



## [Register Online Now!](#)

For Questions, please contact:  
Email: [Livestock@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:Livestock@alamedacountyfair.com)  
Phone: (509) 619-6260

# Youth Livestock Rules

(All State and Local Rules Apply)

## ADMISSION AND PARKING

- Each exhibitor will receive one (1) season exhibitor wristband. (You will not receive additional passes if you cross enter in Open Class or in the Small Animal Show).
  - Exhibitors 16 and older with a valid driver's license may receive one (1) season parking. Exhibitors must present valid driver's license to Livestock office.
  - Two (2) parent season wristbands
  - Two (2) parking passes
  - Two (2) Delivery On-Ground Permits

Additional Parent passes and sibling passes will not be provided for you. You can purchase additional passes at an advanced rate by going to [Tickets - Alameda County Fair](#).

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Livestock Exhibitors are held responsible for knowledge of all State Rules. [Link: State Rules!](#)
2. All Market Exhibitors must complete the mandatory ethics training (YQCA) online or at an in person class. No exceptions. The training must be completed before the Pre-Fair meeting on June 17th. Exhibitors must bring their completed YQCA certificate to the meeting and turn into the Livestock office to receive their fair passes. Credentials will not be released to the exhibitor until the certificate has been received and verified by Fair staff.
3. Market Shows are open to Alameda County youth organizations only or Independent Exhibitors residing in Alameda County.
4. Youth Breeding shows are open to Alameda County and surrounding counties exhibitors. Surrounding counties are the following: Contra Costa, San Joaquin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara & Stanislaus.
5. Out of county exhibitors are ineligible for market animal divisions.
6. Exhibitors must be present at the time of weigh-in, judging, and auction of his/her livestock unless management approves otherwise.
7. OWNERSHIP: Market beef must be owned at least 120 days prior to the opening day of the Fair (purchased by 02/12/26) and verified by the advisor/leader. Market Lambs, Hogs and Goats must be owned at least 60 days prior to the opening day of the Fair (purchased by 04/20/26) and verified by the advisor/leader. Breeding Beef must be owned 60 days prior to Fair (purchased by 04/20/26).
8. Once an exhibitor has shown a species in one organization, 4-H or FFA, they cannot show that species in the other organization during the current project year 8/15/25 to 8/14/26).
9. A youth exhibitor cannot enter the Open Division if they are eligible to enter in a Youth Division class that is offered. If an exhibitor does so, they are no longer eligible to show as a youth in that species at the Alameda County Fair at any time.

