

2026 STATE RULES FOR CALIFORNIA FAIRS



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

California Department of Food & Agriculture Fairs & Expositions Branch

Address: 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 999-3000

By signing and submitting an entry form the exhibitors and their agents, parents and leaders acknowledge and agree that they:

1. Understand and have read these State Rules and local fair rules;
2. Agree to abide by them;
3. Certify that all information on the entry form is true and accurate; and
4. Agree to comply with the fair's decision regarding any alleged violation of the State or Local Rules. In the event that it is determined there has been unethical treatment of animals or violation of state or federal regulations or of state or local fair drug policy rules, exhibitor names will be forwarded to the Fairs and Expositions Branch as well as given to the network of California fairs and to appropriate government agencies.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

Department of Food & Agriculture
Karen Ross, Secretary

Fairs & Expositions Branch
Mike Francesconi, Branch Chief

The Fairs and Expositions Branch provides oversight of the State Rules of California.

STATE RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee reviews and presents rules recommendations to the Branch Chief.

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Fairs and Expositions Branch

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www.cdfa.ca.gov/fairsandexpositions

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PREFACE

1. The purposes of these rules are to:
 - a. Ensure educational and equitable competition:
 - b. Provide state-wide competition consistency; and
 - c. Maximize exhibitor and public safety.
2. These rules apply to all competitive exhibits conducted by District Agricultural Associations, citrus fruit fairs and county fairs in the State of California.
3. These rules cannot be waived or amended by anyone, including the fair board, management, or judge.
4. The Fairs & Expositions Branch (F&E) is the final and absolute interpreter of these rules. Only a fair may request, in writing a variance on their own behalf or on behalf of an exhibitor to a specific rule. This request must be made prior to the start of the fair or specific competition for which a variance is requested. If F&E approves a specific variance request, it may approve a conditional variance with specific conditions. Any approved variance shall expire at the conclusion of the annual fair.
5. A fair may allow a family back-up animal, although not required to do so. The purpose of a family back-up animal is to allow siblings to share custody of a second animal. If they choose to, immediate family members may have only one (1) back-up animal per family, rather than one for each family member. The fair will determine how the entry and fees will be processed. Contact your local fair to determine if this is allowed and the procedures to follow. Family back-up animals must follow all state and local rules.
6. Fair Management and/or Board of Directors may grant variances to the ownership rule in the instance of deceased animals, submission of late entries and refund of entry fees. Variances may be ruled upon by F&E at the request of Fair Management and/or Board of Directors.
7. F&E will distribute any corrections and additions to these rules to fairs. It is the fair's responsibility to make them available. F&E does not represent or endorse the accuracy, correctness or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement, or other information displayed by the fair in the distribution of corrections and additions to

these rules. True and correct copies of all rules and any additions or corrections are available upon request at F&E during business hours, by mail or at www.cdfa.ca.gov/fairsandexpositions.

8. Fairs may create “Local Rules” that may be stricter than the State Rules but that may not circumvent the State Rules.
9. If a local rule is not printed in the exhibitor handbook the applicable State Rule will apply.
10. Competition at the California State Fair is not governed by State Rules for California Fairs.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

CDFA and the Network of California Fairs are committed to providing accessible and reasonable accommodations in its services, activities, and programs in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation should contact their respective fair office prior to the fair event.

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS

I. DEFINITIONS

SEE ALSO JUNIOR AND LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENTS

1. Amateur - A person who engages in an event or activity as a pastime rather than a profession. (Does not apply to junior organizations and horse shows.)
2. Cash Awards – Monies paid to successful contestants. (Synonymous with Premiums.)
3. Class – A group of like exhibits that are judged together, a subcategory of a division.
4. Competition – A contest between two or more exhibits.
5. Division – A generalized category of exhibits or a group of classes.
6. Entry – An object, animal or collection of objects or animals intended for exhibit.
7. Exhibit – An entry becomes an exhibit when it is shown or judged at the fair.
8. Entry Fees – A fee charged to enter a competition. All entry fees shall be included with the proper forms on or before the competition deadline.
9. Exhibitor – The owner of the exhibit.
 - a. In the senior department, members of a family are considered as one exhibitor and co-owners of exhibits. This includes mother, father, unmarried minor children (under 18 years of age) and minor foster children.
 - b. In the senior department, in classes that require that the exhibit be the creative work of the owner, husband and wife are considered separate exhibitors.
10. Extended Division – A division or class open to legal residents or producers in the State of California and any additional territory that may be specified in the Local

Rules. Unless otherwise designated, all divisions are “extended” and limited to the State.

11. Judging Systems –
 - a. American - The judging process to rank exhibits against one another and award one first placing, one second, etc.
 - b. Danish - The judging process to compare each exhibit on its own merit against the scorecard or recognized standard and award as many first placings, etc. as merited.
12. Junior Department – A department provided for youth. See also Junior Department.
13. Juried Show - Competition where the juror(s) determines which exhibits will be displayed and judged for awards.
14. Large Animals - Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats (exception Nigerian Dwarf Goats, to be designated at local level, but cannot be both Large and Small), Boer Goats, Market & Fiber Goats, Horse, Alpaca and Llama.
15. Small Animals - Poultry, Rabbits, Cavies, Pygmy Goats, Avian Species and Dogs.
16. Local Division - A division or class open only to legal residents or producers in the county or district in which the fair is held, and any neighboring county/district(s) that may be specified in the Local Rules.
17. Open Department - See Senior Department.
18. Open Junior Class - A class open to all Junior exhibitors having no Junior organization affiliation requirements.
19. Exhibitor Handbook - An entry book, prize list, contest book or other publication specifying rules and awards for fair contests.
20. Producer - One who, in the area specified, raises in normal marketable or commercial quantities, the specific type of animal or product entered.
21. Professional - A person who engages in an event or activity as a livelihood rather than as a hobby.
22. Senior Department - Any department not considered a junior department.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Entry Process

1. By signing and submitting an entry form the exhibitors and their agents, parents and leaders acknowledge and agree that they:
 - a. Understand and have read these State Rules and local fair rules;
 - b. Agree to abide by them;
 - c. Certify that all information on the entry form is true and accurate; and
 - d. Agree to comply with the fair’s decision regarding any alleged violation of the state or Local Rules.
 - e. In the event that it is determined there has been unethical treatment of animals or violation of state or federal regulations or of state or local fair drug policy rules, exhibitor names will be forwarded to F&E as well as

given to the Network of California Fairs and to appropriate government agencies.

2. Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining entry form(s) and rules from fair and submitting the form(s) and any required fees by the closing date as specified by Fair Management.
3. No entry form or entry will be accepted after the closing date for entries.
4. Entry deadlines can be extended by the fair's Board of Directors only if the extension is made prior to the original closing date. See also Horse Show Department.
5. Substitutions can only be made within a division. Substitutions must be made when the exhibit arrives at the fairgrounds, or for animal, when registration certificates are checked. In the livestock department a minimum \$5 penalty must be paid prior to judging for each substitution made by the exhibitor in excess of two in the division. See also Horse Show Department.
6. Requests for refunds must be made in writing to the fair and may be granted upon approval of the Fair Management.
 - a. Refunds may be made only because of sickness, accident, or death, cancellation of a class or return of entries for lack of exhibit space.
 - b. Non-selected exhibits in a juried show are not eligible for refunds.
 - c. For animal classes, requests must be made prior to the event. Requests involving health or soundness of an animal must be accompanied by a veterinarian's certificate.

Ownership. Unless otherwise allowed in the exhibitor handbook, exhibitors must be legal owners of all entries. Ownership must be maintained through show date(s). See also *Junior Department and Horse Show Department*.

1. A complete exhibit eligible in more than one division and/or class will be entered and judged only in the division and/or class for which it best qualifies. Any exhibit not properly entered may be transferred to its proper class by Fair Management, whose decision may be changed only by the judge.
2. The Fair Management has the right to limit entries to facilities available and/or cancel any division or class in which there are not enough entries. Any return of entries or fees under this rule will be done on a nondiscriminatory basis. The decision of Fair Management under this rule is only appealable to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), whose decision is final.
3. Fair Management may combine classes of 4 or less entries for meaningful competition.
4. Exhibitors may not submit the same entries to two or more fairs that require them to be on exhibit at the same time unless prior written approval has been obtained from both fairs. A copy of this approval must be submitted with entry forms.

Participation

1. In order to participate in a youth livestock program (excluding horse, cavies & dogs) at any California Fair, all exhibitors 9 years of age and older must obtain annual certification in the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program or a comparable fair run program approved by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Fairs and Expositions Branch. Those who are not certified are not eligible to participate at a Network of California Fairs.
2. The Fair Management shall deny entry or disqualify and remove any exhibit or exhibitor that is ineligible for competition under State and Local Rules or endangers the public or has violated State and Local Rules. The fair may require removal of the exhibitor and/or exhibit (including animals) from the fairgrounds.
3. Exhibitors, leaders, advisors, and parents found, after a chance to provide evidence and be heard before the Fair Management (CEO and staff) of unethical practices as set forth in the State and Local Rules or in actions inimical with the fair program shall result in the exhibit being disqualified and the forfeiture of any awards and/or privileges as may be deemed appropriate to the circumstances by the Fair Management. If the judging for the exhibit has not yet commenced the exhibitor, leaders, advisors, and parents may be denied entry in any exhibition at the fair. The Fair Management shall report any such incidents of unethical or inimical behavior established by the fair as provided for in this rule, to F&E in writing and such reports may become the basis for any fair to refuse entries from the exhibitor, leaders, advisors, or parents for up to 5 years following the infraction.
4. Exhibits must be on exhibit as specified in the exhibitor handbook. Fair Management may allow late exhibit delivery or early removal of exhibits when it is in the best interest of the fair. Exhibits will not be removed from the fairgrounds before the release date printed in the exhibitor handbook except as determined by Fair Management in cases of sickness, accident, death, disciplinary actions requested by a youth program supervisor, or other circumstances which are in the best interests of the fair.
5. The exhibitor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the fair, the county, and the State of California from and against any liability, claim, loss, or expense (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of any injury or damage which is caused by, arises from or is in any way connected with participation in the program or event, excepting only that caused by the sole active negligence of the Fair. The Fair Management shall not be responsible for accidents or losses that may occur to any of the exhibitors or exhibits at the fair. The exhibitor (or parent or guardian of a minor) is responsible for any injury or damage resulting from the exhibitor's participation in the program or event. This includes any injury to others or to the exhibitor or to the exhibitor's property.
6. Exhibitors, leaders, and advisors must be in good standing with the local and state organization(s) (4-H, Grange, FFA) to be eligible to exhibit at the fair.

Conflict of Interest Avoidance

1. Directors, Fair Management, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and/or their spouses are not eligible to exhibit at their own district, county, or citrus fair except in timed events. Under no circumstances shall a director, fair management, CEO and/or their spouse be eligible to collect awards.
2. Department heads, judges, staff, anyone directly involved in the judging process, and their spouses are not allowed to exhibit or sign entry forms in any division in which they or their spouse are directly involved.
3. Minor children of Directors, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Department Supervisors, staff and/or committee members may exhibit animals or articles which are the result of the child's own earnings, or a gift made to the child, provided the requirements of pertinent rules are met. All other requirements for exhibiting must be met.

III. JUDGING

1. Judges should avoid any appearance of partiality and avoid unnecessary fraternization with exhibitors.
2. No person shall act as a judge in any division in which he/she or a member of his/her immediate family is an exhibitor, is in charge of an exhibit or division, in charge of a group of exhibitors, or a member of a group of exhibitors.
3. No person shall be allowed, under any circumstances, to interfere with the judge(s) regarding their adjudications, or with the fair's staff, or to offer any audible criticism of an exhibit or exhibitor. Violators of this rule shall be excused immediately from the competition and shall be subject to such additional penalties, including cancellations of awards, as the management shall consider proper.
4. The judge has the authority to:
 - a. Disqualify or transfer to the correct class any exhibit that does not meet the requirements of the division or class in which it is entered;
 - b. Disqualify any exhibit not properly cleaned or fitted;
 - c. Disqualify any exhibit that is in his/her opinion hazardous to public safety;
 - d. Examine the animals before entering the show ring; and/or
 - e. Refuse to make award to any animal that shows visible evidence of disease, deformity, or lameness.

No award will be made to exhibits eliminated under any of the above instances.

5. The judge may not waive State Rules.
6. The judge's decision is final. Fair Management may not request any changes in judges' rulings.
7. To encourage high standards, the judge shall award first, second, third place, etc. according to merit. If without merit, the judge shall make no award under any circumstances. The judge may award championships or other awards at his/her

discretion for superior exhibits. This applies whether there are one or more exhibits in class.

