

Matagorda County Fair



Livestock Rule Book

“Proudly Serving Today’s Youth....Tomorrow’s Future”

Please read this Rule Book carefully for important dates and other revisions.

Check website for any date changes or other information www.matagordacountyfair.com

New rule and date changes are highlighted in yellow.

WARNING

***TO ALL: EXHIBITORS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS,
AG SCIENCE INSTRUCTORS,
4-H LEADERS AND COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS:***

***ANY UNAPPROVED, OVER-TOLERANCE OR
ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE
DETECTED IN ANY MARKET SHOW ANIMALS
LIVE OR CARCASS,
MAY JEOPARDIZE ALL FUTURE
MATAGORDA COUNTY FAIR
& LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION ASSOCIATION
YOUTH LIVESTOCK MARKET SHOWS***

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*Bucket Calf Entry Forms can be found on the Fairs website www.matagordacountyfair.com
Bucket Calf forms MUST be turned into the Fair Office.*

Important Dates

(Dates are Subject to Change)

Species	Entry Form Due	Due By	Excuses for Absences for Tag In Due	Time Due & Location	Tag-in/Validation	Tag-In Validation Time	Clinic	Clinic Time	Check-In	Weigh-in Time	Date of Show	Show Time
STEER	Thursday, October 22, 2026	5:00pm	Friday, September 11, 2026	NOON (Fair Office)	Saturday September 12, 2026 (Fairgrounds)	7:00-9:00am	Nov. 7, 2026 Dec. 5, 2026 Jan. 9, 2027 Feb. 6, 2027	9:00 am Indoor Arena (Fairgrounds)	Tuesday March 2, 2027 Tack Noon-5:00 Steers Check In 5:00pm-7:00pm	Wednesday, March 3, 2027 3:00pm-5:00pm	Thursday March 4, 2027	Noon
SWINE	Thursday, October 22, 2026	5:00pm	Friday December 4, 2026	NOON (Fair Office)	Saturday December 5, 2026 (MPB Parking Lot)	6:30am- 8:30am	TBA	TBA	Wednesday, March 3, 2027	Check In 4:00-6:00PM Weigh In 6:30-7:30pm	Thursday March 4, 2027	8:00am
LAMB	Thursday, October 22, 2026	5:00pm	Friday November 6, 2027	NOON (Fair Office)	Saturday November 7, 2026 (MPB Parking Lot)	8:00am- 9:30am	TBA	TBA	Wednesday, March 3, 2027	8:00am-10:00am	Wednesday, March 3, 2027	Noon Following the Goats
GOAT	Thursday, October 22, 2026	5:00pm	Friday November 6, 2027	NOON (Fair Office)	Saturday November 7, 2026 (MPB Parking Lot)	8:00am- 9:30am	TBA	TBA	Wednesday, March 3, 2027	8:00am-10:00am	Wednesday, March 3, 2027	Noon
RABBIT	Thursday, October 22, 2026	5:00pm	Tuesday, January 26, 2027	NOON (Fair Office)	Wednesday January 27, 2027 (North Hall of Arena)	4:00pm-5:30pm	TBA	TBA	None	None	Tuesday, March 2, 2027	7:30am
POULTRY	Thursday, October 22, 2026	5:00pm	Thursday January 21, 2027	NOON (Fair Office)	Pick Up Friday January 22, 2027 (Holding Pen Fairgrounds)	3:30PM-4:00PM	TBA	TBA	None	None	Wednesday, March 3, 2027	7:30am

***Junior Livestock Auction: Saturday March 6, 2027**

***Sunday Mandatory Clean-Up:** All exhibitors that make the show and sell their project in the Home Economics Food Auction on Saturday, February 27, 2027 or in the Junior Livestock Auction on Saturday, March 6, 2027 will be required to return to the fairgrounds at 7:00 a.m. on the Sunday morning following the auction for the release of their livestock project and to clean up the area that their project was housed in and the area around them. They will be required to Sign-In by 7:00 am with the Director in charge and must not sign-out before 8:00 am with the Director in charge. Mandatory Clean Up Letter found on page 4.

Thank you Notes: Stamped, Addressed, Unsealed THANK YOU letters/notes must be turned in at the Extension Office no later than Thursday, April 1, 2027, to receive your check.

MATAGORDA COUNTY FAIR & LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION ASSOCIATION GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association reserves the final, absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to the show, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. An exhibitor who violates any of the rules of this show will forfeit all privileges and premiums as the association Committee may order.

Every exhibitor understands that their conduct is a reflection on the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association and will act accordingly. Each exhibitor understands that good sportsmanship is required and that you must always be respectful of others. Each exhibitor agrees that they will not engage in any activities which would bring myself, or the Fair Association, into ridicule or contempt. This includes, but is not limited to, using foul language, use of alcohol, being ticketed with MIP, smoking cigarettes, E-cigarettes, vaping or illegal drugs, inappropriate internet or social networking behavior (included Facebook, Snap Chat, Twitter, Instagram, etc.). Any violation will be presented to the MCFLA Board of Directors for disciplinary action up to and including forfeiture of monies.

Liability--Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage done to, or occasioned by, or arising from, any animal or article exhibited by him and for its description as given in the entry blanks, and shall indemnify the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association against all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto, as well as damage or injury to other persons or property, caused by the exhibitor, or any of the exhibits exhibited by him, or arising out of, or in any way connected with such an exhibition or any of the exhibits so exhibited.

No-Pass, No-Play--The Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association has adopted a policy to reflect the no-pass, no-play rules of the University Interscholastic League. This rule will be enforced by the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association from Kindergarten through 12th grade exhibitors.

UIL Rule: Extracurricular Activities provides that a student shall be suspended from participating in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district or the University Interscholastic League during the first three weeks of the grade reporting periods after grade reporting periods in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class other than identified honors or advance class. After a six-week grade reporting period or after the first six weeks of a semester or grade reporting period, in the case of a district with a reporting period longer than six weeks, a child who receives a grade below 70 is suspended from participation in extracurricular activities for three weeks, and for three-week intervals thereafter if all grades are not above 70.

- ❖ A suspended student may practice or rehearse with other students for an extracurricular activity but may not participate in a competition or other public performance.
- ❖ Provides that a student enrolled in a school district who participates in an extracurricular activity or UIL competition is subject to school district policy and UIL rules regarding participation only when the student is under the direct supervision of an employee of the school or district in which the student is enrolled or at any other time specified by resolution of the board of trustees of the district.
- ❖ Requires all UIL rules approved for the current year.

This rule is an effort to stress the importance of education. The Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association's goal is "*Serving Today's Youth....Tomorrow's Future.*" Every youth exhibitor wanting to enter the Fair will be responsible for their grades. The MCFLA will contact all schools regarding eligibility on all contestants/exhibitors. This rule will be enforced by the MCFLA from Kindergarten through 12th grade exhibitors. If students do not pass, they will not be allowed to enter their exhibits in the Fair. This rule will include all 4-H, FFA, and FCCLA projects.

Students who were eligible shall not lose eligibility until seven calendar days after the end of the grading period.

EXAMPLE: Grading period ends on Friday at 3:30 p.m. Students shall not regain or lose their eligibility until the following Friday at 3:30 p.m.

The Matagorda County Fair Board will support the decision of the schools in cases of ineligibility for academic or other disciplinary reasons.

Excused Absences for Tag-In/ Validation: Exhibitors must submit a written note from the sponsor of the event in which exhibitors will be participating to the **Fair Office (Fairgrounds)** for board approval prior to noon on the last business day

before Tag in/ Validation date of that species. **See Important dates for due dates.** The event must be a UIL, 4-H, or FFA related event that the exhibitor is participating in. Other circumstances will be considered by the Fair Board on an individual basis.

Excused Absences for February and March Show and Auction – Show: Exhibitors must submit a written note from the sponsor of the event at the Fair Office (Fairgrounds) two weeks prior to the event. The event must be a UIL, 4-H, or FFA related event that the exhibitor is participating in. Auction: Exhibitors are expected to be at the auction. The only exceptions are as follows - (1) UIL, 4-H, FFA sponsored events. The exhibitor must submit a written note from the sponsor of the event at the Fair's Office, a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the UIL, 4-H, or FFA related event. (2) Sickness/Emergency events. The exhibitor who is participating in the auction must explain sickness or emergency for Board approval. If an exhibitor has submitted a written excuse, another 4-H or FFA member who meets eligibility requirements may take his/her place during the auction.

Curfew will begin each day at 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. No one (except for the Livestock Chairman, Co-Chairman and/or official Matagorda County veterinarian) will be allowed in the Livestock barns during this time. Security will be provided. Lights will be out, and all exhibitors and parents must leave the Livestock areas at this time. **Failure to comply with curfew rules will result in a \$25.00 penalty fine, deductible from the sales or premium check, or exhibitor will not be eligible to sell at auction.**

Protests—All protests concerning Matagorda County Fair entries must be submitted either prior to judging or immediately after the conclusion of class judging and accompanied by a \$200 cash deposit. The deposit will be returned ONLY if the protest is upheld. Once championship judging has commenced, NO protests will be accepted. The Judges' and Classifiers' decision is final and not subject for protest. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation. The protest will be reviewed by at least five (5) members of the Fair Board. The ruling of the Fair Board Directors will be final. Both sides of the protest must be present at the time of the protest. There will be no anonymous protests accepted. Every exhibitor, in consideration of his/her entry being accepted by the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association, agrees that the conclusion reached by the Fair Board Directors shall be final, without any recourse against the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association, Board of Directors, Division Chairman, Superintendent, or Committeemen. (The protest procedure excludes the substance abuse protest procedure.)

The Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association will assume no responsibility in case of theft, accident or other destruction of your property. However, every precaution will be taken to eliminate any danger in the showroom. Parents are held responsible for all their children's actions.

Official Veterinarians: If needed, exhibitors must use one of the following official Matagorda County veterinaries for their project.

Tess Crider, Josh Shields, Randy Volkmer, Lafy Saha, Jana Zapalac, Audrey Jacoby, Bryan Sherman, Doug Marquardt, and Carrie Foltyn.

