

Santa Fe County

4-H/FFA Livestock Show

General Rules and Policies

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.
4. Every exhibitor and family member should obtain a copy of the Rules and Policies and be familiar with them.
5. 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.
6. 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.**
7. **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.**
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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).

Small Animals

1. The term “small animals” refers to all rabbits and poultry.
2. All small animals are subject to the Santa Fe County 4-H/FFA Livestock Show General Rules and Policies.
3. Cages for small animals will be provided by the fair.
4. The fair will try to provide containers for water and food, but the exhibitors may substitute their own if not obtrusive. Exhibitors will be responsible for feeding and watering. All small animals must have water at all times and food for, at least, several hours a day.
5. Small animals will be released at the designated time in the schedule after clean-up. Exhibitors not participating in clean-up may be assessed a \$25 clean-up fee. **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.**
6. All small animal exhibitors will need to complete a declaration form **NO later than the dates listed previously in general rules item 12.** Exhibitors need to declare any animals which they plan to exhibit at the county fair. The declaration form will include breed, species, age, general coloring; rabbits need to include their ear tattoo. Exhibit sex is required on the declaration form. Meat pens will be declared on July 3rd 2026.
7. All exhibitors will need to upload a picture of each entry in the Fair Entry system during the registration process. For poultry a basic broad side picture is what we are looking for. On rabbits a broad side picture as well as the best picture you can get of the ear tattoo is what will be needed. Meat pen pictures will be required of all three (3) animals, tattoo pictures for rabbit meat pens will also be required.
8. Exhibitors of small animals that are selected for the Junior Livestock Auction will be required to complete a Livestock Terms of Agreement Form prior to the sale.

Rabbit

1. Exhibitors will be required to determine the classification of their rabbit project at the time of registration or declaration. The rabbit superintendent will not classify rabbits upon check-in. The judge will examine your project based on the ARBA standards for the class of rabbit presented.
2. No substitutions are allowed once the rabbits are entered. Show rabbits will be at least three (3) months old at time of judging except Single Fryers and Meat Pens.
3. Exhibitors can enter a maximum number of sixteen (16) rabbits. This does not include a maximum number of two (2) meat pen rabbits per exhibitor.
4. Rabbits are to be entered in accordance with the class list provided. Fur and wool classes are entered first in the regular show. See fur and wool class for details.
5. Rabbits will be judged in accordance with the American Rabbit Breeders Association’s Standard of Perfection. Modifications in judging order will vary from the Standard in variety, but rabbits themselves will be judged to the Standard. Crossbreeds have no standard to be judged by, so will be left up to the discretion of the judge.
6. Rabbits will be judged by breed, sex, and age. Best of Show/Grand Champion will be taken from the Best of Breed. Single rabbits in a breed will be considered “Best of Breed”. Reserve Grand Champion and all lower ranked animals may be selected by the judge from all animals in the show. The decision of the judge is final.
7. Classifying rabbits: at time of check-in, rabbits will be checked for proper breed, sex, and variety. At the time, the exhibitor has the option of entering the rabbit in the correct class, or leaving it as entered.
8. Rabbits used in showmanship must be exhibited in the show and owned by the showman/exhibitor. Cloverbuds are the only exception to this rule. **Official dress code applies** see item 7 in Livestock General Rules and Policies.

9. All rabbits must have a permanent tattoo in the left ear. All rabbit ear tattoos must match the tattoo listed on the registration form. This applies to meat pens and individual entries.
10. Any 4-H member may place a rabbit on the show table, if the owner is not able to do so themselves.

Wool and Fur Rabbits—Working

Any rabbit entered in the Fur or Wool classes must be entered in the regular show. Rabbits will be judged by breed, then by coat type to determine the winner in either Fur or Wool. Rabbit entries will be limited to only one (1) rabbit per breed per exhibitor. Example: if an exhibitor has Mini Rexes, they may show only one in fur. If an exhibitor has Mini Rexes and Satins, then the exhibitor may show one Mini Rex and one Satin. All prospective rabbits shown in the fur or wool class must be entered with the other entries; the rabbit that will be shown can be chosen on judging day and entered at the time the class is judged.

