

2026
Cuero
Livestock
Show
Rules

2026 SIGNIFICANT RULE CHANGES

Steers

The steers will show in this Division order, from light weights to heavy weights:

1) American Breed Crosses (ABC), 2) British, 3) All Other Breeds (AOB).

If an exhibitor validated a steer through the June 2025 Official DeWitt County Major Show Validation program and is intending to exhibit that same steer at the Cuero Livestock Show, they do not need to bring the steer to the Cuero Livestock Show Steer Validation. ***Major show validated steers will automatically be eligible for the Cuero Livestock Show.***

(Note: wording about having to inform Extension office of major show validated steers to be entered into CLS has been removed.)

Heifers

The heifers will show in this Division order, from youngest to oldest:

1) American, 2) British, 3) Exotic.

New Rule: All Breeding Beef Heifers must be registered. A copy of the registration papers must be provided at validation.

Validation Exception: If an exhibitor validated a heifer in June or October through the official DeWitt County Major Show Heifer Validation program that is still active in the State Validation Online System and is intending to exhibit the heifer at the Cuero Livestock Show, they do not need to bring the heifer to the Cuero Livestock Show Heifer Validation. ***Active major show validated heifers will automatically be eligible for the Cuero Livestock Show.***

(Note: wording about having to inform Extension office of major show validated heifers to be entered into CLS has been removed.)

New This Year: There will be a Bucket Calf Show added to the 2026 Cuero Livestock Show. See rules in this packet.

POTENTIAL RULE CHANGES COMING IN 2027

The Cuero Livestock Show Board of Directors will be looking at potential rule changes regarding the FITTING AND GROOMING of all animal species.

2026
CUERO LIVESTOCK SHOW
IMPORTANT DATES

September 23, 2025.....Mandatory Bucket Calf Informational Meeting @ Friar Ag Center
September 25, 2025.....Commercial Heifer Validation (Early Validation @ Finney Ranch)
September 27, 2025.....Steers, Breeding Beef Heifer, and Commercial Heifer Validation (Auction Barn)
October 14, 2025.....Sheep and Goat Validation
October 21, 2025.....Sheep and Goat Validation (Major Show validation will also take place)
December 5, 2025.....Broilers Must be Ordered
December 6, 2025.....Swine Validation
December 23, 2025.....Market Rabbits must be born on or after this date
January 17, 2026.....Mandatory Bucket Calf Practice Show @ Friar Ag Center
January 21, 2026.....Pick Up Date for CLS Broilers (tentative date)
January 27, 2026.....Market Rabbit Validation
January 30, 2026.....Deadline for turning in Livestock Show & Horse Show Entries
February 13, 2026.....Homemaking & Project Show Entry deadline
February 13, 2026.....Late Deadline for turning in Livestock Show & Horse Show Entries (\$100 per entry)
February 24, 2026.....Commercial Heifer Sale Information Form Turn-In (Extension Office)
February 27, 2026.....Commercial Heifer Record Book Turn-In (Extension Office or CHS Ag Building)

2026 CUERO LIVESTOCK SHOW SCHEDULE (Schedule Subject to Change)

SATURDAY, February 28

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
10:00 AM
11:00 AM
4:00 – 6:00 PM

- Friar Ag Center will be open for Animal Project Clipping
- Cuero Livestock Show Grand Opening
- Cuero Livestock Horse Show – Rodeo Arena (Rainout Date: TBA)
- Commercial Heifer Show Check-In at Cuero Livestock Market (Auction Barn)

SUNDAY, March 1

6:00 – 8:00 AM
9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
1:00 – 5:00 PM

4:00 – 6:00 PM
6:00 PM

- Exhibitor Feeding of Commercial Heifers (no feeding after 8:00 AM)
- Live Judging of Commercial Heifers at Cuero Livestock Market
- Cattle available for buyer viewing at Cuero Livestock Market
- Friar Ag Center will be open for Animal Project Clipping
- Commercial Heifer Pre-Auction Social at Anne Friar Thomas Homemaking Bldg.
- Commercial Heifer Sale (by video) at Anne Friar Thomas Homemaking Bldg.

MONDAY, March 2

4:00 – 7:00 PM

- Homemaking Project Show (non-baked goods) & Ag Mechanics check-in @ Anne Friar Thomas Homemaking Bldg.

TUESDAY, March 3

7:00 – 9:00 AM
8:00 AM
4:00 – 6:30 PM
4:30 – 5:30 PM
5:00 – 8:00 PM
6:00 PM

- Homemaking Show (food/baked goods) check-in @ Homemaking Bldg.
- Ag Mechanics Show Judging (exhibitors must be present at their project)
- Market Swine Check-In & Breeding Beef Heifers Allowed to Early Stall
- Broiler and Rabbit Official Weigh/Check-In
- Homemaking Show Baked Items on Sale @ Homemaking Bldg.
- Broiler Judging, followed by Market Rabbit Judging (Broilers and Rabbits will be released from the Barn following Judging, except for Grand and Reserve Champions)

WEDNESDAY, March 4

7:30 – 8:30 AM
8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
2:30 PM
4:00 PM

6:00 PM

- Breeding Beef Heifer & Bucket Calf Check-In
- Homemaking Show Baked Items on Sale @ Homemaking Bldg.
- Bucket Calf Show
- Breeding Beef Heifer Judging
- Breeding Beef Heifers & Bucket Calves may check out after Show and must be out by 10:00 pm
- Market Swine Judging
- Steers may begin arriving after Market Swine Show is over

THURSDAY, March 5

7:30 – 9:30 AM
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
2:00 PM
5:45 PM
6:00 PM
6:00 PM
7:00 PM

- Steers, Sheep, and Goat Projects Official Weigh-In
- Commercial Heifer Show Interviews at Friar Ag Center
- Goat Judging, followed by Market Lamb Judging
- Commercial Heifer Results given in Ag Center Show Arena
- All Homemaking Baked Items and Project Show Items must be out of building
- Steer Judging
- Deadline for submitting Resale Bids. Bids will be opened at this time.

