

# EDWARDS COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW RULES

**2026-2027**

**SHOW DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2026**

## General Rules

1. Only youth who are at least 7 years of age and in at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (as of September 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of the current show) and a member of the Rocksprings FFA, Rocksprings Junior FFA, or Edwards County 4-H Club are eligible to enter the show.
2. Each exhibitor will be required to meet the eligibility standards of grades, discipline, and health requirements from the exhibitor's place of learning. Exhibitors cannot show if on the school failure list. If any exhibitor is deemed ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity this will also apply to exhibiting and participating in the Edwards County Junior Livestock Show. Any ineligible exhibitor's project(s) will be ineligible to show unless:
  - a. shown by a sibling living in the same household.
  - b. said sibling will still only be allowed to sell one animal.
  - c. animal must be validated under said sibling's name.
3. Each exhibitor must be on hand to participate in showing and participating in the premium sale of their project with the following exceptions:
  - a. Exhibitors must get approval before the show starts. Failure to get approval will disqualify the exhibitor from showing or participating in the premium sale and receiving prize money.
  - b. When an exhibitor has more than one animal in a class, all substitute exhibitors must meet the requirements of rules 1 & 2. Substitute exhibitors must be entered in the show, but it does not matter which species (i.e. lamb exhibitor may be a substitute in the swine show).

4. Exhibitors must personally feed and care for their livestock project. The respective advisors are responsible for ensuring that animals are cared for properly.
5. It is the sole responsibility of each exhibitor to ensure compliance with all ECJLA rules and to see that they are in the proper place at the proper time.
6. Exhibitors and their families must contact their respective advisors with questions regarding ECJLA rules. Advisors will be the only ones allowed to contact ECJLA board members for clarification on rules and all other ECJLA business.
7. **ONLY MARKET ANIMALS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PREMIUM SALE.**
  - a. **MARKET ANIMALS INCLUDE MARKET LAMBS, MARKET GOATS, MARKET SWINE, AND FRYER (MEAT) RABBITS AND THESE SPECIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PREMIUM SALE MONEY. THE HIGHEST PLACING MARKET ANIMAL WILL BE PAID. ONLY ONE MARKET ANIMAL PER EXHIBITOR WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PREMIUM SALE. THE HIGHEST PAYING MARKET ANIMAL WILL BE PAID WHEN AN EXHIBITOR HAS MORE THAN ONE SPECIES (eg. If an exhibitor shows the Champion Market Swine and the Champion Fryer (Meat) Rabbit, then only the Champion Market Swine would be paid).**
  - b. **PAYOUTS FOR MARKET LAMBS, MARKET GOATS, AND MARKET SWINE WILL BE BASED ON A SLIDING SCALE AND DEPENDENT UPON TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED IN THE YEAR.**
  - c. **FRYER (MEAT) RABBITS MAY SELL ONE (1) RABBIT WITH A SLIDING PAY SCALE OF CHAMPION AT \$750 maximum payout. OTHER PAYOUTS WILL GO DOWN THE SCALE BASED ON PLACING.**
  - d. **FANCY (BREEDING) RABBITS MAY RECEIVE PRIZE MONEY FOR EACH ENTRY WITH A SLIDING PAY SCALE OF CHAMPION AT \$300 maximum payout. OTHER PRIZE MONEY WILL GO DOWN THE SCALE BASED ON PLACING.**
  - e. All other species including Angoras, poultry, and all breeding classes will be eligible for prize money only. Each entry of these species will be eligible for prize money. **PRIZE MONEY WILL BE BASED ON A SLIDING SCALE BASED ON PLACING.** Pens of three are not eligible for prize money.

