



Livestock Exhibitor Handbook

Presented by the 35th District Agricultural Association, a California State Fair

For more information call (209) 722-1507 or e-mail
Livestock@countyofmerced.com

www.MercedCountyFair.com

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900 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Merced, CA 95340

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Our special thanks to the following individuals who donated their time and efforts in making our Livestock program a success.

Danny Avila	4-H Dairy	Hilmar 4-H
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Doreen Synder	4-H Sheep	Hilmar Colony 4-H
Madison Zittle	FFA Swine	Atwater FFA

The function of the Livestock Committee is to review premiums, classes, rules, and regulations governing the showing of beef, dairy, swine, sheep, and goats at the annual fair make recommendations, and give preferences for livestock judges. The committee will review any official protest filed by livestock exhibitor(s) and recommend action.

The Livestock Advisory Committee shall comprise the Livestock Committee members, staff, and one representative from each species from both 4H and FFA, as appointed or elected by their respective organizations.

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2025 Livestock Schedule

Sunday, May 18, 2025 – Horse Show, Check-in 7:00 am – Merced Horsemen’s Arena
 Judging times may be changed to suit conditions and may vary because of the number of animals.

	Show Ring	Saturday May 31	Sunday June 1	Monday June 2	Tuesday June 3	Wednesday June 4	Thursday June 5	Friday June 6	Saturday June 7
RV Installation		7:00 am to 5:00 pm	7:00 am to 5:00 pm						
Exhibit Installation		1:00 pm to 9:00 pm	6:00 am to 9:00 pm	5:00 am to 7:00 am					
Livestock Receiving			6:00 am to 9:00 pm	5:00 am to 7:00 am					
OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN Swine Sheep followed by Goats Beef				7:00 am 8:00 am 9:00 am					
RABBIT & CAVY DIVISIONS Check/Weigh-In Meat Pens Market Breeding & Cavy FFA Showmanship 4-H Showmanship	H H H H H							6:30 am 7:00 am 7:00 am 7:00 am 7:00 am	
POULTRY DIVISIONS Poultry Health Inspection Market & Breed Judging 4-H & FFA Showmanship	Tent L L							7:00 am 9:00 am **	
BEEF DIVISIONS FFA & 4-H Breeding 4-H Market & Feeders FFA Market & Feeders 4-H & FFA Showmanship Beef Bred Heifers Beef Bred Heifer Sale	L L L L L D					8:00 am ** ** ** 4:00 pm 7:30 pm			
Haul-out MMCA Heifers	Buyers may pick up their Bred Heifers on Sunday, June 8th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm								
DAIRY DIVISIONS Replacement Heifer Check Registered (milk cows) Grade FFA Showmanship 4-H Showmanship Dairy Replacement Show Replacement Sale Preview Replacement Heifer Sale	D D D D D D L			2:00 pm			8:00 am ** 8:00 am ** **	8:00 am ** 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	
Haul-out DHR Heifers	Buyers may pick up their DHR Heifers on Wednesday, June 4th after the sale or Thursday, June 5th from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm								
SWINE DIVISIONS 4-H Market 4-H Showmanship 4-H & FFA Breeding FFA Market FFA Showmanship	H H H H H				7:30 am ** **	7:30 am **			
SHEEP DIVISIONS FFA Market & Feeders 4-H Market & Feeders FFA & 4-H Showmanship 4-H & FFA Breeding Lads and Ladies Lead Line	L L L L L				7:30 am ** ** **		5:30 pm		
* * Indicates judging to follow completion of previous classes									
Show Ring Codes: D= Dairy Ring G= Glacier Pavilion H= Hilmar Cheese Barn L= Les McCabe Arena									

	Show Ring	Saturday May 31	Sunday June 1	Monday June 2	Tuesday June 3	Wednesday June 4	Thursday June 5	Friday June 6	Saturday June 7
BOER GOAT DIVISIONS									
4-H Market & Feeders	G					7:30 am			
FFA Market & Feeders	G					**			
4-H & FFA Showmanship	G					**			
4-H & FFA Breeding	G					**			
DAIRY GOAT DIVISIONS									
4-H & FFA Breeding	G	9:00 am							
4-H & FFA Showmanship	G	**							
Large Animal Round Robin	L							2:00 pm	
Small Animal Round Robin	L							**	
Pee Wee Showmanship	L						6:00 pm		
Small Animal Auction									
Buyer Registration								5:30	
Auction Begins	H							6:30	
Jr. Livestock Auction									
Buyer Registration									8:30 am
Auction Begins	H								9:30 am
Livestock Release		Sunday, June 8th at 5:00 am							
Awards Presentation	H	Sunday, June 8th at 10:00 am in the Hilmar Cheese Barn							
* * Indicates judging to follow completion of previous classes									
Show Ring Codes: D= Dairy Ring G= Glacier Pavilion H= Hilmar Cheese Barn L= Les McCabe Arena									

To our Exhibitors, Parents, 4-H Leaders and FFA Advisors

“What’s New”

- Beef - New minimum weight of 1,100 and a maximum of 1,400 to align with industry standards.
- Beef - New slick show class.
- New Cavie Division
- Swine - Pay on max weight of 280 per pound
- Dairy Goat Show moved to Saturday, May 31st at 9:00 a.m.
- Goats
 - No pronged or spiked collars allowed.
 - Goats must be dehorned or horns tipped with blunt ends (flat and have to point) and less than 2 inches in length.
 - Goats must be slick-shorn with 3/8 inch of hair or less above the knee or hock joints upon arrival at the fair.
 - No substances may used on the goat’s rectum area to cause the tail to remain erect.
- Horse Show - New Ranch Riding Class
- Sheep – No halters or chains during the weigh-in
- Selling requirement—If you wish not to sell, you must withdraw from the sale within one hour after the show.
- Exhibit Installation Hours –
 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 31st
 - 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 1st
 - 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. on Monday, June 2nd
- Application and interview process for Outstanding Exhibitor.
- Auction checks will be released to the 4-H Club Leaders and FFA Advisors on Monday, **June 30, 2025**, to allow buyers enough time to pay their auction bills.

All entries must be completed online. All required documents must be uploaded into the entries. Please follow the online instructions at www.mercedcountyfair.com.

Entry Closing Deadline is Thursday, May 1, 2025

We have had exhibitors who missed this MOST IMPORTANT deadline and were disqualified from participating each year. It is heartbreaking and expensive, but our local rules clearly state **late entries will not be accepted, no exceptions”**.

To further explain, in the 2024 State Rules for California Fairs, under Eligibility II, 3. “**No entry form or entry will be accepted after the closing date for entries.**” Also, in the Preface, item 3. “**These rules cannot be waived or amended by anyone, including the fair board, management, or the judge.**”

We are not able to accept late entry under any circumstance. To avoid any pitfalls to entering, below are just a few tips to help you with the process:

- Don’t forget to enter online by Thursday, May 1, 2025.
- It is suggested that you submit your online entry sooner rather than later.

- Please don't wait until 10:00 pm, the night it is due, because if something goes wrong, such as your computer failing, a power outage, or your credit card charge not going through, we cannot help you.
- The system will automatically shut off at 11:59 p.m. on May 1, 2025, and will not let you in, so again, please don't wait until the eleventh hour.
- After entering online, you will receive a confirmation e-mail and a receipt. Print your receipt and check your entries. Make sure you have showmanship class and breeding or market. If you don't receive your confirmation e-mail, the entry process is incomplete, and you are not entered.
- If you entered the DHR Program by its February 5, 2025 deadline, REMEMBER that you must also enter your Dairy Heifer into the fair in the online portal. It is a two-step process.
- When entering your animal, don't forget to enter showmanship.

We want everyone to be able to participate, but the exhibitors and parents are responsible for their part. Let's make 2025 the year of no disqualifications!

MERCED COUNTY FAIR EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Exhibiting livestock at the Merced County Fair is a privilege and must be respected as such. To that end, all junior exhibitors who wish to sell and/or show at the Merced County Fair must adhere to the Code of Conduct to be eligible to participate at the Fair. This Code of Conduct covers the conduct of the exhibitor from the Sunday before the opening day of the fair through Sunday, the last day of the fair. Violations of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. An investigation of alleged violations will be conducted, and a decision rendered by the appropriate involved parties according to the Code of Conduct protocol. Violations may result in loss of premium, awards, and/or the right to sell animal(s) at the auction.

- Exhibitors will refrain from any use of alcohol, drugs, vaping, or tobacco during the Merced County Fair.
- Exhibitors may not use obscene or discriminatory language.
- Exhibitors are to be good citizens by helping those around them have positive experiences.
- Exhibitors are to demonstrate caring for people other than themselves. Know that harassment of any type is illegal and prohibited.
- Exhibitors must practice good sportsmanship behavior.
- Exhibitors will treat their animals safely and kindly. Animals will have the necessary feed and water the entire time they are at the fairgrounds.
- Exhibitors will always keep their animal pens clean and free of hazards.
- Exhibitors will treat adults, especially those in authority, with respect.
- Exhibitors will follow all State and Local rules that apply to your particular project(s)
- Exhibitors shall fit and groom their own animals for the show. Exhibitors may receive *limited assistance* from their parents, guardians, other exhibitors, Leaders, and Advisors.
- If Exhibitors are staying in the fair camping area, or visiting friends in the fair camping area, you will abide by all curfews and other camping area rules.

MERCED COUNTY FAIR PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a parent of a Livestock Exhibitor at the Merced County Fair, you are expected to adhere to the following Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will jeopardize the participation of your child, or family member.

- The livestock show and sale is an educational experience for your child and as such, exhibitors shall fit and groom their own animals for the show. Exhibitors may receive *limited assistance* from their parents, guardians, other exhibitors, Leaders, and Advisors. No Professional Fitters.
- As a parent/guardian, you acknowledge that direct criticism or interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, auctioneer, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. All judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect and as a parent/guardian, I will not allow any person connected with my child's animal project to direct abusive or threatening conduct toward any show official.
- Parents/guardians shall champion equality and respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all people involved in the Merced County Fair livestock program, regardless of gender, race, marital status, color, disability, sexuality, age, occupation, religion, or political opinion.
- Parents/guardians should use respectful language. No foul or abusive language or gestures shall be directed toward a judge or staff member at any time. Such conduct will not be tolerated.
- Parents/guardians should limit their use of alcohol in the barns to set a proper example for their child and the children of others.
- Parents/guardians shall not provide alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age.
- Parents/guardians shall not have any alcohol in a child's showbox in the barns.
- Parents/guardians shall not use any drugs that are considered illegal while on the grounds.
- There is no smoking or vaping permitted in or near the barns.
- I will follow the procedure and chain of command if there is a conflict.

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT PROTOCOL

Violation: Fair Camping Area Curfew
Report to: Livestock Superintendent
Final Decision: Fair CEO

Violation: Fair Camping Area Disturbance
Report to: Livestock Superintendent
Final Decision: Fair CEO

Violation: Code of Conduct
Report to: Livestock Superintendent/Fair CEO
Final Decision: Board of Directors

Violation: State or Local Rules
Report to: File a formal protest with the Livestock Superintendent. See local rules for protest procedure.
Final Decision: Fair CEO and/or Board of Directors, and/or Division of Fairs & Expositions

Violation: Auction Rules
Report to: Livestock Superintendent
Final Decision: Auction Executive Committee

- All alleged violations will be reported in writing to the Livestock or Fair Office. No oral complaints will be investigated unless reported by fair security staff to Fair Management.
- Witnesses to the alleged violations will be contacted and interviewed. For Code of Conduct violations, witnesses may be asked to appear before the Board of Directors in front of the accused. It is in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors whether to hold a hearing.
- All decisions made by the Fair CEO regarding the RV Park may be forwarded to the Merced County Fair Board of Directors at their next meeting. To be placed on the agenda, contact the fair office immediately to meet the State of California open meeting notification requirements.
- Concerns regarding the board's decisions may be forwarded to the Merced Fair Board of Directors at their next meeting. To be placed on the agenda, contact the fair office immediately to meet the State of California open meeting notification requirements.
- All decisions by the Junior Livestock Auction Committee are final. Concerns regarding the committee's decisions may be forwarded to the full 35th District Agricultural Association, Merced County Fair Junior Livestock Auction Committee for their next regular meeting.
- All judge's decisions are final and cannot be protested.

As the **Parent/Guardian of the Exhibitor**, I acknowledge I have read and understand the State and Local Rules posted on the following website State Rules:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/FairsAndExpositions/exhibit_and_livestock.html, Local Rules www.mercedcountyfair.com.

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

LOCAL RULES

1. All State Rules for California Fairs apply. A copy of the State Rules for California Fairs may be obtained at www.cdfa.ca.gov/fe/
2. **All entries must** be properly made online at www.mercedcountyfair.com.
3. **CLOSING DATES:** The management reserves the right to close a class before closing date in the event that all available space has been allotted or to extend closing date, by Board approval, if, prior to closing date, sufficient entries for proper competition have not been received.
4. All entries will be under the direction of the superintendent of the livestock department. The fair management will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.
5. All entries are entered at the exhibitor's risk.
6. Under no circumstances will a judge award a prize for any entry that does not merit such an award. This applies whether there are one or more entries in the class.
7. There must be two or more exhibitors in a division to qualify for "best in division" awards.
8. The State Rules, Species Rules, Health Rules and Judging Standards as prescribed by the Fairs and Expositions Branch and published in a separate booklet available at the fair office apply to all entries of this livestock show & sale.
9. Unless otherwise noted, entries are limited to residents of Merced County
10. The Livestock Superintendent will act in the best interest of the Animal Exhibit, Exhibitor, and the Fair.
11. Weather conditions may dictate changes in the livestock department. Haul-in times, Haul out, Show schedules, and Weigh-in times may be altered or changed in order to accommodate excessive heat.

