

**Wharton County Youth Fair & Exposition
March 21 - 28, 2026**

WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

March 21 - 28

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINES

Commercial Heifer, Steer & Pen of Three	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Broilers & Roaster (Bird orders must be placed at entry)	Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Lamb, Goat & Dairy Merit	Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Ag Mechanics, Dairy & Jr. Breeding Beef	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Horse & Swine	Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Bucket Calf & Rabbit	Tuesday, February 3, 2026

TAG-INS, PICK-UP & TATTOO DATES

Commercial Heifer & Steer Tag-in	Saturday, September 20, 2025	8 - 9 a.m.
Pen of Three Tag-in (Wharton Livestock Auction Barn)	Saturday, October 18, 2025	8 - 10 a.m.
Dairy Merit Heifer Validation	Sunday, October 26, 2025	8 - 9 a.m.
Lamb & Market Goat Tag-in	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Swine Tag-in	Saturday, January 17, 2026	8 - 9 a.m.
Roaster Pick-up	Friday, January 30, 2026	Time TBA
Broiler Pick-up	Friday, February 13, 2026	Time TBA
Rabbit Tattoo	Tuesday, February 17, 2026	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

OTHER DEADLINES

Absent From SHOWING	Thursday, March 19, 2026
Ag High Point Award Deadline	Friday, March 20, 2026 (if not included with online entry)
Absent From SALE	Thursday, March 26, 2026
Thank You Notes - AWARDS & SALE	Wednesday, May 13, 2026

HORSE PROGRESS SHOW

Sunday, January 25, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.

LIVESTOCK MEETINGS - Wednesday, March 18

Steers & Commercial Heifers (1st-time Exhibitors only) - 5:30

Pen of Three (Mandatory for **ALL** exhibitors) - 6

Swine (1st-time Exhibitors only) - 6:30

*All meetings take place in
the Ammann Barn.*

ALL Entry forms **MUST** be submitted online. A link can be found on our website www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org. Multiple divisions can be entered at the same time. A Release of Liability Form can be uploaded when the entries are complete.

EXHIBITORS WILL BE ASKED TO SUBMIT A W-9 Form.

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2026 YOUTH LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Livestock Superintendents: Donald Kmiec, Denny Mears & Kevin Till

ALL RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED

Rules & dates are subject to change. Please refer to the website for most current rulebook.

1. Opening day of the Wharton County Youth Fair (WCYF) will be March 21, 2026, unless postponed or extended by the Board of Directors. The WCYF will close at midnight, Saturday, March 28, 2026. Check out times will be 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Sunday, March 29, 2026, unless specified differently in departmental rules. ANY EXHIBITOR WHO DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE CHECK OUT RULES MAY FORFEIT AWARDS, SALE MONEY AND THE RIGHT TO COMPETE IN SUBSEQUENT FAIRS.
2. As a condition for participation in the Junior Shows, every Exhibitor must agree to submit DNA validation samples of any and all animals entered by Exhibitor for purposes of identification. The WCYF requires that the animal exhibited at the Show be the same as the animal entered at the tag-in. WCYF specifically reserves the right to obtain and maintain hair and/or blood DNA samples and have analysis made on any animal entered for the competition. The conclusion reached by the testing companies/laboratories shall be final, without recourse against the WCYF or its service providers. In the event the animal's identity (Show sample) is found to differ from its validation sample, WCYF is authorized to permanently bar the Exhibitor and his or her family from any further participation in the Fair. The Exhibitor will forfeit all titles, awards, prizes, auction proceeds, premiums, and scholarships if the animal and/or Exhibitor is disqualified.
3. Competition shall be limited to members in good standing in a Wharton County 4-H Club or Wharton County FFA Chapter, and who live in and/or attend a primary or secondary school in Wharton County. All exhibitors must have been enrolled in a Wharton County 4-H Club or Wharton County FFA Chapter by January 31, 2026. Exhibitors may enter any project that has not been tagged in or ordered before this date.
4. Competition is open to exhibitors in 3rd through 12th grades.
5. In attempting to comply with the No-Pass, No-Play rules of the area schools, all youth exhibitors will be responsible for their grades. The WCYF office will verify eligibility on all exhibitors prior to packet pick up. This rule will be enforced by the WCYF for exhibitors in kindergarten through 12th grade. If the exhibitor is not passing, they will not be allowed to show their projects in the WCYF. Home-schooled students must present verification of passing grades three weeks prior to the Fair.
6. Entry fees for all market animals will be \$35.00 per animal (NOT exhibitor) and **MUST** be **submitted** and **paid** online. Entries for Jr. Breeding Beef, Ag Mechanics, Open Horse and Dairy must be **submitted** and **paid** online by the respective entry deadline. They are \$35.00 per entry. NO LATE ENTRIES FOR ANY PROJECTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
7. Livestock and Poultry entries will be limited to one entry per division, with the exception of Jr. Breeding Beef, Open Horse, Ag Mechanics and Dairy.
8. Family tag-in will be allowed in the Steer, Commercial Heifer, Lamb, Rabbit, Market Goat, Swine, Poultry and Pen of Three divisions. This will be interpreted as immediate family living in the same household. An exhibitor may tag-in no more than two animals per division, excluding Pen of Three Heifers, Rabbit and Poultry (see division rules). Each exhibitor must tag-in an animal in the division to be in a family tag-in. Example: John and Mary both must tag-in a lamb; the family also

has the option to tag-in an alternate or an alternate for each child, for an additional fee. Then exhibitors may choose any of the tagged in lambs for the show. If an exhibitor is listed on the exhibitor card for family tag-in, that child must have an animal in that division tagged in. Remember to list each child's name on the entry forms for family tag-in.

9. Scales in each department are official. One scale will be used to determine the weights of the animals in that department. If for any reason there is a question about a weight, the animal may be backed off the scale, the scale balanced, and the animal re-weighed IMMEDIATELY, but only ONE additional time. No time shall lapse between first and second weighing. Re-weighs do not apply to rabbits.
10. Exhibitors should familiarize themselves with the check-in times and dates of the different departments. Exhibitors showing two or more exhibits may have to make more than one trip to the Fairgrounds, and should plan accordingly. Check-in days and times will be strictly followed.
11. If an animal dies within two weeks after the tag-in date, the exhibitor has the option of finding another animal, as long as an alternate was NOT tagged in (excluding Rabbits & Poultry). *Animal must be retagged within two weeks of the original tag-in date.* Broilers or Roasters can be re-banded up to 10 days after pickup.
12. The Livestock Superintendents will assign all stall and tie out spaces. No person shall take possession of a stall without having been assigned. Shavings will be allowed in the Ammann and Johse barns. WCYF will NOT provide the initial shavings in the Johse Barn but will provide three bags of shavings per exhibitor in the Ammann Barn. It will be the responsibility of the exhibitor to remove all shavings from their stall area or be charged a fee of \$100. Stalls and tie outs must be cleaned by the end of checkout on Sunday, March 29, 2026.
13. Exhibitors must have ALL stalling equipment unloaded and/or set up no later than 5 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2026. Stall must be completed by Sunday, March 22nd at 12 p.m. No vehicles or trailers will be allowed into the fairgrounds after 5 p.m. on Friday, March 20th unless you have a parking pass or are unloading animals on designated check-in days. Set up cannot begin until shavings are in the barn. Stalling equipment should not include any elements that will block the flow of air in the barn.
14. All exhibitors must display signs with their name, club, breeder and/or sponsor (if applicable) above their entry, including dairy merit.
15. All exhibits must have been owned, fed, and groomed by the exhibitor since the beginning of the project. Exhibitor and exhibitor's parents/guardians agree that they are absolutely and completely the persons responsible for the care and custody of their animals. The WCYF shall be entitled to disqualify an exhibitor whose animal tests positive for any drug, even if the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents/guardians are innocent of any wrongdoing and did not administer the drug.
16. The WCYF is subject to the rules of the Texas Animal Health Commission, and encourages all exhibitors to read the rules that can be found online at <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/>. Any use of drugs or substances not approved by the Food and Drug Administration is strictly prohibited. All market animals entered into livestock competition will be subject to a random drug test for any unapproved medication or foreign substances that exceed levels established by the FDA, FSIS, USDA, or EPA. No medication or injections of any kind may be administered to any animal after check-in without the supervision of the Livestock Superintendents. The delegate may be the WCYF President, Official Veterinarian, or individual Department Chairman. If an animal becomes ill after check-in, the WCYF will make every effort to contact the exhibitor or the family of the exhibitor. If

the animal is in danger of dying, and the exhibitor cannot be reached, the WCYF will use its own discretion on calling a veterinarian. The expense will be incurred by the exhibitor and not the WCYF. The WCYF will not assume any responsibility in case of damage, death of animal, or any financial loss.

17. Feed and supplies are the responsibility of the exhibitor as specified in each department. Cattle may be fed and watered in the stalls, provided the feeding and watering is supervised. However, all feed and supplies must be removed from aisles and the area around the stalls kept neat and clean. Exhibitors will be allowed to feed hay in the barn, excluding pen of three and goats. Hay MUST be stored in designated area and/or tack area.
18. All owners of property or livestock shall care for, guard, protect, and preserve the same, as the WCYF will not undertake to do so, unless specified in the department rules. The WCYF will not be held responsible in the case of loss, death, or injury to property, livestock, poultry, or possessions. Any exhibitor who neglects his or her project will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Board, which may include elimination from show and/or sale.
19. The WCYF strictly prohibits any grooming or further care for show of any youth livestock project by anyone other than the exhibitor or his or her immediate family, (immediate family consists of brother, sister, mother, father, grandfather, or grandmother), County Extension Agent (CEA), Ag Teacher (AST), 4-H Club Manager and Project Leaders (leader must be from Wharton County), or member of the 4-H or FFA.
20. No animal will be awarded a prize unless removed from its pen or stall and exhibited for judging. Any animal in the opinion of the ring steward or department chairman that is deemed uncontrollable will be eliminated from showing.
21. No premium or award shall be given if the project or display is not deemed worthy, or if the opinion of the Executive Board is that it is not the work of the exhibitor.
22. If an animal dies before final placing, it will be ineligible for further competition, except in the Roaster, Broiler and Rabbit competitions, where it will be at the discretion of the judge.
23. The decision of the judges, and classifiers once given, is final; only if fraud is involved will the decision be debated and rescinded.
24. Premiums and showmanship premiums for Dairy and Jr. Breeding Beef will be paid in cash on the day of the show. Premium money is donated by the Wharton County Commissioners Court. WCYF will pay premium checks for Dairy Merit Heifers from contributions made to that program after the close of the WCYF.
25. All sale items must be delivered to the buyer within TWO weeks of the Sale, unless other arrangements have been made with the buyer. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. The exhibitor must deliver the project(s) as per the buyer's instructions. If the delivery is not made, the exhibitor may forfeit any proceeds and the right to any future participation in the WCYF at the discretion of the WCYF Executive Board.
26. The WCYF, its officers, or agents are in no case responsible for the loss of property, injury, or damages to persons or property. The exhibitors shall indemnify the WCYF against any legal or other proceedings in regard thereto, as well as damages or injury to any person or property caused by the exhibitor (or any animals exhibited), or arising out of or in any way connected with such exhibition.
27. The Livestock Superintendents shall interpret and enforce all rules and regulations of the Livestock and Poultry Division of the WCYF.