1. **All judges**—Agents, Teachers, and the Livestock Committee will select judges as soon as possible after April 1. Judges will be approved by the Board of Directors of the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association.
2. **Ruminant meat and bone meal** - The Matagorda County Fair Association prohibits the feeding of ruminant meat and bone meal to ruminant animals.
3. **Competition** - Only Junior entrants will be allowed to exhibit market stock and participate in the auction.
4. **All 4-H Junior Entrants (Exhibitor)** – All 4-H Junior entrants must be an active member in good standings of an organized Matagorda County 4-H Club and attend a minimum of three club meetings prior to the Fair to be eligible to participate in the Livestock Show; must be a current resident of Matagorda County **or** enrolled in Matagorda County school, credited courses at a home school, private school, or public school to be eligible to exhibit in the Market or Commercial Heifer division; must own his own exhibit individually for the specified length of time required in each of the classes, must have fed his/her exhibit at residence or designated property in Matagorda County under the supervision of the Matagorda County Extension Agents or County High School Agricultural Science Instructors. An exhibitor may petition the Matagorda County Fair Board of Directors if they do not meet the above criteria and wish to show in the Matagorda County Fair Junior Livestock Show. Directors will review on a “case by case” basis.
5. **All Matagorda County FFA Chapter or Matagorda County FCCLA Chapter Junior Entrants (Exhibitor)** – All Matagorda County FFA Chapter or Matagorda County FCCLA Chapter junior entrants must be an active member in

good standings of an organized Matagorda County FFA Chapter or Matagorda County FCCLA Chapter and attend a minimum of 50% of the clubs meetings prior to the Fair to be eligible to participate in the Livestock Show; must be a current resident of Matagorda County **or** enrolled in Matagorda County school, credited courses at a home school, private school, or public school to be eligible to exhibit in the Market or Commercial Heifer division; must own his own exhibit individually for the specified length of time required in each of the classes, must have fed his/her exhibit at residence or designated property in Matagorda County under the supervision of the Matagorda County Extension Agents or County High School Agricultural Science Instructors. An exhibitor may petition the Matagorda County Fair Board of Directors if they do not meet the above criteria and wish to show in the Matagorda County Fair Junior Livestock Show. Directors will review on a “case by case” basis.

6. **The 24-Hour Rule applies to All 4-H Junior Entrants, All FFA Chapter Entrants, and All Matagorda County FCCLA Chapter Junior Entrants.**

- a) All Livestock entries must be in the physical care and possession of the exhibitor from the time of the tag in until the animal release date at the fair.
- b) All entries must be kept in Matagorda County and/or in the Palacios School District at the physical address shown on the entry form. If a project needs to be relocated, the exhibitor needs to notify the Fair Office by email of the new location for which the project will be housed and for the estimated length of time that the project will be at the new property. The exhibitor must receive confirmation of the email before moving the project.
- c) The animal may not be out of the county longer than 24 hours without approval from the MCFLA Board. Exceptions include participating in a major show, animal is listed under Matagorda County veterinary care (veterinarians excuse required by a board approval veterinarian), or other reasons approved by the Board. Please notify the Fair Office by email with confirmation of receipt before leaving the county. Instances such as a hurricane evacuation will have a blanket excuse issued.
- d) All Agricultural Science Instructors, County Extension Agents, and members of the Board of Directors of the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association will have the authority to spot check feeders at any time without notice. Violations will make the animal and exhibitor ineligible for the current year's fair. A second offense will make the family ineligible indefinitely. Refusal to allow spot checks or refusal to allow those authorized to conduct spot checks onto the property where livestock animals are located, will cause the exhibitor to be ineligible to show at the current year's Fair.

7. **Application for Entry/Entry Fee/Release and Indemnity Agreement** - There is a non-refundable \$30.00 entry fee for each exhibitor.

8. **Entry Form Deadlines-All Livestock entry forms are due by Thursday, October 22, 2026.** This year entries can be made online or turned into the Extension Office. The online site will be live September 9, 2026, and a secured link will be posted within the ShoWorks Online Entry Instructions on the Fair website at www.matagordacountyfair.com. **Complete and submit the entry forms and print a copy for your records. Incomplete forms will not be accepted. Late entries will not be accepted online; they Must be turned into the Extension Office.** Entry forms received after the 5:00 p.m. deadline will then be subject to a \$100.00 late fee, plus the entry fee of \$30.00 for a total of \$130.00. A \$100.00 late fee plus \$30.00 entry fee will be assessed for the addition of a Family or Alternate Tagged Animal to original entry form after the entry deadline. Information on the entry form is final; any changes after the deadline, such as club or chapter will need to be presented to the fair board for approval. A new completed entry form will need to be turned into the extension office to be eligible to show.

9. **Entry Forms-** Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining their Ag Science Teacher or their 4-H Club Managers signature on their entry form prior to entry deadline. Unsigned forms will be considered incomplete and will not be accepted. Ag Science Teacher or their 4-H Club Managers of exhibitors using the online registration will have access to review entries online.

10. **Late entries-** for Goats, Lambs, Swine and Rabbits will be accepted in the Extension Office provided that the following criteria are met:

- a) Animals are tagged in at the regularly scheduled tag-in date for the species.
- b) The completed entry form accompanied by the entry fee of \$30.00 and a late fee of \$100.00 for a total of \$130.00 is turned in on or before 5:00 p.m. the Friday immediately following the species tag-in date.
- c) All paperwork and fees are to be turned into the Matagorda County Extension Office.

11. **Late entries for poultry-** will be accepted no later than October 29, 2026, due to the time needed to order. The completed entry form is accompanied by the entry fee of \$140.00 and a late fee of \$100.00 for a total of \$240.00 is

turned in on or before 5:00 p.m. by October 29, 2026.

12. **Late entries for Steers** –will be accepted no later than October 30, 2026, provided that the following criteria are met.
 - a) Animals are tagged in at the regularly scheduled tag-in date for the species.
 - b) The completed entry form is accompanied by the entry fee of \$30.00 (plus \$30.00 for additionally tagged or family tagged project) and a late fee of \$100.00 for a total of \$130.00 is turned in on or before 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 30, 2026.
 - c) All paperwork and fees are to be turned into the Matagorda County Extension Office.
13. **Limit of Market Entries** -A 4-H or FFA exhibitor is limited to one market entry to show. Market entries are a steer, a lamb, goat, swine, one pen of poultry or one pen of meat pen rabbits. All Market entries receiving a ribbon will be sold in the auction.
14. **Minimum Entries**- Any livestock division that has ten or less entries may be eliminated from the next year's show.
15. **Permanently disabled project** - If an animal becomes permanently disabled within 30 days after tag-in date, the exhibitor has the option of finding another animal. This rule excludes rabbits and poultry. The exhibitor must notify both the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office within 24 hours of the project's Matagorda County veterinary diagnosis and submit documentation from a Matagorda County Vet describing the disability. Once confirmation has been made and approved by the General Livestock Superintendent, the species Chairman, and the Livestock Chairman, the exhibitor will be given a deadline by the Livestock Chairman to replace the project. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office once the project is replaced. If the project is replaced within the deadline, a time will be scheduled to tag the new project. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.
16. **Death of project within 30 days** - If an animal dies within 30 days after tag-in date, the exhibitor has the option of finding another animal. This rule excludes rabbits and poultry. The exhibitor must notify both the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office within 24 hours of death. A confirmation of death must be verified by documentation from a Matagorda County Vet, the Species Chairperson, Livestock Superintendent, or a member of the Fair Board of Directors. From the point of confirmation of the animal's death, the exhibitor will be given a deadline by the Livestock Chairman to replace the project. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office once the project is replaced. If the project is replaced within the deadline, a time will be scheduled to tag the new project. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.
17. **Family Tagged Animal** – Steer, swine, lamb, and goat exhibitors may validate two (2) same species projects per exhibitor. Exhibitors may only present one animal at the weigh-in for exhibition at the fair. Families with multiple exhibitors in the immediate family household can exhibit any one of the tagged or family tagged animals providing that each exhibitor has turned in a completed entry form and tagged one of the same species in their name, and their name is listed on the entry form as eligible to show. The parameters of "Immediate Family" are siblings, stepsiblings, or legally adopted siblings all living in the same household at the same address. Note: If siblings have different last names, it must be noted on the Entry Form and Validation Sheet at Tag-in. **All family tagged projects must be the same species.**

Fee's	Entry Fee	Additionally, or Family Tagged Fee	Total
One Exhibitor and one Project	\$30.00		\$30.00
One Exhibitor and two Projects (Same Species)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$60.00
1 st Exhibitor (with a sibling) and two Projects (same species)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$60.00
2 nd Exhibitor (with a sibling) and one Project	\$30.00		\$30.00
Both exhibitors may choose one of the three projects to present at the Show. Both exhibitors' names must be listed on each entry form and under each tag number at tag-in. Total for the family =\$60.00			
1 st Exhibitor (with a sibling) and two Projects (same species)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$60.00
2 nd Exhibitor (with a sibling) and two Projects (same species)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$60.00
Both exhibitors may choose one of the four projects to present at the Show. Both exhibitors' names must be listed on each entry form under and each tag number at tag-in. Total for the family =\$120.00			
Limit of two (2) same species projects per exhibitor.			

18. Changing of Projects-

- Exhibitors may change projects without Fair Board Approval if they tag-in a new project on that species tag-in date.
- The exhibitor must submit a new completed entry form accompanied by the entry fee of \$30.00 and a late fee of \$100.00 for a total of \$130.00 to the Extension office before 5:00 pm the Friday immediately following the date of the species tag-in.
- The last project tagged-in, with the entry forms and fees properly submitted, will be the only project eligible for the 2027 Show.
- All other tagged entries will be disqualified, including additional tagged projects (unless family tagged) and all other forms voided.

19. **Ownership** - Once an animal project has been tagged and tattooed by an exhibitor, ownership cannot be transferred to another exhibitor as an entry for the February/March Show.

20. **All exhibitors must adhere to the Substance Avoidance Program found on page 27 of your MCLFA Rulebook.**

21. **The Livestock Chairman** shall be responsible for enforcing rules requiring disqualification.

22. **Assigning space / stalls** will be done through the Main Office with the assistance of Department Chairman. No person shall take possession of a stall or coop without having been so assigned. All Lambs, Goats, Swine & Steer will be issued a stall assignment, and the exhibitor must abide by the set assignment. **Changing of spaces/stalls/coops is strictly prohibited.**

23. **Arrival of Animal Exhibits** - All livestock must arrive on show grounds by the scheduled time each year.

- Exhibitors and animals must be in line at the designated location at the scheduled time to be eligible to check in and exhibit the animal.
- All animal entries will be free of adhering dirt at the time of weigh in. It will be at the discretion of the chairman or superintendent to send the animal to the wash rack before being weighed.
- Steers, Swine, Lambs, or Goats not making weight on first attempt will be allowed to re-weigh one time before the weigh in deadline. The steer, swine, lamb, or goat must remain in the designated holding area until it is reweighed. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to have their project reweighed. Projects must be reweighed before the scales close.