FRIDAY, March 6

8:00 – 9:00 AM
11:00 AM
5:00 PM
6:00 PM

- Non-Selling Animals & Ag Mechanic Project Check-Out
- Mandatory Meeting for Exhibitors Selling Animals in Auction Sale
- Cuero Young Farmer's Buyers Social
- Pre-Auction Ceremonies and AUCTION SALE

2026 CUERO LIVESTOCK SHOW JUDGES

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Commercial Heifer | Fayette County Crew |
| Record Book and Interviews | |
| Commercial Heifer | TBA |
| Live Judging | |
| Breeding Beef | Brice Mund Blinn College – Livestock Judging Coach |
| Market Hog | Brice Mund Blinn College – Livestock Judging Coach |
| Broilers | Jacob Price Katy High School Ag Science Teacher |
| Rabbits | Donald Mersiovsky ARBA Sanctioned Judge – Belton, TX |
| Meat Goats | Kyle Despain Washington County AgriLife Extension Agent |
| Market Lambs | Kyle Despain Washington County AgriLife Extension Agent |
| Steers | David Groschke Robertson County AgriLife Extension Agent |
| Steer Classifier | Shannon DeForest Lavaca County AgriLife Extension Agent |
| Showmanship | Brian Yanta Goliad County AgriLife Extension Agent |
| Horse Show | A.J. Kendrick Former TAMU National Champion Horse Judging Team Member |
| Bucket Calf | Eric Taylor Karnes County AgriLife Extension Agent |

CUERO LIVESTOCK SHOW, INC.
"SERVING THE YOUTH OF DEWITT COUNTY"
2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor and their family to familiarize themselves with all the general rules and regulations of the show and all other rules in the classroom and departments applicable to their project.

RULE 1 **INTERPRETATION AND VIOLATION OF RULES:**

This show reserves to its Board of Directors the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters arising out of or connected with or incident to the show and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. Any exhibitor who violates any of the following rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the Board of Directors may order.

RULE 2 **LIABILITY:**

This show will in no case be responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage done to or occasioned by, or arising from, any animal or article exhibited by an exhibitor or arising out of or in any way connected with the exhibition of any of the animals so exhibited. Any person, by exhibiting in the show, acknowledges liability for the above.

RULE 3 **ELIGIBILITY:**

The Cuero Livestock Show is open to all DeWitt County FFA and 4-H members who are:

- A) A resident of DeWitt County or attend a school in DeWitt County. High School Seniors graduating the Fall Semester preceding the Show will be eligible to participate.
- B) A resident of DeWitt County and are enrolled in a Home School Program operating in accordance with Texas law. If a student was withdrawn from a public or private school and enrolled in Home School or any other school because of academic failure, expulsion, or alternative education placement, during the current semester of the Cuero Livestock Show or the semester prior, that student will be ineligible to show.
- C) A bona fide registered member of any DeWitt County FFA Chapter or DeWitt County 4-H Club on or before December 1, 2025, and abides by each organization's guidelines. If December 1st deadline is missed, participants may late register for 4-H or FFA up until January 31, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. However, in addition to the 4-H/FFA registration fee, a \$500 late fee will be assessed (made payable to the Cuero Livestock Show). Provided that the member meets requirements of Rule 3, letter B (above).
- D) Has not and will not show any market animal in any other local show in DeWitt or adjoining counties, other than progress shows between September 1st prior to the show and August 31st, after the show.
- E) DeWitt County 4-H members, DeWitt County FFA, and DeWitt County FCCLA or Homemaking Students are eligible for participation in the homemaking division.
- F) The Cuero Livestock Show is open to all DeWitt County FFA, Junior FFA, FCCLA, and DeWitt County 4-H Club Members who comply with the rules and regulations of the Cuero Livestock Show.
- G) NO PASS. NO SHOW: If an exhibitor is academically ineligible to participate as determined by the public school, private school or Home School Program operating in accordance with Texas law, that exhibitor and their animal project(s) are not eligible to participate in the Cuero Livestock Show, regardless of UIL's ruling on extracurricular activities falling on school holidays. *(Example: Spring Break)*

Rules 1, 2, & 3 apply to the
Cuero Livestock Show, Commercial Heifer Show, Horse
Show and the Cuero Project & Homemaking Show

RULE 4 VALIDATION:

All market and breeding animals must be present at their appropriate validation time. Market animals cannot be validated for any other county or local community show, except the Cuero Livestock Show.

All Market Steers and Breeding Beef Heifers will be validated on **Saturday, September 27, 2025**. Market Lambs and Meat Goats will be validated on **two separate dates. Those two dates are Tuesday, October 14, 2025, and Tuesday, October 21, 2025**. All Market Barrows will be validated on **Saturday, December 6, 2025**. All Market Rabbits will be validated on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**. All Broilers must be ordered by **Friday, December 5, 2025**, by contacting the County Extension Office. Broiler pick up will be at the Friar Ag Center on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026, between 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. (tentative date)**

Steers, lambs, goats and pigs that are double validated for major livestock shows and the Cuero Livestock Show, will use the major show tag number as identification for the Cuero Livestock Show.

Exhibitors shall be entitled to validate in each division individually or by family, except for breeding beef heifers. When entry cards are turned in, exhibitors must designate their projects individually with exhibitor's name, however, they do not have to designate the animal tag number until the Official Weigh-In/Check-In at Show Time. Absolutely no changes can be made after the Official Weigh-In/Check-In.

Each exhibitor will be allowed to validate 3 of each species: barrows, goats, lambs, and steers free of charge.

RULE 5 POSSESSION:

All animal project(s) must be in the exhibitor's possession from the time the animal is validated until the date of the Livestock Show. Possession is defined as having the animal project(s) in any location within DeWitt or contiguous counties that provides for the convenient care of the animal project(s) by the Exhibitor on a regular basis. The Ag Science Teacher or County Extension Agent have the authority to determine whether animal project(s) are in the possession of the Exhibitor and may make recommendations to the Exhibitor to meet the possession requirement if it is believed the Exhibitor is not in the possession of the animal project(s).