ENTRY FEES – Per Class

Beef Cattle	\$20.00
Market Beef	\$25.00
Beef Replacement Heifer	\$20.00
Breeding Boer Goats	\$20.00
Market Goats	\$25.00
Breeding Sheep	\$20.00
Market Sheep	\$25.00
Breeding Swine	\$20.00
Market Swine	\$25.00
Dairy Cattle	\$20.00
Dairy Heifer Replacement	\$20.00
Dairy Goats	\$20.00
Horse Show	\$ 6.00
Horse Drug Fee per Horse	\$14.00
Breeding Rabbits	\$ 6.00
Market Rabbits	\$15.00
Breeding Poultry	\$ 6.00
Market Poultry	\$15.00

JUDGING SYSTEMS

American - The judging process to rank exhibits against one another and award one first place, one-second place, one-third place, etc.

Danish - The judging process to compare each exhibit on its own merit against a scorecard or recognized standard and award as many first place, second place, etc., as merited.

In all Departments using the Danish System, the following guidelines shall be used by the judges:

Judging Scale	Danish System	Score	Ribbon
Group 1	Superior	100%-92%	Blue
Group 2	Good	91%-84%	Red
Group 3	Average	83%-70%	White
Group 4	Poor	69 or less	None

AWARD CATEGORIES

Unless otherwise noted, the following awards are offered in both the 4-H and FFA divisions.

BEEF CATTLE

Outstanding Exhibitor.....	Award
Supreme Champion Registered Bull*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Supreme Champion Registered Female*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Feature Breed Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Feature Breed Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Feature Breed Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Feature Breed Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion All Other Breeds Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion All Other Breeds Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion All Other Breeds Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion All Other Breeds Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Commercial Female*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Commercial Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Market Beef*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Beef*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Market Beef.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Market Beef.....	Award & Rosette

BOER GOATS

Outstanding Exhibitor.....	Award
Supreme Champion Buck*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Buck*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Doe*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Doe*.....	Award & Rosette
Senior Champion Buck*.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Senior Champion Buck*.....	Award & Ribbon
Junior Champion Buck*.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Junior Champion Buck*.....	Award & Ribbon
Senior Champion Doe*.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Senior Champion Doe*.....	Award & Ribbon
Junior Champion Doe*.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Junior Champion Doe*.....	Award & Ribbon
Supreme Champion Market Goat*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Goat*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Market Goat.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Market Goat.....	Award & Rosette
Market Division Champions.....	Award & Ribbon
Market Reserve Division Champions.....	Award & Ribbon

SHEEP

Outstanding Exhibitor.....	Award
Supreme Champion Registered Ram*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Ram*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Registered Ewe*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Ewe*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Wether Sire*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Wether Sire*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Wether Dam.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Wether Dam.....	Award & Rosette
Lads & Ladies Lead*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Market Lamb*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Lamb*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Market Lamb.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Market Lamb.....	Award & Rosette
Market Breed Champions.....	Award & Ribbon
Market Reserve Breed Champions.....	Award & Ribbon

SWINE

Outstanding Exhibitor.....	Award
Supreme Champion Registered Boar*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Boar*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Registered Female*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Commercial Female*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Commercial Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Market Swine*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Market Hog*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Market Hog.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Market Swine.....	Award & Rosette
Market Breed Champions.....	Award & Ribbon
Market Reserve Breed Champions.....	Award & Ribbon

DAIRY CATTLE

Outstanding Holstein Exhibitor. Merced County Holstein Assoc.	
Supreme Champion Registered Bull*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Registered Female*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Registered Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Junior Champion Registered Female*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Junior Champion Registered Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Registered Udder*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Holstein Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Holstein Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Holstein Female.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Holstein Female.....	Award & Rosette
Senior Champion Holstein Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Senior Champion Holstein Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Junior Champion Holstein Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Junior Champion Holstein Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Champion Jersey Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Jersey Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Jersey Female.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Jersey Female.....	Award & Rosette
Senior Champion Jersey Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Senior Champion Jersey Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Junior Champion Jersey Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Junior Champion Jersey Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Champion All Other Breeds Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion All Other Breeds Bull*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion All Other Breeds Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion All Other Breeds Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Senior Champion All Other Breeds Female*.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Senior Champion All Other Breeds Female*.....	Award & Ribbon
Junior Champion All Other Breeds Female*.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Junior Champion All Other Breeds Female*.....	Award & Ribbon
Supreme Champion Grade Female*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Grade Female*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Grade Female.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Grade Female.....	Award & Rosette
Senior Champion Grade Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Senior Champion Grade Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Junior Champion Grade Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve Junior Champion Grade Female.....	Award & Ribbon
Supreme Grade Udder*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Replacement Heifer*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Replacement Heifer*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Replacement Heifer.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Replacement Heifer.....	Award & Rosette

AWARD CATEGORIES

Unless otherwise noted, the following awards are offered in both the 4-H and FFA divisions.

DAIRY GOATS

Outstanding Exhibitor.....	Award
*Best Doe in Show.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Doe*.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Best Udder*.....	Award & Rosette

HORSE

All-Around Walk Jog/Trot Champion*.....	Horse Tack
Reserve All-Around Walk Jog/Trot Champion*.....	Horse Tack
Junior English Champion*.....	Buckle
Reserve Junior English Champion*.....	Award
Senior English Champion*.....	Buckle
Reserve Senior English Champion*.....	Award
Junior Western Champion*.....	Buckle
Reserve Junior Western Champion*.....	Award
Senior Western Champion*.....	Buckle
Reserve Senior Western Champion*.....	Award
All-Around Junior Gymkhana Champion*.....	Buckle
Reserve All-Around Junior Gymkhana Champion*.....	Award
All-Around Senior Gymkhana Champion*.....	Buckle
Reserve All-Around Senior Gymkhana Champion*.....	Award

RABBITS

Outstanding Exhibitor.....	Award
Best of Show*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve In Show*.....	Award & Rosette
Best of Breed*.....	Award & Ribbon
Best Opposite Sex*.....	Award & Ribbon
(Best of Breed & Best Opposite of Breed awards will be awarded for each breed with a minimum of 5 entries)	
Club/Chapter High Point*.....	Award
Supreme Champion Meat Pen*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Meat Pen*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Meat Pen.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Meat Pen.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Single Fryer*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve Supreme Champion Single Fryer*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Single Fryer.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Single Fryer.....	Award & Rosette

POULTRY

Outstanding Exhibitor.....	Award
Best of Show*.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve In Show*.....	Award & Rosette
Best in Division*.....	Award & Ribbon
Reserve In Division*.....	Award & Ribbon
Club/Chapter High Point*.....	Award
Reserve Supreme Champion Meat Pen*.....	Award & Rosette
Champion Meat Pen.....	Award & Rosette
Reserve Champion Meat Pen.....	Award & Rosette
Supreme Champion Market Turkey.....	Buckle & Rosette
Reserve supreme Champion Market Turkey.....	Award & Rosette

SHOWMANSHIP & ROUND ROBIN

4-H JUNIOR, 4-H INTERMEDIATE, 4-H SENIOR, FFA NOVICE, FFA FRESHMAN, & FFA ADVANCED SHOWMANSHIP FOR FIRST PLACE

Beef*.....	Award & Ribbon
Boer Goat*.....	Award & Ribbon
Dairy Cattle*.....	Award & Ribbon
Dairy Goat*.....	Award & Ribbon
Sheep*.....	Award & Ribbon
Swine*.....	Award & Ribbon
Horse*.....	Award & Ribbon
Rabbit*.....	Award & Ribbon
Poultry*.....	Award & Ribbon
Turkey*.....	Award & Ribbon
4-H Large Animal Round Robin*.....	Buckle & Rosette
4-H Small Animal Round Robin*.....	Buckle & Rosette
FFA Large Animal Round Robin*.....	Buckle & Rosette
FFA Small Animal Round Robin*.....	Buckle & Rosette

THURMAN AWARD

4-H Club*.....	Award
FFA Chapter*.....	Award

***One selected from all exhibitors participating**

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENTS

Terri O'Leary-Collins, Superintendent
Livestock@countyofmerced.com
Livestock Office Phone
(209) 722-1421

LOCAL LIVESTOCK RULES AND INFORMATION

A copy of the 2025 State Rules may be obtained at www.cdfa.ca.gov/fe/

All local rules apply.

GENERAL: All livestock will be under the direction of the livestock superintendent. Fair Management will in no case be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur. Each exhibitor or their representative will be solely responsible for consequential or other loss, injury or damage to, or occasioned by or arising from an animal exhibited by him and for its description, as given in the premium list; shall indemnify the ASSOCIATION against all legal or other proceedings thereto.

EXHIBITS: No animal shall be admitted or remain on the grounds that show any evidence of any communicable disease or unsightly condition. This may include but is not limited to; caseous lymphadenitis (CL), ringworm, club lamb fungus, contagious ecthyma (sore mouth), and prolapsed or open wounds. All exhibits must remain on display for the duration of the livestock show and sale and may be removed only with the written permission of the Fair management. If an entry is removed without a release form, that exhibitor will forfeit all premiums and sale proceeds and may be subject to further disciplinary action. All milking cows and milking goats will be released at the completion of their respective shows. A release must be obtained from the livestock office before the animal can be removed from the fairgrounds.

CLEANING OF BARN AREA: Animals, pens, and stalls must be kept groomed and in show condition at all times. Due to water conservation measures, Fair management may greatly curtail the use of water. Including but not limited to washing, cooling, and other water use in the Livestock area. Nozzles are required on all hoses.

No premiums will be paid on any market animals.

POST/LATE ENTRIES: No late entries will be accepted, and **no exceptions.**

Entry Closing Date: Entries and fees are due online only on or before **May 1st by 11:59 p.m.** If you don't receive an e-mail confirmation, you are not entered, and it means you did not complete the entry process. Be

sure to check your Spam folder as well; depending on your security, it may view this program as spam.

Eligibility and Age Requirements:

FFA Members - Limited to students in Merced County High Schools unless otherwise noted. FFA members may participate as members until the end of the calendar year following the year of graduation from high school.

4-H Members - Limited to 4-H Clubs located in Merced County. 4-H members may enroll if they are 9 years old by December 31, 2024, and can exhibit as a member until the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 19. Second and third graders, officially enrolled in 4-H, may exhibit in special divisions designated for 4-H Primary-Members.

Independent Junior Exhibitors - Limited to residents of Merced County, unless otherwise noted, who are not members of FFA or 4-H unless otherwise noted, **exhibitors must be at least nine (9) years old by January 1, 2025.** Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age. Independent junior exhibitors must enter an open junior class unless one is not available. If open junior classes are not available, junior exhibitors may enter appropriate FFA or 4-H classes if they meet all appropriate age and State Rule requirements.

Independent Junior Exhibitors in the Livestock Department will compete in appropriate Divisions based on school grade level completed. Eligible Independent exhibitors who have completed 3rd-grade through 8th-grade graduation will compete within the 4-H Divisions. Exhibitors who graduated from 8th grade through 12th grade will compete within the FFA Divisions. Exhibitors must complete and file with the Fair the Independent Junior Livestock Exhibitor Packet which includes supplying the Fair with a copy of their birth certificate or driver's license, purchasing liability insurance (Large Livestock) and providing the Fair with a picture of their animal, appropriate proof of ownership, permanent tag, tattoo and/or hog ear notch information 120 days prior to the fair for market beef & dairy replacement heifer. 60 days for all breeding species, market sheep, market swine, market goats, rabbit, cavy & poultry entries. An FFA or 4-H member may exhibit as an independent junior if that exhibitor is not enrolled in an FFA or 4-H project within 60 days (120 Market beef & Dairy replacement heifer) prior to the livestock show and sale. Check with the fair office for deadlines and forms.

Uniform Requirements: When showing, FFA exhibitors will be required to wear the official FFA show uniform. For 4-H exhibitors, it is required that white pants, a plain white shirt with a collar (short or long sleeve), and a tie/scarf be worn. The 4-H hat is optional. The 4-H green jacket will not be allowed for showing as it is not part of the official uniform. For Independent Junior exhibitors, it is required

that white pants and a white dress shirt (short or long sleeve) be worn. For all exhibitors, no bare midriffs or flip-flops are allowed.

Animal Health Issues: Animals identified by fair management as having a potentially contagious disease may be required to leave the grounds immediately. As animal health issues arise, various health tests or proof of animal health may be required before animals are brought onto the grounds. Fair management will notify leaders and advisors if such testing should become necessary.

In the State Rules, X., Eligibility 1., Per State Rule X. Eligibility, 1., Any inhumane activity to animals by the exhibitor, as determined by fair management in consultation with the fair veterinarian, may cause disqualification, forfeiture of awards, and removal of the exhibit from the fairgrounds.

Awards Ceremony: For exhibitors receiving awards, please sit in the chairs closest to the presentation area so as not to delay the program. All exhibitors should wear the appropriate dress when receiving an award.

Barn Space: Pens, stalls, and livestock must be kept thoroughly groomed, clean, and in show condition at all times. Exhibitors must supply their own equipment in caring for animals. Entry fees **do not** guarantee tie space or pens. Management reserves the right to reassign barn space based on the number of animals brought to the fair. No water troughs are permitted on fairgrounds.

Brand Inspections: All beef and dairy sale cattle must have a brand inspection 120 days prior to the fair except for animals raised by the exhibitor through his/her own breeding project. Brand inspection certificates must be surrendered upon arrival at the fair.

Clean Barn Awards: Clean barn will be given to the outstanding 4-H Club and FFA Chapter for the neatest and cleanest barn areas maintained throughout the duration of the fair. Judging will take place daily.

Dogs/Pets: No pet dogs are permitted on fairgrounds, except service animals.