28. Showmanship contests will be divided into age groups by the exhibitor's grade level for the current school year.
29. Exhibitors are not allowed cell phones in the judging area.
30. Any exhibitor's animal on the WCYF grounds is subject to use during in the Livestock Judging contest. When an exhibitor is called upon to furnish one or more animals for the livestock judging contests, he or she will cooperate with the Show. Refusing to allow an animal to be used in this manner, without Show approval, will result in the forfeit of any prizes or other action the Show deems necessary. Selection will be made under the direction of the department superintendent. Every attempt by the livestock judging committee will be made not to injure or harm any animal. Animals will be returned to their stalls once judging is complete.
31. Once the animal has entered the fairgrounds and has been checked in, the animal will not be allowed to leave the interior fence of the fairgrounds until check out time. Be familiar with the times on the livestock schedule.
32. ALL EXHIBITORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COME TO THE FAIRGROUNDS Sunday, March 29, 2026, FROM 8 to 9 A.M. TO RECEIVE FINAL BUYER INFORMATION. **A PENALTY OF \$100 PER DIVISION WILL BE CHARGED TO ANY EXHIBITOR WHO DOES NOT PICK UP FINAL BUYER INFORMATION ON SUNDAY, March 29th.** These buyer packets will be available in the Amman Barn near the area where the species was checked in/out. NOT in the Fair office.
33. Unacceptable conduct or failure to cooperate with directors, officials, volunteers, employees and/or security personnel of the Wharton County Youth Fair in all matters of policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
34. Any exhibitor who violates a rule in the Wharton County Youth Fair Livestock Rulebook will be subject to a penalty, which will be determined by the Executive Board.
35. All protests must be in writing, signed and brought to the Fair Office, with the \$100 fee. In the event the protest is upheld, the \$100 will be refunded. Acceptable protests will be at the discretion of the Executive Board.
36. During the online entry session, exhibitors will be prompted to upload a release of liability and W9 form.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

The WCYF is subject to the rules and regulations of the Texas Animal Health Commission. On May 20, 1991 the Commission adopted rules exempting Texas livestock and poultry entering INTRASTATE shows in Texas (including the Wharton County Youth Fair) from requirements established for entry into the state. This means that a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) is not required for livestock and poultry for our show. A current (within the past 12 months) negative EIA test is required for horses. Cattle are not required to be tested for brucellosis and tuberculosis. The Pullorum-typhoid test is not required for poultry.

DISCLAIMER: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY IN SOME WAY BE ALTERED BETWEEN THE PUBLICATION OF THIS SUPPLEMENT AND THE TIME OF THE SHOW. NEITHER THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOR STAFF IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS OR PERSONAL DAMAGE THAT MAY RESULT FROM ANY RULE CHANGE AND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR AMEND ANY RULE IT DEEMS NECESSARY.

PARENT WORK RULE

A parent/guardian of any exhibitor exhibiting a project at the Wharton County Youth Fair (excluding Bucket Calf) is required to work a minimum of three (3) hours per exhibitor. If a parent has helped on a committee for at least one year and the chairman has added the parent to that committee list, those hours will count for one exhibitor. It is the parent's responsibility to sign in with the chairman to receive the credit. If you have more than one exhibitor, you must work the other hours at one of the places listed below (WORK AREAS). If a parent cannot work the 3 hours, they may ask a family member or friend to work for them; all workers must be 21 or older. A link to view the schedule and choose a work time will be available on the website in early 2026. Parents/Guardian must sign up on or before March 2, 2026. Parents choosing not to work a three (3) hour shift will be assessed a fee of **\$500** per exhibitor. Parents/Guardian of exhibitors who choose not to work must make payment to the Fair Office by March 3rd.

If payment is not received the \$500 fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's Sale Check. Failure to comply with the Parent Work Rule may forfeit the right to future participation in the WCYF.

This includes all directors & associate directors. No changes of work hours will be accepted after March 2, 2026. DO NOT CALL THE FAIR OFFICE. It will be the parents' responsibility to find a replacement.

Work Areas: Main Gate, Exhibitor Gate, Ag Adventures Barn, Creative Arts Country Store

There will be links at www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org for each online sign-up location.

GOOD HERDSMAN AWARDS RULES AND REGULATIONS

Prizes will be awarded in the Beef Cattle, Dairy and Dairy Merit Heifer departments to the herdsman, caretakers, or exhibitors in charge of livestock exhibits. A committee will make inspections to determine the winners. The following points will be considered:

1. Orderliness and cleanliness of quarters, stalls, and animals, and having animals in stalls and pens.
2. Promptness in having stalls or pens cleaned by 5:30 p.m. each day and maintenance of exhibit in good order until 7:00 p.m.
3. All cattle must be in assigned stalls in the Ammann Barn from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and have a representative/caretaker on duty at exhibit at all times. All other times cattle must be stalled in the designated area, either assigned stall space or tie out.
4. Systematic and neat arrangement of tack, feed, and forage.
5. Aisles kept clean and clear of feed, tack and forage at all times.
6. Personal appearance of herdsman and helpers.
7. Observing all rules and regulations of WCYF.
8. Cooperating with Show Officials in promoting the Livestock Show in general.
9. Minimum 2 animals per division to be judged.
10. Cooperating with other exhibitors and exhibiting an attitude of good sportsmanship in general.
11. All exhibitors must display signs with their name, club, breeder and/or sponsor (if applicable) above their entry, including dairy merit.

The following divisions will be judged separately, and the exhibits in each division that are declared winners will receive awards.

A first and second place winner will be named in each division.

INDIVIDUAL:

Dairy Merit Heifer

Dairy

4-H GROUP:

Beef Cattle

FFA GROUP:

Beef Cattle

AGRICULTURE HIGH POINT AWARD

Sign Up Deadline: Friday, March 20, 2026 (noon)

This award is presented based on points accumulated in the livestock, Poultry, Pen of Three, showmanship and livestock judging.

Points are awarded as follows:

Market Project points are based on overall Sale order placing.

Grand Champion - 120 points	41% to 50% - 60 points
Reserve Champion -110 points	51% to 60% - 50 points
Top 10% - 100 points	61% to 70% - 40 points
11% - 20% - 90 points	71% to 80% - 30 points
21%-30% - 80 points	81% to 90% - 20 points
31%-40% - 70 points	91% to 100% -10 points

In Dairy Merit, points are awarded as listed below. In Jr. Breeding Beef, Dairy, Ag Mechanics (individual only) and Horse, where you can enter more than one, only one entry will count. Points are awarded as follows:

Overall Champion - 120 points	2nd in class - 40 points
Reserve Overall Champion - 110 points	3rd in class - 30 points
JBB Division Champion - 75 points	4th in class - 20 points
JBB Division Reserve Champion - 70 points	5th place and lower - 10 points
1st in class - 50 points	

Showmanship and livestock judging: All placings in showmanship will be counted.

1st place - 25 points	4th place - 10 points
2nd place - 20 points	5th place - 5 points
3rd place - 15 points	

IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE AWARD, EXHIBITORS MUST NOTIFY THE WCYF OFFICE BY NOON ON FRIDAY, March 20, 2026. Exhibitors must enter 3 or more projects to be considered for High Point.

HARD LUCK AWARD

Any exhibitor who is unable to show his or her project due to unforeseen circumstances, such as death or sickness of the animal, is eligible to apply for the Hard Luck Award. A letter from the AST or 4H Leader should be submitted to the Fair office by 5 p.m. Thursday, March 26. Letters may be hand delivered, emailed or faxed.

Please include the exhibitor's name and grade, as well as the name of the FFA or 4H Club.

APPLICATION TO BE ABSENT

SHOWING - Deadline Thursday, March 19, 2026

Exhibitors must be present at the scheduled show time for his or her project. If an exhibitor misses his/her class or show, no further consideration will be given, and no complaints that the exhibitor was over-looked will be allowed. An exhibitor may request to be absent from the show if he/she is involved in a UIL, FCCLA, FFA, 4-H event or fair event that conflicts with the show. An Absent From Showing form may be obtained from the WCYF office or website and submitted on or before Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. It must be completed and signed by the exhibitor, parent, and principal (UIL), Ag Advisor (FFA), Club Manager (4-H) or FCCLA Advisor (FCCLA). The application will be reviewed by a committee made up of three members of the Executive Board, the Department Chairman, and a member of the Jr. Fair Board from each of the school districts in the county. The committee's decision will be final. When an exhibitor is excused from showing his/her project, he/she may obtain a substitute who meets the following criteria:

1. Be from the same school district as the exhibitor
2. Be a 4-H or FFA member
3. Meet the same school eligibility requirements as the exhibitor. The substitute will not be eligible for showmanship contests.

SALE OF EXCELLENCE - Deadline Thursday, March 26, 2026

An exhibitor may request to be absent from the Sale of Excellence if the participant is involved in a UIL, FFA, FCCLA, or 4-H event that conflicts with the Sale. Any other important event will be considered. An application form may be obtained from the WCYF office or on the website and must be submitted on or before Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. If there is a possibility the exhibitor will have a conflict on the day of the sale, complete this form and turn in to the fair office. It is better to have this form turned in and approved. It must be filled out and signed by the exhibitor, parent, and principal (UIL), Ag Advisor (FFA), Club Manager (4-H) or FCCLA Advisor (FCCLA). The application will be reviewed by a committee composed of three members of the Executive Board and a member of the Jr. Fair Board from each of the school districts in the County. The committee's decision will be final.

THANK YOU NOTES (All exhibitors selling a project)

Due in Fair office Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - AWARDS and SALE OF EXCELLENCE

Awards - A list of all livestock award sponsors will be available on the website on the Exhibitor's page.

Sale - Each exhibitor selling a project in the Sale of Excellence (including Add-Ons), Freezer Sale, Replacement Heifer Sale and/or Silent Auction (Ag Mechanics) is required to write each of his/her buyers a thank you note and **turn into Fair office for check off!**

Things to remember:

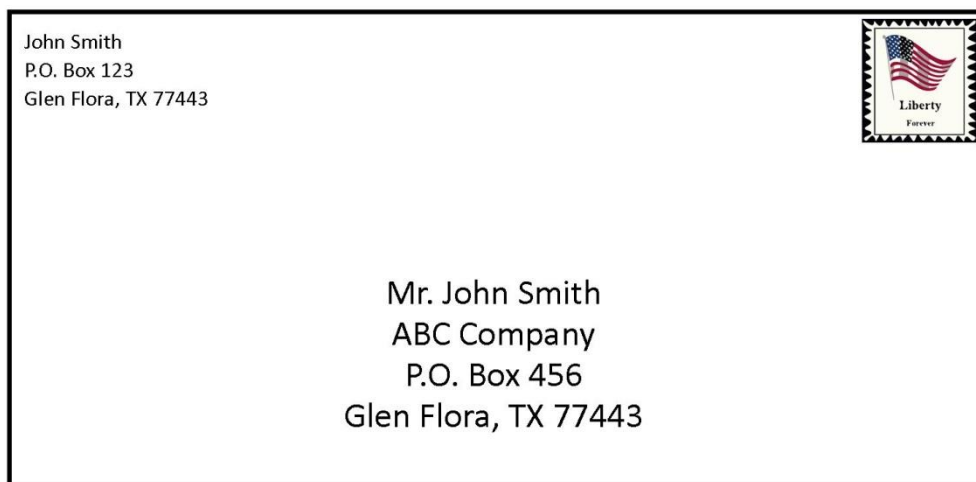
- Include personal thanks for attending the Sale and purchasing your project

- Include how you will use the money (college fund, future fair projects)
- Handwritten notes are appreciated
- Each envelope should be sealed, stamped and properly addressed to each buyer (see sample below)
- Exhibitor's return address should be on the envelope
- WCYF office personnel will document receipt of thank you notes and place in mail
- Due in Fair office by Wednesday, May 13th. \$25 will be deducted from any exhibitor's check who turns in notes after the deadline. *Sale money will be forfeited if thank you notes are not turned in.*
- Sale checks will not be released to any exhibitor who does not comply with this rule

Do NOT turn in thank you notes until all buyer information has been received, including add-ons. A complete list of buyer information will be ready when the deadline for accepting add-ons has passed. The list will be available for pick up at the Fair office.

Below is a sample of how to properly address an envelope:

- postage stamp - upper right-hand corner
- exhibitor's name and return address - upper left-hand corner
- buyer's name and address - center of envelope



Drug Policy

Exhibitor and exhibitor parents/guardians agree that:

All animals shown at the Wharton County Youth Fair shall be drug free at the time the animals are checked in at the WCYF grounds, and the animal shall remain drug free during the time such animals are at the WCYF grounds.

