Laredo International Fair and Exposition

February 22nd- February 28, 2026

63rd Annual

Rules and Regulations

Livestock Rules

General Rules for L.I.F.E. Events

The L.I.F.E. Organization has established a set of general rules that apply to all events it hosts. These rules are intended to promote fairness, consistency, and a clear framework for participation, regardless of the specific event.

In addition to these general guidelines, each event may have its own specific rules and requirements tailored to its unique purpose and activities. These event-specific rules can be found on the Laredo Fair website at www.laredofair.com. To locate them, visit the **Rules & Forms** tab, then select **Rules**, and click on the specific event in which you are participating.

Because the general rules set the standard for all L.I.F.E. events, it is essential that participants also refer to the event-specific handbook to understand and comply with any additional requirements.

This structure ensures that all participants are well-informed of both general and specific expectations, leading to a more organized and successful experience for everyone involved.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Guest General Rules – Pg. 4
II. Participant General Rules– Pg. 6
III. Special Sale Rules– Pg. 24
IV. Judging Rules– Pg. 26
V. Herdsmanship– Pg. 27
VI. Showmanship Contest Special Rules– Pg.29
VII. Junior Steer Show Special Rules– Pg. 30
VIII. Market Swine Show Special Rules– Pg. 33
IX. Market Lamb Show Special Rules– Pg. 36
X. Market Goat Show Special Rules– Pg.39
XI. Poultry Show Special Rules– Pg. 42
XII. Rabbit Show Special Rules– Pg. 44
XIII. Heifer Show Special Rules– Pg. 47

GUEST GENERAL RULES

1. Guest Code of Conduct

All guests attending the Laredo International Fair and Exposition (L.I.F.E.) are expected to exhibit legal, respectful, and appropriate behavior at all times. L.I.F.E. management reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to deny entry or remove any individual whose behavior is deemed inappropriate, illegal, or disruptive. No refunds or compensation will be issued to any guest who is removed from the premises.

1.1 Prohibited Conduct (including but not limited to):

- Animal cruelty
- Smoking or vaping in any livestock areas
- Drug use on fairgrounds
- Alcohol, tobacco, or drug use by minors under the age of 21, including those accompanied by a parent or guardian

1.2 Inappropriate Behavior (including but not limited to):

- Drunk and disorderly conduct
- Fighting or threatening to fight
- Interfering with the event or its participants
- Use of profanity or offensive language (verbal or written)
- Taunting or using offensive language toward exhibitors
- Taunting or disturbing livestock
- Entering unauthorized areas
- Disrupting the enjoyment of the event for others
- Failing to comply with directions given by L.I.F.E. management or facility personnel
- Any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the Livestock Committee or a L.I.F.E. Board member

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2. Handguns Prohibited

Notice: Entry by any licensed individual with a concealed or open-carry handgun is strictly prohibited.

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3. Emergency First Aid Station

A designated emergency first aid station will be established and maintained on the show grounds to provide assistance as needed.

4. Parking

All guests must adhere to designated parking areas and follow drop-off/pick-up procedures. Unauthorized vehicles or those blocking roadways will be towed at the owner's expense. Please ensure vehicles are locked and unoccupied while parked on the premises.

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5. Stolen or Lost Property

L.I.F.E. is not responsible for lost or stolen property at any time before, during, or after the event.

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6. Security and Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officers will be present to enforce rules, maintain safety, and uphold public order. While every effort will be made to prevent accidents, damage, or theft, L.I.F.E. cannot guarantee complete security and assumes no liability for such incidents.

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7. Dogs Not Permitted

For safety and public health reasons, dogs are not allowed on the show grounds. The only exception is for service animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for individuals with disabilities.

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8. Definitions

CEA – County Extension Agent
AST – Agricultural Science Teacher

L.I.F.E. Participant General Rules

These guidelines are designed to maintain order, safety, and fairness for all clubs and FFA chapters participating in the L.I.F.E. Fair. All participants are expected to adhere to the following rules and are responsible for ensuring that their club or chapter complies at all times.

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1. Tents

- Only standard 10x10 tents are permitted; no other tent sizes will be allowed.
- Each participating club/FFA chapter must comply with this size requirement to ensure uniformity and safety.
- Tents must be placed only in designated and assigned areas. Assignment numbers will be issued to each club/FFA chapter.
- In the **rabbit and poultry areas**, each tent is limited to one table and four (4) chairs to avoid overcrowding.
- Tent decorations and additional structures must adhere to strict guidelines—no excessive or unsafe additions will be permitted.
- Animal handling equipment is subject to regulation regarding type and quantity.
- Safety inspections will be conducted prior to and during the fair.
- Each club is responsible for maintaining cleanliness in its designated area daily and upon departure.

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2. Equipment Allowed

To ensure a safe and organized environment, the following limits apply per tent:

- **Chairs**: Maximum of four (4)
- **Goat/Lamb Stands**: Maximum of three (3)
- **Show Rail**: One rack (sized for 3 to 5 head maximum)
- Equipment must be in good condition and free of safety hazards.
- Large or inappropriate equipment that blocks walkways or causes disruption is prohibited.
- Clubs must clean their areas daily and before departure.

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3. Prohibited Items

The following items are not allowed on the fairgrounds:

- Beverages: Sodas, beer, energy drinks

- Substances: Cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vape pens, illegal drugs
- Cooking: Open flames or cooking equipment
- Furniture: Bulky or oversized items that obstruct walkways
    - **Notice**: Any items left in walkways will be removed after a warning is issued.
- Other prohibited items include hazardous materials, ATVs, power wheels, scooters, large portable speakers, bicycles (unless for medical or official use), and any other item deemed inappropriate by L.I.F.E. management, the board, or the Livestock Committee.

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4. Setup and Dismantling

- Setup times will be assigned by L.I.F.E. and must be followed precisely.
- All tents and equipment must be removed by **5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, 2026**.
- Clubs are responsible for leaving their areas clean and orderly.

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5. General Conduct

- Tent areas must remain clean, organized, and free from excessive noise.
- Loud music, disruptive behavior, or vandalism will not be tolerated.
- Any property damage must be reported to L.I.F.E. personnel immediately.

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6. Liability

L.I.F.E. is not responsible for any personal injuries, or the loss or damage of personal property, before, during, or after the event.

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7. Conduct and Maintenance

- Maintain cleanliness and report any incidents or damages.
- Clubs are expected to clean their designated areas daily and at the close of the event.

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8. Allowable Items for Clubs/FFA Chapters

- **Water** is the only beverage permitted within the fairgrounds.
- On **Sunday only**, clubs/FFA chapters may bring up to four (4) sealed water packs (24 or 48 bottles).

- Daily water drop-off is permitted between **8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. only**. After 10:00 a.m., security will not allow additional items.
- **Ice Chest Limit**: Each club/FFA chapter may bring up to two (2) ice chests, each no larger than 120 quarts.

Important Notes

These general rules establish the standard for all L.I.F.E. events. Participants must also refer to the handbook and specific rules for the event they are attending.