Entry Limits: Exhibitors are limited to a maximum of 10 animals, including market entries. Registered sheep exhibitors are limited to a maximum of **14** animals, including market and feeder entries. Exhibitors may not show more animals than they are able to care for personally. Exhibitors are limited to two entries per class in divisions where the breed is specified. In the "All Other Breeds" and "All Breeds Judged as One" divisions, two entries per class per breed will be accepted.

Exhibit Installation: Stall decorations must not block airflow in the barns. The Exhibitors must have their exhibits in place by 7:00 a.m. Monday, June 2nd.

Decorating stalls may start Saturday, May 31st, at 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Large livestock receiving will be Sunday, June 1st, from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and resume Monday, June 2nd, at 5:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. The livestock must be in place by 7:00 a.m. weigh-in. A fee of \$25.00 per animal per day will be charged for any livestock brought onto the fairgrounds prior to 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 1st.

Exhibitor Showing & Selling: Exhibitors must be present at show & sale rings when their animals are shown/sold or the animal will be disqualified. Exception requests must be in writing and presented to the Livestock Superintendent for the Board of Director's determination by Friday, May 30 at 5:00 p.m. Exceptions include attending a funeral, their own or sibling's graduation, injury, or participating in a school-related sports activity. Participating in a city league or traveling sports team does not qualify.

Grooming & Fitting: The livestock show & sale is an educational experience, and as such, exhibitors *shall* fit and groom their own animals for the show. Exhibitors may receive *limited assistance* from their parents, other exhibitors, Leaders and/or Advisors. No professional fitters.

NOTE: Violation of this rule will result in disqualification of the exhibitor and exhibit, forfeiting all awards, premiums, and eligibility to participate in the auction. All cattle must be shown on leather show halters.

Fitting Areas: The fitting area on the north side of the sheep barn will be marketed and designated to chapters and clubs. For bio-security safety measures, species must stay within their species areas for fitting, i.e., Sheep/goats are not allowed in the Beef/Dairy barn.

Loss or Injury: Exhibitors will always give the necessary and personal attention to whatever they have on exhibit. Each exhibitor, or his representative, will be solely responsible for any loss, injury, or damage caused by any animal exhibited by him and shall hold the Association and its agents harmless and indemnify them against any legal proceedings arising from such loss, injury or damage.

Market Entry Limit: Exhibitors are limited to one market or feeder entry per species.

Market Weight Minimum:

Beef	1,100 pounds
Swine	200 pounds
Sheep	100 pounds
Goats	60 pounds

Sale Weight Maximum: For sale purposes, payment will be made on maximum weights as follows:

Beef	1,400 pounds
Swine	280 pounds
Sheep	150 pounds
Goats	105 pounds

Outstanding Exhibitors: Awards will be presented to the Outstanding Beef, Boer Goat, Dairy Goat, Sheep, Swine, Rabbit, and Poultry Exhibitors in both 4-H and FFA and will be determined by the total amount of premium money won. Premiums won on a maximum of 5 animals only will be considered.

Ownership Requirements: Livestock projects must be owned by and under the exhibitor's care and management and under the supervision of the organization in which the project will be shown as follows: 30 consecutive days for all breeding species, feeder, market rabbits, and market poultry; 60 consecutive days for market swine, sheep, and goats; 120 consecutive days for market beef and dairy replacement heifers. The official ownership date is the date shown on the Bill of Sale unless the exhibitor bred the animal. The days are counted prior to the opening day of the livestock show & sale.

Ownership: No livestock owned solely by a chapter or club, or conducted as a joint project by two or more individuals, is eligible. No partnerships.

Proposition 12 Certificates:

Prop 12 Certificates are required for all market hogs that are entered. Exemption certificates will also be required for 4-H/FFA raised and sold market hogs. Certificate upload required at time of entry.

Parking - Exhibitor: The "G" Street Parking Lot provides parking for exhibitors and their families. The parking permit must be visible, or the vehicle will NOT be admitted to the "G" Street parking area. Exhibitors may drive their vehicles containing necessary feed or bedding onto the fairgrounds to care for and feed their animals between 5:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., **Monday through Saturday.** **Please off-load and remove your vehicle from the preferred parking or the employee/judges parking lot (next to the dairy barn) by 7:30 a.m. or risk being towed.**

Preferred Parking: The preferred parking pass is for parking only. It does not include admission to the Fair. Preferred parking with in/out privileges begins Monday, June 2nd, through Sunday, June 8th. Permits are transferrable. Permits are required to park in the on-ground lot. Vehicles are limited to passenger vehicles and trucks; no RVs. Permits must be properly posted, as vehicle towing will be enforced.

Pass Policy: The following policy will be enforced: "Any person using or distributing counterfeit credential(s) (admission pass, wristband or parking pass) may be subject to removal from the fairgrounds and/or exhibit removed and/or all premiums forfeited. Any person utilizing, distributing, or selling counterfeit credential(s) may be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The use of non-authorized credentials is a theft of state funds.

Passes - Exhibitor: Each exhibitor will receive a wristband and one "G" Street parking permit, good for one admission per day for the five days of the fair. If the wristband breaks, the broken one must be returned to the livestock office for a replacement wristband.

Passes - Parent: Because of limited space in the livestock office, we will no longer sell parent passes at that location. Pre-Sale Admission and Carnival Pre-Sale may be purchased from the Administration Office "Box Office" in front of the fairgrounds on MLK Jr. Way. Monday, June 2nd, and Tuesday, June 3rd, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Livestock gate will operate as paid admission on a 24-hour basis beginning Wednesday, June 4th at 8:00 a.m.

Passes—4-H Leader: 4-H Community Leaders will receive two leader wristbands per species for admission into the livestock show and sale and a G Street Parking Permit for them and each large animal species exhibited by the 4-H Club. The community leader will distribute the leaders' passes.

Passes - FFA Advisor: FFA Advisors for livestock entries will receive one "G" Street Parking Pass and a wristband for one admission per day for the five days of the fair.

Pop-up Tents: Per the State Fire Marshal, no pop-up tents are allowed in the barn areas during the livestock show & sale. This is due to safety concerns and the need to maintain emergency vehicle access around the barns.

Generators: Per the State Fire Marshal, Generators cannot be stored or operated in the barns at any time. Generators **must be 20 feet away** from the Barn. First violation: the exhibitor will be asked to remove the generator from the barn. Second violation exhibitors will be asked to remove the generator from the fairgrounds.

Coolers and Port-A-Coolers: During excessive heat, port-a-cools may be used in the barns. Depending on the electrical load, clubs may need to limit themselves to one cooler per club/chapter.

Premiums: No premiums paid on market animals.

Pro-lapse - Market lambs exhibiting signs of pro-lapse, or noticeable repair to a pro-lapse, will be excused from the show and fairgrounds at the direction of the management.

Registered Animals: All animals in *the* “Registered Purebred Breeding Animal” Divisions must be registered and recorded with a United States (U.S.) Breed Association in the exact name of the exhibitor (owner) as declared on the entry form (*see State Rules for exceptions*). All registered animals are subject to tattoo and registration identification checks by fair management.

Release of Tack or Animal: Release of tack and large breeding animals will be permitted on Sunday after 5:00 a.m., June 8th. Regarding the final clean-out, Beef & Dairy exhibitors must pull their bedding/manure back one foot from the tie rail. Sheep exhibitors move bedding/manure to the East side of the barn. Swine exhibitors are to move their bedding to dirt area behind the milk barn before dismissal.

Release of Animals to the Buyers

Beef Heifers—For traffic safety reasons, the new owner may remove Beef-Bred Heifers sold through the sale on Wednesday, June 4th, after the sale or Thursday, June 5th, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. MMCA will monitor the release and provide a release slip to the purchaser.

Dairy Heifer Replacements—For traffic and safety reasons, the buyers may remove Dairy Heifer Replacements sold through the sale on Sunday, June 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. only. The payment receipt and transport slip may be obtained after the sale from the Livestock Office before leaving the grounds.

Final clean-out - Exhibitors in the Beef & Dairy barns are to pull their bedding/manure back one foot from tie rail. Exhibitors in the Sheep barn are to move bedding/manure to East side of barn. Exhibitors in the Swine barn are to move their bedding to dirt area behind the milk barn. Exhibitors in the Glacier Pavilion can leave their bedding in the pens. Dairy Heifer Replacements sold through the sale may be removed by the new owner after the completion of the sale after their purchases have been paid. Market Rabbits & Poultry may be removed after the completion of the sale and their purchases have been paid for.

Ropes & Lassos

Ropes/lassos are not allowed on the grounds to be played with to prevent the spooking of animals and for everyone’s safety.

RV Camping: Trailer registration begins April 1st for \$150.00 per trailer. The RV lot will be the fairground “G Street lot”. Registration forms are available at the fair office and online. Trailers **MUST** be brought in on Saturday, June 1st, and Sunday, June 2nd, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. Trailers failing to be in place on these dates will forfeit fees and not be admitted. No trailers will be permitted in the campgrounds before 7:00 a.m. on Saturday. All trailers must enter through the “G”

Street campground gate and must be registered with the livestock office. Trailers must be removed from the G Street campground by 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 9th.

Scrapie - Scrapie tags are mandatory for sheep and goats: All sheep and goats require individual identification. All official identification will be kept on the animals. The official identification may be official USDA individual identification ear tags, premises ear tags or legible premises tattoos (if they include a unique animal number), Scrapie Flock Certification Program ear tags, legible registration tattoos if accompanied by registration papers, or other methods approved by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. *See State Rules for additional requirements*. All animals on the fairgrounds are subject to blood testing by the state. Sale checks and/or premiums may be withheld pending blood test results. In cooperation with the USDA Wholesome Meat Act and to ensure the nation’s food supply, all livestock are subject to drug testing for Quality Assurance.

Selling and Showing at Auctions: Exhibitors may sell in two of the following four areas:

- 1) Dairy Heifer Replacement Sale
- 2) Beef Bred Heifer Sale
- 3) Small Animal Sale (rabbit & poultry)
- 4) Jr Livestock Sale (beef, swine, sheep, goats)

Exhibitors who do not want to sell a market animal that qualifies for a sale must notify the livestock office no later than 30 minutes after that species show’s completion.

Showing of Animals: Exhibitors must show their own animals, unless they have more than one animal in a class.

State Rules: State Rules, Species Rules, Health Rules, and Judging Standards as prescribed by the Branch of Fairs and Expositions and published in a separate booklet available online https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/FairsAndExpositions/Fair_Information/State_Rules_for_California_Fairs.aspx apply to all entries of this fair.

TB Testing - TB testing is not required for dairy cattle.

Vehicles on the Grounds Because of State Fire Marshal regulations, all trucks, trailers, and cars must be parked in the spaces provided. No vehicles may be parked between or behind the barns, buildings or on fairgrounds streets. Unload and move your vehicle to the parking areas.

Washing of Livestock: A nozzle with an automatic shut-off must be used. Absolutely no free flow of water will be allowed.

Weigh-in: Market livestock entered by division number only will be entered in the proper classes by the livestock entry clerk in accordance with the weight of each animal and breed called at scale. Weigh-in will begin Monday, June 3rd as follows:

Swine	7:00 a.m. Order to be posted
Sheep	8:00 a.m. Order to be posted
Goats	Follows Sheep Order to be posted
Beef	9:00 a.m.

For the health and safety of the animal, load-in and weigh-in times are subject to change if weather conditions dictate.

Market and feeder lambs & goats must be slick shorn with 3/8 inch of hair or less above the knee or hock joints before entering the scale. Sheep will be checked at the weigh-in for 1/4" of stretched fleece. Lambs & goats not meeting this requirement will not be weighed for showing until the rule is complied with. No halters or chains allowed on the sheep while weighing in. No portable scales are permitted on the grounds. Animals will be inspected before being allowed to enter the scale area. If a vet is not present during weigh-in of any animal suspected of a communicable disease or unsightly condition will not be weighed until inspected by a veterinarian. As stated in State Rules, the Veterinarian's decision is final.

Re-Weigh Policy: If an exhibitor wants to re-weigh their animal, it must be requested while the animal is at the scale. The animal will be removed from the scale, the scale zeroed, and then immediately placed back on the scale. There will be no other re-weigh once the animal has left the scale area.

Youth for The Quality Care of Animals: The California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) is requiring all youth livestock participants (excluding horses, cavies, & dogs) 9 years of age and older to obtain annual certification in the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program. Those not certified will not be able to participate at a California Fair. To comply, Merced County Fair is requiring all exhibitors who fall under this rule to complete the training by Thursday, May 1st, 2025 (entry deadline). If you do not complete the training by 11:59 PM on May 2nd your entry will be considered ineligible, and you will be disqualified from exhibiting at the fair.

Training can be completed in two ways:

- 1) Go to YQCA Program.org and complete the online course.
- 2) Attending and completing an in-person instructor lead course by a YQCA-approved instructor.

Your certificate number will be required to complete your online entries. You must also upload your YQCA Certificate during the online entry process. Certificates must be Valid through June 30, 2025. Please plan to take the course BEFORE you complete your entries. You will not be able to complete your entries without certification.

Please note if your certificate is expiring before our Fair, you must renew it prior to the entry deadline.

Organization Sponsored Awards

California Shorthorn Breeders Association will award prizes to the Outstanding 4-H or FFA Registered Shorthorn Exhibitors. Competition to run duration of fair. Selection to be based on the following: 1) Dollars Earned. 1 point per dollar earned in individual Registered Shorthorn classes. Top five animals per exhibitor to be considered for points. 2) Presentation in Show Ring. 25 bonus points may be earned based on the following: a) ability to present animals in the show ring and, b) showmanship and cooperation in show ring in individual and group classes. 3) Showmanship. 15 points for entering showmanship. An additional 10 points if placed in the final lineup of each showmanship division as recorded by fair management. 4) Good Housekeeping. 25 points for good housekeeping and presentation of exhibit in cattle barns. Emphasis will be given to those who perform their own work. Exhibitors will be given good housekeeping points. In the event of a tie, the committee will conduct interviews to decide the winner.