IV. AWARDS AND SCORING

1. Fair Management is not responsible for errors on entry forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award that has been disallowed as the result of his/her own error.
2. All divisions or classes will be judged under the American system and/or Danish system as stated in the fair's exhibitor handbook.
3. State "Judging Standards" are to be used where applicable. Local judging standards may be used if published in the exhibitor handbook.
4. Cash awards will be paid only as recorded on the signed Judging Sheet or judging affidavit and only to the exhibitor.
5. Fair Management shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are determined ineligible under State and Local Rules and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible exhibits.
6. No exhibitor shall receive more than two cash awards in any one class using American judging system. (See definition of exhibitor.)
 - a. When an exhibitor earns more than two awards in a class, the exhibitor will receive the two highest cash awards, and the lesser cash awards will be moved down the placings to other exhibitors; ribbons will be awarded as placed.
 - b. Any difference in payment limits under the Danish system of judging shall be printed in the exhibitor handbook.
 - c. When the fair combines classes, an exhibitor is entitled to two cash awards per each class that was combined. Judges should determine special awards as printed before combining.
7. Sweepstakes shall be awarded as specified in the exhibitor handbook based upon these scoring guidelines:
 - a. First award - 5 points; Second award - 3 points; Third award - 1 point.
 - b. Sweepstakes shall be awarded only when at least three separate exhibitors have achieved at least a combined point total of 30.
 - c. To receive sweepstakes awards, an exhibitor must have a minimum of ten points.
 - d. Sweepstakes points will be credited only to the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry form.
 - e. There are separate sweepstakes or high point rules for horse shows, which may be determined by the fair.
8. Ties which cannot be broken by the judge will be processed as follows (See also Horse Show Department):
 - a. 2-way tie for 1st place: Combine 1st and 2nd place money and divide equally between the two 1st-place exhibitors. The 3rd highest finisher receives 3rd place money etc.

- b. 3-way tie for 1st place: Combine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place money and divide equally between the three exhibitors.
- 9. The fair will not guarantee sponsored donations.
- 10. Placing of ribbons does not guarantee correct judging placement. Only the official placing stated on the judging sheet(s) constitutes the final placement.

V. PROTEST

- 1. Protests will be considered only if there has been a violation of State or Local Rules that have not been enforced. Decisions of judges, veterinarians, weighmasters, breed callers, tail dock officials, timers, and other fair officials cannot be protested and are final.
- 2. All Protests must be accompanied by a deposit of \$500.00 (cash, money order or certified check made payable to the fair). NOTE: The deposit will be returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is upheld, the violator may be held liable for any portion of the direct costs incurred by the fair in the course of the protest resolution. Failure to reimburse the fair shall be cause for disallowing future entries in any of the network of California fairs.
- 3. Protests can only be filed by an exhibitor being affected by a violation of State or Local Rules, their parent/guardian, or leader/advisor.
- 4. Time to File a Protest:
 - a. All protests must be filed in a timely manner, within 24 hours of the alleged rule violation. A protest can be filed prior to the fair and prior to the conclusion of the fair. Protests will not be accepted after the fair has ended.
 - b. The fair will make every effort to resolve protests as quickly as possible. All exhibitors by entering an exhibit and all persons by filing a protest agree to cooperate with Fair Management to resolve protests in a timely manner.
 - c. Protests shall be adjudicated by Fair Management.
 - d. Fair Management decisions may only be appealed at the next regularly scheduled board meetings, if:
 - i. The decision upholds a Local Rule that circumvents or is not in the spirit of a State Rule(s);
 - ii. The individual can substantiate new and credible information that was not available at the time of the local decision; or
 - iii. There was inappropriate adjudication at the Fair Management level that may have included conflict of interest, lack of due process, or a significant misinterpretation of rules.
- 5. Any exhibit involved in a filed protest before or during judging is eligible to compete until the protest is resolved.
- 6. Classes that involve a protested exhibit will not become official until the protest is resolved.

- a. In championship or special award classes that involve the protested exhibit the judge shall also select 1st and 2nd runners-up in case of disqualification.
 - b. In the case of protest, the unofficial judging results may be used to prepare the sale list and other necessary information.
7. At the discretion of the CEO, judging can be delayed to allow time for the fair to resolve the protest if to do so does not unreasonably delay or disrupt the operations of the remainder of the fair judging and auction events.
8. Prior to judging the affected class, fairs may announce that an entry has been protested.
9. All questions concerning competition or non-protestable disputes or differences with staff or the exhibition not provided for under the State or Local Rules shall be referred to the CEO or their designee, whose decision shall be final.
10. Violations of State Rules may be appealed to F&E in writing.
11. An individual may appeal to F&E only after adjudication at the local level and only if:
 - a. The decision upholds a Local Rule that circumvents or is not in the spirit of a State Rule(s);
 - b. The individual can substantiate new and credible information that was not available at the time of the local decision; or
 - c. There was inappropriate adjudication at the local level that may have included conflict of interest, lack of due process, or a significant misinterpretation of rules.
12. A fair or state, national or international organization or subdivision thereof which has a significant stake in the interpretation of rules affecting the network of California fairs may make an appeal directly to F&E concerning multiple-fair issues, industry-wide issues, unavoidable conflict of interest or assistance in enforcing its own organization rules.
13. No protest will be accepted unless it:
 - a. Is filed or received, in writing, with a signed original and a signed duplicate copy;
 - b. Clearly states which rule has been violated;
 - c. States when the protestor first became aware of the facts and rule violation;
 - d. States the facts relied upon for the basis of the protest;
 - e. States that the protestor will cooperate with the investigation of the protest and that the protestor will be available and agrees to attend any hearing held to resolve the protest at the time and place directed by F&E;
 - f. Includes the names of supporting witnesses, with accessible phone numbers; and
 - g. Describes or attaches any documents relating to the protest, which must include the written decision issued by the local arbitrating body.

14. Fairs & Expositions Branch (F&E) must receive the appeal in writing within 24 hours from receipt of notice of local decision.
15. A hearing may be conducted at the discretion of F&E. The F&E Branch Chief may consult with and/or request that members of State Rules Advisory Committee participate in any hearing.
16. Once the Branch Chief has ruled on an appeal to F&E, no additional protest or appeal will be considered relating to that incident.

ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT RULES

VI. AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Unless specified in the exhibitor handbook agricultural and horticultural products must have been produced by the exhibitor and exhibits must be at the stage of ripeness required by Sections [42513](#) and [42515](#) of the California Food and Agricultural Code in order to be considered for award.

VII. JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Definitions. *See also Section I, Definitions.*

1. **Exhibitor** - The owner of the exhibit.
 - a. In the junior department, brothers and/or sisters are considered to be separate exhibitors.
 - b. In a college division market and showmanship classes the student designated on the entry form is considered the exhibitor.
2. **4-H, FFA, Grange Exhibitor** - Exhibitors who meet 4-H, FFA and Grange exhibitor requirements for the project(s) they enter.
3. **Independent Junior** - Exhibitors not associated with a recognized association (4-H, FFA, or Grange).
4. **Open Junior Class** - A class open to all junior exhibitors and having no junior organization affiliation requirement.
5. **Ownership** - The growing, construction or purchase of exhibits as verified by the adult leader, teacher, or parent/guardian signature on the entry form for non-livestock exhibits, or as otherwise stated in the exhibitor handbook.
6. **Adult** - A parent, guardian, leader, instructor, or person whom the parent designates as responsible.
7. **Market Animal** - Any beef, sheep, swine, goat (for large animals) and poultry, quail meat pen, rabbit meat pen, single fryer rabbit and turkeys (for small animals), or as categorized by the fair, that are raised for the purpose of becoming food products for consumers.
8. **Market Ready** – A term that defines the amount of fat cover a market animal has and determines if an animal is ready to be harvested. Refer to XIII. Judging Standards below for market ready standards by specie.
9. **Terminal Sale** – A sale in which the market ready animals exhibited at the Fair are to be sent to a processing facility and harvested following the conclusion of the auction/fair. Transportation to the processing facility is organized by the Fair.

10. **Non-Terminal Sale** – A sale in which the market ready and/or breeding animals may be picked up alive by the buyer following the conclusion of the auction.

Exhibitor Age Requirements

1. FFA members must be enrolled in a state-approved agricultural education program at their school to participate as an FFA exhibitor and may participate as members as early as entering into the seventh grade, until the end of the calendar year following the year of graduation from high school. (For example, a graduate this year is eligible until December 31 of next year.)
2. 4-H Age Requirements: The levels of membership for 4-H are age based. Each level is defined as follows:
 - a. **Primary Level:** Must be 5 years old as of December 31, 2025 to exhibit at fair. Primary membership ends when members qualify as junior members. Exhibitors who are under 9 years of age on or before December 31, 2025 are not eligible to compete in large animal (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Boer Goats, Market & Fiber Goats, Horse & Llama) competitions at California Fairs.
 - b. **Junior, Intermediate, & Senior:** Must be 9 years old on or before December 31, 2025. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31st of the year in which they turn 19 years of age.
3. **Grange Members** must be at least 5 years old on January 1, 2026 to exhibit. They may exhibit until the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 19.
 - a. All **Grange Youth** must be 9 years old on January 1, 2026 to compete in large animal (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Boer Goats, Market & Fiber Goats, Horse, Alpaca & Llama) competitions at California Fairs.
4. **Independent Exhibitors** must be at least 9 years old by January 1, 2026 to compete in large animal (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Boer Goats, Market & Fiber Goats, Horse, Alpaca & Llama) competitions at California Fairs.
 - a. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31st of the year in which they turn 19 years of age.
 - b. Youth may be ineligible to participate as Independent if documented disciplinary action involving their project(s) has been taken against them by 4-H, FFA or Grange organizations. Length of ineligibility to be determined by Fair Management.
5. **Special Divisions** - Youth under 9 years of age must exhibit in special small animal and non-livestock divisions designated by the local fair. Youth organization affiliation is not required. No premiums or monetary awards to be provided by the fair, as well as no possibility of participating in the livestock auction.
 - a. Pee Wee Showmanship is a learning experience for youth 5 to 8 years of age to participate in livestock showmanship divisions. Participants should sign a release of liability/Hold Harmless statement provided by the Fair.

6. For non-livestock junior exhibitors showing in divisions and classes other than 4-H, FFA, Grange and Independent, the local Fair Management may set requirements as to age, grade, etc. If these requirements are not printed in the exhibitor handbook, Independent age rule above will apply.

Exhibit Eligibility

1. Junior exhibitors must own and/or grow or construct their exhibits.
2. 4-H, FFA and Grange Exhibitors:
 - a. 4-H, FFA and Grange animal project members must be enrolled in the project for at least 60 days (120 days for horse and market beef) immediately preceding the opening day of the fair or event if held separately from fair in the case of horse shows.
 - b. Eligibility of a project according to 4-H, FFA, or Grange rules shall be determined by the exhibitor's 4-H Youth Advisor, FFA Advisor, Grange Youth Advisor, Local Leader, or designee, as long as the exhibitor also meets "Exhibit Eligibility" rule 2a. requirements.
3. **Juniors who have been 4-H, FFA or Grange project members within 60 days (120 days for horse and market beef) prior to the fair are not eligible to compete in that project as Independent exhibitors or enter project(s) under a different organization. (Please refer to 4-H/FFA/Grange/Fairs & Expositions Youth Agreement at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/fairsandexpositions/> for more information).**
4. Advisor, leader, teacher, or parent/guardian signature on the entry form is required by the fair certifying that:
 - a. Projects have been under their supervision in accordance with the rules and regulations of the organization and the fair; and
 - b. The entry is the project of the exhibitor and is eligible for exhibit. Failure or refusal of such advisor, leader, or parent/guardian to sign the required entry form will prevent the exhibitor from entering that particular class(es).
5. Independent exhibitors must enter an open junior or Independent class unless one is not available. If an open or Independent class is not available, junior exhibitors may enter an appropriate 4-H, FFA or Grange class. Division and/or class placement of Independents may be determined by Fair Management.
6. All junior exhibitors must have project management records and proof of supervision available as to the length of project.
7. Independent junior exhibitors entering market animals must provide Fair Management with a picture of their animal, appropriate proof of ownership, permanent tag, tattoo and/or hog ear notch information 120 days prior to the fair for beef and 60 days for sheep, swine, and goats.
8. All junior exhibitors must have "on ground" supervision by a responsible adult.

Senior Department Restrictions

1. Junior exhibitors and junior organizations may be allowed to enter exhibits in senior department classes for which they are eligible only when:
 - a. "All Other" classes are not available; or
 - b. A class for the exhibit is not provided in the junior department; or
 - c. It allows participation in featured breed and/or sponsored association shows as defined by fair management. The junior exhibitor must also exhibit the project in the junior division.
2. Junior horse exhibitors may be allowed to enter the Senior Department horse show unless Local Rules prohibit.
3. Animals entered as individuals in the junior department cannot be entered in group classes of the senior department and vice versa.
4. When violations to rules 1-3 occur, the junior exhibitor is not eligible for 12 months following the infraction to exhibit in that animal species or division (non-livestock) as a junior at any California fair.

Livestock and Horse Exhibits, Ownership

1. Animal and horse projects must be owned (and leased horses as specified in this document) solely by and under the exhibitor's care and management and under the supervision of the organization in which the project will be shown as specified below. Animal projects may NOT be shown/entered by another person at ANY other show/jackpot regardless of the other shows' rules, within the animal's ownership period, except when multiple animals are entered by the same exhibitor in the same class. The official ownership date is the date shown on the receipt of sale unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor. The days are counted prior to the opening day of the fair unless the event in the case of horse shows is held separately from the Fair. Ownership must be maintained through show date(s) of fair or event. *See also VIII Livestock Department and XI. HORSE SHOW DEPARTMENT Ownership of Lease, rules 1 and 2.*
 - a. Market animals: Beef - 120 consecutive days; and 60 consecutive days for swine, sheep, veal, and goats.
 - b. Breeding and feeder animals: 30 consecutive days.
 - c. All small market animals (rabbits and poultry): 30 consecutive days.
 - d. All horses and llamas: leased or owned 120 consecutive days.Fairs will determine the ownership period requirement for any other animal species (e.g., potbellied pigs). Animals are not to be entered by another exhibitor at any other show/jackpot within the ownership period.
2. No animal exhibit (excluding rabbit & poultry) owned by a chapter or club, conducted as a joint project by two or more individuals, or jointly owned by two or more individuals is eligible in the junior department, unless the division or class specifically so states, or in the case that breeding animals are jointly owned by siblings only.