Event-specific rules and updates can be found at www.laredofair.com. Navigate to the **Rules & Forms** tab and click on the event name under **Rules** to access the appropriate guidelines.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & RABBITS

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2026

Species	Closing Date	Validation Date	Time
Steers	September 2, 2025	September 6, 2025	8:00 A.M.
Lambs	October 14, 2025	October 18, 2025	8:00 A.M.
Goats	October 14, 2025	October 18, 2025	8:00 A.M.
Poultry	November 3, 2025	*Individual Dispersal Dates for turkeys, broilers, and roasters*	—
Swine	December 1, 2025	December 6, 2025	8:00 A.M.
Rabbits	January 19, 2026	January 31, 2026	8:00 A.M.
Heifers	To Be Announced (TBA)	TBA	TBA

General Rules & Highlights

- **Awards** will be given to one exhibitor in each age group per species division:
    - **Junior** (ages 8–10)
    - **Intermediate** (ages 11–13)
    - **Senior** (ages 14–18)
- Drenching is limited to an **8" drench gun**. No tubing, stomach pumping, or esophageal methods are permitted.
- **Goat Weight Limits:**
    - **Minimum:** 70 lbs.
    - **Maximum:** 120 lbs.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & RABBITS

GENERAL RULES – EXHIBITORS

1. Competition Eligibility

The competition is open to youth enrolled in elementary through high school (including homeschool) who are active, in-good-standing members of a 4-H Club, FFA, or Jr. FFA chapter in Webb County. Exhibitors must personally feed and care for their animals in Webb County unless reviewed and approved by L.I.F.E.

1.1 Active Membership

Must be an active member of 4-H, FFA, or Jr. FFA as of **November 1, 2025**, and continue to be in good standing through the time of show. Exhibitors must be **at least 8 years old before September 1** and enrolled in **3rd grade**.

1.2 School Status

Students are **ineligible** if they have:

- Graduated
- Dropped out of school
- Are enrolled in DAEP or JJAEP
- Are not enrolled in a Webb County school

1.3 Exhibitor Conduct

Disqualification may result from:

- Unlawful acts
- Disruptive behavior
- Fraud or misrepresentation
- Theft
- Use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, vaping
- Non-compliance with rules
- Riotous or unsafe behavior
- Any other conduct deemed inappropriate by the Livestock Committee or L.I.F.E. Board

1.4 Disqualification

Violation of any adopted livestock rules will be reviewed and may result in:

- Immediate removal of project(s)
- Forfeiture of all awards, premiums, add-ons, and sale proceeds

- Disqualification from further participation, if determined appropriate by the Ethics Committee

1.5 Student Code of Conduct

All exhibitors must adhere to their school district's Code of Conduct.

1.6 Substitute Exhibitors

Substitute Exhibitors are permitted only in cases of illness or emergency and must meet the following:

- Must be a current year L.I.F.E. exhibitor
- Can only substitute for **one (1) exhibitor** per year
- Must follow the two-project rule (i.e., cannot exceed total allowed entries including substitutes)
- Cards must be completed, signed by a parent/guardian and AST/CEA, and submitted to the Livestock Superintendent by **10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026**
  (Emergencies after this date will be reviewed case-by-case.)

1.7 Substitute Exhibitor – Show Only

Approved only for:

- Death in the immediate family
- Emergency illness/injury (doctor documentation required)
- Two projects in same class
- School academic denial (with official documentation)

Note: Extracurricular activities are not valid reasons.

1.8 Substitute Exhibitor – Auction Only

Approved only for:

- Death in the immediate family
- Emergency illness/injury (with documentation)
- Academic denial for school testing (with documentation from principal/designee)
- UIL school-sponsored event (with official documentation)

1.9 Emergency Substitute Exhibitor

If an injury occurs **during the show**, only an **eligible and approved** substitute exhibitor may be used.

1.10 Dress Code – Show & Auction

Exhibitors must wear appropriate attire:

- **Shirts/Blouses**: Must have sleeves, no bare midriffs, backs, or open chests. No tank tops, halters, muscle shirts, or see-through materials.
- **Pants**: Must be appropriately fitted and not create a tripping hazard.
- **Prohibited Attire**: Clothing with inappropriate language or advertisements (alcohol, tobacco, drugs, political slogans).
- **Non-compliance**: Exhibitors will be asked to change. If needed, a shirt will be provided at the exhibitor's expense.

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2. Livestock Judging Competition

- The Livestock Judging Committee may select animals from the exhibits for the competition held on **Friday, February 28, 2026**.
- Failure to comply may result in disqualification (See Section 1.4).
- **Youth exhibitors will not be allowed inside the Pavilion during judging.**

ENTRIES

1. Application for Entry

1.1 All entry registration forms must be **fully completed** online at the official L.I.F.E. website including all required signatures from the exhibitor, instructor (CEA or AST), and parent/legal guardian.
1.2 Only CEA or AST may submit completed entry cards directly to the L.I.F.E. office.
1.3 Incomplete entry cards will be rejected.
1.4 Entry registration forms containing false or misleading information may be denied and may result in **exhibitor disqualification** from current and/or future L.I.F.E. events. (See Section 1.4 – *Disqualification*.)
1.5 **Animal residency** must be documented in writing at the time of validation and submitted with the entry registration form.
1.6 **Entry fee payments must be submitted online. Accepted payment methods**:

- Credit Card
- Debit Card

Note: School district or 4-H Club checks will be accepted through the L.I.F.E. Office — Please call to make proper arrangements prior the deadline.

Unaccepted forms of payment:

- Cash
- Personal, Family, or Business Checks
- Postal Money Order

Note: *No personal, family, or business checks will be accepted. No refunds will be issued.*

1.7 **Entry Fee**: $30.00 per division (Steers, Lambs, Goats, Swine, Poultry, Rabbits, Heifers)
1.8 **Entry Deadline**: Entry registration forms must be submitted online by **5:00 p.m. on the species-specific closing date** (see chart below). **No late entries accepted.**

Entry & Validation Schedule – 2026

Species	Closing Date	Validation Date	Time
Steers	September 2, 2025	September 6, 2025	8:00 A.M.
Lambs	October 14, 2025	October 18, 2025	8:00 A.M.
Goats	October 14, 2025	October 18, 2025	8:00 A.M.
Poultry	November 3, 2025	*Dispersal date provided for turkeys, broilers, roasters*	—
Swine	December 1, 2025	December 6, 2025	8:00 A.M.
Rabbits	January 19, 2026	January 31, 2026	8:00 A.M.
Heifers	**TBA**	**TBA**	**TBA**

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2. Limit of Entries

2.1 Exhibitors may **validate an unlimited number** of animals or exhibits.
2.2 However, only **two exhibits may be entered through the sift** process.
2.3 A maximum of **two entries per division** is allowed. This includes:

- Livestock
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Welding/Woodworking
- Canning
- Sewing & Baking
- Art
  (Breeding livestock are excluded.)
  Examples:
- 2 livestock
- 2 Ag mechanics
- 2 baking/canning/sewing
- 2 art

2.4 If an exhibitor qualifies **two projects for auction**, only one may be selected to sell. The second project will receive **floor proceeds only**. The exhibitor must notify the L.I.F.E. Sales Office immediately after judging. If no selection is made, the **highest-placing** exhibit will be sold.
2.5 An exhibitor may sell **one (1) livestock/poultry/rabbit project** *AND* **one (1) non-livestock project** (Ag mechanics, baking, canning, sewing, or art).

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3. Sibling Projects

Siblings, including half or step siblings, may validate animals together **if they reside in the same household and jointly raise the projects**. Each sibling must select their own project **at time of sift** for show and sale.

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4. Eligibility Form

In compliance with the Texas Education Agency and local school board policies:

- All 4-H and FFA exhibitors must submit a **House Bill 72 / Eligibility Form**.
- This form must be submitted by the CEA/AST to the L.I.F.E. office by the deadline set by the Livestock Committee.
- **Failure to submit the form will result in disqualification.**
- The 4-H HB 72 form supersedes the L.I.F.E. form but must also be submitted to the 4-H Extension Office.

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5. Club/FFA Chapter Tent Area Rules

- Tent assignments will be issued by division superintendents prior to sift day.
- Assignments are made at the **discretion of the Livestock Committee** and may change.
- Tents are for livestock prep and storage only and must remain in assigned areas. **Violations may result in forfeiture of the area or disqualification.** (See Section 1.4 – *Disqualification*.)