Merced County Holstein Association: awards for Outstanding 4-H and FFA Holstein Exhibitors. Competition to run the duration of fair. Selection to be based on the following: 1) Dollars Earned. 1 point per dollar earned in individual Registered Holstein classes only. No more than 1 can be a bull. Top five animals per exhibitor to be considered for points. 2) Good Housekeeping. 25 points for good housekeeping and presentation of animals and exhibit in the barn, and in show ring for duration of fair. Emphasis will be given to those who perform their own work. 3) Showmanship. (Points earned in respective age groups only) 15 points for exhibiting in showmanship; then 5 additional points for placing in final "ribbon" lineup of your Showmanship division (4-H Novice, FFA Senior, etc.) as recorded by fair management; plus 1st place exhibitor in each respective division will get an additional 5 points; 2nd place, 4 points, down to 5th place who will get 1 extra point. No exhibitor can receive more than 25 total Showmanship points. 4) Sportsmanship, Attitude, Behavior and Interview may be included in deciding this award.

4-H AND FFA JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE

Sale Date and Time: The Merced County Fair will sponsor a livestock sale starting at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, June 8th, in the Hilmar Cheese Barn.

Buyer Registration: Buyer Registration table for the JLA sale will open at 8:30 a.m.

Animal Criteria: Animals exhibited at the Merced County livestock show & sale meeting the following criteria as defined in the 202 State Rules for California Fairs, may be sold:

Beef-Market Ready	Sheep-Market Ready
Swine-Market Acceptable	Goats-Market Ready
Rabbits-Market Ready	Poultry-Market Ready

The Merced County Fair Livestock Show & Sale reserves the right to limit the number of animals to be sold. Exhibitors are limited to the sale of one large livestock (beef, goat, sheep, & swine) and on small livestock (rabbit & poultry) only unless awarded multiple champions listed below. All Fat Stock Champions must be terminal, with no live pick-up.

The following champions are REQUIRED to sell:

Fat Stock Champions

4-H Champion & 4-H Reserve Champion Market Beef
FFA Champion & FFA Reserve Champion Market Beef
4-H Champion & 4-H Reserve Champion Market Goat
FFA Champion & FFA Reserve Champion Market Goat
4-H Champion & 4-H Reserve Champion Market Lamb
FFA Champion & FFA Reserve Champion Market Lamb
4-H Champion & 4-H Reserve Champion Market Swine
FFA Champion & FFA Reserve Champion Market Swine

Small Animal Champions

Small Animal Champions must sell but may be live pick-up, resale, or process. The following Champions listed shall be tattooed after they show on Saturday, June 1st.

4-H Champion & 4-H Reserve Champion Rabbit Meat Pen
FFA Champion & FFA Reserve Champion Rabbit Meat Pen
4-H Champion & 4-H Reserve Champion Rabbit Single Fryer
FFA Champion & FFA Reserve Champion Rabbit Single Fryer
4-H Champion & 4-H Reserve Champion Chicken Meat Pen
FFA Champion & FFA Reserve Champion Chicken Meat Pen

Champions selling

The fat stock Champions will start selling at Lot #251 immediately after the Buyer of the Year award presentation during Saturday's Junior Livestock Auction at approximately 12:30 PM.

Sale Runners: Each 4-H Club and FFA Chapter is responsible for providing runners. A time schedule and number of runners from each club/chapter will be

arranged by the Livestock Office. A runner schedule will be posted on the sale ring and the livestock office information board.

Agent: It shall be expressly understood that the 35th District Agricultural Association (Merced County Fair) acts only as an agent for the consignors and assumes no liability, legal or otherwise.

Animal Disposition: No animal purchased through the Livestock Sale or Small Animal Sale may be returned or given back to the exhibitor by the buyer. The disposition called by the auctioneer at the time of sale is final; **no changes can be allowed.**

Animal Pickup: Live pickup animals must be paid for and picked up at the conclusion of the sale.

Buyer Accounts: Buyers with outstanding accounts as of September 30, 2023, will not be eligible to purchase at the 2025 auctions.

Overpayments

Refunds of over-payments under \$10.00 will not be made.

Buyer's Gifts: Alcohol may not be given as part of any buyer's gift as it **conflicts** with the 35th District Agricultural Association's Alcohol Management Policy. The livestock office/sale staff will not supply exhibitors with the names of buyers during the Livestock auction.

Ice Chests/Show Boxes

Ice chests and show boxes may not contain alcohol when brought onto the grounds. Again, under our Alcohol Management Policy, no outside alcohol may be brought onto the grounds. Ice chests may be searched.

Callipyge: The processor will reject any market lamb found to contain the callipyge gene, and the seller will be responsible for the resale amount plus the slaughter fees.

Auction Commission: A 5.5% commission on beef, 6.5% on hogs, sheep, and goats, and 3.5% commission on market rabbits and poultry will be deducted from all sale checks.

What is the auction commission held from the Exhibitor's checks used for?

The CDFA, Division of Fair & Exposition's Accounting Procedures Manual states "*The Auction Reserve account is the accumulated total of operations, that is, the net revenue from yearly auctions. The Board should specify minimum and maximum balances for this account. The minimum balance should be sufficient to cover bad debts and other unforeseen expenses. When the Auction Reserve exceeds its maximum, the board and the JLA*

committee should develop a mutually agreed-upon plan to reduce the amount of the reserve by reducing the amount of commission to be withheld, or spending excess reserved on capital improvement to benefit the livestock program". Our Auction Committee and Board of Directors have chosen to use those reserves on capital improvements to benefit the livestock program. Below is a listing of items purchased over the last four years from the auction contingency funds.

2016 Pens & Fans for Hilmar Cheese Barn	\$129,648
2017 Poultry coops	\$ 839
2018 Scale, poultry coops & rabbit cages	\$ 20,185
2019 Fans in the Beef Barn	\$ 8,000
2020 Fans in the Dairy Barn	\$ 23,652
2021 Fans in the Goat Barn	\$ 26,480
2024 New Barn Sound System	\$ 25,394

We are so grateful to our buyers. Not only do they support the 4-H and FFA Exhibitors with their projects, but they also indirectly support the fairgrounds in making improvements to the Livestock facilities.

Donation of Auction Proceeds:

To be recognized at the auction block and announced that an Exhibitor is donating their auction proceeds, the Exhibitor must notify the Fair upon submitting their Entry by the entry closing deadline date. All net proceeds (100%), after deduction of the auction commission and fees, must be donated to the Exhibitor's charity of choice or special donation. Under no circumstances will the auctioneers announce any donation less than 100% net proceeds at the auction block. An Exhibitor may choose to donate less than 100%. However, it will be considered a "private" donation and not announced.

Drug Presence or Residues: Sellers are responsible for animals rejected at any processing center due to the presence of drug residues. The seller may be liable to the buyer for an amount equal to three times the purchase price and may also be liable for attorney's fees and civil penalties (Food and Ag Code Section 14363). All Market Exhibitors must sign a drug declaration statement prior to going across the scale.

Disposition of Animals through the Sales

Process - Have custom killed and fill your freezer.

Live Pickup - Pick up live. Payment in full is required before the release of the animal.

Resale- Animal is automatically resold to a meat packer at market price and pay the difference.

How the resale works:

If you buy a 120-pound lamb for: \$6.00 a pound
 Sale Price \$720.00
 Approximate Market Value \$.82 a pound
 Market Value - \$96.00
 Your donation
 Billed amount \$624.00

The donation amount is what you would be billed. Figure the beef, hog, and goat the same way. Market prices will be posted on the day of the auction.

Auction Buyer Admission

The JLA Auction Committee recommended to the board of directors "sending **two** admission passes to each buyer who purchased an animal at the prior year's auction

Recommendations to the Junior Livestock Auction or the Livestock Committee

Send a letter to the fair and put "Attention JLA Committee or Livestock Committee." Your correspondence will be reviewed during their annual meetings for consideration and recommendation to the Board of Directors. If anyone ever has any questions, please feel free to e-mail the Committee at info@mercedcountyfair.com.

Ear tags: All animals must have ear tag information on their entries. Like last year, FFA Advisors and 4-H Leaders must email a list of exhibitors for each species to the Livestock Superintendent at Livestock@countyofmerced.com no later than March 24, 2025, to give ample time to prepare your packet. Ear tags will be dispersed to leaders, parents, and advisors starting April 15, 2025.

Bills of Sale Upload Required: A bill of sale for all species will be required for entries.

Prop 12 Certificates will be required for all Market Hog Exhibitors. Certificates must be uploaded at the time of entry.

Exhibitor Selling: Exhibitors must be present at sale ring when their animals are sold or the animal will be disqualified. Exceptions to this rule must be requested in writing from the Board of Directors by Friday, May 30th at 5:00 p.m

If an exhibitor misses their lot number, they are disqualified from the sale and will not be permitted to sell out of order.

Exhibitor's Auction Checks

Auction checks will be available for pick-up on **Monday, June 30, 2025, by the FFA Advisors and 4-H Community Leaders.** This will allow enough time to process bump bids. Also, it gives the buyers ample time to review their auction statements to send in their payments for their purchases.

Bump Bids

The Livestock office will begin taking bump bids once the sale catalogs have been released. This will allow the Buyers to fully complete the form with the needed lot numbers. Bump Bids for all auctions will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2025, to better serve our community partners and exhibitors.

Exhibitors' Animal Responsibility: Responsibility for livestock sold at the auction remains with the exhibitor until the transportation company moving the stock has it loaded aboard its trucks. Thereafter, responsibility will rest with the transportation company for safe delivery.

Previously Shown Animal: No exhibitor may show an animal that has been sold as a market animal through a fair junior livestock auction. whether there is an actual change of ownership or not.

Selling Requirement: All animals qualified for sale that are not properly pulled within one (1) hour of the completion of their show will be required to sell.

To be eligible to show and sell a market animal, all exhibitors must sign a sale contract at the time of entry. This signed contract is required for market entries to be accepted. Please visit our website to access the fillable sale contract documents. Once completed, scan and submit the signed contract along with your market entry. Only entries with a signed contract will be considered valid.

Small Animals

Buyer Registration: Buyer registration for the Small Animal Sale will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the evening of the sale.

Disposition Options:

Rabbit: Live Pickup, Process or Resale
Poultry: Live Pickup, Process or Resale

Tattoos/Leg Band: For market animals, an identifying tattoo or leg band must be placed on or attached to the animal prior to arriving at the fair and must always be on the animal. Failure to comply may result in sale checks, premiums and/or awards being withheld.

ID Check: Tattoos and leg bands may be checked ringside to verify animals.

Transporting: Each exhibitor is responsible for providing their own box to transport their rabbits or poultry to and from the auction ring.

DAIRY HEIFER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM & SALE

Purpose of the program and sale is to provide 4-H and FFA members an opportunity to:

- Learn how to select a dairy heifer (heifer calf) that has the potential of being a good-producing cow.
- Learn how to raise good quality dairy animals, demonstrating approved management principles.
- Offer for sale a top-quality dairy Heifer Replacement at the conclusion of the program if they desire.
- Give non-dairy farm members an opportunity to gain valuable experience in dairy husbandry.
- Learn how to present and market a dairy Heifer Replacement.

HEIFER REPLACEMENT SALE

The Merced County Fair Dairy Heifer Replacement Sale will be held on Friday, June 6th at 7:30 p.m.

1. The following are acceptable ways to pay for a Heifer Replacement Purchase: CASH, CHECK, VISA, and MASTERCARD or DISCOVER.
2. Auction accounts are due and payable within 30 days of billing.
3. Buyers with outstanding accounts as of September 30, 2024, will not be eligible to purchase at the 2025 auction.
4. There is a 7% commission that will be deducted from all sale checks. The commission will be held in a restricted account as CDFA requires to cover bad debts and used for capital improvements to benefit the livestock program. These funds can't be donated to any charity or special donation as that would be considered a gift of public funds
5. ALL SALES ARE FINAL! Removal of a heifer from the Fairgrounds constitutes acceptance by the buyer.
6. To be recognized at the auction block and announced that an Exhibitor is donating their auction proceeds, the Exhibitor must notify the Fair upon submitting their Entry by the entry closing deadline date. All net proceeds (100%), after deduction of the auction commission and fees, must be donated to the Exhibitor's charity of choice or special donation. Under no circumstances will the auctioneers announce any donation less than 100% net proceeds at the auction block. An Exhibitor may choose to donate less than 100%. However, it will be considered a "private" donation and not announced.
7. Alcohol may **not** be given as part of any buyer's gift as it conflicts with the 35th District Agricultural Association's Alcohol Management Policy of "no outside alcohol may be brought onto the grounds".

ELIGIBILITY

The program will be available to all 4-H and FFA members and qualified independent exhibitors residing within Merced County. The heifer must be part of a bona fide dairy project, which means any member carrying this project must be enrolled in a 4-H Dairy project, be a member of a FFA Chapter, or be a qualified independent exhibitor. Exhibitor must use show halters and proper 4-H and FFA uniforms are required as stated in the handbook .

Applications into the program are due in the fair office no later than February 7th at 5:00 p.m.

OTHER INFORMATION

If, for unforeseen reasons, the project is terminated before the sale (to be held as a part of the 2025 livestock show), the original owner must be given the first opportunity to purchase the heifer.

