

# JUNIOR COMMERCIAL HEIFER SHOW

Chairman: Shane Bentke  
Vice Chairman: Ray Thaler, Jr.  
Secretary: Melisa Bosse

Committee: Brian Adams, Ryan Aschenbeck, Holli Baker, Reid Bentke, Cathy Boeker, Joyce Boeker, Trey Boeker, Chance Bolcerek, Craig Bolcerek, Wyatt Bolcerek, Leonard Dismukes, Josh Douglas, Charlie Easley, Blake Henry, Cassie Hueske, Bruce Kettler, Ryan Kettler, Marcy Kmiec, Kyle Koehne, P.J. Koehne, Kenneth Ladewig, Shannon Lambert, Scotty Luetge, Blake Marzahn, Mark Marzahn, Dustin Meier, Zack Murski, Jody Naumann, Bryan Ruemke, Adam Schroeder, Jay Schroeder, Scottie Schwartz, Adam Spies, David Thompson, Casey Voskamp, Jake Voskamp, Ricky Wellbrock, Dane Winkelmann

This project is a part of the Junior Livestock Division; however, 4-H & FFA members can show and sell in this program, as well as in the Junior Livestock Sale. (Example: You can sell commercial heifers, in addition to a barrow, carcass hog, colt, fryers, lamb, rabbits, steer, turkey, or goat). Exhibitors must abide by the General and Junior Livestock Division Rules.

1. **Online registration/entry deadline is March 15, 2026. Please refer to the JLA rules for all dates, policies and procedures that pertain to online entries and fees.**
2. This show is limited to projects owned, fed, and cared for by Washington County 4-H & FFA members in good standing and under the supervision of the Ag-Science Teachers and County Extension Agents. 4-H members must be nine (9) years of age or entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in accordance with 4-H Rules to be eligible to participate and must abide by all Fair rules, attendance, etc.
3. Crossbred heifers are desired, but purebred heifers will be permitted to show. Heifers must be dehorned in order to exhibit. No grooming except for clipping of head, ears, tail and belly will be allowed.
4. Tag-in and late entry deadline is March 28, 2026. Paper work will be collected and heifers will be tagged at this time. Paperwork due at this time will be: WCF Entry Forms and exhibitor information sheets. Time slots to turn in paperwork and tag heifers will be handed out at the orientation meeting. Paperwork will be collected and heifers will be tagged and tattooed at the Washington County Fairgrounds. No paperwork will be accepted or heifers tagged prior to the assigned times. Any paperwork not complete or any attempt to tag in early will automatically force the affected heifers to remain on the trailer and be moved to the end of the line.

5. Heifers must be Brucellosis calfhood vaccinated by March 28, 2026. Heifers must have calfhood vaccination identification in their ear and this must correspond with paperwork.
6. The following age heifers will be eligible to show:
  1. Halter heifers born October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025.
  2. Pen of three (3), non-halter heifers born October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025.
7. Heifers checked at the tag-in must have milk teeth, with no permanent incisors in view. Heifers not meeting the criteria will be disqualified from the program.
8. For the halter heifer division, exhibitors may tag in three (3) heifers or a family may tag in three (3) heifers per exhibitor. Exhibitors may enter two (2) heifers for competition in the halter classes. In a family tag-in, halter heifers must be specified to an exhibitor on the breeding sheets turned in at check-in. Once the breeding sheets have been turned in at check-in, no changes may be made under any circumstances. For the pen heifer division, exhibitors may tag in up to four (4) heifers and exhibit a pen of (3) heifers. In the pen of (3) competition, up to four (4) head may be tagged but if only two (2) heifers are eligible for the fair they will be able to sell in the sale, but will not be eligible to compete for prize money. A pen of two (2) can compete for record book awards. A pen of one (1) will be disqualified and not eligible to compete at the fair in any area of the commercial heifer division.
9. Heifers cannot be added after the March 28, 2026 tag-in date. Halter heifers may be switched among exhibitors in the same family provided a family tag-in was done. No switching of halter heifers will be allowed after the breeding sheets are turned in at the Livestock Entry Gate. Pen heifers cannot be switched after the March 28, 2026 tag-in date. However, pen exhibitors may be switched among family members provided a family tag-in was done. No switching of pen exhibitors will be allowed once heifers are penned.
10. Exhibitors must own heifer(s) 100% throughout the feeding period, starting on March 28, 2026. Exhibitor must feed and care for heifer(s) in Washington County on their facility, or other committee approved facility and exhibit heifer(s) without any aid or assistance other than that of immediate family, Washington County Extension Agents, Ag-Science Teachers, and/or 4-H Adult Leaders. Violations will cause the exhibitor to forfeit all rights to compete in the commercial heifer show.
11. Halter heifer entries must be halter broken by the summer clinics and be led into the show ring by the exhibitor at that time to be eligible to compete.
12. **Pen heifer exhibitors** will be required to view a digital presentation to be eligible to show at the Fair. Details on the digital presentation will be sent to all exhibitors.
13. **Halter heifer exhibitors** must attend and participate in one of the Showmanship/Training Clinics at the fairgrounds to be eligible to show at the Fair.