Further, no animal may be shown at the WCYF that has ever, during its life, been administered any quantity of an unapproved drug. The purpose of this Policy is to protect the food chain and to insure a fair competition among exhibitors. As used in this Policy, the term “drug” shall mean any drug, chemical, medication, or feed additive. The details of the Policy are set forth below:

Exhibitor’s Responsibility for Any Drug Use

The use by non-veterinarians of animal drugs, or other substances, in any manner other than in accord with the labeling approved by the FDA is a violation of federal law. Exhibitor or exhibitor’s parent and/or guardian, agree that:

1. They are, absolutely, the persons responsible for the care and custody of the exhibitor’s animal.
2. As a condition for participation in the Wharton County Youth Fair (WCYF) Show, exhibitor agrees to submit his/her animal to any drug test required by the WCYF. The WCYF shall be entitled to disqualify any exhibitor whose animal tests positive for any drug testing - even if the exhibitor and the exhibitor’s parents are innocent of any wrong doing and did not administer the drug and even if the source of the drug is unknown.
3. The drug test results of the testing laboratory used by WCYF, shall be final and binding and without recourse by the exhibitor against the WCYF, its Directors & Associate Directors, Officers, Managers, Representatives, Agents, or Employees.

Exhibitor/Animal Disqualification for Drug Use

1. Unapproved Drug Use

An exhibitor is prohibited from showing an animal that has, at any time in its life, been administered any quantity of any unapproved drug, chemical, or medication. Such drugs include, but are not limited to, any diuretic, unapproved growth stimulator, or other unapproved medication. Unapproved means not approved by the FDA and/or USDA for slaughter animals, including animals that may be destined for human consumption. All animals shown at the WCYF will be subject to random drug testing at the time of the show.

2. Approved Drug Use

All animals that are shown at the WCYF shall be drug free at the time the animals are checked in at the WCYF grounds. If prior to check-in, an animal has been administered a drug that is FDA and/or USDA approved for that species, sufficient time must have passed so that the animal does not test positive for that drug on the fairgrounds. Stated plainly, all animals must be free and clear of all drug and chemical residues at the time the animals are judged at the Fairgrounds. All animals shown at the WCYF will be

subject to random drug testing at the completion of the specific show. Please note that elimination time is generally longer than the labeled withdrawal time for most approved drugs. Under this Policy, a drug that is not approved by the FDA and/or USDA for the specific species to which that drug is administered is an unapproved drug. Also, if an approved drug is administered by a route, in a dosage, or for a condition that is not approved by the FDA and/or USDA, that drug, as so misused, is an unapproved drug.

Drug Testing of Animals

Random Drug Testing

Immediately after each show, at the discretion of the Livestock Chairmen and the Executive Board, the Champion and Reserve Champion animals may be tested, and one per class of each division may also be randomly tested for drugs.

Penalties for Drug Use

Unapproved Drug - Any exhibitor whose animal tests positive for any unapproved drug will be disqualified and shall forfeit all prizes, sale proceeds, and awards. The disqualification of an exhibitor will not alter the placing of the class of animals or the sale order. Further, the disqualified exhibitor shall be prohibited from exhibiting at the WCYF at the discretion of the Executive Board. The exhibitor must attend one 4-H or FFA chapter/club meeting and speak on the use of unapproved and approved drugs and the consequence on testing positive. The exhibitor must bring a signed statement from the club leader stating that you have spoken with the club/chapter. If this rule is not followed, the exhibitor shall be prohibited from exhibiting at the Wharton County Youth Fair for another year.

Approved Drug - Any exhibitor whose animal tests positive for any approved drug will be disqualified and shall forfeit all prizes, sale proceeds, and awards. The disqualification of an exhibitor will not alter the placing of the class of animals or the sale order. The exhibitor must attend one 4-H or FFA chapter/club meeting and speak on the use of unapproved and approved drugs and the consequence on testing positive. The exhibitor must bring a signed statement from the club leader stating that you have spoken with the club/chapter. If this rule is not followed, the exhibitor shall be prohibited from exhibiting at the Wharton County Youth Fair for another year.

Emergency Treatment at WCYF grounds - If an animal requires emergency treatment while on the Grounds, the exhibitor shall notify the Livestock Chairman prior to the treatment of the animal, and the Livestock Committee Chairman shall witness such emergency treatment of the animal. Only a licensed veterinarian will be allowed to administer any drug, chemical, or feed additive(s) to the animal. If the drug, chemical, or feed additive (s) administered by the veterinarian prior to the time the animal is shown and judged at the Show, the animal will be disqualified. If the drug, chemical, or feed additive (s) administered by the veterinarian after the time the animal has been shown and judged in the Show, the animal will not be disqualified, but the animal MUST be withheld from slaughter for the full withdrawal time and be drug and chemical free at the time of slaughter.

No Exception May Be Granted To This Policy - No Director, Officer, Manager, Livestock Committee Chairman, or any other agent or representative of the WCYF, has the authority to grant an exception to this policy. Such persons, therefore, cannot grant an exception of any kind to this Policy, and no alleged

exception – even if granted by such person – will be binding upon, or honored by, the WCYF, and any such alleged exception will not, in any manner, affect, excuse, or prevent, the enforcement of this Policy.

Procedure - It is suggested that the collecting company's designated representative assign the exhibitor or parent/guardian of the exhibitor to each animal to be collected. The animal to be collected will be designated by show officials (ring steward, superintendent, etc.). The drug testing company representative collecting the sample should explain to the responsible party the procedure for sample collection in an effort to facilitate cooperation. Collection can be taken anywhere (except the show ring), as long as accompanied by the drug company representative and the exhibitor or parent/guardian.

DNA Policy

Exhibitor and exhibitor parents/guardians agree that:

As a condition for participation in the Wharton County Youth Fair (WCYF), exhibitor agrees to submit his/her animal to DNA testing. The WCYF shall be entitled to disqualify any exhibitor whose animal's DNA does not match.

DNA for individual animals shown at the WCYF shall match the DNA pulled during the tag in for that market animal.

Immediately after each show, at the discretion of the Livestock Chairmen and the Executive Board, the Champion and Reserve Champion animals may be DNA tested, and one per class of each market division may be randomly DNA tested.

The DNA results of the testing laboratory used by WCYF, shall be final and binding and without recourse by the exhibitor against the WCYF, its Director, Association Directors, Officers, Managers, Representatives, Agents or Employees.

ENTRY FORMS

1. **ONLY ONLINE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Use the link on the homepage at www.whartoncountyouthfair.org to access the online website. This will be available after August 15th.
2. Each exhibitor must complete an entry form for each project entered and submit online by the deadline. A list of entries for each exhibitor will be given the AST or 4H leader for membership verification.
3. Entry fees will be charged per animal tagged in, not per exhibitor. If an exhibitor wishes to tag in two steers or two lambs, the entry fee will be \$70. This applies to steers, commercial heifers, swine, lambs and goats. Pen of three will be \$35 for first three heifers, then \$35 to tag in four or five heifers (for a total of \$70 if tagging in more than three). Rabbits and Poultry will remain \$35 per exhibitor, plus the cost of the birds for Poultry.
4. You will be prompted to complete and upload a Release of Liability when submitting your entry. Exhibitors with multiple projects need only ONE release of liability form.
5. Exhibitors will be prompted to upload a W-9 form when submitting online entries.
6. **If you are tagging in as family, each exhibitor tagging a project in the same division must fill out an entry form. Exhibitors who are immediate family members included in the family tag in should be listed in the Family Tag-In section on the entry form. This will allow any family member listed on the entry form to show any of the tagged in projects.**

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Chairman: Craig Hardin

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, November 11, 2025	\$35/entry
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
SHOW DATE:	Thursday, March 26, 2026	1 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 – 9 a.m.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Showmanship, Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. A project may be exhibited only one time at the WCYF and must have been constructed within one calendar year of the exhibition date.
3. All projects must be painted or properly treated and must be clean and in a presentable condition, even though they may have been used.
4. Exhibitors will be allowed to enter more than one (1) ag mechanic project as long as the projects are in different classes. Entry fee will be \$35 per project, individual or group. Exhibitor will only be allowed to sell one (1) project in the silent auction.
5. Projects may have been constructed by an individual or group and may be individually or club/chapter owned. There can be no more than 5 exhibitors on a group project.
6. All projects are to be identified with standard exhibitor cards. Any additional signs, banners, etc. must be approved by the Committee Chairmen. The project (entry) number must be displayed on the project in a manner where it can be easily seen
7. All projects will remain on the fairgrounds until check out on Sunday, March 29, 2026.
8. Non-essential personnel will not be allowed within 50 feet of the judging area during the judging process. Exhibitors and judges will be the only ones allowed in the show area during the judging process.
9. At check-in, the exhibitor must place a sign on the project stating their intent of placing the project into the silent auction.
10. If the project is intended to be placed in the silent auction, the Project Record Book will be given to the committee chairman at the completion of the Ag Mechanics show. The exhibitor will be required to declare a minimum reserve dollar amount that will be acceptable for the purchase of that project. The book will be displayed for the silent auction.
11. Before unloading or unhooking, the exhibitor must check with the committee chairperson as to where the project will be displayed.
12. Exhibitors are required to display a project record book along with their project. Books should include:
 - a) Full description of the construction process.

b) A complete itemized list of the bill of materials along with the itemized cost for the materials.

c) Pictures of the project from start to finish.

d) A list of any and all sponsors who made monetary contributions towards the project.

13. Exhibitors will be allowed to sell only one (1) Ag Mechanic Project in the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction will begin on Friday, March 27th at 9 a.m. in the Main Office Complex and will end at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 28th in Crescent Hall.

14. If at any time the project becomes unsafe, the Ag Mechanics committee will decide if removal is necessary, or what action should be taken to ensure safety.

15. If the project displays any containers holding hazardous material, the project will not be allowed on the grounds.

a.) Oxygen and Acetylene tanks must be completely empty!

b.) Chemical tanks must be new and/or unused!

16. If the project includes an internal combustion engine requiring fuel to operate the project, there can be no more than 1/2 gallon of fuel in the tank during the entire time the project is on the grounds. The fuel amount depends upon the size of the engine. Up to one gallon of fuel may be used for larger engines. Immediately after the show, the fuel line will need to be shut off completely. If the engine is for display only, there should be no fuel in the display unit at any time.

17. If the project has a battery, the battery cables must be removed from the battery immediately after the show.

18. At the time of entrance to the grounds, all fuel caps should be secured with tape and locked if capable.

19. If assistance is required to unload your project, due to size and/or weight, equipment will be provided by the WCYF. The WCYF will not be held responsible for any damages that might occur during the unloading process.

CLASSES

Class 1 - Agricultural machinery and equipment

Class 2 - Livestock equipment

Class 3 - Trailers

Class 4 - Shop tools and equipment

Class 5 - Home and yard equipment

Class 6 - Wildlife

*Class 7 - Truck and/or Trailer Accessories
(Truck Beds, Headache Racks, Bumpers, Etc.)*

Class 8 - Outdoor Cooking Paraphernalia

PROJECTS WILL BE JUDGED ON:

Workmanship: 30 Pts.

Design: 10 Pts.

Material Used: 10 Pts.

Practicality: 20 Pts.

Difficulty: 20 Pts.

Finish: 10 Pts.

BROILERS

Chairmen: Amanda Laitkep & Julia Evanicky

ONLINE ORDER DEADLINE:	Tuesday, October 7, 2025	
BIRD COST & ENTRY FEE:		\$2.40 per bird + \$35.00
PICK UP DATE:	Friday, February 13, 2026	TBA
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	3:45 p.m.
SHOW DATE:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	After Roaster show
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	Following showmanship
CHECK-OUT FOR CHAMPIONS:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 - 9 a.m.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. Broilers must be ordered through the WCYF Office.
3. All birds will be banded bearing official WCYF wing bands. Each exhibitor will be assigned a wing band number. Only wing-banded birds will be allowed to show. Broiler chicks will be a straight run commercial type. A minimum of 25 broilers must be ordered. Additional broilers may be ordered in increments of 25, not to exceed 75. Broilers must be ordered in the individual exhibitor's name, not one order per family.
4. All birds of the same division will be of the same hatch and of the same breed.
5. It will be acceptable to show either or both sexes in the Broiler division.
6. Family Exhibitors will be allowed to show any pen of broilers that was ordered by an exhibitor living under the same household. Once a pen of broilers plus alternate is selected for show, the wing band numbers of that entire pen must match. Wing band numbers between family exhibitors cannot be combined to make up a pen. **Example: If Jane and Tom Smith both order broilers to show at the WCYF and choose family tag in, at show time they can choose to switch pens. Jane can show the broilers banded under Tom's name and Tom can show the broilers banded under Jane's name. However, Jane cannot show two of her banded birds and one of Tom's banded birds.**
7. All broiler exhibitors will have a card in their exhibitor packet that **MUST** be completed with the Broiler wing band number the exhibitor is showing. **This card MUST BE BROUGHT TO CHECK IN.**
8. Birds with missing wing bands will not be allowed to show. Bands that are not legible will not be allowed to show.
9. Evidence of tampering with wing bands will not be tolerated. The decision of the judge is final.
10. An exhibitor will be allowed one alternate bird. That alternate must be with the exhibitor when he/she checks in with the birds. Should a bird die or become injured before sifting starts, it can be replaced by the alternate. If a Broiler dies after sifting and before the final judging, the exhibitor must report it to the chairman and request permission from the chairman to substitute an alternate.