1. There will be absolutely no substitutions of animals after the application deadline as stated in the heifer requirements.
2. Any missing documents will be accepted with a late penalty fee of \$25 to be paid upon delivery of materials. Materials will only be accepted one week after the Heifer committee has reviewed the submitted documents. Failure to furnish documents will result in the disqualification of the heifer.
3. Any replacement heifer that calves before Monday, June 2nd, will not be allowed to be sold through the sale at the Merced County Fair. The heifer may be transferred and exhibited in the appropriate class.
4. Members are encouraged to insure their animals.
5. No premium money will be paid on any animal that is sold through the auction.
6. On Monday, June 2nd, at 2:00 p.m. All Heifers selling through the 2025 Sale will:
 - a. Undergo a thorough veterinary health check for pregnancy confirmation, udder soundness, Brucellosis vaccination tattoo verification and a check for general health and soundness. During this check any heifer found:
 - Without a valid, legible Brucellosis tattoo
 - Open, or not bred to calf within 90 days of the auction;
 - Blind in one or more quarters;
 - For the other detrimental health reasons as determined by the veterinarian(s) will be disqualified from the sale. Any heifer found without a valid, legible Brucellosis tattoo will be sent home immediately. Other heifers on recommendation of the veterinarian(s) may be sent home. The decision of the veterinarian will be final (Refer to State Rule X. 5).
 - b. Have the State Brand Inspector perform a brand inspection on each heifer.
 - c. Have a picture review verification of all heifers by members of the Merced County Fair Dairy Heifer Replacement Committee

LARGE ANIMAL SHOWMANSHIP

Animals shown in showmanship must be owned by the exhibitor and entered by the exhibitor in an appropriate market or breeding class. Those winners who are eligible to move up to the 4-H Senior and FFA Advanced Showmanship Divisions must use the same animal they qualified with.

Late entries for showmanship in the Beef, Boer Goat, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, and Swine classes will be allowed with a \$20 late entry fee by Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Premiums offered for

4-H Senior and FFA Advanced Showmanship Only							
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
\$8.00	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00

Award and ribbon for 1st place in each class. Ribbons only for 2nd through 8th places.

- Division 501 - Beef**
- Division 502 - Boer Goats**
- Division 503 - Dairy Cattle**
- Division 504 - Dairy Goat**
- Division 505 - Sheep**
- Division 506 - Swine**

Class

- 1 **4-H Junior Showmanship** - (Ages 9 and 10 as of Dec 31)
First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to 4-H Senior Showmanship
- 2 **4-H Intermediate Showmanship** - (Ages 11 through 13 as of Dec 31)
First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to 4-H Senior Showmanship
- 3 **4-H Senior Showmanship** - (Ages 14 and over as of Dec 31)
- 4 **FFA Novice Showmanship**
Exhibitor who has never shown that species before at any organized show/fair, regardless of grade level. First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to FFA Advanced Showmanship
- 5 **FFA Freshman Showmanship**
Exhibitor may show twice in this category. May show the summer prior to 9th grade year and the summer immediately following 9th grade year.

- First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to FFA Advanced Showmanship
- 6 **FFA Advanced Showmanship**
All FFA members who do not qualify to show as Novice or Freshman.

LARGE ANIMAL ROUND ROBIN

SILVER BUCKLE AND ROSETTES ONLY

Winners of Beef, Boer Goat, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goat, Sheep, Swine, and Horse Showmanship are eligible to enter Round Robin Showmanship. All animals, *except horse*, will participate.

The highest placing person who has not previously won Round Robin is eligible to enter. If the winner of the Beef Showmanship has previously won a Round Robin, the person placing second would then be eligible to enter Round Robin. The same ruling would apply to all species. The judges will give a score of 1 through 7.

In the event of a tie, a Quiz Bowl will be held, with seven questions asked, one for each species. Should there be another tie, the Judges will continue the Quiz Bowl until they are able to declare a winner.

PEE WEE SHOWMANSHIP

Division 507 – PEE WEE SHOWMANSHIP

Open to Juniors 5 years to 8 years old NOT enrolled in 4-H. **Entries are due by Friday, May 30th, by 3:00 p.m.** No late entries. Entries shall be made online at www.mercedcountyfair.com, or you may also obtain an entry form in the livestock office. A parent or guardian's signature is required. Exhibitors enrolled in any junior organization for which classes are offered elsewhere are not eligible to enter this division.

Class

- 1 Dairy Heifer
- 2 Goat
- 3 Sheep
- 4 Swine

Dairy Division May Be cancelled due to State guidelines for Avian Influenza

BEEF CATTLE

REGISTERED PUREBRED BEEF BREEDING ANIMALS

Exhibitors are to use Division 508 when entering. Feature Breed to be determined after close of entries.

For safety, cattle must always have neck ropes on while tied in the stall area. All cattle must be shown with a leather show halter.

Premiums Offered Per Class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class

NOTE: NURSE COWS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON FAIRGROUNDS

Division 508 - 4-H & FFA Registered Feature Breed

Division 509 - 4-H & FFA Registered All Other Breeds

Class – BULLS

- 1 Senior or Junior calf (Sept 1, 2024 thru March 16, 2025)
- 2 Junior or Summer yearlings (Jan 1 thru August 31, 2024)
- 3 Late Senior yearling (Sept 1 thru Dec 31, 2023)

Class - FEMALES

- 4 Junior calf (Jan 1 thru March 16, 2025)
- 5 Senior calf (Sept 1 thru Dec 31, 2024)
- 6 Summer yearling (July 1 thru Aug 31, 2024)
- 7 Intermediate yearling (May 1 thru June 8, 2024)
- 8 Late Junior yearling (March 1 thru April 30, 2024)
- 9 Early Junior yearling (Jan 1 thru Feb 28, 2024)
- 10 Early or Late Senior yearling (Mar 1 thru Dec 31, 2023)
- 11 Cow-Calf*

* Calf entered in this class may be shown individually in appropriate age class. Calf information must be included on entry form. Registration papers on Calf must be checked in prior to show. Cow must have been born

prior to March 1, 2023. Cow not eligible to show for champion.

All animals entered in groups must be owned by the exhibitor, be shown as individuals, and be of the same breed.

12 PAIR OF FEMALES

13 GET OF SIRE: Three animals, get of same bull

BEEF BRED HEIFERS

Entry Fee \$20.00 per entry

BEEF BRED HEIFER SALE SPONSORED BY MERCED/MARIPOSA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Only heifers pre-registered with the Beef Bred Heifer MMCA Committee are eligible to show in Division 510 Class 4. For further information regarding the Bred Heifer Sale contact Dana Souza (209) 704.0303, Johnathan White (209) 582-2490 or Dave Olsen (209) 602-4077 or send e-mail to mmcabbhprogram@gmail.com

Animals entered in this division are not eligible for premiums.

Division 510 – 4-H & FFA Commercial Beef Heifers Class

- 1 Heifer calf (Sept 1, 2024 to Feb 28, 2025)
- 2 Yearling Heifers (Mar 1 thru Aug 31, 2024)
- 3 Senior Yearling (Sept 1, 2023 thru Feb 28, 2024)
- 4 MMCA Beef Bred Heifer

CLUB/CHAPTER GROUPS

No Entry Fees

No cash awards. Rosettes for first through fifth places. No more than two animals are to be owned or shown by one exhibitor. Quality (not uniformity) of individual animals to be considered. Entry to be made in the name of the club/chapter and entered at the time of judging.

Division 511 - 4-H Club Groups

Division 512 - FFA Chapter Groups

Class

- 1 Club/Chapter Group - Breeding Animals Only – three (3) Animals
- 2 Club/Chapter Group - Market Animals Only – three (3) Animals

MARKET BEEF

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per entry

All market beef must be individually owned by the exhibitor for 120 *consecutive* days prior to the opening day of the fair.

It is the intent of the Branch of Fairs and Expositions that the quality standards established for market animals be maintained. Therefore, classifications will be subject to change in the event there are changes made in Federal grading. See State Rules for Market Beef Scorecard

DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

(All breeds judged together)

After weighing, market steers may be divided into weight lots as desired by management for convenience in judging. Those animals not meeting weight requirements will be entered in the Feeder Class.

MARKET BEEF

(1,100 Pounds and over)

Division 513 - 4-H Market Beef

Division 514 - FFA Market Beef

Class

- 1 Steer or Heifer
- 2 Steer or Heifer – Slick Shorn

Slick Sheared Grooming Guide:

- All slick shorn animals must be slick shorn to within ¼” of growth, prior to the arrival at the fairgrounds. Hair will be checked at weigh in.
- Entire animal must be shorn, including the ears. The tail switch may be left as is, which may be ratted and balled. Beef found in violation of this rule will be transferred to appropriate class.
- No clipping will be permitted on the fairgrounds. Only scissors and cordless clippers may be used to touch up prior to entering the arena.
- Per State Rule X. Eligibility, 1., Any inhumane activity to animals by the exhibitor, as determined by fair management in consultation with the fair veterinarian, may cause disqualification, forfeiture of awards, and removal of the exhibit from the fairgrounds.

SINGLE FEEDER BEEF

(1,099 pounds and under)

(Do Not Pre-Enter)

All feeder beef must be individually owned by the exhibitor for 30 *consecutive* days prior to the opening day of the fair. **Not eligible for auction.** After weighing, feeder animals may be divided into weight lots as desired by management for convenience in judging.

DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

(All breeds judged together)

Premiums offered

GROUP 1 - Prime.....	\$10.00
GROUP 2 - Choice.....	\$7.00
GROUP 3 - Good.....	\$5.00

Division 515 - 4-H Feeder Beef

Division 516- FFA Feeder Beef

Class

- 1 Steer or Heifer

BREEDING BOER GOATS

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class

Premiums offered per class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$ 5.00

1. No goat will be admitted or remain on the fairgrounds that show any evidence of any communicable disease or any unsightly disease conditions. This shall be interpreted to apply to open or draining abscesses. Any goat showing pronounced defects or abnormalities will not be allowed to show.
2. Exhibitors limited to a maximum of 10 animals, including market and feeder entries.
3. All animals shown in group or special classes must have been shown in their regular classes.
4. All animals must be show-clipped.

BOER GOATS

Goats can be registered or grade animals. Any female over 24 months of age who has not kidded or does not have proof of current pregnancy will not be allowed to show.

Division 517 - 4-H and FFA Breeding Goats

Class

- 1 Buck Kids - 0 to under 12 months (June 6, 2024 to June 5, 2025)
- 2 Yearling Bucks - 12 to 18 months (Dec 8, 2023 to June 5, 2024)
- 3 Doe Kids & Yearling Does (0 to under 24 months (June 6, 2025 to June 5, 2023)
***Class 3 entries will be weighed and split into classes after weigh-in**
- 4 Does - 24 months and over (Prior to June 6, 2023)
- 5 Pair of Females
- 6 Daughter and Dam

CLUB/CHAPTER GROUPS

(No Entry Fees)

No cash awards. Rosettes for first through fifth places. No more than two animals to be owned or shown by one exhibitor. Quality (not uniformity) of individual animals to be considered. Both sexes may be represented. Can be entered at time of judging.

Division 518 - 4-H Club Groups

Division 519 - FFA Chapter Groups

Class

- 1 Club/Chapter Group - Breeding Animals Only – three (3) Animals
- 2 Club/Chapter Group - Market Animals Only – three (3) Animals

MARKET GOAT

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per entry

No Premiums will be paid to Market Animals

It is the intent of the Branch of Fairs and Expositions and of Fairs that the quality standards established for market animals be maintained. Therefore, classifications will be subject to change in the event there are changes made in Federal grading. See State Rules for Market Goat Scorecard

DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

- After weighing, market goats may be divided into weight lots as desired by management for convenience in judging. Three total division awards will be given, one in each of the follow: Lightweight, Middleweight, & Heavyweight.
- Those animals not meeting weight requirements will be entered in Feeder Class.
- Any breed or crossbred goat less than 12 months of age showing kids teeth.
- All breeds judged together.
- Goats must be dehorned, or horns tipped with blunt ends (flat and have no point) and be less than 2 inches in length.
- No substances may be used on the goat's rectum area to cause the tail to remain erect. (example: cool brace, Vicks, menthol products, and/or other products).
- Market and feeder Goats must be slick-shorn with 3/8 inch of hair or less above the knee or hock joints upon arrival at the fair.
- No cable halters or pronged collars may be used.

Division 520 - 4-H Market Goats

Division 521 - FFA Market Goats

Class:

- 1 Wethers and Does – 60 pounds and over

SINGLE FEEDER GOATS

(Do Not Pre-Enter)

DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

(All breeds judged together)

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AUCTION

Premiums offered

GROUP 1 - Fancy	\$3.00
GROUP 2 - Choice.....	\$2.00
GROUP 3 - Good	\$1.00
GROUP 4 - Medium	No Premium

After weighing, feeder animals may be divided into weight lots as desired by management for convenience in judging.

Division 522 - 4-H - Feeder Goats

Division 523 - FFA - Feeder Goats

Class

- 1 Wethers and Does – 59 pounds and under

BREEDING SHEEP

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class

Premiums offered per class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00

Division 524 - 4-H & FFA Registered
Must check in papers at the livestock office upon arrival. Exhibitors hauling Rams must bring dividers for pens.

- Class** **Rams**
- 1 Yearling (Sept 1, 2023 thru Aug 31, 2024)
 - 2 Fall Lamb (Sept 1, 2024 thru Dec 31, 2024)
 - 3 Spring Lamb (Jan 1, 2025 thru April 30, 2025)

- Ewes**
- 4 Yearling (Sept 1, 2023 thru Aug 31, 2024)
 - 5 Fall Lamb (Sept 1, 2024 thru Dec 31, 2024)
 - 6 Spring Lamb (Jan 1, 2025 thru April 30, 2025)

Groups
All animals entered in groups must be owned by the exhibitor, be shown as individuals, and be of the same breed.

