be held to determine who will be in the show and sale. If an exhibitor applies for the drawing and is selected to show and does not present an animal at the initial weigh in, they forfeit the opportunity to apply the following year.
5. Exhibitors of the Sumter County Fair are forbidden to show a Market Animal in any other fair except for the State Fair.
6. A non-Sumter County resident that currently qualifies under rule #2 is prohibited from showing another Market Animal in any other county fair, if they do, they are ineligible to apply to the Sumter County Fair.
7. If exhibitor has shown in another Florida County fair prior to the Sumter County Fair or if exhibitor shows in another Florida County after the Sumter County Fair in the same calendar year, they are permanently disqualified from the Sumter County Market Show and Sale.
8. Alternates, at will, may purchase an animal, and present at initial weigh-in and will move up if any exhibitor drops out or does not meet set requirements. Should an exhibitor not make the show/sale,

no solicitation is allowed in any manner on the fairground's property.

9. High school seniors (12th grade) that have successfully completed three consecutive individual market animal projects in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades will have TWO balls entered for the drawing. There is no guarantee of a place in the show/sale and all expenses associated with that animal are at the exhibitor's expense and risk.

RULES FOR EXHIBITION

10. Exhibitors must provide all necessary transportation for their animal.
11. Project animals will be required to comply with state minimum health regulations and USDA regulations including drugs. Exhibitors shall assume all responsibility for said regulations. It is required that the exhibitor and parent/guardian sign the drug certification form on front page of record book prior to acceptance to show or sale. This will be checked and verified. The fair board does not assume any financial responsibility for any contaminated carcass. All animals are subject to a random drug test. All market animals are required to be tagged with valid official USDA/State ID at initial and final weigh in. Health certificates are required at final weigh-in and animals will be required to pass state inspection. Please reference Florida Statute 5C-4 for more information regarding the admission of animals for exhibition.
12. No mechanical device will be allowed or used, including but not limited to, cable halters, big jim halters, nose rings, or nose tongs on the fairgrounds at any time.
13. All animals must be clean and free of debris at initial and final weigh in. Exhibitor will only weigh one animal, one time.
14. Initial Weigh-in: Date and time will be listed on the "Important Dates" page. All animals must be weighed/tagged and checked in. Breeder's Certificate (Sumter County animals only) must be turned in at the initial weigh-in. NO BULLS will be accepted. The exhibitor and the animal are required to be present. Once the market animal is tagged, the exhibitor must abide by our rules.
15. If animal should die **within 120 hours (5 days) after initial weigh-in**, exhibitor must notify chairman within the 120 hours. After exhibitor notifies chairman, exhibitor has 10 days to replace and officially weigh replacement animal.
16. Final Weigh-in: Date and time will be listed on the "Important Dates" page, alternates will have a designated time slot to check in animals. The exhibitor entering the animal must be present to handle their animal, including but not limited to weighing, showing, and selling.
17. On the day of the final weigh-in, the barn will be locked. No one will be allowed inside the barn area until all steers are weighed in and secured in their stall. Steers must have neck ropes on & tied when stalled and exhibitors will be allowed to bring a bucket to feed and water their steer before exiting the barn.
18. The Livestock Committee reserves the right to judge and sift any unruly animal or exhibitor at any time during the fair. Manageability test will be conducted on Monday @ 10:00 a.m. in The Cow Palace. Any animal exhibiting any physical impairment will be subject to sifting. If any animal is being considered for sifting, every effort will be made to contact the exhibitor, the parent or guardian and exhibitor's 4-H agent or advisor so they can be present during the sifting process. Any replaced animal will be notified by 12pm Monday March 3, 2025.
19. Animals will be divided into weight classes by the Livestock Committee for the show.
20. On show night, exhibitors who place 1st or 2nd in their class, Sumter County Bred-By, Best of Sumter County, or are a Showmanship finalist must remain in the barn with their animal. If the exhibitor is NOT present, they will be disqualified from these classes.
21. Each exhibitor assumes all responsibilities for his/her animal in case of death, injury, or loss until the sale of animal. The Fair Board does not assume any financial responsibility for the sale of the animal other than reasonable effort to collect the money from the buyer and add-on people. If a buyer does not pay for the animal, the fair board, at its option, may pay the exhibitor resale value of the animal. There is no guarantee of a place in the show/sale and all expenses associated with animal

- are at the exhibitor's expense and risk.
22. Exhibitors who purchase an animal at the market sale will be responsible for making payment before exhibitor checks are released. If the invoice has not been paid, the outstanding balance will be deducted from exhibitor's check.
 23. The livestock shows and sale are listed in the "Important Dates". All animals will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for slaughter. Three percent (3%) of the selling price for steers will be retained, (Does not apply to add-ons)

FINEABLE OFFENSES

Failure to comply with the following rules will result in the exhibitor being fined per offense.

1st offense \$250.00, 2nd offense \$500.00, 3rd offense will result in disqualification.