11. To eliminate confusion during the scoring of birds, observers will not be allowed in the Poultry judging area. Due to the congestion and out of consideration for the next exhibitor, each exhibitor is asked to move on after his/her birds are judged, and to move boxes or cages out of the area. Parents or two other persons are allowed to assist the exhibitor in holding the birds. However, if the exhibitor or assistant fails to move as directed after scoring, they may be disqualified.

12. Grand and Reserve Champion Exhibitors will provide their own feed, and be responsible for feeding and watering their broilers during fair week. The WCYF will exercise every precaution in caring for the birds, but will assume no liability or legal responsibility in case of loss or death of birds while they are on the fairgrounds.

13. If a bird dies any time after judging, scoring, and placing, it may be replaced by a bird of similar quality for sale.

14. If there is any question about the breeding of a bird, the judge's opinion will serve as the final answer.

15. Only "Grade A quality" birds will be considered for the Sale of Excellence or the Freezer Sale. Sifted birds will not be sold in the freezer sale or sale of excellence and these birds must be removed from the Fairgrounds immediately after the judging is completed.

16. Broiler exhibitors will take all broilers home after judging. ONE Grand Champion and ONE Reserve Champion Broiler must remain at the fairgrounds until check-out date.

17. All birds are subject to drug testing.

18. Broilers will sell as individual lots in the Sale of Excellence.

19. Broilers will be released by the check-out schedule only. ALL BROILER EXHIBITORS will be required to come to the Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 29 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., to receive final buyer information and disposition instructions. A penalty of \$100 per entry will be assessed if participants fail to comply with this rule.

SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups, unless stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will take place after the judging of the birds.
- Only exhibitors may participate in showmanship.

BUCKET CALF

Chairmen: Mindy Merta & Sammie Kmiec

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, February 3, 2026	\$20 per entry
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Thursday, March 26, 2026	3 – 3:30 p.m.
SHOW DATE:	Thursday, March 26, 2026	4 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Thursday, March 26, 2026	End of show day

The purpose of this program is to teach future exhibitors not old enough for a market project the responsibility of raising and caring for a calf. Open to any youth in kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade and not showing any other *livestock* project in the WCYF.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. Calves must be born between December 1, 2025 and February 1, 2026.
3. Exhibitors will be allowed to show only one calf.
4. Exhibitor classes will be broken down by grade: Little Wranglers (Kindergarten), Buckaroos (1st grade) and Ranch Hand (2nd grade).
5. The show will be held in the Ammann Barn. This will also serve as the tie out area for these calves.
6. Bucket calf judging will be on the appearance of the animal and the child, as well as the ability to handle the calf.
7. All calves must be on a bucket or bottle. **NO Nurse Cows or Jr. Breeding Beef calves.**
8. All calves must be halter broke.
9. If the calf becomes uncontrollable and the child cannot handle the animal, they will be taken out of the show ring for the safety of our other exhibitors.
10. Calf may be any sex or breed.
11. All Bucket calves will be assigned to a specific area in the Ammann Barn by the livestock superintendents and must be in place one hour before the Show.
12. All exhibitors will receive prizes.
13. Bucket calves are not eligible for the Sale of Excellence.
14. NO PASS/NO PLAY rule applies to all exhibitors.
15. Exhibitors will be required to keep their areas neat and clean while animals are on the fairgrounds.
16. Texas dairy cattle, regardless of age or sex, **MUST** be identified prior to movement in Texas.

COMMERCIAL HEIFER

Chairmen: Keith Jedlicka & Clint Kalina

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, September 2, 2025	\$35/head
TAG-IN:	Saturday, September 20, 2025	8 - 9 a.m.
1st time Exhibitor Meeting:	Wednesday, March 18, 2026	5:30 p.m.
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Monday, March 23 or Tuesday, March 24, 2026	11 a.m. – Noon (optional) 7 – 9 a.m. <i>Gates will open at 6 a.m.</i>
SHOW DATE:	Tuesday, March 24, 2026	1 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 - 9 a.m.

Open to AOB & ABC

1. Exhibitor must read and be familiar with the “General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations”, including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock Schedule.

2. Tail hairs will be pulled on all heifers at tag in for DNA verification. (See rule #2 of General Rules.)

3. All heifers must be tagged in and weighed on Saturday, September 20, 2025. All heifers will be weighed on the same scale. Heifers cannot weigh more than 800 pounds at tag-in. If any animal weighs over the 800-pound maximum it may be backed off one time and immediately re-weighed. 8

4. Each exhibitor may tag-in no more than two heifers. Family tag-in will be allowed. Only one heifer can be shown at the Fair.

5. If a calf dies within two weeks of the tag-in, the exhibitor has the option of finding another calf, unless an alternate calf was tagged in

6. All Heifers will be classified at the WCYF check-in by a three (3) person committee. To be classified in the Brahman Influence, the heifer must show at least $\frac{1}{4}$ Brahman Characteristics. The Heifer Committee will have the discretion to combine the ABC and AOB Classes.

7. At check-in exhibitors must furnish a palpation certificate on the heifer from a licensed veterinarian for all heifers. A blood test will not be accepted Palpation certificates must be dated March 1st or later.

8. The Commercial Heifer Show will be Blow and GO. Meaning for Blow & Go: The animal can be washed, dried, brushed, and go to the ring. No grooming products can be used.

9. Heifers showing in the 2026 Commercial Heifer Show may also enter the Jr. Breeding Beef Show. Applicable entry fees apply.

10. Heifers will be weighed at Fair Check-in. The Commercial Heifer Chairmen will appoint a committee to establish classes from the weights. There may be only one class or there can be multiple classes. In the event that there is more than one class, each class will be placed. The winners of each class will compete for Champion Commercial Heifer. The second-place animal from the Champion’s Class will be considered for Reserve Champion.

11. The OVERALL Champion and Reserve Champion Commercial Heifer are required to sell in the Sale of Excellence. The sale of other heifers is optional. Exhibitors who do not wish to sell their heifer must scratch them from the Sale of Excellence. The deadline for scratching from the Sale of Excellence is one hour after the last Market Show results are posted. Heifers that do not make the Sale of Excellence may be entered into the Replacement Heifer Sale. The deadline for entering a heifer in the Replacement Heifer Sale is Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

12. Exhibitors who choose not to sell their commercial heifers in the Sale of Excellence can check out their animals Thursday, March 26th from 7 to 8 a.m., with proper release paperwork signed. The Commercial Heifer committee chairmen will be responsible for checking out the animals. All commercial heifers that sell in the Sale of Excellence or Replacement Heifer Sale MUST stay on the grounds until check out Sunday, March 29th.

13. Heifers may be bred at the show but any heifer that has calved will not be eligible to show in the Commercial Heifer Show.

14. If a Heifer loses its ear tag, exhibitor must notify their Ag Science Teacher or 4-H Advisor, and the Commercial Heifer Chairman immediately. The animal must be tagged to show and the old tag turned in.

15. During the WCYF, only the exhibitor or approved substitute may enter the ring and show the Heifer. (See "General Livestock and Poultry Rules")

ABC	AOB	Overall
Classes	Classes	Grand Champion
Champion ABC	Champion AOB	Reserve Champion
Reserve ABC	Reserve AOB	

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups, unless stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will be judged as a separate class.
- Exhibitors are required to show their own animal during showmanship.

DAIRY

Chairmen: Scott Valenta, Annie Gold, Mike Smaistrla, Danielle Smith & Denise Anderson

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, November 11, 2025	\$35.00/head
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Monday, March 23, 2026	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
COWS IN MILK CHECK-IN:	Wednesday, March 25, 2026 or Thursday, March 26, 2026	4 – 6 p.m. 7 – 9 a.m.
SHOW DATE:	Thursday, March 26, 2026	12 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 – 9 a.m.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. All animals must be dehorned.
3. Texas dairy cattle, regardless of age or sex, must be identified prior to movement in Texas.
4. Exhibitors must check-in with the Dairy Committee upon arrival at the WCYF and prior to taking animals home.
5. Exhibitors must have ownership of the animals 4 months prior to the show. Only PROMINENT Dairy breeds will be allowed to show (Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein, Brown Swiss, Milking Shorthorn).
6. Registration papers, if applicable, should be presented at the time of check-in. If an exhibitor has more than one animal per class, another Dairy exhibitor can show it. Dairy Committee may split classes, if necessary.
7. Where competition does not exist, animals will be scored on a classification according to the standards of the breed, and awarded ribbons and premiums based on merit.
8. Exhibitors are required to feed and water their own animals and keep their area neat and clean. Dairy animals will be stalled together.
9. Exhibitors must wear appropriate dress while showing: white shirt and white jeans or slacks.
10. The first place in each class is able to compete for Champion. The second-place animal from the champions' class will be brought in for judging of Reserve Champion at the judge's discretion.
11. Premiums for the Dairy Show are: Blue ribbons - \$35, Red - \$25
Showmanship Premiums are: 1st - \$25, 2nd - \$15, and 3rd - \$10
12. All Dairy exhibitors are encouraged to return to the ring for Showmanship.
13. Cows in milk may go home after they show.
14. Current year Dairy Merit heifers may not show in this department.
15. All Dairy Cattle must be in their assigned stalls in the Ammann Barn from 5 p.m. till 6:30 p.m.

16. All Dairy Exhibitors must clean out stalls and tie outs on Sunday, March 29, 2026 or be charged a fee of \$100.

CLASSES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 01 - Heifers born: Sept. 1 - Oct. 15, 2025 | 10 - Cow born: Sept. - Nov. 2023 (including younger animals that have freshened) |
| 02 - Heifers born: June - Aug 2025 | 11 - Cow born: Sept. 2022 - Aug. 2023 |
| 03 - Heifers born: March - May 2025 | 12 - Cow born: Sept. 2021 - Aug. 2022 |
| 04 - Heifers born: December 2024 - Feb. 2025 | 13 - Aged Cow born: before Sept. 1, 2021 |
| 05 - Heifers born: Sept. - Nov. 2024 | 14 - *Champion Cow (from Cow classes) |
| 06 - Heifers born: June - Aug. 2024 (not in milk) | 15 - *Reserve Champion Cow |
| 07 - Heifers born: Dec. 2023 - May 2024 (not in milk) | 16 - **Grand Champion Female |
| 08 - *Champion Heifer - (from Heifer classes) | 17 - **Reserve Champion Female |
| 09 - *Reserve Champion Female | |

Livestock Showmanship (Current school year)

Junior- Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups unless, stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will be judged as a separate class.
- Exhibitors are required to show their own animal during showmanship.

DAIRY MERIT HEIFERS

Chairmen: Scott Valenta, Annie Gold, Mike Smaistrla, Danielle Smith & Denise Anderson

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, October, 21, 2025	\$35
VALIDATION:	Sunday, October 26, 2025	8 - 9 a.m.
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Monday, March 23, 2026	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
SHOW DATE:	Thursday, March 26, 2026	12:30 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 – 9 a.m.

