

General Livestock Rules

Updated: February 2026

1. New Mexico Livestock Board Regulations and all General Rules and Regulations will apply.
 - a) All Market Cattle must bear the registered brand of the exhibitor, or they must be fire branded with '4H' on the left jaw (4H members), an 'A' (FFA members), or bear the registered brand of an NM Breeder. They must be accompanied by a written statement permitting the junior to show and sell the steer under that brand.
 - b) All breeding heifers must bear a registered brand.
 - c) All Market Lambs and Market Goats must be tattooed in the left ear with '4H' for 4H members or in the right ear an 'A' for FFA members **and have a valid scrapies tag, regardless of sex.**
 - d) All Market Pigs must be ear notched.
 - e) Please be aware of any import requirements and contact your local Brand Inspector and the State Vet with any questions.
2. Classifier's and Judge's decisions are FINAL. **There will be no re-weighs.**
3. Eligibility
 - a) The Junior Market Show and the Junior Breeding Livestock Show are open to any Otero County FFA or 4-H member currently in good standing whether FFA Chapter and 4-H Club and meet the age requirement for their organization.
 - b) The Open Livestock Show is open to any resident of Otero County.
 - c) Animals cannot be shown in both the Market Show and the Open Show.
4. Animals must be owned by and in possession of the exhibitor by the deadlines outlined in each species.
 - a) Steers/Heifers: June 15th of the current year.
 - b) 4-H/FFA Broiler Pen of 3: Proof of purchase by entry deadline of current year.
 - c) Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Pig: June 15th of the current year.
 - d) 4H/FFA Market Rabbits: 30 days prior to show.
5. At the time of verification, the exhibitor must provide:
 - a) A copy of the bill of sale establishing ownership before the stated deadline for each species.
 - I. Must include birthdate for Heifers.
 - b) **A copy of Ear Notch papers for Market Pigs purchased inside New Mexico and a copy of health papers from seller indicating ear notches for pigs bought from out of state including an import number.**

6. Animals properly tagged and entered in the Otero County Fair may be shown by another exhibitor in the immediate family provided;

- a) The substitute sibling must have at least one entry in the Otero County Fair.
- b) The animal must meet all eligibility requirements.
- c) All changes must be made by check-in on the Tuesday of the Fair.

7. All entries must be made by the designated entry deadline of the current year. No entries will be accepted after that date.

8. If an exhibitor wishes to participate in the showmanship competition they must register for showmanship and must have an animal entered in that species.

a) Divisions will be:

- I. Cattle (Steers and Heifers)
- II. Pigs
- III. Goats
- IV. Lambs
- V. Poultry (Broilers pen of 3)
- VI. Rabbits

b) Ages for Showmanship will be:

- I. Novice (9-11, or 8 and in the 3rd grade)
- II. Junior (12-13, or 11 and in the 6th grade)
- III. Senior (14-18, or 13 and in the 8th grade)

The age of the exhibitor as of January 1 of the current show year, will determine the showmanship division.

c) Exhibitors who entered properly in both the Junior Show and Showmanship that did not make weight may still show in the Showmanship if all other entries were done correctly.

9. All Exhibitors must display an exhibitor card or another identifying board on their animal's pen(s) for contact purposes in case of emergency.

10. A mandatory exhibitor meeting will be held Tuesday evening after check-in. This meeting must be attended by all exhibitors and at least one parent or guardian for each exhibitor.

11. Arrival and removal of livestock will coincide with the posted schedule for the current year. Superintendents will give releases once packer trucks are loaded, and your stalls are cleaned and checked out by a Superintendent on Sunday.

12. A current Junior Livestock Exhibitor's parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters, or any New Mexico 4-H Leader, County Agent, or Agricultural Education Teacher may offer

instruction and assistance to the exhibitor in preparing his/her animal. Advice and demonstration may be given by individuals other than the above to those who are fitting the animal, but it is the responsibility of the above named to fit the animal.

13. Exhibitors are expected to be present and actively involved in the care of their animals during the Fair.

14. All Livestock Shows will be Blow and Show. Exhibitors will use no adhesive of any kind.

15. All animals should be clipped and ready to show prior to entering the fairgrounds. Touch ups will be allowed before shows as long as they coincide with all other rules.