8. Exhibitors may enter their highest placing market animal in the premium sale.
9. Premium sale commission is a maximum of 5%. This may be waived in entirety or proportionally as determined by the ECJLA Board.
10. The Premium Sale will be divided evenly between all eligible market animal exhibitors. All Grand Champions for market animals will receive the same amount and will continue through all placings.
11. All market animals will be weighed and sifted prior to the show. Sifted animals will not be shown and are not eligible for premium sale.
12. Registration papers on registered angoras must show ownership and be in the exhibitor's name by show date.
13. All exhibitors will be required to fill out entry forms for each animal being entered into the show. The exact deadline for entry forms to be turned in will be determined by the ECJLA at a later date, the entry forms will be due sometime in the month of November. It will be the advisor's responsibility to ensure exhibitors are informed of the deadline for entry forms being returned. *Respective advisors are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the entry forms. ECJLA is not responsible for incorrect class assignments for incorrect information on entry forms.* All market animals will show in the breed class that is designated on the validation forms. No exceptions will be made. This applies to wether/dams, wether/does, and gilts as well as the wether lambs, wether goats, and barrows.
14. No animal may be removed from the show grounds without permission of the Board.
15. Unhealthy animals, as determined by the Board, will be removed from the barn.
16. The exhibitors are responsible for the disposition of his/her animals.
17. **DEFINITION OF A CLASS: A CLASS WITHIN A SPECIES MUST CONSIST OF A MINIMUM OF 2 (TWO) EXHIBITORS AND 3 (THREE) ANIMALS.** A lack of exhibitors or a class will force the exhibitor into another class at the discretion of the Board. **NO DOWNGRADING OF BREED CLASS WILL BE ALLOWED. ANIMALS WILL SHOW IN THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OF MAJOR SHOWS AND THE NORMAL LIVESTOCK SHOW INDUSTRY.**

18. All exhibitors must participate in a minimum of five (5) ECJLA sanctioned activities annually in order to show in the Edwards County Junior Livestock Show. Sanctioned activities include but are not limited to clean up days, fundraising, selling raffle tickets, etc. ECJLA Board reserves the right to approve substitutions based on illness, family emergencies, etc. All exhibitors will be required to help at the barn cleanup day Saturday, December 6, 2025. This mandatory cleanup day will count as one (1) of the required 5 sanctioned activities. Failure to do the above activities will result in forfeiture of sale money by exhibitor. Only advisors may request for additional activities to be sanctioned as an ECJLA activity. Sanctioning must be requested before participating in the activity. Terms of sanctioning an event have been established with both advisors.
19. All exhibitors will be required to complete assigned thank you notes to donors. The date and donor assignments will be determined by the ECJLA at a later date. Failure to do the thank you notes within 15 days of the assigned date (unless extenuating circumstances are involved) will result in forfeiture of sale money by exhibitor.
20. No one other than the judge and exhibitors and the following Board approved: ring stewards, ribbon givers, results keeper, and photographer shall be allowed in the show ring during the show unless for medical emergency or other APPROVED reason by ECJLA Board. Exhibitors with disabilities may have appropriate accommodations and assistance, if required.
21. All exhibitors must remain at the show for the entire length of the show until dismissed by the Board. Exceptions will be made for another extracurricular activity, funeral, and the like. Anyone meeting the rule for exception must notify a Board member working the desk at the ring. NO ANIMALS will be allowed to load or leave until dismissed by the Board. Failure to comply with either part of this rule will result in a 25% reduction in the amount of your sale/prize check from ECJLA.
22. All sale/prize checks must be cashed/deposited within sixty (60) days from the date of issuance. Failure to do so will result in a stop payment being placed on the check. To have the check reissued, the exhibitor will receive the original amount less the stop payment fee and a 25% reprocessing fee.

23. ALL MARKET ANIMALS (LAMBS, MEAT GOATS, and SWINE) WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE VALIDATED. FOR COUNTY ONLY, THERE WILL BE A \$5 CHARGE FOR THE VALIDATION PROCESS. STATE VALIDATION FEES ARE SET BY THE COUNTY VALIDATION CHAIR. ALL MARKET ANIMALS MUST HAVE A VALIDATION TAG EITHER STATE OR COUNTY AND WILL RECEIVE AN EAR TATTOO FOR LAMBS AND MARKET GOATS. ANY MARKET ANIMAL NOT VALIDATED IN EDWARDS COUNTY EITHER FOR COUNTY OR STATE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHOW.
24. All exhibitors, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up will be required to complete the age-appropriate Quality Counts. (EXCEPTION – 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will not have to meet this requirement). Please contact your FFA Advisor or County Agent for more information and to set up Quality Counts. Quality Counts numbers will be required on all entry forms.
25. Exhibitors must wear closed-toe shoes, jeans or slacks and a collared shirt with no logos. No caps or cowboy hats are to be worn at any time while showing.
26. No exhibitor or their parents will have ANY contact of any kind with the judge prior to show day unless exhibitor is entered in another show in which the judge is judging. ECJLA Board members may contact judge for contract and logistics issues. ANYONE caught in violating this rule will result in disqualification and the Board reserves the right to institute a longer suspension and/or ban of exhibitor.

