



2026-2027
Rule Book

2026 – 2027
Hays County
Livestock Show
Rules

Revised:
August 2026

Hays County Livestock Expo Board of Directors

Officers

President.....	Travis Cox
1 st Vice President.....	Andrew Zelhart
2 nd Vice President.....	Terry Polk
Secretary.....	Lee Ann Young
Treasurer.....	Lexi Lugo
Reporter.....	Jaimee Coco

Board Member

Mike Carroll	Marty Clark	Barry Coco
Dr. Lamar Crossland	Dillon Doyle	Blaine Eiben
Lindsay Fredenburg	Blake Hancock	Brandon Henry
Marcus Hildebrand	Delton Hudson	Leslie Hunt
DJ Kirkey	Nita Leinneweber	Rex Lyons
Roy Odell	David Owens	Joseph Phillips
Chris Smith	Veni Soto	Matt Ronshausen
Judy Walker	Donna Wallace	Kaitlyn Wright

Division Superintendents

Ag Mechanics.....	Andrew Zelhart
Cattle.....	Lamar Crossland
Goats.....	Donna Wallace
Home Skills.....	Nita Leinneweber
Horse.....	Judy Walker
Poultry.....	Barry Coco
Queen, Ambassador, Scholarships.....	Lexi Lugo
Rabbits.....	Blaine Eiben
Sheep.....	Mike Carroll
Swine.....	Rex Lyons

Extension Agents

Kate Blankenship
Savannah Bushkuhl

4-H & Youth Program Coordinator

Iliana Carrizales

2027 Hays County Livestock Show Schedule of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sat	Jan 16	8:45am	Presentation of Queen's Court and Ambassador's
		9:00am	Horse Show
Sat	Jan 23	6:00pm-10:30pm	Buyer's Gala Horse Show Awards
Sun	Jan 24	5:00pm-7:00pm	Ag Mechanics Projects Check-In
Mon	Jan 25	8:00am	Barn Open
		8:00am (must be in line by 9:00am)	Check-In Market Rabbits Followed by Market Rabbit Show, Breeding Rabbits immediately after Market
		9:00am	Judging of Ag Mechanics
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Home Skills Projects Check-In
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Goat and Lamb Check-In
Tues	Jan 26	9:00am	Breeding Goat Show Followed by Market Goat Show
		9:00am-4:00pm	Judging of Home Skills
		3:00pm	Breeding Sheep Show Followed by Market Sheep Show
		4:00pm	Presentation of Home Skills Awards
		4:30pm-6:30pm	Home Skills Open for Public Viewing
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Swine Check-In
Wed	Jan 27	9:00am	Breeding Swine Show Followed by Market Swine Show
		1:00pm-5:30pm	Home Skills Public Viewing and Check-Out of Projects
		3:00pm	Poultry Check-In

		5:00pm	Poultry Show
		5:00pm- 7:00pm	Cattle Check-In
Thurs	Jan 28	12:00pm	Breeding Cattle Show Followed by Market Steer Show
Fri	Jan 29	10:00am	Setup auction ring. All help is appreciated
		by 6:00pm	All livestock and Ag Mechanics projects not going through the auction must be removed
Sat	Jan 30	10:00am	Awards
		10:30am	Auction Starts
Sun	Jan 31	9:00am	Show Breakdown/Clean-up

2026 Top Buyers

Top 10

Businesses/Organizations

McCoy's Building Supply

Gunner Thames Memorial Foundation

Dripping Springs Ag Boosters

Sunset Construction and Excavation

Kohler Pot/Mark Jones

Wimberley 4-H Buyers Pool

Davey Plumbing

Lone Star Cattlemen

L&R Buyers Group

Republic of Texas Tailgaters

Top 10

Individuals

Steve Williams

Dick & Dodie Scott

Jim & Peggy Janse

James & Janet Ward

Chris Smith

Rex & Debbie Lyons

Anthony & Peggy Hipolito

Glen Portie

Lucinda Doyle, Attorney at Law

Tommy & Sylvia Kezar

1. HAYS COUNTY YOUTH SHOW GENERAL RULES

1.1 INVITATIONAL SHOW: This is an invitational show. The HCLE Board of Directors reserves the right to extend or withhold an invitation to any contestant.

1.2 RULES INTERPRETATIONS AND VIOLATIONS:

Exhibitors are requested to report any rule violation(s) to the appropriate division superintendent immediately so that appropriate action may be taken. The Hays County Livestock Show Board reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard thereto, or arising out of, or in connection with, or incident to, the exposition and to amend or add to these rules. Exhibitors who violate any of the rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums and will be subject to such a penalty as the HCLE Board of Directors may order.

1.3 CONDUCT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

Exhibitors are responsible for the actions of their parents, guardians, family members, and any individuals assisting them during the Hays County Livestock Expo. All such individuals must comply with all rules, regulations, and directives of show officials.

Unsportsmanlike, disruptive, unsafe, or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to: illegal activity, abusive or threatening language, acts of violence, causing or threatening bodily harm, habitual disruption, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. HCLE reserves the right to immediately remove any individual (including adults and volunteers) from the grounds or any event for such behavior.

Violations may result in disqualification of the exhibitor, forfeiture of premiums, awards, and sale eligibility, removal from grounds, and/or loss of future participation privileges. All decisions of the HCLE Board of Directors are final. Immediate removal will be by a majority vote of the Executive Board. Permanent removal will be by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors.

1.4 SPECIAL RULES: Special Rules are published in any department where necessary. If there is a conflict between the Special Rules and the General Rules, the Special Rules will govern.

1.5 LIABILITY: All exhibits will be under the direction of the hosting organization, but in no case will the Hays County Livestock Exposition, Inc. (HCLE), their respective agents, directors, officers, managers, employees, and volunteers will be responsible for any loss, injury or damage which may occur. The exhibitor will be solely responsible for their projects and any consequential or other loss, injury, or damage done to, or

occasioned by, or arising from, any animal or property exhibited by him/her. Exhibitors shall indemnify and hold HCLE harmless against any and all claims, demands, damages, costs, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees for defense thereof arising out of conduct or management of the show, including, but not limited to, their negligence. In no case will HCLE, its directors, officers, managers, employees, or volunteers be held responsible for any loss, damage, or injury of any character, person, animal, or article while on HCLE grounds at the event or at any other time or place caused by the exhibitor or any animals exhibited with such exhibition, or any of the animals so exhibited. All owners or persons in charge of property or animals shall care for, guard, protect, and preserve the same, as HCLE does not undertake to do so, and it shall not be held responsible for any loss, shrink, animals, owners, or exhibitors thereof.

1.6 DISPUTES AND PROTESTS: All protests or other matters must be submitted in writing within 24 hours and accompanied with a deposit of \$100, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. Such a protest must plainly state the cause of the complaint or appeal and must be delivered to the appropriate division superintendent immediately after the occasion for the protest. All protests will be reviewed by an Executive Board of the Hays County Livestock Exposition, Inc. Judges' and classifiers' decisions will be final and may not be protested. Weight backs may not be protested.

1.7 ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY: According to UIL Guidelines students must be academically eligible to participate in such an event. This would mean that they will need to be passing as of the grading period prior to the event. For competitive 4-H or FFA-sponsored events, youth participants must be academically eligible per current guidelines as set forth by the Texas Education Agency. Youth exhibitors and contestants who have been suspended under **Texas Education Code 33.081 "No Pass, No Play"** are ineligible to participate in any Hays County Livestock Exposition Inc. activity, event or competition. **Any animal owned by an ineligible exhibitor is ineligible for competition.** As of January 12th, all Hays County 4-H and FFA exhibitors are considered to be eligible by the Hays County Livestock Exposition Inc. to participate in the Youth Livestock Show. Any AST/CEA, FFA, FCCLA advisor who has a member in his/her 4-H or FFA program who becomes ineligible to participate in the Youth Livestock Show according to the Texas Education Code must provide written and signed notification to the Hays County Livestock Exposition, Inc. Board and the appropriate division superintendent prior to check-in.

1.8 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY: Participants must be a member of a Hays County FFA Chapter, FCCLA or 4-H Club. Participants must reside within the geographic boundaries of a Hays County School District or attend a public or private school located within Hays County. For the purposes of general eligibility, a participant cannot be a permanent resident of two different counties. If there is a discrepancy as to a participant’s permanent residence, discretion will be given to where the participant is enrolled in public school. Any questions or challenges regarding the eligibility of a participant will be reviewed by the Eligibility Committee and a recommendation made to the full Board. Participants must be in good standing in an FFA Chapter and/or 4-H Club in Hays County at the time of the Show. **Good Standing means that a youth participant must have met the attendance requirement of attending three (3) meetings and/or events of the organizations between the months of August through January. FFA Advisors and CEA’s will certify eligibility of all of the chapter/club exhibitors to the Hays County Livestock Exposition, Inc Board. Exhibitors who do not follow this eligibility will not be allowed to participate in the Hays County Youth Livestock Show. The Hays County Livestock Exposition, Inc. Board has the final determination of General Eligibility.

1.9 OTHER COUNTY SHOWS: The participant and/or project may not enter or participate in another county youth show in Texas other than Hays County in the same school year.

1.10 OWNERSHIP/VALIDATION DATES AND FEES: All exhibitors, regardless of species or project, shall abide by the standards established by the current Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy. The ownership and validation dates specifically pertaining to our show are as shown below.

1.11

Item	Date	Fee
Turkeys	Ordered by County Agent Deadline July 1, 2026	—
Broilers	Ordered by County Agent Deadline TBA	—
Steers	June 13th and 27th DSRP	\$30.00
Heifers	June 13th and 27th 3 rd Saturday in October DSRP	\$30.00
Lambs	October 17th and 24th DSRP	\$30.00
Ewes	October 17th and 24th	\$30.00

	DSRP	
Market Goats (Male & Female)	October 17th and 24th DSRP	\$30.00
Breeding Meat Goats	October 17th and 24th DSRP	\$30.00
Horses	Saturday, November 1, 2026	-
Market Barrows & Gilts	Saturday, November 7, 2026 DSRP	\$30.00 Late Fee \$35
Breeding Gilts	Saturday, November 7, 2026 DSRP	\$30.00 Late Fee \$35
Market Rabbits	Saturday, December 19, 2026 Buda VoAg Building	\$2.00
Breeding Rabbits	Saturday, December 19, 2026 Buda VoAg Building	\$2.00

VALIDATION TIMES WILL BE FROM 8-11AM

1.12 HORSE OWNERSHIP: An affidavit of ownership or 4-H lease is necessary to enter grade horses. For registered horses, completed registration papers prior to November 1 through the breed registry/association will prove ownership. Transfer papers will not be accepted as proof of ownership. For registered horses that are leased, please complete the Texas 4-H Lease Horse Agreement. Papers must be submitted to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, Hays County.

1.13 VALIDATION TAGS: A state validation tag, tattoo, or registration papers are required at check-in. If a tag is lost or pulled out, contact the division superintendent AND County Extension Agent within 24 hours of the loss. If a band is lost on poultry, it is ineligible for any show (county or majors). You may contact the division superintendent or County Extension Agent if you have a questionable or loose band to re-band, however re-banded poultry are ineligible for majors and can only be shown at the Hays County Livestock Show. Validation tag must be properly affixed to all animals before entering the show barn.