16. All Sheep and Goats must be sheared to one quarter in an inch (1/4") above the hock before entering the Fairgrounds.

17. No Pigs may be snared on the fairgrounds.

18. No animal clipping in the wash rack.

19. Only Exhibitors and Fair Officials will be allowed in the Show Ring while animals are being judged.

20. Animals must be shown and sold by their owner except when:

a) The owner has more than one entry in a class.

I. The additional showman must be eligible and have other livestock entries at this year's Fair.

b) The owner has a valid reason that has the Superintendent's and Fairboard approval.

21. There shall be a dress code for Exhibitors when showing an animal, in a show or in the sale, and when assisting the Bidder's Supper to include:

a) Clean and neat jeans or slacks.

b) Shirt with a collar and sleeves, with the tail tucked in.

c) Hard soled shoes or boots.

d) No costumes of any type will be allowed.

22. Exhibitors must follow the 4-H or FFA dress codes throughout the entire week of the Otero County Fair and during other Fair related activities (Bidder's Supper, visits to potential livestock sale buyers, tag days, etc.) Contact your County Extension Agent or FFA Advisor if you have any questions regarding the 4-H or FFA dress codes. Exhibitors not in compliance with the dress code will receive a verbal warning. Failure of Exhibitors to comply with the dress

code after receiving a verbal warning will include disqualification of the remainder of the current Fair and forfeiture of prizes or monies earned.

23. The Fairboard may disqualify any Exhibitor from present and future participation, including withholding of premium, sale, add-on, booster pot or packer monies for any violation of rules and policies.

24. Animals are not allowed outside of the designated areas for the duration of the fair week. A specific map will be provided in the exhibitor packets during the exhibitor meeting.

25. No exhibitor may show in Otero County and any other county show in the same year.

- a. Both the exhibitor and the animal must physically reside within Otero County for the entire show year in order to be eligible to exhibit. (*effective 2027 show year)

26. Any new rule or regulation must be formally presented, voted on, and approved a minimum of six (6) months prior to the current year's fair.

Animal Care

1. All animals entered in Junior Market and Open shows must be in good physical condition and be kept clean and well taken care of and their pens for the duration of the time on the Otero County Fairgrounds.

2. Animals in poor condition or that do not comply with the stated rules for each species may be sent home at the Superintendents' discretion.

3. If an animal becomes sick or injured, a Licensed Veterinarian will examine the animal and notify the Superintendent if treatment or release is necessary. If a Veterinarian is unavailable, the Superintendents and Fairboard will decide what they feel is in the animal's best interest.

- a) No medication or treatment can be administered while at the Fairgrounds without the supervised administration by a Licensed Veterinarian and the responsible Superintendent.
- b) No animal that has not cleared all FDA and USDA required withdrawal times may be shown or sold throughout the Junior Livestock Sale.
- c) If an animal is sold through the Junior Livestock Sale and the entire carcass is condemned, the exhibitor will forfeit all proceeds to include sale monies, scholarships, add ons, and booster pot.

4. If livestock is not adequately cared for, necessary items will be supplied and charged to the exhibitor.

5. Abuse of any animal will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of any prizes or monies. The Fairboard reserves the right to reject any entry by anyone who participates in animal abuse of any kind.

6. The following are termed UNETHICAL PRACTICES:

- a) Animals that have been given any form of an intoxicating beverage, tranquilizer, substance, or other drug affecting mood or attitude before judging. Except in the case of an over the counter product that is labeled for that species.
- b) Use any substance administered internally or used externally to alter an animal's appearance or conformation for the exhibition. This includes the use of graphite, hemp, false tail heads, glued-on hair, or hair-like substances, or other similar substances externally, steroids, diuretic, or artificial filling internally by stomach pump. Judges are requested to report to the Superintendent or Fairboard any animal upon which surgical operation has been performed to improve their "show" appearance, except surgical dehorning.
- c) There will be no changing of major color patterns with dyes or paints.
- d) The use of any chemical or compound that the USDA and FDA do not approve for the specific species can result in immediate disqualification.
- e) Any Exhibitor whose animal has been found to be contaminated by an unethical fitting proactive by the Superintendents and Fairboard will result in the forfeiture of all premium and sale money, if any, over the packers bid if a packer bid exists.
- f) Any Exhibitor and their family found guilty of unethical fitting will be barred from competition until the Fairboard makes reinstatement.

7. The use of fans and generators are allowed; however generators must be outside of the barn when in use to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and/or contamination. Fans must be off the ground and attached securely to a tie rack, fan cage or pen. Electrical cords must be secured, fastened to avoid becoming a tripping or any type of hazard.