RULE 6 ENTRIES:

All entries must be made on the official entry form. Entries must be signed by the Exhibitor, Parents/Guardian and the Ag Science Teacher or County Extension Agent. In all cases, the right is reserved to reject or accept any entry. Official entry forms will be furnished by the Ag Science Teacher(s) or the DeWitt County Extension Agent.

Each entry must be submitted to the Ag Science Teacher(s) or DeWitt County Extension Agent no later than **5:00 p.m. January 30, 2026**. No entry will be accepted unless the entry form is completely and legibly filled out and accompanied by the appropriate entry fee. Entry fees are as follows: All Market Animals - \$25.00 each; Breeding Beef Animals - \$25.00 each.

If the January 30th deadline is missed, late entries will be accepted through 5:00p.m., February 13th, 2026, however, the late entry fee will be \$100 per entry.

*****NOTE: THE TAG NUMBER OF THE ANIMAL WILL NOT BE FILLED IN ON THE ENTRY CARD AT THE TIME OF ENTRY. THEY WILL BE FILLED IN ON THE ENTRY CARD, BY THE EXHIBITOR OR FAMILY MEMBER, AT THE TIME OF THEIR OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN/CHECK-IN AT SHOW TIME.***

RULE 7 NUMBER OF ENTRIES:

There will be a limit of three (3) entries per exhibitor in beef, sheep, goat, and swine market divisions. Broiler and market rabbit exhibitors are limited to one (1) pen. Bucket Calf is limited to one (1) entry per exhibitor.

There will be a limit of three (3) entries per exhibitor in the breeding beef heifer division.

RULE 8 ARRIVAL OF ANIMALS:

All exhibitors must have their animals weighed in, or must be in line during specified check-in times, or their animal(s) will be disqualified. This rule will strongly be enforced by the CLS Stock Show Board. There will be no exceptions!

RULE 9 TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION RULES:

All animals will be subject to rules and regulations governing admission of livestock to shows, fairs, and exhibitions, as prescribed by the Texas Animal Health Commission.

RULE 10 CARE OF ANIMALS:

All exhibitors shall feed, water, and care for their own animals until the Buyer takes charge of them or until released by the Show Office. Poultry feed will be furnished by the Show.

RULE 11 OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN:

Animals must weigh between the minimum and maximum weights as described in these rules. If an animal does not meet these weight requirements it will be removed, scales balanced, and **IMMEDIATELY** re-weighed one (1) time. If weight requirements are not met after re-weighing, the animal will be sifted. ***An official weighmaster will be appointed to call out the official weights of all animal species at official weigh-in. There will be no weight tolerance allowed on any animal species.***

Once an animal crosses the scale it is an entry. Only the maximum number of entries per species will be allowed to be weighed. There will be no weighing of extra animals.

Animals must be officially weighed-in free of show paraphernalia (Lead ropes, chains, sweater blankets, sweat collars, etc.), except for halters or collars on Steers, Lambs, and Goats.

Families with multiple kids having multiple entries of the same species, must decide which animal belongs to which kid, before their last animal leaves the scale. This decision must be made at the time a group of animals is weighed. (Example: Families bringing animals in separate groups must decide who's exhibiting which animal as each group is weighed)

Official Scales: The "official" scales that will be used for official weigh-in will be available for exhibitors to weigh their projects on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After Saturday the scales will be put up until official weigh-in. Note – the scales will not be officially verified until March 2nd or March 3rd.

RULE 12 JUDGING/SUBSTITUTE SHOWMAN:

The decision of the Judge shall be final in all classes. All exhibitors must be present at the time of judging and show their own animals, barring accident or sickness. If an exhibitor is injured or sick, a doctor's excuse will need to be presented to the board of directors. In the case of immediate illness or injury while showing, a substitute showman will be allowed, at the discretion of the board.

A case-by-case review will be made by the board of directors as needed, regarding unforeseen conflicts with school-related activities, such as UIL advanced competition. (Example: Regional or State band or sporting events)

An exhibitor may have a substitute showman show his/her other animal, provided he/she has more than one animal in the judging ring at the same time. This substitute showman must be an eligible DeWitt County 4-H or FFA member that attends school in DeWitt County and has an animal project in the current show. All such assistants must give the name of the owner of the animal to show officials tabulating the judging results. However, animals qualifying for the Championship Drive must be exhibited by their owner. **EXCEPTION:** An assistant exhibitor may be used if an exhibitor has more than one animal in the Championship Drive. No person but the exhibitor, official judge and certified assistants shall be allowed in the judging ring.

Exhibitor, family member(s), or any other representative of the exhibitor shall not dispute the judge's decision. If any disrespect is shown toward the judge before, during, or after the judging, the Board reserves the right to ban the exhibitor from future shows. The Board serves final decision concerning dispute.

RULE 13 SIFTING OF ANIMALS:

No unruly animals will be allowed in the show. All market, breeding cattle, and bucket calves must be halter broken. Nose rings are allowed to assist in handling breeding and market cattle in show competition. The enforcement of these rules is the responsibility of the division superintendent.

RULE 14 SHOW DIVISIONS AND CLASSES:

The entries shall be divided into divisions and classes, and as such additional classes as the show manager may determine.

RULE 15 UNETHICAL DRUG USE & FITTING:

Abuse or misuse of drugs and chemicals in show animals by exhibitor will result in his or her being disqualified from show and will result in forfeiture of all premiums and prize money. This includes necessary medications that do not meet the withdrawal requirements for slaughter. The Cuero Livestock Show reserves the right to have blood, urine and other body tissue laboratory analysis made on any animal entered for competition. An exhibitor of an animal producing an analysis with a quantity of unapproved chemical drug, or any other unapproved medication will forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit livestock in the future at the Cuero Livestock Show. The act of artificially filling animals internally, which would include stomach pumping, drench tubes, or any other method per os (by esophagus), is strictly prohibited in the Show Barn.