- Class**
- 7 Flock: One yearling or lamb ram, two yearling ewes and two ewe lambs.
 - 8 Get of Sire: Three sheep sired by same ram.
 - 9 Young Flock: One ram lamb and two ewe lambs.
 - 10 Pair of Ewe Lambs
 - 11 Pair of Yearling Ewes
 - 12 Pair of Ram Lambs

WETHER TYPE BREEDING SHEEP

Grade, crossbred, unregistered and registered purebred sheep to be judged strictly on wether type sheep basis.

Premiums offered per class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class

By his/her signature as the owner or agent on an entry form, the exhibitor also certifies that the sire of each animal entered in the following divisions was either registered or purebred.
A permanent ear tag or tattoo number is required.

Division 525 - 4-H & FFA Wether Type Sheep Class

- 1 Yearling Ram (Sep 1, 2023 thru Aug 31, 2024)
 - 2 Ram Lamb (Sep 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024)
 - 3 Yearling Ewe (Sept 1, 2023 thru Aug 31, 2024)
 - 4 Ewe Lamb (Sept 1, 2025 thru April 30, 2025)*
- *Class 4 entries will be weighed and split into classes after weigh-in**

GROUPS

All owned by one exhibitor and entered as individuals. Group classes are not eligible for premiums.

Class

- 5 Pair of Ewe Lambs
- 6 Pair of Yearling Ewes
- 7 Pair of Ram Lambs
- 8 Young Flock: one ram lamb, two ewe lambs

CLUB/CHAPTER GROUPS

No Entry Fees

No cash awards - Rosettes for 1st thru 5th place. No more than two animals to be owned or shown by one exhibitor. Quality (not uniformity) of individual animals to be considered. Both sexes may be represented. More than one entry per club/chapter accepted. Can be entered at time of judging.

Division 526 - 4-H Club Groups **Division 527 - FFA Chapter Groups**

Class

- 1 Club/Chapter Group - Registered Animals Only – four (4) Animals
- 2 Club/Chapter Group - Market Animals Only – five (5) Animals
- 3 Club/Chapter Group - Wether Type Breeding Sheep five (5) Animals

LADS & LADIES LEAD LINE DIVISION

- EXHIBITORS MUST BE ENTERED IN OTHER SHEEP CLASSES
- **ENTRIES DUE May 1st**
- The objective of this exhibition is to present sheep in an attractive manner, to give spectators a real opportunity to view and acquaint themselves with modern sheep production, and to promote beautiful sheep and wool.
- Exhibitor wears a wool outfit and leads a lamb by halter that is wearing something that coordinates with his/her outfit (scarf, blanket, hat, bow, etc.).
- Exhibitor must also provide a commentary sheet. The commentary must be typed and written in

“third person”. Samples of wool fabric(s) used by exhibitor must be submitted with commentary. **Commentary is due to Livestock Office by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22ND, if not received, exhibitor will be disqualified from this competition.**

- Sheep must be fitted and trained to lead by halter. NO RAMS.
- Wool outfit must be made of either 100% wool or a minimum of 70% wool and no more than 30% synthetic fiber. Outfits may be handmade or purchased.
- Highest placing individuals will be eligible for State Fair Competition.
- Silver Buckle for First place for overall winner in 4-H or FFA combined.
- Ribbons for 1st through 5th place.

Division 528 - Lads and Ladies Lead Line Entry
Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class.

Class

- 1 Junior (9 through 13 years as of Jan 1)
- 2 Senior (14 through 19 years as of Jan 1)

SCORECARD FOR JUDGING

- A. General
 Appearance.....50%
 Coordination of Ensemble (use of wool)
 Suitability of Style (appropriate for the occasion)
 Presentation of Garment
 Coordination of Outfit with Sheep
 Eye Appeal
- B. Showmanship.....30%
 Ability to Lead (trained to show at halter)
 Handling of Sheep (ability to move as directed)
 Appearance of Animal (fitting, condition of fleece, cleanliness)
- C. Personal Presentation.....20%
 Poise (ability to model garment)
 Gracefulness

MARKET SHEEP

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per entry

Division 529 - 4-H Market Lambs

Division 530 - FFA Market Lambs

Class

- 1 Market Lamb – Wethers and Ewes 100 pounds and over

SINGLE MARKET LAMBS

- It is the intent of the Branch of Fairs and Expositions and of Fairs that the quality standards established for market animals be maintained. Therefore, classifications will be subject to change in the event there are changes made in Federal grading.
- All market lambs are to be slick-sheared no more than 10 days prior to the fair. Market lambs will be checked at weigh-in for 1/4” of stretched fleece. Lambs not meeting this requirement will not be weighed for showing until this rule is complied with. Lambs must show lambs teeth.
- See State Rules for Market Lamb Scorecard
- **PREMIUMS WILL NOT BE PAID ON MARKET ANIMALS**
- No cable halters will be allowed.

DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

After weighing, market lambs may be divided into weight lots as desired by management for convenience in judging. Those animals not meeting weight requirements will be entered in Feeder Class. After weigh in, animals will be placed into show divisions based on the breed called at the scale. Divisions will be offered for breeds/crossbreeds as numbers deem appropriate. In past years divisions offered have been Suffolk, Hampshire, All Other Breeds and Crossbred but can be adjusted based on current breeds being shown.

SINGLE FEEDER LAMBS

Do Not Pre-Enter

DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

All breeds judged together

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AUCTION

Premiums Offered

- GROUP 1 - Fancy\$3.00
- GROUP 2 - Choice.....\$2.00
- GROUP 3 - Good\$1.00
- GROUP 4 - Medium and Common.....No Premium

After weighing, feeder animals may be divided into weight lots as desired by management for convenience in judging.

Division 531 - 4-H Feeder Lambs

Division 532 - FFA Feeder Lambs

Class

- 1 Feeder - Lambs Wethers and Ewes 99 pounds and under

BREEDING SWINE

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class

Premiums offered per class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00

PUREBRED BREEDING SWINE

Junior yearling and July and August fall females must have raised a litter of pigs or be in pig to be eligible for entry.

Gilts entered in the market or feeder hog divisions may not be entered in the breeding divisions, or vice versa. Any violation of this rule will exclude the offending exhibitor from competition in all departments of the fair.

Division 533 - 4-H & FFA Registered Breeding

BOARS

Class

- 1 January pig (Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2025)
- 2 February, March pig (Feb 1 - Mar 18, 2025)

GILTS

Class

- 3 Fall pig (July 1 - Dec 31, 2024)
- 4 January pig (Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2025)
- 5 February, March pig (Feb 1 – Mar 18, 2025)

Division 534 - 4-H & FFA Commercial Gilts

Class

- 1 Commercial Gilts – Aug 1, 2023 to Mar 18, 2025

***Class 1 entries will be weighed and split into classes after weigh-in**

GROUPS

Class

- 2 Pair of females

All animals entered in groups must be owned by the exhibitor and be shown as individuals. Animals do not have to be the same breed.

CLUB/CHAPTER GROUPS (No Entry Fees)

No cash awards. Rosettes for first through fifth places. No more than two animals to be owned or shown by one exhibitor. Quality (not uniformity) of

individual animals to be considered. Both sexes may be represented. Can be entered at time of judging.

For the safety of the exhibitors, no more than ten (10) students, including a spokesperson per chapter or club will be allowed in the swine show ring when showing Chapter Group.

Division 535 - 4-H Club Group

Division 536 – FFA Chapter Group

Class

- 1 Club/Chapter Group - Breeding Animals - only four (4) animals
- 2 Club/Chapter Group - Market Animals - only five (5)

MARKET SWINE

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per entry

SINGLE MARKET SWINE

It is the intent of the CDFA Branch of Fairs & Expositions and of Fairs that the quality standards established for market animals be maintained. Therefore, classifications will be subject to change in the event there are changes made in Federal grading.

MARKET HOG SCORECARD

Grade:

Market Acceptable: U.S. No. 1 and No. 2 hogs of average or greater conformation that are acceptable in leanness, muscularity and production traits.

Not Market Acceptable: Any hog of below average conformation including U.S. No. 3, U.S. No. 4 and utility grade hogs.

DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

Breeds called at scale

After weighing, market hogs may be divided into weight lots as desired by management for convenience in judging. Those animals not meeting weight requirements will not be shown. All breeds to be called at the scale. Divisions will be offered for breeds/crossbreeds as numbers deem appropriate.

Division 537 - 4-H Market Swine

Division 538 - FFA Market Swine

Class

- 1 Swine – Barrows and Gilts 200 to 280 pounds

DAIRY CATTLE

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class

Premiums offered per class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00

REGISTERED PUREBRED BREEDING DAIRY FEMALES & BULLS

- Animals entered and shown in Registered classes are those that qualify to show as Registered animals in the various Breeds' National Shows (example: Holsteins 87% RHA to fully Registered; Jerseys "GR" to fully Registered).
- Holsteins that were originally registered through the Holstein Association "Qualified" program and carry a "Q" prefix must be entered in Registered classes.
- All yearlings that have freshened must be shown with two-year-olds in both the individual and group classes. If a yearling calves subsequent to submission of entry form and prior to judging, exhibitor must notify Livestock Office and be prepared to show with two-year-olds on show day.

Division 539- 4-H and FFA Registered Holstein

BULLS

- 1 Intermediate/Junior calf, Senior calf, or Summer yearling (May 30, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025) Bulls-
- 2 Junior or Winter yearling (Dec 1, 2023 – May 29, 2024)

FEMALES

Class

- 3 Intermediate/Junior calf (Dec 1, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025)
- 4 Senior calf (Sept 1 – Nov 30, 2024)
- 5 Summer yearling (June 1, 2024 – Aug 31, 2024)
- 6 Junior yearling (Mar 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024)
- 7 Winter yearling (Dec 1, 2023 – Feb 28, 2024)
- 8 Senior yearling (Sept 1, 2023 – Nov 30, 2023)
- 9 Two years, under three-Freshened (Sept 1, 2022 - Aug 31, 2023)
- 10 Two years, under three-Unfreshened (Sept 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2023)
- 11 Three years, under four (Sept 1 2021 - Aug 31, 2022)
- 12 Four years, under five (Sept 1, 2020 - Aug 31, 2021)
- 13 Five years and over (Prior - Sept 1, 2020)

Groups Class

- 14 Produce Of Dam: To consist of two animals, any age, either sex, the produce of one cow. The dam must be identified by registration number.
- 15 Junior Best three (3) Females: Must be senior yearling or younger.
- 16 Pair Of Females
- 17 Daughter And Dam: Consist of two females, one being the dam of the other
- 18 Young Herd: two (2) females, one (1) bull

All animals entered in groups must be owned by the exhibitor, be shown as individuals, and be of the same breed.

Division 540 – 4-H & FFA Registered Jersey

BULLS

Class

- 1 Intermediate/Junior calf, Senior calf, or Summer yearling (May 30, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025) Bulls-
- 2 Junior or Winter yearling (Dec 1, 2023 – May 29, 2024)

FEMALES

Class

- 3 Intermediate/Junior calf (Dec 1, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025)
- 4 Senior calf (Sept 1 – Nov 30, 2024)
- 5 Summer yearling (June 1, 2024 – Aug 31, 2024)
- 6 Junior yearling (Mar 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024)
- 7 Winter yearling (Dec 1, 2023 – Feb 28, 2024)
- 8 Senior yearling (Sept 1, 2023 – Nov 30, 2023)
- 9 Two years, under three-Freshened (Sept 1, 2022 - Aug 31, 2023)
- 10 Two years, under three-Unfreshened (Sept 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2023)
- 11 Three years, under four (Sept 1 2021 - Aug 31, 2022)
- 12 Four years, under five (Sept 1, 2020 - Aug 31, 2021)
- 13 Five years and over (Prior - Sept 1, 2020)

Groups

Specifications for groups same as for Holstein Divisions

Class

- 14 Produce Of Dam
- 15 Junior Best three (3) Females
- 16 Pair Of Females
- 17 Daughter And Dam
- 18 Young Herd: two (2) females, one (1) bull

Division 541 – 4-H and FFA Registered All Other Breeds

BULLS

Class

- 1 Junior or Summer yearling, Senior or Intermediate/Junior calf (Dec 1, 2023 – Feb 28, 2023)

FEMALES

Class

- 2 Intermediate/Junior calf (Dec 1, 2023 – Feb 28, 2025)
- 3 Senior calf (Sept 1 – Nov 30, 2024)
- 4 Summer yearling (June 1, 2024 – Aug 31, 2024)
- 5 Junior yearling (Mar 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024)
- 6 Winter yearling (Dec 1, 2023 – Feb 28, 2024)
- 7 Senior yearling (Sept 1, 2023 – Nov 30, 2023)
- 8 Two years, under three-Freshened (Sept 1, 2022 - Aug 31, 2023)
- 9 Two years, under three-Unfreshened (Sept 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2023)
- 10 Three years, under four (Sept 1 2021 - Aug 31, 2022)
- 11 Four years, under five (Sept 1, 2020 - Aug 31, 2021)
- 12 Five years and over (Prior - Sept 1, 2020)

GROUPS

Specifications for groups same as for Holstein Divisions

Class

- 13 Produce Of Dam
- 14 Junior Best 3 Females
- 15 Pair Of Females
- 16 Daughter And Dam
- 17 Young Herd: 2 females, 1 bull

**Supreme Best Udder – Registered
ENTRY BY INVITATION OF THE JUDGE**

No cash awards. Best Udder will be picked from each class
All breeds judged together

Division 542 – Best Udder Registered (Do Not Pre-Enter)

Class

- 1 Supreme Registered Udder



**CLUB/CHAPTER GROUPS
No Entry Fees**

No cash awards. Rosettes Only. No more than two animals to be owned or shown by one exhibitor. Quality (not uniformity) of individual animals to be considered. Animals must be registered. Both sexes may be represented. More than one entry per club/chapter accepted. Must be entered at time of judging.