Additional Rules:
5.1 No hammocks or oversized speakers
5.2 Areas must remain clean and organized from Monday through Saturday night
5.3 **Tent size limited to 10x10 only**, and only in assigned areas

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LIVESTOCK

Terminal Show

L.I.F.E. is a **terminal show**. All livestock become property of L.I.F.E. after **10:00 a.m. on sift day**. Only **sifted-out projects** may be removed from the fairgrounds. L.I.F.E. is not liable for loss due to **theft, illness, or death**. L.I.F.E. management may inspect projects **with or without notice** at any time during the feeding period. **Violations may result in disqualification.**

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1. Stalls, Pens, and Ties

Assigned by division superintendents prior to sift. Assignments may change at the discretion of the Livestock Committee.

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2. Lost Ear Tag / Identification

- Projects missing official tags, bands, or tattoos may be **sifted**.
- Missing tags before dispersal may result in a **$100 fine**.
- Lost tags must be reported to the **CEA/AST within 3 days**, who will notify the superintendent for retagging.
- **Only division superintendents or their designees may retag.** No exceptions.

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3. State Validation

State validation tag numbers may be used.
If state validation is incomplete at L.I.F.E. validation, the animal must be tagged with a L.I.F.E. tag.
All projects must complete a L.I.F.E. entry card and pay the L.I.F.E. fee, regardless of state validation.

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4. Check-In

All livestock, poultry, and rabbits must be **checked in by 10:00 a.m. on sift day**.
At that time, they become **property of L.I.F.E.**

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5. Diseased Animals

- Animals showing signs of illness will be **barred from entry**.
- The livestock superintendent may refuse unloading or mandate removal.
- A veterinarian may recommend treatment, euthanasia, or removal.

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6. Erroneous Entry

Animals entered in the wrong class may be moved **prior to classification**.
Protests may be filed unless judged by a 3-person sift panel. (See Section 1.3 – *Protests*.)

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7. Care of Animals

Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals from arrival through Saturday night.

7.1 Grooming, Feeding, and Assistance

- All animals must be **fed and watered daily**.
- **Abandonment** of animals results in forfeiture of sale proceeds and potential disqualification.
- Only the **CEA, AST, adult 4-H leaders, or immediate family** may assist in grooming, feeding, and care.

7.2 Surgery and Medications

No medical procedures may be performed without **superintendent approval and veterinary supervision**.

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8. Unethically Fitted Animals

In accordance with the **USDA Wholesome Meat Act**, any animal found to be altered through drugs, mechanical means, injections, or other substances may be **disqualified and barred from show**. This includes but is not limited to:

- Air or fluid injections
- Extra-label drug use
- Cosmetic alterations

Animals may be inspected at **any time after validation**.

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9. Drug Testing

A. All livestock must be fed, and/or medicated consistent with the direction for use of any and all feed and medicine labeling. All livestock, poultry and rabbits will be subject to having body fluids withdrawn by a licensed veterinarian or their designee for the purpose of testing for drug residue. L.I.F.E. will practice zero tolerance.

B. **DRUG TESTING** Livestock to be tested for drug residue will be from Grand Champions, Reserve Grand Champions, randomly, or any suspected animal designated by an Executive Committee made up of Livestock committee members, the Superintendent of the animal in question, and designated L.I.F.E. Board of Director. Testing will begin any time after the division has been judged. The drug test will be a standard drug test for stock show livestock from an independent organization having no affiliation with L.I.F.E.

C. **DRUG TESTING PROCEDURE**

- The Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and a minimum of one random lot in each market species will be drug tested.
- Random selection will take place before exit from show ring once placings have been announced. Exhibitors will be escorted to designated drug testing area.
- Exhibitor/substitute exhibitor and or parent/legal guardian/CEA/AST must be present at all times during the collection process.
- A specimen will be collected on all livestock by an authorized collecting team member that is not affiliated with L.I.F.E.
- Samples will be logged and signed by the collecting team member and exhibitor.
- Samples will be sent out to a laboratory that has no affiliation with L.I.F.E. for testing.

9.2 Positive Drug Test Results

Any exhibitor whose animal tests positive for drug residue or prohibited chemicals will:

- Be **disqualified** from competition
- **Forfeit all placings**
- **Forfeit all sale proceeds**, premiums, add-ons, and floor price
- May be subject to a **two-year ban** from all L.I.F.E. competitions, including any direct siblings, half-siblings, or step-siblings residing in the same household

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9.3 Drug Use Policy

Prohibited Drug Use

- The use of any unapproved or prohibited drug, chemical, or medication is **strictly prohibited**.
- Examples include:
    - Diuretics
    - Unapproved growth stimulants
    - Any other prohibited substances listed by the **FDA**
- A full list of prohibited substances can be found at www.fda.gov.

Approved Drug Use

- Animals treated with FDA-approved or extra-label drugs under **veterinary supervision** must have completed proper withdrawal and **elimination** periods.
- Note: Elimination periods often **exceed labeled withdrawal times** and are required to ensure no residues are present during weigh-in or show time.

Inspection and Testing Authorization

- As a condition of entry, all exhibitors agree:
    - To submit their animals for inspection or testing at any time.
    - To accept the determination of L.I.F.E. Superintendents regarding ethical fitting as **final and binding**.
    - To allow L.I.F.E. to collect and test blood, urine, or other biological samples to determine if drug residues or prohibited substances are present.
    - That results from the testing laboratory are **final and binding**, with no recourse against L.I.F.E.

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10. CARE OF STALLS AND PENS

10.1 All stalls, pens, and exhibition areas must be **cleaned daily by 8:00 A.M.**, with waste disposed of in accordance with the Livestock Superintendent's instructions.
10.2 Stall/pen/tie space will be **assigned** by division superintendents and must be respected.
10.3 All species—including **steers, hogs, lambs, goats, poultry, and rabbits**—must remain in their **designated exhibition areas** at all times.
10.4 **Exhibitors and/or organizations may be held financially responsible** for any damage to pens, stalls, or fairground property.
10.5 **Locks are strictly prohibited** on any stalls, cages, or pens.
10.6 **Surveillance equipment** of any kind, as defined by L.I.F.E., is prohibited. Any violation will result in **immediate disqualification**. *(See Section 1.4 – Disqualification)*

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11. VIEWING OF LIVESTOCK AREAS

- All livestock areas must be properly prepared and accessible for public viewing between **8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.**
- **Sidewalks and public viewing areas must remain clear** of obstructions at all times.

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12. SHOW RING REGULATIONS

12.1 Only the **exhibitor or approved substitute exhibitor** may be inside the show ring during judging.
12.2 Exhibitors **must be able to handle their own project** without assistance in the show ring.
12.3 Exhibitors with a documented disability must arrange for accommodations in advance with the Livestock Superintendent.
12.4 **No person may interfere** with the judging process or exhibitors once the show begins.
12.5 Any animal approved through the classification/sifting process must be shown in its respective class unless the absence is **excused by the Livestock Superintendent**.

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13. REFUSAL OR INABILITY TO SHOW

- Exhibitors or substitute exhibitors who **refuse or are unable to show their project** due to a valid reason in writing and approved excuse by the executive committee to show their project during the competition will **forfeit their right to participate in the auction**.

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14. RELEASE OF LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, OR RABBITS

14.1 No animal may be released without **explicit approval from the Livestock Superintendent or designee**.
14.2 **Sifted animals must be removed** from the fairgrounds by **8:00 P.M. on Monday** of sift week. Any sifted animal remaining after this time becomes the **property of L.I.F.E.**
14.3 No projects may be removed before **3:00 P.M. on Sunday** of fair week.