RULE 16 PROTESTS:

All protests must be made in writing to the Manager of the Show and must be made immediately after the occasion arises for protest.

RULE 17 AWARDS:

A placing ribbon (blue, white) will be given to each entry with special rosettes and banners for the Champion and Reserve Champion. Showmanship Awards will be given in the Beef, Sheep, Goat, Swine, Poultry and Rabbit Divisions. Premiums will be awarded in the breeding classes only.

RULE 18 REMOVAL OF EXHIBITS:

All animals in market classes that are not eligible for the Auction Sale may be removed only at a specified time appointed by the Show Superintendent with a Release Form from the Show Office. Violations of this rule will cause forfeiture of all premiums earned by the exhibitor. The exhibitor is responsible for obtaining a release from the Show Office to remove their animal. If a release is not obtained, the animal will be put on resale, except for white ribbon Steers.

Breeding animals may be removed from the show barn only during a specified time appointed by the Show Superintendent. A release must be obtained before the animal is removed.

RULE 19 RESALE:

Animals not making the Auction Sale are eligible for resale except for white ribbon steers. For an exhibitor to take a non-sale animal home, he or she must obtain a release from the Show Office by 8:00 a.m. on the day of the Sale. If a release is not obtained and the animal is not picked up by 9:00 a.m. on Friday, the animal will be put on resale.

The bids for buying the resale animals from the Cuero Livestock Show will be accepted through ***Thursday, March 5, 2026, until 7:00 P.M.*** at which time the sealed bids will then be opened. The bid will go to the highest bid submitted in each animal category. All bids accepted will be FOB, and Cuero Livestock Show will not make delivery. Resale buyers will pay actual weight (per pound) for the animals (sheep, goat, pigs, steers).

Individuals wishing to purchase a resale animal must go directly to the resale buyer for the transaction. The Cuero Livestock Show will not handle any outside transaction(s) dealing with Auction Sale or Resale animals. This rule will be strongly enforced!

RULE 20 AUCTION SALE:

The Cuero Livestock Show Auction Sale is considered a "Spot Sale", in which there is a transfer of ownership between the seller and buyer, therefore all animals selling through the Auction Sale are considered sold and are ineligible for any other junior market show and sale. The Auction Sale will begin following the Pre-Auction ceremonies, which start at 6:00 p.m. on Friday. A six percent (6%) commission charge will be made.

Each exhibitor is limited to one sale slot. The only exception is that all Champions and Reserve Champions of the market classes will sell, thus an exhibitor having two or more champions or reserve champions will sell more than one entry.

Exhibitors must present their market animal for sale at the designated time. Exhibitors must sell their own animals, barring accident or sickness. In that case, a doctor's excuse will need to be presented to the board of directors. **No substitute animals allowed (Exception: Broilers & Rabbits).**

Only blue-ribbon projects will sell. No white ribbon projects will sell in any of the market divisions of the Cuero Livestock Show.

For steers that make the auction sale, the resale price credited to the auction buyer will be figured up to a maximum weight of 1250 pounds. Any buyer who buys a steer in the auction sale must figure the resale price on actual weight up to 1250 pounds. Any resale pounds over 1250 pounds will go to the Cuero Livestock Show. Any buyer who chooses to keep his big steer to slaughter will benefit in added pounds of meat.

Under no circumstances will the buyer be allowed to reconsider after the sale is completed. Buyers must pay immediately upon receipt of an invoice from the Show.

If an exhibitor has more than one market animal of the same specie qualify for the auction sale, in a guaranteed sale slot, and these animals are double validated for major livestock shows and the Cuero Livestock Show, the exhibitor may choose which animal to sell. In other words, an exhibitor may choose to sell a lower placing animal if it's in a guaranteed sale slot. The exhibitor or a family member will be required to let the office know **within 1 hour** after the show. This rule does not apply to grand or reserve champion animals. A "guaranteed" sale slot is defined as an animal that places high enough in a class that it finishes within the maximum number of sale lots for each species, as listed in Rule #21.

Animals shall not be decorated for the Sale using glue, glitter, paint, or any other adhesive or potential contaminating substance. They may be decorated with hats, ribbons, clothing, etc., if it can be taken off the body.

Following the sale of Grand and Reserve Champions the Auction Sale Order will be as follows:

1) Steers; 2) Market Swine; 3) Market Lambs; 4) Meat Goats; 5) Broilers; 6) Market Rabbits.

Add-On money will be accepted immediately after sale of animal, until two (2) weeks following the Auction Sale.

RULE 21 MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SALE LOTS:

The maximum number of Sale lots in each of the market divisions will be as listed. The show reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of sales in any of the divisions.

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Steers | 30 |
| Market Hogs | 42 |
| Market Lambs | 45 * |
| Meat Goats | |
| Broilers | 10** |
| Rabbits | 15** |

** There will be a total of 45 Market Lambs and Meat Goats that will be sold in the Auction. The number sold in each division will be determined by a percentage of how many animals are weighed-in, in each of the divisions.*

EXAMPLE:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| # Entries of Mkt. Lambs | 40 |
| # Entries of Meat Goats | 60 |

60% of the 45 sale lots will sell in Goats equaling 27 and 40% of the 45 sale lots will sell in Market Lambs equaling 18, for a total of 45 sale lots for both divisions.

*** If there are any sale lots not used in one species (broilers or rabbits), those lots will move to the other species (broilers or rabbits).*

RULE 22 UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR:

Exhibitors participating in or exhibiting unacceptable behavior while on the show grounds can be banned from future shows and/or be made to forfeit premium money. Unacceptable behavior may include, but not be limited to, such things as: fighting, bullying, shaving cream fights, name-calling, cursing, etc.

RULE 23 STALLS, PENS & ALLEYS:

Stalls, pens, alleys, and exhibit spaces must be kept clean. Waste matter (manure, hay, feed, shavings) must be disposed of in designated dumpsters. Trash must be disposed of in trash dumpsters. Feed, chairs, show equipment boxes, etc. are not permitted to be placed in areas blocking the main alleys or barn aisles. Caution should be used when placing overhead show equipment boxes or racks in aisle areas, so that they don't pose a safety risk.