Division 543 – 4-H Club Groups

Division 544 – FFA Chapter Groups

Class

- 1 Club/Chapter Group – Registered – 4 Animals
- 2 Club/Chapter Group – Grade – 4 Animals

**GRADE OR UNREGISTERED
PUREBRED FEMALES BY
REGISTERED SIRE
& HEIFER REPLACEMENT**

Premiums offered per class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00

Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class

Open to animals that do not qualify to show in various Breeds' National Shows.

- Grade animals participating in the identification program of a breed association or the DHIA, **but are not registered**, are eligible for entry in this Division.
- All yearlings that have freshened must be shown with two-year-olds in both the individual and group classes. If a yearling calves subsequent to submission of entry form and prior to judging, exhibitor must notify Livestock Office and be prepared to show with two-year-olds on show day.
- A permanent ear tag or tattoo number is required.

Division 545 – 4-H & FFA Grade All Breeds Judged As One

FEMALES

Class

- 1 Intermediate/Junior calf (Dec 1, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025)
- 2 Senior calf (Sept 1 – Nov 30, 2024)
- 3 Summer yearling (June 1, – Aug 30, 2024)
- 4 Junior yearling (Mar 1, 2024 – May 29, 2024)
- 5 Winter yearling (Dec 1, 2023 – Feb 28, 2024)

- 6 Senior yearling (Sept 1, 2023 – Nov 30, 2023)
- 7 Two years, under three-Freshened (Sept 1, 2022 - Aug 31, 2023)
- 8 Two years, under three-Unfreshened (Sept 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2023)
- 9 Three years, under four (Sept 1, 2021 - Aug 31, 2022)
- 10 Four years, under five (Sept 1, 2020 - Aug 31, 2021)
- 11 Five years and over (Prior - Sept 1, 2020)

GROUPS

All owned by one exhibitor and entered as individuals.

Class

- 12 Pair Of Females

4-H & FFA DAIRY HEIFER REPLACEMENT

Class

- 13 4-H Bred Heifer Replacement
- 14 FFA Bred Heifer Replacement

**Supreme Best Udder – Grade
ENTRY BY INVITATION OF THE JUDGE**

No cash awards. Best Udder will be picked from each class. All breeds judged together.

Division 546 – Best Udder Grade (Do Not Pre Enter)

Class

- 1 Supreme Grade Udder

DAIRY GOATS

**Entry Fee: \$20.00 per entry per class
Premiums offered per class**

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$ 5.00

- 1. No goat will be admitted or remain on the fairgrounds that shows any evidence of any communicable disease or any unsightly disease conditions. This shall be interpreted to apply to open or draining abscesses. Any goat showing pronounced defects or abnormalities will not be allowed to show.
- 2. All animals shown in group or special classes must have been shown in their regular classes.
- 3. All animals must be clean and show clipped.
- 4. Exhibitors must supply their own milking equipment.

DAIRY GOATS

Goats can be registered or grade animals. Any female over 24 months of age that has not kidded or does not have proof of current pregnancy will not be allowed to show.

Division 547 – 4-H & FFA Dairy Goats

Class

- 1 Junior Kid (Mar 1, 2025 – May 8, 2025)
- 2 Senior Kid (Jan 1, 2025 – Feb 29, 2025)
- 3 Yearling, not in milk (Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024)
- 4 Yearling Milker (Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024)
- 5 Two years, under three (Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023)
- 6 Three Years (Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022)
- 7 Four Years and over (Dec 31, 2021 & prior)

GROUPS

All owned by one exhibitor and entered as individuals.

Class

- 8 Pair Of Females
- 9 Daughter & Dam

CLUB/CHAPTER GROUPS

(No Entry Fees)

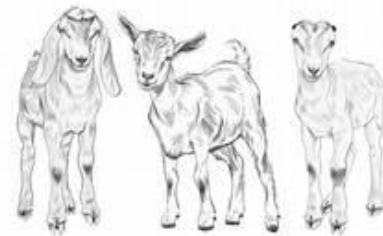
No cash awards. Rosettes for first through fifth places. No more than two animals to be owned or shown by one exhibitor. Quality (not uniformity) of individual animals to be considered. Can be entered at time of judging.

Division 548 - 4-H Club Groups

Division 549 - FFA Chapter Groups

Class

- 1 Club/Chapter Group – Breeding Animals Only – three (3) Animals.



JUNIOR HORSE SHOW

- Horse show to be held **Sunday, May 18th**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. sharp at Merced Horsemen's Association Arena, 499 Nevada Street, Merced, CA 95340. Check-in to begin at 7:00 a.m. Gymkhana events are not to start before 3:00 p.m.
- Open to Junior exhibitors residing in a Merced, Madera, Mariposa & Stanislaus County School Districts. Exhibitors are to use their age as of December 31, 2024 when determining which class to enter.
- Entries are due on or before Thursday, May 1st, and must be made in the online portal, which can be found at www.mercedcountyfair.com.
- **POST ENTRIES:** There will be NO post entries allowed.
- A \$14 drug fee per horse is required.
- Refunds of entry fee over-payments under \$10 will not be made.
- See State Rules Section XI, for Ownership and Lease requirements.
- Exhibitors are responsible for knowing all rules and regulations pertaining to the horse show, including their eligibility for classes entered. Rules prescribed by the West Coast Horse Show Rule Book shall apply provided they do not conflict with any of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Department of Food and Agriculture or the Merced County Fair Horse Show Rules.
- Exhibitors will be ready to show when class is called; if the exhibitor is not inside the arena by 3rd call, they will be scratched without a refund.
- Show management reserves the right to combine or split classes as deemed necessary.
- At the discretion of Horse Show Officials, any horse that is determined to be unsafe, unruly, or unsound, may be excused from participation. No Stallions will be permitted.
- It is mandatory for all riders, regardless of discipline, to wear a properly fitted equestrian helmet that meets ASTM/SEI approval with a secured chin harness properly fastened at all times while mounted. Safe and proper equipment needs to be used. If there is a concern, the judge will make the final decision.
- Walk jog/trot exhibitors are limited to entries in walk jog/trot classes only, with the exception of classes 2 & 3. Walk jog/trot exhibitors will be eligible to compete for one year only (except students with disabilities will be allowed to continue to show in walk jog/trot classes under

the discretion of the superintendent.) If two or more years, not eligible for high point award.

- **Lead line:** The age requirement is 5 to 8 years old, and not eligible for any other horse show event. No Entry Fees, No cash awards. Participation ribbons only. Must be able to sit on a horse independently and have feet in stirrups.
- Must ride independently unless ruled by the judge. **Walk Only (Special Needs):** Will show with lead line contestants, eligible for placings and awards, entry fee charged, and entry is at the discretion of show management
- **HORSE SHOW ATTIRE:** 4-H and FFA uniforms, formal or informal, are acceptable attire in all classes provided a long sleeve shirt with collar is worn. Uniforms are required for showmanship. See Local Livestock Rules for uniform requirements.
- **WESTERN ATTIRE:** Exhibitors must wear appropriate western attire, including long-sleeved shirt with collar and appropriate western boots. Spurs and chaps are optional.
- **ENGLISH ATTIRE:** Breeched or jodhpurs of conservative colors are to be worn. Boots or jodhpur or hunt style are mandatory. The top portion of the uniform can be their 4-H or FFA uniform. Long-sleeved shirt or blouse, with stock, tie or choker are to be worn. Vests, spurs, and gloves are optional. Coats of traditional Hunting Style and conservative color or Saddle Seat Style and color are optional.

HIGH POINT AWARDS:

All-Around Walk Jog/Trot Champion*	Tack/Equipment
Reserve All-Around Walk/Trot Champion	Tack/Equipment
Jr. English Champion*	Buckle
Reserve Jr. English Champion*	Award
Jr. Western Champion*	Buckle
Reserve Jr. Western Champion	Award
Sr. English Champion*	Buckle
Reserve Sr. English Champion*	Award
Sr. Western Champion*	Buckle
Reserve Sr. Western Champion*	Award
Jr. All-Around Gymkhana Champion*	Buckle
Reserve Jr. All-Around Gymkhana Champion	Award
Sr. All-Around Gymkhana Champion*	Buckle
Reserve Sr. All-Around Gymkhana Champion* (Same horse and rider)	Award

HIGH POINT CALCULATION METHOD:
Points awarded 1st – 5th place.

<u>Number of Horses</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>
1	1	0			
2	2	1	0		
3	3	2	1	0	
4	4	3	2	1	0
5	5	4	3	2	1
6	6	5	4	3	2
7	7	6	5	4	3

TIE BREAKER: Horse Show – Winner of largest class where both exhibitors are entered, or winner of Equitation. Gymkhana – Total of all times, fastest time wins.

Proper show etiquette shall be practiced by all exhibitors, parents, leaders, spectators, and show committee volunteers before, during, and after the show. Complaints must be presented to the Horse Show Superintendent within 30 days after the show and will be dealt with by the Fair Management.

For official protest, see State Rules regarding protests. Abusive or otherwise rough treatment of horses will not be permitted; Exhibitors found guilty of animal abuse will be disqualification from show and forfeit of awards. Exhibitors should prepare for this event prior to entering. This is not a schooling show.

All exhibitors are encouraged to obtain a copy of the 2025 CDFA State Rules.

4-H & FFA HORSE SHOWMANSHIP

**Premiums offered for
4-H Senior and FFA Advanced Showmanship
Only, Ribbons only for other Classes**

<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>	<u>7th</u>	<u>8th</u>
\$8.00	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00

- Halter to 1st place and ribbons thru 8th place. Premiums for Senior & Advanced classes only in horse showmanship divisions
- No Entry Fees
- No post entries will be accepted.
- Animals shown in showmanship must be owned or leased by the exhibitor and entered by the

exhibitor in an appropriate Junior Horse Show class.

- Madera, Mariposa, & Stanislaus 4-H members will be eligible to enter horse showmanship with only the highest placing Merced 4-H member in showmanship allowed to proceed into Round Robin.
- Entries due on or before May 1st. Exhibitors are to use their age as of December 31, 2024 when determining which class to enter.
- Winner of Beef, Boer Goat, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goat, Swine, Sheep, and Horse Showmanship are eligible to enter Round Robin Showmanship. Exhibitor shall be on hand and ready to exhibit at the time called for judging.
- See Local Livestock Rules for uniform requirements. Long sleeved shirts required.

Division 550 – Horse Showmanship

Note: no horse will be used in the Round Robin Showmanship only animals will be: beef, dairy cattle, dairy goat, swine, sheep and boer goat

Class

- 1 **Junior** (ages 9 and 10) First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to 4-H Senior Showmanship
- 2 **Intermediate** (ages 11 through 13) First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to 4-H Senior Showmanship
- 2 **Senior** (Ages 14 and over) Winners in 4-H and FFA Senior Showmanship are eligible to enter 4-H and FFA Round Robin Showmanship
- 4 **Novice** FFA exhibitor who has never shown a horse before at any organized show/fair, regardless of grade level. **First** two winners are automatically eligible to move up to FFA Advanced Showmanship
- 5 **Freshman** FFA- Exhibitor may show twice in this category. May show the summer prior to 9th grade year and the summer immediately following 9th grade year. First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to FFA Advanced Showmanship
7. **Advanced** FFA members who do not qualify to show as Novice or Freshman

Division 551 – Horse Show Classes

Entry Fee: \$6.00 Per Class

Premiums Offered per class

		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
		\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00
Class		Qualifies for State Fair or 4-H Classic	Counts Toward Walk Jog/Trot High Point	Counts Toward Horse Show High Point		
1	Walk Jog/Trot Showmanship	X	X			
2	Halter, Mare**					
3	Halter, Gelding**					
4	Leadline* (ages 5-8)					
5	Walk Only*** (special needs)					
6	Walk Trot English Pleasure (open)	X	X			
7	English Pleasure (ages 13 & under)	X				X
8	English Pleasure (ages 14 & over)	X				X
9	Walk Trot English Equitation (open)	X	X			
10	English and/or Hunt Seat Equitation (ages 13 & under)	X				X
11	English and/or Hunt Seat Equitation (ages 14 & over)	X				X
12	English Horsemanship (open)	X				X
13	Hunter Hack (open)	X				X
14	Equitation Over Fences (open)	X				X
15	Walk Jog Western Pleasure (open)	X	X			
16	Western Pleasure (ages 13 and under)	X				X
17	Western Pleasure (ages 14 & over)	X				X
18	Walk Jog Western Equitation (open)	X	X			
19	Western Equitation (ages 13 and under)	X				X
	Western Equitation (ages 14 and over)	X				X
21	Western Horsemanship (open)	X				X
22	Ranch Riding (open)	X				X
23	Lead Line Trail* (ages 5 to 8)					
24	Walk Only Trail*** (Special Needs)					
25	Walk Jog/Trot Trail (open)	X	X			
26	Trail (ages 13 and under)	X				X
29	Trail (ages 14 and over)	X				X

breedingTrail classes will occur during regular performance classes, following lead line classes.

*No entry fee or premiums for lead line classes

**Winner of the halter class will receive a halter award

***Will show with lead line contestants. Eligible for placings and awards. Entry is at discretion of show management. Must ride independently unless ruled by the judge.

Gymkhana Events

Division 552 – Gymkhana Events

Entry Fee: \$6.00 Per Class

Must check in by 2:00 p.m.

Not to begin before 3:00 p.m.

All Gymkhana events qualify for both State Fair and Gymkhana High Point.

