

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 st , 2 nd	3 rd , 4 th , 5 th	6 th , 7 th	8 th 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 nd grade.	8-year-old in the 3 rd grade, 9-year-old, 10-year-old, and 11-year-old in the 5 th grade.	11-year-old in the 6 th grade, 12-year-old and, 13-year-old in the 7 th grade.	13-year-old in the 8 th 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).

Showmanship Contest

1. Individuals exhibiting livestock (cattle, sheep, swine, goats, rabbits, and poultry) will be eligible for the Showmanship Award. Exhibitors may only show animals that they exhibited in previous classes. The judge has the right to ask questions of the individuals. The contest will cover the following areas:
 - a. Care and fitting of the animal.
 - b. Showmanship in the ring.
 - c. Conduct in the show ring.
 - d. Cooperation with show officials.
 - e. Individual exhibitor's compliance with dress code.
2. Individuals competing in showmanship classes will be called to the show ring by age group starting with the booster age group, followed by novice, then juniors, and ending with seniors immediately after the Champion and Reserve Champion drive for the species. The exception is the rabbit and poultry showmanship which are scheduled independent of species judging. Those exhibitors wishing to participate in the showmanship class must designate that on the entry form.
3. When selecting the Overall Showmanship Champion within each individual species division, the judge will then consider the second-place individual from the age division which the winner came out of. The judge will place up to third place when awarding Overall Showmanship winners within each species division.
4. **Official Dress Code applies** see item 7 in Livestock General Rules and Policies.

Round Robin Showmanship Contest

1. The Grand Champion Showman from each species will be given a spot in the Round Robin. The showman's animal will be used for Round Robin for each participant to show at the species station. The only exception is horse(if there is a issue getting their animal up to SF for Round Robin) but this must be discussed with the Fair board by Wed the week of fair so other arrangements can be made. If the participant doesn't want to use their animal they can step down from the show and the Reserve Showman will be given the spot in Round Robin and their animal will be used.
2. If a Champion showman in a species has already been selected to participate in the Round Robin from a previous species they must choose which species they want to show and the Reserve showman will be used in the respective species.
3. Participants will show Horse, rabbit, chicken, swine, sheep, goats, and cattle at stations with a judge at each station. Participants will rotate through the stations until they have done all 7.
4. In addition to judging showmanship of each participant, the judge will choose a question and ask each participant the same question and their response will be part of their score for the station.
5. The judges will score the participants on a scale of 1-10. Their scores for each station will be added for a total. The highest showman will win Grand Champion and the 2nd highest will will Reserve Grand Champion.

Additional Requirements

1. Cattle must be shown with halter, show stick, and brush
2. Swine handled with show stick and brush
3. Sheep must be handled with head
4. Goats must be handled with collar/halter

Overall Running of the Show

1. Each member will start at their own designated station with their animal. A minimum of 1 question will be asked to each exhibitor (same question to all exhibitors) and then they will be asked to lead and set up the animal or what is expected of each particular species.

2. We will have handlers at each station to hold animals while the exhibitors move to a different station.
3. A judge will be at each station and judge each participant at the same station
4. Judges will be volunteers with knowledge in the species.
5. A second animal that was used in showmanship that week will be available in the situation where we need to rotate an animal out.
6. For safety reasons, Round Robin Showmanship will be conducted with animals to be selected by representatives selected by the Fair Board based on recommendations of the department superintendent with the provision that Round Robin participants will not show their own animals. The animals to be selected must have been shown in the respective fair classes. Sifted animals are not eligible. Champion showmen in the species showmanship contests will compete further by showing each other's entries, such as the first-place winner in Steer will show the Swine entry, etc. they will be **REQUIRED TO SHOW ALL SPECIES OF LIVESTOCK FOR POINTS**—including chickens and rabbits. The following rules apply:
 - a. Coaching by an outsider will result in disqualification.
 - b. Dress code will be enforced.
 - c. Each Champion showman of his/her species may give a courtesy demonstration at the beginning of the contest. Judges may narrate and give pointers.
 - d. Each Champion showman will show each of the species using animals selected for the Round Robin and be judged for points.
 - e. Qualified judge(s) will judge each species.
 - f. Contestants will be required to walk the different species around the ring and demonstrate control and set the animals up with the exception of the hog.
 - g. Prior to the contest two species will be designated as the tiebreaker.
 - h. Scores will be tabulated by an official scorer. One official handler will assist with the rotations.
 - i. Scoring will be by species with a maximum of 25 points each for each of the following:
7. A 4-H Member may only enter with one species. If qualified with more than one species, the champion showman must select the species they will represent, and the reserve showman will represent the other species. The exhibitor must notify the Livestock Superintendent within 15 minutes of the last showmanship class, or the Superintendent will make the decision for the exhibitor.
8. **Official Dress Code applies** see item 7 in Livestock General Rules and Policies