- Unauthorized removal of livestock will result in **forfeiture of auction earnings, premiums, and add-ons**, and may result in **disqualification for the following year or permanently**. *(See Section 1.4 – Disqualification)*
  14.4 All livestock, poultry, and rabbit projects **require a buyer's receipt** for official release.
- Projects not picked up by **5:00 P.M. on Sunday** will become **property of L.I.F.E.**

15. RELEASE AND DISPERSAL PROCEDURES

15.1 Buyer's receipt is **required for release** of all livestock, poultry, and rabbits.
15.2 Approved pick-up time is **Sunday, 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
15.3 Any animals remaining after **5:00 P.M.** become **property of L.I.F.E.**
15.4 **No animals may be released** without Livestock Superintendent approval.
15.5 **Donated-back animals** will be automatically **floored** (sold at floor price).
15.6 Exhibitor show boxes and equipment may be removed between **3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.** on Sunday, with security clearance.

16. SOLICITATION AND RAFFLES

- Exhibitors may **not sell, give away, or distribute** any items that conflict with official L.I.F.E. privileges or concessions.
- **Solicitation of any kind** for money, sponsorships, or raffles in connection to sifted projects (livestock, poultry, or rabbits) is **strictly prohibited**.
- Any exhibitor found engaging in solicitation will be subject to **immediate disqualification**. *(See Section 1.4 – Disqualification)*

RULES

1. INTERPRETATION AND VIOLATION OF RULES

L.I.F.E. management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret all rules and regulations. The Grievance Committee is responsible for resolving all matters, questions, and disputes. Their decisions are final.

1.1 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The Grievance Committee shall consist of:

- L.I.F.E. President
- Livestock Superintendent or designee
- One or more L.I.F.E. Board Members

The Committee will review grievances in executive session. Their decisions are final and binding.

FILING PROCEDURES

A. Immediate/Time-Sensitive Grievances

- **Deadline**: Must be submitted **within 24 hours** of the incident or published results.
- **Format**: Must be in writing and include a detailed explanation of the complaint.
- **Submission**: Delivered to the L.I.F.E. Office or designated Fair Official.
- **Deposit**: A $100.00 cash deposit must be submitted with the grievance. This will be forfeited if the protest is not upheld.
- **Hearing**: A meeting will be scheduled promptly to address the issue with all necessary parties.

1.2 PROTESTS

- All protests must be submitted in writing and clearly state the nature of the complaint or appeal.
- Protests must be submitted within 24 hours of the incident.
- A $100.00 cash deposit must accompany each protest. This deposit will be forfeited if the protest is not upheld.
- Protests regarding age or breeding eligibility must be filed before the day of judging.

1.3 VIOLATIONS

- Exhibitors found in violation of any rule will forfeit all privileges and premiums and may be subject to further penalties as determined by the Grievance Committee (See Section 1.4: Disqualification).
- Any individual—exhibitor, parent, leader, advisor, or volunteer—who disrupts any L.I.F.E. activity or makes threats will be removed from the fairgrounds and barred from participation.

2. LIABILITY

L.I.F.E. is not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage occurring during the event. Exhibitors assume full responsibility for any harm or damage caused by their exhibits and shall indemnify L.I.F.E. against any resulting claims or legal proceedings.

3. SPECIAL RULES

Species-specific rules may apply to certain divisions. In case of conflict, the species-specific rules shall override the general rules.

4. RULES COMMITTEE

The Rules and Regulations Committee includes L.I.F.E. Board Members, Livestock Superintendents, Agricultural Science Teachers (ASTs), and County Extension Agents (CEAs).

SPECIAL SALE RULES

1. AUCTION SALE ELIGIBILITY

- Exhibitors may sell only one entry in the auction.
- Only steers, hogs, lambs, and goats placing 1st through 8th may sell. Animals placing 9th and 10th will receive premiums.
- Only poultry and rabbits placing 1st through 5th may sell. Placings 6th through 10th will receive premiums.
- Exhibitors receiving a premium on one project may not sell another in the auction.
- Re-sales are not permitted.

1.1 ELIGIBLE ENTRIES

- All Grand Champions, Reserve Grand Champions, Breed Champions, Reserve Breed Champions, and 1st–8th place animals must be sold in the auction (for poultry and rabbits: Grand, Reserve, and 1st–5th only).
- If an exhibitor qualifies with two animals, they must immediately notify the L.I.F.E. Sales Office which animal will sell. If no notification is received, the highest placing animal will be selected automatically.

1.2 MULTIPLE PROJECTS

- If one of two projects is sold at auction, the exhibitor will receive floor price for the second.
- If neither qualifies for the auction, the exhibitor will receive floor price for both.

1.3 SALE FORMAT

- Projects will be sold to the highest bidder under a free-market system.
- The Buyers Committee may add contributions at its discretion to assist exhibitors.

1.4 LOT REASSIGNMENT

- If a sale lot becomes vacant due to an exhibitor selling another entry, animals will be moved up in lot order (for sale purposes only).

1.5 RING PRESENTATION

- Projects must be led through the sale ring by the exhibitor or an approved substitute designated by the Livestock Committee.

1.6 SALE METHOD

- Projects will be sold either by the head or by the pound, as announced by the auctioneer.

1.7 SALE COMMISSION

- A commission not exceeding 5% will be withheld from each exhibitor's auction proceeds. The exact percentage is set by the L.I.F.E. Board during budget approval.

1.8 ADD-ONS

- Anyone may donate to an exhibitor via Online through our website laredofair.com or an Add-On Sheet through the L.I.F.E. office. Donors do not need to be auction buyers.

1.9 AUCTION PARTICIPATION

- Participation in the auction is not guaranteed. L.I.F.E. management, the Board of Directors, and staff reserve the right to exclude any exhibitor or project from the auction.

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2. BUYER SOLICITATION

- Exhibitors may not solicit buyers during the fair.
- Letters may be sent to prospective buyers in advance using the Buyer's List provided by L.I.F.E. through the AST or CEA.

3. PARADE REQUIREMENTS

- Exhibitors whose projects are sold must parade them in show-ring condition.
- No costumes, hats, or artificial products (e.g., glitter, adhesives) are allowed on animals.
- Rabbits and poultry must be paraded in plain carriers as provided by the Livestock Committee. No decorated containers or wagons are permitted.

4. PHOTOGRAPHY

- Exhibitors agree to allow L.I.F.E. to take photos or videos of them and their projects for promotional use.
- By entering L.I.F.E. events, participants waive rights to compensation, approval, or copyright regarding such use.

5. FLOORED LIVESTOCK

- Floored livestock must remain in assigned pens/ties.
- Non-auction animals will receive floor price proceeds.

- Exhibitors with two projects must choose which to sell and will receive floor price for the other.
- A shrinkage of up to 7% may be applied to floored animals based on weight.

6. THANK YOU LETTERS

- Checks will only be released after thank you letters are submitted.
- Exhibitors must prepare a thank you letter for each buyer and Add-On donor. Letters must be in addressed, stamped, sealed envelopes.
- The deadline for submission is May 8, 2026 (second Friday in May). Late letters will be accepted until June 12, 2026 (second Friday in June) with a 10% late fee.
- Letters not submitted by June 12, 2026, will result in forfeiture of funds, which will be allocated to the L.I.F.E. Scholarship Fund.

7. CHECK DISBURSEMENT POLICY

- Exhibitors may request check mailing via USPS for a $20.00 fee (applies to checks over $100).
- Exhibitors must have submitted all required documents (e.g., W-9) before checks are released.
- Checks must be cashed within 90 days of issue. After 91 days, checks are void.
- Reissued checks incur a $50.00 processing fee.
- Checks must be picked up by 5:00 p.m. on or before September 30. If this date falls on a weekend, the deadline is extended to the next business day.
- Unclaimed checks will be forfeited and redirected to the Scholarship Fund.

8. CHECK RELEASE

- Checks will be released once 95% of auction, Add-On, and floor proceeds have been collected.
- ASTs and CEAs will be notified when checks are available.

