

# Santa Fe County

## 4-H/FFA Livestock Show

### General Rules and Policies

- Any bona fide Santa Fe County 4-H and/or FFA member in good standing is eligible to exhibit their project provided they meet the official age requirements for 4-H/FFA. Santa Fe County Fair 4-H and/or FFA exhibitors are not allowed to exhibit in another county fair in the same calendar year of project enrolled and affiliation with another 4-H club or FFA chapter.
- Age categories for the fair are as follows:

	Cloverbud	Novice	Junior	Senior
Grade	Kinder, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> and up
Age as of January 1 of the current 4-H year (October-September)	5-, 6-, 7- and 8-year-old in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade.	8-year-old in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade, 9-year-old, 10-year-old, and 11-year-old in the 5 <sup>th</sup> grade.	11-year-old in the 6 <sup>th</sup> grade, 12-year-old and, 13-year-old in the 7 <sup>th</sup> grade.	13-year-old in the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade, 14-year-old, 15-year-old, 16-year-old, 17-year-old, 18-year-old. Youth who are 19 by December 31 of the current 4-H year are not eligible to enroll as a 4-H member.

- Booster members in the Livestock Division will participate at exhibition level only. Booster members may exhibit livestock owned by 4-H/FFA members so long as the animal has been properly declared by the set deadline and the Booster member has properly completed the entry procedure by the set deadline.
- Every exhibitor and family member should obtain a copy of the Rules and Policies and be familiar with them.
- All 4-H exhibitors and participants must demonstrate high standards of behavior and conduct. Absolutely **NO** poor or unsportsmanlike conduct will be tolerated before, during, or after the Santa Fe County Fair from exhibitors or family members.
- There will be a general meeting for all exhibitors and their parents/guardians on the Saturday prior to the start of Fair, following the **mandatory fair clean-up**. It is in the exhibitor's best interest **NOT** to miss this meeting as rules may have changed and will be announced. Announcements will be posted in central locations. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to know and comply with current rules and policies. Cattle, sheep, goat, and pig tack may be moved in **AFTER** the exhibitor meeting **AT YOUR OWN RISK**. The Santa Fe County Extension, Fair Board, and Santa Fe County employees will not be held responsible for any articles lost or stolen. **Tack space in the barn is limited. The Santa Fe County Fair Board reserves the right to ask exhibitors to consolidate/remove their tack if deemed necessary.**
- Dress Code** consists of button down, collared, short- or long-sleeved dress shirt (tucked in), jeans, and appropriate footwear. No tennis shoes. **NO SLEEVELESS SHIRTS WILL BE ALLOWED IN ANY PART OF THE SHOW OR SALE.**
- Animals deemed to be dangerous or unable to be controlled by the exhibitor may be asked by the superintendent to be removed from the fairgrounds.
- There will be a screening committee made up of Livestock Superintendents that may reject sick or unworthy animals. All rejected animals must be removed from the grounds as directed by the superintendents. Examples of sick or unworthy animals include but are not limited to animals with open or draining wounds, or pigs showing signs of porcine stress syndrome. Should an animal die on the fairgrounds, it shall be the exhibitor's responsibility to remove that animal to an area designated by the management and to see that it is properly disposed of.
- Buckles will only be awarded in shows with at least 5 total animals.

11. Animals will be released at the designated times in the schedule. This includes animals going to a designated processor. **Release time will be strictly enforced by superintendents. Any exhibitors that leave prior to this release time may be assessed a \$25 fee.**
12. All entries must be certified as eligible by the local leader and county agent by declaration date selected fair board. All Livestock must be owned by the exhibitor during the feeding period preceding the Fair and cannot change ownership or be transferred from one program to another. The Ownership period shall be as follows:
  - Market Beef-March 14th 2026
  - Market Hog-May 20th 2026
  - Market Lamb-May 20th 2026
  - Dairy Heifer-March 14th 2026
  - Meat Goat-May 20th 2026
  - Poultry Meat Pen-July 3rd 2026
  - Rabbit Meat Pen-July 3rd 2026
  - All Other Poultry-May 20th 2026
  - All Other Rabbit-May 20th 2026

**Official entry procedures must be completed two weeks prior to check-in.** All animals entered will be charged an entry fee. Entry fees will be determined by the Fair Board. All fees will be due at time of entry. **There will be no refunds on entry fees.**