10. Fair Management reserves the right to dismiss animals deemed unsafe.
11. Only Youth Exhibitors eligible and entered into Livestock or Small Animal Departments at this year's Fair are allowed to handle, groom, and care for the animals. Others are only to advise. A statement signed by three advisors, barn supervisors, and/or leaders filed in the Livestock Office stating specifically that violations have been observed will automatically hold up cash awards and may cause the member and/or animals to be disqualified from all awards and ribbons, further competitions, and/or removal from Auction and/or Fairgrounds.
12. There will be a 10:00 p.m. – 5:30 a.m. CURFEW in the barn. No one will be allowed in the barn area between these hours except Authorized Fair Staff and Security. No one will be allowed to sleep in the barn area without official permission.
13. No dogs will be allowed on the Fairgrounds, except under special circumstances.
14. Where there is insufficient competition, the Fair may combine 4-H and FFA classes.
15. Youth Independent exhibitors will be required to declare their intent to show as Independent by January 31 of each calendar year.
16. Youth Independent exhibitors will show in the 4-H division appropriate for age of exhibitor. If 10 or more market animals are exhibited in one division a separate independent division will be provided. All other state rules apply for independent exhibitors.
17. Independent exhibitors are to complete a standardized record book, document a community service project, as well as a Species-related educational experience or element. Independent exhibitors will need to complete a minimum of 8 volunteer hours at the fair and submit proof of ownership and insurance.
18. SAFETY: Exhibitors, parents, and leaders are responsible to ensure the livestock facility and activities are safe for themselves and the public. Animals are not allowed outside the barn area. Keep animals off paved area walkways. Animals must remain in their species area (example: sheep are not allowed in beef area).
19. Pop-up tents cannot be put up prior to your session. Livestock office will confiscate pop-ups left after every session.
20. NO private sale posters may be posted in the livestock area.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Greatest care will be exercised in handling exhibits, but the Fair Association, its staff and department coordinators, and the County of Alameda WILL NOT BE HELD liable for loss, theft or damage of any kind from any cause. Submission of entry constitutes an agreement to this effect.
  2. Liability insurance is the responsibility/at the discretion of the junior exhibitor to cover themselves and their exhibits.
  3. All reasonable measures will be taken to ensure safety of animals, exhibitors, and public. Exhibitors are expected to help by keeping gates closed and aisles neat and clear of cords, equipment, etc.
  4. Violations of Rules: Exhibitors and attendants of any exhibit violating any local or state rule, or permitting the violation of any rule, shall be subject to suspension by the Board of Directors and will be disqualified from receiving awards and sale at auction.
  5. All Youth Livestock Exhibitors must attend the MANDATORY Pre-Fair Youth Livestock Exhibitor Meeting Wed., June 17 at 7pm. It is the **Participants RESPONSIBILITY to be aware of any posted information.**
  6. All Exhibitors must have completed all requirements set by their respective organizations. Project books must contain up-to-date records of projects on exhibit and must be available for inspection upon request. Any 4-H or FFA entry for which a project book is not available may be disqualified. Leaders will be responsible for verifying and turn in a list of names to the livestock office to ensure that the exhibitors have met all meeting attendance requirements.
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## ANIMAL CARE

1. All animals must be properly cared for at all times and pens/stalls/tack areas/aisles must be properly cleaned. Do not put dirt in trash cans. Keep sweeping and dust to a minimum.
2. No water troughs in the barn unless pre-approved by Livestock Manager.
3. Do not leave empty feed pans in the pens.
4. Pens are to be cleaned by 10:00 a.m.
5. No shaving will be provided to livestock exhibitors by the fair. Fair management will arrange for an outside vendor to service exhibitors on grounds for shavings needs. Pricing information will be provided to exhibitors prior to fair.
6. All exhibitors MUST dispose of shavings properly, so no cross contamination occurs.

## BREEDING ANIMALS

1. To avoid penalties, see [State Rules!](#) State rule identification requirements will be required for Animals at least 6 months of age to avoid penalty.
2. A permanent ear tag or tattoo is required. This must be in place prior to entrance to fair. No tattooing on site.
3. REGISTERED ANIMALS: Once an application for purebred registry has been made, animals will be considered as registered and State Rules for registered animals will be enforced. Such animals are not eligible to show as grade animals.
4. All original registration certificates must be submitted to the Management by the time printed in the schedule and individual sections and must be available at all times. Failure to do so will result in entries being automatically disqualified. No faxed registration papers will be accepted after the start of judging for that species. See State Rules. Breeding Beef must be owned 60 days prior to Fair.
5. GRADE, RANGE AND UNREGISTERED ANIMALS: Refer to State Rules for Livestock Department, Definitions.