Breeding animals entered in the junior department may be jointly owned by siblings provided the animal is entered and exhibited solely and in the name of one individual junior exhibitor, and that exhibitor is one of the siblings listed on the registration paper issued by a recognized-breed association. All entries must be registered and recorded by a recognized breed association in the name of the exhibitor(s). A 30-day consecutive ownership requirement applies to each sibling – meaning if one sibling shows the breeding animal at one fair, it cannot be shown by the other sibling within 30 days at another fair. Animals with a farm, family, ranch, or non-sibling owner’s name listed as the owner are NOT eligible to enter. No pending papers will be accepted. Only ORIGINAL REGISTRATION PAPERS will be accepted.

3. Under no circumstances may an exhibitor simultaneously enter the same species of animal or bird (horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, dairy goats, meat goats, pygmy goats, poultry, pigeons, or rabbits) under more than one youth organization (FFA, 4-H, Grange or Independent) in classes of the junior department in the same year. **(Please refer to 4-H/FFA/Grange/Fairs & Expositions Youth Agreement at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/fairsandexpositions/> for more information).**
4. No junior exhibitor may exhibit an animal in a market class once it has been sold as a market animal through a fair junior livestock auction. These animals may be shown following the 30 consecutive day ownership requirement as breeding animals only. All market animals sold through a fair junior livestock auction with a live pick-up disposition will be permanently identified using universal tattoo in the left ear (for 2026 fair season, use “FE26”) with green ink prior to the release of market animals.
5. Animals shown in showmanship must be owned (or leased for horses) by the exhibitor, entered by the exhibitor and shown in an appropriate market, breeding/conformation, or performance class. If dog showmanship is the only class offered, dogs are eligible for showmanship without competing in performance or conformation classes. If the exhibitor has a market animal that does not meet the weight requirements and as a result may not show in an individual market class, the exhibitor may use this animal for showmanship if and only if this animal is the only animal the exhibitor has brought to the Fair.
6. Market animals intended to be sold through the Fair’s Junior Livestock Auction must be entered into a market judging class and be market ready at the time of judging to sell. It is recommended that an official “Intent to Sell” list be available in the Livestock Office for each exhibitor and/or parent/authorized representative to sign a declaration of their intent to sell after the market animals have been judged, especially if the Junior Livestock Auction is a terminal sale. Each fair may choose, at the local level, to provide additional opportunities for exhibitors to withdraw from participating in the Junior Livestock Auction up until the moment their market animal is sold.

If the Fair's Junior Livestock Auction is terminal, the market animals will be sold for resale or custom processing only. Once the market animal has been sold through the Junior Livestock Auction, ownership is then transferred to the buyer with the highest bid. If the Fair's Junior Livestock Auction is terminal, no live animal pick up is allowed, except by the transportation provided by the Fair to the processing facility.

7. Horse exhibits:

- a. Proof of ownership or lease must be available at check-in time.
- b. Leased horses cannot be shown for conformation in the halter horse division.
- c. 4-H, FFA, Grange and Independent exhibitors may show leased horses, provided the member has responsibility for the care and management of the horse during the period of the lease; and the signed lease between owner and member, with a clear picture of a side view of the horse or some permanent identification is filed at least 120 consecutive days prior to the fair or event/horse show if held separately from the fair, at the County 4-H, FFA, or Grange office, or with a person designated by those offices. Independent exhibitors must file with the fair office. *See also XI HORSE SHOW DEPARTMENT Ownership or Lease, rules 1 and 2.*
- d. Junior exhibitors cannot ride or show stallions unless it is specifically provided for by the breed association and in that case only in those specific breed classes at an US Equestrian sanctioned show.

Livestock & Horse Exhibits, Other

1. Junior exhibitors are expected to groom and care for their animal(s) when at the fair. They shall refrain from accepting active assistance from adults and non-exhibiting youth unless the junior exhibitor is actively engaged, and the assistance is only for instruction. Local fair rules will determine enforcement.
2. Junior exhibitors in 4-H, FFA, Grange and Independent classes must wear properly strapped headgear in mounted or horse-drawn vehicle competition. Headgear must be approved by American Society for Testing and Materials / Safety Equipment Institute.

VIII. LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

See also Livestock rules in Section VII Junior Department.

Definitions (*See also Section I Definitions.*)

1. **All Other Breeds** - Breeds not previously listed that are from recognized breed associations within the specie.
2. **Barrow** – Castrated male swine.
3. **Breeder** - Owner of the dam at conception. Also, owner of the egg donor for ovum/embryo transfer.

4. **Cryptorchid** – Male with retained testicle(s) and is not considered a castrated male.
5. **Drug** –
 - a. Any substance intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, prevention, or treatment of disease; and
 - b. Any substance, except food and water, which is intended to affect the structure or function of the body of any exhibit animal. ([Food and Agricultural Code Section 14202](#))
6. **Exhibitor** - The owner of the exhibit.
 - a. In the senior department, members of a family are considered as one exhibitor and co-owners of exhibits. This includes mother, father, unmarried minor children (under 18 years of age) and minor foster children.
 - b. In the junior department, brothers and/or sisters are considered to be separate exhibitors. See Section VII for definition of junior.
 - c. In college division market and showmanship classes the student designated on the entry form is to be considered the exhibitor.
7. **Grade-Crossbred** - Animals which do not meet registration requirements.
8. **Nurse Cow** - Cow that is not the natural nursing mother.
9. **Pony** - For non-breed horse shows, ponies are those horses standing less than 14.2 hands (56.8 inches) high. For breed horse shows and registered classes within non-breed shows, refer to the breed association rules which apply.
10. **Purebred Animal** - An animal the breeding of whose sire and dam traces directly to registered animals of the same breed.
11. **Purebred Registered Animal** - An animal that is registered with a recognized breed association and that meets the breed association's requirements of purebred.
12. **Range Registered Animal** - Animals that have been issued range certificates in lieu of full registration certificates.
13. **Recognized Breed Associations** - Organizations which maintain pedigrees, issue certificates of registration, and maintain a permanent office.
14. **Recorded Grade** - An animal that is registered or recorded with a recognized breed association and does not meet that association's purebred registration requirements.
15. **Replacement Female** – A heifer, ewe, gilt, or doe raised for the purpose of replacing another female within a reproductive herd, or flock. Replacement females may be exhibited and considered as non-terminal auction animals.
16. **Steer** – Castrated male bovine.
17. **Veal** - Bovine primarily fed with milk or milk replacer. Local fair will establish guidelines for weights according to local industry standards of market animals.
18. **Wether** – Castrated male goat or sheep.

Participation

1. Exhibitors must be able to prove ownership.

2. Exhibit animals will not be muzzled while on the fairgrounds.
3. Any animal that does not meet class requirements of weight, age, identification, etc. will not be paid premiums.
4. No animal may be entered in more than one division in the Livestock Department unless provided for in the specifications of the division. However, market or feeder animals may be entered in both divisions for individual and pens of market or feeder animals.
5. Animals entered in market or feeder divisions may not be entered in breeding divisions.

Animal Identification

“Please Notice” - It is unlawful to remove official identification.

1. All animals (except horses or market and feeder animals) shall be identified by a permanent number (ear tag, tattoo, photo or drawing, or brand required by breed association, ear notching or microchip) on the animal which matches the number recorded on the entry form.
2. When identification numbers are in both ears and are different, both numbers shall be recorded on the entry form.
3. Registered dairy cattle shall meet their breed associations' requirements for identification.
4. An exhibitor may not use the same permanent marking on more than one animal of the same breed and sex during: any five-month period for swine, any two consecutive calendar years for sheep, or any 12-month period for all other livestock (except that pigs may have the same litter mark).
5. For market and feeder animals, an identifying number will be placed or attached to the animal by the fair, or designee, and must be on the animal at all times or awards will not be paid.

Market Animals

1. All market animals owned by Independent juniors shall not be discriminated against by the sale program.
2. If the fair requires a terminal sale, the Local Rules must state it in the exhibitor handbook. Exhibitors and their parents or guardians must agree that upon entry into market competition and qualification by the market judge, the animal(s) will be sold and processed.
3. Desirable market weight will be a consideration in market animal judging.

Breeding Animals Exhibit Requirements

1. To qualify for exhibit and judging, the following information must be provided on the entry form by the closing date of entry:
 - a. Identification of each animal at least by
 - i. dam, birth date and ear tag, notching, tattoo, photo, or drawing; or by
 - ii. the registration number.

- b. Sire's registration number for Get of Sire entries.
 - c. Dam's registration number for Produce of Dam entries.
- 2. If the above information is completed after close of entry, a \$5 penalty fee per entry may be required by the fair prior to judging to qualify for judging.
- 3. Individual animals shown in group exhibits need not be identified either on the original entry form or on supplementary entry forms unless required by a local rule.
- 4. Grade or Unregistered Purebred Animals by Registered Sire
 - a. Animals that have been registered as purebred by a breed association are not eligible in grade or unregistered classes.
 - b. Commercial unregistered animals including range, stocker, feeder, and replacements, and Range Registered or Recorded Grade animals are ineligible in Registered or Purebred divisions.

Registered Animal Registration Certificates

1. All animals in "registered breeding animal" divisions must be registered and recorded with a United States (U.S.) breed association in the exact name of the exhibitor (owner) as declared on the entry form, except for:
 - a. Pigs, 12 months or younger, which are still owned by the breeder. Litter registrations are acceptable if recorded with their breed association and if they identify the litter by birth date, sire, dam, and ear notching; and
 - b. Animals whose breed association requires an inspector's approval before registering. The animal cannot be more than 12 months of age on the opening day of the fair. Exhibitors may present a statement by the secretary of the association stating that the animal is eligible to be registered. This statement must identify the animal by birth date, sire, dam, and ear tag, tattoo, or notching.
2. Original registration certificates, a stamped duplicate issued by a U.S. breed association, or other documents mentioned above must be presented to the management when the animals arrive on the fairgrounds and must be kept on hand.
 - a. Original registration certificates faxed to the fair by the U.S. breed association will also be accepted and retained by the fair. Photocopies, letters, and telegrams are not acceptable.
 - b. Clerks are instructed to correct entry records exactly as shown on the certificate. (Any exceptions will be based solely upon the recognized U.S. breed association's standard practices for issuing registration certificates. A written verification from the association of any deviation in issuing practices must be on file with F&E.
3. When the owner and breeder names are not exactly the same on the registration certificate, the fair will hold all of the exhibitor's awards until the fair receives a statement from the breed association verifying that the various names are

recognized as the owner and/or breeder and including the owner's mailing address.

4. No deviation from or alteration in the information on a registration certificate will be permitted unless clearance in writing is first obtained from the breed association that issued the certificate. Evidence of any attempt to alter information on a registration certificate shall be reported immediately to F&E and may become the basis for any California fair to refuse entries from the exhibitor and/or its agent.

IX. ANIMAL SPECIES RULES

State and Federal regulations concerning animal weighing and harvesting, and beef and pork promotion assessments also apply.

Cattle (Beef, Dairy, Veal)

1. Yellow transportation slips issued by the fair are mandatory when transporting cattle to and from the fair. ([CA Food & Ag Code 21054](#)).
2. Brand Inspection requirements for cattle ownership will be enforced (CA Food & Ag Codes [21051f](#), [21702](#), [21703](#)).
3. **Beef Cattle** –
 - a. Market/feeder beef are steers and heifers only.
 - b. All Registered Purebred Breeding females 24 months of age or older on the opening day of the fair must:
 - i. Have a calf; or
 - ii. Show obvious signs of pregnancy; or
 - iii. Have a veterinarian's certificate of pregnancy; or
 - iv. Have a veterinarian's certificate stating that the animal is or has been an embryo producing female.
4. **Dairy Cattle** – Registered Purebred junior and senior yearlings in milk must be shown as two-year-old in both the individual and group classes.
5. **Veal** – "Veal" refers to steers, bulls, and heifers.

Sheep

1. Official Identification

Sheep Entries from California

All exhibition sheep in California require official identification issued by the USDA. Official identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership. *(See also Section X. Animal Health Rules, SHEEP AND GOATS for a list of acceptable methods of official identification.)*

Sheep Entries from Other States

All exhibition sheep imported into California require official identification issued by the USDA. Official identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition.