13. County agents and local leaders shall be responsible for assuring that all show animals are the results of the individual member accomplishment.
14. Members of a recognized partnership cannot show or sell animals involved in the partnership as individual owners. All partnerships must be registered and approved with local leaders and the county agent's office by the declaration date of each species.
15. Animals in the livestock classes must be kept thoroughly groomed and clean, at all times. Stalls and pens must be kept and supplied with necessary clean bedding. Pathways and approaches must be kept clean for the convenience of spectators. To promote family and community spirit, the exhibitor's parents, family member, other Santa Fe County 4-H or surrounding FFA members, Santa Fe County leaders, Santa Fe County agents or Vocational Agricultural leaders may offer assistance in the day-to-day care, if required.
16. Professional assistance is prohibited and any exhibitors utilizing such may be disqualified. Fitting of the livestock at the fair can be done by any current or past 4-H or FFA member, a leader, an advisor, a family member, or any combination of the above. Exhibitors must be present and actively involved during the fitting.
17. All animals must be shown by their owner both in the judging arena and the sale ring. No exceptions will be made unless the owner has a valid reason acceptable to the superintendent and arrangements have been made with the superintendent **24 hours prior to show** (exceptions can be made at the discretion of the fair board). If an exhibitor has more than one entry in a class, a substitute exhibitor may show an animal. A qualified substitute exhibitor must be a bona fide 4-H club or FFA member in good standing from Santa Fe County.
18. The following are termed **UNETHICAL PRACTICES**: administering steroids, growth stimulants, diuretic, or artificial filling internally, this **INCLUDES** pumping cattle, tubing sheep and goats, but does not include drenching. Judges are requested to report to the management and animals upon which a surgical operation has been performed to improve their "show" appearance except for surgical dehorn.
19. **Quality Assurance**: as a condition for participation in the show, every exhibitor must agree to submit any animal entered by exhibitor to inspection by a veterinarian appointed by the management, FDA, USDA/FSIS, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, and/or New Mexico Department of Health and agrees to have such animal submitted to any test as may be designated or requested by the veterinarian. The show specifically reserves the right to have tissue, blood, or urine laboratory analysis made on any animal entered for competition. The conclusions reached by the veterinarian as to whether such animal has been administered or given a substance or a drug in violation of the rules or has not been properly withdrawn from approved drugs shall be final, without recourse against the show or any of its officers. A licensed veterinarian should be consulted before administering any medication or growth stimulant.

- a. The use of any chemical compound that is not approved by the FDA for use in meat producing animals and the illegal use of approved chemicals or compounds is prohibited. Unapproved is deemed to mean not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for slaughter animals. If an animal passes all USDA tests but fails any FDA testing for the presence of drug(s) or other chemicals, the animal will be condemned by show officials and not allowed for consumption.
  - b. FDA approved calming agents can be used before and during the show. It is advised that when using before the show, one should follow the recommended dosage on the product label. For the agent to work properly, and to coincide with the time of the show, one is to make sure that it is distributed to the appropriate animal in enough allotted time. During the show, can be defined as the time upon when the animal is unloaded at the fairgrounds and until it departs. The use of the calming agent is only to be used for the animals which are either unruly or under extreme stress associated with a change in the environment. For the safety of the animal, any animal which carries stress-related genes may also be subject to a calming agent. These agents are to be used with the safety of the exhibitor and the attendees of the Santa Fe County Fair in mind. If the calming agents have no effect on the animal, then a decision by the fair board members must be made as to whether the animal will be allowed to be in residence at the fairgrounds or to be shown.
  - c. The United States Department of Agriculture Wholesome Meat Act applies to the sale of market livestock sold during the Santa Fe County Fair as follows:
    - i. Animals must be in good health and carcasses free of drug or chemical residues.
    - ii. Antibiotics and sulfonamides have required withdrawal periods.
    - iii. Drug label directions for use and withdrawal periods must be followed.
    - iv. If drug or chemical residues are found in tissues of carcasses, the entire carcass may be condemned.
20. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that the animal is free of the above prescribed drugs and substances. Extent of knowledge on the part of the exhibitor regarding the drugs or substance found in an animal is not relevant to any issue, and it shall not be a defense that a person or persons unknown introduced the prescribed substance to the animal.
21. In the case of antibiotic use in an animal prior to show, the exhibitor must notify the County Agent and the Superintendent of the species. The animal will qualify to show but not to sell if withdrawal period has not been met.
22. **Consequences:** after examination by an official veterinarian, if an animal is found to have been subject to unethical practices, including producing an analysis with a quantity of a substance or drug in violation of these rules:
  - a. Entry will be disqualified.
  - b. Barred from further exhibition.
  - c. No awards will be made for the involved animal, or any other animal exhibited by exhibitor.
  - d. Entry fees will not be refunded.
  - e. Exhibitors will forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit livestock in the future at the show.
23. These rules must be strictly adhered to whether there is competition or not.
24. **All livestock in the State of New Mexico fall under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Livestock Board. Exhibitors must follow all rules established in the 2026 Guide for Livestock Exhibitors.**
25. **Cause for Concern Form:** all superintendents will have official Cause for Concern forms. If exhibitors have a concern that needs to be addressed by the board, the exhibitor must complete this form and turn it in to any superintendent. The Fair Board will review the concern and respond to the exhibitor. 4-H/FFA exhibitors may be given an opportunity to meet with the Fair Board representatives prior to a final decision on their concern(s).
26. The Santa Fe County Fair Board is charged with interpreting these rules and policies and authorized to act consistent with these rules and policies. Participants who have concerns regarding the application of these rules and policies or other Fair Board actions should present their concerns in writing by completing a Cause for Concern form (see item 24).