DECLARATION FOR BREEDING ANIMALS: Declaration of whether the animal shows in market or breeding will be done at check in as long as two entries have been paid for the animal to show in either market or breeding. ****For clarification, this means that a paid market entry AND a paid breeding entry are required in order to have a choice at check-in. It does NOT mean that a single animal can show in both classes.****

1.14 ENTRY DEADLINE: All entries must be submitted online and paid in full by 11:59pm on the third Wednesday of December. There will be NO REFUNDS ON ENTRY FEES. Late entries for ALL PROJECTS will be accepted up to check-in on:

- January 24, 2027, for Ag Mechanics
- January 25, 2027, for Rabbits and Home Skills
- January 25, 2027, for Goats and Sheep
- January 26, 2027, for Swine
- January 27, 2027, for Cattle and Poultry

with an additional late fee of \$300.00 per project/per species as long as the exhibitor has met the general eligibility.

1.15 ENTRY FEES AND ACCEPTABLE PAYMENT: Cash is not accepted. Entry fees must be paid by Credit Card, personal check, cashier’s check or money order. No personal checks for late entries.

Entry Fees

Item	Fee
Exhibitor Fee	\$10.00
Market Steers	\$25.00
Market Swine (includes a bag of shavings)	\$35.00
Market Goats (Male or Female)	\$25.00
Market Lambs	\$25.00
Market Rabbit Pen	\$20.00
Market Rabbit Fryer	\$20.00
Broiler Pen	\$20.00
Turkeys	\$20.00
Breeding Cattle	\$25.00
Breeding Swine(includes a bag of shavings)	\$35.00
Breeding Meat Goats	\$25.00
Breeding Ewes	\$25.00
Breeding Rabbits	\$20.00
Ag Mechanics	\$20.00
Home Skills	\$10.00
Horses	\$10.00 per Class
Horses- Goat Tying	\$20.00 per Class
Horses- Breakaway Roping	\$40.00 per Class

1.16 ENTRY SIGNATURES: All required e-signatures must be on the entry form when it is submitted or a completed online entry for it to be considered valid.

1.17 MARKET ENTRIES: Up to four (4) entries will be allowed in all market classes except market rabbits which will be limited to two (2) pens and one fryer. To be eligible to enter one fryer the exhibitor must enter at least one pen of rabbits.

1.18 BREEDING ENTRIES: There will be no limit to entries that are allowed in each breeding division

1.19 OWNERSHIP DECLARATION: Once ownership has been declared at check-in, it will not be changed.

1.20 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR: For safety reasons, any animal deemed uncontrollable by the division superintendent must be removed from the show grounds by the exhibitor.

1.21 CHECK-IN: All species will be weighed, checked-in and classified by the Superintendent and Classifier. Weight cards will be turned in and be considered final. Validation tags must be properly affixed to all animals before entering the show barn.

1.22 SIFTING: All animals and poultry brought to the show must be of sufficient quality to show. A sifting committee may inspect all entries. Three classifiers and/or sifters may be used in each division to the discretion of the HCLE Board of Directors.

1.23 CHAMPIONS: One exhibitor may not win both the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion in the Market division.

1.24 ANIMAL SHOWMANSHIP: Awards will be made in beef, goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine divisions in a separate showmanship class at the conclusion of each show. Age divisions are shown below and are as of the day of the show.

Senior	9 th Grade – 12 th Grade
Intermediate	6 th Grade – 8 th Grade
Junior	3 rd Grade – 5 th Grade
Clover kid	Kinder - 2 nd Grade

No entry fee will be charged and any exhibitor with an entry in a division may participate in that division. The exhibitor must be entered in that division to participate in showmanship.

1.25 AG MECHANICS SHOWMANSHIP: A showmanship award will be presented to one (1) Clover kid, one (1) Junior, one (1) Intermediate, and one (1) Senior exhibitor. Age divisions are shown below and are as of the day of the show.

Senior	9th Grade – 12th Grade
Intermediate	6th Grade - 8th Grade
Junior	3rd Grade - 5th Grade
Clover kid	Kinder - 2nd Grade

1.26 HORSE SHOWMANSHIP: A showmanship award will be presented to one (1) Clover kid, one (1) Junior and one (1) Senior exhibitor. Age divisions are shown below and are as of the day of the show.

Senior	9th Grade- 12th Grade
Junior	3rd Grade- 8th Grade
Clover kid	Kinder- 2nd Grade

1.27 GROOMING, FITTING & FEEDING: Only Hays County Agriculture Teachers, Hays County Agents, and immediate family (mother, father, legal guardian, brother, sister and grandparents) may assist exhibitors with grooming, fitting & feeding on the show grounds during the Hays County Youth Show.

- Only the exhibitors, the official judge and his certified assistant and the show attendants tabulating the judging results, will be allowed in the judging ring.
- The only exception to this rule is for Broiler and Turkey Show where an adult or exhibitor may assist in the ring.
- A special needs exhibitor may be assisted by an exhibitor in that specific division.
- Groups in breeding animals (cow/calf, nannie/kid, ewe/lamb) may be assisted by an exhibitor in that specific division.

In the event of a safety concern arising, the decision and course of action will be determined by the executive committee.

1.28 EXHIBITOR SUBSTITUTION: Entries in the Hays County Youth Livestock Show must be shown by their owner. Exhibitor substitutions must follow the guidelines stated below:

- **An Exhibitor substitution form must be requested, completed and submitted at least one (1) hour prior to the start of that species show. The completed substitution form must be submitted to the division superintendent.**

- Exhibitor substitutions may be allowed under the following conditions. In all cases, the Department Superintendent must approve the exhibitor substitution and will do so only if all conditions are met:
- a) **UIL or Standardized Testing:** This substitution request must be made in writing by the AST/CEA, parent/guardian or leader at the Show. This request must be made on the Official Hays County Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Substitution Form provided by the Department Superintendent. This request must be accompanied by a letter signed by a School Administrator, on school letterhead stating the specific reason a substitute is requested. The completed Official Hays County Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Substitution Form and the notarized statement must be returned to the Department Superintendent one (1) hour prior to the start of the respective show.
- b) **Sickness:** This substitution request must be made in writing by the AST/CEA, parent/guardian, or leader at the Show. This request must be made on the Official Hays County Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Substitution Form provided by the Department Superintendent. This request must be accompanied by a statement, signed by a Physician, on his/her letterhead. The completed Official Hays County Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Substitution Form and the Physician's statement must be returned to the Department Superintendent one (1) hour prior to the start of the respective Show.
- c) **More Than One Entry in a Class or the Exhibitor Has Entries In More Than One Department Show At The Same Time:** This substitution request must be made in writing by the AST/CEA, parent/guardian, or leader at the Show as soon as the problem arises, but in any case, no later than the start of the respective show. This request must be made on the Official Hays County Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Substitution Form provided by the Department Superintendent. The completed Official Hays County Youth Livestock Show Exhibitor Substitution Form must be returned to the Department Superintendent one (1) hour prior to the start of the respective show.
- In any of the three (3) situations listed above, or in the case of an emergency, the Department Superintendent may use his/her own discretion as to whether a substitute showman will be allowed. If a positive decision is rendered, the substitute must be from the same school, FFA Chapter, or 4-H Club as the original exhibitor with the following two (2) exceptions:

- a) The original exhibitor is the only exhibitor from that school, Chapter/Club entered in that Department.
- b) All other members from that school, FFA Chapter, or 4-H Club, are exhibiting at the same time.
- In either case, any Exhibitor (meeting all requirements of the Hays County Youth Livestock Show exhibitor in the Department entered) meeting the approval of the Department Superintendent may exhibit the animal.
- Any Exhibitor with an approved Exhibitor substitution for the reason of UIL or Standardized Testing or Sickness will be ineligible to participate in Showmanship in that respective show.

1.29 ANIMAL TRIMMING: Trimming will be allowed on the show grounds with battery operated clippers for touch up only.

1.30 ANIMAL ELIGIBILITY: Any one animal is not eligible to participate in both the Market and Breeding Shows.

1.31 RELEASE TIMES: Release times and removed by will be designated by division superintendents.

1.32 ETHICAL ANIMAL FITTING: Entry of unethically fitted animals is prohibited and grounds for immediate dismissal.

Unethical fitting will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Treating or massaging any part of the animal's body, internally or externally with an irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance to temporarily improve confirmation.
- b) Minimizing the effects of cramping by feeding or injecting drugs or depressants or by using any artificial contrivance or therapeutic treatment other than normal exercise.
- c) Blocking nerves to prevent limping or tail switching.
- d) Striking the animal to cause swelling.
- e) Surgery to change the natural contour or appearance of an animal's body, hide, or hair except for the removal of warts, horns, and permitted clipping and dressing of hair and hoof trimming.
- f) Insertion of foreign material under the skin.
- g) Changing the color of hair at any spot or area of the animal's body.
- h) The use of alcoholic or carbonated beverages in the feed or administered as a drench
- i) The use of diuretics.
- j) The act of artificially filling animals internally, which would include stomach pumping, drench tubes, or any other esophageal method.

- k) The administration of any FDA or USDA unapproved drug.
- l) Unethically fitting will be deemed to consist of changing the normal conformation of any part of the animal's body or using controlled substances, drugs- including but not limited to over the counter and/or extra-label, or mechanical devices to alter the physical makeup and/or performance of the animal, **with the exception of magnetic pulse energy therapy.**

1.33 DRUG TESTING: Drug testing may be performed on all Breed/Division Champions and Reserve Champions in Addition to one (1) animal, chosen randomly, from each Market show. Testing will be administered according to Standard drug testing protocols. All testing, sample Collection, and analysis will be paid for by the HCLE Board of Directors. Animals will be tested for steroids, Diuretics, and anti-inflammatories. Antibiotics will NOT be tested for.

1.34 PENALTY FOR POSITIVE DRUG TEST RESULT:

Exhibitors will be required to return all auction proceeds, buckles, and ribbons to the HCLE Board of Directors, for the animal that tested positive. The results obtained by the analysis will be final. The exhibitor waives any right of recourse towards the HCLE Board of Directors, their appointed veterinarians, or the analyzing laboratory for actions taken against them as a result of this rule.

1.35 DRUG CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT: Included with each online entry, exhibitors, with their parent/guardian, will certify that their entry has not been administered any substance (by them or others) that has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for food animals. Also, the exhibitor and parent/guardian will certify that their entry is free and clear of ALL drug and chemical residue withdrawal and have exceeded elimination time periods.

1.36 DOGS: Dogs are not allowed on the show grounds at any time. Support dogs are exempt from this rule.

1.37 SAFETY AND SECURITY: Any behavior deemed unsafe or unacceptable by the HCLE Board will result in immediate removal from the show grounds by security.

1.38 FRATERNIZATION: Parents and exhibitors may not talk to the judge or ring steward during the show. Failure to comply may result in the participant being disqualified from the show.

1.39 EXCESSIVE COACHING: A contestant may be disqualified from a class, at the division superintendent’s discretion, for receiving excessive verbal instructions from outside the ring.

1.40 DRESS CODE: All exhibitors are required to wear appropriate show attire when competing. Shorts, tank tops, low cut shirts, sheer blouses, flip flops, T-shirts, ball caps, or bare midriffs are not acceptable show attire and therefore may not be worn during a show event.

1.41 TRAILER PARKING: All stock trailers must be parked in the designated trailer parking area. Those trailers left unattended and NOT within the designated parking area, after check-in and during the show, may be removed at the discretion of the HCLE Board.

1.42 VENDORS: Those who wish to charge for services on the show grounds must remit a vendor fee to the Hays County Youth Livestock Show board.