9. BUYER BALANCES

- Exhibitors whose parent or primary contact of a buyer group has an outstanding balance as of September 1, 2025, will not be allowed to participate.
- Entries will not be accepted, and auction checks may be held to offset the outstanding debt.

JUDGING RULES

1. Selection of Judges

Judges for all livestock shows will be selected by the **L.I.F.E. Judges Committee**, which may include:

- L.I.F.E. Board of Directors
- Livestock Superintendents
- Agricultural Science Teachers (ASTs)
- County Extension Agents (CEAs)
  All judges are selected with the **highest degree of integrity** and professionalism.

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2. Judges' Authority

Judges will determine whether an entry meets the criteria regarding:

- **Compliance with rules and regulations**
- **Correct weight** (judge must read the scale)
- **Quality and overall merit**
- **Eligibility for awards or premiums**

Sift judges have full authority to remove animals from competition based on quality.

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3. Finality of Decisions

All judges' decisions are **final**, except in cases where **fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion**—undetected at the time of judging—is later confirmed.
(Refer to: General Rules, Section 1.3 – *Protests*)

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4. Interference with Judging

No person may interfere with judges or exhibitors during judging.
(Refer to: General Rules – *Conduct & Disqualification*)

5. Time of Judging

- Judging will follow the **published L.I.F.E. Judging Program** as closely as possible.
- Exhibitors are responsible for being on time.
- Any exhibit not presented **promptly** at the scheduled time will be **barred from competition** in that class.
- No protests will be considered for missed judging due to tardiness or oversight.

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6. Methods of Awarding

- **Division Champions**: Selected winners from 1st place in each class.
- **Reserve Division Champion**: Selected from the remaining 1st place winners and 2nd-place winners of the champion's class.
- **Grand Champion**: Selected from all Division Champions.
- **Reserve Grand Champion**: Selected from the remaining Division Champions and Reserve Division Champions from the Grand Champion's class.
- No animal will receive an award unless it is **removed from its pen/stall** and exhibited in the **show ring** before the judge.

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7. Unworthy Exhibits

Judges must not award prizes to exhibits they determine **unworthy**.
Judges are instructed to notify management of any animal suspected of being **altered** or unethically presented.
(Refer to: General Rules, Livestock – *Ethical Compliance*)

HERDSMANSHIP

1. Purpose

L.I.F.E. management will present **Herdsmanship Awards** to outstanding 4-H clubs and FFA chapters that demonstrate excellence in presentation, care, and conduct throughout the fair.

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2. Judging Criteria

2.1 **Exhibit Area Presentation**

- Exhibit spaces should remain **clean, neat, and safe** for the public at all times.

2.2 **Decorations**

- Only **Exhibitor Cards** mounted on a **board or hard backing** are permitted.
- **No other decorations, signs, or banners** are allowed for safety reasons.

2.3 **Care & Maintenance**

- Active **daily participation** in care, cleaning, and maintenance of animals and pens must be evident.

2.4 **Public Engagement**

- Club or chapter representatives should be available to **answer questions** from judges and the public.

2.5 **Clean-Up Days**

- Participation in official **L.I.F.E. Clean-Up Days** will be taken into consideration.

2.6 **Shared Awards**

- If two clubs/chapters are assigned to the same pen, **both may be awarded**.

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3. Judging Panel

- Judges are selected by the **L.I.F.E. Board of Directors**.
- Judges will remain **anonymous**.
- All decisions are **final**.

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4. Judging Timeline

- Judging will begin at **12:00 P.M. on Tuesday (Move-In Day)** and continue through **Saturday**.

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5. Award Divisions

Herdsmanship Awards will be presented in the following divisions:

- Steer Division
- Swine Division
- Lamb Division
- Goat Division
- Poultry Division
- Rabbit Division
- **Overall Division**

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6. Award Presentation

All Herdsmanship Awards will be presented during the **Auction on Saturday**.

SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

Special Rules

L.I.F.E. will sponsor a Showmanship Contest for all livestock, poultry, and rabbit divisions.

- The contest will be held at the **completion of the final class of regular judging** or at the discretion of the judge.
- The contest is open to **4-H and FFA members** exhibiting their **own projects**.
  - **Substitute exhibitors are not eligible.**
- There is **no entry fee**. Contestants will be **selected by the judge during the show**.
- Each contestant may compete in **only one showmanship division**.
- **Awards** will be given to one exhibitor in each age group per species division:
  - **Junior** (ages 8–10)
  - **Intermediate** (ages 11–13)
  - **Senior** (ages 14–18)
- Eligible divisions include:
  - Steer
  - Swine

- Lamb
- Goat
- Rabbit
- Turkey
- Poultry

JUNIOR MARKET STEER SHOW

Special Rules

The Junior Steer Show promotes youth participation in a practical beef production program and emphasizes responsible, cost-effective feeding practices.

ENTRIES

1. Entry registration forms must be submitted online through laredofair.com, signed by the **Exhibitor, Parent/Guardian, and AST or CEA**.
2. Entry cards and a **$30 entry fee** must be paid at the time of online registration by the **closing date**:
   - **Tuesday, September 2, 2025** by **5:00 p.m.**
   - *No late entries will be accepted.*
3. Steers must be **owned by the exhibitor** as of September 2, 2025, and raised exclusively in **Webb County**.
4. L.I.F.E. reserves the right to **inspect animals at any time**, with or without notice.
5. Exhibitors must notify L.I.F.E. and their CEA/AST in writing before removing steers from Webb County for more than **48 hours**. Failure to comply will result in **disqualification**.
6. Siblings (direct, half, or step) living in the same household may validate steers together, but must select their own steer **at sift** for show and sale.

VALIDATION

1. Validation: **Saturday, September 6, 2025**, beginning at **8:00 a.m.**
2. Time slots will be assigned by club/chapter.
3. **State-validated steers** with approved photographs on file may be exempt from appearing in person.
4. Steers will be tagged in the **left ear** and photographed in designated areas only (not inside trailers).
5. Steers must be:

- **Dehorned and halter-broken**
- **Castrated** (no burdizzo-castrated steers allowed)
- **Unattached horns/scurs/regrowth** may remain if they pose no risk

6. No weight limit at validation.
7. Exhibitor attendance is **strongly encouraged**, though not required.

SIFT

Sift Date: Monday, February 23, 2026

1. Steers must be **slick shorn to 3/8"** including legs (excluding switch). Only **touch-up clipping** permitted.
2. Wild or unruly animals may be sifted at the judge's discretion.
3. Minimum **weight requirement: 1,000 lbs.**
   - One **immediate reweigh** is permitted if steer does not make weight.
4. Steers must be of **show quality** as determined by the sift judges.
5. **Breed Divisions:**
   - American Breed Crosses/Brahman Influence
   - British
   - Red Cross (AOB Red)
   - Black Cross (AOB Black)
   - All Other Cross (AOB Other)
   - Breed determined by **visual classification** of 3 judges; majority rules.
6. Class breakdown:
   - ≤12 steers: 2 classes
   - ≥13 steers: 3 classes
7. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, or superintendent's designee** may enter the ring during sift.
8. Classes determined by a committee including at least:
   - One or more superintendents
   - One L.I.F.E. Board Member
   - Two ASTs/CEAs (or combination)
9. Steers must be secured with **approved security ties** at all times. Makeshift ties are prohibited and will result in **disqualification**.
10. **Sifted animals must be removed by 8:00 p.m. on Monday** or they become **property of L.I.F.E.**
11. Final call for missing exhibitors will be announced **three times**. Failure to appear results in **disqualification**.
12. Drenching is limited to an **8" drench gun**. No tubing, stomach pumping, or esophageal methods are permitted.