## Large Animals

1. The term “large animals” refers to the following species: cattle, sheep, swine, and goats.
2. All large animals are subject to the Santa Fe County 4-H/FFA Livestock Show General Rules and Policies.
3. All large market livestock to be exhibited will be ear tagged and officially declared by a designated representative of the Fair Board for proper identification and to verify ownership deadline has been met. Santa Fe County Fair Board will set the ownership deadline each year.
4. All exhibitors of large livestock will be required to complete a Livestock Terms of Agreement form prior to exhibiting their animal.
5. Exhibitors must furnish all water pails, feed boxes, feed, and all other necessary items.
6. Each exhibitor is responsible for the care of his/her own animals until the animals are released. If livestock is not properly cared for, labor, feed requirements, and other necessary items will be supplied. With \$25 per animal charged against each exhibitor. **The Santa Fe County Fair management may refuse entry in future years to an exhibitor who fails to give proper care to his/her animals until release or fails to properly clean pens and grounds.**
7. Large animals presented for exhibition at the Santa Fe County Fair shall be free of all parasites, scabies, sore mouth, foot rot, and other contagious and infectious diseases and be able to pass a veterinary examination if required by the livestock screening committee at the owner’s expense.
8. Large livestock will be judged on the merit of the individual animal, station judging **will not** be utilized.
9. Exhibitors of large livestock will be limited to show only 4 of each of the following species: pigs, lambs, or goats. Exhibitors may show a maximum of 4 bovines to include steers, dairy heifers, or breeding heifers or bulls with a maximum of three (3) steers. Exhibitors will only be provided with pen space for the maximum number of animals they can exhibit.
10. All animals entered in the market stock classes will be weighed at the fairgrounds or a designated place. These weights will be recorded and filed by an official in charge of scales. These weights will be used as official livestock sale weight. **Unofficial, uncertified scales will be available for weighing lambs, goats, and swine prior to having the official weights taken. Cattle will be allowed to check weights on the official scales. Superintendents have the authority to call animals to scale. There will be no weigh backs.** All livestock must be weighed by the time the scales close. **Animals must be reasonable clean and dry upon weigh-in. No tubing of any sort will be allowed.** See individual species for weight requirements.
11. Division of weight classes will be left up to the discretion of livestock superintendents. Animals that don’t make weight will be shown in the sifted class and the exhibitors may still show in showmanship if he/she desires.
12. Market Goats and Steers will be broken into classes by weight. Market Swine and Lambs will be broken by both weight and breed.
13. A minimum of 5 animals will be required to form a breed class. Breeds having fewer than 5 entries will comprise the All-Other Breeds (AOB) class.
14. Swine and Lambs will be officially classified at the time designated in the schedule. **Swine will be called to the show ring for classification by breed in the order that they show in. Swine must be clean for classification.** If there are less than 5 AOB swine to form a class, they will be combined with the crossbreed class. If there are still less than 5 animals in the AOB and crossbreed categories combined, then all animals in the species will be broken by weight.
15. Lambs will classify in the arena adjacent to the swine classification, only Speck and AOB will be required to present for classifying. Black face lambs will not be required to classify. Speck and AOB classes will be held if 1 or more animals are classified in those classes.
16. The exhibitor of the Champion in market classes of swine, steer, goat, and lamb divisions shall not be barred from further showing. Exhibitors of livestock to be shown at other fairs must send entry forms as required by that fair. Entry deadline must be met, and it is the owner’s responsibility to do so.