2. Tail Docking - To qualify for exhibit market lambs must be docked such that the tail (dock) is healed and can be lifted from the exterior. Lambs that have no dock will not be eligible.
3. Market lambs are prohibited from showing yearling teeth. Market lambs must show only lambs teeth.
4. Market/feeder sheep are wethers and ewes only.
5. Registered Breeding Animals
 - a. Flock numbers, and not registration numbers, shall be used to identify all entries. Flock numbers and breeder's initials, name or association prefix shall be on commercially used tags attached to the ear or tattooed in the ear for yearlings and lambs bred by the exhibitor. Lambs born from a purchased, bred ewe can bear the ear tag of the owner at the time of birth. They do not have to have original breeder's ear tag.
 - b. An exhibitor may not use the same flock number on more than one animal during any two consecutive calendar years.
6. Natural Colored Sheep may show in "All Other Breeds" division when a separate division is not offered.
7. Certified registered and pedigree listed sheep with certificates are eligible to exhibit.

Wool

1. Only complete fleeces sheared from sheep owned by the exhibitor and in the grease are eligible for competition. Manufacturers and dealers are excluded.
2. Fleeces shall not be more than 12 months growth. The definition of "12 months" shall be the definition commonly accepted by the wool trade. Thus, if a fleece is actually slightly more than 12 months growth, due to unavoidable delay in obtaining shearers, or by weather, it shall be termed "12 months" wool.
3. No wether fleeces may be included.
4. Each exhibitor will be limited to two fleece entries in one class, except for the group class. A group of fleeces must be owned by one exhibitor, and each fleece must have been judged in individual fleece classes.
5. The judge may classify or reclassify fleeces before making awards.
6. Fleeces shall be rolled, flesh side out and placed in a clear plastic bag. Paper twine is discouraged.

Swine

1. Market/feeder swine are barrows and gilts only.

2. All Registered Purebred Breeding females junior yearling or older must have raised a litter of pigs to be eligible for exhibit.
3. Potbellied Pigs must be registered with the National Committees on Potbellied Pigs, Potbellied Pig Registry Service, Inc., or the International Potbellied Pig Registry.

Goats

Goat Entries from California

All exhibition goats in California require official identification issued by the USDA. Official identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when goats change ownership. *(See also Section X. Animal Health Rules, SHEEP AND GOATS for a list of acceptable methods of official identification.)*

Goat Entries from Other States

All exhibition goats imported into California require official identification issued by the USDA. Official identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition. *(See also Section X. Animal Health Rules, SHEEP AND GOATS for a list of acceptable methods of official identification.)*

1. Dairy Goats

- a. Registered Purebred Breeding Animals:
 - i. Animals with a "Certificate of Registry" (Blue Border) issued by the American Dairy Goat Association are eligible.
 - ii. Animals with a "Certificate of Registry" (Brown Border) issued by the American Dairy Goat Association are not eligible.
 - iii. The American Goat Society issues registration certificates for purebred animals only.
- b. Recorded Grade Breeding Animals: All animals registered Experimental (Blue Border Experimental), or Recorded (Brown Border Recorded) including Experimental, Native on Performance and Native on Appearance.

2. Pygmy Goats

- a. All animals must be registered with either the American Goat Society, Inc., or the National Pygmy Goat Association.
- b. Either horned, tipped or de-horned animals are permissible.

3. Angora Goats

- a. All animals must be registered with the American Angora Goat Breeders Association, Rock Springs, Texas.
- b. Either long or short clips are permissible.

4. Boer Goats

- a. All animals must be registered with the American Boer Goat Association, the International Boer Goat Association, Inc., the IBGA or the Canadian Boer Goat Association. Original registration certificate is required and must be in the owner's name.
- b. Either horned, tipped, or de-horned animals are permissible.

5. Market Goats

- a. Market goats are wethers and does only, no bucks allowed.
- b. Market goats are prohibited from showing yearling teeth. Market goats must show only milk teeth.
- c. Either horned, tipped, or de-horned animals are permissible.

X. ANIMAL HEALTH RULES

Fairs will make a reasonable effort to enforce state and federal animal health regulations, and they have the right to seek assistance from the appropriate agencies. For assistance with California's requirements, or to obtain an entry permit if importing livestock from out-of-state, contact the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), Animal Health and Food Safety Services (AHFSS) Animal Health Branch (AHB). Headquarters: 1220 N St., Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 900-5052.

These rules are subject to change to reflect any changes, updates, and/or alerts communicated by the CDFA AHB as they pertain to animal health regulations. To view the latest announcements made by the CDFA AHFSS AHB, please visit their website at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/>.

Eligibility. *See also Eligibility Rule II - 1.*

1. Any inhumane activity to animals by the exhibitor, as determined by fair management in consultation with the fair veterinarian, may cause disqualification, forfeiture of awards, and removal of the exhibit or exhibitor from the fairgrounds.
2. Animal health decisions will be made in the best interest of the animal and for the other animals at the fair as determined by fair management in consultation with the fair veterinarian.
3. No animal that shows any evidence of any active, unsightly, or communicable disease, or any unsightly disease or other condition shall be admitted or allowed to remain on the fairgrounds.
4. No animal shall be admitted to a fairground from any premises under quarantine for disease.
5. Management reserves the right to require health inspections and/or diagnostic tests to be performed before, during or after animals are on the fairgrounds and to implement disease control procedures, which may become necessary in the event of an emergency. The health of animals, when determined by the official veterinarian, shall be final. Exhibitors who refuse to allow their animals to be

examined shall be disqualified and such violation shall be reported to F&E. No refund will be made.

6. All exhibitors must comply with all state and federal animal health regulations and the fair's health requirements, including submittal of the fair's certificate of animal medication. State animal health officials may enforce additional entry requirements if there is a disease outbreak in California or other states. This may include disease testing or restrictions on entering certain geographical areas.
7. Drench guns are not approved for use while on the fairgrounds. Anyone found to be using any type of drench gun to administer liquids into any animal without the supervision and direction of the official fair veterinarian and/or designated fair official will result in exhibit and/or exhibitor being disqualified.
8. Castration sites shall be healed and free of inflammation.
9. Sellers are responsible for animals that are condemned or rejected at processing centers, except if injury is caused during transport to the processing facility.

Use of Pharmaceuticals in Market Animals:

1. Signature on entry form signifies compliance with all manufacturer and veterinarian pharmaceutical, biologic and chemical instructions and withdrawal requirements, and that all off-label treatments to market animals have been administered lawfully in accordance with a prescription from a California-licensed veterinarian whose statement notes dosage, date, and purpose for administration.
2. All exhibitors must advise management of any drugs and medications administered to an animal that might still be detected at the time of showing and at meat inspection. The name of the drug, its purpose, withdrawal time, route, time, and date of administration must be presented to management prior to the showing and sale of the animal. Livestock treated within the specified withdrawal period cannot be sold without notifying the buyer.
3. Exhibitors must complete the fair's medication certificate prior to sale.
4. Per [Food and Ag Code 14363 \(a\)](#), it is unlawful for any livestock owner or agent to sell or dispose of any livestock or livestock carcasses which within 48 hours after the buyer takes possession have drug residues in excess of allowable federal or state tolerances. In addition to any other penalties imposed by this chapter, any livestock owner or agent violating this section shall be liable to the buyer for an amount equal to three times the purchase price of any livestock or livestock carcasses with drug residues in excess of allowable federal or state tolerances so long as the liability does not conflict with the federal Packers and Stockyards Act, and shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for each head of livestock or livestock carcass disposed of or sold. In addition, the livestock owner or agent shall be liable for any attorney's fees. See also [Food and Ag Code \(FAC\) 14360](#) and [14362](#).

CATTLE

Cattle Entries from California

1. All female dairy cattle four (4) months of age and over must bear evidence of official calfhooed vaccination against brucellosis with a legible, official tattoo visible in the right ear.
2. All dairy cattle and all bulls changing ownership that are 18 months of age and over, or nonvirgin bulls less than 18 months, require an official identification tag.
3. All bulls 18 months of age and over, and non-virgin bulls less than 18 months of age, require a negative individual PCR trichomoniasis test performed within 60 days prior to change of ownership, except bulls used solely for exhibition that were confined to the exhibition location, without access to mature female cattle and will return directly to the premises of origin after exhibition. Pooled samples are not acceptable for testing.
4. As of November 5, 2024, all official ID tags applied to cattle and bison must be both electronically (EID) and visually readable. For a list of manufacturers currently licensed by USDA as approved tagged manufacturers for cattle EIDs, please visit the [Animal Identification Number Management System](#).

Acceptable methods for [official identification of cattle](#) include:

- a. Official USDA individual identification eartags:
 - i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartag (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID]).
 - ii. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) eartags (if applied prior to November 4, 2024):
 - USDA metal brucellosis calfhooed vaccination (orange) eartags for females
 - USDA metal “silver brite” eartags
 - b. Legible breed registration tattoos with accompanying registration paperwork.
5. It is unlawful to remove official identification eartags. Requests to remove an official identification eartag must be submitted to CDFA, AHFSS in writing at least 72 hours prior to the need to remove the eartag. The request must include a photo of the eartag, the reason the eartag must be removed, and all other official eartags on the animal.

Cattle Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition cattle entering California require individual official identification, an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit issued within 15 days prior to entry, and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state. Official identification must be listed on the ICVI.
2. Lactating dairy cattle must be accompanied by a negative HPAI (H5N1) test date within 10 days prior to entry into the state.

3. As of November 5, 2024, all official ID tags applied to cattle and bison must be both electronically (EID) and visually readable. For a list of manufacturers currently licensed by USDA as approved tagged manufacturers for cattle EIDs, please visit the [Animal Identification Number Management System](#).

Acceptable methods for [official identification of cattle](#) include:

- a. Official USDA individual identification eartags:
 - i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartag (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
 - ii. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) eartags (if applied prior to November 4, 2024):
 - USDA metal brucellosis calfhood vaccination (orange) eartags for females
 - USDA metal “silver brite” eartags
 - b. Legible breed registration tattoos with accompanying registration paperwork.
4. It is unlawful to remove official identification eartags. Requests to remove an official identification eartag must be submitted to CDFA, AHFSS in writing at least 72 hours prior to the need to remove the eartag. The request must include a photo of the eartag, the reason the eartag must be removed, and all other official eartags on the animal.
 5. Testing and/or vaccination requirements include the following:
 - a. All female dairy cattle four (4) months of age and over must bear evidence of official calfhood vaccination against brucellosis with a legible, official tattoo visible in the right ear.
 - b. All sexually intact dairy cattle six (6) months of age and over require a negative tuberculosis (TB) test within 60 days prior to entering California or must originate from a TB accredited free herd with documentation of the herd number and last test date on the ICVI.
 - c. Cattle do not require a brucellosis test unless originating from a designated brucellosis surveillance area. If a brucellosis test is necessary, the test needs to be collected within 30 days of entry and be performed by a state or federally-approved lab.
 - d. All bulls 18 months of age and over, and non-virgin bulls less than 18 months of age, require a negative individual PCR trichomoniasis test performed within 60 days prior to entry, except bulls used solely for exhibition that are confined to the exhibition location, without access to mature female cattle, will return directly to the state of origin after exhibition, and are not changing ownership. Pooled samples are not acceptable for testing.

SHEEP AND GOATS

Sheep and Goat Entries from California

1. All sheep and goats entering fairs require individual official identification issued by the USDA. Individual official identification must be kept on the animals. Acceptable methods of [official identification of sheep and goats](#) include:
 - a. Official USDA individual identification eartags:
 - i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartags (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
 - ii. Scrapie eartags: either flock identification eartags (flock identification number with individual animal number) or serial eartags (alphanumeric combination for individual animal). Scrapie identification is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership, except:
 1. Wethers for exhibition and wethers under 18 months of age.
 - b. Legible breed registration tattoos in the ears (or tail-web of earless goats) if accompanied by breed association registration papers. Breed associations that are approved by USDA to serve as official identification can be found at USDA's scrapie program website, <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/sheep-goat/scrapie/registry>.
 - c. Electronic implants (microchips) when accompanied by registration papers and microchip scanner. Microchips must be ISO 11784/11785 compliant, contain 15 digits, and begin with 840. Since 2019, microchipped sheep and goats must be tattooed with a legible "E" if the implant is at the base of the ear or an "ET" if the implant is in the tail fold; the tattoo must be at least 0.3 inches high in the ear, or in the case of earless animals, the tail fold.
2. It is unlawful to remove official identification eartags. Requests to remove an official identification eartag must be submitted to CDFA, AHFSS in writing at least 72 hours prior to the need to remove the eartag. The request must include a photo of the eartag, the reason the eartag must be removed, and all other official eartags on the animal.
3. Fairs will not accept:
 - a. Animals from scrapie-infected flocks, scrapie source flocks, or scrapie "non-compliant" flocks
 - b. Animals that are scrapie-positive, scrapie suspects or scrapie exposed unless they have been evaluated and approved for exhibition by the state scrapie epidemiologist.
4. Fairs will keep records of the consignor, buyer, and animal identification for five (5) years when animals change ownership in a public sale at the fair.
5. Fairs will try to accommodate Scrapie Flock Certification Program members with separate space if practical. Breeding animals should be housed in separate enclosures or locations from animals that are not in the certification program, if practical.

6. Sheep or goats within 30 days pre-or post-parturition, or with vaginal discharge, shall if practical, be kept separate from animals from different flocks and in an area that can be properly cleaned and disinfected.