#### **MARKET LAMBS**

1. Market lambs will be divided into breed classes of Fine-wool, Medium-wool, Fine-wool cross, and Dorper. These classes may be further divided into weight classes at the discretion of the Board.
2. Two lambs per breed may be shown.
3. Lamb weight limits are 90 lbs. minimum for all breeds but Dorpers. Minimum weight for Dorpers is 80 lbs.
4. Lambs must be sheared from the knee and hock before arriving at the show barn. Animals housing in the 4-H Barn must follow 4-H Barn Agreement rules.
5. Lambs must have no yearling teeth showing at the time of weighing.

6. Wether and ewe lambs may be shown.
7. Board will classify all market lambs. Decisions will be final.
8. No washing of lambs on the show grounds. Animals housing in the 4-H Barn must follow 4-H Barn Agreement rules.
9. All lambs must be in the possession of the exhibitor by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **MARKET SWINE**

1. Barrows or gilts may be shown. All barrows must be castrated by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Weight limit will be 90 lbs. minimum – 270 lbs. maximum.
3. 1-2 Classes shall consist of WOPB, BOPB, and Durocs. 1-2 Classes shall consist of Crosses and Hamps. Classes may be divided by weight at the discretion of the Board.
4. Two pigs per class may be entered.
5. All Swine must be in exhibitors' possession by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
6. Swine will be divided into purebred and cross classes. Board reserves the right to combine the purebred and cross classes.
7. Board will classify and weigh all market swine. Decisions will be final.

#### **MEAT GOATS**

1. Wether and does may be shown. Goats must have no yearling teeth showing at the time of weighing.
2. Exhibitors may enter two goats per class. Classes may be divided by weight at the discretion of the Board.
3. Meat goats must weigh a minimum of 50 lbs.
4. Goats must be sheared from the knee and hock before arriving at the show barn.  
Animals housing in the 4-H Barn must follow 4-H Barn Agreement rules.

5. All goats will be required to have their horns tipped or dehorned before arrival on the grounds. State validated does will not be required to have horns tipped or dehorned as is standard for major stockshows.
6. Goats can be shown with a halter or collar.
7. All goats must be in possession of the exhibitor by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
8. No external parasites will be allowed. If a goat is found to have external parasites, it will be disqualified from show.
9. No washing of goats on the show grounds. Animals housing in the 4-H Barn must follow 4-H Barn Agreement rules.

#### **ANGORA GOATS – BREEDING**

1. Registered or Commercial Angoras may be shown.
2. All angora goats must have been shorn on or after July 15<sup>th</sup> or the standard date for major stockshows.
3. Each exhibitor may enter two head in each class.
4. Commercial goats must have a visible “knife” ranch earmark.
5. Coats will not be allowed on goats.
6. Classes
  - A. Kid, yearling, aged bucks
  - B. Champion and Reserve Champion Buck
  - C. Kid, yearling, aged does
  - D. Champion and Reserve Champion Doe
7. Classes may be combined at the discretion of the ECJLA board.
8. All Angora goats must be in the possession of exhibitor by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **BREEDING MEAT GOATS**

1. Classes will include:
  - a: Does - Kids, Yearlings, and Aged
  - b: Bucks – all ages

2. Classes may be combined at the discretion of the ECJLA board.

### **BREEDING SHEEP**

1. Lambs and two tooth sheep may be shown in full fleece. Aged animals must have been shorn after February 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year.
2. Commercial sheep may be trimmed only around the dock and eyes. Cording is prohibited.