The purpose of the Dairy Merit Program is to develop interest and enthusiasm in the WCYF Dairy Department and to provide participants interested in raising a project for the WCYF an opportunity to participate in a breeding program. This program is not a terminal project; that is, it is not designed for ending with the sale of the animals. Rather, it is hoped that the award of a Dairy Merit Heifer will be the basis for many years of participation in the WCYF. After the initial Dairy Merit Show, the Dairy Merit Heifer can be shown in the regular Dairy classes for years to come.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. In addition to WCYF eligibility requirements, applicants must be a 4-H or FFA member, prior to submitting an application. 4-H Clover kid's years will not be recognized. To enter, a member must submit an application and essay, entitled "Why I Want a Dairy Merit Heifer." Applications are available through the WCYF Office. The essay must include how many years the applicant has previously had a Dairy Merit Heifer. Exhibitors may have a "Dairy Merit" certificate no more than two times or at the committee's discretion.
3. Essays must be submitted to the WCYF office by the Thursday, July 25.
4. Applicants who are selected for the Merit Award must adhere to certain guidelines. Parents must sign the applicant's application indicating commitment to the following rules:
 - a. Participants will properly care for, feed and train their heifer.
 - b. Participants must show their heifer at the WCYF, the heifer **MUST** remain on the fairgrounds until Sunday, March 29th.
 - c. Participants will also keep thorough and accurate monthly records, mailing copies to their sponsors, ag teacher/extension agent and the Fair office by the 10th of each month. **IF AN EXHIBITOR FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE, HE/SHE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHOW IN THE FAIR AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE RESTITUTION OF \$350 TO EACH SPONSOR.** Monthly reports must be submitted on time (10th of the month) to be considered for award money.
 - d. Dairy Merit exhibitor **MUST** turn in a record book following these guidelines:
 1. Nice exterior cover
 2. Inside cover page with your name, animal name, club/chapter name.
 3. Table of Contents with corresponding tabs
 - Monthly expense reports

- Monthly correspondence to and from donor
 - Pictures relating to project
- e. Scholarships will be awarded for 1st – 3rd place record book winners.
- f. Record books are due in the Fair office by Tuesday, March 3rd.

5. Participants must have their heifers validated Sunday, October 26, 2025 from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Fairgrounds.

6. The Dairy Merit Committee will select the recipients and assign sponsors no later than August 15.

7. Award winners will be notified and mailed a \$600 certificate no later than August 31. They may use the certificate to purchase a Dairy Heifer, registered or non-registered purebred. Only prominent Dairy breeds will be allowed (Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein, Milking Shorthorn, Brown Swiss). The heifers must have been born between **December 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025**. All Merit Heifers for 2026 will show together in class 301.

8. All heifers must be de-horned.

9. Be prepared to show the heifer at the WCYF OR make restitution of \$350 to each of the sponsors, AND NOTIFY THE DAIRY MERIT HEIFER CHAIRMAN IMMEDIATELY. If decided by the committee, the exhibitor may forfeit as well, any participation in WCYF events. This also applies if the exhibitor is INELIGIBLE to show due to failing grades. Exhibitors must make restitution of \$350 to each of the sponsors within 30 days upon forfeiture. Checks must be sent to the Wharton County Youth Fair office.

10. Registration papers, if applicable, must be presented at check-in.

11. Texas dairy cattle, regardless of age or sex, must be identified prior to movement in Texas.

12. Dairy Merit Heifers will be stalled together. Exhibitors are required to have a sign with their name, sponsor's name and animal's name placed in a prominent view for all WCYF visitors. Heifers must be in the stalls in the Ammann Barn from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

13. Exhibitors must wear appropriate dress: white shirt and white jeans or slacks.

14. All Dairy Exhibitors must clean out stalls and tie-outs on Sunday, March 29, 2026 or be charged a fee of \$100.

15. All heifers must remain on the fairgrounds until checkout on Sunday, March 29, 2026.

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. All Merit exhibitors will participate in the showmanship class. All ages will show together. Exhibitors are required to show their own animal during showmanship.

HORSE

Chairmen: Melissa Locke

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, January 6, 2026	\$35/horse
PROGRESS SHOW:	Sunday, January 25, 2026	2 p.m.
CHECK-IN/SHOW DATE:	Monday, March 23, 2026	9 a.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Monday, March 23, 2026	after show

The purpose of the Horse Show is to provide an outlet for 4-H and FFA members to care for, show, and ride their horses. Exhibitors may participate in the Horse Show in a halter or performance class.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations".
2. Youth participating in the WCYF Horse Show must sign up at the Progress Show on Sunday, January 25, 2026 **OR BEFORE** with the fair office. NO LATE ENTIRES will be accepted.
3. The Progress Show will consist of Showmanship classes only in three grade divisions. It is NOT mandatory.
4. All horses must be family owned. Horses not family owned may be shown if approved by the Horse Committee before the entry deadline. Immediate family members may show a horse in more than one division.
5. Horses entered may not be changed except for injury to the horse. A letter must be submitted to the Horse Committee no later than 24 hours before the Horse Show date which explains the injury, and declares the substitute horse entry. Approval must be received from the Horse Committee before being allowed to show.
6. Points for the High Point award will be kept on one horse and rider team. Up to two horses may be shown in classes where the horse competes individually. The High Point award will be given to the horse and rider team with the most points earned in classes 811 – 866. There will not be any speed events.
7. Classes may be changed depending on the number of participants.
8. Participants may only count for the Agriculture High Point Award from the class with their highest score.
9. Horses will not sell in either sale.
10. Stallions may ONLY be shown in the Yearling classes.

811 Halter Yearlings	831 Showmanship Int.	858 Trail Horse Senior	865 Horsemanship Int
812 Halter 2-4 Year Olds	832 Showmanship Senior	860 Western Pleasure Jr.	866 Horsemanship Senior
813 Halter Mares 5 Years and Older	840 Yearling in Hand	861 Western Pleasure Int.	
814 Halter Geldings 5 years and Older	856 Trail Horse Jr.	862 Western Pleasure Senior	
830 Showmanship Jr.	857 Trail Horse Int.	864 Horsemanship Jr.	

SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. All showmanship will be divided into three groups, unless stated otherwise.

JR. BREEDING BEEF (HEIFERS/COWS)

Chairmen: Tanya Bram, Kayla Strack, Laura Reyna & Adrianna Salyer

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, November 11, 2025	\$35/animal
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Saturday, March 21, 2026	7 - 8 a.m.
SHOW DATE:	Saturday, March 21, 2026	10 a.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Saturday, March 21, 2026	1 hour after the show

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule and Livestock schedule.
2. Exhibitors must have their entry forms paid and submitted online by November 13, 2025. All entry fees must be paid at the time entries are submitted. Heifers are required to have been owned by **November 1st. A copy of the registration papers in the exhibitor's name will be required and should be uploaded at the time of registration.** No late entries will be accepted.
3. Substitution of heifers entered in the Jr. Breeding Beef show will not be allowed. There are no limits to the number of entries per exhibitor. Anticipated needs for 'substitution' or 'alternate' entries should be considered at the time of entry. The Jr. Breeding Beef Committee recommends entering anticipated 'substitutes' or 'alternates' that qualify by the entry deadline.
4. Only females will be shown. Heifers born before September 1, 2024 or later than October 31, 2025 will not be eligible for the 2026 Show.
5. **Heifers showing in the Commercial Heifer Show may also enter the Jr. Breeding Beef Show. Applicable entry fees apply. Heifers must be taken home after the show.**
6. The committee will establish divisions and classes based upon the numbers of entries and breeds. A single head constitutes a breed and will be shown as a Breed Class.
7. The WCYF has established the following Breed Divisions and Classes:

Registered Brahman (Grey and Red)

American Registered Breeds (Beefmaster, Braford, Black Brangus, Red Brangus, Santa Gertrudis, Simbrah, etc.)

Registered ARB – (Brahman influence cattle- Ultra Blacks, Ultra Reds, Star 5, etc.)
These heifers will show in the American Division, all as one breed.

Registered English Breeds (Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford, Red Angus, Shorthorn)

Registered Exotic Breeds (Charolais, Chianina, Limousine, Maine-Anjou, Simmental)

Registered ORB (*Other Registered Breeds*) Papered animals that are not purebred and do not show any Brahman influence. These heifers will show in the Exotic Division, all as one breed.

Commercial Breeds (Animals that have no papers)

ABC – Animals that Brahman influence, such as navel or long ears

AOB – Animals that do not show any Brahman influence, such as no navel and round ears

*** Show order will be as follows: Registered Brahman, American Registered Breeds, Registered ARB, Registered English Breeds, Registered Exotic Breeds and Registered ORB ***

8. Class breaks for the 2026 Show will be established by the following birth dates:

Class 1: September 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025	Class 5: May 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024
Class 2: May 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025	Class 6: January 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024
Class 3: January 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025	Class 7: September 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024
Class 4: September 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024	

CLASSES - Will be determined by the number of breed and ages of heifers/cows.

9. Premium money is sponsored by Commissioner's Court: 1st Place - \$35, 2nd Place - \$25, 3rd Place - \$20, and 4th Place - \$15, Showmanship: 1st - \$25, 2nd - \$20, 3rd - \$15, and 4th - \$10

10. Jr. Breeding Beef show will be Blow and Go only. Meaning the animal can be washed, dried, brushed, and go to the ring. No adhesive products are allowed.

11. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning up any stalling areas used during the show when taking their animals home.

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups, unless stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will be judged as a separate class.
- Exhibitors are required to show their own animal during showmanship.

LAMBS

Chairman: Doris Dornak, Keith Dornak, Janet Hoffman, Susan George, Shain West & Krystal Baca

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, October 21, 2025	\$35/head
TAG-IN:	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	7 – 8 a.m. gates open @ 6 a.m.
SHOW DATE:	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	9:30 a.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 – 9 a.m.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. **Leg hairs will be pulled on all Lambs at tag in for DNA verification. (See rule #2 of General Rules.)**
3. If a lamb loses its ear tag, exhibitor must notify their Ag Science Teacher, 4-H Advisor, and the Lamb Chairmen immediately. The animal must be tagged to show and the old tag turned in.
4. All lambs must be owned by the exhibitor at the time of tag-in. Lambs will be tagged and tattooed.
5. Only fine wool, medium wool or fine wool cross will be allowed to show. This show is open to females or wethers. Any female showing signs of pregnancy at the show will be disqualified (pregnancy may be determined by the Show Judge or Lamb Committee).
6. All Ewe lambs must have scrapes tags in the ear at tag-in. If lamb does not have a scrapes tag it will not be allowed to tag-in.
7. If a lamb dies within two weeks of the tag-in, the exhibitor has the option of finding another lamb, unless an alternate lamb was tagged in.
8. All lamb exhibitors will have a card in their exhibitor packet that must be filled out and brought to check-in. (Refer to rule #8 in "General Livestock Rules & Regulations".)
9. Lamb exhibitors should check with their FFA advisor or 4H leader for pen assignments prior to the Fair.
10. If a lamb is family tagged, the exhibitor must decide which lamb he/she will show before the cards are turned in. Once the cards have been turned into the committee it will be official and the exhibitor must show that lamb. Be sure the tag number and name on the card matches the exhibitor.
11. Exhibitors will be responsible for feeding and watering their own lambs while on the Fairgrounds. Exhibitors are expected to keep the area around their pens neat and clean.
12. Lambs will be divided into three weight classes based on their weights at check-in with approximately the same number in each class.
13. Sifting will be performed at the Judge's discretion for projects showing evidence of not having proper care. This will be sifting on neglect; sifted lambs will not sell.

14. All LAMBS will be kept on the grounds the week of the fair.

15. ALL LAMB EXHIBITORS are required to come to the Fairgrounds Sunday, March 29, 2026 from 8 to 9 a.m. to pick up their lambs. Once all lambs have been checked out, exhibitors may clean pens. Exhibitors must also pick up final buyer information and disposition instructions at this time. A penalty of \$100 per entry will be assessed if participants fail to comply.

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups, unless stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will be judged as a separate class.
- Exhibitors are required to show their own animal during showmanship.