Sheep and Goat Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition sheep and goats entering California require individual official identification issued by the USDA, an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit issued within 15 days prior to entry, and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state with the following scrapie statement “The animals are not scrapie positive or suspect or from a scrapie non-compliant flock”. Official identification must be listed on the ICVI.
2. Acceptable methods of official identification of sheep and goats include:
 - a. Official USDA individual identification eartags
 - i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartags (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
 - ii. Scrapie eartags: either flock identification eartags (flock identification number with individual animal number) or serial eartags (alphanumeric combination for individual animal). Scrapie identification is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership.
 - b. Legible breed registration tattoos in the ears (or tail-web of earless goats) if accompanied by breed association registration papers. Breed associations that are approved by USDA to serve as official identification can be found at USDA’s scrapie program website, <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-disease/sheep-goat/scrapie/registry>.
 - c. Electronic implants (microchips) when accompanied by registration papers and microchip scanner. Microchips must be ISO 11784/11785 compliant, contain 15 digits, and begin with 840. Since 2019, microchipped sheep and goats must be tattooed with a legible “E” if the implant is at the base of the ear or an “ET” if the implant is in the tail fold; the tattoo must be at least 0.3 inches high in the ear, or in the case of earless animals, the tail fold.
3. It is unlawful to remove official identification eartags. Requests to remove an official identification eartag must be submitted to CDFA, AHFSS in writing at least 72 hours prior to the need to remove the eartag. The request must include a photo of the eartag, the reason the eartag must be removed, and all other official eartags on the animal.
4. Rams six (6) months of age and over imported into California require a negative *Brucella ovis* test within 60 days before entry OR must originate from a *Brucella ovis* certified free flock. The ICVI must include the animal’s official identification

number, test results, name of the approved laboratory, date of the test, and the “Brucella ovis free flock number”, if present.

SWINE

Swine Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition swine entering California require individual official identification (ID), an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit issued within 15 days prior to entry, and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state. Official identification must be listed on the ICVI.
2. Acceptable methods for [official identification of swine](#) include:
 - a. Eartags
 - i. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) eartags:
 - USDA metal “silver brite” eartags
 - USDA plastic swine eartags
 - ii. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartag (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
 - iii. Premises Identification Number (PIN) eartags with an individual animal number.
 - b. Ear notches or tattoos (ear or inner flank) if recorded with a purebred registry association and accompanied by breed association registration papers attached to the ICVI.
3. It is unlawful to remove official identification eartags. Requests to remove an official identification eartag must be submitted to CDFA, AHFSS in writing at least 72 hours prior to the need to remove the eartag. The request must include a photo of the eartag, the reason the eartag must be removed, and all other official eartags on the animal.
4. No testing, including brucellosis and pseudorabies, or vaccinations are currently required.

EQUINE

Equine Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition equine entering California require individual official identification, an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state, and evidence of a negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test performed at a USDA-approved laboratory within 12 months before the date of entry. A pending EIA test result does not satisfy the entry requirement. The requirements apply to horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, burros, and zebras.
2. Instead of an ICVI, equine may be moved on an Extended Equine CVI (EECVI) Movement Permit, also known as an equine passport.
3. Acceptable methods for official identification of equine include:

- a. Complete written physical description of the animal that includes the animal's name, age, breed, sex, color, distinctive markings including brands, whorls, and scars, and any form of identification such as tattoo or microchip, if present.
- b. Series of four (4) photographs with four (4) views (left-side, right-side, front view, and a view from behind).
- c. Unique individual identification tattoo or brand associated with an official equine registry. Official registration papers must accompany the animal.
- d. Electronic implants (microchips) that are ISO 11784/11785 compliant and contain 15 digits. Microchips are implanted in the nuchal ligament on the left side of the neck. A microchip scanner should accompany the animal.

POULTRY

Poultry Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition poultry entering California require official identification (ID) and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), unless coming from a flock participating in the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) and accompanied by the documentation required by that program (VS Form 9-3).
2. All exhibition poultry entering California shall be free of any evidence of Avian Influenza, Virulent Newcastle Disease, and all other contagious diseases and not originate from a control area in place for those diseases.
3. Acceptable methods of official identification of poultry include:
 - a. Identification devices or methods approved for use in the NPIP, such as sealed and number leg bands or wing bands.

RABBIT AND CAVY

Rabbit and Cavy Entries from Other States

1. All rabbits and cavies are recommended to have an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI). An ICVI is required if coming from a state affected by Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD). Animals must be inspected by an accredited veterinarian within 72 hours prior to shipping to California. The following statements, listed on California's regional quarantine, must be included on the ICVI:
 - a. All rabbits and hares in the shipment have been examined for and found free of communicable diseases, and
 - b. All rabbits and hares have originated from a single premise that has no signs of a communicable disease, and
 - c. There have been no movements of rabbit and hares onto the premises over the past 30 days, and
 - d. The animals have had no contact with wild rabbits or hares in the past 30 days.
2. No rabbits and hares or rabbit and hare products (meat, pelts, hides, carcasses, etc.) and equipment or other items or associated materials may enter California from a premises known to be affected with [Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease \(RHD\)](#).

3. Persons who intend to bring their animals back to the origin state after the show should check with their state's department of agriculture to make sure the animals will be allowed to return to origin state.

XI. HORSE SHOW DEPARTMENT

State Rules in Sections I-X also apply where there is no conflict.

Rules for Horse Show Management. At US Equestrian and/or breed association approved horse shows, association rules shall apply. At non-US Equestrian approved horse shows, US Equestrian rules will be used as a guideline unless otherwise specified in State or Local Rules. **(See additional rules under Management)**

Exhibitors

1. The age of an exhibitor on **January 1** shall be maintained through the calendar year.
Amateur Definition: a person who does not give riding lessons and/or ride, train, or show horses for money or assist the spouse or immediate family in this activity. This includes a person under the age of 18 years.
 - a. The management reserves the right to question anyone's amateur standing if the question of status has been presented with reasonable cause. The decision of the horse show management shall be final.
 - b. At US Equestrian approved and breed association approved horse shows, their definition of amateur applies.
2. Exhibitors shall provide the following on the entry form for each entry if registered:
 - a. owner's name;
 - b. home barn address (physical origin address where the horse is primarily housed)
 - c. animal's breed;
 - d. animal's name;
 - e. animal's sex; and
 - f. animal's year of birth.

In breed classes where registration papers are required, the owner's name as listed on the registration papers must be the same as on the entry form.

Registration numbers of animals and their sires and dams will be required as per breed association.

3. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, post entries can be accepted at double the entry fee unless a different penalty fee is printed in the exhibitor handbook.
4. Substitutions can only be made within a division. Substitutions must be made when the entry arrives at the fairgrounds. For horse shows, a substitution is considered the horse, not each class in which it is entered. A \$5.00 penalty per horse must be paid prior to judging for each substitution made by the exhibitor.

5. All riders, drivers, and attendants shall be neatly and suitably dressed on entering the show ring. Horse show manager shall have final decision.

Junior Horse Show Exhibitors in 4-H, FFA, and Grange classes, including Independent exhibitors in those classes:

6. Junior Department rules (VII) also apply.
7. Exhibitors must wear properly strapped headgear in mounted or horse-drawn vehicle competitions. Headgear must be approved by American Society for Testing and Materials/Safety Equipment Institute.
8. Junior exhibitors are expected to groom and care for their animal(s) when at the fair. They shall refrain from accepting active assistance from adults and non-exhibiting youth unless the junior exhibitor is actively engaged, and the assistance is only for instruction. Local fair rules will determine enforcement.

Ownership or Lease

1. Any horse exhibited in the junior or youth division must be owned or leased by the junior exhibitor showing the horse or owned by the junior exhibitor's parent, stepparent, sibling, halfsibling, stepsibling, grandparent, step grandparent, sibling's spouse, half sibling's spouse, stepsibling's spouse, or legal guardian (as evidenced by court documents) or owned by the institution in which the junior exhibitor is enrolled as a ward. Separate legal entities, such as family corporations, trusts, or partnerships, are also authorized owners of the youth exhibitor's horse so long as all legal and equitable owners and beneficiaries of the legal entity are individuals specifically authorized by this rule.
2. Horse projects must be owned or leased by and under the exhibitor's care and management and under the supervision of the organization in which the project will be shown 120 consecutive days prior to the opening day of fair or event/show if held separate from fair. The official ownership date is the date shown on the receipt of sale unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor. The days are counted prior to the opening day of the fair or event.
 - a. Leased horses cannot be shown for conformation in the halter division.
 - b. For owned horses, proof of ownership must be available at check-in. "Owned" means, in addition to other legitimate methods of acquiring ownership, the bona fide legal ownership obtained for adequate consideration in reasonable relationship with the actual market value of the horse.
 - c. For leased horses, the lease, signed by the owner and the 4-H, FFA, Grange or Independent exhibitor, and a clear picture of a side view of the horse or some permanent identification must be filed at least 120 consecutive days prior to opening day of the fair or event/show if held separately from the fair at the county 4-H, FFA, or Grange office or with a person designated by the 4-H Youth Advisor, FFA Advisor or Grange Youth Advisor.

3. Horses owned as a joint project may only be shown by one designated exhibitor at an individual show.
4. All Junior Horse Show Exhibitors:
 - a. Fair Management will not offer Lead Line classes in fair sponsored Youth Horse Shows. Lead Line classes may be offered in Open Horse Shows or according to the provisions specified in Rule 5 - a, Special Divisions, ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL RULES, Section VII. Junior Department, page 13.
 - b. Fair Management will not allow junior exhibitors to ride or show stallions unless it is specifically provided for by the breed association and in that case only in those specific breed classes at a US Equestrian sanctioned show.
 - c. Junior horse exhibitors may be allowed to enter the Senior Department horse show unless Local Rules prohibit.

Participation

1. Ponies entered in classes in which horses are eligible to compete cannot be shown in pony classes at the same show. Fair Management can restrict ponies from entering certain classes by stating so wherever applicable in the exhibitor handbook.
2. Donkeys and mules cannot be shown in "all other breed" halter classes.
3. Eliminations, if deemed necessary by the management, may be held in classes with large entries. The exhibitor shall be expected to ascertain whether eliminations will be held.

Management

1. No show or contest official or his/her spouse shall enter or exhibit horses in any show or contest at which he/she is officiating, nor may any horse owned by such person be entered or exhibited. A show contest official shall be defined as any person performing the duties of a show manager, judge steward, show secretary, cutter, or chariot race official, or any other horse contest. Duties include but are not limited to:
 - a. Contacting or hiring of judges; and
 - b. Acceptance of entries or entry fees.
2. Minor children of Directors, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Department Supervisor, Show Manager, staff and/or committee members may exhibit horses which are the result of the child's own earnings, or a gift made to the child, provided the requirements of the pertinent rules are met. All other requirements for exhibiting must be met.
3. Animals owned jointly by a director and his/her minor child, or a CEO and his/her minor child are considered as owned by the child in junior division classes only.

4. Show Manager reserves the right to return entries, transfer entries or combine divisions or classes, and/or cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.
 - a. Any return of entries under this rule must be done on a nondiscriminatory basis.
 - b. The horse show management must divide classes of 50 or more.
Separate prize money and ribbons shall be provided for each class.
5. Horse show management shall assign a number to each horse. The exhibitor must wear the number when showing the horse.
6. Photocopies of registration certificates for horse shows may be permitted for the purpose of submitting entries. However, if the fair receives any complaint or challenge concerning the registration of any animal, the fair may request an original registration certificate and may disqualify the entry if it cannot be produced.

Awards

1. Fair Management may withhold the payment of awards for exhibits which are in question under State and Local Rules and may recover awards that have been paid for exhibits in question.
2. For ties other than first place in a jumper or other individually worked competition, the prize money is split. Ties for first follow the jump off rules of the specific Table and Section for that jumper class. If there is still a tie, prize money is split between the winners (i.e., first and second place money is pooled and split evenly between the two riders). Distribution of nonmoney awards shall be determined by management.

Judges

1. The judge may judge for conformation before entering the show ring.
2. In halter horse classes, judges shall be expected to give reasons for their decisions, embracing the value and desirable qualifications of the animals for which premiums are awarded, whenever possible and reasonable.
3. Judges shall not discriminate against exhibitors wearing protective headgear.

XII. EQUINE HEALTH RULES

1. All animals must be serviceably sound. The soundness of animals when determined by the official veterinarian or by the judge shall be final and cannot be protested. The horse show management may request the official veterinarian to examine any animal in competition. All penalties of the [Horse Protection Act](#) of 1970 shall be strictly enforced.
2. Exhibitors who refuse to allow their animal to be examined shall be disqualified from showing and such violation shall be reported to F&E. No refund can be made in these cases.

Equine Health Regulations

Direct specific questions to CDFA, Animal Health and Food Safety Services, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, California 95814 -- (916) 900-5002.