Class

- 1 Washington Pole Bending (ages 13 and under)
- 2 Washington Pole Bending (ages 14 and over)
- 3 Single Stake (ages 13 and under)
- 4 Single Stake (ages 14 and over)
- 5 Bi-rangle Stake Race (ages 13 and under)
- 6 Bi-rangle Stake Race (ages 14 and over)
- 7 California Speed Barrels (ages 13 and under)
- 8 California Speed Barrels (ages 14 and over)
- 9 Cloverleaf Barrels (ages 13 and under)
- 10 Cloverleaf Barrels (ages 14 and over)



SMALL ANIMAL SHOWMANSHIP

Premiums offered for 4-H Senior and FFA Advanced Showmanship Only

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
\$8	\$7	\$6	\$5	\$4	\$3	\$2	\$1

- Award and ribbon for 1st place in each class
- No cash awards for classes 1 and 2, 4 and 5, Ribbons only for 2nd through 8th place
- Animal shown in Showmanship must be owned by the exhibitor and entered by the exhibitor in an appropriate market or breeding class. Only animals owned, fitted and shown by the exhibitor are eligible.
- Exhibitors in each class judged together unless classes are too large, as determined by the Superintendent.
- Exhibitors are to use their age as of December 31, 2024 when determining which Class to enter.

Division 553 – Rabbit Showmanship

Division 554 – Poultry Showmanship

Division 555 – Turkey Showmanship

Class

- 1 **4-H Junior** (ages 9 and 10). The first two winners automatically eligible to move up to 4-H Senior Showmanship.
- 2 **4-H Intermediate** (ages 11 through 13). First two winners automatically eligible to move up to 4-H Senior Showmanship
- 3 **4-H Senior** (ages 14 and over)
- 4 **FFA Novice** – Exhibitor who has never shown before at any organized show/fair, regardless of grade level. First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to FFA Advanced Showmanship
- 5 **FFA Freshman** – Exhibitor may show twice in this category. May show the summer prior to 9th grade year and the summer immediately following 9th grade year. First two winners are automatically eligible to move up to FFA Advanced Showmanship
- 6 **FFA Advanced** – FFA members who do not qualify to show as Novice or Freshman

SMALL ANIMAL ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP

SILVER BUCKLE AND ROSETTES ONLY

Winners in Rabbit and Poultry Showmanship are eligible to enter Small Animal Round Robin Showmanship. Any exhibitor having previously won a Round Robin Showmanship at the Merced County Fair is ineligible to enter this competition. For example, if the winner of the Rabbit Showmanship has previously won a Round Robin, the person placing second would then be eligible to enter Round Robin.

All contestants will compete at the same time

BREEDING RABBITS

Entry Fee: \$6.00 per entry per class

Premiums Offered per Class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00

Award and Ribbon for Best of Breed and Best Opposite Sex in each Division if more than 5 entries in the Division.

Exhibitors **must** note breed and variety in comment section of online entry. Fair management will break divisions.

Rabbits must be entered, shown and judged in the proper division and class for breed, variety, age and sex.

Division 556 – Lightweight Rabbits

These will consist of ARBA 4 Class rabbits please use drop down menu when entering online to identify breeds.

Class

- 1 Senior Buck, 6 months of age and over
- 2 Junior Buck, under 6 months of age
- 3 Senior Doe, 6 months of age and over
- 4 Junior Doe, under 6 months of age

Division 557 – Heavyweight Rabbits

These will consist of ARBA 6 Class rabbits please use drop down menu when entering online to identify breeds.

Class

- 1 Senior Buck, 8 months of age and over
- 2 Intermediate Buck, 6-8 months of age
- 3 Junior Buck, under 6 months of age
- 4 Senior Doe, 8 months of age and over
- 5 Intermediate Doe, 6-8 months of age
- 6 Junior Doe, under 6 months of age

This show is sanctioned by the American Rabbit Breeders' Association, Inc., Rules, definitions and judging procedures as prescribed in the latest edition of the Guide Book and Standard of the American Rabbit Breeders' Association, Inc., shall apply to all District and County Fair Rabbit Shows, provided they do not conflict with any of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Department of Food and Agriculture.

BREEDING RABBIT SHOW RULES

1. **ONLINE ENTRY IS DUE BY MAY 1, 2025 at 11:59 PM.**
2. Rabbits will be entered, shown and judged in proper division and class for breed, age and sex. At the time of entry, animals not identified by sex, ear tattoo and breed will be considered deficient and ineligible to show.
3. No tattooing will be permitted on the fairgrounds. All Rabbits must be tattooed prior to arriving at the fair.
4. Rabbits found to be in ill health will be refused from the show by the show committee and **MUST** be removed from the fairgrounds.
5. Exhibitors limited to **FOUR (4)** entries per class in divisions where breed is specified. In the "All Other Breeds" divisions, Rabbits must be entered, shown and judged in the proper division and class for breed, variety, age and sex. Fair Management will break the divisions. (NOTE: Per State Rule IV (6), "no exhibitor shall receive more than two cash awards in any one class using American judging system. When an exhibitor earns more than two awards in a class, the exhibitor will receive the two highest cash awards, and the lesser cash awards will be moved down the placings to other exhibitors; ribbons will be awarded as placed."). One entry per exhibitor in the Meat Pen division. Limit of 15 entries per exhibitor excluding showmanship. Meat Pen counted as one entry.
6. All Rabbits must have permanent ear tattoos; ear tattoos must correspond to the entry.
7. Positively no substitutions except in same breed, sex, class and variety. A \$5.00 penalty must be paid at time of check-in for each substitution made more than two per exhibitor. No substitutions will be made after 5:00 p.m. the day before the show.
8. Any corrections due to Fair clerical errors must be made promptly upon arrival at the show and before judging begins.

9. This will be a One Day Carry Case show. Rabbits will remain in carry case except during judging.
10. Exhibitors are responsible for getting their animals to the judging table on time. Exhibitors shall not state ownership of any animal to the judge.
11. **ONLY RABBIT EXHIBITORS are allowed at the judging tables. Parents and viewers must remain outside of the show area. This will be strictly enforced.**
12. All Rabbits are entered at the owner's risk. Judges and show personnel are not responsible in any way for loss, injury or death to entries. All reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure their safety.
13. When showing, FFA exhibitors will be required to wear the official show uniform of FFA. For 4-H exhibitors, it is required that white pants, white **long sleeved** dress shirt, and tie/scarf be worn. 4-H hat is optional. For Independent Junior exhibitors, it is required that white pants and a white long-sleeved dress shirt be worn.
14. All other rules applying to Junior Livestock Divisions also apply to Rabbit Divisions.
15. Rabbits must be owned by and in the care of the Exhibitor and entered and shown by the Exhibitor.
16. All exhibitors are responsible for checking in their own Rabbits. Rabbits will be released after they are done showing.

NEW*CAVIES***NEW**

Entry Fee: \$6.00 per entry per class

Premiums Offered per Class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00

Awards offered. To be determined upon entries.

Ribbons will be awarded.

Division 558 – Cavies

These will consist of ARBA breeds of cavies. All breeds are judged together.

Class

- 1 Senior Boar, 8 months of age and over
- 2 Intermediate Boar, 6-8 months of age
- 3 Junior Boar, under 6 months of age
- 4 Senior Sow, 8 months of age and over
- 5 Intermediate Sow, 6-8 months of age
- 6 Junior Sow, under 6 months of age

MARKET RABBITS

Entry Fee \$15.00 per Class

PREMIUMS ARE NOT PAID ON MARKET RABBITS

MEAT PENS & SINGLE FRYERS

Meat Pen check-in and weigh-in will begin at 6:30 a.m., starting with 4-H Meat Pens, followed by FFA Meat Pens.

Meat Pen judging is to start at 7:00 a.m., starting with 4-H and followed by FFA. All Breeds are judged together.

Division 559 - 4-H Market Rabbits

Division 560 - FFA Market Rabbits

Class

- 1 Meat Pen of three (3) Rabbits: not under 3½ pounds or over 5½ pounds each when the weight is rounded to the nearest 1/10 of a pound. It cannot be over ten (10) weeks old. Judged alive. Must be of the same breed and variety. Owned for a minimum of 30 consecutive days. If a meat pen Rabbit does not make weight at weigh-in, the exhibitor has the option to put one Rabbit into the single fryer class. This option must be declared at the scale. **CANNOT BE ENTERED IN BREED CLASSES.**
- 2 Single Fryer: not under three 3½ pounds and not over five 5½ pounds each, or over ten (10) weeks old. Judged alive. **CANNOT BE ENTERED IN BREED CLASSES.**

BREEDING POULTRY

Entry Fee: \$ 6.00 per entry per class

Premiums Offered Per Class

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00

1. **ENTRIES DUE ON OR BEFORE MAY 1ST.**
2. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. FRIDAY, JUNE 6th. Judging begins at 9 a.m. Birds will be released after showmanship.
3. Birds found in ill health will be refused from the show by the poultry inspector and **MUST** be removed from the fairgrounds.
4. All standard bred poultry will be judged by comparison to the latest edition of the "American Poultry Association Standard of Perfection" and "Bantam Standard". All non-

standard and utility fowl will be judged on condition and suitability to utility.

5. Exhibitors limited to four entries per class, however, State Rule 6, Section IV, regarding payment of cash awards will apply.
6. Once cleared through health inspection birds will be placed in assigned cages according to entry tags.
7. **BANDS ARE REQUIRED** on all birds upon arrival, except Geese, Ducks and Turkeys. All Geese, Ducks and Turkeys must have bands on cages. Birds must be banded before inspection.
8. Exhibitors are required to be in uniform and stay at ringside for the duration of the show. Exhibitors shall not state ownership of any birds to the judge.
9. Companion birds must be one to a cage to be judged.
10. All birds are entered at the owner's risk. The fair, employees, judges and show personnel are not responsible in any way for loss, injury or death of entries. All reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure their safety.
11. All birds must be owned by the exhibitor a minimum of 30 days.
12. Avian must be owned by and in the care of the Exhibitor and shown by the Exhibitor
13. Best in Division winners are eligible for State Fair.

Division 561 - Bantam Breeds

(Old English & Modern Games)

Class

- 1 Cock (Male one Year and Older)
- 2 Hen (Female one Year and Older)
- 3 Cockerel (Male Under one Year)
- 4 Pullet (Female Under one Year)

Division 562 - Bantam Breeds

(Single Comb Clean Legged)

Class

- 1 Cock (Male one Year and Older)
- 2 Hen (Female one Year and Older)
- 3 Cockerel (Male Under one Year)
- 4 Pullet (Female Under one Year)

Division 563- Bantam Breeds

(All Other Comb Clean Legged)

Class

- 1 Cock (Male one Year and Older)
- 2 Hen (Female one Year and Older)
- 3 Cockerel (Male Under one Year)
- 4 Pullet (Female Under one Year)

Division 564 – Bantam Breeds

(Feather Legged)

Class

- 1 Cock (Male one Year and Older)
- 2 Hen (Female one Year and Older)
- 3 Cockerel (Male Under one Year)
- 4 Pullet (Female Under one Year)

Division 565 – Waterfowl and Other Poultry

Class

- 1 Duck (Drake Male)
- 2 Duck (Duck, Female)
- 3 Geese
- 4 Turkey
- 5 Other Poultry (Identify when entering)

Division 566 - Large Standard Breeds

(Any Large Fowl Breed Recognized by APA)

Class

- 1 Cock (Male one Year and Older)
- 2 Hen (Female one Year and Older)
- 3 Cockerel (Male Under one Year)
- 4 Pullet (Female Under one Year)

Division 567 - Large Non-Standard Breeds

Class

- 1 Cock (Male one Year and Older)
- 2 Hen (Female one Year and Older)
- 3 Cockerel (Male Under one Year)
- 4 Pullet (Female Under one Year)

Division 568 - Utility, Meat & Egg

Class

- 1 Cock (Male one Year and Older)
- 2 Hen (Female one Year and Older)
- 3 Cockerel (Male Under one Year)
- 4 Pullet (Female Under one Year)

Division 569 - Eggs

Class

- 1 Bantam (one dozen)
- 2 Standard White (one dozen)
- 3 Standard Brown (one dozen)
- 4 Standard Colored (one dozen)

MARKET POULTRY

Entry Fee: 15.00 Per entry per Class
PREMIUMS ARE NOT PAID ON MARKET CHICKENS

MARKET CHICKEN PENS

All Advisors and 4-H Leaders must request leg bands no later than April 1, 2025. Please email requests to livestock@countyofmerced.com

*Birds must report to the Poultry Health Inspection site between 7-8 a.m.

*Meat Pen judging to start at 9 a.m.

*All birds must be leg banded before arrival at fair and leg bands must correspond to band numbers listed on entries.

Division 570 - 4-H Market Chickens

Division 571 - FFA Market Chickens

Class

- 1. Pen of two market chickens: each bird minimum of 5 pounds and maximum of 8 pounds. After weigh-in will be divided into weight groups as necessary. **CANNOT BE ENTERED IN BREED CLASSES.**

MARKET TURKEY

**Entry Fee: \$15.00 Per entry per Class
PREMIUMS ARE NOT PAID ON
MARKET TURKEY**

Weights:

Minimum weight 15 pounds

Maximum weight 35 pounds

Turkeys are to report to Poultry Health Inspection site between 7:00-8:00 a.m. Meat Pen judging to start at 9:00 a.m. followed by Market Turkeys.

All Turkeys must have leg bands on before arrival at fair and leg bands must correspond to band numbers listed on entries.

This class is open to market turkeys only. Turkeys will be shown in Hen classes and Tom classes. All turkeys regardless of gender will not be older than 20 weeks of age. Hen and Tom Champions will show against each other for the supreme champion. Turkeys will be sold by the head.

Division - 572 4-H Market Turkey

Class

- 01 Hen
- 02 Tom

Division - 573 FFA Market Turkey

Class

- 01 Hen
- 02 Tom