22. **Care of Animals** - It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to care for and tend to his/her exhibits from the time of arrival until release. MCFLA strictly prohibits any grooming or further care for show of any youth livestock project by anyone other than the exhibitor, his or her immediate family, County Agent, or Ag teacher, 4-H leader or member of the 4-H or FFA that the exhibitor is a member of.
23. **Clipping/Shearing/Blow Drying** - NO clipping, shearing or blow drying will be allowed on any animal during the Matagorda County Fair, except for clipping authorized by the Steer Committee to enforce the steer short hair rule.
24. **Livestock Judging Contest** - The MCFLA reserves the right to use animals for the Livestock Judging Contest.
25. **Auction**
- a) Auction sale numbers will be set after the final weigh-in for each division.
 - b) All species that are awarded a ribbon in the show MUST sale in the Matagorda County Fair Junior Livestock Auction
 - c) Auction Sale Numbers - All species will sell at 60% up to 60 lots per species except for steers, rabbits, and poultry. Steers will sell at 90%, rabbits will sell at 50% up to 50 lots, all poultry will sell after pre-sift. **However, the Fair Board has the right to adjust the percentages of each species sold at any time.** The auction sale numbers will be determined after the final weigh-in at the March Show.
 - d) All exhibitors selling a market entry at the auction sale must accompany that entry in the auction ring according to the sale number of the auction sale list. Any exhibitor who fails to be in the auction ring at the proper time will automatically forfeit 50% of the gross sale and the project will be sold in sale order without their presence. The only exceptions (1) are UIL, 4-H, FFA sponsored events. The exhibitor must submit a written note from the sponsor of the event at the Fair's Office, a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the UIL, 4-H, or FFA related event. (2) Sickness/Emergency events. The exhibitor who is participating in the auction explaining sickness or emergency must be approved by MCFLA Board of Directors. If an exhibitor has submitted a written excuse, another 4-H or FFA member who meets eligibility requirements may take his/her place during the auction.
 - e) All market entries sold at the auction sale must be delivered to buyer as desired. If an exhibitor fails to comply with this rule, the exhibitor will be fined \$50.00.
 - f) Exhibitors/Parents are not allowed to solicit buyers in any way on the Day of the auction other than having your picture taken with your buyer. If you have a question, wait until the auction is over to not disturb the buyer as they are buying other projects. Any exhibitor found in violation of this new rule will have \$200.00 deducted from their check and/or be removed from the auction sales order.
 - g) Exhibitors that choose to sell their projects in the Junior Livestock Auction are NOT to ask their buyer for their project back. Once your project has been sold it is the property of the buyer. The new buyer will choose what to do with their purchase. Any exhibitor, parent or guardian, family member, or acquaintance of exhibitor that approaches the buyer to ask for the project to be donated back to the exhibitor will forfeit exhibitors auction check and cause the exhibitor to be suspended for one-year suspension from all MCFLA activities - No exception!
 - h) Auction Sale Order numbers - Sale order cards indicating your sale order number must be worn by all exhibitors during the Junior Livestock Auction and when taking your picture by the Fair Photographer with your buyer. You should pick up your card at the Exhibitor Information Booth or designated location on Friday, March 5, 2027, between 8:00am-5:00pm.
 - i) Sifted Projects - Exhibitors who are sifted will be listed on a "Sifted Livestock Project List" found on the back of the Junior Livestock Auction Sales Sheet to enable Add-on donations. A Sifted Animal is Defined as an animal that enters the show ring and is Sifted by the judge. Any animal that is Disqualified prior to entering the show ring is Not eligible for Add-Ons.
27. **No Decorations on Auction Animals** -Animals cannot be decorated for the Auction.
28. **Animal donated back to Exhibitor** - Any animal donated back to the exhibitor will go to resale and the resale amount will be included in the exhibitor's check. **If an exhibitor wishes to keep their donated animal, the exhibitor must notify the Auction Sales Office (located by the Ticket Office) by 5:00 p.m., on the day of the sale.**
29. **Resale Animals** - All steers, swine, goats, and lambs that go to "resale" may be shipped out Saturday night.
30. **NO Livestock Project may be removed from the grounds other than those designated for Resale.**

The Livestock Chairman and Livestock Superintendent are the only persons that can authorize the early removal of

project(s). Exhibitors CANNOT remove their project from the grounds before Sunday Morning Check out unless approved by the Livestock Chairman and Livestock Superintendent, even if the animal was donated back to exhibitor.

If an exhibitors Livestock Project is removed from the grounds prior to the 7:00AM Sunday Morning Release of Livestock Project without documented, written and signed permission from of the Livestock Chairman and Livestock Superintendent exhibitor will forfeit their auction check.

31. **Drug Hold** - Any exhibitor with an animal on "Drug Hold" will be ineligible for resale and the exhibitor will retain ownership of the animal. Each exhibitor whose animal is Grand, Reserve Grand, or Random Picked will be notified following the show so arrangements can be made to take their animal home on Sunday following the auction. These animals will be listed as Not Available for Resale on the auction sheet. If the animal is to be processed, the exhibitor is responsible for delivering the animal to the processor designated by the buyer.
32. **Sales Charge** - A 6.5% sales charge will be deducted from each exhibit that sells through the auction or sifted animals that have add-ons to help compensate for the judges' expense, show cost, and sale costs.
33. **Buyers Photos** -Each exhibitor will be responsible for purchasing a buyer's photograph to be delivered to their respective buyers.
 - A \$10 fee will be deducted from sale proceeds to cover the cost of the photo and buyer's plaque.
 - Each exhibitor is responsible for picking up their buyer's photo and check from the Fair Office located at the Fairgrounds and delivering the photo to their respective buyers.
 - The exhibitor is responsible for contacting buyers at the time of the sale of said lot for a buyer's photo.
 - If buyer is unavailable for photo at time of sale of said lot, exhibitor must wait for buyer to take photo.
 - If buyer is not present for photo after the time of sale of said lot, exhibitor must take a photo with said lot to be delivered to buyer. **No exceptions!**
34. **Thank you, Notes are required from exhibitors, who:**
 - Sold their animal project in the Junior Livestock Auction or who received an Add-On to their project.
 - Received a Belt Buckle
 - Received a Calf Scramble \$100 Award (Calf Scramble T-Shirt Sponsor thank you also required)
35. **4-H Exhibitors and FFA Exhibitors** MUST turn in their unsealed, addressed, and stamped with appropriate postage THANK YOU letter(s) to the Extension Office by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 1, 2027, to receive their check. Exhibitors that fail to turn in their Thank You cards will have \$50.00 deducted from their livestock check as a compliance fine.
36. **The exhibitor must be present** to release animal Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m.
37. **MANDATORY Removal of Livestock Project & Cleaning of project area** All exhibitors that make the show and sell their projects in the Junior Livestock Auction on Saturday, March 6, 2027, will be required to be present at 7:00AM for the release of their animal project and to clean up their project area.

Exhibitors must sign in with the director in charge on or before 7:00AM. Upon completion of the removal of project and cleaning of project area, exhibitor must sign out with director in charge. This ends their livestock project clean up and removal of animals.

At this time, exhibitors will be instructed to go to the livestock pens or the indoor arena - Once they report to the arena or livestock pens, the exhibitor must sign in with a director and wait for instruction.

Exhibitors that do not return to the grounds on Sunday to remove their livestock project and clean their project area by 7:00AM will have \$200.00 deducted from their livestock check as a failure to pick up the project fine. Load out and removal of all livestock projects will begin at 7:00AM.

Excuses for the Sunday - Removal of Livestock Projects and Cleaning of Project Area MUST be submitted to the Fair Office (Fairgrounds) TWO WEEKS PRIOR to the date for approval by the Board of Directors.

OPTIONAL -pre-clean up

Exhibitors that wish to complete their two hours prior to the Sunday following the Junior Livestock Auction will have the option of donating two hours to the Fair prior to the mandatory Sunday clean up. You will still have to show up at 7:00AM on Sunday to remove your project and clean your area.

1. First, you will be donating two hours prior to the Fair. This does not mean that you will make the sale. You are taking a chance to donate the hours and being sifted by the judge.
2. If you are sifted or unable to show your project, your early cleanup hours can be used towards community service hours in which some clubs require you to have.
3. You must get approval from the Fair Manager to be eligible for the two hours.

Fair Manager will assign you a time and date for your early cleanup option. You must sign in and out with whom you are assigned. Failure to do so will result in no credit. Failure to show will result in no show and you will not be given the option of rescheduling.

Areas in which you may be assigned are the office, storeroom, cleaning up an area on the grounds, cleaning the stands (seats), halls, booths, helping set up or take down the Home Economics area, helping set up livestock pens, arena signs or banners. You may be assigned to help with various MCFLA projects or events during the Fair.

- If you are in the seventh grade or younger, a guardian may have to join you to help with some of the pre-cleanup options. This option is limited to a certain number of jobs on certain dates. Once assignments are filled advance cleanup options will expire.
- You must call the Fair Manager to discuss your options. Again, this is optional.

STEERS

All Agricultural Science Instructors, County Extension Agents-Ag and 4-H, and the Board of Directors of the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association will have the authority to spot check feeders at any time.

GENERAL

In addition to the following, please read all GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. Steer projects must be castrated and dehorned prior to validation. NO bull calves will be validated.
2. Only one steer may be exhibited by a 4-H or FFA member.
3. No nurse cows permitted.
4. All steers must be in their assigned stall between 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and back in their stall by 10:00 p.m.

SHOW DAY

Exhibitors are NOT ALLOWED to have cell phones or ear buds in the show ring at ANY time during the show. Only medically necessary devices approved prior to the show by the Director or Chairman over the show will be allowed. Exhibitors MUST have long pants and closed toe shoes during the show for safety reasons. No hats and no T-shirts allowed. If any exhibitor is seen with any of these violations the Judge, Director or Chairman will ask you to remove your animal project and exit the show ring, you and your project will be disqualified.

During the steer show only ONE PERSON (Parent, Adult 4-H Leader, or FFA Leader) will be allowed in the holding area to assist exhibitor with their steer. Once the exhibitor starts to enter the show ring Everyone must leave the holding area. Only one Warning will be given if this rule is not followed, after that the person or persons are subject to disciplinary action from the Board.

VALIDATION (Tag In)

A calf, to be eligible, must have gone on feed by the prescribed validation dates. Steer exhibitors may validate two (2) animals in one division. Exhibitors may only present one animal at the weigh-in for exhibition at the fair. Families with multiple exhibitors in the immediate family household can exhibit any one of the multiple tagged animals of the same species if each exhibitor has validated a steer in their name.

1. All steers and exhibitors must be present for validation unless excused with a written notice. The written notice of sickness and/or UIL, 4-H or FFA related event that the exhibitor is participating in, must be signed by the sponsor of the event, and submitted to the Fair Office (Fairgrounds) prior to noon on the last business day before that species tag in. In the event the exhibitor is excused, the animal must be tagged and tattooed. A Matagorda County veterinarian must issue a written excuse for the steer to be absent.
2. If your steer is tagged for Majors, you Do Not need to bring your steer to validation. You MUST take a picture of the major tag that is in his ear and email it to leissa@matagordacountyfair.com no later than Thursday, September 10, 2026, to be excused on tag-in day, September 12, 2026. If you do not email the picture and are not present the day of tag-in, you will be ineligible to show your steer at the 2027 Fair & Livestock Show.
3. If the official MCFLA ear tag is removed or accidentally torn out, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to notify the General Livestock Superintendent of the Matagorda County Fair Association and the Fair Office. The supervisor will then retag the steer if no tampering or unethical practice has been exercised.
4. **Death of project within 30 days** - If an animal dies within 30 days after tag-in date, the exhibitor has the option of finding another animal. This rule excludes rabbits and poultry. The exhibitor must notify both the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office within 24 hours of death. A confirmation of death must be verified by documentation from a Matagorda County Vet, the Species Chairperson, Livestock Superintendent, or a member of the Fair Board of Directors. From the point of confirmation of the animal's death, the exhibitor will be given a deadline by the Livestock Chairman to replace the project. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office once the project is replaced. If the project is replaced within the deadline, a time will be scheduled to tag the new project. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.
5. All steers, to be eligible for show, must have the official Matagorda County Fair ear tag or state ear tag which is placed

during the official tag-in as well as tattoos.

