



2026 UTAH STATE FAIR OPEN CLASS LIVESTOCK RULE BOOK



Livestock General Rules and Regulations

Disclosure

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information on this website. However, exhibitors are cautioned that the current rules and regulations of the State Fair Park Authority, as interpreted by Fair Administration and the Board of Directors, will take precedence over this listing due to the possibility of typographical error or inadvertent omission.

In the event of conflict between the general rules and the special rules governing the various departments, the special rules will take precedence.

The Board reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with or incident to the Fair.

The Board reserves the right to amend or add to these rules, as it, in its judgment, may deem necessary.

Entry Information

All livestock entries will open on August 1. The entry deadline for the Utah State Fair Open Class Livestock Shows is **Friday, August 28, 2026**. The entry fee for open class livestock is **\$8/head**.

Late entries are accepted until Friday, September 4, 2026 and are subject to a late entry fee of \$16/head. To make a late entry, please contact Fair Management.

4-H and FFA exhibitors desiring to also exhibit in the open class shows must meet the open class entry deadline. Animals entered in the Open Class Breeding Shows and 4-H/FFA Breeding Shows are not eligible to compete in the 4-H/FFA Market Shows.

Registration and Pedigrees:

1. Animals must be registered and entered in the name of the owner. An exhibitor may assign a representative to show his or her animals, but the animal must be entered in the name of the owner. The animal must be registered to the owner at the time of judging.

2. Registration numbers must be shown on entry forms. Entries received without registration numbers may not be processed. Animals entered with pending registration numbers must have registration papers or proof of submission to the appropriate breed association at time of check-in.
3. Registration papers and tattoos may be checked prior to judging by the barn supervisor, Fair Management, and/or a national breed association representative.
4. Beef cattle must have a legible tattoo which can be compared with identification on registration papers. If a discrepancy or falsification is found, the animal in question will be ineligible for competition.

Breed shows and divisions:

1. A minimum of 15 head of any given species, provided by a minimum of two exhibitors not from the same farm or family, is required to establish a separate breed show. If the qualifying number are shown in any given year, a request may be submitted for a separate breed show to be established the following year. Contact must be made with Fair Management by January 1st of the subsequent year to be considered. Establishment of a new breed show may be dependent on space and/or budgetary constraints.
2. Any breed not having the required number to show for two consecutive years may be eliminated as a separate breed class but may still show in the Any Other Recognized Breed class if one is offered.
3. New breeds, or those without a separate show classification, may be shown in an "Any Other Recognized Breed" class if one is offered, or may be entered for display only.
4. An "Any Other Recognized Breed" class must have at least half the minimum number required to establish a separate breed classification before an actual show will be organized and premiums paid.

Display animals:

1. Displaying new breeds at the Fair is encouraged.
2. Display animals will only be allowed if space is available. Prior arrangements must be made with Fair Management in order to stall.
3. Display animals must pay the same entry fee as open class entries and are subject to all rules and regulations.

Health Regulations

An official health certificate meeting Utah animal health regulations, issued by an accredited veterinarian, must accompany all out-of-state animals certifying them to be free from communicable diseases. All animals exhibited must be properly identified on the health certificate by registered name, number, tattoo, and other identification marks. The health certificate must be presented to the supervisor of that department at the time of check-ins and maintained at premises where animals are exhibited.

All sheep and goats must be identified with an ear tag showing premises number and individual ID number in accordance with the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program.

No animal(s) will be allowed to be shown that originate from a quarantined herd or area, or that show evidence of a contagious or infectious disease, or a severe pathological condition.

Animals showing lesions of ringworm or excessive warts will not be permitted to show.

A veterinarian from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food will be allowed to inspect animals and/or health certificates upon request.

Market animals (swine, steers, lambs, goats) are not required to obtain an official veterinary health certificate as they will be inspected upon arrival to the fairgrounds by accredited veterinarians.

Brand Inspections

Sale animals must meet Utah change of ownership regulations on the brand inspection certificate.

Brand inspections on all market cattle (those intended to be sold) will be performed by a Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Livestock Inspector at the Fairpark during the weigh-in of market steers. Proof of ownership must be presented by the owner at this time. A brand card, brand inspection certificate, auction invoice, special sales invoice, or registration paper may act as this proof

Show cattle (those not intended to be sold) are also required to have proof of ownership brought with the cattle. Out-of-state cattle returning home will be required to obtain a brand inspection prior to leaving the Fair.

Judging

All animals must be paraded in the ring when ordered by show management. Anyone who fails to comply with this rule will be liable to forfeit any prize to which he or she may otherwise be entitled.

Exhibitors must be clean and neatly dressed when entering the showing.

Any act of discourtesy or disobedience to the show officials or judges on part of an exhibitor, driver, or fitter will disqualify any animal from exhibition.

Animals must be shown clean and trim or the judge may refuse to place.

All decisions rendered by the official judge(s) are final, binding, and not subject to review or appeal. By participating in this exhibition, exhibitors agree to accept and abide by the judge's evaluations and placements. Any form of protest, dispute, or challenge regarding a judge's decision will not be accepted or tolerated under any circumstances. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification and removal from the exhibition.