## MARKET ANIMALS

1. Out of county exhibitors are ineligible for market animal divisions.
  2. No junior may exhibit a market animal that has been sold through a fair livestock auction whether or not there is an actual change of ownership.
  3. No animal overly fatigued or stressed will be weighed. Animals must be weighed at the assigned time to qualify for judging unless prior arrangements are made with management. If there is any question concerning weight, animals must be reweighed IMMEDIATELY, without exercising or leaving the area.
  4. Any unnatural, inhumane weight control prior to weigh-in is prohibited.
  5. Upon arrival at the fair, an exhibitor cannot pen, feed or water animals. Animal must go directly to vet check/weigh in/ultrasound.
  6. Animals must be clean including tag before weigh-in.
  7. All breeds will be called at weigh in by an official breed caller, excluding market beef. Animals will be transferred to the appropriate class if needed. The breed caller's decision is final.
  8. Proposition 12 – Effective on January 1, 2024, which requires all pork producers in California to be certified operations (have a valid Certificate of Compliance issued by a certifying agent). In addition, any whole pork meat sold in California must be from a breeding pig or the immediate offspring of a breeding pig raised by a pork producer who is a certified operation. Swine exhibitors will be required to upload a valid certificate of compliance for each pig entered in the 2026 Alameda County Fair at the time of entry
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registration. Bred by Exhibitor swine are exempt from this requirement. For more information: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/AnimalCare/docs/AnimalCareFairsExhibitions.pdf>

9. Management will determine the number of market classes to be judged after weigh-in and animals will be assigned to classes based on weight.
  10. Animals consigned to Auction will not receive cash awards.
  11. Although the fair will list available breed divisions in anticipation of possible entries, divisions will be combined at the discretion of the livestock show management. A minimum of 5 animal entries are required per division offered, EXCEPT for the AOB division. Swine breeds with 15 or more animals weighed in will receive their own division.
  12. All market animals must have an official ACF ear tag button, as well as an ACF issued tamper resistant visual ear tag, except those animals specifically deemed for feeder classes. Once the animal has been tagged if one tag is lost or broke off, please notify the Fair Livestock Manager at [livestock@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:livestock@alamedacountyfair.com) right away and complete the lost tag form <https://forms.gle/LostTagForm>. Completion of this form is required before the tag is replaced. If BOTH tags are lost, they will be replaced, but the animal will no longer be eligible for Champion Drive.
  13. All Breed and Reserve Breed Champions will have their ear tags rechecked prior to entering the ring for Champion Drive.
  14. All market beef must be weighed and tagged, approximately 120 days prior to Fair. Beef Tagging and Weigh In will be done at the Fairgrounds on Sunday, February 22, 2026, from 8am –11 am.
  15. All market lambs and market goats must be tagged, approximately 60 days prior to Fair. Market Lambs and Goat Tagging and Pre-Fair Vet check will be held on the Fairgrounds on **Sunday, April 4, 2026, from 9am - 11am.**
  16. All market swine must be tagged, approximately 60 days prior to Fair. Market Swine leaders/advisors will receive the ear tags prior to the tagging deadline and will be responsible for tagging and taking a picture of the exhibitor with their market hogs with the ear tags attached. The leader/advisor must sign off on the tagging forms that they verified the animal and tagging. **All market hogs must be owned and tagged by Monday, April 20, 2026.** Leaders must turn in the tagging forms, photos, and a copy of the bill of sale by Wednesday, April 22, 2026, by 5 pm, to Riley Ringor in the Exhibits Office. **Failure to turn in required photos by deadline will affect eligibility to show at the Alameda County Fair.**
  17. Bill of Sales must be turned in on the day of tagging for all Market Beef, Sheep and Goats. Bill of Sales for Market Hogs must be submitted with project leaders by Monday, April 20, 2026.
  18. Breeding animals may not be shown as market animals.
  19. Lambs exhibiting callipygian characteristics and all animals exhibiting rectal prolapse are not eligible to sell.
  20. Exhibitors may enter an unlimited number of animals but are limited to bring:
    - 3 Market Beef
    - 3 Market Swine
    - 5 Market Sheep
    - 5 Market Goats
    - **3 Market Turkeys****Not including feeder animals.**
  21. Exhibitors are required to sign the Exhibitor Agreement/Drug Residue form and turn them in at the vet inspection upon arrival on the fairgrounds. Animals will not be weighed unless the form is turned in and completed.
  22. Livestock Grooming Restrictions: No hair or skin dyes, paints, or colorants (including powder and shoe polish) are allowed to be used on the fairgrounds. Exhibitors may continue to use oils or clear coat products to enhance shine.
  23. Animals raised in a cold box are not eligible to participate in the Alameda County Fair.
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## **DRUG RESIDUE PROCEDURES**

The Alameda County Fair reserves the right to collect at any time urine or blood from the animals on property.

