# CITRUS COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION
# 2027 LIVESTOCK SHOWS
# GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

**Refer to:**

Individual rules for each species
Citrus County Fair Livestock Schedule and Livestock Addendum
IAFE and National Code of Showring Ethics

1. Youth Exhibitors must be a Citrus County 4-H or FFA member in good standing for the project's duration, except for designated PeeWee Shows. PeeWee show age is 4-7 as of September 1, prior to the March Fair.
   **A.** YLPA (Youth Leaders in Production Agriculture) and Virtual FFA entries must be approved by the Livestock Chairman and Species Superintendent.

2. **Registration deadlines are listed on the Important Dates on the Livestock Schedule**. Postmarked or metered entries must be received by the deadline. **Incomplete forms will not be accepted.**

   **A.** Two separate buyer letters are required for all market animals and Pen of Layer projects (one to a previous buyer and one to a new buyer). Letters must be stamped, **SEALED,** and addressed, with your name and your return address on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope. Letters must be turned in to the Fair Office by the deadline listed on the Important Dates and Educational Meeting Info sheet. Only two (2) letters will be accepted at the Fair Office; however, you are encouraged to send out more on your own. Exhibitors must use the current list of previous buyers posted online at citruscountyfair.com, or you can pick up the list from the Fair Office.

3. Individual Exhibitors may only show and sell one terminal Steer or Swine market/sale animal. In addition, they may show/sell the following terminal market/sale projects: Market Lamb, Market Wether, Pen of Meat Poultry, Pen of Layers, Pen of Meat Rabbit and Fryer Rabbit. A Pen of Layers is sold by silent auction only at the pen side.

   **A.** 4-H Club and FFA Chapters may show and sell one of each of the terminal market/sale animals: Market Lamb, Market Wether, Pen of Layer, Pen of Meat Poultry, Pen of Meat Rabbit, Fryer Rabbit, Steer, and Swine.

4. At registration, 4-H Club and FFA Chapter entries must submit up to three names for Showmen by the individual registration deadline, except Steer, Swine, Market Lamb, and Market Wether. A Club or Chapter entry for Steer, Swine, Market Lamb, and Market Wether must submit up to three names for Showmen no later than the tagging and/or weigh-in.

5. Exhibitors may not compete against themselves, except in Champion classes. Individual Show Rules will take precedence.

6. Animals must be brought to the fairgrounds on the date designated by the Livestock Committee for an initial weigh-in. See Important Dates. Animals must be tagged with **scannable** USDA tags (RFID/EID 840 Tag). An animal without the OFFICIAL USDA IDENTIFICATION (RFID/EID 840 Tag) will not be accepted. Exhibitor must be present at tagging, initial, and final weigh-in unless excused by the Livestock Chairman. Most animals will be tagged with a CCFA Numerical Tag at the initial weigh-in.

7. A separate entry form must be used for each Exhibitor; animals are not allowed to be shared by multiple Exhibitors. Exhibitor must show their own animal unless approved by the Show Superintendent or Livestock Chairman. Show animals must be cared for at the Exhibitor's residence unless permission is granted by the Livestock Chairman in writing for the animal to be cared for at another location.

8. Refer to individual species entry forms for entry fees. Showmanship is mandatory in all species and the fee is included in your entry fee.

**9.** ANIMALS MUST CONFORM TO ALL STATE OF FLORIDA HEALTH RULES.
A current Health Certificate/Coggins is required for all Beef, Goat, Horse and Sheep species. You must present these documents prior to the animal being removed from your trailer at the Citrus County Fairgrounds, excluding the initial weigh-in. The Health Certificate/Coggins will be at the Exhibitor's expense.

**10.** Exhibitor and their parent or guardian are required to sign a drug certificate and turn it in at the final weigh-in. This certifies that all drugs and feed additives have been used in conformity with the feed and drug manufacturer's dosage directions and withdrawal times.

**11.** Exhibitors must be able to safely handle animals by themselves at all times while at the fair. If an exhibitor has a medical excuse that prohibits the showing of their show/sale animal and is approved by the Livestock Committee, these rules will be followed:

1. Exhibitors will not be allowed to handle their animal in any capacity, including leading, grooming, bathing, or being in the stall, arena, etc., until a written medical statement clearing the Exhibitor from injury is received from a physician.
2. Showmanship entry fee will be forfeited (no refund). Animals cannot be shown by a substitute.
3. Exhibitors may participate in the sale by standing outside of the sale ring if it is safe.
4. Exhibitors may participate in the sale photographs with the buyer only (no animal).
5. It is preferred that a member from the Exhibitor's club/chapter who has met the qualifications for that species to show/sell for the excused Exhibitor. In the event these conditions cannot be met, then any qualifying member from 4-H or FFA may substitute, depending on the excused Exhibitor's club/chapter participation.