2. AMBASSADOR AND QUEEN’S COURT CONTEST

A. AMBASSADOR AND QUEEN’S COURT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Superintendent: Lexi Lugo
Assistant Superintendent: Veni Soto

2.1 The Queen’s Court will be composed of a Queen, a Princess, and Duchesses.

2.2 The Ambassador’s Court will be composed of Senior Ambassador and Ambassadors.

2.3 The Queen’s Court will have no more than nine girls.

2.4 The Ambassador’s Court will have no more than nine boys.

2.5 The Ambassador’s and Queen’s Court Program will be organized and directed by the HCLE Scholarship, Ambassador, and Queen’s Court Committee; hereafter referenced as *The Committee*.

2.6 In order to participate in the Ambassador and Queen's Court Contest, candidates must meet eligibility requirements, attend the mandatory meeting, submit an application, and participate in a personal interview.

2.7 A panel of judges will score each candidate based on his/her application and personal interview to determine the awarding of titles.

2.8 Title holders must fulfill duties and responsibilities as set forth by the committee.

2.9 Representatives of the Ambassador and Queen's Court will hold their titles for one year.

2.10 All questions or conflicts that arise must be addressed by a phone call to the committee chair or superintendent. Contacts are as follows:

Committee Chair- Janis Weinheimer (512)809-3440

Superintendent- Lexi Lugo (512)426-9292

B. ELIGIBILITY

2.11 Prior to submitting his/her application, candidates must have shown in the Hays County Youth Livestock Show at least once during his/her 4-H or FFA career. In the event that a member of a Hays County 4-H Club of FFA Chapter moved to the county and has been unable to show in the Hays County Youth Livestock Show, eligibility will be considered if the individual has previously participated in another 4-H or FFA's livestock show. If the previous circumstance applies, please contact the committee prior to the application due date.

2.12 Candidates must be enrolled in high school or be eligible to be enrolled in a high school in Hays County.

2.13 A selected candidate may only hold the title of Queen or Senior Ambassador for the duration of one year. Once a Queen or Senior Ambassador of the Hays County Youth Livestock Show has completed his/her reign, he/she will retain a place on the court and will be honored with the title of Senior Ambassador Emeritus or Queen Emeritus for the duration of their remaining high school years.

2.14 If a previous title holder has been released from his/her title, he/she may not apply for the court the following year. After one year, the individual's eligibility will be reconsidered at the discretion of the committee.

2.15 Queen’s Court candidates may be any high school girl involved in 4-H or FFA in Hays County, as long as all other applicable eligibility requirements listed in this section are met.

2.16 Ambassador’s Court candidates may be any high school boy involved in 4-H or FFA in Hays County, as long as all other applicable eligibility requirements listed in this section are met.

2.17 There will be no limit to the number of candidates from an individual club.

2.18 Potential candidates must attend a mandatory meeting with at least one parent or legal guardian. Date TBD Applicants who fail to attend will be disqualified from the contest. Please see Section 2. C for further details.

2.19 Candidates shall not display facial piercings, facial hair, tattoos, or unnaturally colored hair.

C. APPLICATION, RESUME, AND PHOTOGRAPH

2.20 The four hard copies and an electronic copy of the completed application must be submitted.

2.21 The completed, hard copy application must contain four individual 9x12 sealed envelopes of each of the following: application form, resume, reference letter, and photograph. All aforementioned documents must be placed into a large 10x13 sealed envelope. Additionally, one copy of the entry form must be completed and attached to the front of the large 10x13 envelope, with all four sealed complete packets inside this 10x13 envelope. **DO NOT place the entry form inside the application envelope.**

2.22 The completed electronic copy of the application must contain a copy of each of the following: entry form, application form, resume, reference letter, and photograph. **All documents must be submitted in PDF format.** Please email all PDF documents in a single, zipped folder named in the following manner: *CandidateName_2026_2027*

2.23 The candidate’s hard-copy application must be submitted to the Hays County Extension Office by 4:30pm on Tuesday, September 29, 2026. The electronic copy of the completed application must be submitted via email Hayscountylivestockshow@gmail.com by 5:00pm on Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

2.24 Download application and entry forms from the HCLE website www.hayscountylivestockshow.org.

2.25 The resume must contain a description of activities and achievements in 4-H, FFA, civic, community, church, and school organizations. Please include honors won and any leadership positions held.

2.26 A reference letter must be included in each candidate's application. Four copies of the reference letter must be enclosed within the submitted, hard-copy application. Additionally, a copy of the reference letter must be included in the electronic submission.

2.27 Four (4) 4x6 copies of a headshot photograph of the candidate must accompany all entries. A scanned or electronic copy of the same photograph must be included in the electronic submission. Please ensure that the electronic copy is in PDF format. If necessary, the candidate may insert the photograph on a Microsoft Word document and save the document as a PDF.

D. JUDGES' PANELS

2.28 Prior to the interviews, the committee will select six judges from outside of Hays County to serve on the interview panels.

2.29 The judges will be formed into two panels of three judges, One Panel will interview the Queen's Court candidates, while the other will interview the Ambassador's candidates.

E. PERSONAL INTERVIEW, CANDIDATES' SCORE SHEETS, AND JUDGES' COMMENTS

2.30 The interview date will be Sunday, October 11, 2026, at the Hays County PCT 2 Offices 5458 FM 2770 Kyle, Texas 78640

2.31 Pending extenuating circumstances, such as complications surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal interview may be conducted using alternative methods.

2.32 The duration of each personal interview with the judges' panel will not exceed ten minutes.

2.33 Each judge on the panel will score each candidate's application and interview using a standard score sheet provided by the committee. The judges will also be able to add comments on the score sheets.

2.34 After the court has been announced, each candidate will receive a copy of their own score sheets and comments as marked by the judges.

2.35 It is intended that each candidate uses his/her own score sheets and comments as a tool to learn in what areas he/she excelled and how he/she can make improvements in future applications and interviews. Score sheets ARE NOT provided so that the candidates or their parents/legal guardians may compare scores. These scores are intended for private and personal use. Please DO NOT abuse this privilege.

F. RESPONSIBILITIES

2.36 The Queen and Court will reign for one year.

2.37 If the Queen is unable to fulfill her responsibilities, the Princess will reign in her absence. If the Princess is unable, then the next highest scoring Duchess will reign in her absence.

2.38 The Senior Ambassador and Ambassadors will reign for one year.

2.39 If the Senior Ambassador is unable to fulfill his responsibilities, then the next highest scoring Ambassador will reign in his absence.

2.40 The Ambassador's and Queen's Court are required to be present at all livestock show events, including the auction, to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- a. Pass out awards at all events and be in show pictures.
- b. Pass out refreshments and assist the buyers at the auction.
- c. Be in auction pictures
- d. Be available for miscellaneous duties as the by both the HCLE Board and the committee throughout the livestock show.
- e. Attend and help at the HCLE Dance.
- f. Attend other livestock show related events throughout the year.

2.41 The Ambassador and Queen's Court representatives are required to attend certain community events throughout the year, as determined by the committee and HCLE Board.

2.42 The Queen's Court representatives must wear their tiaras and sashes at all events unless participating as an exhibitor at the livestock show.

- 2.43** Ambassadors must wear their Ambassadors’ vests and badges at all events, unless participating as an exhibitor at the livestock show.
- 2.44** It is the responsibility of each Ambassador and Queen’s Court representative to sell, at minimum, the required number of raffle tickets he/she is assigned.

G. SCHOLARSHIP, AMBASSADOR AND QUEEN’S COURT COMMITTEE

- 2.45** A committee will be formed each year and will consist of at least one HCLE Board member and at least 3 volunteers.
- 2.46** The committee has the discretion to remove any Ambassador and Queen’s Court representative who does not fulfill his/her commitments and/or conducts himself/herself in a manner deemed inappropriate.
- 2.47** The committee has the discretion to make changes to the program as needed.
- 2.48** In honor of Dr. Glen & Mary Lou Rydl, a \$1250 Scholarship (\$750 from HCLE & \$500 from Dr. Rydl) will be given to the Queen upon proof of enrollment of a college, university, or technical trade school.
- 2.49** The Hays County Livestock Exposition (HCLE) will give a \$750.00 scholarship to the Senior Ambassador upon proof of enrollment in a college, university or technical trade school.

3.0 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A. SCHOLARSHIP, AMBASSADOR AND QUEEN’S COURT COMMITTEE

- 3.1** The Scholarship Program will be organized and directed by the HCLE Scholarship, Ambassador and Queen’s Court Committee, hereafter referenced as *The Committee*.
- 3.2** A committee will be formed each year and will consist of at least one HCLE Board member and at least 3 volunteers.
- 3.3** All questions or conflicts that arise must be addressed by phone call to the committee chair or superintendent. Contacts as follows:
Committee Chair -Janis Weinheimer (512)809-3440
Superintendent- Lexi Lugo (512)426-9292

B. ELIGIBILITY

3.4 Candidates must be a high school senior.

3.5 Candidates must be an active member of a 4-H Club and/or FFA Chapter in Hays County.

A. APPLICATION, RESUME, TRANSCRIPT, REFERENCE LETTERS, AND PHOTOGRAPH

3.6 Both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the completed application must be submitted.

3.7 The completed, hard copy application must contain four individual 9x12 sealed envelopes of each of the following: application form, resume, official grade transcript, three reference letters, and photograph. All aforementioned documents must be placed into a large 10x13 sealed envelope. Additionally, one copy of the entry form must be completed and attached to the front of the 10x13 envelope, with all four sealed complete packets inside this 10x13 envelope.

DO NOT place the entry form inside the application envelope.

3.8 The completed electronic copy of the application must contain a copy of each of the following: entry form, application form, resume, official grade transcript, three reference letters, and photograph. **All documents must be submitted in PDF format.** Please email all PDF documents in a single, zipped folder named in the following manner: *CandidateName_2026_2027*.

3.9 The candidate's hard-copy application must be submitted to the Hays County Extension Office by 4:30pm on Tuesday, September 29, 2026. The electronic copy of the completed application must be submitted via email to Hayscountylivestockshow@gmail.com by 5:00pm Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

3.10 Download application and entry form from the HCLE website **www.hayscountylivestockshow.org**.

3.11 The resume must contain a description of activities and achievements in 4-H, FFA, civic, community, church, and school organizations. Please include honors won and any leadership positions held.

3.12 Official grade transcripts must accompany all entries.

- a. Four signed hard copies of the candidate's official grade transcript must be enclosed in a separate, sealed envelope

provided by a school official. Transcripts can be obtained at the candidate's school counselor office.

- b. Candidates will be subject to disqualification if the official grade transcript is not signed and sealed in a separate envelope by a school official.
- c. Additionally, the candidate must include a copy of his/her official grade transcript in the electronic submission.
- d. DO NOT open or scan your official grade transcript provided to you by your school official, Instead, please request an electronic PDF copy of your official grade transcript.
- e. Both formats are mandatory, though only the hard copies must be signed and sealed by the candidate's school official.
- f. Should the judges notice any discrepancy in the electronic or hard copies of the transcripts, the candidate may be subject to disqualification.

3.13 Three reference letters must be included in each candidate's application. Four copies of each of the reference letters must be enclosed within the submitted, hard-copy application. Additionally, a copy of each reference letter must be included in your electronic submission.

3.14 Four, 4x6 copies of a headshot photograph of the candidate must accompany all entries. A scanned or electronic copy of the same photograph must be included in the electronic submission. Please ensure that the electronic copy is in PDF format. If necessary, the candidate may insert the photograph on a Microsoft Word document and save the document as a PDF.

C. PERSONAL INTERVIEW, CANDIDATES' SCORE SHEETS, AND JUDGES' COMMENTS

3.15 Prior to the personal interviews, the committee will select three judges from outside of Hays County to serve on the interview panel.