SHOW PROCEDURES

1. **Show Order:**
    - American Breed Crosses/Brahman Influence
    - British
    - Red Cross
    - Black Cross
    - All Other Cross
2. Only the **exhibitor, approved substitute, or superintendent/designee** may enter the show ring.
3. Unruly steers may be secured or removed from the ring for safety.

SALE RULES

1. Steers sold at auction must return to their **assigned club/chapter tie** post-sale.
2. Floored steers must remain tied at assigned location.
3. Only **1st–8th place steers** are eligible for auction.
4. Only the **exhibitor or approved substitute** may enter the auction ring.
5. If both entries qualify, exhibitor must choose which to sell. If not, **highest placing** project will be auctioned.
6. All steers sold will be subject to **shrinkage up to 7%** at weighing.

DISPERSAL

1. Steers missing ear tags at dispersal may incur a **$100 fine**.
2. All steers must remain tied at their assigned location on **Sunday**.
3. Buyers must **pick up livestock between 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday** with **receipt**.
    - Animals not picked up become **property of L.I.F.E.**
4. **Show boxes** may be removed after **3:00 p.m.** with **security clearance**.
5. Donated-back animals will be **floored**.
6. Any theft or unauthorized removal of livestock will result in **forfeiture of all earnings** and may result in a **ban from future competition**. *(See Section 1.4 – Disqualification)*

MARKET SWINE SHOW

Special Rules

The purpose of the Swine Show is to encourage 4-H and FFA members to engage in a practical swine production program, with emphasis on responsible management and economical feeding.

ENTRIES

1. Entry registration forms must be submitted online through laredofair.com, signed by the **Exhibitor, Parent/Guardian, and AST or CEA**.
2. Entry cards and a **$30 entry fee** must be paid at the time of online registration by the **closing date**:
    - **Monday, December 1, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**
    - *No late entries accepted.*
3. Hogs must be owned by the exhibitor prior to December 1, 2025, and raised exclusively in Webb County.
4. L.I.F.E. may inspect animals at any time, with or without notice, after validation.
5. Any hog leaving Webb County for more than 48 hours requires **written notification** to the L.I.F.E. Office and AST/CEA (reason, destination, dates). Failure to comply will result in **disqualification**.
6. Siblings (direct, half, or step) in the same household may validate on one card. Each must declare their own hog at sift, show, and sale.

VALIDATION

1. Validation will begin at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 6, 2025**, and continue until the last hog is validated.
2. Time slots will be assigned by club/chapter.
3. **State-validated swine** photographed by L.I.F.E. personnel with photos on file may be exempt from attending.
4. Hogs will be **ear tagged on the left ear** during validation.
5. All **barrows must be castrated** before validation.

SIFT

Sift Date: Monday, February 23, 2026

1. **Snaring** is prohibited on the fairgrounds. Only **touch-up clipping** allowed.
2. Show will be divided into **up to 8 weight classes**.
3. **Weight Limits:**
    - Minimum: **210 lbs.**
    - Maximum: **285 lbs.**
    - A **2 lb. tolerance** will be allowed at weigh-in.
    - *Only one weigh-in permitted. If out of range, one immediate reweigh allowed.*
4. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, or designated superintendent** may enter the ring during sift.
5. Swine must meet **show quality standards**; otherwise, they will be sifted.
6. **Classifiers' and sifters' decisions are final** and not subject to protest.
7. Classes determined by a committee of:
    - One or more superintendents
    - One Board Member
    - Two ASTs or CEAs (or combination)
8. If an exhibitor is missing at sift and weigh, **LAST CALL** will be announced three times. If absent, the project is disqualified and must be removed by **8:00 p.m. Monday**.

SHOW PROCEDURES

1. **Barrows or open gilts** may be shown.
2. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, or superintendent/designee** is allowed in the ring.
3. No one may disturb or interrupt judging or exhibitors.

SALE

1. Auctioned swine must return to their **assigned pen** after the sale.
2. Floored swine must remain in their **designated club/chapter pen**.
3. Only **1st through 8th place** swine are eligible for auction.
4. Only the **exhibitor or approved substitute** may enter the auction ring.
5. If both projects qualify, the exhibitor must choose which to sell. If not reported immediately following judging, the **highest placing** will be chosen.
6. A **shrinkage percentage not to exceed 7%** will be applied to auction swine weights.

DISPERSAL

1. Missing ear tags at dispersal may result in a **$100 fine**.
2. Buyers must **pick up livestock between 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday**.
    - Livestock will not be released without the **buyer's receipt**.

    - Livestock not picked up becomes **property of L.I.F.E.**
3. **Show boxes** may be removed after 3:00 p.m. with **security clearance**.
4. Livestock **donated back to the exhibitor** will be floored.
5. **Theft of livestock** may result in **forfeiture of auction proceeds**, add-ons, premiums, and **future disqualification** (see Section 1.4 – Disqualification).

IMPORTANT

Any violation of the livestock rules may result in the **exhibitor's disqualification** and **forfeiture of all privileges** and premiums.
Refer to **Section 1.4 – Disqualification** for further details.

MARKET LAMB SHOW

Special Rules

The purpose of the Market Lamb Show is to encourage 4-H and FFA members to engage in a practical lamb production program, with emphasis on responsible management and economical feeding.

ENTRIES

1. Entry registration forms must be submitted online through laredofair.com, signed by the **Exhibitor, Parent/Guardian, and AST or CEA**.
2. Entry cards and a **$30 entry fee** must be paid at the time of online registration by the **closing date**:
    - **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**
    - *No late entries accepted.*
3. Lambs must be owned by the exhibitor before **October 14, 2025** and raised exclusively in **Webb County**.
4. L.I.F.E. reserves the right to inspect animals at any time after validation, with or without notice.
5. Any lamb leaving Webb County for more than 48 hours requires **written notice** (reason, destination, and dates) submitted to the L.I.F.E. Office and AST/CEA. Failure to comply will result in **disqualification**.
6. Siblings (direct, half, or step) in the same household may validate on one card. Each must declare their own lamb at sift, show, and sale.

VALIDATION

1. Validation begins at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2025**, and continues until the last lamb is validated.
2. Validation times will be assigned by club/chapter.
3. **State-validated lambs**, photographed by L.I.F.E. personnel and on file, may be exempt from attending October 19, 2024.
4. Lambs will be **ear tagged (left ear)** and **tattooed (right ear)**.
5. All male lambs must be **castrated prior to validation**.
6. **Burdizzo castration is prohibited.** Only knife or elastrator methods are permitted.

SIFT

Sift Date: Monday, February 23, 2026

1. Lambs must be **slick shorn to approximately 3/8"** before arrival. Legs below knees, hocks, and poll may be left unshorn. **Only touch-up clipping** is allowed on fairgrounds.
2. Lambs must be weighed **without blankets, halters, or accessories** that may affect weight.
3. Lambs will be classified and sifted by the following divisions in order determined by the superintendent:
    - **Southdown**
    - **Fine Wool**
    - **Fine Wool Cross**
    - **Medium Wool**
4. **Weight Requirements:**
    - **Southdown**: Minimum 90 lbs.
    - **Fine Wool, Fine Wool Cross, Medium Wool**: Minimum 100 lbs.
    - **All breeds**: Maximum 165 lbs.
    - A **1 lb. tolerance** will be permitted.
    - *Only one weigh-in allowed. If outside limits, one immediate reweigh permitted.*
5. Lambs must be **of show quality** or will be sifted by the judge.
6. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, or superintendent/designee** may be present in the show ring during sift.
7. Classes will be determined by a committee of:
    - One or more superintendents
    - One board member
    - Two ASTs, CEAs, or a combination
8. **Last call** will be announced three times. If the exhibitor is not present, the project is disqualified and must be removed by **8:00 p.m. Monday**.