8. Only Cedar shavings will be permitted for bedding use in the Cattle barn.

Protests

1. The judge's, classifier's, and superintendent's decisions shall be final and no appeal will be considered except in the case of the protest.

- a) All protests will be determined by the Fairboard and must be made in writing to the Fairboard, accompanied by an affidavit setting forth ground for protest and a deposit of \$100.00, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.
- b) Protests against the exhibition of an entry must be filed, considered, and determined before a section is judged.
- c) Protests regarding broken classes must be filed within one hour of the classes being posted.
- d) Protests against an award must be filed within one hour of the show's conclusion on the day the award was made.
- e) In addition to the right of protest guaranteed above to interested parties, the Fairboard reserves the right to take cognizance of any fraud, consummated or attempted, and to deal with all persons implicated therein, in such a manner within the limits of power of the Fairboard as may, from the evidence relating to and deemed just and proper.
- f) Interested parties will be duly notified of the time and place for considering protests and allowed to submit evidence.

Exhibitor Requirements

1. Exhibitors are required to assist with trash clean up in the Livestock Barn before, during, and after the fair. Each 4-H Club and FFA Chapter will be assigned a designated time following the events scheduled in the Livestock Barn for trash clean up. Before the Fair, the 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters will be notified of their trash clean up assignment.

2. Exhibitors are required to assist with the final clean up of the Livestock Barn after the conclusion of the fair the Sunday morning following the Junior Livestock Sale. Exhibitors must get approval from a junior livestock superintendent or a fair official before leaving the fairgrounds after the final cleanup once their pens and surrounding areas have been inspected.

a) Exhibitors must be in the barn for cleanup on Sunday morning by 8am.

3. Exhibitors are responsible for recruiting potential buyers for the Junior Livestock Sale. The Junior Livestock Committee will provide a list of buyers for each 4-H club or FFA chapter to visit before the Junior Livestock Sale. The Junior Livestock Committee will provide exhibitors with a packet of information to distribute to potential buyers.

4. All exhibitors must assist with the Bidder's Supper and Junior Livestock Sale on Saturday if scheduled. This could include setup, cleanup, serving the supper, and other necessary tasks before, during, and after the supper and sale.

5. Exhibitors will be required to help with the entire barn cleanup on the designated clean up day, Saturday prior to fair. Families that do not help with cleanup will have a fee of \$100.00 per exhibitor, per species withdrawn from their check.

- a) If an exhibitor cannot come to the scheduled cleanup day, arrangements must be made no later than one week in advance of the scheduled cleanup day in order to avoid the fee.

6. Exhibitors must meet the requirements set each year by the Junior Livestock Committee regarding thank yous for buyers and/or any prize sponsors in order to receive any monetary prizes. Exhibitors should return the provided form or a proof of postage showing that the thank you was sent in order to receive monetary prizes. Any exhibitor that does not return the form by the specified date will receive a check for the posted market value at the time of the Junior Livestock Sale. Any amount over the market value of the animal sold will be withheld at the discretion of the Committee.

7. Exhibitors and parents/guardians will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct statement to exhibit at the Otero County Fair.

8. Exhibitors will be required to obtain a Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Certificate each year prior to entry and upload the certificate to their online entry.

Junior Market Livestock

Entry Fees: \$20 per head for all species and \$5 for Showmanship

Market Pigs

1. Arrival and weigh-in, and release will follow the stated times in the official schedule.
2. Classes will be broken by weight and breed. Gilts and barrows are eligible. The minimum weight is 180lbs. There is no maximum weight.
 - a) The Classifier will decide breed designation at weigh-in. All Classification decisions are final. Please refer to Pig Breed Descriptions for definitions.
 - b) Breeds represented:
 - I. OPB (Other Pure Breds)
 - A. Dark OPB (Spots, Polands, Berkshire)
 - B. Light OPB (Chester, Yorks, Hereford, Tamworth)
 - C. There must be a minimum of 3 of each division represented above in order to make a class. Otherwise, they will be grouped together in one OPB division.
 - II. Duroc

III. Hampshire

IV. Crossbred

- c) The classifier will decide breed designation at weigh-in. All classification decisions are final. For guidelines and more specific descriptions, please reference the Texas Market Swine Classification standards revised August 2019.

Market Goats

1. Arrival weigh-in and release will follow the stated times in the official schedule.
2. Classes will be broken by weight. Wethers and Does are eligible to show. The minimum weight is 50lbs. There is no maximum weight.
3. Horns must be tipped and shorter than 2 (two) inches before entering the fairgrounds.