RULE 24 CAMPERS/TRAILERS:

Campers and/or trailers with living quarters are permitted to be parked in the Cuero City Park near the Friar Ag Center, however they are not allowed to be parked within 100 feet of the building.

RULE 25 STOCK SHOW PICTURES & BUYER THANK YOU LETTERS:

Every exhibitor making the sale with their market animal will automatically have a **\$20.00** fee taken out of their Stock Show check to cover the cost of the picture, envelope, and postage. The County Extension Agent or the Ag Science Teacher will mail this envelope containing the picture and a "Buyer Thank You" to the buyer. No auction sale checks will be released to exhibitors until a "Buyer Thank You", or a copy of the "Thank You" letter, is brought to their respective supervisor (CEA or AST). ***Thank You Notes should be taken care of within two (2) weeks of exhibitor buyer information being made available.***

RULE 26 SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP:

Cuero FFA Chapter will handle set-up prior to the livestock show. DeWitt County 4-H Club members participating in the livestock show and/or homemaking show will handle clean-up following the Show. Exhibitors who only show commercial heifers are not required to be at clean-up, however they will have clean-up/set-up duties associated with the commercial heifer show. Clean-up will start at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 7th and last until all facilities are completely clean. **In addition to facilities clean-up, each exhibitor is responsible for cleaning shavings out of their pen(s). All 4-H & FFA exhibitors will need to be at the barn at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday to clean their pen(s).** If an exhibitor does not clean their pen(s), Cuero Livestock Show, Inc. will assess a \$50 penalty (per pen). This rule will be strongly enforced.

RULE 27 DEPOSITING LIVESTOCK SHOW CHECKS:

Exhibitors shall perform all requirements necessary to receive their checks from the sale of their project and shall pick up and deposit their checks on or before September 1, 2026. Any exhibitor who fails to pick up and deposit their check, from the sale of their project, on or before September 1, 2026, thereby relinquishes their check to Cuero Livestock Show, Inc., and said check shall be deposited into the Cuero Livestock Show, Inc. General Fund Account to be used by Cuero Livestock Show, Inc. as the Board so determines with no additional recourse provided to the Exhibitor. If an Exhibitor picks up his/her check but fails to deposit the check on or before September 1, 2026, the issued check will be cancelled, and the funds shall be deposited into the General Fund Account of Cuero Livestock Show, Inc. to be used as the Board so determines with no additional recourse provided to the Exhibitor.

RULE 28 DRESS CODE

The Cuero Livestock Show will enforce a dress code to emphasize to exhibitors the importance of a professional appearance. We expect all exhibitors to look well-groomed to visitors and judges who attend the Cuero Livestock Show.

Male Exhibitors:

- Must be clean shaven with no facial hair.
- Hair must be clean, neat, well-groomed, and not over collar length.
- All clothing must look professional and not distracting as determined by the Cuero Livestock Show Board of Directors.
- No body piercing jewelry of any type.
- No visible tattoos.

Female Exhibitors:

- Hair must be clean, neat, well-groomed and of natural color (blond, brown, black, natural red and gray).
- All clothing must look professional and not distracting as determined by the Cuero Livestock Show Board of Directors.
- Earrings are acceptable but no other visible body piercing jewelry is acceptable.
- No visible tattoos.

Exhibitors are prohibited from having a cell phone with them while exhibiting their animal in the show ring.

Exhibitors are prohibited from having drinks with them while exhibiting their animal in the show ring.

RULE 29 SHOWMANSHIP

Exhibitors that are called back to participate in a Showmanship Class must exhibit their own animal in the class.

MARKET STEERS

All Market Steers must be owned and on feed by the exhibitor by **Saturday, September 27, 2025**, which is the official validation and weigh-in date. Time will be between **8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.** at Cuero Livestock Market (Auction Barn), 1817 Bridge Road, Cuero. ***If an exhibitor validated a steer through the June 2025 Official DeWitt County Major Show Validation program and is intending to exhibit that same steer at the Cuero Livestock Show, they do not need to bring the steer to the Cuero Livestock Show Steer Validation. Major show validated steers will automatically be eligible for the Cuero Livestock Show.***

The **OFFICIAL SHOW WEIGH-IN/CHECK-IN TIME** for Steers is **Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.** All exhibitors must have their Steers weighed in, or must be in line during this time, or their animal will be disqualified. This rule will strongly be enforced by the CLS Stock Show Board. There will be no exceptions!

Official classification will take place during the Cuero Livestock Show at the time of weigh-in on Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

All steers must be owned and in the exhibitor's possession for the entire period from the validation date until the stock show. Steers officially weighed-in at CLS Validation on September 27th are eligible to compete for the Steer "Rate of Gain" Award.

This class shall consist of all steers of any breed or crossbreed that have been dehorned, halter-broken, and that were put on feed as of the official validation and weigh-in date. That date being ***the last Saturday of September***. Any animal intended to be exhibited to show must be present on this designated day and must be a project or demonstration under the supervision of the Ag Science Teacher(s) or DeWitt County Extension Agent.

The DeWitt County Extension Agent or Ag Science Teacher(s) will certify each 4-H or FFA project.

The minimum weight of steers at the Official Show Weigh-In **must be 1,000 pounds**. Any steer weighing **less than 1,000 pounds** will be sifted.

Steers must be shorn to not more than 1/4" on any location of the body, excluding the tail switch. Steers must be shorn before arrival onto the grounds. Steers will have their hair checked for 1/4" length at the official weigh-in. Steers checked at official weigh-in that do not pass the first inspection will have until the 9:30 a.m. official weigh-in cut off time, to be touched up and re-inspected. Steers not shorn to 1/4" at that time will be disqualified from showing.

Steer Classes: Steer Classes will be broken by weight into equal as possible classes of American Breed Crosses, British Breeds, and All Other Breeds, as determined by the Cuero Livestock Show Steer Committee, after Steer entries have been weighed and classified.