3.16 The interview date will be Sunday, October 11, 2026, at the Hays County PCT 2 Offices 5458 FM 2770 Kyle, Texas 78640

3.17 Pending extenuating circumstances, such as complications surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the personal interview may be conducted using alternative methods.

3.18 The duration of each personal interview with the judges' panel shall not exceed ten minutes

3.19 Each Judge on the panel shall score each candidate’s application and personal interview using a standard score sheet provided by the committee. The Judges may also add comments on the score sheets.

3.20 Candidates will be judged on exhibition of highest achievements in the following areas: church, school, leadership, cooperation, character, and participation.

3.21 After the scholarship recipients have been announced, each candidate will receive a copy of their own score sheets and comments as marked by the judges.

3.22 It is intended that each candidate use his/her own score sheets and comments as a tool to learn in what areas he/she excelled and how he/she can make improvements in future applications and interviews. Score sheets ARE NOT provided so that the candidates or their parents/legal guardians may compare scores. These scores are intended for private and personal use. Please DO NOT abuse the privilege.

D. AWARDS

3.23 HAYS COUNTY LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION, INC AWARD: The Hays County Livestock Exposition (HCLE) will give multiple scholarships up to \$10,000.00. All scholarships awards will be sent directly to the schools upon proof of enrollment in college, university, or technical trade school. All awards must be redeemed within 1 year after awards are announced.

3.24 The committee actively seeks additional scholarships. When additional scholarships are available, they will be announced.

4. EQUINE DIVISION

HORSE RULES

Superintendent: Judy Walker
Assistant Superintendent: Brian Wilks

4.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

4.2 A Minor’s Release Form, signed by a parent or guardian, must accompany all entries.

4.3 An Affidavit of Ownership or 4-H Lease is necessary to enter grade horses. For registered horses, completed registration papers prior to November 1st through the breed registry/association will prove ownership. Transfer papers will not be accepted as proof of ownership. For registered horses that are leased, please complete the Texas 4-H Lease Horse Agreement. Papers must be submitted to the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, Hays County.

4.4 Horses must be solely owned by the contestant or the contestant's father, mother, brother, sister, grandparents, or legal guardian, or leased to a 4-H or FFA member or leased as per the Texas 4-H Lease Horse Agreement.

4.5 A contestant may enter as many horses as he or she chooses but shall enter only one per class. The contestant must designate which horse they are accumulating points on for the All-Around Awards-see 4.8(a).

4.6 Only one contestant per horse will be allowed. Sharing of horses with siblings will not be allowed. The only exhibitor substitution that will be allowed is in halter.

4.7 Proof of a negative Coggins Test, within the last twelve months, must be provided for all horses brought to compete at the Hays County Horse Show. Failure to provide such proof will result in the immediate removal of the animal from the show grounds. Paid entry fees will be forfeited.

4.8(a) There will be two All Around High Point Champion and Reserve Champion Awards in each of the Junior and Senior age divisions based on one horse/one exhibitor for the class entries. Points accumulated from all classes entered by horse/exhibitor team will count toward Champion/Reserve Champion All Around Awards. If showing more than one horse, contestants must designate which horse they are accumulating points on for the All-Around Awards.

(b) There will be four buckles awarded at the conclusion of Halter classes for one Grand Champion and one Reserve Grand Champion in Halter Mares and Halter Geldings.

(c) There will be three buckles awarded at the conclusion of Western Showmanship at Halter classes for Grand Champion in Clover, Junior, and Senior divisions.

4.9 All Classes must be pre-entered by the deadline specified in the "General Rules"

4.10 Showmanship and riding classes will be divided into Clover kids (Kinder-2nd Grade) Junior (3rd-8th Grade) and Senior (9th-12th Grade) divisions. Grade is determined at the time of the show.

4.11 Clover kids will be allowed to do halter and showmanship but will NOT be allowed to participate in Riding Events.

4.12 All award recipients must write a thank you letter.

4.13 The arena will be dragged at the division superintendent's discretion.

4.14 A contestant may be disqualified from a class, at the judge's discretion, for receiving excessive instruction from outside the ring.

4.15 All contestants are asked to refrain from allowing their horse(s) to be ridden by anyone other than the exhibitor. Many of the participants have family members who will want to help hold, groom, saddle, and bridle horses in preparation for classes. This is encouraged because family involvement is an important part of the 4-H Horse Program.

4.16 For safety reasons, speed events will run back to a closed gate.

4.17 Unless otherwise stated, rules will be based on Texas State 4-H Horse Show Rules as applicable.

Classes:

1. Showmanship at Halter-Junior
2. Showmanship at Halter- Senior
3. Showmanship at Halter- Clover Kids
4. Mares (5) five and over
5. Mares (4) four and under
6. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Mare
7. Geldings (5) five and over
8. Geldings (4) four and under
9. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Gelding

A warm-up will be allowed after Halter Classes

10. English Hunter Under Saddle (English Pleasure)- Junior
11. English Hunter Under Saddle (English Pleasure)- Senior
12. English Equitation- Junior
13. English Equitation- Senior
14. Hunter Hack- Junior
15. Hunter Hack- Senior

A break will be allowed for lunch

16. Western Pleasure- Junior
17. Western Pleasure- Senior
18. Western Horsemanship-Junior
19. Western Horsemanship-Senior
20. Stock Horse Trail- Junior
21. Stock Horse Trail- Senior
22. Stock Horse Pleasure-Junior

23. Stock Horse Pleasure-Senior
24. Stock Horse Horsemanship-Junior
25. Stock Horse Horsemanship-Senior
26. Stock Horse Reining-Junior
27. Stock Horse Reining-Senior

A warm-up will be allowed after Judged Performance Classes

28. Pole Bending- Junior
29. Pole Bending-Senior
30. Stake Race-Junior
31. Stake Race- Senior
32. Clover Leaf Barrels-Junior
33. Clover Leaf Barrels-Senior
34. Straight Away Barrels-Junior
35. Straight Away Barrels-Senior

Jackpot Classes

36. Goat Tying- Junior and Senior
37. Break Away Roping- Junior and Senior

4.18(a.) All Around Awards, Patronage and Jackpot Awards will be distributed in presentations at the Buyer's Gala.

(b.) Tie Breakers. Tie Breakers (High Points): Break ties as follows: 1.) Placing a greater number of classes within the division; 2.) Greater number of horses placed over in all classes within the division. If a tie still exists, contestants will be named Co-Champion and duplicate Champion awards will be provided at show management expense. No Reserve Champion will be named.

4.19 Horse Program Patronage Awards

1. All exhibitors earning an award must send their sponsor/sponsors a "Thank You" letter.
2. All classes will be jackpotted based on the number of horses per class.

MARKET ANIMAL DIVISION RULES

5.0 STEERS

Superintendent: Dr. Lamar Crossland

Assistant Superintendent: Travis Cox

5.1 Refer to the "General Rules" regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

5.2 Steers must be halter broken, groomed, and may be shown in the hair. Cattle may be blocked; however, this will be a Blow and Show only with no painting or dyeing allowed. Animals will be disqualified from the show for violation of grooming rules.

5.3 Light oils and foams will be allowed for preparation on show day. Adhesives, glues, false hair, and coloring are NOT allowed.

5.4 Weight classes will be determined by breeds.

5.5 The following breeds will be the only breeds eligible for show. All breed classification guidelines are listed below. The classification guidelines will be provided to the classification committee for reference. The interpretation of these guidelines is at the sole discretion of the classification committee. The decision of the classification committee will be final.

1.	British (includes Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford, and Shorthorn)
2.	American Breeds Cross (ABC)
3.	All Other Breeds- Black (AOB Black)
4.	All Other Breeds-Other Color (AOB-Other Color)

5.6 British Guidelines: To classify in the British Division, they must have breed characteristics of Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford, or Shorthorn. The Breed guidelines are listed below. It is important to note that crossing an Angus and Hereford will not result in a British steer. This steer would be classified as an AOB. In the following sections are specific traits of each breed that will be considered when classifying into the British Division.

5.7 Angus Breed Guidelines:

Acceptable Characteristics:

a.	Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Angus
b.	Solid black
c.	Polled

Discriminatory Characteristics:

a.	Continental breed type structure and head
b.	Bumps between the poll and the ear
c.	Birthmarks or white hair in the switch should be reviewed for the skin color (Black skin color is acceptable and white or pin skin is a disqualification)
d.	Bos Taurus type ear set (Ear size is not to be discriminated against)

Absolute Disqualifications:

a.	White skin resulting in white hair above the underline of the front of the navel (White on the navel is acceptable)
b.	White skin resulting in white hair on the leg, foot, or tail
c.	Horns or scurs
d.	Brindle

e.	Diluter color pattern
f.	Dehorning scars
g.	Double muscling

5.8 Red Angus Breed Guidelines

Acceptable Characteristics

a.	Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Red Angus
b.	English/British characteristics
c.	Solid red
d.	Polled
e.	Black Pigmentation (May have 2 of 3 areas of black pigmentation on the nose, around the eyes and anus, but not all 3)
f.	A blonde, light red or mixed switch
g.	Black hair on the tail, muzzle, face, neck and shoulder

Discriminatory Characteristics:

a.	Course joints or head (Big feet, big dewclaws)
b.	Bumps between the poll and the ear
c.	Solid white switch

Absolute Disqualifications:

a.	Horns or scurs
b.	White above the underline or in front of the navel
c.	White on the leg
d.	Black Pigmentation (May have 2 or 3 areas of black pigmentation on the nose, around the eyes and anus, but not all 3)
e.	Diluter color pattern
f.	Dehorning scars or evidence of dehorning
g.	Solid white tail
h.	Double muscling

5.9 Hereford Breed Guidelines

Acceptable Characteristics:

a.	Must physically exhibit breed characteristics purebred Hereford
b.	Red body with white face, white underline and white marked legs
c.	Feather neck
d.	Horned Herefords must be dehorned

Discriminatory Characteristics:

a.	Dark red color
b.	Red neck
c.	Solid red or solid white ear, size and shape are questionable
d.	Excess white on legs

e.	Excess white above the underline
f.	Black hair in tail, ear, or on rear end of animal
g.	Black on reproductive tract
h.	Black spotting/smut or freckling on the nose
i.	Lineback
j.	White above switch in tail
k.	White across rump above the twist
l.	Course joints, head or ribs
m.	Straight line white markings on legs
n.	White above the hocks, on the outside and back side of rear legs
o.	Excess pigment or color around eyes
p.	Red neck in combination with excess white on legs

Absolute Disqualifications:

a.	Diluter color pattern
b.	Brindles
c.	Double muscling
d.	Any color pattern other than red or white (birthmarks excluded)

5.10 Polled Hereford Breed Guidelines

Acceptable Characteristics:

a.	Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Hereford
b.	Red body with white face, white underline and white marked legs
c.	Feather neck
d.	Must be polled or loose scurs

Discriminatory Characteristics:

a.	Dark red color
b.	Red neck
c.	Solid red or solid white ear, size and shape are questionable
d.	Excess white on legs
e.	Excess white above the underline
f.	Black hair in tail, ear, or on rear end of animal
g.	Black on reproductive tract
h.	Black spotting/smut or freckling on the nose
i.	Lineback
j.	White above switch in tail
k.	White across rump above the twist
l.	Course joints, head or ribs
m.	Straight line white markings on legs
n.	White above the hocks, on the outside and back side of rear legs
o.	Excess pigment or color around eyes
p.	Red neck in combination with excess white on legs