6. A steer tagged through the State Validation Program will be allowed to be shown at the Matagorda County Fair and will not need a MCFLA ear tag or an MCFLA tattoo. But MUST attend tag-in/validation.
7. Preliminary Classification – (For buckle ordering only) The exhibitor must select a preliminary classification of American or All Other Breeds (AOB) division in which they will be competing prior to tag-in. This selection IS NOT binding, final classification will be made at the Spring Show.

Steer Showmanship Clinics- Four steer showmanship clinics have been scheduled. Each steer exhibitor is required to attend two of the four clinics with their steer. Show sticks are encouraged. Both the steer and exhibitor must be present to receive credit for this clinic. The exhibitor and steer must be present and in the arena by 9:00 a.m. to participate in clinic. If a family of 2 tags in 4 total steers, each child and steers must attend 2 of the 4 steer clinics with all 4 of the tagged steers. Each child must exhibit all 4 steers twice. Exhibitors must exhibit steer to the satisfaction of the Showmanship Judge to receive credit for clinic. The exhibitor must sign the attendance sheet when leaving the clinic. Any steer that is determined by the Livestock Chairman or their designee to be an unruly animal will be excused, and NO credit will be given for that Clinic. **Failure to comply will make the exhibitor and the steer ineligible for the March Show.**

Steer Showmanship Clinics are scheduled for:

Show sticks are encouraged.

Saturday, November 7, 2026	Fairgrounds. Scales available at 8:00 a.m. Showmanship at 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 5, 2026	" "
Saturday, January 9, 2027	" "
Saturday, February 6, 2027	" "

Spring Show

1. Tack Set Up Noon-5:00pm Tuesday, March 2, 2027, Steer Check In Tuesday, March 2, 2027, 5:00pm-7:00pm, Exhibitor must be present for check in.
Weigh-In Wednesday, March 3, 2027, 3:00pm - 5:00pm. All steers must be present and in line before 3:00pm. Exhibitor does not need to be present for weigh-in. A parent can weigh the steer in.
2. Arrival of Animal Exhibits:
 - a. Exhibitors and animals must be in line at the designated location at the scheduled time to be eligible to check in and exhibit the animal.
 - b. All animal entries will be free of adhering dirt at the time of weigh-in. It will be at the discretion of the chairman, or superintendent to send the animal to the wash rack before weighing.
3. Steer judging: Steer Show will begin at noon on Thursday, March 4, 2027.
4. Steers must weigh a minimum of 1,000 pounds at the Spring Show weigh-in. Any steer weighing less than 1,000 pounds at the Spring weigh-in will be disqualified and not allowed to show. There will be a weight tolerance of 10 pounds even at the official weigh-in. No Exceptions! A **"Quality Sift" will be enforced.**
5. There will be two (2) divisions in the Steer Show; American and All Other Breeds (AOB) divisions will be defined as:
 - American - steers showing phenotypic evidence of at least 1/4 blood Brahman influence
 - AOB - purebred or crossbred steers of all other breed influences

The Classes will be determined by the following per division -

1 - 9 steers	1 weight class
10 - 20 steers	2 weight classes
21 - 30 steers	3 weight classes
31 - 40 steers	4 weight classes
41 - 50 steers	5 weight classes
51+	6 weight classes

The Livestock Chairman, Livestock Co-Chairman, and Livestock Committee Chair over that species, can at their discretion, add a class if they feel it will be beneficial to all exhibitors.

6. Classification will be conducted at the show by three Classifiers. **The classifiers' decision is final.**
7. MCFLA will select a Class Champion and Reserve Class Champion from each weight class in each division. We will then have a Breed Drive for AOB & American, where a Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion will be selected from each breed. Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion steer will be selected from the Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion from the AOB and American drive.
8. **Quality Sift** - The process of the "Quality Sift" will work according to the following:
 - Participants not receiving a blue or red ribbon in their class will receive a Token.
 - Participants receiving a Token will be required to come back in the show ring after all classes have been completed.
 - Participants will have one final opportunity to present their steer to the judge.
 - The judge will then select the final steers to be awarded white ribbons which will become eligible to sale in the auction.
 - The judge's decision will be **FINAL**.
 - All steer participants will still be eligible to participate in the Showmanship Competition.
 - Any steer not eligible for the auction will need to be removed from the steer barn following the Showmanship competition.
9. All steers that were tagged in September for the March show will be rechecked at the County Show weigh-in
10. Steers will be shown and handled by the exhibitor who owns the steer. Written notice of sickness and/or activities of the exhibitor can be excused only by the Fair Board or Livestock Committee. In the event the exhibitor is excused, the animal must be shown by another 4-H or FFA member who meets eligibility requirements.
11. Stalls will be assigned by the Steer Superintendent prior to the Show. Changing assigned stalls is prohibited.
12. No clipping, shearing, blow drying, or generators will be allowed on any animal during the Matagorda County Fair, except for clipping authorized by the Steer Committee to enforce the steer short hair rule. One trimming chute per 4-H club or FFA chapter will be allowed.
13. **Short Hair Rule** - All steers will be clipped to have no more than 1/4" of hair on any part of the animal's body upon arrival at the show grounds. The only exception will be the tail switch. Any steer found in minor violation of this rule will be sent to a designated area where the exhibitor will be given a chance to comply with the 1/4" rule. A maximum of thirty minutes will be allowed to clip the areas in question. Then the steer will be rechecked, if in violation the steer will be eliminated. Clipping is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
14. Animals showing, in the opinion of the judge, signs of having been operated upon or tampered with for the purpose of concealing faults in conformation or with intent to deceive relative to the animal's soundness will be disqualified.
15. No painting or dyeing will be allowed. Any grooming material that causes color to be removed from the steer will not be allowed. Violators of this rule will be disqualified.
16. No pumping of steers will be allowed. Violators of this rule will be disqualified.
17. **UNRULY STEERS:**
 - a. The Livestock Committee shall interpret and enforce all rules and regulations of the Livestock Division of MCFA. The MCFA Board of Directors shall appoint Steer Marshals who shall govern the control of "Unruly Steers" shown during the MCFA steer judging. These officials have the right to "Disqualify or Remove" any animal deemed harmful, to prevent injury to other exhibitors. Anyone attempting to interfere with these Officials before or during the decision-making process automatically disqualifies the entry in contention. Our only purpose is to prevent injury to all competitors entered in the Livestock Show.
 - b. The Exhibitor, 1 Parent and/or FFA Advisor/4-H Agent are allowed in the Holding Pen. Once the steer is in the Holding Pen (Make Up Area), only the Exhibitor is allowed to handle the animal, but Parent or FFA Advisor/4-H Agent is allowed to help with the halter. Only one warning will be given in the Holding Pen (Make Up Area) or Show Ring. On the second warning, the Exhibitor will be asked to tie their animal to the fence. The animal will be placed at the bottom of that class in the order they were removed. The Exhibitor must stay with their animal until the judging is finished.
 - c. Any steer that is determined by the Livestock Chairman or their designee to be an unruly animal will be excused

from the Show Ring.

d. **All decisions made by the Steer Marshals will be final. There will be no Appeals.**

18. No one other than show officials and exhibitors will be allowed in ring during judging at any time.

19. **Showmanship**

- a) Steer Showmanship: following judging.
- b) All exhibitors will be allowed to compete in Showmanship with their project if they choose to do so, even if the exhibitor has been sifted. Any animal that was not eligible to show before judging (did not make weight or not enough animals to make a pen) will NOT be eligible to participate in Showmanship.
- c) Showmanship will be divided into three divisions - Junior 3rd -5th grade, Intermediate 6th-8th grade and Senior 9th-12th grade.
- d) First and second place winners will receive belt buckles.
- e) Exhibitor must show his/her own animal to be eligible in the Showmanship competition.
- f) Only the animal tagged for the current year's fair can be shown in the Showmanship competition .

20. **Release of Animal**

Any exhibitor that does not make the sale must remove his/her sifted steer, following showmanship judging. Removal of the sifted animal from the grounds must be accomplished within **(45)** minutes after the showmanship contest ends unless an alternative arrangement is made with the director in charge of signing out.

A sifted animal exhibitor must:

- a) Locate the director in charge and sign for removal of the animal project from the fairgrounds.
- b) Allow the director in charge to examine the ear tag of the sifted animal **(while the animal is being loaded onto the trailer)** before the animal is physically removed from the grounds.
- c) **Any disrespectful comments/behavior by parents, exhibitor(s) or anyone on the exhibitor's behalf will result in a report being filed with the Board of Directors for possible action.**
- d) Failure to comply with each rule listed in this section will result in a \$200.00 fee being assessed to the exhibitor. The fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's final fair check. The exhibitor will be ineligible to show in any future show years until the fee is paid.
- e) Animals left unattended after 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 7, 2027, will be loaded on resale trucks and all proceeds will go to the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association

21. **Drug Withdrawal Period** - Each exhibitor is responsible for notifying the Livestock Committee if their animal has received any drugs that have withdrawal periods and are responsible for keeping the animal until safe for slaughter. Any exhibitor with an animal on "Drug Hold" that is designated for resale will have the resale amount deducted from their premium check and retain ownership of the animal. If the animal is to be processed, the exhibitor is responsible for delivering the animal to the processor designated by the buyer.

LAMBS

All Agricultural Science Instructors, County Extension Agents-Ag and 4-H, and the Board of Directors of the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association will have the authority to spot check feeders at any time.

GENERAL

1. Only one lamb may be exhibited by a 4-H or FFA member.
2. Only docked lambs (females or wethers) will be eligible. Any female lamb showing signs of pregnancy will be disqualified as determined by the judge.
3. All lambs, to be eligible for show, must have the official Matagorda County Fair ear tag or state ear tag which is placed during the official tag-in as well as tattoo.
4. All lambs tagged through the State Validation Program will be allowed to be shown at the Matagorda County Fair and will not need a MCFLA ear tag or a MCFLA tattoo. But MUST attend tag-in/validation.

SHOW DAY

1. Exhibitors are NOT ALLOWED to have cell phones or ear buds in the show ring at ANY time during the show. Only medically necessary devices approved prior to the show by the Director or Chairman over the show will be allowed. Exhibitors MUST have long pants and closed toe shoes during the show for safety reasons. No hats and no T-shirts allowed. If any exhibitor is seen with any of these violations the Judge, Director or Chairman will ask you to remove your animal project and exit the show ring, you and your project will be disqualified.