Classification Divisions:

- a. **American Breed Crosses (ABC)** – Steer crosses must exhibit at least 3/8 Brahman characteristics. Five (5) or more steers must class American for the Division to make.
- b. **British Breeds** – Steers must physically exhibit characteristics of the following purebred breeds: Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford, or Shorthorn. Five (5) or more steers must class British for the Division to make.
- c. **All Other Breeds (AOB)** – All Steers which do not fall into the American or British divisions.

Note: Exhibitors must declare what division they are wanting to be classed into (ABC, British, or AOB), at time of classifying, to the classifier, before walking the steer on the scale.

Unruly Steer Rule: The Classifier, Division Superintendent, Show Manager, or Steer Judge are authorized to dismiss an unruly steer at any time. The decision by any of them shall be final. These animals shall be removed immediately from the show grounds.

Quality Sift Rule: The Classifier and 2 other judges appointed by the Show Manager, will be authorized to dismiss any steers deemed to not be of show quality. The quality sift will take place during and immediately after steer weigh-in. The decision of this "Quality Sift Committee" shall be final. These animals shall be immediately removed from the show grounds.

Steers will be required to be shown with a show halter and a show stick.

MARKET STEERS (cont.)

The Judge will place the entire class. Each Steer will receive a Blue or White Ribbon as determined by the Judge. White ribbon steers will not be given a Sale Slot for the Auction and will not be eligible for resale. They must be taken home by the exhibitor.

The steers will show in this Division order, from light weights to heavy weights: 1) American Breed Crosses (ABC), 2) British, 3) All Other Breeds (AOB).

Division Champion Selection: After all classes in a Division are placed (ABC, British, & AOB), the first-place class winners will compete for Division Grand and Reserve Champion, with second-place class winners standing by.

Overall Champion Selection: After all steers have shown and all Division Grand and Reserve Champions have been selected (ABC, British, & AOB), the Division Grand and Reserve Champions will compete for the overall Grand and Reserve Champion Steer of the Show.

Sale will be made up of 30 steers total. If there are more than 30 steers, a percentage of each class will be taken based on the number of total steers entered in the show.

| | | |
|----------|------------|-----------------------|
| Example: | 50 | Steers Entered |
| | <u>60%</u> | Sell |
| | 30 | Sale Slots for Steers |

If there are more or less steers entered, the percentage will fluctuate to make the 30 steers sell. To sell in the example above, an exhibitor would have to beat 40% of the steers in his/her class.

In the event of an exhibitor having two or more steers, the highest-placed steer will be sold. The steer that takes that steer's place in the sale shall be the next highest placed steer in that class provided he is blue ribbon quality. In the event of a tie between steers for the sale, the order will be determined by a flip of a coin, unless otherwise decided by the committee.

The order of sale shall be:

- 1 - Grand Champion
- 2 - Reserve Champion
- 3 - 1st Placed Steers in all Classes
- 4 - 2nd Placed Steers in all Classes
(and so on, until 30 steers are sold)

The sale order of number 3 & 4 and on will depend on the class in which the Grand Champion Steer is selected from.

Any steer that does not make the auction and is put on resale, exhibitors will be paid resale price for actual weight.

MARKET BARROWS

All Market Barrows must be owned and on feed by the exhibitor at the time of validation on **Saturday, December 6, 2025**.
Validation is from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. at the Friar Ag Center in the Cuero City Park.

The OFFICIAL SHOW WEIGH-IN/CHECK-IN TIME for Market Barrows is Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. All Exhibitors must have their Market Barrows weighed in, or must be in line during this time, or their animal will be disqualified. This rule will strongly be enforced by the CLS Stock Show Board. There will be no exceptions!

Any animal intending to be exhibited at the show must be a project or demonstration under the supervision of a DeWitt County Ag Science Teacher(s) or DeWitt County Extension Agent.

This class shall consist of all market barrows and each entry must weigh between **230 and 290 pounds** scale weight, at Market Swine Check-In (March 3, 2026) at the Cuero Livestock Show. ***There will be a no weight tolerance allowed for Market Barrows at the Official weigh-in.***

Classes shall be decided by the Swine Committee. There shall be a maximum of seven (7) classes.

Champion Selections: After each of the classes has been placed, the first placed market barrow of each class will compete for Grand Champion Barrow.

After the Grand Champion Barrow is selected, the second placed hog of the class that furnished the Grand Champion Barrow will compete with the other first placed hogs for Reserve Champion Barrow.

Sale Lots: The sale will be made up of 42 hogs. These 42 Sale Lots will be filled by starting with the Grand and Reserve Champion Barrows, then going to the first-place heavy weight barrow, moving across all seven classes, coming back to the second-place heavy weight barrow, and repeating this process until all 42 slots are filled.

Clean Shavings:

To keep barn odor to a minimum, all barrow exhibitors are required to replace shavings in their pens on Friday before the Auction Sale. This includes shavings in all pens (auction sale barrows and re-sale barrows).

To enable show officials to move pigs and exhibitors safely and efficiently to and from the show ring for judging, only exhibitors and those assisting them will be allowed in the swine stalling area during the market barrow show.

MARKET LAMBS

All Market Lambs must be owned and on feed by the exhibitor at the time of validation on **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** or **Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.** Major show validation is **Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.** Both Validations will take place at the Friar Ag Center in the Cuero City Park. All market lambs will be checked for teeth at this time. The lamb's milk teeth must be in place.

Any animal intended to be exhibited at the show must be present on this day and must be a project or demonstration under the supervision of a DeWitt County Ag Science Teacher(s) or DeWitt County Extension Agent.

The OFFICIAL SHOW WEIGH-IN/CHECK-IN TIME for Lambs is Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. All Exhibitors must have their Lambs weighed-in, or must be in line during this time, or their animal will be disqualified. This rule will strongly be enforced by the CLS Stock Show Board. There will be no exceptions!