MARKET GOATS

Chairmen: Doris Dornak, Susan George, Dr. Keith Ermis & Shain West

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, October 21, 2025	\$35/head
TAG-IN:	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	8 - 9 a.m.
SHOW DATE:	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	11:30 a.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 – 9 a.m.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. **Leg hairs will be pulled on all Goats at tag in for DNA verification. (See rule #2 of General Rules.)**
3. This show is open to any breed or crossbred female (unbred) or wether goat. Any female showing signs of pregnancy at show will be disqualified. (The judge or the Market Goat Committee will determine Pregnancy.)
4. All goats must be tagged and validated by the Market Goat Co-Chairmen and their Committee.
5. No implants of any kind will be allowed. Any goat that has been implanted will be disqualified.
6. All goats must be owned by the exhibitor at the time of tag-in. Goats will be tagged and tattooed.
7. All male goats must be wethers at tag-in.
8. If a Goat loses its ear tag, exhibitor must notify their Ag Science Teacher, 4-H Advisor, and the Goat Chairmen immediately. The animal must be tagged to show and the old tag turned in.
9. If a goat dies within two weeks after the tag-in, the exhibitor has the option of finding another goat, unless an alternate goat was tagged.
10. Goat exhibitors should check with their FFA advisor or 4H leader for pen assignments prior to the Fair.
11. If a goat is family tagged, the exhibitor must decide which goat he/she will show before the goat crosses the scale. Once the goat has been weighed it will be official and the exhibitor must show that goat.
12. Shavings will NOT be provided prior to the check in for use in the pens. **Exhibitors must furnish their own shavings.**
13. Goats must be summer clipped; stockings will be allowed.
14. Bracing of goats will be allowed.
15. Each exhibitor must be able to show his or her own Goat unassisted.
16. Exhibitors will be responsible for feeding and watering their own Goats. They must be removed from the barn and fed individually so other goats do not get the wrong feed.

17. All goats will be required to stay on the fairgrounds the week of the fair and in ASSIGNED pens designated by goat committee.

18. All exhibitors are expected and required to keep their pens and surrounding area clean at all times.

19. ALL GOAT EXHIBITORS are required to come to the Fairgrounds Sunday, March 29, 2026 from 8 to 9 a.m. to pick up their goats. Once all goats have been checked out, exhibitors may clean pens. Exhibitors must also pick up final buyer information and disposition instructions at this time. A penalty of \$100 per entry will be assessed if participants fail to comply.

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups, unless stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will be judged as a separate class.
- Exhibitors are required to show their own animal during showmanship.

PEN OF THREE HEIFERS

Chairmen: Richard Lockley & Bennie Woodruff

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, September 2, 2025	\$35 for first 3 head an additional \$35 for anything over 3
TAG-IN:	Saturday, October 18, 2025	8 – 10 a.m. <i>Wharton Livestock Auction Barn</i>
MANDATORY MEETING:	Wednesday, March 18, 2026	6 p.m. (all exhibitors)
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	7 – 8 a.m.
INTERVIEW/SHOW	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	9 a.m./3 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Thursday, March 26, 2026	7 – 8 a.m.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock Schedule.
2. Pen of Three Heifers must be assigned to a pen; three to five heifers constitute a pen. Only three heifers will be eligible to be shown. Example: At tag-in heifers must be assigned to a family member/individual exhibitor. Those heifers must stay in that pen but the family member exhibitor may switch pens. Example: Tom, Mary, and Sue checked in pens #1, 2 and 3 respectfully. Tom is a Senior this year and Sue's pen is the better set of heifers so at check-in the family decides to let Tom show her pen and she will show his pen.
3. Each family may have one alternate, not to exceed five heifers per pen, including the alternate. An exhibitor is allowed to show any pen under that family name. Example: If you tag in more than 3 heifers per pen your alternate is in that pen. Example: Tom and Mary Jones each tag in a pen of heifers. Tom's pen has 4 heifers and Mary's has 5 heifers. Therefore, the pen in Tom's name will have to choose three heifers from the four in that pen. The pen in Mary's name will have to choose three heifers from the five in that pen. You cannot take one heifer from Tom's pen to Mary's pen. Example: Tom, Mary and Sue Jones each tag in a pen of heifers. Tom's pen has 4 heifers, Mary's and Sue's has 3 heifers. One of the heifers in Tom's pen can be used in either Mary's or Sue's pen but the heifer that the alternate replaces cannot go to another pen.
4. ALL heifers must have all baby teeth at tag in and will be checked by the committee.
5. Animals may be grazed or fed, and will be judged as replacement heifers.
6. Heifers **DO NOT** have to be vaccinated for Brucellosis. Palpation certificate must be turned in at mandatory meeting, Wednesday, March 18, 2026. Exhibitor will be disqualified if this certificate is NOT turned in. No exceptions!
7. Classes will be divided into Bred Class or Open Class. All exhibitors must designate bred or open at the mandatory meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. If the exhibitor has any heifers in their pen that is bred the pen will show in bred Class.
- 8 At check-in exhibitors must furnish a palpation certificate on the heifer from a licensed veterinarian for all heifers. A blood test will not be accepted. Palpation certificates must be dated March 1st or later.

9. Individual heifers that have calved before check-in at the fair will not be eligible to show. If a heifer calves after check-in while on fairgrounds, heifer can still be shown.
10. Exhibitors will be required to participate in an interview beginning at 9 a.m. on the day of the show. Exhibitors are NOT allowed to take anything into the interview with them.
11. If the Heifers are deemed unsafe by the Committee & Livestock Superintendents the cattle will not be judged in the show ring but will be judged in their assigned pens.
12. Exhibitors may not use hay for bedding or feed during the WCYF. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to clean his/her pen and alley daily. Each exhibitor is responsible for getting his or her pens ready after the mandatory meeting Wednesday, March 18, 2026 and before check-in day.
13. The OVERALL Champion and Reserve Champion Pen of Three are required to sell in the Sale of Excellence. The sale of other pens is optional. Exhibitors who do not wish to sell their heifers must scratch them from the Sale of Excellence. The deadline for scratching from the Sale of Excellence is one hour after the last Market Show results are posted. Heifers not in the Sale of Excellence may be entered into the Replacement Heifer Sale. The deadline for entering heifers in the Replacement Heifer Sale is Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
14. Exhibitors who do not want to sell their heifers in the Sale of Excellence or Replacement Heifer Sale will be checked-out Thursday, March 26th from 7 to 8 a.m.
15. The J.B. Gary Memorial Award is given to the Pen of Three exhibitor who excelled during his/her interview. This award will be announced at the Pen of Three Heifer Show.

Interviews (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

RABBITS

Chairmen – Kendra Charbula & Susan George

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, February 3, 2026	\$35/pen
TATTOO DATE:	Tuesday, February 17, 2026	4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	7:30 a.m.
	<i>Exhibitors & their rabbits must be in line by 9 a.m.</i>	
SHOW DATE:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	Following check-in
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 – 9 a.m.
	<i>(for champions & top 20)</i>	

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. Only New Zealand and California breeds may be shown at the WCYF.
3. This is a Meat Pen Rabbit Show. Toenails, teeth, and tails will be disregarded. Bunnies must meet the weight requirement to show. This is NOT an ARBA-sanctioned show.
4. A pen of three Fryers should not be over 70 days old at show time and must weigh between 3 lbs. 8 oz. and 5 lbs. 8 oz. There will be no tolerance. The pen may be composed of either or both sexes. First weight is the final weight; there will not be any re-weighs.
5. Disqualifications: any entry showing symptoms of disease such as sore hocks, signs of colds or sniffles (must show a white purulent nasal discharge), ear canker, mites, mange, vent disease, sore or runny eyes, or other fungus, contagious and disqualifying features will be excluded from exhibition and will be removed from the judging area until the close of the Show.
6. All bunnies will be tattooed bearing official WCYF tattoo and a number in the left ear. Each exhibitor will be assigned a number. Only official tattooed rabbits will be allowed to show. Exhibitors will be allowed to tattoo a maximum of 10 bunnies.
7. Family Exhibitors will be allowed to show any pen of rabbits that was tattooed by an exhibitor living under the same household. Once a pen of rabbits plus alternate is selected for show, the tattoo numbers of that entire pen must correspond from within the range of tattooed numbers assigned to an individual family exhibitor at the time of tattoo date. Tattooed numbers between family exhibitors cannot be combined to make up a pen.
8. The alternate must be present for the weigh-in, even if it is not used. The exhibitor may use the alternate, if for any reason the sifting committee eliminates one of the three Rabbits the exhibitor plans to show. The substitution is at the discretion of the sifters, and the exhibitor must comply with their decision. **ONLY THE EXHIBITOR'S PEN OF 3 PLUS 1 ALTERNATE WILL BE BROUGHT INTO THE JUDGING AREA, THIS INCLUDES THE LINE FOR CHECKING TATOOS. Alternate bunny shall be marked with an "A" in the right ear.**
9. **All Exhibitors with their pen of 3 plus 1 alternate must be in line for check-in on day of show (March 22nd) by 9:00 a.m. – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

10. No food or water is allowed in the show pens after rabbits are checked in.
11. Only exhibitors will be permitted past the weigh-in/judging table during the rabbit show. Committee members will assist exhibitors with placing their rabbits in the show pens.
12. All rabbit exhibitors will have a card in their exhibitor packet that **MUST** be completed with the Tattoo number the exhibitor is showing. This card **MUST BE BROUGHT TO CHECK IN.**
13. If a Rabbit within the pen of 3 dies after sifting and before the final judging, the exhibitor must report it to the chairman and it will be at the discretion of the Judge on how the pen is placed.
14. The champion, reserve champion and the top 20 pens of rabbits will stay on the Fairgrounds until check-out on Sunday, March 29, 2026; the remaining rabbits will be released with check out papers immediately after the show.
15. Exhibitors are responsible for transporting, handling, feeding, watering, and caring for their Rabbits during the WCYF. ***Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning their pens after check-out.***
16. Rabbits that are eligible to sell in the sale of excellence will sell as an individual lot.
17. Rabbits will be released by the check-out schedule only. ALL Rabbit EXHIBITORS will be required to come to the Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 29, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., to receive final buyer information, disposition instructions and CLEAN their pens. A penalty of \$100 per entry will be assessed if participants fail to comply with this rule.

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups unless stated otherwise.

If an exhibitor is disqualified from the show for ANY reason, the exhibitor will NOT be allowed to participate in showmanship.

- Showmanship will take place after the judging of the rabbits.
- Exhibitors are required to show their own rabbits during showmanship.

ROASTERS

Chairman: Amanda Laitkep & Julie Evanicky

ONLINE ORDER DEADLINE:	Tuesday, October 7, 2025	
BIRD COST & ENTRY FEE:		\$2.40 per bird + \$35.00 <i>(if showing Houston bird, only entry fee is required)</i>
PICK UP DATE:	Friday, January 30, 2026	TBA
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	2:45 p.m.
SHOW DATE:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	3:00 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 22, 2026	Following showmanship
CHECK-OUT FOR CHAMPIONS:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 - 9 a.m.

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
2. All Roasters must be ordered through the WCYF Office. Exhibitors who show broilers at the Houston or Austin livestock shows, may designate birds for the Roaster Show at the WCYF. When the order is placed for the major show, the Roaster committee chair needs to be notified and the \$35 entry fee paid to the WCYF (by the Oct. 1 deadline).
3. When exhibitors' pick up their birds for either of the major shows, they must submit a copy of their validation record to the Wharton County youth fair office. This form may be submitted electronically or dropped off at the office. **Birds from the same box cannot be entered as separate entries for the WCYF Roaster show. Example: If Jane and Tom Smith both show birds in a major show, they cannot take birds from the same box and each enter a roaster for the local show.**
4. A minimum of 25 roasters must be ordered. Additional roasters may be ordered in increments of 25 not to exceed 50. Roasters must be ordered in the individual exhibitor's name not one order per family.
5. All birds of the same division will be of the same hatch and of the same breed.
6. An exhibitor may show only a Rooster or a Pullet.
7. Family Exhibitors will be allowed to show any Roaster that was ordered by that exhibitor living under the same household. Once a bird plus alternate is selected for show, the wing band numbers of that bird must correspond from within the range of wing band numbers assigned to an individual family exhibitor at the time of distribution. Wing band numbers between family exhibitors cannot be combined. **Example: If Jane and Tom Smith both order roasters to show at the WCYF and choose family tag in, at show time they can choose to switch pens. Jane can show a roaster banded under Tom's name and Tom can show a roaster banded under Jane's name. However, Jane and Tom cannot both show a roaster with the same band number.**
8. All roaster exhibitors will have a card in their exhibitor packet that must be filled out and brought to check in.
9. Birds with missing wing bands will not be allowed to show. Bands that are not legible will not be allowed to show.