In the event that an animal fails the drug residue test, the Alameda County Fair reserves the right to enforce any or all of the following:

- Disqualify any animal failing the drug residue testing
- Void all awards and premiums
- Remove from Jr. Livestock Auction Sale
- Void Auction Check
- Bar from competition at the Alameda County Fair

## **CATTLE REQUIREMENTS**

1. All cattle coming to or going from the Fair must be accompanied by a transportation form. One permit per load is necessary during transit to and from the Fair. Proof of ownership is required when the brand on the animal is different than the person transporting the animal.
2. Cattle coming to the Fair to be offered for sale must have the yellow certificate, transportation or consignment form, and proper proof of ownership. Proper proof of ownership MAY consist of brand inspection certificate or a sales yard receipt in the exhibitor's name.
3. Any steer without the above will be disqualified from judging and sale.
4. See State Rules for out-of-state cattle.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH**

1. Member, veterinarian, species leader, Livestock Manager or Barns Superintendent must administer all pharmaceuticals.
  2. ALL PHARMACEUTICALS administered to livestock at the fair must be approved by show management prior to use. Exhibitors are required to submit a completed Livestock Medical Form to the Livestock Office to obtain this approval. Failure to do so could result in disqualification of exhibit or other appropriate discipline.
  3. Any vet expenses occurring during fair time are the responsibility of the exhibitor. The Fair reserves the right to perform a postmortem exam of any animal that dies at the fair, at the exhibitor's expense.
  4. If there is an indication of any unhealthy animals at the Fair, such animals, herds, or flocks will be removed immediately and will not receive cash awards, if awarded.
  5. To eliminate delay in treatment of a sick or ailing animal, the owner extends authority to take such action as deemed expedient and necessary by the Fair Management, when and after diligent attempts have been made to contact the owner or agent of said exhibit. Fair Management has Power of Attorney for the exhibitor in this instance and by virtue of entry into competition; the Alameda County Fair Association will not assume any cost for action taken pursuant to this rule.
  6. Drenching of animals is NOT allowed unless medically necessary and must be performed by official fair veterinarian.
  7. Only sheep purchased from scrapie compliant breeders, and meeting state mandated identification requirements, are allowed on fairgrounds. See State Rules.
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## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Uniforms are required when showing and selling your animal.

**FFA:** White shirt and pants, FFA tie or scarf, and FFA jacket (or patch). See also Horse Show. Boots must be worn where required by species: horse, dairy cattle and beef. Footwear and belts must be cleaned and/or polished and non-obtrusive in color. No sandals: closed heel and toed shoes are mandatory.

**4-H:** White collared, button-down shirt and white pants, and 4-H tie or scarf. Belts must be worn if belt loops are **available**. Boots must be worn where required by species: horse, dairy cattle and beef. Footwear and belts must be clean and/or polished and non-obtrusive in color. No sandals: closed heel and toed shoes are mandatory.

**INDEPENDENT MARKET EXHIBITOR:** White shirt and white pants. Boots must be worn where required by species: horse, dairy cattle and beef. Footwear and belts must be cleaned and/or polished and non-obtrusive in color. No sandals: closed heel and toed shoes mandatory.

**YOUTH BREEDING LIVESTOCK CLASSES:** White shirt and white pants, no hat, and no club identification. Belts must be worn if belt loops available. Boots must be worn where required by species: horse, dairy cattle and beef. Footwear and belts must be cleaned and/or polished and non-obtrusive in color. No sandals: closed heel and toed shoes are mandatory.

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