Absolute Disqualifications:

a.	Diluter color pattern
b.	Brindles
c.	Double muscling
d.	Any color pattern other than red or white (birthmarks excluded)

5.11 Shorthorn Breed Guidelines

Acceptable Characteristics:

a.	Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Shorthorn
b.	Solid red, solid white with red hair or red pigment on ear, muzzle, or tail; or red and white on any combination of red and white; with the red and white color pattern bleeding together

Discriminatory Characteristics:

a.	Motley face or brockle face
b.	Orange or light red color
c.	Black nose pigment
d.	Straight line white markings across leg
e.	Course head
f.	Double muscling

Absolute Disqualifications:

a.	Diluter color pattern such as yellow or yellow roan
b.	Blacks, blue roans or grays
c.	Brindle

5.12 ABC Guidelines

Acceptable Characteristics:

a.	Any color or patterns
b.	Progression of importance to include Bos indicus influenced head, eye and ear of moderate length, slightly drooping and opens down and forward
c.	Crest or slick neck
d.	Sheath score of 2 or more

Discriminatory Characteristics:

a.	Bos Taurus head
b.	Bos Taurus short ear
c.	Sheath score of 1

Absolute Disqualifications:

a.	A combination of Bos Taurus head, eye and ear
b.	Without adequate Bos Indicus head, eye and ear characteristics, sheath score is irrelevant

5.13 AOB Black Guidelines

Acceptable Characteristics:

a.	Must be at least 60% black (only black, not blue) in color and pigmentation
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5.14 AOB Other Color Guidelines

Acceptable Characteristics

- | |
|--|
| a. Must be less than 60% black in color and pigmentation |
|--|

5.15 There will be a 900 lb. minimum weight with a 60 pound + or – tolerance.

5.16 There will be a Grand Champion and a Reserve Champion steer of the show.

5.17 All cattle must be checked-in with the Superintendent before entering the barn.

5.18 All disorderly cattle will be removed from the show grounds at the discretion of the division superintendent.

5.19 The use of equine pellets are only allowed for cattle.

6.0 MARKET SWINE

Superintendent: Rex Lyons

Assistant Superintendent: Delton Hudson

6.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

6.2 Barrows and gilts are eligible. Declaration of whether the Animal shows in market or breeding will be done at check-in in as long as two entries have been paid for the animal to show in either market or breeding.

6.3 Hogs will be classified and divided by breeds. Hogs classified out of purebred classes will go into the crossbred class.

6.4 Market swine will have a minimum weight of 160 lbs. and maximum of 290 lbs. with a 10 pound + or – tolerance.

6.5 Hogs will be exhibited in one or more weight classes by breed. Weight classes will be determined by the division superintendent at check-in.

6.6 All hogs in each class will be placed.

6.7 There will be a Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion. They will compete for the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion of the show.

6.8 No pasting, painting, oil-based products, or powder is to be used in grooming. Only water can be used. Animals will be disqualified from the show for violation of grooming rules.

6.9 All breed classification guidelines are listed below. The classification guidelines will be provided to the classification committee for reference. The interpretation of these guidelines is at the sole discretion of the classification committee. The decision of the classification committee will be final. Classification will be done at check-in.

6.10 The use of equine pellets are only allowed for cattle.

6.11 Dark OPB Guidelines

Berkshire

a.	Black and white with erect ears exhibiting Berkshire characteristics
b.	White on face and tail (unless tail is docked) Three of four legs must be white
c.	Must NOT have a solid white or solid black face from the ears forward
d.	Must NOT have a solid black nose (rim of nose)
e.	White is allowed on the ears, but neither ear can be entirely white
f.	An occasional splash of white may appear on the body

Spotted

a.	Must be black and white
b.	Must possess Spotted breed characteristics
c.	Ears cannot be erect
d.	Must NOT have red tinted or brown spots
e.	No solid black head from ears forward
f.	No distinct white belt pattern (hair or skin) encircling and extending down and onto each shoulder
g.	Must NOT show any signs of the use of weighted ear tags

Poland China

a.	Must possess Poland China breed characteristics
b.	Must be black with a white face and switch (unless tail is docked) Three of the four legs must be white. May have an occasional splash of white on the body.
c.	Must have ears down
d.	Must NOT have evidence of belt formation
e.	Must NOT have any red or sandy hair and/or pigment
f.	Must NOT show any signs of the use of weighted ear tags

6.12 Light OPB Guidelines:

Chester White

a.	Must possess Chester White breed characteristics
b.	Must be solid white with no color on the skin larger than a silver dollar. All hair must be white
c.	Ears must be down and medium sized
d.	Must NOT show any signs of the use of weighted ear tags

Landrace

a.	Must be white and possess Landrace breed characteristics
b.	All hair must be white
c.	Must NOT have any more than three spots of skin pigmentation. No pigmentation spot can be larger than a US minted quarter
d.	Must have ears down
e.	Must NOT show any signs of the use of weighted ear tags

6.13 Duroc Guidelines

a.	Must be red and possess Duroc breed characteristics
b.	Ears must be down and medium sized
c.	Must NOT have any white hair, anywhere on the animal
d.	Must NOT have any black hair
e.	Must NOT have more than three black spots on the skin and none of these spots can be larger than two inches in diameter
f.	Must NOT have any shading or indication of a belt

6.14 Hampshire Guidelines

a.	Must be black in color with a white belt starting on a front leg. The belt may partially or totally encircle the body
b.	Must possess Hampshire breed characteristics
c.	Ears must be erect and not rounded
d.	Must NOT have any white hair or indication of streaking on the forehead
e.	Must NOT have any red hair

6.15 Yorkshire Guidelines

a.	Must be white and possess Yorkshire breed characteristics
b.	Ears must be erect
c.	All hair must be white
d.	Must NOT have more than two pigmentation spots larger than a U.S. minted dime or one pigmentation spot larger than a U.S. minted quarter.

These pigmentation spots (combined) can NOT exceed a U.S. minted silver dollar.
e. Must NOT have masking above the eyes larger than a silver dollar

6.16 Light Crossbred Guidelines

a. Any pigs with white and/or blue only

6.17 Dark Crossbred Guidelines

a. All other colors (i.e., black, red, and sandy)
b. Excluding solid white or blue

7.0 MARKET POULTRY

Superintendent: Barry Coco
 Assistant Superintendent: Jaimee Coco

7.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

7.2 If at any time from the time you receive your chicks up to showtime you have any wing band issues, do not remove the wing band. Immediately contact the Poultry Superintendent or County Agent to resolve the issue.

7.3 Broilers will be shown at approximately 45 days old.

7.4 All poultry will be sifted and classified at check-in.

7.5 As per state requirements, “orders are placed in increments of 25. A minimum order per exhibitor or family unit is 25 chicks and up to a maximum of 75 chicks. **Therefore, each exhibitor/family may order 25, 50, or 75 birds.** Each exhibitor **MAY** order an individual set of birds (up to 75) OR siblings within the same household may order and share a set of birds (up to 75). In other words a family with multiple exhibitors can order an individual set of birds for each exhibitor in the family, OR if they wish, they can order one set of birds for the entire family. In either case, the maximum number of birds in a set that an exhibitor can select from for the show is 75 birds. Families with multiple exhibitors are **NOT** required to place a single order for the entire family. Family orders are an option.” The sets will be assigned to the exhibitor or to the family by the County Agent, or their designee, when they arrive. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to keep track of their assigned birds.

7.6 Broilers will be of the Commercial Breed with all three birds from the same hatch date. These will be ordered through the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office, Hays County. The County Agent and FFA Advisors will coordinate.

- a. Each exhibitor’s order will be identified by a series of

numbered wing bands. Chicks are assigned to exhibitors by these numbers.

- b. Disqualifications include but are not limited to: broken or dislocated legs, broken or dislocated wings, sickly birds, etc. Disqualifications will be up to the sifter and/or Superintendent.
- c. Broilers losing their wing band, for whatever reason, will not be allowed to enter the show. Broilers with wing bands that show evidence of tampering will be sifted and the decision of the Superintendent is final.
- d. The Superintendent will instruct the sifters and judges to disregard wing bruising and damage caused by a wing band.

7.7 Broilers will be divided into two classes, Pullets (**Females**) and Cockerels (**Males**), each shown as a pen of three. If an exhibitor has a mixed pen of Cockerels and Pullets with no replacement birds to make the pen all one sex, then that pen will be shown in the Cockerel show.

7.8 There will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Broiler (Pen of Three). The First Place Cockerel and Pullet will compete for Grand Champion. If the Cockerel wins Grand, Second Place Cockerel moves up to compete for Reserve. If Pullet wins Grand, Second Place Pullet moves up to compete for Reserve.

7.9 Turkeys will be shown as singles.

7.10 Turkeys will be of the Commercial Breed from the same hatch date. These will be ordered through the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office, Hays County. The County Agent and FFA Advisors will coordinate.

- a. Each exhibitor's order will be identified by a series of numbered wing bands. Chicks are assigned to exhibitors by these numbers.
- b. Disqualifications include but are not limited to broken or dislocated legs, broken or dislocated wings, sickly birds, etc. Disqualifications will be up to the sifter and/or Superintendent.
- c. Turkeys losing their wing band, for whatever reason, will not be allowed to enter the show. Turkeys with wing bands that show evidence of tampering will be sifted and the decision of the Superintendent is final.
- d. The Superintendent will instruct the sifters and judges to disregard wing bruising and damage caused by a wing band.

7.11 Turkeys will be divided into two classes, Hens (**Females**) and Toms (**Males**).

7.12 There will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Turkey. The First Place Tom and Hen compete for Grand Champion. If Tom wins Grand, Second Place Tom moves up to compete for Reserve. If Hen wins Grand, Second Place Hen moves up to compete for Reserve.

7.13 Parents and Volunteers may assist Exhibitor during check in. Parents and Volunteers may also assist exhibitors by helping to hold poultry during show **ONLY** if no Hay County 4-H or FFA members are available to assist **AND** with Superintendent's permission.

7.14 Poultry will be released by the Division Superintendent.

8.0 MARKET RABBITS

Superintendent: Blaine Eiben
Assistant Superintendent: TBA

8.1 Refer to the "General Rules" regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

8.2 All recognized meat breeds of rabbits will be eligible.

8.3 The American Rabbit Breeders Association Rules will apply.

8.4 Any animal showing symptoms of disease such as buck teeth, malocclusion, broken teeth, sniffles, ear canker, mites, mange vent disease, runny eyes, missing toenails or other disqualifying features will be excluded from the show. Refer to the "Standards of Perfection" section of the ARBA rules for further details on disqualifying diseases and features.

8.5 Each market rabbit must be clearly and permanently earmarked in the RIGHT ear during validation with the designated tattoo for this show and family member.

8.6 Before Check-In, rabbits must be individually earmarked with a clear and permanent tattoo in the LEFT ear with identification letters and/or numbers.

8.7 Market rabbits that have been validated for any other county show will not be eligible for the Hays County Show.

8.8 Market rabbits are shown as either a pen or three (3) rabbits or as a single fryer (FRYER). There will be a minimum weight of 3.5lbs.(3lbs. 8oz.) and a maximum of 5.5lbs.(5lbs. 8oz.) per rabbit. There will be an allowed two-ounce tolerance per rabbit. **The age of each rabbit must not be more than 70 days old at check-in.** Exhibitors may enter a maximum of two pens and one fryer. To be eligible to enter a fryer the exhibitor must enter at least one pen. The exhibitor must therefore have validated at

least 4 rabbits. An exhibitor is not required to show a pen to show a fryer.