VALIDATION (Tag In)

1. A lamb, to be eligible, must have gone on feed by the prescribed validation dates.
2. All Lambs and exhibitors must be present for validation unless excused with written notice. The written notice of sickness and/or UIL, 4-H or FFA related event that the exhibitor is participating in, must be signed by the sponsor of the event, and submitted to the Fair Office (Fairgrounds) prior to noon on the last business day before that species tag in. In the event the exhibitor is excused, the animal must be tagged and tattooed. A Matagorda County veterinarian must issue a written excuse for the lamb to be absent.
3. Death of project within 30 days - If an animal dies within 30 days after tag-in date, the exhibitor has the option of finding another animal. This rule excludes rabbits and poultry. The exhibitor must notify both the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office within 24 hours of death. A confirmation of death must be verified by documentation from a Matagorda County Vet, the Species Chairperson, Livestock Superintendent, or a member of the Fair Board of Directors. From the point of confirmation of the animal's death, the exhibitor will be given a deadline by the Livestock Chairman to replace the project. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office once the project is replaced. If the project is replaced within the deadline, a time will be scheduled to tag the new project. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.
4. All male lambs must be wethers at tag-in.
5. All lambs, to be eligible for show, must have the official Matagorda County Fair ear tag or state ear tag which is placed during the official tag-in as well as tattoo.
6. All lambs tagged through the State Validation Program will be allowed to be shown at the Matagorda County Fair and will not need a MCFLA ear tag or a MCFLA tattoo. But MUST attend tag-in/validation.
7. No implants of any kind will be allowed. Any lamb that has been implanted will be disqualified.

MARCH SHOW

1. Lamb weigh-in 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., March 3, 2027. All lambs must be present and in line before 10:00 a.m.
2. Arrival of Animal Exhibits:
 - a. All animal entries will be free of adhering dirt and all body coverings at the time of weigh in. It will be at the discretion of the chairman or superintendent to send the animal to the wash rack before being

weighed. Lambs must weigh a minimum of 100 pounds at time of weigh in with a 2-pound tolerance. Exhibitors can use pelleted shavings only in their lamb bedding. Exhibitors must furnish their own shavings, and all shavings must be removed by the exhibitor, or they will be charged a \$100.00 clean up fee.

3. Lamb judging: Wednesday, March 3, 2027, following the Goat Show at 12:00p.m.
4. All lambs must be shorn within 21 days of showing.
5. The number of Classes will be determined as follows:

1 - 9 lambs	1 weight class
10 - 19 lambs	2 weight classes
20 - 30 lambs	3 weight classes
31 - 40 lambs	4 weight classes
41 - 50 lambs	5 weight classes
51 - 60 lambs	6 weight classes

The Livestock Chairman, Livestock Co-Chairman, and Livestock Committee Chair over that species, can at their discretion, add a class if they feel it will be beneficial to all exhibitors

6. **Quality Sift** - The process of the “Quality Sift” will work according to the following:
 - Participants not receiving a blue or red ribbon in their class will receive a Token.
 - Participants receiving a Token will be required to come back in the show ring after all classes have been completed.
 - Participants will have one final opportunity to present their lamb to the judge.
 - The judge will then select the final lambs to be awarded white ribbons which will become eligible to sale in auction.
 - The judge’s decision will be FINAL.
 - All Lamb participants will still be eligible to participate in the Showmanship Competition.Any Lamb not eligible for the auction will need to be removed from the grounds following the Showmanship competition.
 - The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion lamb will be selected from the Class Champions and Reserve Class Champions of each weight class.
8. Lambs will be shown and handled by the exhibitor who owns the lamb. Written notice of sickness and/or activities of the exhibitor can be excused only by the Fair Board or Livestock Committee. In the event the exhibitor is excused, the animal must be shown by another 4-H or FFA member who meets eligibility requirements.
7. NO clipping, shearing or blow drying will be allowed on any animal during the Matagorda County Fair.
8. Any lamb that is determined by the Livestock Chairman or their designee to be an unruly animal will be excused from the Show Ring.

9. **Showmanship**

- a. Lamb Showmanship: following judging.
- b. After judging classes, the Showmanship class will be judged.
- c. All exhibitors will be allowed to compete in Showmanship with their project if they choose to do so, even if the exhibitor has been sifted. Any animal that was not eligible to show before judging (did not make weight or not enough animals to make a pen) will NOT be eligible to participate in Showmanship.
- d. Showmanship will be divided into three divisions - Junior 3rd-5th grade, Intermediate 6th-8th grade and Senior 9th-12th grade.
- e. First and second place winners will receive belt buckles.
- f. Exhibitor must show his/her own animal to be eligible in the Showmanship Competition.
- g. Only the animal tagged for the current year’s fair can be shown in the Showmanship Competition.

10. **Release of Animal**

Any exhibitor that does not make the sale must remove his/her sifted lamb, following showmanship judging. Removal of the sifted animal from the grounds must be accomplished within (45) minutes after the showmanship contest ends unless an alternative arrangement is made with the director in charge of signing out.

A sifted animal exhibitor must:

- a. Locate the director in charge and sign for removal of the animal project from the fairgrounds.
- b. Allow the director in charge to examine the ear tag of the sifted animal (**while the animal is being loaded onto the trailer**) before the animal is physically removed from the grounds.
- c. **Any disrespectful comments/behavior by parents, exhibitor(s) or anyone on the exhibitor's behalf will result in a report being filed with the Board of Directors for possible action.**
- d. Failure to comply with each rule listed in this section will result in a \$200.00 fee being assessed to the exhibitor. The fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's final fair check. The exhibitor will be ineligible to show in any future show years until the fee is paid.
- e. Animals left unattended after 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 7, 2027, will be loaded on resale truck and all proceeds will go to the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association

11. **Drug Withdrawal Period** - Each exhibitor is responsible for notifying the Livestock Committee if their animal has received any drugs that have withdrawal periods and are responsible for keeping the animal until safe for slaughter. Any exhibitor with an animal on "Drug Hold" that is designated for resale will have the resale amount deducted from their premium check and retain ownership of the animal. If the animal is to be processed, the exhibitor is responsible for delivering the animal to the processor designated by the buyer.

GOATS

All Agricultural Science Instructors, County Extension Agents-Ag and 4-H, and the Board of Directors of the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association will have the authority to spot check feeders at any time.

GENERAL

1. Any breed or crossbreed goat (females or wethers) will be eligible. Any female goat showing signs of pregnancy will be disqualified as determined by the judge.
2. Goats must be dehorned or tipped by tag-in. If tipped, they must be no smaller than the diameter of a dime. No tipping or dehorning will be allowed on the fairgrounds. If not tipped by November 7, 2026, the goat will be disqualified.
3. Goats must weigh no less than 60 pounds at the show.
4. All goats, to be eligible for show, must have the official Matagorda County Fair ear tag or state ear tag which is placed during the official tag-in as well as tattoo.
5. All goats tagged through the State Validation Program will be allowed to be shown at the Matagorda County Fair and will not need an MCFLA ear tag or a MCFLA tattoo. But MUST attend tag-in/validation.

SHOW DAY

Exhibitors are NOT ALLOWED to have cell phones or ear buds in the show ring at ANY time during the show. Only medically necessary devices approved prior to the show by the Director or Chairman over the show will be allowed. Exhibitors MUST have long pants and closed toe shoes during the show for safety reasons. No hats and no T-shirts allowed. If any exhibitor is seen with any of these violations the Judge, Director or Chairman will ask you to remove your animal project and exit the show ring, you and your project will be disqualified.

VALIDATION (Tag In)

1. A goat, to be eligible, must have gone on feed by the prescribed validation dates.
2. All goats and exhibitors must be present at validation unless excused with written notice.
3. All Goats and exhibitors must be present for validation unless excused with a written notice. The written notice of sickness and/or UIL, 4-H or FFA related event that the exhibitor is participating in, must be signed by the sponsor of the event, and submitted to the Fair Office (Fairgrounds) prior to noon on the last business day before that species tag in. In the event the exhibitor is excused, the animal must be tagged and tattooed. A veterinarian must issue a written excuse for the goat to be absent.
4. Death of project within 30 days - If an animal dies within 30 days after tag-in date, the exhibitor has the option of finding another animal. This rule excludes rabbits and poultry. The exhibitor must notify both the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office within 24 hours of death. A confirmation of death must be verified by documentation from a Matagorda County Vet, the Species Chairperson, Livestock Superintendent, or a member of the Fair Board of Directors. From the point of confirmation of the animal's death, the exhibitor will be given a deadline by the Livestock Chairman to replace the project. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office once the project is replaced. If the project is replaced within the deadline, a time will be scheduled to tag the new project. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.
5. No implants of any kind will be allowed. Any goat that has been implanted will be disqualified.
6. All male goats must be wethers at tag-in.

MARCH SHOW

1. Goat weigh-in 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., March 3, 2027. All goats must be present and in line before 10:00
2. Arrival of Animal Exhibits
 - a. All animal entries will be free of adhering dirt and all body coverings at the time of weigh in. It will be at the discretion of the chairman or superintendent to send the animal to the wash rack before being weighed.

Exhibitors can use pelleted shavings only in their goat bedding. Exhibitors must furnish their own shavings, and all shavings must be removed by the exhibitor, or they will be charged a \$100.00 clean up fee.

3. Goat judging Wednesday, March 3, 2027, at noon.
4. There will be a weight Tolerance of 2 pounds at the official weigh- in.
5. All goats must be slick shorn from the knees and hocks up except for the tail switch.
6. No artificial paints, powders, or coloring may be used on the goat.
7. Goats will be shown with a collar, show chain or halter. The use of any chain that has "spikes" or any chain that has been altered to have points of any type will not be allowed.
8. Exhibitors will be allowed to brace their goat during judging.
9. The number of Classes will be determined as follows:

1 - 9 goats	1 weight class
10 - 19 goats	2 weight classes
20 - 30 goats	3 weight classes
31 - 40 goats	4 weight classes
41 - 50 goats	5 weight classes
51+	6 weight classes

The Livestock Chairman, Livestock Co-Chairman, and Livestock Committee Chair over that species, can at their discretion, add a class if they feel it will be beneficial to all exhibitors.

- a) **Quality Sift** - The process of the "Quality Sift" will work according to the following:
 - Participants not receiving a blue or red ribbon in their class will receive a Token.
 - Participants receiving a Token will be required to come back in the show ring after all classes have been completed.
 - Participants will have one final opportunity to present their goat to the judge.
 - The judge will then select the final goats to be awarded white ribbons which will become eligible to sale in the auction.
 - The judge's decision will be FINAL.
 - All Goat participants will still be eligible to participate in the Showmanship Competition.
 - Any Goat not eligible for the auction will need to be removed from the grounds following the Showmanship competition.
- b) The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion goat will be selected from the Class Champions and Reserve Class Champions of each weight class.

11. Any Goat that is determined by the Livestock Chairman or their designee to be an unruly animal will be excused from the Show Ring.