24. Exhibitors must write (3) three new prospective buyer's letters. Copies of the three buyer's letters including addresses must be emailed to the Fair Office @ sumterfairexhibitor@aol.com by date listed on the Important Dates Sheet.
25. Exhibitors will be required to maintain and care for their animal and attractive quarters daily throughout the fair. Exhibitors are required to sign in by 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each day their animal is on the grounds.
26. Nameboards must be displayed by 5:00pm the day following final weigh-in.
27. No drenching is permitted without approval and supervision by the chairman.
28. Grooming: All animals must be washed within 24 hours of arrival, on show day, and sale day. No decorating of animals is allowed. No Professional groomers in the barns. Any non-exhibitor assistance must be pre-approved by the chairman.
29. All steers are required to have a neck rope while tied in the barn, to be provided by the exhibitor (bring to final weigh in).
30. Only exhibitors will be allowed in the barn one hour prior to the show and sale. The barn will remain closed during the show and sale.
31. For safety, exhibitors must wear closed toe shoes and appropriate school attire while exhibiting at the Sumter County Fair. This is always required while in barn, cleaning, feeding, grooming, walking, working with animals, and other exhibitor functions. No animal is to be ridden or on the midway at any time.
32. Barn gates with red top rails are required to be closed at all times.
33. Exhibitors, including sifted exhibitors, are required to sign in and work ring gates on night of sale in official dress. The chairman will have a designated sign in area.
34. Each exhibitor shall turn in handwritten "thank you" letters with a stamped, addressed, unsealed envelope to the Fair Office for buyer(s), buckle, banner and award sponsors by date and times listed. Exhibitors' check will be withheld until letters are turned in.
35. Sale pictures for the exhibitor and buyer will be available at the awards banquet. The buyer's plaque is to be hand delivered to the buyer within 21 days and the exhibitor is required to return the signed form to the fair office on or before the 21st day. Exhibitors' check will be withheld until letters are turned in.

DISQUALIFYING OFFENSES

Failure to comply with the following rules will result in disqualification from the Sumter County Fair.

36. Exhibitors that exhibit at the Sumter County Fair will be required to have completed the Ethics Training Course ONCE to show. This class must be completed, and ethics number provided to the fair office before January 24, 2025, at 5:00pm. To register for the Ethics Course, visit this website: <http://www.floridastatefairag.com/ethics>. Exhibitors are required to maintain and provide record of their ethics number each year.
37. Meeting and drawing for show slots will be Saturday June 1, 2024, after the Exhibitor Banquet.

Exhibitor meeting is MANDATORY for all first-time exhibitors and at least one parent or guardian of a first-time exhibitor must be present at the initial mandatory meeting. Any new exhibitor requesting to be excused for not attending the mandatory exhibitor meeting, must provide a written request with the application, to obtain board approval. You will be contacted with approval or denial of the request. Failure to comply with these rules will result in the application being omitted and the exhibitor will be disqualified.

38. During the fair all exhibitors will be required to attend a mandatory meeting in the Cow Palace and turn in a signed record books to be considered an exhibitor. Check to be sure you have all necessary signatures. All exhibitors will receive a fair pass and be eligible for add-ons even if the animal does not make the show. Time and date will be listed on the important dates page.
39. **Steers** must be 25 months or younger at the time of show with a minimum final weight of 1,000 pounds and a minimum daily weight gain of 2.0 pounds per day, from initial weigh-in to final weigh-in.
40. **Steers** must be dehorned. Horn "stumps" shall be no longer than one-half (1/2) inch in length. Horns will be measured from the base of the skull to the tip of the horn at final weigh in.
41. Exhibitors will be required to wear official fair dress when exhibiting animals in the show and sale. Official Fair Dress: black pants, white shirt (tucked in), dark shoes or boots accompanied by official tie and jacket/vest of either the FFA or 4-H club. No entry into show ring without official dress.
42. Exhibitors showing misconduct, possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, misrepresentation, or failure to cooperate with the Livestock Committee in any matter will forfeit any prizes or premiums, will be eliminated from the show and sale, will be banned from showing the following year, or any other punishment deemed necessary by the Fair Board.

Your completion of the online application indicates that you have read and understand the rules and consequences. You are stating that there is not a rule listed that you feel you cannot abide by.

<p align="center">Sumter Fair Association 7620 SR 471 Bushnell FL, 33513 Phone: 352-569-6851 Email: sumterfairexhibitor@aol.com 2024-2025 STEER MARKET SHOW IMPORTANT DATES</p>		
April 12-May 12, 2024	11:59pm	Applications due Rules and the link to apply can be found online. @ www.sumterfair.net
Saturday June 1, 2024	2pm	Drawing Mandatory for first time exhibitor
Saturday September 7, 2024	8am-10am	Initial weigh-in and tagging. Must check in by 10am. 176 days on feed.
Saturday December 14, 2024	10 am	Optional Premier exhibitor workshop Contact the fair office for more information.
Friday January 24, 2025	5pm	Three (3) copies of new buyer letters to the fair office. Email to sumterfairexhibitor@aol.com
Friday January 24, 2025	5pm	Ethics numbers are due. Email to sumterfairexhibitor@aol.com
Friday January 24, 2025	5pm	Optional Steer pictures due for newspaper. Please email them to sumterfairexhibitor@aol.com
Saturday February 1, 2025	10 am	Optional Pre-Fair Workday (Premier Exhibitor Points)
Saturday February 8, 2025	10am	Optional Hoof Trimming and health certificate workshop.
Sunday March 2, 2025	4pm-8pm Alternates 7-8pm	Final weigh-in at the fairgrounds.
Monday March 3, 2025	5pm	Name boards must be displayed.
Monday March 3, 2025	6pm	Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting. Signed Record Books Due.
Tuesday March 4, 2025	7pm	Steer Showmanship
Thursday March 6, 2025	6pm	Market Steer Show
Saturday March 8, 2025	11am	Market Sale
Sunday March 9, 2025	10am-3pm	Clean stalls
Sunday March 9, 2025	10am-3pm	Approved handwritten thank you letter/cards for buyer and award sponsor in stamped addressed envelopes are due.
Saturday May 17, 2025	11am	Exhibitor Banquet (awards and buyer plaques)
Saturday June 6, 2025	5pm	Buyer's sign off form due 21 days after receipt of buyer's plaque.

PLEASE READ ALL IMPORTANT DATES AND RULES CAREFULLY

Link to online application: <https://sumterls.fairwire.com/>.