8.9 All rabbits will be sifted at weigh-in. The exhibitor will present their PEN and/or FRYER to be weighed and sifted. The FRYER cannot be one of the rabbits used to make the PEN. If a rabbit is disqualified the exhibitor may substitute rabbit at this time only. After the exhibitor has determined which three rabbits will constitute their PEN and which one rabbit will be their FRYER entry, only those rabbits and no others will be placed in the show holding cages until the time of the show. To aid in the show the superintendent, at their discretion, may use a permanent marker or some other means to help identify which rabbit is being used as the fryer.

8.10 There will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Pen and Fryer. Market Pens are eligible to go to auction, and the number shall be established by the board.

8.11 Winners of the “Fryer Show” shall be paid a premium based upon the number of entries paid by exhibitors. The amount per premium and the number of premiums to be paid shall be determined by the board prior to the show.

9.0 MARKET LAMBS

Superintendent: Mike Carroll

Assistant Superintendent: Lindsay Fredenburg

9.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

9.2 Wether and ewe lambs are eligible. Declaration of whether the animal shows in market or breeding will be done at check-in as long as two entries have been paid for the animal to show in either market or breeding.

For clarification, this means that a paid market entry AND a paid breeding entry are required in order to have a choice at Check-in. It does NOT mean that a single animal can show it in both classes.

9.3 All lambs will have a minimum weight of 90 lbs., except Southdowns and Dorpers which have a minimum weight of 80 lbs., but with a 5 pound + or – tolerance.

9.4 Lambs will first be divided into Fine Wool, Fine Wool Cross, Medium Wool, and Southdown breeds, and Dorper. A Fine Wool Cross must be the first cross between a Fine Wool and a Medium Wool breed. All sheep will be classified at Check-In and decisions of the classifiers will be final.

9.5 Lambs will be divided into one or more weight classes by breed: Southdown, Dorper, Fine Wool, Fine Wool Cross, and Medium Wool.

9.6 Weight classes will be determined by the division superintendent after weight cards have been received at Check-In.

9.7 All lambs will be slick shorn at time of arrival on the show grounds. Leg sheering is optional.

9.8 There will be a Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion. They will compete for the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion of the Show.

9.9 No painting or dyeing will be allowed. Water or waterless shampoo is allowed. Animals will be disqualified from the show for violation of grooming rules.

9.10 All lambs must stay in their assigned pen in the show barn and may not be kept or put into trailers or outside pens

9.11 All breed classification guidelines are listed below. The classification guidelines will be provided to the classification committee for reference. The interpretation of these guidelines is at the sole discretion of the classification committee. The decision of the classification committee will be final.

9.12 The use of equine pellets are only allowed for cattle.

9.13 The lamb show will begin with the Breeding Show, followed by the Market Show. The Market Lamb Show will be conducted in the following breed order:

- 1. Southdown
- 2. Fine Wool
- 3. Fine Wool Cross
- 4. Dorper
- 5. Medium Wool

Following the completion of the Market Lamb Show, Showmanship will be held in the following order:

- 1. Senior Showmanship
- 2. Intermediate Showmanship
- 3. Junior Showmanship
- 4. Clover Kid Showmanship

9.14 Fine Wool Breed Characteristics:

Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

a.	Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet or a cross between these breeds
b.	Silky ears, medium to moderate in size
c.	Yellow to white hooves (neutral)
d.	Black pads on hooves

e.	Silky, white face
f.	Soft pelt
g.	Nose should be neutral to pink in color
h.	May be polled or horned

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

a.	Moderate amounts of brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool
b.	Moderate freckling and pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, and lips
c.	Black streaking in the hooves
d.	Black eyelashes
e.	Birthmarks

Absolute Disqualifications:

a.	Excessively coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
b.	Excessively coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and /or rear legs
c.	Excessive brown or black spots in the skin and/or wool
d.	Excessive freckling or pigmented skin (brown or black) on the ears, eyes, and lips
e.	Brown or black spots in hairline above hooves
f.	Solid black hooves
g.	Black lambs
h.	Surgical alterations other than redocking
i.	Steep hip or tendency to show the callipyge gene

9.15 Fine Wool Cross Breed Characteristics:

Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

a.	Must be a cross with evidence of at least 50% fine wool breeding and the remaining percentage exhibiting predominance of medium wool breeding (Hampshire and/or Suffolk)
b.	Soft pelt that which is characteristic of ½ blood wool (60's-62's spinning count)
c.	Face and ears should be soft and silky
d.	Mottling and/or some spotting on face and ears and legs below the knees and hocks
e.	Wool must be present below the hocks on the rear legs; wool below the knees on the front legs is not necessary
f.	White, ring-eyed crosses are acceptable if pelt is acceptable
g.	Birthmarks are acceptable

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

a.	Solid brown face and ears with little to no mottling
b.	Excessive black or brown spotting in the skin

above the knees and hocks
c. Moderate amounts of colored fibers (black or brown) in the wool

Absolute Disqualifications:

a. Excessive black or solid dark chocolate brown color on face, ears, and legs (including wool)
b. Excessive coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
c. Excessively coarse, chalky, white hair on the face, in the flanks, and/or down the front and/or rear legs
d. Total absence of wool on rear legs
e. Black lambs
f. Surgical alterations other than redocking
g. Steep hip or tendency to show the callipyge gene

9.16 Southdown Breed Characteristics:

Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

a. Hair color on muzzle should be mouse colored, gray to brown
b. Nostril pigmentation may be black to purplish-gray
c. Muzzle should be broad; head of moderate high
d. Ears should be of moderate length, covered with short hair of wool
e. Black hoof color
f. Birthmarks are acceptable

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

a. Solid white color or dark chocolate on muzzle
b. Coarse, chalky, white hair around eyes extending to and including the muzzle
c. Coarse hair in the flank
d. Coarse britch and/or harsh pelt
e. Predominantly pink nose with few black spots
f. Long, narrow nose
g. Excessive coloration on ears
h. Excessive ear length
i. Predominantly slick ears
j. Scurs
k. Open poll on head
l. Striped hooves
m. Black fibers in wool

Absolute Disqualifications:

a. Speckled face or legs
b. Horns
c. White hooves
d. Intentional alteration of hair color or skin pigmentation

e.	Total pink pigmentation of nostrils
f.	Black lambs
g.	Surgical alterations other than redocking
h.	Steep hip or tendency to show the callipyge gene

9.17 Medium Wool Breed Characteristics

This class includes the Suffolk and Hampshire breeds, plus all lambs that do not fit in the Fine Wool, Fine Wool Cross, or the Southdown breed divisions. This includes all other breeds and crosses of animals not listed above.

9.18 Dorper Characteristics

Acceptable Breed Characteristics:

a.	Must be a Dorper, White Dorper, or a cross among these two breeds
b.	Conformation-long, deep, wide body with well spring ribs and excellent muscling. Relationships between body depth and hip height should be in equal proportion. Avoid extremely leggy, shallow bodied lambs
c.	Head should be strong, bold, with a deep jaw
d.	Polled or small horns or scurs
e.	Must have at least 1/3 hair primarily on the belly, forearm, and britch. Lambs should be shorn with blades that leave enough stubble to be able to distinguish hair and/or wool. Classifiers have the authority to disqualify lambs that have been clipped too close to make this distinction.
f.	Moderate size ear with no wool covering
g.	No wool below the knees and hocks
h.	Solid brown, red, rust colored head
i.	No wool forward of poll
j.	Color: Dorper- White sheep with black head or black head and neck

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics:

a.	Tall, leggy, shallow bodied, narrow, light muscled lambs
b.	Excessive wool covering more than 2/3 of body (belly, forearm and britch)
c.	Heavy horns
d.	Long, pendulous ears
e.	Long, narrow muzzle
f.	Wool forward of poll
g.	Excessive coloring on the body (paints)
h.	Excessive speckling in the fleece or on the body

Absolute Disqualifications:

a.	All wool or very little evidence of hair on belly, forearm or britch
b.	Wool below the knees or hocks
c.	Wool on the ears
d.	Lambs with predominantly solid black bodies
e.	Lambs with significant speckling on face, ears, or legs
f.	Strong breed characteristics of breeds other than Dorper or White Dorper
g.	Surgical alterations other than re-docking
h.	Steep hip or tendency to show callipyge gene

10.0 MARKET GOATS

Superintendent: Donna Wallace

Assistant Superintendent: Joe Hunt

10.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

10.2 Wethers and nannies are eligible. Declaration of whether the animal shows in market or breeding will be done at check in as long as two entries have been paid for the animal to show in either market or breeding.

For clarification, this means that a paid market entry AND a paid breeding entry are required in order to have a choice at Check-in. It does NOT mean that a single animal can show it in both classes.

10.3 Market Goats will be weighed in with a minimum limit 60 lbs. and maximum limit 120 lbs. with a 5 pound + or – tolerance.

10.4 Weight classes and divisions will be determined by the division superintendent after weigh cards have been received at Check-in.

10.5 Market Goats must be taught to lead and should be shown with a collar or halter.

10.6 All Market Goats must be slick shorn at the time of arrival. Leg shearing is optional.

10.7 Market Goats must be dehorned or tipped to achieve a blunt end.

10.8 The First and Second Place of each class will compete for Champion and Reserve Champion of their division. Division Champions will compete for the overall Grand and Reserve Champion.

10.9 The use of talc. Oils, or any foreign material is prohibited. Water or waterless shampoo is allowed. Animals will be disqualified from show for violation of the grooming rules.

10.10 All goats must stay in their assigned pens in the show barn and may not be kept or put into trailers or outside pens.

10.11 The use of equine pellets is only allowed for cattle.

BREEDING ANIMAL DIVISION RULES

11.0 BREEDING BEEF CATTLE

11.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

11.2 Eligible heifers may be purebred,crossbred, or miniature. Heifer classes will be broken by entries into respective classes in order of judging.

Heifer Classes
Heifer Calves up to 12 months old
Junior Heifers 13 months to 18 months
Senior Heifers 19 months to 28 months

11.3 All cattle must be checked in with the division superintendent before entering the barn. All disorderly cattle will be removed from show grounds at the discretion of the division superintendent.

11.4 Light oils and foams will be allowed for preparation on show day. Adhesives, glues, false hair, and coloring are NOT allowed.

11.5 The use of equine pellets is only allowed for cattle.

12.0 BREEDING GOATS

12.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

12.2 Bucks are not eligible to compete.

12.3 The show is open to any breed or crossbred.

12.4 The age of the animal will be computed as the age at check-in

12.5 Shearing is not required.

12.6 The use of equine pellets is only allowed for cattle.

12.7 Classes will be as follows.

Breeding Meat Goat Classes
0-12 months
13 months and Older

13.0 BREEDING EWES

13.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules

13.2 Ewe classes will be fairly and equitably divided according to age by the division superintendent.

13.3 The use of equine pellets is only allowed for cattle.

13.4 Ewe's will be divided into the following classes.

Breeding Ewe Classes
Milk Teeth Yearling
Aged

14.0 BREEDING GILTS

14.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

14.2 Classes will be determined by breed and will be fairly and equitably divided by the division superintendent.

14.3 Breeding Swine should be farrowed after June 1, 202.

14.4 No pasting, painting, oil-based products, or powder is to be used in grooming. Only water can be used. Animals will be disqualified from the show for violation of grooming rules.

14.5 The use of equine pellets is only allowed for cattle.

15.0 BREEDING RABBITS

15.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

15.2 All recognized breeds of rabbits will be eligible. The American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection shall apply.