Wether Lambs Only. Lambs must weigh a **minimum of 100 pounds** at the official weigh-in. **There is no maximum weight. There will be no weight tolerance allowed for Market Lambs at the official weigh-in. Market lambs should be “meat type” breeds and crosses, and should be castrated, de-horned and docked. Meat type could include hair sheep or crosses thereof.**

Classes will be determined upon the basis of entries received on the day of the show and will be broken into classes as determined by weight at the show by the Division Superintendent.

Weight Classes: Market Lambs will be broken by weight into equal classes, after official weigh-in.

Champion Selections: After each of the classes has been placed, the first placed lambs of the classes will compete for Grand Champion Lamb. After the Grand Champion Lamb is selected, the second placed lamb of the class that furnished the grand champion lamb will compete with the other first placed lambs for Reserve Champion Lamb.

There will be a total of 45 Market Lambs and Meat Goats that will be sold in the Auction. The number sold in each division will be determined by a percentage of how many animals are weighed-in, in each of the divisions. These Sale Lots will be filled by starting with the first-place heavy weight lamb, moving across all classes, coming back to the second-place heavy weight lamb, and repeating this process until all slots are filled.

MEAT GOATS

All Meat Goats must be owned and on feed by the exhibitor at the time of validation on **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.** or **Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.** Major show validation is **Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.** Both Validations will take place at the Friar Ag Center in the Cuero City Park.

Any animal intended to be exhibited at the show must be present on this day and must be a project or demonstration under the supervision of a DeWitt County Ag Science Teacher(s) or DeWitt County Extension Agent.

The OFFICIAL SHOW WEIGH-IN/CHECK-IN TIME for Goats is Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. All Exhibitors must have their Goats weighed-in, or must be in line during this time, or their animal will be disqualified. This rule will strongly be enforced by the CLS Stock Show Board. There will be no exceptions!

Each exhibitor may enter a maximum of 3 Meat Goats in this division. Only Wether Goats may be shown, and they must be carrying their middle pair of milk teeth at validation. Any goat having lost one or both middle milk teeth will not be validated.

Goats must be dehorned or have horns tipped. Goats may be any breed or crossbred. Halters or small pet collars (nylon, leather, or chain) around the animal's neck may be used.

Wether Goats Only. Weighing and assignment of weight classes will be determined under the direction of the Goat Superintendent. Meat Goats must weigh between **65 and 120 pounds** at official weigh-in. ***There will be no weight tolerance allowed for Meat Goats at the official weigh-in.***

There will be a total of 45 Market Lambs and Meat Goats that will be sold in the Auction. The number sold in each division will be determined by a percentage of how many animals are weighed-in, in each of the divisions. These Sale Lots will be filled by starting with the first-place heavy weight goat, moving across all classes, coming back to the second-place heavy weight goat, and repeating this process until all slots are filled.

MARKET BROILERS

Only commercial birds purchased from a commercial hatchery may be entered. **The orders for broiler chicks must be made through the Ag Science Teacher(s) or the DeWitt County Extension Agent by Friday, December 5, 2025.** All Broilers must be picked up at the Friar Ag Center on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026, between 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. (tentative date)**

All chicks will be wing banded. The person picking up the chick order will be responsible for checking and confirming wing-bands at the time of pickup. No broiler will be accepted at the Cuero Livestock Show without the original wing-band properly in place. Exhibitors are encouraged to consult with their respective supervisors (CEA or AST) about the proper management methods of wing-bands.

Each exhibitor will be limited to one pen of broilers. For an individual to be eligible to exhibit a pen of broilers, he/she must start with a minimum of 25 birds. The Broiler Chick order will be a straight run, consisting of mixed sexes. A pen of broilers may consist of either cockerels or pullets, however mixed sexes in a pen is discouraged.

The OFFICIAL SHOW WEIGH-IN/CHECK-IN TIME for Broilers is Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. All Exhibitors must have their Broilers checked in, or must be in line during this time, or their animals will be disqualified. This rule will strongly be enforced by the CLS Stock Show Board. There will be no exceptions!

All judging and awarding of ribbons will be on a pen basis, not an individual basis. Only pen entries will be accepted. Each pen will consist of three (3) birds. ***Each exhibitor will be responsible for having helpers hold their birds.*** Exhibitors will also be judged on showmanship. There will be Junior and Senior showmanship awards.

The minimum weight per pen will be 12 pounds, and no maximum weight. Birds not of show quality shall be sifted and immediately removed from show grounds. No substitution of birds will be permitted. Birds must be properly banded upon weigh-in at the Show. Bands will be provided by the show.

Broiler feed and feed/water containers will be provided by Cuero Livestock Show. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to make sure that broilers are taken care of properly.

There will be 10 Sale Lots for Broilers (see Rule #21).

Any Market Broilers that are not claimed by the Buyer or the Exhibitor by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, will become property of the Cuero Livestock Show and will go on Resale if there is a Resale buyer. **Occasionally CLS will have a resale buyer for market broilers. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to check with the show office before removing broilers from barn.**

MARKET RABBITS

All market rabbits must be born on or after **December 23, 2025**, no more than 70 days before show time and must be in the possession of the exhibitor on or before January 27, 2026. The birth date of the rabbits must be verified by the breeder. A breeder verification form can be picked up from the County Extension Agent or the Ag Science Teacher and must be completed and presented at the time of validation. All market rabbits must be validated on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the Friar Ag Center.** Each exhibitor will be limited to one (1) pen of market rabbits and may only validate a maximum of six (6) market rabbits.

All judging and awarding of ribbons will be on a pen basis, not an individual basis. Only pen entries will be accepted. Each pen will consist of three (3) rabbits. Upon completion of the Market Rabbit Show, exhibitors will have the opportunity to participate in a Market Rabbit Showmanship Class. There will be Junior and Senior showmanship awards.

The OFFICIAL SHOW WEIGH-IN/CHECK-IN TIME for Rabbits is Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Only the pen of three (3) rabbits will be allowed to be brought to the scale and weighed in, no alternates. All Exhibitors must have their Rabbits weighed-in, or must be in line during this time, or their animal will be disqualified. This rule will strongly be enforced by the CLS Stock Show Board. There will be no exceptions!