1. Equines known to be EIA positive or non-negative reactors are forbidden to enter, reside, compete, or sell at any state-supported fairgrounds.
2. [Equine Medication Monitoring Program](#) (EMMP)
 - a. Horses are subject to random drug and medication testing specified in the [Food and Agricultural Code Sections 24000-24018](#). The applicable fee is \$14.00 per horse per event. The following events are exempt from the Equine Medication Monitoring Program:
 - i. A rodeo – related competition, which is strictly a timed performance with no subjective judging, held apart from a public event.
 - ii. A sale of solely racehorses.
 - iii. Competitions under the jurisdiction of the California Horse Racing Board.
 - iv. As of January 1, 2026: A public horse show in which the class or event entry fee is fifteen dollars (\$15) or less, and either no other fees are charged, or all other fees combined do not exceed sixty dollars (\$60). Fees charged may include ground fees, stall fees, or any other fees composed of money, goods, or services assessed to permit competitors to enter into the event.
 - b. The California Equine Medication Rule permits therapeutic drugs or medications prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for the treatment of a veterinary diagnosed illness or injury. All drugs or medications must be used in accordance with the California Equine Medication Rules. Prohibited substances include most stimulants, depressants, tranquilizers, anesthetics including local anesthetics, sedative analgesics, corticosteroids excluding dexamethasone, anabolic steroids, soring agents, and masking agents. Nine permissible medications (dexamethasone, diclofenac acid, firocoxib, flunixin, ketoprofen, meclofenamic acid, methocarbamol, naproxen, and phenylbutazone) are restricted to therapeutic usage as prescribed or administered by a licensed veterinarian, and test sample levels detected must be in compliance with plasma or urine levels associated with limited dosing*. Additionally, the detection of more than one non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug in either a blood or urine sample is a violation of California rules. Maintaining a current listing of specific prohibited substances is impossible due to the continual introduction of new pharmaceuticals, discontinuation of old ones, off labeled prescription of human products, and utilization of foreign products. Additionally, some exemptions exist.

*Specific information is contained in the “EMMP Medication Guidelines Brochure” found at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/emmp/

or may be requested from CDFA/EMMP at (916) 508-3302 or emmp@cdfa.ca.gov.

- c. Horses must be withdrawn from competition for at least 24 hours after administration of a prohibited substance. A drug declaration form must be filed with an event manager for administration of any prohibited substance three (3) days before the event, to any horse entered in the event. Penalties for violations of the medication rules include fines, suspension, and forfeiture of all winnings.

3. **Horse Protection Act**

Exhibitors must comply with the Horse Protection Act of 1970 and rules adopted by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to carry out its provisions.

Equine Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition equine entering California require individual official identification (ID), an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state, and evidence of a negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test performed at a USDA-approved laboratory within 12 months before the date of entry. A “pending” EIA test result does not satisfy the entry requirement. The requirements apply to horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, burros, and zebras.
2. Instead of an ICVI, equine may move on an Extended Equine CVI (EECVI) Movement Permit, also known as equine passport.
3. Acceptable methods for official identification of equine include:
 - a. Complete written physical description of the animal that includes the animal’s name, age, breed, sex, color, distinctive markings including brands, whorls, and scars, and any form of identification such as tattoo or microchip if present.
 - b. Series of four (4) photographs with four (4) views (left-side, right-side, front view, and a view from behind).
 - c. Unique individual identification tattoo or brand associated with an official equine registry. Official registration papers must accompany the animal.
 - d. Electronic implants (microchips) that are ISO 11784/11785 compliant and contain 15 digits. Microchips are implanted in the nuchal ligament on the left side of the neck. A microchip scanner should accompany the animal.

XIII. JUDGING STANDARDS

Note to Fair Management: See also IV-3. “State Judging Standards” are to be used where applicable.

Fairs may allow for additional grouping systems within the Market Ready or Market Acceptable for sale purposes.

MARKET HOG SCORECARD

GRADE

Market Acceptable: U.S. No. 1 and No. 2 hogs of average or greater conformation that are acceptable in leanness, muscularity, and production traits.

Not Market Acceptable: Any hog of below average conformation including U.S. number 3, U.S. number 4 and utility grade hogs.

MARKET LAMB SCORECARD

GRADE

Market Ready: USDA Prime or Choice quality with 12th rib back fat range .16-.35, average or greater conformation and cutability.

Not Market Ready: Good or lower quality grade with 12th rib back fat range .35; underfinished lambs grading USDA good or lower, below-average conformation or cutability.

MARKET BEEF SCORECARD

GRADE

Market Ready: Market steers projected to have sufficient fat deposition to meet the marbling specifications for USDA Prime, Choice, or Select+ quality grades.

Not Market Ready: Market steers lacking evidence of sufficient fat deposition to produce a desirable consumer product. Steers projected to grade USDA Select - or lower.

MARKET VEAL SCORECARD

GRADE

Group 1: Animals are smooth, deep, thick, and compact; and the udder or scrotum shows a marked fullness. They must have youthful appearance and be in good condition.

Group 2: Animals must possess a moderately high degree of the higher quality grade characteristics. They will carry less finish, show more bone, and have less uniformity.

Group 3: Animals lack finish, are rather leggy and hippy, are rough in the shoulder, and are light in the round.

MARKET GOAT (CHEVON) SCORECARD

GRADE

Market Ready: USDA Prime or Choice quality with 12th rib back fat range .08-12 most desirable, .13-.22 back fat acceptable, average, or greater conformation and cutability.

Not Market Ready: Good or lower quality grade with 12th rib back fat range .22; underfinished goats grading USDA good or lower, below average conformation or cutability.

**2026 STATE RULES FOR CALIFORNIA FAIRS
ADDENDUM I
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2026**

Changes or additions in red type, deleted wording is struck through.

V. PROTEST

1. Protests will be considered only if there has been a violation of State or Local Rules that have not been enforced. Decisions of judges, veterinarians, weighmasters, breed callers, tail dock officials, ~~and timers,~~ **and other fair officials** cannot be protested and are final.

**VII. JUNIOR DEPARTMENT
Exhibitor Age Requirements**

1. FFA members **must be enrolled in a state-approved agricultural education program at their school to participate as an FFA exhibitor and** may participate as members as early as entering into the seventh grade, until the end of the calendar year following the year of graduation from high school. (For example, a graduate this year is eligible until December 31 of next year.)
5. **Special Divisions** - Youth under 9 years of age must exhibit in special small animal and non-livestock divisions designated by the local fair, ~~with the exception of Pee Wee Showmanship.~~ **Youth organization affiliation is not required. No premiums or monetary awards to be provided by the fair, as well as no possibility of participating in the livestock auction.**
 - a. Pee Wee Showmanship is a learning experience for youth 5 to 8 years of age **to participate in livestock showmanship divisions.** ~~No premiums or monetary awards to be provided by the fair, as well as no possibility of participating in the livestock auction.~~ Participants should sign a release of liability/Hold Harmless statement provided by the Fair.

Livestock and Horse Exhibits, Ownership

1. Animal and horse projects must be owned (and leased horses as specified in this document) solely by and under the exhibitor's care and management and under the supervision of the organization in which the project will be shown as specified below. Animal projects may NOT be shown/**entered** by another person at ANY other show/jackpot regardless of the other shows' rules, within the animal's ownership period, **except when multiple animals are entered by the same exhibitor in the same class.** The official ownership date is the date shown on the receipt of sale unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor. The days are counted prior to the opening day of the fair unless the event in the case of horse shows is held separately from the Fair. Ownership must be maintained through show date(s) of fair or event. See also VIII Livestock Department and XI. HORSE SHOW DEPARTMENT Ownership of Lease, rules 1 and 2.

2. No animal exhibit (excluding rabbit & poultry) owned by a chapter or club, conducted as a joint project by two or more individuals, or jointly owned by two or more individuals is eligible in the junior department, unless the division or class specifically so states, **or in the case that breeding animals are jointly owned by siblings only.**

Breeding animals entered in the junior department may be jointly owned by siblings provided the animal is entered and exhibited solely and in the name of one individual junior exhibitor, and that exhibitor is one of the siblings listed on the registration paper issued by a recognized-breed association. All entries must be registered and recorded by a recognized breed association in the name of the exhibitor(s). A 30-day consecutive ownership requirement applies to each sibling – meaning if one sibling shows the breeding animal at one fair, it cannot be shown by the other sibling within 30 days at another fair. Animals with a farm, family, ranch, or non-sibling owner's name listed as the owner are NOT eligible to enter. No pending papers will be accepted. Only ORIGINAL REGISTRATION PAPERS will be accepted.

3. Under no circumstances may an exhibitor ~~concurrently~~ **simultaneously** enter the same species of animal or bird (horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, dairy goats, meat goats, pygmy goats, poultry, pigeons, or rabbits) **under more than one youth organization** (in FFA, 4-H, Grange, ~~and~~ **or** Independent) in classes of the junior department **in the same year. (Please refer to 4-H/FFA/Grange/Fairs & Expositions Youth Agreement at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/fairsandexpositions/> for more information).**

4. No junior exhibitor may exhibit an animal in a market class once it has been sold as a market animal through a fair junior livestock auction. These animals may be shown following the 30 consecutive day ownership requirement as breeding animals only. ~~All champion and reserve champion market animals will be permanently identified by the fair if sold through a fair junior livestock auction unless these animals are sold at a terminal sale with no live animal pick-up.~~ **All market animals sold through a fair junior livestock auction with a live pick-up disposition will be permanently identified using universal tattoo in the left ear (for 2026 fair season, use "FE26") with green ink prior to the release of market animals.**

VIII. LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

Definitions (See also Section I Definitions.)

2. **Barrow** – Castrated male swine.

- 4. **Cryptorchid** – Male with retained testicle(s) and is not considered a castrated male.
- 16. **Steer** – Castrated male bovine.
- 18. **Wether** – Castrated male goat or sheep.

IX. ANIMAL SPECIES RULES

Sheep

- 1. ~~All sheep in California require official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership, except:~~
 - a. ~~Lambs less than 18 months of age in slaughter channels that have not lambed, aborted, or are pregnant.~~
 - b. ~~Low risk sheep (those not exposed to scrapie or to any sheep, unless low risk commercial sheep).~~
 - c. ~~Castrated animals less than 18 months of age that are not for exhibition.~~

1. Official Identification

Sheep Entries from California

All exhibition sheep in California require official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership. (See also Section X. Animal Health Rules, SHEEP AND GOATS for a list of acceptable methods of official identification.)

Sheep Entries from Other States

All exhibition sheep imported into California require official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition.

Goats

~~All goats in California require official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when goats change ownership, except:~~

- a. ~~Kids less than 18 months of age in slaughter channels that have not lambed, kidded, aborted, or are pregnant.~~
- b. ~~Low risk goats (those not exposed to scrapie or to any goats, unless low risk commercial goats).~~
- c. ~~Castrated animals less than 18 months of age that are not for exhibition.~~

Goat Entries from California

All exhibition goats in California require official identification issued by the USDA. Official identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when goats change ownership. (See also Section X. Animal Health Rules, SHEEP AND GOATS for a list of acceptable methods of official identification.)

Goat Entries from Other States

All exhibition goats imported into California require official identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition.

X. ANIMAL HEALTH RULES

Eligibility. See also Eligibility Rule II – 1.

9. Sellers are responsible for animals that are condemned or rejected at processing centers, ~~unless contamination/injury occurred after the sale~~ **except if injury is caused during transport to the processing facility.**

Use of Pharmaceuticals in Market Animals:

4. Per Food and Ag Code 14363 (a), it is unlawful for any livestock owner or agent to sell or dispose of any livestock or livestock carcasses which within 48 hours after the buyer takes possession have drug residues in excess of allowable federal or state tolerances. In addition to any other penalties imposed by this chapter, any livestock owner or agent violating this section shall be liable to the buyer for an amount equal to three times the purchase price of any livestock or livestock carcasses with drug residues in excess of allowable federal or state tolerances so long as the liability does not conflict with the federal Packers and Stockyards Act, and shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) for each head of livestock or livestock carcass disposed of or sold. In addition, the livestock owner or agent shall be liable for any attorney's fees. See also Food and Ag Code (FAC) 14360 and 14362.

CATTLE

Cattle Entries from California

4. As of November 5, 2024, all official ID tags applied to cattle and bison must be both electronically (EID) and visually readable. For a list of manufacturers currently licensed by USDA as approved tagged manufacturers for cattle EIDs, please visit the [Animal Identification Number Management System](#).

Acceptable methods for [official identification of cattle](#) include:

- a. Official USDA individual identification eartags:

- i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartag (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
 - ii. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) eartags (if applied prior to November 4, 2024):
 - USDA metal brucellosis calfhood vaccination (orange) eartags for females
 - USDA metal “silver brite” eartags
- b. Legible breed registration tattoos with accompanying registration paperwork.

Cattle Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition cattle entering California require individual official identification, an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit issued within 15 days prior to entry, and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state. Official identification must be listed on the ICVI.
2. Lactating dairy cattle must be accompanied by a negative HPAI (H5N1) test date within 10 days prior to entry into the state.
3. As of November 5, 2024, all official ID tags applied to cattle and bison must be both electronically (EID) and visually readable. For a list of manufacturers currently licensed by USDA as approved tagged manufacturers for cattle EIDs, please visit the Animal Identification Number Management System.
2. Acceptable methods for official identification of cattle include:
 - a. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartag (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
 - b. Official USDA individual identification eartags (if applied prior to November 4, 2024):
 - i. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) eartags (if applied prior to November 4, 2024):
 - USDA metal brucellosis calfhood vaccination (orange) eartags for females
 - USDA metal “silver brite” eartags
 - c. Legible breed registration tattoos with accompanying registration paperwork.
- ~~3.5.~~ It is unlawful to remove official identification eartags. Requests to remove an official identification eartag must be submitted to CDFA, AHFSS in writing at least 72 hours prior to the need to remove the eartag. The request must include a photo of the eartag, the reason the eartag must be removed, and all other official eartags on the animal.
- 4.6. Testing and/or vaccination requirements include the following:
 - a. All female dairy cattle four (4) months of age and over must bear evidence of official calfhood vaccination against brucellosis with a legible, official tattoo visible in the right ear.