**12.** Market Lambs, Market Wethers, Steer, and Swine must be castrated before the initial weigh-in. Steer must be dehorned before the initial weigh-in. Cows must be polled or dehorned before entering the barn. Scurs are acceptable.

**13.** Grooming, handling, and caring for the animal will be done by the **Exhibitor only.** Exhibitors are responsible for supplying their equipment to maintain the health and care of their animals.

**A.** Exhibitor must be present during the entering of their animal and furnish feed and care while at the fair; Exhibitors are required to maintain clean and attractive quarters at all times. An exhibitor showing neglect of their animal and/or exhibit area shall forfeit all prize money, and any other punishment deemed necessary by the Livestock Committee and/or Fair board.

**B.** Exhibitor must be able to control their animal safely during the fair, or they will be sent home.

**14.** The direct application of ice, ice water, alcohol, freon, or any other refrigerant to the hide of an animal and the artificial introduction of air, blood, oil, drugs, steroids, or chemicals into an animal is strictly prohibited. These deceptive, fraudulent practices will cause the Exhibitor and their animal (s) to be immediately disqualified. Animals must be shown in their natural conformation structure without alteration.

**A.** Sick or diseased animals will not be allowed. All animals will be inspected.

**B.** Drenching is NOT permitted on the fairgrounds.

**15.** AWARDS & PREMIUMS (unless listed in individual show rules)
RIBBONS WILL BE AWARDED 1st - 6th place
1st $10.00 2nd $5.00 3rd $4.00 4th $3.00 5th $2.00 6th $1.00

Showmanship Competition
The payout for Showmanship is a percentage of entry fees collected. Ribbons awarded for 1st - **6**th place. **1st** - 25% **2nd** - 20% **3rd** - 17% **4th** - 15% **5th** -13% **6th** -10% Pee Wee (ages 4-7 as of 9/1/2026) receive a ribbon only. Pee Wee entry fees go into the Dr. Dumas Scholarship Fund.
The Grand Champion must receive a blue ribbon. The second-place animal from the Grand Champion class will be brought back to compete for Reserve Grand Champion.

**16.** Record Book, Showmanship, and Skill-a-thon age will be determined by the Exhibitor's age as of the first day of September, prior to the March Fair.
Classes are: Junior 8-10 Intermediate 11-13 Senior 14 and older
It is encouraged that Exhibitors participate in the Goal Premium Award (GPA) Activities.

**17.** Proof of "Project Work" for 4-H and FFA Exhibitors will be a completed record book. When entering more than one animal in a project area, each animal will have a separate information page included in the record book. Record books will be checked for completion before offloading animals. If the record book is not completed (except for the financial summary page for sale animals), the Exhibitor will be placed at the end of the check-in line. Only Blue-Ribbon record books will qualify for GPA payout.

**A.** Record books must be turned in using one of the following:

A 1" or less three ring binder

A 2 or 3-pronged folder

**18. ATTENDANCE AT ONE EDUCATIONAL MEETING IS MANDATORY FOR ALL SPECIES**

At least two educational meetings will be held during the project period (August through February). The Exhibitor and one parent/guardian (not 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor) must attend at least one of these meetings and remain for the entire meeting, AND sign in and sign out to receive credit for attending. If the Exhibitor and parent/guardian cannot attend at least one meeting, the intended Exhibitor should not register an animal for show and sale. Out-of-County and Pee Wee exhibitors are encouraged to attend, but it is not mandatory.

***SEE IMPORTANT DATES AND EDUCATIONAL MEETING INFORMATION SHEET***

**19. YOUTH EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE FOR SHOW, SHOWMANSHIP, AND SALE NIGHT**

Exhibitors are required to wear appropriate uniforms and display their Club or Chapter emblem.

1. Dark black slacks or dark black jeans without holes.
2. White collared shirt, tucked into pants. NO t-shirts.
3. Dark brown or black boots.
4. 4-H jacket or vest - if **not** wearing a jacket or vest, a 4-H patch is required.
5. FFA official dress is required, including a jacket and tie or scarf, tied outside a white collared shirt. Shirts must be tucked into pants.
6. Hats of any kind are not permitted. Candy, gum, or anything else in the mouth is prohibited. Costumes for animals or exhibitors are NOT permitted.

**A. PEE WEE EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE FOR NON MARKET ANIMALS**

1. Dark slacks or dark jeans without holes.
2. White collared shirt, tucked into pants. NO t-shirts
3. Dark brown or black boots.

Failure to follow the dress code, unless approved by the Livestock Chairman, will result in the Exhibitor forfeiting premium money, and any other punishment deemed necessary by the Livestock Committee and/or the Fair Board.