15.3 During validation, each rabbit must be clearly and permanently earmarked with an individual tattoo in its left ear and a validation tattoo in its right ear. Previous validation or ARBA tattoos in the right ear will suffice as a validation tattoo as long as they are clearly legible. All rabbit entries must include ear number, class, sex, and breed.

15.4 The breeding show will be a carrying cage show. Breeding rabbits will arrive the same day as judged. Exhibitors will furnish their own carrying cages.

15.5 Breeding rabbits check-in will be on January 25, 2027 by 12:00 noon. The exhibitor will complete and turn in a completed show card to the superintendent by that time to be entered. This card must match the validation card for this rabbit previously submitted at validation. The rabbit will then be called up for exhibition once the breeding rabbit show begins.

15.6 Classes are as follows:

Breeding Rabbit Classes	
Pre-Junior Doe	Under 3 months
Junior Doe	3 months to less than 6 months
Doe	6 months to less than 8 months
Senior Doe	8 months and older
Pre-Junior Buck	Under 3 months
Junior Buck	3 months to less than 6 months
Buck	6 months to less than 8 months
Senior Buck	8 months or older

15.7 Any animal showing symptoms of disease such as buck teeth, malocclusion, broken teeth, sniffles, ear canker, mites, mange vent disease, runny eyes, missing toenails, or other disqualifying features will be excluded from the show. Refer to the “Standards of Perfection” section of the ARBA rules for further details on disqualifying diseases and features.

HOME SKILLS DIVISION

16.0 HOME SKILLS GENERAL RULES

Superintendent: Nita Leinneweber
Assistant Superintendent: Kate Blankenship

16.1 Refer to the “General Rules” regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

16.2 All entries must be submitted online and paid in full by 11:59pm on the third Wednesday of December. There will be NO REFUNDS ON ENTRY FEES. Late entries for all projects will be accepted up to check-in on January 25, 2027 with an additional late fee of \$300.00 per project as long as the exhibitor has met the general eligibility. In addition to entry forms and fees, you must also submit your recipes on the “Food Recipe Form”, available on the HCLE website and from your advisor. Baked foods and preserved foods must be submitted on the proper “Food Recipe Form”. Please keep a copy of your “Food ecipe Form(s)”.

Day	Date	Time	Event
Mon	Jan 25	5-7:00pm	Check-In all entries
Tues	Jan 26	9am-4pm	Judging of Entries
		4pm	Presentation of Home Skill Awards
		4:30-6:30pm	Public Viewing of entries
Wed	Jan 27	1:00pm-5:30pm	Public viewing of Entries and Check-Out entries

16.3 Schedule*All entries must be checked out. Any entries not picked up before 5:30pm on Wednesday will be taken to the Hays County Extension Office. You will need to make arrangements with that office for pickup.

16.4 Hays County Livestock Expo, Inc. (HCLE) or its designated workers, leaders, or supervisors are not responsible for items entered in the show. Every effort will be made to protect items from damage or theft, but valuable items should not be entered or should be insured.

16.5 Participants are divided into 4 grade groups.

Class	Grade
Clover kids	Kinder- 2 nd Grade
Junior	3 rd Grade- 5 th Grade
Intermediate	6 th Grade- 8 th Grade
Senior	9 th Grade- 12 th Grade

16.6 All items must have been made by the participant since the previous year's show. When making Home Skills projects, participants may only utilize minimal assistance from others.

16.7 An entry fee of \$10.00 per item will be charged.

16.8 Each participant may enter up to 2 entries per class. Participants may not change entry classes once entries are submitted. Entries may not have the participants name on the entry or any other recognizable identifying markings. Entries are to remain anonymous to the judges.

16.9 Entries will be checked in between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Monday of the show. **No items will be accepted for check in after 7:00 PM on the Monday of the show, No Exceptions.** Each food item must have a "Baked Food Recipe Form" or "Preserved Food Recipe Form" attached. All other items must

have an “Arts, Crafts, and Clothing, Photography, or Horticulture Form” attached. Forms are available from the HCLE website and your advisor. Names of participants will be covered during judging. No additional information may be attached to any entry.

The Home Skills Superintendent will have final decisions on division and class placement for each entry.

16.10 The decisions of the judges are final. Questions concerning entries during judging will be resolved at the judge’s discretion. Following judging, all items must remain in the Home Skill area until check out on Tuesday afternoon. The Hays County Livestock Board of Directors reserves the right to disqualify or alter results in cases where suspicion of dishonesty may arise.

16.11 Awards

Ribbon Color	Criteria
Blue	High Quality, meets all standards
Red	Lower Quality than Blue, meets most standard
White	Lower Quality than Red, meets some standards

16.12 Grand Champion and Reserve Champion awards will be given to the top entries in each category (a. Foods, b. Arts, Crafts, & Clothing, c. Photography and d. Horticulture). The same exhibitor MAY NOT win both Grand and Reserve Champion in the **SAME** category. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion will sell in the auction.

16.13 A Sweepstakes Award will be given to four (4) contestants (one in each age group) who accumulate the largest number of points within his/her age group.

Ribbon Color	Points
Blue	8
Red	4
White	2

If the score in the sweepstakes contest is tied, the participant with the most blue ribbons will be declared the winner. If two participants are tied in points and have the same number of blue ribbons, the award will go to the participant with the most entries.

16.14 Check-out of projects will be Wednesday from 1:00pm-5:30pm. Premium money will be distributed to Participants based on points (see Rule 16.14). Premium money will not be given to Grand or Reserve Champion since these projects are eligible for the auction.

17.0 FOODS

Note: There are two classes of food entries, A-Baked Foods & B-Preserved Foods.

A. BAKED FOODS

In addition to entry forms and fees, you must also submit your recipes on the “Baked Foods Recipe Form” available on the HCLE website or from your advisor. Please keep a copy of your Baked Food Recipe Form(s).

17.1 All food entries must be prepared from scratch. Pudding mix is the only type of mix allowed in the preparation. Cake mixes are not allowed for any portion of the project.

17.2 Commercial bread making machines or any other appliance which prepares a product without using standard preparation procedures are not allowed.

17.3 All pie crusts must be made from scratch and must include the recipe for the pie crust itself.

17.4 If a recipe calls for a biscuit mix, such as “Bisquick”, the contestant must make a homemade version.

17.5 Participants must submit a whole or complete recipe, including ingredients, measurements, and instructions, for each of their food entries, and then prepare and bring those whole or complete recipes at check-in.

17.6 Only edible garnishes are allowed.

17.7 After Check-in, all food items and their recipes become the property of the HCLE Board.

17.8 A “Baked Food Recipe Form” must be attached securely on the top of the plastic container, taped on one edge for viewing, but not obstructing the view of the product.

17.9 To ensure food safety, since refrigeration is not available, no uncooked foods are allowed. Examples include, but are not limited to, milk (up to 2 tablespoons allowed), half and half, cream, cream cheese, yogurt, whipping cream, egg or egg substitute. Food requiring refrigeration after baking is not accepted. Examples include, but are not limited to, cheesecakes, lemon bars, ganache or pudding type fillings, cream pies and fillings, pumpkin pies, custards, whipped toppings, cream cheese icings and fillings, meringue, or cakes with a high moisture content. If further clarification is needed concerning this rule, please contact the Home Skills superintendent. The

Home Skills Committee will review recipes and will contact participants if any of their recipes are unacceptable. Participants will then have until the fourth Monday in December to submit a new recipe (must be within the same class) to the Home Skills Superintendent for approval. No new recipes or substitutions will be accepted after the fourth Monday in December.

17.10 Food items will be exhibited in clear plastic containers (like ones from a bakery), and a sample from each entry (one cookie, roll, piece of cake, etc.) must be removed from the item and sealed separately in a zipper bag or cling wrap. The sample should then be placed on a small disposable plate and sat on top of the container so that the judges can taste without having to disturb the container.

17.11 Judging Criteria:

Criteria
Complexity of Ingredients
Taste
Appearance, Creativity, and Eye Appeal

17.12 Grand Champion and Reserve Champion items that will be auctioned will remain on display. The item will be auctioned; in addition, a fresh item will be prepared and delivered by the winner to the buyer within one week of the auction.

17.13 Food Classes:

Baked Food Classes	
Class 1	Cakes
Class 2	Cookies
Class 3	Bars/Brownies
Class 4	Pies/Cobblers
Class 5	Candy
Class 6	Quick Breads
Class 7	Yeast Breads
Class 8	Sugar Free
Class 9	Gluten Free

B. PRESERVED FOODS

17.14 For information regarding appropriate jars, lids, preserving processes, head space, product appearance, etc., please refer to the National Center for Home Food Preservation at <https://nchfp.uga.edu/>

In addition to entry forms and fees you must submit your recipe on the “Preserved Foods Form” available on the HCLE website or from your advisor. Please keep a copy of your “Preserved Recipe Form(s)”

17.15 Judging of all preserved foods is based on visual judging only.

Criteria	
Appearance (color, texture, size, etc.)	
Appropriate container, processing, headspace, etc.	

Preserved Food Classes	
Class 10	Fruits/Vegetables
Class 11	Pickles/Relishes/Sauces
Class 12	Jellies/Jams/Preserves

17.16 Preserved Food Classes

17.17 The same exhibitor may not win both Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Foods.

ARTS, CRAFTS, & CLOTHING CATEGORY

In addition to entry forms and fees, you must also submit a description of your project on the “Arts, Crafts, & Clothing Photography or Horticulture Form” available on the HCLE website or from your advisor.

18.1 Kits are not allowed. Kits are defined as packages of pre-cut or pre-finished materials that have all the supplies to finish a project in the package. Stuffed Animals and Dolls must be sewn by the exhibitor. No pre-finished or pre-cut dolls or animals will be allowed.

18.2 All clothing must be on hangers. All items must be clean, pressed, and undamaged to be accepted. Items should be covered with clear plastic bags.

18.3 Metal or Wood Projects shall be no more than 2ft. x 2ft. x 2ft. **If larger than 2ft.x 2ft. x 2ft. the project will be disqualified.**

18.4 Judging criteria:

Criteria
Construction-Quality of Work
Appearance
Degree of Difficulty
Design- Originality

18.5 Arts, Crafts, & Clothing classes:

Arts, Crafts, & Clothing classes	
Class 13	Art- Oil, Pencil, Ink, Water Color, Pastels, Acrylic
Class 14	Home Accessories and Decorations
Class 15	Leather
Class 16	Needlework-Crochet, Knit, Embroidery, Cross Stitch
Class 17	Ceramics
Class 18	Quilts
Class 19	Clothing
Class 20	Jewelry
Class 21	Recycled Items
Class 22	Stuffed Animals/Dolls (sewn by exhibitor)
Class 23	Miscellaneous

18.6 The same exhibitor may not win both Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Arts, Crafts & Clothing.

18.7 There will **NOT** be any electrical outlets available for exhibitors to connect to. Battery power will be acceptable.

19.0 PHOTOGRAPHY

In addition to entry forms and fees, you must also submit a description of your project on the “Arts, Crafts, & Clothing, Photography or Horticulture Form” available on the HCLE website or from your advisor at check in.

19.1 All photographs must be 8”x10” in dimension. Permanently flush mounted on a thin foam board the same size as the photo (8” x 10”) without any additional frame or mat. Masonite, photo folders, corrugated cardboard or poster board is not acceptable. No other sizes will be accepted. Photographs must not be framed. All photographs must have been taken by the contestant since the previous year’s show.