- b. All sexually intact dairy cattle six (6) months of age and over require a negative tuberculosis (TB) test within 60 days prior to entering California or must originate from a TB accredited free herd with documentation of the herd number and last test date on the ICVI.
- c. Cattle do not require a brucellosis test unless originating from a designated brucellosis surveillance area. **If a brucellosis test is necessary, the test needs to be collected within 30 days of entry and be performed by a state or federally-approved lab.**
- d. All bulls 18 months of age and over, and non-virgin bulls less than 18 months of age, require a negative individual PCR trichomoniasis test performed within 60 days prior to entry, except bulls used solely for exhibition that are confined to the exhibition location, without access to mature female cattle, ~~and~~ will return directly to the state of origin after exhibition, **and are not changing ownership**. Pooled samples are not acceptable for testing.

SHEEP AND GOATS

Sheep and Goat Entries from California

1. All sheep and goats entering fairs require individual official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Individual official identification must be kept on the animals. Acceptable methods of official identification of sheep and goats include:
 - a. Official USDA individual identification eartags:
 - i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartags (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
 - ii. Scrapie eartags: either flock identification eartags (flock identification number with individual animal number) or serial eartags (alphanumeric combination for individual animal). **Scrapie identification is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership, except:**
 - **Wethers for exhibition and wethers under 18 months of age.**

Sheep and Goat Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition sheep and goats entering California require individual official **serapie** identification issued by the USDA, an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit issued within 15 days prior to entry, and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state with the following scrapie statement “The animals are not scrapie positive or suspect or from a scrapie non-compliant flock”. Official identification must be listed on the ICVI.
2. Acceptable methods of official identification of sheep and goats include:
 - a. Official USDA individual identification eartags
 - i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartags (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
 - ii. Scrapie eartags: either flock identification eartags (flock identification number with individual animal number) or serial

eartags (alphanumeric combination for individual animal). Scrapie identification is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership.

POULTRY

Poultry Entries from Other States

- ~~2. All exhibition poultry entering California shall be free of any evidence of Avian Influenza, Virulent Newcastle Disease, and all other contagious diseases.~~
2. All exhibition poultry entering California shall be free of any evidence of Avian Influenza, Virulent Newcastle Disease, and all other contagious diseases and not originate from a control area in place for those diseases.

RABBIT AND CAVY

Rabbit and Cavy Entries from Other States

2. No rabbits and hares or rabbit and hare products (meat, pelts, hides, carcasses, etc.) and equipment or other items or associated materials may enter California from a premises known to be affected with Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD).
- ~~2.~~ 3. Persons who intend to bring their animals back to the origin state after the show should check with their state's department of agriculture to make sure the animals will be allowed to return to origin state.

XI. HORSE SHOW DEPARTMENT

Exhibitors

2. Exhibitors shall provide the following on the entry form for each entry if registered:
 - a. owner's name;
 - b. home barn address (physical origin address where the horse is primarily housed);
 - c. animal's breed;
 - d. animal's name;
 - e. animal's sex; and
 - f. animal's year of birth

XII. EQUINE HEALTH RULES

Equine Health Regulations

Direct specific questions to CDFA, Animal Health and Food Safety Services, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, California 95814 -- (916) 900-5002.

1. Equines known to be EIA positive or non-negative reactors are forbidden to enter, reside, compete, or sell at any state-supported fairgrounds.
2. Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP)
 - a. Horses are subject to random drug and medication testing specified in the Food and Agricultural Code Sections 24000-24018. The applicable

fee is \$14.00 per horse per event. The following events are exempt from the Equine Medication Monitoring Program:

- i. A rodeo – related competition, which is strictly a timed performance with no subjective judging, held apart from a public event.
- ii. A sale of solely racehorses.
- iii. Competitions under the jurisdiction of the California Horse Racing Board.

~~iv. A public equine event for which the class or event entry fee is less than \$4.99 per class and other fees do not exceed \$19.99 (Other fees include but are not limited to, grounds fees, stall fees or office fees.)~~

~~v. A public equine event in which all fees for participation are less than \$19.99 (Fees include but are not limited to class fees, grounds fees, stall fees or office fees.)~~

iv. As of January 1, 2026: A public horse show in which the class or event entry fee is fifteen dollars (\$15) or less, and either no other fees are charged, or all other fees combined do not exceed sixty dollars (\$60). Fees charged may include ground fees, stall fees, or any other fees composed of money, goods, or services assessed to permit competitors to enter into the event.

ADDENDUM II

EXHIBIT PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR FAIR MANAGEMENT AND EXHIBIT STAFF

Fairs and Expositions Branch
1220 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Welcome to the Junior Department

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNGSTERS SHOWING LIVESTOCK

1. Thou shalt not feed, train, and care for the animal for thou art trying to teach the child responsibility.
2. Thou shalt forgive a child for making mistakes in the showing for thou hast made mistakes too!
3. Thou shalt not get mad when thy child forgets items in the showbox for one day thou may forget showbox.
4. Thou shalt help the show management for they are doing a job that thou would not want to do.
5. Thou shalt see that thy child is on time for all show activities for thou would not want to wait on another.
6. Thou shalt make sure thy child has animals entered and registration papers in order by the designated time.
7. Thou shalt teach the child that winning a blue ribbon is a desirable goal but making friends along the way is a more worthy goal.
8. Thou shalt not complain about the judge for it is his opinion that has been sought.
9. Thou shalt remember that livestock projects are teaching projects, not necessarily money-making projects.
10. Thou shalt remember that the livestock project is a family project that shall be enjoyed and supported by the entire family.

Clyde D. Lane, JR
Extension Specialist
University of Tennessee

RULES SHOULD ENCOURAGE RATHER THAN DISCOURAGE PARTICIPATION WHILE ENSURING EDUCATIONAL AND EQUITABLE COMPETITION.

STATE RULES ARE ADOPTED TO PROVIDE STATE-WIDE COMPETITION CONSISTENCY. LOCAL RULES MAY BE CREATED BY INDIVIDUAL FAIRS. LOCAL RULES MAY BE MORE STRICT THAN STATE RULES, BUT MAY NOT CONFLICT WITH THEM.

LOCAL RULES SHOULD BE PRINTED IN THE EXHIBITOR HANDBOOK.

1. Local Rules MUST specify protest policy and procedures.
 - a. How and when and with whom protests must be filed.
 - b. Who will hear and determine protests.
 - c. How, when and who will respond to interested parties regarding the decision.
2. Each fair should consider the following items and determine local rules as needed:
 - a. Residency requirements of exhibitors in each department.
 - b. Judging system (American or Danish) to be used in each department or division.
 - c. Dates for receiving entry forms and fees, receiving entries, releasing entries, etc.
 - d. Any additional requirements to the “substitution” rule.
 - e. Length of ownership for specific departments or divisions. NOTE: Local rules may establish longer length of ownership rules than specified in State Rules.
 - f. Specify what is the minimum number of exhibits required to hold a class.
 - g. Fairs may establish award limits that are more strict than State Rules in order to distribute awards further. Example: “One cash award per division” or “entries limited to one per class per exhibitor” or “market animals sold through the junior livestock auction will not receive premium money,” etc.
 - h. Fairs should establish age requirements for junior divisions separate from 4-H, FFA, Grange and Independent exhibitors as specified in State Rules. Fairs should work with local 4-H, FFA, Grange to coordinate consistent age requirements for participation.
 - i. Fairs may require that each animal entered into a group be specified on the entry form.
 - j. Fairs may establish a minimum age limit to be allowed in the show ring for open livestock competition.
 - k. Fairs are encouraged to make a local rule prohibiting the buy-back by exhibitor/seller of animal(s) sold through the junior livestock auction.
 - l. Establish a local rule regarding if the fair will accept and judge “papers pending” livestock exhibits.
 - m. Categories for participation in special small animal and non-livestock divisions for youth under 9 years of age, see VII. Junior Department, Exhibitor Age Requirements, Rule 5.

- n. Establish length of ownership for breeding and feeder animals. See VII. Junior Department, Livestock and Horse Exhibits, Ownership, Rule 1b.
- o. Local rules to specify details for terminal sale. See VIII. Livestock Department, Market Animals, Rule 2.
- p. Determine if post entries in the horse show will accepted and, if so, any penalty to be charged.
- q. Specify description of “age of horse show exhibitor”. See XI. Horse Show Department, Exhibitors, Rule 1.
- r. Determine local requirements for 4-H, FFA, Grange and Independent exhibitors regarding caring for and grooming their animals while at the fair. See VII. Junior Department, Livestock & Horse Exhibits, Other, Rule 1.

INDIVIDUAL FAIRS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS ISSUES WITH OTHER FAIRS AND OBTAIN COPIES OF EXHIBITOR HANDBOOKS FROM OTHER FAIRS TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING NECESSARY LOCAL RULES.

GENERAL INFORMATION STATEMENT OF EXHIBIT PRINCIPLES

THE FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS BRANCH believes the mission of competitive exhibits at fairs is to ensure the competition is educational, ethical, and equitable. This will be accomplished in a manner representing the highest integrity and standards of all participants.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, exhibitors requesting disability-related accommodations need to contact their respective fair office prior to the fair event.

UPON SUBMITTAL AND SIGNATURE ON THE ENTRY FORM, exhibitors, agents, leaders, parents/guardians, acknowledge and agree to the following principles for competition:

1. Exhibitors will comply with State and Local Rules and accept all responsibility for their exhibits.
2. Exhibitors agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the fair, the county and the State of California from and against any liability, claim, loss or expense (including reasonable attorneys’ fees) arising out of any injury or damage, which is caused by, arises from or is in any way connected with participation in the program or event, excepting only that caused by the sole active negligence of the Fair. The Fair Management shall not be responsible for accidents or losses that may occur to any of the exhibitors or exhibits at the Fair. The exhibitor (or parent or guardian of a minor) is responsible for any injury or damage resulting from the exhibitor’s participation in the program or event. This includes any injury to others or to the exhibitor or to the exhibitor’s property.

3. Exhibitors must be able to prove their own eligibility and that of their exhibits according to State and Local Rules and acknowledge that misrepresentation of any kind is prohibited.
4. Junior exhibitors are expected to prepare, manage and present their own exhibits.
5. Exhibitors will conduct themselves with sportsmanship; integrity and cooperation with all participants.
6. In the case of animals:
 - a. Exhibitors will exhibit healthy animals and handle them with care; and
 - b. Exhibit them in their unaltered conformation except for common animal husbandry practices, and
 - c. Use all pharmaceuticals, biologics and other chemicals lawfully and with notification to fair management as it specifies.

IN FULFILLMENT OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, the Fairs and Expositions Branch and the Local Fair agrees to the following principles for competition:

1. Fairs will advocate and enforce the printed rules.
2. In the case of rules violations or in practices determined to be unethical and inappropriate with the competitive exhibit program,
 - a. The fair has the right to deny entry or remove any exhibitor or exhibit that is determined ineligible, or whose presentation is deemed not in the best interest of the fair, endangers the public or has violated the rules.
 - b. The fair shall discipline such exhibitors as deemed appropriate; and
 - c. The fair shall submit a written report of such discipline to the appropriate governing body of the Fairs and Expositions Branch, regulatory agency, youth or breed association.
3. Fair staff will conduct themselves with integrity, professionalism and cooperation with all participants.

It is of the utmost importance to the continued integrity of the local fair and to fair industry, as a whole, that directors, managers, department supervisors, staff and any other involved persons remove themselves from the selection of, or fraternization with, judges in departments in which their own minor children are exhibiting. The appearance or assumption of influence over the judging is just as detrimental to fairs and exhibitors as if it were a fact.

Fair must avoid calling upon parents of junior exhibitors to serve as judges, clerks or other official capacities where they have or may appear to have considerable influence over the outcome of judging.

Fairs are encouraged to make a reasonable effort to enforce California Department of Food and Agriculture laws. Fairs have the right to see any described tattoos, tags or documentation to enforce these laws as they see fit.

Combining 4-H, FFA, Grange, and Independent exhibitors. The policy of fairs is to encourage meaningful competition and education. This should be the main consideration when combining any division. When entries in 4-H, FFA, Grange and/or Independent exhibitors are low, IT IS NOT MANDATORY TO COMBINE CLASSES. If the fair decides to

combine competition, great care should be taken in doing so. The combining of too broad a range of weights/ages, etc. could create a situation where competition exists only “on paper.”

Which judged groups of animals to sell in Junior Livestock Auction should be determined which reflects support of the Junior Livestock Auction Committee and the local community. Example: Market Beef are judged Market Ready/Not Market Ready; whereas, veal is judged Group 1, 2 and 3. Local rules may specify only Market Ready, or only specific may sell. See XIII. Judging Standards.

Every market animal exhibitor and parent/guardian must complete the Declaration of Medication form prior to the sale of the animal through the auction. Animals will not be eligible to sell if the form is not signed.