SHOW PROCEDURES

1. Lambs will be shown in the following order:
    - 1st – Southdown
    - 2nd – Fine Wool
    - 3rd – Fine Wool Cross
    - 4th – Medium Wool
2. Each division will be split into three classes:
    - Light
    - Medium
    - Heavy
3. Both **ewes and wethers** may be shown.

4. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, or superintendent/designee** may be present during judging. No interruptions or disturbances will be permitted.

SALE

1. Auctioned lambs must return to their **assigned pen** after the sale.
2. Floored lambs must remain in their **assigned club/chapter pen**.
3. Only **1st through 8th place** lambs are eligible for auction.
4. Only the **exhibitor or approved substitute** may enter the auction ring.
5. If both projects qualify, the exhibitor must choose which to sell. If no choice is made immediately after judging, the **highest placing** will be sold.
6. A **shrinkage percentage not to exceed 7%** will be applied to all lambs sold.

DISPERSAL

1. Missing ear tags at dispersal may result in a **$100 fine**.
2. All auctioned and floored lambs must remain in their **assigned pens** on Sunday of fair week.
3. Buyers must **pick up lambs between 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** on Sunday.
    - No animal may be released without a **buyer's receipt**.
    - Animals not picked up by **5:00 p.m.** become **property of L.I.F.E.**
4. **Show boxes** may be removed after 3:00 p.m. with **security clearance**.
5. Lambs **donated back to exhibitors** will be floored.
6. **Theft of livestock** will result in the **forfeiture of funds (auction, add-ons, premiums)** and may lead to **disqualification from future events** (see Section 1.4 – Disqualification).

IMPORTANT

Violation of any L.I.F.E. livestock rule may result in **disqualification** and **forfeiture of all privileges** and premiums.
Refer to **Section 1.4 – Disqualification** for enforcement.

MARKET GOAT SHOW

Special Rules

The Market Goat Show is designed to encourage participation in a practical meat goat production program by 4-H and FFA members. Emphasis is placed on responsible care, record keeping, and economical feeding practices.

ENTRIES

1. Entry registration forms must be submitted online through laredofair.com, signed by the **Exhibitor, Parent/Guardian, and AST or CEA**.
2. Entry cards and a **$30 entry fee** must be paid at the time of online registration by the **closing date**:
    - **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**
    - *Late entries will not be accepted.*
3. Goats must be owned by the exhibitor before **October 14, 2025**, and raised exclusively in **Webb County**.
4. The L.I.F.E. Livestock Committee reserves the right to **inspect animals at any time**, with or without notice.
5. If a goat leaves the county for more than 48 hours, a **written notice** (reason, destination, and dates) must be submitted to the L.I.F.E. Office and the AST/CEA. Failure to comply will result in **disqualification**.
6. **Siblings** (direct, half, or step) living in the same household may validate goats on the same card but must individually declare their goat for sift, show, and sale.

VALIDATION

1. Validation begins at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2025**, and continues until the last goat is validated.
2. Validation times will be scheduled by club/chapter.
3. **State-validated goats**, photographed by L.I.F.E. personnel and on file, may waive attendance at October 21, 2023, validation.
4. Goats will be **ear tagged (left ear), tattooed (right ear)**, and **photographed**.
5. All male goats must be **castrated before validation**.
6. **Burdizzo castration is not permitted**; only knife or elastrator methods are acceptable.

SIFT

Sift Date: Monday, February 23, 2026

1. Goats must be **clipped to a 3/8" length** before arrival. Legs below knees and hocks may remain unclipped. Only **touch-up clipping** is allowed on fairgrounds.
2. Goats must be weighed **without blankets, halters, or gear** that may alter their weight.
3. **Weight Limits:**
    - **Minimum:** 70 lbs.
    - **Maximum:** 120 lbs.
    - A **1 lb. tolerance** will be allowed.
    - *One immediate reweigh will be permitted if initially out of range.*
4. Goats must be of **show quality**, or they will be sifted by the judge.
5. **Horn Restrictions:**
    - Horns must be **no longer than 5" at rear base**.
    - Horn **tips must be blunted**—flat or round, **not less than the diameter of a dime**.
6. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, or superintendent/designee** is allowed in the ring during sift.
7. Classes will be formed by a committee of:
    - One or more superintendents
    - One board member
    - Two ASTs, CEAs, or combination
8. **Last call** will be announced three times. If the exhibitor does not report, the animal will be **disqualified and removed** from the fairgrounds by 8:00 p.m.

SHOW PROCEDURES

1. Goats will be shown in three divisions, each with three classes:
    - **Lightweight Division**
        - Class 1
        - Class 2
        - Class 3
    - **Mediumweight Division**
        - Class 1
        - Class 2
        - Class 3
    - **Heavyweight Division**
        - Class 1
        - Class 2
        - Class 3

2. Both **wether and female goats** may be shown.
3. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, or superintendent/designee** is allowed in the ring during judging. **No interference or disruptions** will be tolerated.

SALE

1. Auctioned goats must be returned to their **assigned pens** after the sale.
2. Floored goats must remain in their **assigned pens**.
3. Only **1st–8th place** goats are eligible for auction.
4. Only the **exhibitor or approved substitute** may be in the ring during auction.
5. If an exhibitor qualifies two projects, they must **immediately notify the L.I.F.E. Sales Office** which will sell. If not, the **higher-placing** project will be selected.
6. A **shrink not to exceed 7%** will be applied at weigh-in for all auctioned goats.

DISPERSAL

1. Missing ear tags at dispersal may result in a **$100 fine**.
2. All auctioned and floored goats must remain in **assigned pens on Sunday** of the fair.
3. Buyers must pick up livestock **between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.** on Sunday.
    - No release without **buyer's receipt**.
    - Goats not picked up become **property of L.I.F.E.**
4. **Show boxes** may only be removed after 3:00 p.m. and must be cleared by **security**.
5. Donated-back goats will be **floored**.
6. **Theft of livestock** will result in **forfeiture of all earnings (auction, add-ons, premiums)** and may result in disqualification from **future events**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any violation of the livestock rules shall result in **forfeiture of funds** and **disqualification** from participation in the L.I.F.E. Fair. Refer to **Section 1.4 – Disqualification** for complete details.

POULTRY SHOW – SPECIAL RULES

PURPOSE

The show promotes education in poultry production and marketing, focusing on grading, health, and market value, while fostering interest in poultry science.

ENTRIES

- Entry registration forms must be submitted online through laredofair.com, signed by the **Exhibitor, Parent/Guardian, and AST or CEA**.
- Entry cards and a **$30 entry fee** must be paid at the time of online registration by the **closing date**:
  - **Deadline**: November 3, 2025 (No late entries).
- **Eligibility**: Poultry must be fed and cared for exclusively in Webb County.
- **Sibling Rule**: Direct siblings (same household) may raise flocks together.
- **Pen Maintenance**: Daily cleaning, feeding, and watering required (8:00 AM–8:00 PM).
- **Pen Oversight**: Non-compliance may result in warnings or further action.
- **Bird Limits**:
  - Roasters/Turkeys: Only one (1) bird allowed.
  - Broilers: One (1) pen of three (3) birds plus one (1) alternate.

VALIDATION

- Held on same day as poultry dispersal.
- Birds must be leg/wing banded by hatchery and verified.
- Multiple projects allowed, each must have valid entry and be present at dispersal.

SIFT

- **Date**: February 23, 2026.
- Sifting based on health, condition, and show quality by official judge.
- **Broiler Pens**:

    - Must present three (3) birds; may substitute one (1) if needed.
    - Entire pen disqualified if more than one bird is rejected.
- **Disqualifying Factors**: Signs of disease, injuries, broken bones, improper feathering, or tampered wing bands.