12. **Showmanship**

- a) Goat Showmanship: following judging.
- b) After judging classes, the Showmanship class will be judged.
- c) All exhibitors will be allowed to compete in Showmanship with their project if they choose to do so, even if the exhibitor has been sifted. Any animal that was not eligible to show before judging (did not make weight or not enough animals to make a pen) will NOT be eligible to participate in Showmanship.
- d) Showmanship will be divided into three divisions - Junior 3rd -5th grade, Intermediate 6th-8th grade and Senior 9th-12th grade.
- e) First and second place winners will receive belt buckles.
- f) Exhibitor must show his/her own animal to be eligible in the Showmanship competition.
- g) Only the animal tagged for the current's year's fair can be shown in the Showmanship competition.

13. **Release of Animal**

Any exhibitor that does not make the sale must remove his/her sifted steer, lamb, goat, swine, following showmanship judging. Removal of the sifted animal from the grounds must be accomplished within (45) minutes after the showmanship contest ends unless an alternative arrangement is made with the director in charge of signing out.

A sifted animal exhibitor must:

- a. *Locate the director in charge and sign for removal of the animal project from the fairgrounds.*
- b. *Allow the director in charge to examine the ear tag of the sifted animal (while the animal is being loaded onto the trailer) before the animal is physically removed from the grounds.*
- c. *Any disrespectful comments/behavior by parents, exhibitor(s) or anyone on the exhibitor's behalf will result in a report being filed with the Board of Directors for possible action.*
- d. *Failure to comply with each rule listed in this section will result in a \$200.00 fee being assessed to the exhibitor. The fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's final fair check. The exhibitor will be ineligible to show in any future show years until the fee is paid.*
- e. *Animals left unattended after 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 7, 2027, will be loaded on resale truck and all proceeds will go to the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association*

14. **Drug Withdrawal Period** - Each exhibitor is responsible for notifying the Livestock Committee if their animal has received any drugs that have withdrawal periods and are responsible for keeping the animal until safe for slaughter. Any exhibitor with an animal on "Drug Hold" that is designated for resale will have the resale amount deducted from their premium check and retain ownership of the animal. If the animal is to be processed, the exhibitor is responsible for delivering the animal to the processor designated by the buyer.

SWINE

All Agricultural Science Instructors, County Extension Agents-Ag and 4-H, and the Board of Directors of the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association will have the authority to spot check feeders at any time.

GENERAL

1. Only one barrow or open gilt may be exhibited by a 4-H or FFA member.
2. The entry must weigh not less than 235 pounds or more than 290 pounds at show weigh-in.

SHOW DAY

1. Exhibitors are NOT ALLOWED to have cell phones or ear buds in the show ring at ANY time during the show. Only medically necessary devices approved prior to the show by the Director or Chairman over the show will be allowed. Exhibitors MUST have long pants and closed toe shoes during the show for safety reasons. No hats and no T-shirts allowed. If any exhibitor is seen with any of these violations the Judge, Director or Chairman will ask you to remove your animal project and exit the show ring, you and your project will be disqualified.

VALIDATION (Tag (In))

1. Market swine, to be eligible, must be on feed by the prescribed validation dates.
2. All exhibitors and swine must be present at validation unless excused with a written notice. Swine must arrive between **6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.** Only the swine tagged at this time can be shown at the County Fair.
3. All Swine and exhibitors must be present for validation unless excused with written notice. The written notice of sickness and/or UIL, 4-H or FFA related event that the exhibitor is participating in, must be signed by the sponsor of the event, and submitted to the Fair Office (Fairgrounds) prior to noon on the last business day before that species tag in. In the event the exhibitor is excused, the animal must be tagged. A Matagorda County veterinarian must issue a written excuse for the swine to be absent.
4. All swine tagged through the State Validation Program will be allowed to be shown at the Matagorda County Fair and will not need a MCFLA ear tag or a MCFLA tattoo. But MUST attend tag-in/validation.
5. Death of project within 30 days - If an animal dies within 30 days after tag-in date, the exhibitor has the option of finding another animal. This rule excludes rabbits and poultry. The exhibitor must notify both the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office within 24 hours of death. A confirmation of death must be verified by documentation from a Matagorda County Vet, the Species Chairperson, Livestock Superintendent, or a member of the Fair Board of Directors. From the point of confirmation of the animal's death, the exhibitor will be given a deadline by the Livestock Chairman to replace the project. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact the General Livestock Superintendent and the Fair Office once the project is replaced. If the project is replaced within the deadline, a time will be scheduled to tag the new project. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.

MARCH SHOW

1. **Swine check-in/weigh-in:** Swine must be checked-in between 4:00pm-6:00pm and weighed between 6:30pm-7:30pm. The exhibitor is responsible for making sure their swine has been weighed in.
2. **Arrival of Animal Exhibits:**
 - a) Exhibitors and animals must be in line at the designated location at the scheduled time to be eligible to check in and exhibit the animal.
 - b) All animal entries will be free of adhering dirt at the time of weigh in. It will be at the discretion of the chairman or superintendent to send the animal to the wash rack before being weighed.
3. **Swine judging** - Thursday, March 4, 2027, 8:00 a.m.
4. There will be a weight Tolerance of 2 pounds at the official weigh- in.
5. Classes

- | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| a) The number of Classes will be determined as follows: | 1-15 swine | 1 weight class |
| | 16-30 swine | 2 weight classes |
| | 31-45 swine | 3 weight classes |
| | 46-60 swine | 4 weight classes |
| | 61-75 swine | 5 weight classes |
| | 76+ | 6 weight classes |

The Livestock Chairman, Livestock Co-Chairman, and Livestock Committee Chair over that species, can at their discretion, add a class if they feel it will be beneficial to all exhibitors.

- b) Swine can be fitted only with water. Swine will be sifted if the Judge determines other substances have been used in the fitting for show.
 - c) The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion swine will be selected from the Class Champions and Reserve Class Champions of each weight class.
6. Any Swine that is determined by the Livestock Chairman or their designee to be an unruly animal will be excused from the Show Ring.
 7. Exhibitors can use pelleted shavings only in their swine bedding. Exhibitors must furnish their own shavings and all shavings must be removed by the exhibitor or they will be charged a \$100.00 clean up fee.
 8. **Clipping/Shearing/Blow Drying** - NO clipping, shearing or blow drying will be allowed on any animal during the Matagorda County Fair.
 9. Swine will be shown and handled by the exhibitor who owns the swine. Written notice of sickness and/or activities of the exhibitor can be excused only by the Fair Board or Livestock Committee. In the event the exhibitor is excused, the animal must be shown by another 4-H or FFA member who meets eligibility requirements.
 10. When the Judge enters the main show ring, the class will be closed, and no other swine will be allowed in the ring.

11. **Showmanship**

- a. Swine Showmanship: following judging.
- b. All exhibitors will be allowed to compete in Showmanship with their project if they choose to do so, even if the exhibitor has been sifted. Any animal that was not eligible to show before judging (did not make weight or not enough animals to make a pen) will NOT be eligible to participate in Showmanship.
- c. Showmanship will be divided into three divisions - Junior 3rd -5th grade, Intermediate 6th-8th grade and Senior 9th-12th grade.
- d. First and second place winners will receive belt buckles.
 - a. Exhibitor must show his/her own animal to be eligible in the Showmanship competition.
 - f. Only the animal tagged for current's year's fair can be shown in the Showmanship competition.

12. **Release of Animal**

Any exhibitor that does not make the sale must remove his/her sifted steer, lamb, goat, swine, following showmanship judging. Removal of the sifted animal from the grounds must be accomplished within (45) minutes after the showmanship contest ends unless an alternative arrangement is made with the director in charge of signing out.

A sifted animal exhibitor must:

- a) Locate the director in charge and sign for removal of the animal project from the fairgrounds.
- b) Allow the director in charge to examine the ear tag of the sifted animal (**while the animal is being loaded onto the trailer**) before the animal is physically removed from the grounds.
- c) **Any disrespectful comments/behavior by parents, exhibitor(s) or anyone on the exhibitor's behalf will result in a report being filed with the Board of Directors for possible action.**
- d) Failure to comply with each rule listed in this section will result in a \$200.00 fee being assessed to the exhibitor. The fee will be deducted from the exhibitor's final fair check. The exhibitor will be ineligible to show in any future show years until the fee is paid.
- e) **Animals left unattended after 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2026, will be loaded on resale truck and all**

proceeds will go to the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association.

13. **Drug Withdrawal Period** - Each exhibitor is responsible for notifying the Livestock Committee if their animal has received any drugs that have withdrawal periods and are responsible for keeping the animal until safe for slaughter. Any exhibitor with an animal on "Drug Hold" that is designated for resale will have the resale amount deducted from their premium check and retain ownership of the animal. If the animal is to be processed, the exhibitor is responsible for delivering the animal to the processor designated by the buyer.

POULTRY

All Agricultural Science Instructors, County Extension Agents-Ag and 4-H, and the Board of Directors of the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association will have the authority to spot check feeders at any time.

GENERAL

1. Poultry exhibits will be limited to one pen of three broilers by a 4-H or FFA member.
2. The pen must consist of three broilers of one recognized meat breed, to be selected only from the exhibitor's individual wing band numbers.
 - a. There will be one class at the Poultry Show: Cockerel and Pullets will show together.
 - b. The exhibitor must care for the broilers prior to the show.
 - d. Chicks must be picked up the day of delivery from hatchery. Ownership cannot be transferred to another exhibitor as an entry for the Show.
3. Chicks Orders/Delivery
 - a. All broilers must be ordered at the Extension Office by Thursday, October 22, 2026.
 - b. Late entries for poultry will be accepted no later than October 29, 2026, due to the time needed to order.
 - c. Date for broiler pickup is Friday, January 22, 2027, from 3:30PM-4:00PM. All exhibitors must be in line by 4:00pm
 - d. All Poultry exhibitors must be present for pick up unless excused with a written notice. The written notice of sickness and/or UIL, 4-H or FFA related event that the exhibitor is participating in, must be signed by the sponsor of the event, and submitted to the Fair Office (Fairgrounds) prior to noon on the last business day before Pick-up.
 - e. All broilers are ordered and distributed from the same hatchery.
 - f. Poultry orders will be 50 broilers per exhibitor.
 - g. An exhibitor must own their entry on the date order is received.
 - h. Upon delivery, each exhibitor is responsible for verifying the wing band numbers and that chicks are properly banded. Each exhibitor will be allowed to replace a maximum of five birds at the time of pick up.

SHOW DAY

Exhibitors are NOT ALLOWED to have cell phones or ear buds in the show ring at ANY time during the show. Only medically necessary devices approved prior to the show by the Director or Chairman over the show will be allowed. Exhibitors MUST have long pants and closed toe shoes during the show for safety reasons. No hats and no T-shirts allowed. If any exhibitor is seen with any of these violations the Judge, Director or Chairman will ask you to remove your animal project and exit the show ring, you and your project will be disqualified.