**July 25, 2026 or August 15, 2026**  
**Showmanship Clinic: 9 a.m.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	
Sunday, February 1, 2026	4 p.m.	Sales Facility	Exhibitor Orientation
Sunday, March 15, 2026			Online Entries Due
Saturday, March 28, 2026	8 a.m.	Barn 2	Tag-In
Saturday, July 25, 2026	9 a.m.	Barn 3	Showmanship Clinic
Saturday, August 15, 2026	9 a.m.	Barn 3	Showmanship Clinic
Wednesday, September 2, 2026			Palpation Window Opens
Saturday, September 5, 2026			Palpation Window Closes
Friday, September 11, 2026	4:30 p.m.	Fair Office	Record Books Due

14. Heifers must comply with Texas Animal Health Commission rules governing entry into the Washington County Fair. Check with your veterinarian for regulations concerning stock shows and sales before the Fair that would pertain to out-of-state shipments. Heifers must be palpated and at least sixty (60) days pregnant, but not calved by show time as stated on official health papers after inspection by a licensed veterinarian. Please have veterinarian state the trimester pregnancy is in. (No earlier than fourteen (14) days prior to the Fair). **Palpation must be done between September 2 and September 5, 2026. Heifers not palpated by September 5, 2026 will not be allowed to participate.**
15. Heifers will be checked in for the fair on a specified date and time. Health papers and breeding sheets will be collected at the gate.
16. Only exhibitors, heifers, and committee members are allowed in the show ring during the show. Any other person in the ring will disqualify the exhibitor and heifer associated with that person from the show and sale. Halter heifers getting away from an exhibitor more than two (2) times during the judging of the class will be tied to the fence and placed in that class. Halter heifers that get tied to the fence during their class competition and place first or second in their class will get one more chance to be shown during the championship drive. If the heifer gets loose again from the exhibitor, the heifer will be tied to the fence for the duration of the show.
17. Classes will consist of the following: Pen heifers are classified into their division at the initial tag-in on March 28, 2026. Pen of three (3) non-halter heifers born October 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025 from the following divisions:
1. Brahman/Hereford F-1's
  2. Black Brahman derivatives, i.e. black coated, with visible Brahman influence
  3. Red Brahman derivatives, i.e. red coated with visible Brahman influence, (including white coated)
  4. All other breeds
  5. Grand Champion Pen of 3 (winners from classes 1, 2, 3, 4 to compete)
  6. Reserve Champion Pen of 3 (remaining heifers from class 5 and the second-place pen from the division from which the Grand Champion was selected).

**Best Record Books: Record books are mandatory for all pen exhibitors. Finalist will be judged 60% on record book and 40% on personal interview.**

NOTE: Halter heifers will be measured and divided into classes of equal numbers according to hip height.

Division I Halter Heifers

- 7.
- 8.
9. Champion Division I Heifer (winners from classes 7 and 8 to compete)
10. Reserve Champion Division I Heifer (remaining heifers from class 9 and second place heifer from class which champion came)

Division II Halter Heifers

- 11.
- 12.
13. Champion Division II Heifer (winners from classes 11 and 12 to compete)
14. Reserve Champion Division II Heifer (remaining heifers from class 13 and second place heifer from class which champion came)

Division III Halter Heifers

- 15.
- 16.
17. Champion Division III Heifer (winners from classes 15 and 16 to compete)
18. Reserve Champion Division III Heifer (remaining heifers from class 17 and second place heifer from class which champion came)
19. Grand Champion Halter Heifer (winners from classes 9, 13 and 17)
20. Reserve Champion Halter Heifer (remaining heifers from class 19 and Reserve Champion from division which Grand Champion was selected)

Showmanship awards will be based on the divisions outlined in the JLA rules, #24.

NOTE: The Commercial Heifer Committee reserves the right to amend these classes to adjust according to number of entries.

18. There will be a showmanship contest at the conclusion of the halter heifer show. Exhibitors must show their own heifer. This contest is optional. Showmanship divisions will follow JLA rule #24.
19. Exhibitors questioning the classification of pen cattle on initial tag-in date will have thirty (30) days from the date classifications are released to present their concerns to the Commercial Heifer Committee Chairman.
20. Premiums will be set according to monies available. Ribbons will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place in each class.
21. **All heifers must sell.** Halter heifers will sell individually and pen heifers will sell as a group, the number of head times the money bid.
22. Exhibitors will be charged the following fees, deducted from their heifer proceeds:
  1. 6% commission fee from the sale price,
  2. \$2 per heifer to comply with the Beef Check-Off Program, and

3. \$15 per heifer for consignment fees – prorated and given back in prize monies.
23. Heifers will be released from the fairgrounds by the Commercial Heifer Committee. (Halter heifer exhibitors should be present to release heifers.)
24. The Commercial Heifer Committee reserves the right to amend these rules with the approval of the Washington County Fair Executive Board.
25. All heifers sold become the property of the buyer and will remain sold.
26. All exhibitors who sell must have their thank you letter(s) to their buyers and prize sponsors submitted to the Fair Office, according to JLA rule #33.
27. There will be no harassment of the judge(s) and/or the Commercial Heifer Committee Members prior to, during, or after the show. Judge's reasons for their placing will be considered adequate explanation of their placing.
28. This program is designed to be educational and beneficial to the youth of Washington County. Any parent or exhibitor not adhering to any rule(s) of this program, will be subject to discipline per the general and Junior Livestock rules as set by the Washington County Fair Board of Directors.
29. No fans will be allowed in Barn 2 (Pen Heifer Barn).
30. No display signs for pen heifer will be allowed to be hung until judging is complete.