## Breeding Animals

1. The same animal cannot be shown in market classes and breeding classes.
2. Breeding animals must be owned and managed by the date set by the Santa Fe County Fair Board (including dairy heifers and beef heifers) and must have been under the supervision of local 4-H or FFA leaders. All breeding animals must attend the appropriate species tag in.
3. Registration number must be listed on entry blanks for breeding stock requiring registration, as well as names and numbers of sires and dams. All exhibitors must comply with project requirements to exhibit at the Santa Fe County Fair.

## Cattle

1. ALL cattle shown MUST be halter broken and gentle enough to lead safely across the scales.
2. Minimum and maximum weight limits for the market steers will be as follows:
  - Market Steers—1,000-pound minimum
3. Steers will be broken by weight.
4. No nurse cows for market calves will be allowed. No tie out.
5. Calves may be purebred or grade, but only steer calves may be entered in the market class.
6. Any steer with two large permanent teeth showing will be sifted regardless of other qualifications. Teeth may be checked by the show official and the committee ruling on the eligibility will be final.

### Cattle Classes

Market Steer

Feeder Calf (NOT eligible for sale)

Booster Beef Class (NOT eligible for sale)

Market/Breeding Sr. Bull—over 1 year

Jr. Bull—under 1 year

Sr. Heifer—over 1 year

Jr. Heifer—under 1 year

Cow/Calf Pair

Beef Cattle Showmanship

### Cattle: Miniature & Lowline

- Miniature and lowline cattle breeds weight minimum- 700lb.
  - 3 or more miniature or lowline cattle are required to form breed classes. Steers/Bulls can be broken by weight within breed classes. If 3 or more are not entered, miniature or lowline will show together.
  - Exhibitors shall be required to show a breed registration certificate. Registration paperwork must be available at tagin and at Fairgrounds.
7. Examples Include:
    - Miniature Hereford- American Hereford Association
    - Aberdeen- American Aberdeen Association
    - Dexter- American Dexter Cattle Association
    - Miniature Belted Galloways- Belt Galloway Society or American Galloway Breeders Association
    - Ect.

## Junior Replacement Dairy Heifers

1. Dress code will consist of clean white shirt, black jeans or slacks and dark footwear—no tennis shoes.

### Junior Replacement Dairy Heifer Classes

Junior Replacement Dairy Heifer

Dairy Showmanship

## Sheep

1. All sheep must be inspected by a licensed veterinarian for club lamb fungus at the gate. Any animal diagnosed with any kind of contagious fungus **MUST** be removed from the grounds immediately.
2. Health Requirements and inspection Procedure:
  - a. Any sheep entering the barns without being inspected will be barred from the show and sent home. The fair and show management will provide trained personnel with capabilities of sampling skin lesions and conducting a microscopic examination to determine the presence or absence of ringworm.
  - b. Animals with active ringworm lesions will be denied entrance to the fairgrounds. However, animals hauled in the same trailer will be allowed to show.
3. Minimum and maximum weight limits for market lambs will be as follows:
  - Southdown Market Lambs—70-pound minimum
  - Market Lambs—80-pound minimum
  - Dahl Sheep-70-pound minimum
4. Only lamb wethers and ewe lambs may be exhibited in market lamb classes, market lambs may be purebred or grade. Only lambs (one year of age or younger) are eligible to show in the market classes. Market lambs must show milk teeth.
5. All market lambs must be slick shorn prior to the show, with no longer than a 3/8" uniform fleece remaining. All lambs must be adequately shorn before the fair so that the vet can make a thorough inspection,
6. Lambs will be officially classified into three (3) divisions—AOB, Speck, or Black Face. Classifications will be on Tuesday at 6:00 pm. Hair sheep may be exhibited as well, if there are five (5) or more hair sheep of any breed, they will be allowed to show in their own class. If there are fewer than five (5), they will be shown in the AOB in the appropriate weight class. AOB and Speck classes will be held if there is at least one (1) participant in each of these classes. Black Face sheep are not required to participate in classifications, as everything not classified will automatically be placed in the appropriate Black Face class based on weight. AOB and Speck classes will be eligible for a sale slot.