SHOW

- **Order of Show**:
    1. Roasters
    2. Broilers
    3. Turkey Hens
    4. Turkey Toms
- Max of **two poultry projects per exhibitor**.
- Only exhibitors, substitutes, superintendents, or designated committee members may be in the ring.
- One assistant allowed (must be exhibitor or livestock committee; will wear ID badge).
- **No adults** (parents, relatives) in ring unless on committee.
- Wing band confirmation for Grand and Reserve winners.

SALE

- Only **top 5 placements** eligible to auction.
- **Placements 6–10** receive set premiums:
    - 6th: $150
    - 7th: $125
    - 8th: $100
    - 9th: $90
    - 10th: $80
- Exhibitors with 2 qualifying entries must choose which will be auctioned.
- No floor price; unsold birds must stay in assigned pens.
- Substitutes allowed for deceased birds (approval required).

DISPERSAL

- **Terminal Show**: All poultry becomes property of buyer or L.I.F.E.
- Poultry must remain in pens until **Sunday, 3:00–5:00 PM**.
- **Missing bands** may result in $100 fine.
- Unclaimed livestock becomes property of L.I.F.E.
- Show boxes may be removed after 3:00 PM with clearance.

RABBIT SHOW

SPECIAL RULES

Purpose:
To encourage 4-H and FFA members to participate in a practical rabbit production program. Emphasis is placed on cost-efficient feeding, hands-on care, and quality market characteristics.

ENTRIES

1. Entry registration forms must be submitted online through laredofair.com, signed by the **Exhibitor, Parent/Guardian, and AST or CEA**.
2. Entry cards and a **$30 entry fee** must be paid at the time of online registration by the **closing date**
3. Rabbits must be fed and cared for **exclusively in Webb County**.
4. L.I.F.E. Livestock Committee **may inspect animals at any time**, with or without notice.
5. **Out-of-county travel (over 48 hours)** requires prior written notice to the L.I.F.E. office and AST/CEA.
6. **Siblings** (living in the same household) may validate rabbits from a common pen, but each must select their own rabbit(s) for **sift, show, and sale**.

VALIDATION

1. Will begin at **8:00 AM on Saturday, January 31, 2026**, and end once all scheduled rabbits are validated.
2. Rabbits will be **tattooed on the left ear** during validation.

SIFT

1. **Sift Date**: February 23, 2026.
2. Two professional sifters will evaluate all entries.
    - Rabbits with signs of **disease, parasites, abnormalities**, or poor condition will be sifted.
3. **Divisions:**
    - **Fryer Rabbits**
        - One pen of **three (3)** same breed/variety rabbits.
        - **Born on or after December 15, 2025** (≤ 70 days old on sift day).
        - Each rabbit must weigh **3 lb. 8 oz. to 5 lb. 8 oz.**

        - One substitute is allowed if sifted. If two are sifted, the entire pen is disqualified.
    - **Broiler Rabbits**
        - Single entry.
        - **Born on or after August 28, 2025** (≤ 180 days old on sift day).
        - Must weigh **5 lb. 8 oz. to 9 lb.**
4. **Only one weigh-in** per rabbit. One immediate reweigh is allowed if needed.
5. **Classes:**
    - **Class I:** New Zealand
    - **Class II:** All Other Breeds/Crossbreeds
6. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, superintendent, or designee** may be in the ring during sift.
7. Exhibitors must provide their own **feed/water equipment** and **zip ties** to secure cages.
8. Cages must be zip-tied shut. Zip ties must be removed by **10:00 PM Saturday**.
9. Rabbit/Poultry barn gates will be locked **after 8:00 PM during the LIFE Fair week**.

Note: All livestock becomes property of L.I.F.E. after 10:00 AM on sift day. Only sifted-out rabbits may be removed from the grounds. L.I.F.E. is not liable for loss, theft, or death.

SHOW

1. **Limit: 2 entries per exhibitor**.
2. Classes will be divided based on the total number of entries (max 40 per class).
3. **Broiler sub-classes**: Top 2 of each sub-class return for Breed Champion selection.
4. Rabbits judged based on **market meat characteristics**.
5. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, or superintendent/designee** allowed in show ring.

SALE

1. **The top 5 placements** qualify for auction.
2. **6th–10th place** earns premiums (no auction eligibility):
    - 6th: $150
    - 7th: $125
    - 8th: $100
    - 9th: $90
    - 10th: $80
3. **No floor price** for rabbits.
4. Auctioned rabbits must be returned to **club/chapter cages** after sale.
5. Unsold rabbits must remain in cages until **Sunday dispersal**.
6. Only the **exhibitor, superintendent, or designee** allowed in the auction ring.

7. If an exhibitor qualifies with two entries, they must **immediately notify the Sales Office** which to sell. If not, the higher placing will be selected.

DISPERSAL – TERMINAL SHOW

1. **All rabbits** are terminal and must remain in assigned cages.
2. **Buyer pickup**: Sunday between **3:00 PM – 5:00 PM** (**receipt required**).
3. Unclaimed auctioned rabbits become **property of L.I.F.E.** after 5:00 PM.
4. **Show boxes** may be removed after **3:00 PM Sunday with security clearance**.
5. **Theft or removal violations** may result in:
    - Forfeiture of auction proceeds, premiums, and add-ons
    - Barred participation in future shows (temporary or permanent)

Violations of the livestock rules will result in **forfeiture and disqualification** from the L.I.F.E. Fair (See Section 1.4 Disqualification, page 6).

OPEN HEIFER EXHIBITION SHOW

SPECIAL RULES

Purpose:
The Open Heifer Exhibition Show is designed to provide 4-H and FFA members an opportunity to showcase high-quality heifers representing various breeds. This event promotes excellence in livestock care, breeding, and presentation.

ENTRIES

1. Entry cards must be signed by the **Exhibitor and Parent/Legal Guardian**.
2. Entries must be submitted to the L.I.F.E. office by **5:00 PM on the Entry Closing Date** with a **$30 entry fee**.
3. **Late entries** will be accepted with a **late fee** after the closing date.
4. L.I.F.E. Livestock Committee reserves the right to **inspect any animal** at any time, with or without notice.
5. **Wild or unruly heifers** will not be permitted to participate in the show.
6. Heifers must be of **show quality** and may be sifted at the discretion of the Livestock Committee.
7. Heifers will be divided into **up to three (3) age-based classes** :
    - **Class 1**: Under 1 year old
    - **Class 2**: 1 to 1½ years old
    - **Class 3**: 1½ to 2 years old
8. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, superintendent, or designee** will be permitted in the show ring during sift.
9. Class divisions will be determined by a committee consisting of:
    - One or more superintendents
    - One board member
    - Two ASTs, CEAs, or a combination of both
10. All heifers must be secured using a **security tie while tied to the rail**.

SHOW

1. Show order:
    - **Class 1**: Under 1 year old
    - **Class 2**: 1 to 1½ years old
    - **Class 3**: 1½ to 2 years old
2. A **Division Champion** will be selected from the **first-place winners** of each class.
3. The **second-place winner** from the class that produced the Division Champion will return to compete for **Reserve Division Champion**.

4. The **Grand Champion Heifer** will be selected from among the **Division Champions**.
5. The **Reserve Grand Champion Heifer** will be selected from the **remaining Reserve Division Champions**, including the Reserve from the Grand Champion's division.
6. Only the **exhibitor, substitute exhibitor, superintendent, or designee** is allowed in the show ring during judging. No one may **disturb or interrupt** the exhibitor during the show.
7. For the safety of all, **unruly or dangerous heifers** will be secured and/or removed from the show ring.
8. All heifers must be **removed from the fairgrounds at the conclusion of the show**.

DISQUALIFICATION NOTICE

Any **violation of the livestock adopted rules** may result in **disqualification and forfeiture** of participation in the Fair. Refer to [**Section 1.4 Disqualification**].