**20. YOUTH EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES ON THE FAIRGROUNDS**

The following is required while in the barn, cleaning, feeding, grooming, walking, and/or working with an animal, and other Exhibitor functions.

1. Appropriate school attire (no pajama pants).
2. For safety, Exhibitors must wear boots or closed-toed shoes; closed-toed shoes DO NOT include Crocs, flip flops, or sandals of any kind. Shoes must have a full heel quarter.

**21. THANK YOU LETTERS** for Buyers, Add-ons, Skill-a-Thon, and all awards must be in the fair office before payment will be made to the Exhibitor. The sponsor's address label is on the bottom of all awards, and a list of sponsors with addresses is available in the Fair Office.

Letters must be at the Fair Office by the date on the Important Dates and Educational Meeting Info Sheet. Letters will NOT be taken at the barn clean-up. If the deadline is missed, there will be a $150.00 fine or forfeiture of premium money for In-County and Out-of-County Exhibitors. Exhibitor will be ineligible to Show/Sale for the following fair year.

Letters must be stamped, **SEALED,** and addressed, with your name and your return address on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope.

**22. MANDATORY ATTENDANCE AT BARN SET-UP OR BARN CLEAN-UP***

Exhibitor must sign in and sign out to receive credit for attending. If Exhibitor is unable to attend, they must contact the Livestock Committee Chairman in writing prior to Barn Set-up **OR** Barn Clean-up. Failure to attend and participate in Barn Set-up OR Barn Clean-up will result in a $150.00 fine or forfeiture of premium monies. Forfeiture monies will be put into the Dr. Dumas Scholarship Fund. Pee Wee exhibitors are encouraged to attend, but it is not mandatory.

***SEE IMPORTANT DATES AND EDUCATIONAL MEETING INFO SHEET***

**23. BUYER AND ADD-ON PAYMENTS** must be issued to Citrus County Fair Association. Administration and expense fees of 5% will be deducted (excluding add-ons) along with the required Beef or Pork Council fees. Payment will not be made to the Exhibitor until the buyer's payment has cleared.

Exhibitors earning more than $600.00 in premiums, add-ons, and sale proceeds must provide a W-9 form **YEARLY** before payment will be made.

**24. ENTRIES MAY BE LIMITED IN ANY SHOW, IF DEEMED NECESSARY.**

**25.** Sale animals will not be resold on the premises. "For Sale" signs for any animal are not allowed at educational meetings, registration, or during the fair.

**26.** Exhibitors are not allowed in the barn after the fair closes for the night. **CAMPING IS ONLY ALLOWED IN DESIGNATED AREAS.**

**27.** Livestock Exhibitors are admitted free through the livestock gate during their program. ALL OTHERS MUST PAY THE GATE PRICE OR SHOW A FAIR MEMBERSHIP CARD. The deadline is shown on the Important Dates and Educational Meeting info sheet.

**28.** Vehicles used to service animals (such as feed) must take place between the livestock gate opening and one hour before the fair is open to the public.

**29. THE CITRUS COUNTY FAIR LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE reserves the right to accept or reject conditionally any entry or application at any time or revoke premiums earned for just cause or bar anyone from exhibiting. Failure to comply with any of the rules and regulations will subject the Exhibitor to being disqualified and removed from the project and the fairgrounds.**

**A.** An Exhibitor showing misconduct, possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol, vaping or smoking, misrepresentation, or failure to cooperate with the Livestock Committee in any manner will forfeit any prizes or premiums, will be eliminated from the show and sale, will be banned from showing the following year or other punishment deemed necessary by the fair board.

**B.** Animals are NOT to leave the livestock complex; they are not to be on the midway, in any buildings, or in food concession areas.

**C.** Exhibitor assumes responsibility for their animal in case of death, injury, or loss until the animal leaves the fair. The fair board assumes no financial responsibility for the sale, except to make a reasonable effort to collect the money from the buyer and add-on contributors. There is no guarantee of a place in the show/sale, and all expenses associated with the animal are at the Exhibitor's expense and risk.

**30.** Terminal Shows. A Market Animal may NOT be shown in ANY SHOW after it has been sold in the live auction at the Citrus County Fair. Any Exhibitor doing so will become ineligible to participate in the Citrus County Fair next year. If the Exhibitor is a graduating senior, a 25% assessment of the sale price will be charged.

**31.** These rules (consisting of 5 pages) can only be changed between April and the third Monday in August of each year unless a 2/3 majority vote of the Livestock Board approved by the Executive Board of the Citrus County Fair Association.

The Livestock Board is the voting authority of the Livestock Committee: Citrus County Fair Association By-Laws; Article 7, Section 7.

**Rev. 8/2026**