Market Lambs

1. Arrival weigh-in and release will follow the stated times in the official schedule.
2. Classes will be broken by weight and breed. Wethers and Ewes are eligible to show. The minimum weight is 70lbs for Southdowns and 80lbs for all others. There is no maximum weight.
 - a) The classifier will decide breed designation at weigh-in. All classification decisions are final. For guidelines and more specific descriptions, please reference the Texas Market Lamb Classification standards revised January 2024.
 - b) Breeds represented are:
 - I. OPB (Finewool, Southdown, Dorper)
 - II. Finewool Cross
 - III. Medium Wool

Market Steers/Heifers

1. Arrival weigh-in and release will follow the stated times in the official schedule.
2. Market Beef classes will be broken by weight. There is a minimum weight of 900lbs. There is no maximum weight.
 - a) Both Steers and Heifers are eligible to show.
 - b) Market heifers must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection dated within 30 days of the show stating heifer is open.
 - c) A heifer shown as a market beef cannot show in the Breeding classes.

3. Market Beef Classes show light to heavy.
4. Breeding Heifer Classes will be broken by birthday into the following classes:
 - a) Heifers calved between September 1 and December 31 of the previous year.
 - b) Heifers calved between May 1 and August 31 of the previous year.
 - c) Heifers calved between January 1 and April 30 of the previous year.

4-H/FFA Broiler Pen of 3

1. Broiler chicks must be ordered from a reputable hatchery.
2. Ownership must be verified by proof of purchase by the entry deadline of the current year and entry fees must be paid according to the official schedule.
3. A sifting committee, including the Poultry Superintendent, will inspect the entries upon entrance to the fairgrounds. Entries not in proper show condition will be eliminated. Sick and diseased birds will be refused entry and if discovered at any time from the point of check in throughout the continuation of the show they will be removed from the fairgrounds and will no longer be eligible for competition.
4. All birds must be banded by the Poultry Superintendent upon weigh in.
5. Exhibitors are allowed two alternate birds per pen that have been banded and validated in the name of the exhibitor at the time of check-in. No more than two alternate birds per pen may be kept on site and all birds must be checked in upon entry to the fairgrounds.
6. Birds cannot be removed from assigned pens/cages after check-in except by permission of a junior livestock superintendent. Birds may be handled inside of their respective pens/cages by the owner of the birds.
7. Each exhibitor is required to supply their own feed for the duration of time animals are at the fairgrounds. Exhibitors are required to bring their own feeders/waterers for each pen of livestock.
8. The official broiler order form will serve to meet the requirement of the Pullorum Disease Fowl Typhoid Act of 1977 and no other broiler health papers need to be submitted for this show.
9. Birds entered in the broiler category must be between six and eight (6-8) weeks old on the day of the show and weigh between 3.5lbs and 7.5lbs at weigh in. Birds that do not meet these requirements will be disqualified from showing at the time of classification.

10. Broiler class will be broken into two classes based on weight at check-in.
 - a. Class 1: Birds weighing between 3.5 and 5.5 pounds between 6 and 8 weeks of age.
 - b. Class 2: Birds weighing between 5.6 and 8.0 pounds between 6 and 8 weeks of age.
11. The first place pen from each class will then be judged against one another for the grand champion and reserve grand champion placings.

Open Poultry Classes

1. Chickens (not restricted to pure breeds)
 - a. Cock
 - b. Cockerel
 - c. Hen
 - d. Pullet
2. Turkeys
 - a. Old Tom
 - b. Old Hen
 - c. Yearling Tom
 - d. Yearling Hen
3. Ducks
4. Geese
5. Bantams

4-H/FFA Market Rabbits

1. Ownership must be verified by proof of purchase by the entry deadline of the current year and entry fees must be paid according to the official schedule.
 - a. Rabbits must be in possession of the exhibitor 30 days prior to show.
2. Each rabbit must have a permanent mark with an ID number or tattoo in their left ear.
3. Rabbit nails must be clipped to $\frac{1}{8}$ of the quick.
4. A sifting committee, including the Rabbit Superintendent, will inspect the entries upon entrance to the fairgrounds. Entries not in proper show condition will be refused entry and if discovered at any time from the point of check in throughout the continuation of the show they will be removed from the fairgrounds and will no longer be eligible for competition.
5. Rabbit cages must be kept clean and tidy during the duration of the Otero County Fair. Each exhibitor is required to supply their own feed for the duration of time animals are at the

fairgrounds. Exhibitors are required to bring their own feeders/waterers for each pen of livestock.