## Wether Dams

1. All wether dams must be inspected by a licensed veterinarian for club lamb fungus at the gate. Any animal diagnosed with any kind of contagious fungus **MUST** be removed from the ground immediately.
2. Health Requirements and inspection Procedure:
  - a. Any goat entering the barns without being inspected will be barred from the show and sent home. The fair and show management will provide trained personnel with capabilities of sampling skin lesions and conducting a microscopic examination to determine the presence or absence of ringworm.
  - b. Animals with active ringworm lesions will be denied entrance to the fairgrounds. However, animals hauled in the same trailer will be allowed to show.
3. Wether dams must show milk teeth.
4. Wether dams will be exhibited in their own class. They will not be eligible for a sale slot but will be allowed to show in full wool.

## **Sheep Classes**

AOB Market Lamb  
Speck Market Lamb  
Black Face Market Lamb  
Hair Market Lamb  
Feeder Lamb (not eligible for sale)  
Booster Sheep—Market/Breeding (not eligible for sale)  
Sheep Showmanship  
Wether Dam  
Ram

## **Market Goats**

1. All goats must be inspected by a licensed veterinarian for club lamb fungus at the gate. Any animal diagnosed with any kind of contagious fungus MUST be removed from the grounds immediately.
2. Health Requirements and inspection Procedure:
  - a. Any goat entering the barns without being inspected will be barred from the show and sent home. The fair and show management will provide trained personnel with capabilities of sampling skin lesions and conducting a microscopic examination to determine the presence or absence of ringworm.
  - b. Animals with active ringworm lesions will be denied entrance to the fairgrounds. However, animals hauled in the same trailer will be allowed to show.
3. Meat goats are not required to be dehorned or disbudded but must be ear tagged and registered with the Santa Fe County Extension Office by declaration date.
4. Minimum and maximum weight limits for the market goats will be as follows:
  - Market Meat Goat—50-pound minimum
5. Only goat wether or doe kids may be shown in meat goat classes. Meat goats must show milk teeth.
6. All market goats must be slick shorn prior to the show. Meat goats must be slick shorn above the knees and hocks prior to the show.

## **Wether Does**

1. All wether does must be inspected by a licensed veterinarian for club lamb fungus at the gate. Any animal diagnosed with any kind of contagious fungus MUST be removed from the ground immediately.
2. Health Requirements and inspection Procedure:
  - a. Any goat entering the barns without being inspected will be barred from the show and sent home. The fair and show management will provide trained personnel with capabilities of sampling skin lesions and conducting a microscopic examination to determine the presence or absence of ringworm.
  - b. Animals with active ringworm lesions will be denied entrance to the fairgrounds. However, animals hauled in the same trailer will be allowed to show.
3. Wether does must show milk teeth.
4. Wether does will be exhibited in their own class. They will not be eligible for a sale slot but will be allowed to show in full hair.

## **Goat Classes**

Market Meat Goat  
Feeder Meat Goat (not eligible for sale)  
Booster Goat (not eligible for sale)  
Goat Showmanship (breeding or market)  
Wether Doe

## Swine

1. Minimum and maximum weight limits for the market swine will be as follows:
  - Market Hogs—200-300 pounds
2. Market swine will be officially classified on Tuesday at 6:00 pm. ***Swine will be called to the show ring for classification by breed in the order that they show in. Swine must be clean for classification.***
3. Gilts declared as market swine will be shown in the market class with barrows.
4. All swine must be identified with an official ear notch (1-3-9-27-81 system), metal or plastic tag; these are the only acceptable means of inspection. Swine consigned direct to specifically approved feed yards (quarantined feeding facilities) or recognized slaughter establishments are not required to meet the individual identification requirements:

### **Swine Classes**

Market Swine—Barrow or Gilt

Feeder Swine (not eligible for sale)

Booster Swine

Swine Showmanship