Premiums

No one exhibitor or exhibits from one herd will be allowed more than two monies in any one lot

Should an exhibitor bring more than two animals in a given lot, and placement of each animal occurs, the two highest placing animals in that lot from said exhibitor will receive premium monies. An animal from another exhibitor will not retroactively be granted a higher premium should a higher placing animal not qualify for premium monies due to lot entry limitations.

- For example; If an exhibitor enters three animals in a given lot, and the animals place first in Class 1, second in Class 2, and third in Class 3, premium monies will only be awarded for the animals that placed first and second in their respective classes. However, an exhibitor whose animal placed fourth in Class 3 would not automatically receive the third-place premium money, rather they would receive the designated premium money for their physical class placing of fourth place.

Premium monies vary for each species. Please see the individual specie books for more information.

Premium checks will be mailed to exhibitors following the conclusion of the Fair. All premium checks must be cashed by December 31 of the current year. Any checks not cashed will be void. No replacement checks will be issued after December 31 of the current year.

If an exhibitor loses their check a \$25 stop payment fee will be assessed. The fee will be deducted from the reissued check.

Release

Exhibitors must obtain an official livestock release form from show officials to remove animals from the Fairpark. Release forms can be picked up during designated release times. Please see the general livestock schedule or individual species books for more information on specific release times.

Exhibitors who leave grounds with exhibits before release time will be penalized by having premium monies withheld, unless special permission is obtained from Fair Management.

Stalling

To be eligible for premiums, exhibitors must keep stalls and tie-outs clean, and litter must be deposited in a place designated by supervisors.

The barn supervisor shall have entire charge of assigning stalls when necessary. Animals must always remain in the immediate proximity of the livestock barns and showring and must not leave their barns unless traveling to the wash rack, showrings, tie-outs, unless otherwise approved by the barn supervisor and/or Fair Management.

At the expense of the Fair, all pens and stalls will be bedded at the beginning of the fair/barn rotation. Barn supervisors will provide exhibitors with instructions covering feed storage and handling of bedding in the show barn. Exhibitors must arrange for their own feed, and for shavings after the initial bedding. Additional may be purchased through the Livestock Office.

The use of straw bedding is prohibited in the Fairpark.

Barn wiring is not set up to carry an excessive load of electricity. Please check with the barn supervisor before using connections for special hook-ups.

The use of tie-outs will not be permitted before 8:00 p.m.

Parking

The Salt Lake City Board of Health rules and regulations prohibit house trailers or campers on the grounds. House trailers must go to a commercial trailer park where sewer and electrical facilities are available.

Parking of livestock trailers on the grounds is prohibited. All livestock trailers must park in the designated trailer parking lot off grounds.

Vehicles will be allowed to park near barns for a limited time only for the feeding of animals. All vehicles parked near the barns for feeding must be removed by 8:00 a.m. or risk being towed. Exhibitors are encouraged to travel through Gate 14 from Parking Lot A to the livestock area whenever possible to help limit the number of vehicles parking near the barns.

Exhibitor Liability and Responsibility

Each exhibitor has absolute responsibility for the care and condition of the animal(s) they enter and bring to the Fair. Animals must be properly fed and cared for at all times while on Utah State Fairpark property, failure to do so may result in loss of premiums and disqualification from future shows at the Utah State Fair.

Each exhibitor shall be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned by any person, whosoever, by any animal exhibited, and each exhibitor shall indemnify the Utah State Fair and officers thereof, against all claims or demands of any kind or nature that may grow out of any injury occasioned by the animal exhibited or to arise from the negligence of the person in charge of such animal.

The Utah State Fair and its staff shall not be held liable for any injury, illness, loss, or death of livestock while on Fairpark property. All animals are exhibited at the owner's sole risk, and exhibitors assume full responsibility for their care and well-being. By participating, exhibitors agree to release and hold harmless the Fair from any related claims.

Livestock Code of Conduct

By registering for and participating in the Fair, all exhibitors, along with their family members, fitters, and other members of the exhibitor's show team agree to abide by the following Code of Conduct and all applicable rules and regulations.

1. Animal Welfare and Ethical Practices

Exhibitors must prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of their animals at all times. All livestock must be handled in a humane and ethical manner. The use of abusive practices, neglect, or any action that may cause undue stress, harm, or discomfort to an animal is strictly prohibited.

2. Prohibited Practices

The use of artificial enhancements, including but not limited to artificial hair, injection of air or other substances, and the use of unauthorized drugs or medications to alter an animal's appearance or performance, is strictly prohibited.

3. Respect and Sportsmanship

Exhibitors and their families, fitters, and other members of an exhibitor's show team are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner at all times. Courtesy and good sportsmanship must be shown toward fellow exhibitors, barn supervisors, judges, fair staff, and volunteers.

Disrespectful actions and behaviors will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.

4. Compliance and Cooperation

All participants must comply with the directions of fair officials, barn supervisors, and judges. Failure to follow instructions or interference with fair operations may result in disciplinary action.

By participating in the Fair, all parties acknowledge and accept these expectations and agree to uphold the integrity and values of the livestock exhibition. Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in penalties, including disqualification, removal from the grounds, loss of premiums, and/or restriction from future participation.