10. Evidence of tampering with wing bands will not be tolerated. The decision of the judge is final.
11. No person may take possession of a pen without being officially assigned by a chairman.
12. An exhibitor will be allowed one alternate bird per category. That alternate must be with the exhibitor when he/she checks in with the birds. Should a bird die or become injured before sifting starts, it can be replaced by the alternate. If a Roaster dies after sift and before the final judging, the exhibitor must report it to the chairman and request permission from the chairman to substitute an alternate.
13. To eliminate confusion during the scoring of birds, observers will not be allowed in the Poultry judging area. Due to the congestion, and out of consideration for the next exhibitor, each exhibitor is asked to move on after his/her birds are judged, and to move boxes or cages out of the area. ONLY a Parent and the exhibitor are allowed to assist the exhibitor in holding the birds. However, if the exhibitor or assistant fails to move as directed after scoring, they may be disqualified. Everyone will be allowed back in the judging area as soon as the scoring and recording is completed.
14. Grand and Reserve Champion Exhibitors will provide their own feed and be responsible for feeding and watering their roasters during fair week. The WCYF will exercise every precaution in caring for the birds, but will assume no liability or legal responsibility in case of loss or death of birds while they are on the fairgrounds.
15. If a bird dies any time after judging, scoring, and placing, it may be replaced by a bird of similar quality for sale.
16. If there is any question about the breeding of a bird, the judge's opinion will serve as the final answer.
17. Only "Grade A quality" birds will be considered for the Sale of Excellence or the Freezer Sale. Sifted birds will not be sold in the freezer sale or sale of excellence and these birds must be removed from the Fairgrounds immediately after the judging is completed. Roaster exhibitors will take their Roasters home after judging. Grand and Reserve Champions MUST STAY.
18. All birds are subject to drug testing.
19. Roasters will sell as individual lots in the Sale of Excellence.
20. Roasters will be released by the check-out schedule only. ALL POULTRY EXHIBITORS will be required to come to the Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 29, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. to receive final buyer information and disposition instructions. A penalty of \$100 per entry will be assessed if participants fail to comply with this rule.

SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a poultry project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups, unless stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will take place after the judging of the birds.
- Only exhibitors may participate in showmanship.

STEERS

Chairmen: Clint Kalina, Michael Joyce & Matt Sikora

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, September 2, 2025	\$35/head
TAG-IN:	Saturday, September 20, 2025	8 – 9 a.m.
1st time Exhibitor MEETING:	Wednesday, March 18, 2026	5:30 p.m. (<i>1st time exhibitors</i>)
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Monday, March 23 <i>or</i> Tuesday, March 24, 2026	11 a.m. – Noon (<i>optional</i>) 7 – 9 a.m. (<i>gates open at 6 a.m.</i>)
SHOW DATE:	Tuesday, March 24, 2026	6 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 – 9 a.m.

Two Divisions of Steers will show: ABC AOB

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the “General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations”, including Showmanship, Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock Schedule.
- 2. Tail hairs will be pulled on all Steers at tag in for DNA verification. (See rule #2 of General Rules.)**
3. Steers must weigh a minimum of 1000 lbs. at the time of the fair.
4. All Steers will be classified at the WCYF Check in by a three (3) person committee. To be classified in the Brahman Influence, the steer must show at least ¼ Brahman Characteristics. The Steer Committee will have the discretion to combine the ABC and AOB Classes.
5. If a Steer loses its ear tag, exhibitor must notify their Ag Science Teacher, 4-H Advisor, and the Steer Chairmen immediately. The animal must be tagged to show and the old tag turned in.
6. All Steers will be shown as slick sheared steers at the WCYF. The Steer may exhibit no more than ¼ inch of hair on any part of its body. A qualified individual from another county will measure hair length at the WCYF weigh-in and if found questionable, the exhibitor will be allowed 30 minutes to correct length. Steer will only be allowed to show in natural color; no paint or other artificial coloring will be allowed.
7. Exhibitors who have weighed and tagged two Steers may bring only one to the fairgrounds on the check in day.
8. If a Steer is family tagged, the exhibitor must decide which steer he/she will show before the steer crossed the scale.
9. Once the Steers are weighed, classified and hair measured, they will be divided into weight classes and shown in the class for judging. The Steer Committee will have the discretion of establishing classes.
10. During the WCYF, only the exhibitor or approved substitute may enter the ring and show the Steer. (See “General Livestock and Poultry Rules)
11. No stomach pumps or pumping the animal will be allowed on the fairgrounds. The use of a drench gun is allowed.

12. Steers that will be sold in the Freezer Sale can weigh more than 1600 pounds, but will only be sold as a 1600-pound steer.

13. Exhibitors who choose not to sell their steer in the Sale of Excellence can check out their steers Thursday, March 26th from 7 to 8 a.m., with proper release paperwork signed. The Steer committee chairmen will be responsible for checking out the animals. Exhibitors who sell in the freezer sale will need to pick up buyer information Sunday morning. All steers that sell in the Sale of Excellence MUST stay on the grounds until check out Sunday, March 29. Exhibitors selling in either sale are required to come to the fairgrounds Sunday, March 29, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., to receive final buyer information and disposition instructions. A penalty of \$100 per entry will be assessed if participants fail to comply with this rule.

ABC	AOB	Overall
Classes	Classes	Grand Champion
Champion ABC	Champion AOB	Reserve Champion
Reserve ABC	Reserve AOB	

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups, unless stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will be judged as a separate class.
- Exhibitors are required to show their own animal during showmanship.

SWINE

Chairmen: Mike Smaistrla, Dustin Guthman, Tim Merta & Darrel Garvel

ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE:	Tuesday, January 6, 2026	\$35/head
TAG-IN:	Saturday, January 17, 2026	8 - 9 a.m.
QUARANTINE SWINE:	Saturday, January 17, 2026	9 - 9:15 a.m.
1st time Exhibitor MEETING:	Wednesday, March 18, 2026	6:30 p.m. (<i>1st time exhibitors</i>)
FAIR CHECK-IN:	Monday, March 23, 2026	7 - 9 a.m. gates open @ 6:30 a.m.
SHOW:	Monday, March 23, 2026	4 p.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Tuesday, March 24, 2026	8 - 9 a.m.
CHECK-OUT:	Sunday, March 29, 2026	8 - 9 a.m.

(for Champions & Top 3)

1. Exhibitors must read and be familiar with the "General Livestock and Poultry Rules and Regulations", including Drug Policy, Parent Work Rule, Sale and Livestock schedule.
- 2. Tail hairs will be pulled on all Swine at tag in for DNA verification. (See rule #2 of General Rules.)**
3. An exhibitor may tag-in no more than two hogs, and the numbers will be recorded in a specific name.
4. If a swine dies within two weeks of the tag-in, the exhibitor has the option of finding another swine, unless an alternate swine was tagged in.
5. If a pig loses its ear tag, exhibitor must notify their Ag Science Teacher, 4-H Advisor, and the Swine Chairmen immediately. The animal must be tagged to show and the old tag turned in.
6. All hogs must be castrated prior to fair check in.
7. Animals will be weighed at check-in. The weight limit is between 230-290 pounds. A three pound over/under tolerance will be allowed. The scales will be official. Exhibitors must clean their hog's ear tags prior to being allowed to unload. If the hog's weight does not fall in this range, if an alternate pig has been tagged in and that alternate hog is on the trailer, exhibitor will be allowed to weigh in the alternate hog. Exhibitors will not be allowed to leave the fairgrounds in order to retrieve an alternate.
8. If the swine weighs within the 230-290 weight limit the animal will be considered checked in and will show according to that weight class. Use of an alternate to change the weight class will not be allowed. No altering of hogs of any kind for added weight will be allowed.
9. If a hog is family tagged, the exhibitor must decide which hog he/she will show before the cards are turned in. Once the cards have been turned into the committee it will be official and the exhibitor must show that hog. Be sure the tag number and name on the card matches the exhibitor.
10. Only exhibitor and one parent/individual to assist will be allowed in the Johse barn during the show. The only individuals allowed in the show arena and holding pens will be the exhibitor, Swine Committee members and volunteers approved by the Swine Committee. No parents or individuals will be allowed to assist in these areas during the show. At the conclusion of the last class, a 10-minute break will be taken. At this time, the last class winners will be allowed to go back to their pen to wait. Only at this time may a parent assist their child in these areas. No parent will be allowed in the arena for the champion drive.

11. Once weigh in is complete, hogs will be divided into classes of approximately the same number per class. The Swine Committee will determine the number of classes. Only the 1st and 2nd place swine in each class will be eligible for competition in championship judging.
12. In preparing the animals for show, no clipping, no oil or oil-based grooming aides or powders will be allowed at the Fairgrounds. Use of oil or oil-based grooming aids will be grounds for disqualification from the show.
13. A WATER BOTTLE in the arena during the show is to be used by the exhibitor ONLY. Any spraying of water by anyone other than the exhibitor may be grounds for disqualification.
14. Shavings will NOT be provided prior to the check in for use in the pens. **Exhibitors must furnish their own shavings.** Champion exhibitor will be required to clean their own pens daily. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning out his/her Swine pens **Tuesday, March 24, 2026** after the show. If the pens are not cleaned after checkout, \$100 will be deducted from the exhibitor's check. Champion pens must be cleaned on Sunday, March 29, 2026.
15. Exhibitors must feed their projects up until the time of judging and must provide feed and water containers. Feeding by exhibitors prior to the show is allowed in the barn, provided that the individuals use dividers in the pens and monitor the feeding of their hog. Exhibitors must provide their own dividers. Exhibitors will not be allowed to take their hogs out of their pens until check-in is completed.
16. After the judging, the exhibitor will be responsible for feeding and watering their own hog, this includes top 3 in all classes, champion & reserve champion.
17. Swine check-out will be **Tuesday, March 24, 2026 from 8 to 9 a.m.**, with the exception of the Champion, Reserve Champion, and the top three swine from each class. Exhibitors MUST BRING SWINE CHECK OUT CARD (included in exhibitor's packet) with them to checkout.
18. ALL SWINE EXHIBITORS will be required to come to the Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 29, 2026 from 8 to 9 a.m., to receive final buyer information and disposition instructions. A penalty of \$100 per entry will be assessed if participants fail to comply with this rule. Floored animals are posted on the website at whartoncountyyouthfair.org. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to see if their hog has been floored. Floored animals must be brought back to the fairgrounds Sunday, March 29, 2026.

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP (Current school year)

Junior - Grades 3, 4 & 5

Intermediate - Grades 6, 7 & 8

Senior - Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Showmanship refers to the presentation of a livestock project by the exhibitor. It refers to the grooming and handling of the animal in the arena, as well as dress and conduct of the handler. Showmanship will be optional but encouraged. All showmanship will be divided into three groups unless stated otherwise.

- Showmanship will be judged after the judging of the Championship Class. Exhibitors will be responsible for getting his/her swine to the show ring as the showmanship class is called for judging.
- Exhibitors are required to show their own animal during showmanship.

WHARTON COUNTY LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

Friday, March 27, 2026

Registration 10 – 10:45 a.m.

Co-Chairs: Cheryl Failla & Andrew Kmiec

1. There is no limit on the number of teams or individuals a county or school may enter.
2. Contestants will be divided into two divisions: Jr. (3rd through 8th grade) and Senior (Freshman through Senior).
3. Entry Fees: \$40 per team, \$10 per individual. Registration forms are available at the WCYF Office. Registration forms with team and members' names should be brought to judging Friday, March 27, 2026. The contest will start promptly at 11 a.m.
4. A team shall consist of 3 to 4 members.
5. ONLY CONTESTANTS, GROUP LEADER, TIME KEEPERS AND DESIGNATED COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE JUDGING AREA DURING THE JUDGING CONTEST!
6. NO TALKING WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE JUDGING OF THE CLASSES!
7. Contestants will be allowed 8 minutes per class during the judging contest.
8. Entry forms can be found online at www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org.

Classes

Market Steers

Market Lambs

Breeding Heifers

Market Hog

Market Goat

WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR SALES

Any amendments of the Sale Rules are at the discretion of the Sale Committee and the Executive Board. Notification of an amendment will be posted on the WCYF Web page at www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org, and/or mailed to all 4-H Club Managers and FFA Advisors, and/or published in local newspapers, and aired on local radio stations.