Poultry Must be shown and handled by the exhibitor who owns the poultry. If exhibitors refuse to handle their poultry, they will be disqualified and will not be eligible to participate in showmanship

MARCH SHOW

1. Poultry Check-In: 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 3, 2027.
All poultry must be present and in line by 7:30 a.m. Judging will follow.
2. **Arrival of Animal Exhibits:**
 - a. Exhibitors and animals must be in line at the designated location at the scheduled time to be eligible to check in and exhibit the animal.
 - b. All animal entries will be free of adhering dirt at the time of weigh in. It will be at the discretion of the chairman or superintendent to send the animal to the wash rack before being weighed.
3. Each exhibitor is responsible for checking his/her wing band numbers from the day they are picked up until the day of the show. Make sure the chicks you pick up are numbers you can use at the show.
4. If for whatever reason during the raising of your broilers a wing band is lost from a broiler, at that time the broiler becomes ineligible for the show.
5. A pre-sift will occur during check-in for the poultry show. This pre-sift will be conducted by the judge. The pre-sift will be to check for disqualifications as stated in the rules. Any animal showing signs of disease or sickness will be

- removed from the show area and will not be accepted for judging. After pre-sift, all poultry will be sold in auction.
6. All poultry boxes brought to the show must contain the name and address of the exhibitor. A fee of \$10.00 will be charged if box and/or alternate are left.
 7. An exhibitor may bring one, and only one, extra broiler in case one of the first three broilers examined by the sifter does not meet the necessary qualifications.
 8. All poultry must be in place by designated judging time.
 9. All poultry exhibits will be placed from last to first.
 10. The pens making the sale will be classified into blue, red, and white classifications and such ribbons will be awarded when justified.
 11. **Showmanship`**
 - a. Poultry Showmanship: following judging.
 - b. Open to all exhibitors who have poultry entered in this division. Any animal that was not eligible to show before the judging (did not make it through the pre-sift) will NOT be eligible to participate in Showmanship.
 - c. Showmanship will be divided into three divisions - Junior 3rd -5th grade, Intermediate 6th-8th grade. and Senior 9th-12th grade.
 - d. First and second place winners will receive belt buckles.
 - e. Exhibitor must show his/her own animal to be eligible in the Showmanship competition.
 - f. Only the animal tagged for the current year's fair can be shown in the Showmanship competition.
 12. All broilers will be taken home after judging by the exhibitor except for the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion, which will be put on display.
 - a) Poultry buyers are purchasing three live birds. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ask his/her buyer what they would like to do with their purchase, i.e. donate back to the exhibitor, receive three frozen broilers, or a \$25.00 gift card to HEB for purchase of poultry. Exhibitors are encouraged to reserve three birds to provide his/her buyer if this is the buyer wish, or exhibitor can give his/her buyer actual show poultry.
 13. It shall be the responsibility of the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion exhibitor to care for the exhibit until it is released on Sunday at 7:00 a.m. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion exhibitors must be present at 7:00 a.m. Sunday to take the exhibit home.
 14. All Poultry Exhibitors -will be required to be present for the Sunday cleanup. All Poultry Exhibitors that sale in the Auction will be required to report to the Multi-Purpose Building.

MEAT PEN RABBIT

All Agricultural Science Instructors, County Extension Agents-Ag and 4-H, and the Board of Directors of the Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association will have the authority to spot check feeders at any time.

GENERAL

1. Rabbit judges do not have to be American Rabbit Breeders Association judges.
2. All stock must be the sole property of the exhibitor and must be permanently, clearly tattooed in rabbit's right ear.
3. An exhibitor can kindle their own bunnies or buy four-week-old bunnies.
4. Ownership cannot be transferred to another exhibitor as an entry for the March Show.

Matagorda County Best in Breed

1. *Open to all exhibitors who kindled their own Meat Pen for the 2027 show. Buck and Doe must be registered to the owner of the Meat Pen.*
2. *Registration for breeding stock (Mature Bucks and Does) will take place in October 2026. Dates, place and time will be released at a later date. Breeding tattoos will be registered with Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Association and to always have on file. Any updates on breeding stock ownership must be reported to the Matagorda County Fair Office and the Livestock Chairman as soon as possible. These tattoos will be placed in the mature rabbits left ear. MCFLA will issue you a tattoo number and place it in the rabbit's ears if they do not currently have one.*
3. *All pens disqualified during pre-sift will NOT be eligible to participate in Best in Breed.*
4. *This pen of three must be the Meat Pen that was used for the show. Meat Pen must have the MCFLA flying M tattoo with the exhibitor's number tattooed in right ear.*

How registration on breeding stock is recorded.

1. *All "Mature" breeding stock must be at least 6 months old.*
2. *Breeding stock (Bucks and Does) must be registered to the exhibitor/household. Tattoo must be in the left ear of the breeding stock. Tattoo can be done by owner or by MCFLA during registration. Tattoo done at registration will be a letter (first of the last name) following a number. Ex: A123*
3. *Registration of breeding stock will take place at the end of September or beginning of October. Breeding will need to take place in November to have 75-day old kits by show time.*
4. *Verification of kindled litters will take place in the middle of November. By a chairman visiting your residence to physically see the litters have been kindled by the owner.*
5. *When turning in your Entry Form for the upcoming show, there will be a section for you to enter if you are buying or kindling your own show stock. This is what will make you eligible to enter the "Matagorda County Best in Breed" section of the show.*

SHOW DAY:

1. Exhibitors are NOT ALLOWED to have cell phones or ear buds in the show ring at ANY time during the show. Only medically necessary devices approved prior to the show by the Director or Chairman over the show will be allowed. Exhibitors MUST have long pants and closed toe shoes during the show for safety reasons. No hats and no T-shirts allowed. If any exhibitor is seen with any of these violations the Judge, Director or Chairman will ask you to remove your animal project and exit the show ring, you and your project will be disqualified.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

1. Any entry showing symptoms of disease such as sore hocks, signs of cold or sniffles, ear canker, mites, mange, vent disease, sore and runny eyes, tooth deformities, and deformed toenails, or other contagious or disqualifying features will be excluded from exhibition.

VALIDATION (Tag-in)

1. Meat Pen Rabbits, to be eligible, must be on feed by prescribed validation dates.
2. All rabbits to be entered at the County Show must be validated on Wednesday, January 27, 2027, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Fairgrounds, Bay City. All exhibitors must be in line in North Hall by 5:30 p.m.
3. All Meat Pen Rabbits and exhibitors must be present for validation unless excused with a written notice. The written notice of sickness and/or UIL, 4-H or FFA event, must be signed by the sponsor of the event. This Notice must be submitted to the Fair Office (Fairgrounds) prior to noon on the last business day before that species tag in. In the event the exhibitor is excused, the animal must be tagged and tattooed. A Matagorda County veterinarian must issue a written excuse for the Meat Pen Rabbits to be absent.
4. Limited to ten bunnies for tag-in per exhibitor.
5. Age limit is not over seventy-five days at the Show. Weight limit: each rabbit may not weigh over five pounds, nor can they weigh less than three pounds the day of the show.
6. Meat pen will consist of three rabbits, and one alternate rabbit, all the same breed and variety.
7. New Zealand and Californian breeds only. New Zealand rabbits must be "white". Mixed breed rabbits cannot be entered into this show.
8. Each meat pen rabbit will be tattooed with the MCFLA tattoo (flying M) and a validation number.

SHOW DAY

1. Meat Pen Rabbits Check-in: 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 2, 2027. Judging will follow.
All Meat Pen Rabbits must be present and in line, inside the arena by 7:30 a.m. Gates will be locked at 7:30 a.m.
2. Arrival of Animal Exhibits:
 - a. Exhibitors and animals must be in line at the designated location at the scheduled time to be eligible to check in and exhibit the animal.
 - b. All animal entries will be free of adhering dirt at the time of weigh in. It will be at the discretion of the chairman or superintendent to send the animal to the wash rack before being weighed.
3. No exhibitor or spectator will be allowed in the judging area.
4. Only rabbit exhibitors and their rabbits will be allowed in the judging arena during the rabbit show.
5. A pre-sift will occur during weigh in during the rabbit show. This pre-sift will be conducted by a qualified individual such as an agriculture science teacher or committee person. The pre-sift will be to check for disqualifications as stated in the rules. Any animal showing signs of disease or sickness will be removed from the show area and will not be accepted for judging.
6. No carriers will be allowed under the judging tables at any time.
7. The rabbits presented to the committee to be weighed will be the exhibitors' "Official Entry". One alternate will be allowed, if it is not used it will be removed. There will be no changes after judging begins.
8. Judging will begin with Meat Pens and followed by showmanship classes.
9. **Showmanship**
 - a. Rabbit Showmanship: following judging.
 - b. Open to all exhibitors who have an animal entered in this division. Any animal that was not eligible to show before the judging (all animals disqualified during the pre-sift) will NOT be eligible to participate in Showmanship.
 - c. Showmanship will be broken down in three divisions - Junior 3rd -5th grade, Intermediate 6th-8th grade, and Senior 9th-12th grade.
 - d. First and second place winners will receive belt buckles.
 - e. Exhibitor must show his/her own animal to be eligible in the showmanship competition.
 - f. The exhibitor must select one of the three rabbits exhibited in the current year's fair Meat Pen Division to show in the Showmanship competition.
10. **Release of Animal**
 - a. Any exhibitor that does not make the sale must remove their Meat Pen Rabbits following showmanship judging.
 - b. Animals left unattended after 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2026, will become the property of the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association
11. **Drug Withdrawal Period** - Each exhibitor is responsible for notifying the Livestock Committee if their animal has received any drugs that have withdrawal periods and are responsible for keeping the animal until safe for slaughter.

SUBSTANCE AVOIDANCE PROGRAM

1. The Matagorda County Fair and Livestock Association shall have the authority to test any animal entered in the fair.
2. Unless otherwise established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), samples collected from show animals will have zero tolerance for any drug, chemical or feed additive.
3. The Matagorda County Fair Association prohibits the feeding of ruminant meat and bone meal to ruminant animals.
4. By signing the Entry Form, exhibitor and parents are agreeing to permit animals to be tested for drugs, chemicals, and feed additives.
5. A certification statement must be signed by exhibitor and parent/guardian stating the entry is not, nor will it be, within any withdrawal time relative to the administration of any drug, chemical or feed additive approved by FDA and/or USDA by the time the animal is officially weighed in at the show.
6. Any drug, chemical or feed additive administered on the show grounds and/or 30 days before show must be immediately reported in writing to show officials and shall include date, product, amount, route, administered by, medical reason for administration and withdrawal time. A drug, chemical or feed additive may be administered under the supervision of or by a licensed veterinarian only.
7. Some market animals will be drug tested at weigh-ins. The exhibitors will be randomly selected for testing. These animals will be escorted to a secure area for testing after being weighed in. After judging, the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of each species will be drug tested immediately after being named in the same manner described above. The Board of Directors has the option to do additional testing of animals if warranted. Only the exhibitor and the parent will be allowed in the secured area.
8. Animals positive to drug tests and condemned by the USDA and FDA shall be disqualified and that the ranking of animals in the show remains unchanged regardless of drug test results (i.e. reserve champion wouldn't be moved to grand champion should the grand champion be disqualified because of a positive drug test).
9. All sale monies shall be held until drug tests are completed and monies be returned to the buyer of any animal that has positive test results.
10. When there is a violation of the substance avoidance program rules then the Livestock Chairman shall disqualify the exhibitor from exhibiting the animal and/or receiving sale monies. Additionally, any future animal exhibited in the fair by the exhibitor shall be subject to a drug test at any time. A subsequent violation by the exhibitor shall cause the loss of the exhibitor's remaining eligibility for the Fair.
11. A security procedure for handling test samples that would preserve the legality of test results is established.
12. The exhibitor shall have the right to appeal a disqualification to the Executive Committee Board by giving notice of such appeal to the Livestock Chairman within 72 hours of disqualification. This appeal shall be in writing and shall state the reasons upon which the appeal is based. A \$200.00 fee shall accompany the appeal. This \$200.00, which is to be used to cover the expense of subsequent testing and verification, is non-refundable. The exhibitor will retain possession of the animal until otherwise notified by the Livestock Chairman

Livestock Show & Auction Etiquette

Preparing your livestock project for a show begins months in advance. You should be knowledgeable of your species and prepared to answer any questions the judge may ask. You must exhibit good showmanship and be prepared to win and lose gracefully.