6. Rabbits entered in the 4-H/FFA Market Rabbit class cannot be shown in the Open Class.
7. The rabbit barn will be closed and locked at nine p.m. each night of the fair. Exhibitors may contact a junior livestock superintendent if they need to get into the barn while it is locked.
8. Rabbits entered in the 4-H/FFA Market Rabbit class are eligible for grand champion and reserve grand champion placings.
9. The Grand Champion Market Rabbit will be sold in the Otero County Junior Livestock Sale.
10. There will be one 4-H/FFA Market Rabbit division:
 1. Meat Rabbits
 - a. Roaster- Rabbits in this class must be under five months of age and weigh between five and seven pounds.
 - b. Stewer- Rabbits in this class must be over five months of age and weigh seven pounds or more.

Open/Fancy Rabbit Classes

1. Open classes will be broken as follows:
 - a. Junior Bucks - Male rabbits younger than 6 months of age on the day of show.
 - b. Senior Bucks - Male rabbits older than 6 months of age on the day of show.
 - c. Junior Doe - Female rabbits younger than 6 months of age on the day of show.
 - d. Senior Doe - Female rabbits younger than 6 months of age on the day of show.

County Bred Show (Updated March 2024)

Entry Fees \$5 per head

1. The County Bred show shall include Market Class Pigs, Goats, Lambs, and Cattle that were bred, born, and raised in Otero County.
 - a) Animals shown in the County Bred class must be entered and shown in their respective Market Class.

2. Awards will be presented to the exhibitors of the winning animals if sponsors exist.

Junior Livestock Sale

1. Livestock Disposition Forms are due no later than one (1) hour after the conclusion of the Cattle Show.

2. No glue, glitter, paint, or any other adornments will be allowed on the animals in the sale ring.

3. Please check the Official Schedule for the start time and schedule.

4. All animals sold will be assessed a **ten (10)** percent commission to include the sale proceeds and Add Ons.

5. The number of sale slots for the Junior Livestock Sale will be determined the week following the last tag day in June according to verified entries. A maximum of the following will be sold in the Sale:

- a) The eighteen (18) top qualifying Market Pigs
- b) The fourteen (14) top qualifying Market Goats
- c) The sixteen (16) top qualifying Market Lambs
- d) The ten (10) top qualifying Market Cattle
- e) The two (2) top qualifying 4-H/FFA Broiler Pens of 3
- f) The Grand Champion 4-H/FFA Market Rabbit

6. The Grand and Reserve of each species must sell.

7. Each exhibitor may sell only one (1) animal of each species and may sell a total of two (2) animals unless:

- a) An exhibitor has Grand and Reserve in the same species. Both must sell.
- b) An exhibitor has more than one Grand or Reserve Champion animal. All must sell.

8. The maximum weights for Packer and Sale Purposes are:

- Cattle 1300 lbs
- Pigs 260 Lbs
- Lambs 130 Lbs
- Goats 120 Lbs

9. Booster Pot:

- a) The Booster Pot money will be distributed equally on a per pound basis for the two heaviest eligible non-sale animals per exhibitor.
- b) An exhibitor can only qualify with one animal per species.
- c) Any exhibitor who qualifies for the Junior Livestock Sale and chooses not to sell will not be eligible for the Booster Pot.

10. No exhibitor, parent/guardian, or affiliated party shall ask for their animal back from a buyer/affiliate of, or packer, nor ask to swap animals for any reason. If any of the above listed parties are found to do so, the Junior Livestock Committee will withhold premium, sale, add-on, and booster pot monies.

Sale Order

1. At the Exhibitor's Meeting, during the Fair, the Livestock Superintendents will choose the species sale order by lot.

2. The sale order will be:

- a. Grand Champions then,
- b. Reserve Grand Champions then,
- c. Grand or Reserve County Bred Champions then,

If Grand or Reserve County Bred are pulled from sale order, the next highest qualifying animal would sell with similar class placing animals.

3. Once sale slots have been posted, every effort will be made to qualify the posted number of sale slots to each class. If for some reason a sale slot cannot be fulfilled from its posted class, that sale slot will be forfeited. Animals will be sold in placing order.

4. **Animals** will sell in show order.

5. All animals will be sold by the head.