SALE OF EXCELLENCE - Saturday, March 28, 2026 @ NOON

A total of 275 lots will be sold in the Sale of Excellence at the 2026 WCYF. The number of lots that sell in each division will be determined after entries from each division have been submitted. The calculated number of lots that will sell in each division in the Sale of Excellence will be posted at the Fair Office and on the WCYF website, prior to any animals being checked in at the 2026 WCYF. WCYF Executive Board retains the right to change the number of lots to sell if deemed necessary.

The following RULES AND REGULATIONS apply to the SALE OF EXCELLENCE:

1. The Sale Committee reserves the right to make additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Executive Board, when necessary, to handle the Sale in the most equitable way.
2. The Sale will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2026, unless re-scheduled by the Board.
3. Sale order is arranged by the Sale Committee. Sale numbers MUST BE PICKED UP Saturday morning, March 28, 2026 from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.
4. Sale order will be posted on the website and in the results case at the Main Office Complex Thursday, March 26, 2026. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to check these lists and know his/her place in the Sale order. Alternates are sometimes moved up into the Sale of Excellence, so it is important to watch for the lists. If an exhibitor misses his/her place in line, he/she is disqualified and must sell later in the Freezer Sale. **IT IS WORTH EXHIBITORS' TIME TO CHECK THE SALE ORDER CAREFULLY!**
5. No project, regardless of placing, will be sold if it is deemed unworthy.
6. All Grand Champions and Reserve Grand Champions will sell, except for Dairy Merit, Dairy, Jr. Breeding Beef & Horse. If an exhibitor has more than one champion, he/she may sell all champions, making him/her ineligible to sell in the Freezer Sale or Replacement Heifer Sale.
7. Sellers/exhibitors must be present at the auction to sell. They must be in place at the appropriate time since the Sale cannot be held up for one person. If an exhibitor misses his or her place in the Sale order, he or she will be disqualified and may then sell only in the Freezer Sale.
8. In the event that an emergency, hospitalization, or death in the exhibitor's immediate family occurs, the exhibitor is to notify the Sale Chairman immediately. The Executive Board and the Sale Committee will determine at that time, what, if any, alternative arrangements can be made concerning the Sale of Excellence.

9. Exhibitors are requested to notify buyers if they have given medication for which withdrawal times have not expired.

10. All sales are final.

11. WCYF will assess 1.5% interest per month to all outstanding invoice balances that are not paid within 60 days of the date of invoice.

12. All sellers/exhibitors must find out who their buyers are, and be responsible for determining where the buyer wishes the animal(s) to be delivered. IF DELIVERING TO A PACKING HOUSE, EXHIBITORS MUST CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT PRIOR TO DELIVERY. For the exhibitors' own protection when an animal is delivered, they should have someone sign that he/she received the animal. In the case of packing houses, exhibitors should retain proof of delivery in case an animal's records are confused or lost. Exhibitors need to make sure they inform the packing house of the buyer's name or who should be called for processing instructions. Poultry and rabbits must be processed before delivery, unless otherwise specified. EXHIBITORS NEED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES BY KEEPING RECORDS OF THEIR DELIVERY! IN MANY INSTANCES, PROJECTS ARE RE-SOLD EITHER TO AN INDIVIDUAL OR TO A DESIGNATED MARKET. THE EXHIBITOR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING OUT WHO THE FINAL BUYER IS AND MAKING DELIVERY ACCORDING TO HIS/HER INSTRUCTIONS. The Sale Committee will make every effort to provide accurate buyer information for exhibitors at checkout Sunday, March 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

13. A 5.5% commission will be charged on all lots sold in the Sale of Excellence, including add-ons.

FREEZER SALE

The primary purpose of the Freezer Sale is to help exhibitors whose animals did not make the Sale of Excellence. Since the WCYF competition has grown so strong, each year the percentage of animals not making the sale has also increased. These exhibitors, who invested so much of their time, have in the past left the WCYF feeling very disappointed. Some have had feed bills to pay and other expenses of the project to cover with little hope of breaking even on the sale of their animals. The WCYF feels the quality of the effort is worthy of some compensation, whether or not the quality of the animal was sufficient for a blue ribbon. The WCYF ask therefore, that everyone come out and make an effort to buy. It means a lot to the participants, and the cost is little more than a trip to the grocery store.

Market animals (Steers, Lambs, Goats, Swine, Rabbits and Poultry) that do not qualify for the Sale of Excellence are automatically entered in the Freezer Sale. Exhibitors not wanting to sell their projects must scratch the project from the Sale by 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25. Heifers (Pen of Three or Commercial Heifer) that do not make the Sale of Excellence may be entered into the Replacement Heifer Sale (see rules that follow).

1. Pre-Sale of Freezer Sale Projects will begin promptly at noon and close at 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 27, 2026, in the Freezer Sale Office in the Main Office Complex. Telephone pre-sales will not be taken until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2026.

2. Pre-Sale of Freezer Sale Projects will continue on Saturday, March 28, 2026, beginning 10 a.m. through the end of the Sale of Excellence, and will be located in Crescent Hall.
3. The exhibitors of Freezer Sale items will be assured of market price or better, but a maximum price for the project will be set.
4. Exhibitors need not be present to sell in the Freezer Sale if they find out their project has been pre-sold. Exhibitors are responsible for checking with the Freezer Sale Committee, located either in the Freezer Sale office or Crescent Hall, to determine if their animal was pre-sold. All Freezer Sale Projects not pre-sold will be auctioned immediately following the last lot in the Sale of Excellence.
5. Any exhibitor may withdraw an item from the Freezer Sale between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, 2026. **ALL SALES ARE FINAL.** The exhibitor must deliver the animal as per the buyer's instructions. If the delivery is not made, the exhibitor may forfeit the right to any future participation in the WCYF. **NO COMMISSION** will be charged to exhibitors on Freezer Sale items.
6. **ALL SALES** who scratch from the Freezer Sale would still be eligible for the Sale of Excellence if enough exhibitors scratch in their division.

REPLACEMENT HEIFER SALE

The Replacement Heifer Sale provides an opportunity for exhibitors to be compensated for the time and expenses incurred in their projects. In an effort to provide a market for more animals, the Sale Committee will conduct the Replacement Heifer Sale in conjunction with the Freezer Sale, to give the exhibitor the availability of an additional avenue for selling his/her project.

This Sale differs from the Freezer Sale in that an exhibitor who wishes to take advantage of this market must come to the Freezer sale office of the main building and sign up to participate by 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

1. The Sale Order will be posted in the result case at the Main Office Complex on Thursday, March 26, 2026.
2. Pre-Sale of Replacement Heifer Projects will begin promptly at noon and close at 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 27, 2026 in Freezer Sale Office, Main Office Complex. Telephone pre-sales will not be taken until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 27.
3. Pre-Sale Replacement Heifer Projects will continue on Saturday, March 28, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. through the end of the Sale of Excellence and will be located in Crescent Hall.
4. Any Replacement Heifer Project not sold by the end of the Sale of Excellence on Saturday, March 28, 2026, will be taken home by the exhibitor.
5. **ALL SALES ARE FINAL.** The exhibitor must deliver the animal as per the buyer's instructions. If the delivery is not made, the exhibitor may forfeit the right to any future participation in the WCYF. No commission will be charged to exhibitors on the sale of Replacement Heifers.

IMPORTANT SCRATCH INFORMATION

An exhibitor can sell only one project in the Sale of Excellence. He or she must notify the Sale Committee Chairman or authorized person as to which project should sell. The deadline for scratching from the Sale of Excellence is one (1) hour after the results of the last Market Show are posted. The scratch room will open at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. If the Sale Committee is not notified, and the exhibitor has failed to scratch a project, it will be up to the discretion of the Committee to determine which animal will sell. Once the sale sheet has been completed and printed, no substitutions will be allowed. If the exhibitor does not want to sell the animal on the sheet, the exhibitor must withdraw from the Sale altogether.

Each exhibitor may sell only two items: one item in the Sale of Excellence and one item in the Freezer Sale or Replacement Heifer Sale; OR one item in the Freezer Sale and one item in the Replacement Heifer Sale; OR two items in the Freezer Sale; OR two items in the Replacement Heifer Sale. **THE DEADLINE FOR SCRATCHING FROM THE FREEZER SALE or ENTERING THE REPLACEMENT HEIFER SALE IS 7 p.m., WEDNESDAY, March 25, 2026.**

FLOORED ANIMALS

It will be the exhibitor's responsibility to check the website at www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org early Sunday, March 29th or call the fair office to see if the project has been floored. If your animal was floored you **MUST** bring your animal back to the fairgrounds on Sunday, March 29th between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. to load on the truck. If the animal is **NOT** brought back to the fairgrounds on Sunday morning the exhibitor will be charged the floor price and will be responsible for paying that to the Wharton County Youth Fair. Floored animals that are not posted online will **NOT** be taken on Sunday morning. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

2026 LIVESTOCK & POULTRY FAIR SCHEDULE - 50th Annual

EXHIBIT	CHECK-IN	TIME	SHOW	SHOW TIME	CHECK-OUT	TIME
Ag Mechanics	Sunday, March 22	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Thursday, March 26	1 p.m.	Sunday, March 29	8 - 9 a.m.
Broilers	Sunday, March 22	3:45 p.m.	Sunday, March 22	Following Roaster Show	Sunday, March 22 (except for champions)	after show
Bucket Calf	Thursday, March 26	3 - 3:30 p.m.	Thursday, March 26	4 p.m.	Thursday, April 26	after show
Commercial Heifers	Monday, March 23 or Tuesday, March 24	11 a.m. - noon	Tuesday, March 24	1 p.m.	Sunday, March 29	8 - 9 a.m.
Dairy	Monday, March 23	11 - 12 p.m.	Thursday, March 26	12 p.m.	Sunday, March 29	8 - 9 a.m.
Dairy Cows in Milk	Wednesday, March 25 or Thursday, March 26	4 - 6 p.m. 7 - 9 a.m.	Thursday, March 26	12 p.m.	Thursday, March 26	after show
Dairy Merit Heifers	Monday, March 23	11 - 12 p.m.	Thursday, March 26	12:30 p.m.	Sunday, March 29	8 - 9 a.m.
Horses	Monday, March 23	9 a.m.	Monday, March 23	9 a.m.	Monday, March 23	after show
Junior Breeding Beef	Saturday, March 21	7 - 8 a.m.	Saturday, March 21	10 a.m.	Saturday, March 21	1 hour after show
Lambs	Wednesday, March 25	7 - 8 a.m.	Wednesday, March 25	9:30 a.m.	Sunday, March 29	8 - 9 a.m.
Market Goats	Wednesday, March 25	8 - 9 a.m.	Wednesday, March 25	11:30 a.m.	Sunday, March 29	8 - 9 a.m.
Pen of Three Heifers	Wednesday, March 25	7 - 8 a.m.	Wednesday, March 25	Interviews: 9 a.m. Judging: 3 p.m.	Thursday, March 26	7 - 8 a.m.
Rabbits	Sunday, March 22	7:30 a.m. <i>Must be in line by 9 a.m.</i>	Sunday, March 22	Following check-in	Sunday, March 22 (except for champions & top 20)	after show
Roasters	Sunday, March 22	2:45 p.m.	Sunday, March 22	3 p.m.	Sunday, March 22 (except for champions)	after show
Steers	Monday, March 23 or Tuesday, March 24	11 a.m. - noon 7 - 9 a.m.	Tuesday, March 24	6 p.m.	Sunday, March 29	8 - 9 a.m.
Swine	Monday, March 23	7 - 9 a.m.	Monday, March 23	4 p.m.	Tuesday, March 24 (except for champions & top 3 all classes)	8 - 9 a.m.

The fairground is not equipped to house all livestock and poultry entries for the duration of Fair Week. Check out times are listed above.

However, some animals will be released before the Sunday, March 29, 2026 check-out date. Check individual specie rules for details.

If you have any questions contact the WCYF Office or Chairman of that division.

All exhibitors must come to the fairgrounds Sunday, March 29, 2026 **from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.** to receive final buyer information. A penalty of \$100 per division will be charged to all exhibitors who do not pick up their final buyer information on Sunday morning.