Wool Classes Fur Classes

Lionhead Jersey Satin
 Woolys Rex
 American Mini Rex
 Fuzzy Lops

Meat Pens: are to be three (3) rabbits of the same breed and variety, same or mixed sex. They will weigh between 3-5 pounds each with a total pen weight of 9-15 pounds. Their maximum age should be no more than 69 days at the time of judging. Meat pen rabbits are only to be entered in the meat pen class. All meat pen entries will be weighed at the designated time set in the schedule. Any rabbit meat pen found to be over or under the weight range or the wrong mix of varieties will be disqualified, and the individual animals will be placed in the appropriate general breed class.

Meat Pen Class

Meat Pen

Rabbit Classes

Class 4 Rabbits (adult weight under six (6) pounds)

Sr. Bucks—6 months and older
 Sr. Does—6 months and older
 Jr. Bucks—6 months and older
 Jr. Does—6 months and older

Class 4 Rabbit Breeds

American Fuzzy Lops	Dutch Dwarf	American Sable Angora
Hotot	English Angora	Mini Satin
French Angora	English Spot	Satin Belgian Hare
Florida White	Crossbreeds—under 10 pounds	Harlequin
Lionhead	Havana	Himalayan
Polish Rex	Jersey Wooly Lop	Silver Marten
Holland Lop	Tans	Mini Lop
Thrianta	Velveteen	Netherland Dwarf
Mini Rex		

Class 6 Rabbits (adult weight six (6) pounds and over)

Sr. Bucks—8 months and older
 Sr. Does—8 months and older
 Intermediate Bucks—6-8 months
 Intermediate Does—6-8 months
 Jr. Bucks—3-6 months
 Jr. Does—3-6 months
 Rabbit Showmanship

Class 6 Rabbit Breeds

American	Champagne d'Argent	Lop, French
Angora, Giant	Crème d'Argent	New Zealand
Beveren	Crossbreeds—over 10 pounds	Palamino
Californian	Giant Checkered	Satin
Chinchilla, American	Flemish Giant	Silver Fox
Chinchilla, Giant	Lop, English	

Other Classes

Rabbit Showmanship
Booster Rabbit

Poultry

1. No substitutions are allowed once the poultry are entered.
2. Poultry will be judged by rules of the *American Poultry Association* and the *American Bantam Association*. Grand Champion will be selected from the Best of: Bantam Cock, Bantam Cockerel, Bantam Hen, Bantam Pellet, Standard Cock, Standard Cockerel, Standard Hen, Standard Pellet, and Best of All Other Fowl. Reserve Grand Champion and all lower ranked animals may be selected by the judge from all animals in the show. The decisions are final.
3. Exhibitors can enter a maximum number of sixteen (16) poultry. This does not include a maximum number of two (2) meat pen poultry per exhibitor.
4. Leg bands are encouraged but not necessary to enter poultry.
5. Enter poultry breed, variety and grouping in accordance with the *New Mexico State Fair Premium Book*, then by sex and age. Refer to the *NM State Fair Premium Book* for lists of poultry breeds.
6. Poultry used in showmanship must be exhibited in the show and owned by the showman/exhibitor. Cloverbuds are the only exception to this rule.

Bantam Breed Chicken Classes Large Breed Chicken Classes

Cock—over 1 year	Cock—over 1 year
Hen—over 1 year	Hen—over 1 year
Cockerel—under 1 year	Cockerel—under 1 year
Pullet—under 1 year	Pullet—under 1 year

Waterfowl Classes Turkey Classes

Drake—over 1 year	Tom—under 1 year
Duck—over 1 year	Hen—under 1 year
Drake—under 1 year	Tom—over 1 year
Duck—under 1 year	Hen—over 1 year
Gander—over 1 year	Goose—over 1 year
Gander—under 1 year	Goose—under 1 year

Other Classes

- Pigeons, all entries are required to have seamless leg bands.
- Game Birds—Quail, Pheasants, etc. entries must have proper permits in accordance with the rules and regulations of the NM Department of Game & Fish.
- Others not above—doves, guineas, etc.
- Broiler Pens—three (3) chickens weighing 3-5 pounds each for a total of 9-15 pounds total weight. Birds must be same sex and same breed. All Broiler Pen entries will be weighed at the designated time set in the schedule. Any poultry broiler found to be over or under the weight range or the wring mix of varieties will be disqualified, and the individual animals will be placed in the appropriate general breed class.
- Poultry Showmanship
- Booster Poultry