19.2 Judging criteria:

Criteria
Technical (Focus, Exposure, Lighting, Quality)
Subject (Creativity, Composition, Impact, Uniqueness)

19.3 Photography classes:

Photography Classes	
Class 24	Animals-Domestic
Class 25	Animals-Wildlife
Class 26	People
Class 27	Landscape
Class 28	Motion/Action
Class 29	Miscellaneous

Each participant may enter a maximum of 2 entries per class. Photos do not have to be determined until time of check in. Any entry that is entered in the wrong class will be disqualified. (Example: a photo of a pig could not be entered in Class 24 People)

19.4 The same exhibitor may not win both Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Photography.

20.0 HORTICULTURE CATEGORY

In addition to entry forms and fees, you must also submit a description of your project on the “Arts, Crafts, & Clothing, Photography, or Horticulture Form” at check-in available on the HCLE website or from your advisor.

20.1 While exhibitors are not required to take Horticulture or Floral Design Classes, projects exhibited must have been constructed by the 4-H, FCCLA or FFA member during the year since the previous show. All projects must be made available to the ag teacher or 4-H leader at any time.

20.2 Each exhibitor may enter a maximum of two projects. The projects can be exhibited only one time at the Hays County Livestock Show.

20.3 Exhibitors may not assemble the projects in the check in room. All projects must be finished at the time of check-in. (paint, varnish, water shed, weatherproof etc.) Only dead or dying live flowers may be replaced after check-in.

20.4 Entries may be Fresh Flower Arrangements, Dish Gardens/Terrarium, Potted Plant, or Silk Floral Arrangement. Exhibitors may not change the class of their project at check-in, even if that means the class is now incorrect. All projects in incorrect classes will be disqualified.

20.5 Entries must not exceed 2ft x2 ft.x2 ft. in size and must weigh no more than 30 lbs. **If larger than 2ft x 2ft x2ft the project will be disqualified.**

20.6 Plants must be free of insects and disease. Leaf polish or other commercial foliage enhancers are not permitted.

20.7 Plants must be watered prior to entry and maintained during the show.

20.8 There will **NOT** be any electric outlets available for exhibitors to connect to. Battery power will be acceptable.

20.9 The HCLE will not be held responsible for lost, damaged or dead items. Small items, accessories, etc. should be securely fastened to their container. Items of great sentimental value should not be used. Any entry that does not comply with all competition rules will be disqualified.

20.10 Judging Criteria:

Criteria
Use of elements of design (line, color, texture, form/shape, spacing & pattern
Use of principles of design (balance, proportion, focal, rhythm, contrast, harmony & unity).
Quality of materials used (including health and condition of plants/flowers, quality of materials used (“materials” = includes silk flowers, containers, and mechanics).
Quality and method of construction used.

20.11 Grand Champion and Reserve Champion entries in each age group will be eligible for the sale. The same exhibitor may not win both Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Horticulture.

Horticulture Classes:

Horticulture Classes:	
Class 30	Fresh Flower Arrangements
Class 31	Dish Gardens/Terrariums
Class 32	Potted Plants
Class 33	Silk Floral Arrangements

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS DIVISION

21.0 AG. MECHANICS

Superintendent: Andrew Zelhart
Assistant Superintendent: Chris Smith

21.1 Schedule**21.2** An entry fee of \$20.00 will be charged for each project.

21.3 Projects must have been constructed by FFA, FCCLA, and 4-H members either as a part of their agricultural mechanics instruction in vocational agriculture or as a part of their supervised work experience program.

- 21.4** A project can be exhibited only one time at the Hays Livestock Show and must have been constructed within one calendar year of the exhibition date.
- 21.5** All projects must be painted or properly treated and must be clean and in a presentable condition even though they may have been used.
- 21.6** A working plan, drawing, and photographs showing construction and a bill of materials is required with each project.
- 21.7** Projects may have been individually, or group constructed and may be individually or chapter owned.
- 21.8** All projects must be complete and finished by 7:00 pm on Sunday, January 24, 2027, or be disqualified.
- 21.9** Every precaution will be taken to protect the projects, however, neither the HCLE Board of Directors nor the officials of this Division will be responsible for any losses or damage to projects.
- 21.10** Classes and examples for each class are shown below: Please contact the Superintendent for guidance of division classifications.

Division 1-Ag Machinery and Equipment	
Class 100	Hay Handling/Spray Equipment
Class 101	Tractor Equipment EX: drags, harrows, plow. No Hydraulic
Class 102	Hydraulic Outdoor Equipment including Tractor/Skid Steer attachments, lawn and garden equipment.
Class 103	Truck Accessories – Welding Beds, bumpers, grill guards, etc.

Division Champion and Reserve Division Champion

Division 2-Shop Equipment	
Class 200	Shop tables and Work Benches
Class 201	Specialized tables and work stations
Class 202	Shop Equipment – Presses, breaks, belt sanders, hoist, etc.

Division Champion and Reserve Division Champion

Division 3-Home Conveniences	
Class 300	Small indoor furniture/furnishings (smaller than 2x2x2)
Class 301	Large indoor furniture/furnishings (larger than 2x2x2 or multi piece)

Class 302	Outdoor metal furniture – Project must have 60% or more metal construction
Class 303	Outdoor wood furniture – Project must have 60% or more wood construction
Class 304	Ornamental Yard Pieces and/or non- cooking firepits
Class 305	Garden Sheds/Tiny Houses

Division Champion and Reserve Division Champion

Division 4-Outdoor Cooking	
Class 400	Traditional Non towable BBQ pits
Class 401	Open Grills and Cooking Firepits
Class 402	Fish Fryers, disk cookers, rocket stoves, etc.
Class 403	Towable BBQ pits

Division Champion and Reserve Division Champion

Division 5-Livestock Handling and Housing	
Class 500	Livestock Hay feeders and troughs
Class 501	Squeeze chutes, trim chutes, blocking stands, transport crates, walkers
Class 502	Chicken coops, rabbit hutches, feed/tack room, portable shelters
Class 503	Gates/Cattle Guards

Division Champion Reserve Division Champion

Division 6-Wildlife/Natural Resources/Specialty Items	
Class 600	Hunting Stands
Class 601	Feeders, traps, skinning racks
Class 602	Natural resources – Water catch systems, composters, hydroponic/aquaponics
Class 603	Specialty – Bits, spurs, knives, hand forged items, etc.

Division Champion and Reserve Division Champion

Division 7- Trailers	
Class 700	Bumper Pull Trailers under 16’ including livestock and hay trailers
Class 701	Bumper Pull Trailers over 16’ including livestock and hay trailers
Class 702	Gooseneck Trailers including livestock and hay trailers
Class 703	Specialty Trailers (Welding, equipment, water nurse trailer,

	etc.)
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Division Champion and Reserve Division Champion

Division 8- Tractor and Farm Equipment Restoration	
Class 800	Tractor Restoration
Class 801	Farm Implement Restoration
Class 802	Trailer Restoration

Division Champion and Reserve Division Champion

21.11 Class 802: Trailers must be rebuilt to original manufacturer's purpose. Trailers must pass DOT registration requirements prior to entry. Only trailers with a 3500 LB GVWR or higher may be entered.

Group I
Division 1-Ag Machinery and Equipment
Division 2- Shop Equipment

Group II
Division 3- Home Conveniences
Division 4- Outdoor Cooking

Group III
Division 5-Livestock Handling and Housing
Division 6-Wildlife/Natural Resources/Specialty Items

Group IV
Division 7- Trailers

Group V
Division 8-Tractor, Farm Equipment and Trailer Restoration

21.12 Blue, Red, and White ribbons will be awarded for each class according to the awards criteria. Projects will be judged based on IDEAL or SUPERIOR quality.

21.13 Judging Criteria:

Criteria	Points
Workmanship	30
Degree of Difficulty	20
Presentation & Knowledge of Project	20
Quality of Finish	20
Documentation & Research	10

Ribbon Color	Points Needed
Blue	90-100 Points
Red	80-89 Points
White	70-79 Points

21.14 Each Division will have a Grand and Reserve Champion who will be eligible to compete for Group Grand and Reserve Champion.

21.15 All Group Grand and Reserve Champions will compete for Overall Grand and Reserve Champion of the Ag Mech Show.

21.16 Blue Quality Group Grand and Reserve Champions will receive belt buckles and will be eligible for the auction. Ownership of the projects will be retained by the exhibitor.

21.17 Exhibitors may offer their project for sale by placing a “For Sale” sign and a price on the project. It may be necessary to move the project to a designated area during auction, at the discretion of the superintendent or the HCLE Board.

21.18 Kits are not allowed. Kits are defined as packages of pre-cut or pre-finished materials that have all the supplies to finish a project in the package.

21.19 Exhibitors should be prepared for an interview by the judge. They may be asked questions concerning, but not limited to, project construction, design, use, operation, etc. Exhibitors may be asked to demonstrate all or part of the project operation.

21.20 All classifiers and judges’ results are FINAL.

AUCTION

22.0 SALE RULES

22.1 This will be a ribbon sale with ownership of the animals and projects retained by the exhibitor except for food items which will be claimed by the buyer.

22.2 An exhibitor may sell one unit per division, with a maximum of two units across different divisions, in the auction. The only exception to this is if he or she has a Grand Champion and/or Reserve Champion in more than two divisions. As an example: to sell more than two items, the exhibitor must have more than two Grand or Reserve Champions in different divisions. Grand and Reserve Champions in breeding classes will be eligible to sell.

22.3 A “Unit” will be defined as follows:

UNITS
One Steer
One Swine
One Lamb
One Goat
One Meat Rabbit Pen
One Broiler Pen
One Turkey
One Breeding Animal
One Food Item
One Photograph
One Arts & Crafts or Clothing Item
One Horticulture
One Ag Mechanic Project

22.4 Each exhibitor must appear in the auction ring with his or her own animal for the sale unless otherwise authorized by the HCLE Board of Directors. Only the Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, Breed Champion, and Reserve Breed Champion projects are allowed to be present at the auction.

22.5 Buyer appreciation gift/gift baskets are allowed, but not required.

22.6 Exhibitors are not permitted to solicit buyers at the sale.

22.7 All exhibitors will be assigned a sale lot number.

22.8 Only the exhibitor will be allowed to enter the sale ring. Should the exhibitor need assistance, there will be a member of the Queen’s Court/Ambassadors available.

22.9 Only the exhibitor, buyer(s) and a member of the Queen’s Court will be allowed in the buyer’s photo.

22.10 All auctioned items will be assessed a 10% commission charge.

22.11 No floor price will be available for those animals not making it into the auction.

22.12 Each exhibitor will be responsible for the removal and return home of their own animals after the show. A \$25.00 handling fee will be assessed to exhibitors who do not remove their animals. All animals will be removed Champion, and Reserve Breed Champion projects are allowed to be present at the auction.

22.13 The HCLE Board of Directors will determine the number of projects to be sold and the order of the sale prior to the auction.

22.14 Any exhibitor going through the auction must send each buyer a “Thank you” letter. Pictures and buyer’s lists will be sent to the 4-H Club Managers, FFA, and FCCLA Advisors as soon as possible after the show. Buyers “Thank you” letters must be addressed, stamped, and delivered to the 4-H Club Managers, FFA, and FCCLA Advisors before checks are distributed. One photo must be sent to your main buyer. Additional photos may be purchased from the photographer.

22.15 All “add-on’s” must be submitted to the treasurer within two (2) weeks after the current year’s auction.

22.16 The HCLE Board of Directors will assess 1.5% interest per month to all outstanding invoice balances that are not paid within 90 days after the current year’s auction.