Harvesting/Processing Regulations

- a. All animals (beef, sheep, swine, rabbits, poultry, etc.) destined for harvest after the auction should be delivered only to licensed state or federal slaughter plants (California Food & Agriculture Code and Federal Code.)
- b. Harvesting/Processing at **federally licensed plants is mandatory** for livestock purchased from the Junior Livestock Auction when:
 - 1) The carcass is intended for RESALE (including restaurants, retail meat stores, nursing/convalescent homes, fund raisers, etc.).
 - 2) The carcasses of animals are entered into carcass evaluations/contests.

Any person or persons who are found guilty of violating this provision are subject to imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or both.

- c. STATE LICENSED PLANTS can only be used for livestock purchased from Junior Livestock Auction when it is for the sole use of the buyer.
- e. Fairs having difficulties locating or making satisfactory arrangements with licensed slaughtering plants should contact:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health and Food Safety Services: Meat, Poultry & Eggs Safety Branch
1220 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone: (916) 900-5004
Fax: (916) 900-5334
Cdfa.mpes_feedback@cdfa.ca.gov

CLUB LAMB FUNGUS DISEASE

See the [fact sheet](#) created by California Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health Branch. The disease occurs most commonly in show sheep and is contagious to humans and other animals.

The fact sheet contains specific recommendations for sheep handling, sanitation, surveillance and reduction of stress on the animals. Pre-education of exhibitors is important with all exhibitors, leaders and parents understanding their responsibilities in containing this disease. If club lamb fungus disease is diagnosed in animals at your fair, the animal(s) must be disqualified and removed from the fairgrounds.

SPECIAL CATTLE REQUIREMENTS

The Bureau of Livestock Identification (BLI) is the State's brand registration and inspection program protecting cattle owners in California against loss of animals by theft, straying, or misappropriation. The inspection of cattle is required whenever cattle are sold, or ownership is transferred. There is a required fee of \$1.40 per head.

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health and Food Safety Services, Bureau of Livestock Identification
1220 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

To comply with the Beef Checkoff program, the law requires all producers selling cattle or calves, for any reason and regardless of cattle age and sex, to pay \$1 per head to support beef/veal promotion, research and education.

California Beef Council
P.O. Box 340368
Sacramento, CA 95834-0368

An additional assessment of \$1 per head shall be paid on each sale of any cattle. This assessment will be used to fund the California Cattle Council in order to provide additional resources to defend and promote cattle production in the state.

California Cattle Council
1111 16th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SPECIAL SWINE REQUIREMENTS

100% Legislative Pork Checkoff Remittance. Federal law requires that \$0.35 per every \$100 of the sale price from hogs sold at auction be deducted from the sales price and sent to the National Pork Board. Remittance instructions and forms may be obtained through:

National Pork Board
1776 NW 114th Street
Des Moines, IA 50325
1(800) 456-7675

SPECIAL SHEEP REQUIREMENTS

By federal law, all sheep or lambs of any age, are subject to the national lamb checkoff assessment at the time of every sale. The national lamb checkoff is directed by the American Lamb Board (ALB) and requires that the live weight assessment of \$0.007 per pound and the first handler assessment of \$0.42 per head is deducted. The contributions help fund research, education and promotions designed to build awareness and demand for American Lamb.

American Lamb Board
6300 E. Yale Ave., Suite 110
Denver, CO 80222

LIVESTOCK WEIGHING REQUIREMENTS FOR SALE ANIMALS

A weighmaster is any person who weighs, measures or counts any commodity and issues a statement or memorandum used as the basis for either purchase or sale of that commodity or charge for service.

1. All scales must be certified annually by the local Division of Measurement Standards before weighing animals for sale.
2. Fairs are not required to have a licensed weighmaster or deputy weighmaster perform the weighing function at the fair. Any fair not using licensed weighmasters should send a notification of exemption letter to:

Division of Measurement Standards
6790 Florin Perkins Road, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95828

If licensed weighmasters are not used, weight tags/slips cannot be represented as "certified" or as "weight certificates."

3. Fairs that have or have the use of certifiable scales on the grounds, may become licensed weighmasters by application to the California State Division of Measurement Standards. The licenses are annually renewable. There is a fee for the Principal Weighmaster and a lesser fee for each person who is named a deputy. It recommended that at least one deputy weighmaster be named.
 - a. If your fair decides to use licensed weighmasters and deputies, please follow all pertinent rules and regulations. Obtain current regulations contact Division of Measurement Standards at above address.

2026 ANIMAL BIRTHDATE LIST

*Insert date based upon opening date of the fair as published in the Exhibitor's Handbook.

- 1) Four months prior for beef, dairy cattle and swine.
- 2) Three months prior for sheep (use month and year only)
- 3) Two months prior for dairy goats and angora goats.

For example, a fair opening on July 18, 2026 will use March 17, 2026 for beef, dairy cattle and swine; May 17, 2026 for Dairy Goats. When the foregoing rule makes classes inoperative, such as for registered swine at early fairs, the rule will be applied to the last class operative. For sheep, insert the third month prior to the latest month in which your fair operates. For a July fair, insert "April; if the fair continues into August, use "May."

**If October is used, the Yearling birthdate must change to September 2024 through September 2025.

*** Junior yearling and July/August fall females must have raised a litter of pigs or be in pig to be eligible for entry.

**** Junior and Senior yearling dry can be combined when history or entries indicate.

HORSES

Weanling	During 2026
Yearling	During 2025
Two Years	During 2024
Three Years	During 2023
Four Years	During or before 2022

BEEF CATTLE

Junior Calf	Jan. 1, 2026 through _____ *
Senior Calf	Sept. 1 through Dec. 21, 2025
Summer Yearling	May 1 through August 31, 2025
Junior Yearling	Jan. 1 through April 30, 2025
Senior Yearling	March 1 through Dec. 31, 2024

BEEF CATTLE OPTIONAL

Junior Calf	After Jan. 1, 2026
Winter Calf	Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025
Senior Calf	Sept. 1 through Oct. 31, 2025

DAIRY CATTLE – BULLS

Calf	Sept. 1, 2025 through _____ *
Yearling Bull	Sept. 1, 2024 through Aug. 31, 2026

OPTIONAL – DAIRY BULLS

Junior Calf	March 1, 2026 through _____ *
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Senior Calf	Sept. 1, 2025 through Feb. 29, 2026
Junior Yearling	March 1, 2025 through Aug. 31, 2025
Senior Yearling	Sept. 1, 2024 through Feb. 29, 2025
Two-Year-Old Bull	Sept. 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024
Aged Bull	Prior to Sept. 1, 2023

DAIRY FEMALES

Junior Calf	January 1, 2026 through _____*
Senior Calf	Sept. 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2025
Junior Yearling	March 1, 2025 through Aug. 31, 2025
Senior Yearling	Sept. 1, 2024 through Feb. 29, 2025
Two Years – Under Three	Sept. 1, 2023 through Aug. 31, 2024
Three Years – Under Four	Sept. 1, 2022 through Aug. 31, 2023
Four Years – Under Five	Sept. 1, 2021 through Aug. 31, 2022
Aged Cow	Prior to Sept. 1, 2021

DAIRY FEMALES – OPTIONAL

Junior Calf	March 1, 2026 through _____*
Intermediate	Dec. 1, 2025 through Feb. 29, 2026
Senior Calf	Sept. 1, 2025 through Nov. 30, 2025
Summer Yearling	June 1, 2025 through Aug. 31, 2025
Junior Yearling	March 1, 2025 through May 31, 2025
Intermediate Yearling	Dec. 1, 2024 through Feb. 29, 2025
Senior Yearling	Sept. 1, 2024 through Nov. 30, 2024
Junior Two-Year-Old	March 1, 2024 through Aug. 31, 2024
Senior Two-Year-Old	Sept. 1, 2023 through Feb. 29, 2024
Three-Year-Old	Sept. 1, 2022 through Aug. 31, 2023
Four-Year-Old	Sept. 1, 2021 through Aug. 31, 2022
Five and Six-Year-Old	Sept. 1, 2021 through Aug. 31, 2021
Aged Cow	Prior to Sept. 1, 2020
Dry Cow Three Years & Over	Born before Sept. 1, 2022

SWINE – BOARS

Boar Farrowed	April 2026
Boar Farrowed	March 2026
Boar Farrowed	February 2026
Boar Farrowed	January 2026

SWINE – FEMALES

Gilt Farrowed	April 2026
Gilt Farrowed	March 2026
Gilt Farrowed	February 2026
Gilt Farrowed	January 2026
Female, Fall	July 1 to Dec. 31, 2025
Female, Junior Yearling	Jan. 1 to June 31, 2025

SHEEP

Yearling	Sept. 2024 through Aug. 2025
Fall Lamb	Sept. 2025 through Dec. 2026
Spring Lamb	Jan 2026 through _____*

SHEEP – OPTIONAL FOR DORSETS

Early Fall	Sept. 1 through October 31, 2025
Late Fall	Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025
Spring	January 1, 2026 and after

SHEEP – OPTIONAL FOR OTHER BREEDS

Fall Lamb	Sept. through Dec. 2025
Winter Lamb	Jan. through Feb. 15, 2026
Spring Lamb	Feb. 16, 2026 and after

DAIRY GOATS – FEMALES

Junior Kid	April 16, 2026 through _____*
Intermediate Kid	March 1 through April 15, 2026
Senior Kid	Jan. 1 through Feb. 29, 2026
Junior Yearling	July 1 through Dec. 31, 2025
Senior Yearling	Jan. 1 through June 30, 2025
Yearling Milker	Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025
Two Years – Under Three	Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2024
Three Years – Under Four	Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2023
Four Years – Under Five	Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2022
Five Years and Over	Prior to Jan 1, 2021 or later

ANGORA GOATS – BUCKS

Kid	Dec.1, 2026 through June 1, 2026
Yearling	Dec. 1, 2026 through Nov. 30, 2025

ANGORA GOATS – DOES

Kid	Dec. 1, 2025 through June 1, 2026
Yearling	Dec. 1, 2024 through Nov. 30, 2025
Aged	Prior to December 1, 2024

CHEVON: MARKET GOATS

Suggest no more than seven months old at fair. Fairs may set minimum-maximum weight.

POULTRY – CHICKENS

Hen	One year or older
Pullet	Less than one year
Cock	One year or older
Cockerel	Less than one year
Meat Chickens: Suggest not over 12 weeks of age.	Three pounds or more.

POULTRY – TURKEYS

Old Hen	One year or older
Young Hen	Less than one year
Old Tom	One year or older
Young Tom	Less than one year
Market Hen: Suggest not over 14 weeks of age; 14 – 16 lbs.	
Market Tom: Suggest 17 – 19 weeks of age; 25 – 32 lbs.	

POULTRY – DUCKS

Old Duck (female)	One year or older
Young Duck (female)	Less than one year
Old Drake (male)	One year or older
Young Drake (male)	Less than one year
Market Duck: Suggest not over six months; three pounds and up	

POULTRY – GEESE

Old Goose (female)	One year or older
Young Goose (female)	Less than one year
Old Gander (male)	One year or older
Young Gander (male)	Less than one year
Meat Goose: Suggest not over six months; five pounds and up.	

PIGEONS

Old Cock	One year or older
Young Cock	Less than one year
Old Hen	One year or older
Young Hen	Less than one year
Meat Pigeons: Suggest not over six months; one pound and up.	

RABBITS – LIGHTWEIGHT

ENGLISH/FRENCH ANGORA, DUTCH, HIMALAYAN, HOLLAND LOP, MINI LOP,
NETHERLAND DWARF, MINI REX, REX, SILVER MARTIN

Senior Buck	Six months and older
Junior Buck	Under six months
Senior Doe	Six months and older
Junior Doe	Under six months

RABBITS – HEAVYWEIGHT

CALIFORNIAN, ENGLISH LOP, FRENCH LOP, NEW ZEALAND, SATIN, FLEMISH GIANT

Senior Buck	Eight months and older
Intermediate Buck	Six – Eight months of age

Junior Buck	Under six months
Senior Doe	Eight months and older
Intermediate Doe	Six – Eight months of age
Junior Doe	Under eight months
Meat Rabbit: Suggest not over 70 days; 3.5 pounds and up	

CAVIES (GUINEA PIGS)

Senior Boar and Sow	Over six months and over 30 oz
Intermediate Boar and Sow	Four - Six months; 22 – 30 ounces
Junior Boar and Sow	Up to four months; under 22 oz

RIBBON COLOR LIST

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF RIBBON COLOR IS PROVIDED ONLY AS A REFERENCE AND NOT AS A REQUIREMENT FOR USE.

FAIRS AND LIVESTOCK SHOWS

AMERICAN HORSE SHOW

ASSOCIATION

Champion	Purple	Blue, Red, Yellow
Reserve Champion	Lavender	Red, Yellow, White
1 st	Blue	Blue
2 nd	Red	Red
3 rd	White	Yellow
4 th	Pink	White
5 th	Yellow	Pink
6 th	Green	Green
7 th	Lt. Green	Purple
8 th	Brown	Brown
9 th	Gray	Gray
10 th	Lt. Blue	Lt. Blue
Honorable Mention	Lt. Blue or Purple	Green or next place color
Best of Breed	Purple	---
Best of Show	Purple	---