Each rabbit must not weigh more than **5.5 pounds (5 lbs 8 oz) at show check-in.** ***There will be no weight tolerance allowed for Market Rabbits at the official weigh-in.*** Exhibitors are required to bring their own cages and care for their rabbits during the show. Rabbit cages must be within a reasonable size. No large carriers are allowed. All carriers must have waterproof bottoms. Any animal showing symptoms of any disease will not be allowed admittance to the show. Any Market Rabbits that are not claimed by the Buyer or the Exhibitor by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, will become property of the Cuero Livestock Show and will go on Resale if there is a Resale buyer. **Occasionally CLS will have a resale buyer for market rabbits. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to check with the show office before removing rabbits from barn.**

Exhibitors are prohibited from having cell phones and drinks with them while exhibiting their rabbits in the show ring.

There will be 15 Sale Lots for Market Rabbits (see Rule #21).

BREEDING DIVISION

BREEDING BEEF HEIFERS

An exhibitor may show no more than three (3) heifers in the Breeding Beef Heifer Show. Any animal intended to be exhibited at the Show must be a project under the supervision of a DeWitt County Ag Science Teacher(s) or the DeWitt County Extension Agent. All breeding beef heifers must be validated at their designated time.

Breeding Beef Heifers must be bona fide property of the exhibitor no later than the official validation. Cuero Livestock Show Validation will be **Saturday, September 27, 2025 (see exception below)**. Validation time will be between **8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.** at Cuero Livestock Market (auction barn), 1817 Bridge Road in Cuero. **New Rule: All Breeding Beef Heifers must be registered. A copy of the registration papers must be provided at validation.**

Validation Exception: If an exhibitor validated a heifer in June or October through the official DeWitt County Major Show Heifer Validation program that is still active in the State Validation Online System and is intending to exhibit the heifer at the Cuero Livestock Show, they do not need to bring the heifer to the Cuero Livestock Show Heifer Validation. Active major show validated heifers will automatically be eligible for the Cuero Livestock Show.

Substitutions: Substitutions will only be allowed if the substitute heifer has been validated through the Cuero Livestock Show validation process.

Breeding Beef Heifers may stall early on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m., however the OFFICIAL SHOW CHECK-IN TIME for Breeding Beef Heifers is Wednesday, March 4, 2026, from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. All Exhibitors must have their cattle checked in, or must be in line during this time, or their animal will be disqualified. This rule will strongly be enforced by the CLS Stock Show Board. There will be no exceptions!

Heifers will show in this Division order, from youngest to oldest: 1) American, 2) British, 3) Exotic.

Age Classes:

Calf: 8-12 months of age (DOB: 3/4/25 – 7/3/25)
Jr. Heifer: 13-17 months of age (DOB: 10/4/24 – 3/3/25)
Late Jr. Heifer: 18-22 months of age (DOB: 5/4/24 – 10/3/24)
Early Sr. Heifer: 23-27 months of age (DOB: 12/4/23 – 5/3/24)
Late Sr. Heifer: 28-30 months of age (DOB: 9/4/23 – 12/3/23)

Heifers will be required to be shown with a show halter and a show stick.

Breed Classes and premium money will be determined after all breeding beef heifers have checked in. No white ribbon heifers will be eligible for premium money.

Breeding Beef Heifer Exhibitors must obtain a release from the office to take their heifer(s) home following the completion of their Show.

Bucket Calf Show Rules

The Bucket Calf project was started to expose youth to the basic care and responsibility of caring for a calf.

Eligibility

- Open to DeWitt County youth ages 4 - 8 years old, Pre-Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Participants turning 9 as of August 31, 2025, are ineligible.
- Youth are not required to be in 4-H.
- Participant and/or parent must attend informational meeting in September 23, 2025, 6:00 pm at the Friar Ag Center.
- Participant must be able to halter break and lead a calf.
- Participant and their calf **must attend** a mandatory practice show on January 17, 2026, 10:00 am at the Friar Ag Show Barn.
- There will be ring practice days for anyone wanting to utilize them. Practice days are February 26, 2026, and February 28, 2026. These are optional, not mandatory.

Calf Requirements

- Project calf must be born between October 1, 2025, and December 1, 2025 (Show will be March 4, 2025).
- All bucket calves are required to be vaccinated by **January 1, 2026**.
- Calf must be bottle fed. No nurse calves.
- Project calves can be any gender/breed.
- If a calf becomes ill and/or dies, a replacement calf can be purchased as long as it is born before December 1, 2025.

Project Requirements

- Registration and a fee are required to be a part of the bucket calf project.
- Participant will complete vaccination records as part of their entry form.
- Read and be familiar with the general rules stated in the Bucket Calf Guidelines, Rules and Regulations of the Cuero Livestock Show, including the NO PASS- NO PLAY policies and the Substance Avoidance Program.

Entry Information

- Each entry must be submitted to the DeWitt County Extension Office no later than **5:00 p.m. January 30, 2026**. No entry will be accepted unless the entry form is completely and legibly filled out and accompanied by the appropriate entry fee. Entry fees are \$25.00.

If the January 30th deadline is missed, late entries will be accepted through 5:00p.m., February 13th, 2026, however, the late entry fee will be \$100 per entry.

NOTES: Bucket Calf check-in will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 7:30 – 8:30 am. The bucket calf show will begin at 2:30 pm and all bucket calves must check out after the show and be out of the barn by 10:00 pm.

Contact Information:

Anthony Netardus 361-275-0816 or a-netardus@tamu.edu
Candace Williamson 361-275-0816 or candace.williamson@ag.tamu.edu

2026 CUERO LIVESTOCK SHOW
MARKET RABBIT BREEDER'S STATEMENT
(1 Sheet per Pen of Market Rabbits)

Exhibitor Name: _____

Ear Tattoo # (will be provided by CLS at validation): _____

Breed of Rabbit: _____

Rabbits' Birth Date: _____

County in which Rabbits were Bred and Born: _____

Rabbit Breeder Name: _____

Address: _____

I do verify that according to my records, the above information is accurate.

Signature of Breeder