After all the time and effort that you put into raising your project, you want to make sure you have everything you need once you arrive at the fairgrounds. Being prepared will help you be less nervous and make your experience enjoyable. Investing in a box or tote is wise to keep all your show supplies together and in one place.

Packing certain items away in your box could help make your show run smoother as you are preparing for your time in the ring. Some of the items you need may be grooming combs or brushes, files, feed and feed containers, a water bottle, bowl, bucket or tub, pitchfork, rake, square shovel, your show stick, show halter, tie out halter, lead rope, and a general first aid kit that is specific to your project are some of the necessities which may be needed on show day.

Your show clothes should be neat and modest. Depending on the weather, a pair of rubber boots may come in handy, however, not while in the show ring). A small first aid kit is always handy.

While in the Show Ring - Respect the Judge.

When given the opportunity shake the judge's hand and thank him/her for their time - no matter what the outcome. Look your judge in the eye and be respectful of what he/she is telling you. If you personally disagree with your placings – please reserve that conversation for your immediate family in the privacy of your own personal space. The fairground is not that space.

Judges take time from their daily jobs and families to be here with you because they respect and believe in the values the livestock show teaches you. They are here to help you better yourself and your show experience.

Solicitation of Buyers:

You are encouraged to invite potential buyers to the sale prior to the auction date. You should start looking for your potential auction buyers during the months leading up to the auction. Potential buyers are employers, family, friends, and businesses that you and your family support. Only contact potential buyers with whom you have a personal connection.

Invite your potential buyer to come out and support the Junior Livestock Auction and bid on your project. There are various ways to invite potential buyers to the auction: cards, letters, a phone call, or a personal visit. Be sure to include your name, information about your project, your experiences with your project (a photo is always nice), your parents' names, your club information, along with the date, time, and location of the auction.

Understanding the Auction Sales Process:

This is an actual livestock auction. You are selling your project! Once you step in the auction ring you have relinquished ownership of your show project.

After you have sold your project, you are encouraged to go into the stands to shake your buyers' hand and thank them directly. You need to ask them when a good time would be to take your auction buyer photograph with them. (DO NOT leave the grounds without taking this photo). Exhibitors that choose to sell their projects in the Junior Livestock Auction are NOT to ask their buyer for their project back. Once your project has been sold it is the property of the buyer. The new buyer will choose what to do with their purchase. Any exhibitor, parent or guardian, family member, or acquaintance of exhibitor that approaches the buyer to ask for the project to be donated back to the exhibitor will forfeit exhibitors auction check and cause the exhibitor to be suspended for one-year suspension from all MCFLA activities - No exception! This is a rule. You will be contacted by the MCFLA Sales Office if your project has been donated to you.

Meat Pen Rabbit Exhibitors:

Most meat pen rabbits are donated back to the exhibitor after the sale – HOWEVER this is not always the case. You need to ask your buyer what they want to do with their purchase –

- Do they want meat? If so, you will need to deliver the three processed show rabbits to the new buyer.
- Do they want the three live rabbits? If so, you will need to deliver the three live rabbits to the new buyer.
- Do they want to donate the project to the exhibitor? REMEMBER this is their choice – not yours. DON'T ASK. If so, you can take your project home on Sunday morning.

Poultry Exhibitors:

Most poultry are donated back to the exhibitor after the sale – HOWEVER this is not always the case. You need to ask your buyer what they want to do with their purchase –

- Do they want meat? If so, you will need to deliver the three processed show poultry to the new buyer.
- Do they want a \$25.00 HEB Gift Card? If so, you will need to deliver a \$25.00 Gift Card to the new buyer. This may be included with your thank you cards.
- Do they want three live birds? If so, you will need to deliver the three live show poultry to the new buyer.
- Are they donating them to the exhibitor? REMEMBER this is their choice – not yours. DON'T ASK. If so, they are yours. Champions will need to take them home on Sunday morning.

Steer, Lamb, Goat, and Swine Exhibitors:

The buyer now owns your project – it is no longer yours! At this time one of three things will happen-

- a. Your buyer can take the project home and keep it.
- b. Your buyer can send the project to one of the packing plants.
- c. Your buyer can donate the project back to you. "If" the new owner donates the project back to you, then you will be notified by the MCFLA Sales Office and asked if you intend to take your project home or put it on the resale truck.

You or any member of your family or a friend CANNOT ask your buyer for your project back. This is a rule. You will be contacted by the MCFLA Sales Office if your project has been donated to you.

After the Show and Auction:

You must send a thank you note to your respectable buyer, buckle sponsor or donor. This shows how grateful you are. And it's a rule!

2027

MATAGORDA COUNTY FAIR & LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR LIVESTOCK MARKET SHOW ENTRY FORM

Please Print (Fill out this form, front and back, completely, and accurately.)

***All Entry Forms & Release Forms are due online or in the Extension Office by 5:00 pm, Thursday, October 22, 2026**

EXHIBITOR NAME: _____ CLUB OR CHAPTER: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

BIRTHDATE(MM/DD/YY): _____ SCHOOL: _____ GRADE (3-12): _____

PARENT(S) NAME: _____

CONTACT #: _____ PARENT(S) EMAIL: _____

**Entry Fee: \$30.00 per exhibitor PLUS \$30.00 for any Additional Tagged or Family Tagged project(s)
Check or Money Order NO CASH - Please make checks payable to: MCFLA**

Exhibitor Fee \$30.00 (includes one tagged project)

☐

Additional Tagged Projects: \$30.00 per Tag. (Same Species-Limit two projects per exhibitor entry-**Please see rules**
item 15) Number of Tags: _____

☐

Please list immediate family member(s) that are eligible to show the above project. All exhibitors MUST have a paid entry form and must be living in the same household with the same address.

_____, _____

_____, _____

Please list the physical address / location that your project(s) will be housed (**please see rules on Pg. 6 & 7**)

_____, _____ City _____

Livestock Project - Please circle one.

SWINE LAMB GOAT MEAT PEN RABBIT POULTRY (Additional \$110.00 Required for Poultry Order)

STEER – AB OR AOB (Circle One – For award purposes only) County Steer was bred in _____

Name of Steer Breeder _____

RABBIT – Buying Rabbits or Kindling my Rabbits (Circle One – For award purposes)

_____ I have read and fully understand the 2026 Livestock Rulebook and the rules pertaining to my project.

Must have a signed Release and Indemnity Agreement attached & W9.

I, _____, exhibitor, have read and understand the Rules and Regulations of the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association, including the NO PASS-NO PLAY policies (pg. 5), the Substance Avoidance Program (pg. 29), the Animal Residency Requirement (pg. 6 & 7), the Livestock Show and Auction Etiquette (pg. 30 & 31), and clean up requirements (pg. 10 & 11).

I understand that the Matagorda County Fair Association prohibits the feeding of ruminant meat and bone meal to ruminant animals and by signing I agree to adhere to these rules and regulations of the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Show.

Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association Release and Indemnity Agreement

I, _____, a participant(s)/contestant(s) in the **Junior Livestock Show & Auction** of Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association do hereby knowingly and voluntarily release the above referenced Event, the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association, Board of Directors, members, judges, volunteers and employees of the Matagorda County Fair & Livestock Exposition Association, Matagorda County and any other person, firm or individual charged and chargeable with responsibility or liability, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns from and against any and all claims, lawsuits, demands, damages, loss of services, actions and causes of action based upon, arising out of, such event(s) or in any way related to any honors, awards, or rights sought by me as a participant in the Matagorda County Fair Association the conduct of business threat thereat, the ownership and possession of any honors, awards, or rights, thereby, any negligent act, act of misfeasance of nonfeasance by the Matagorda County Fair Association with any honors, awards, and rights, bestowed at said events. Further, I do hereby agree to exonerate, hold harmless, and indemnify such event(s) past, present or future in connection with such honors, awards, and rights. Such indemnification to include all fees (including reasonable attorney's fee), costs and other expenses reasonably incurred by or on behalf of the above referenced event(s) and investigation of or defense against any such claims, lawsuits, demands, actions, or causes of actions.

I have had a full and adequate opportunity to be thoroughly advised of the terms and conditions of this release and indemnity agreement by counsel of my own choosing. I have also been given the opportunity to ask all questions that I have concerning this document and its execution by me. I do fully understand the terms of this agreement and do intentionally and voluntarily agree to same.

Both exhibitor and exhibitors' parent(s) or guardian(s) have read and fully understand the rules and regulations of the 2027 Livestock Rule Book.

Your Signature acknowledges the above three Paragraphs.

_____ Participant's/Contestant's Signature	_____ Parent's Signature	_____ Date Signed
_____ Witness' Signature	_____ Witness' Print Name	_____ Date Signed

Witness MUST be a 4-H Club Manager, Ag-Science Instructor Signature or Extension Staff Member

4-H Club Manager or Ag-Science Instructor Signature
(Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining their Ag Science Teacher or their 4-H Club Managers signature when turning entry forms into the Extension Office)

***THE ABOVE DOCUMENT MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BEFORE PARTICIPATION IN ANY
MATAGORDA COUNTY FAIR & LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION ASSOCIATION EVENT.***

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Give Form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.

Print or type.
See Specific Instructions on page 3.

1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.	
2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above	
3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes. ☐ Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC ☐ C Corporation ☐ S Corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ Trust/estate ☐ Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶ _____ <i>Note:</i> Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. ☐ Other (see instructions) ▶ _____	4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____ <i>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)</i>
5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions.	Requester's name and address (optional)
6 City, state, and ZIP code	
7 List account number(s) here (optional)	

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number	
or	
Employer identification number	

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here

Signature of
U.S. person ▶

Date ▶

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid)

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See *What Is backup withholding*, later.