### **FRYER (MEAT) RABBITS**

1. Rabbits must be in exhibitor's possession by the ownership deadline (October 31<sup>st</sup>).
2. An exhibitor may enter up to two (2) single fryer (meat) rabbits.
3. All rabbits to be shown must be validated by ECJLA with a tattoo by a date to be determined after the October 31<sup>st</sup> ownership deadline.
4. A validated rabbit is only eligible for the show for the year in which it is validated (ex. Validated in November 2026 then only eligible for the December 2026 show).
5. Classes will be drawn at random and divided into roughly equal sizes. Mix of breeds will be allowed within a class. Fancy rabbits will not be allowed to be shown in the fryer classes. A class shall consist of a minimum of two (2) exhibitors with three (3) single fryer rabbits.
6. Fryer breeds shall include: New Zealand, Californian, TAMUK or a cross of any of these.
7. Additional rules provided by Board as needed.
8. **Champion and Reserve Champion Fryer Rabbits will be chosen.**

### **BREEDING (FANCY) RABBITS**

1. There must be at least 3 breeding rabbits to have a Rabbit Show. Rabbits must be in the exhibitor's possession by the ownership deadline (October 31<sup>st</sup>) and

must be validated by the ECJLA to be eligible to show. Breeding does and bucks can be shown and may be shown together. All breeds within a class will show against one another. All rabbits can only be shown one time at the County Show. (ex. Validated in November 2026 then only eligible for the December 2026 show).

2. Each exhibitor may show 2 rabbits per class. Any rabbit previously validated in Edwards County will be ineligible for all future shows.
3. Classes will be divided at the discretion of the ECJLA board into classes of roughly equal size.
4. **Champion and Reserve Champion Breeding Rabbits will be chosen.**

## **POULTRY**

1. **ECJLA will guarantee prize money in accordance with the prize payout schedule.**
2. Entries in this class are limited to meat pens. A meat pen shall consist of three broilers, either sex, uniform in color or color pattern (not two white chickens and one black or two of one breed and one of another breed.)
3. Each exhibitor shall be limited to two pens. (Subject to change.) Each pen shall consist of three broilers, which must be selected by the exhibitor before check-in. Check-in officials may not assist in the selection of meat pens.
4. Broiler Order/Deadline: All broiler chicks (minimum of 10 per exhibitor) must be ordered on or before September 15, 2026, by participating exhibitor and order forms, including payment for broilers, turned into the county Extension Office. Broilers will be validated at the time exhibitors pick them up. Pickup date to be determined. Exhibitors will draw straws to determine the order of selection.
5. The weight of each broiler shall not be less than 4 pounds with no maximum weight limit and shall be at least 6 weeks old. Broilers that do not meet these requirements shall be disqualified.

6. Once a broiler is presented to the officials at weigh-in, it is not permitted to leave the animal barn until the show. If any animal is under weight, it will not be permitted to leave and be reweighed. Once checked in and weighed, it will remain in the barn area unless sifted.
7. Sift: A sifter appointed by ECJLA with the department superintendent as one member, will inspect entries to eliminate entries not in proper show condition. Broilers must be free of external parasites and disease. Broilers with reduced comb growth, or other secondary sex characteristics which indicate the presence of a hormone, will be sifted. Each entry must have the original wing band.
8. Sick and diseased birds are completely refused entry and if discovered during the show, will be removed.
9. No substitute broilers from the exhibitor's stock will be allowed after the pen-of-three birds are presented to the sifter.
10. Sifting will be done at the time of weigh-in and will be based on the following criteria:
  - a. Cuts and tears
  - b. Broken and disjointed bones
  - c. Skin or flesh bruises anywhere other than on the wing tip
  - d. Breast blisters
  - e. External parasites (lice, mites, or fleas)
  - f. Extremely dirty birds
  - g. Any bird which has lost its wing band for any reason will be sifted. Sifted birds will be marked at the time of sifting.
11. Desirable traits:
  - a. Conformation (shape of the birds).
  - b. Fleshing (the amount and distribution of muscle or flesh on the bird).
  - c. Uniformity (close in size, shape, fleshing, and finish of it pen mates).
  - d. Finish (amount of fat in and immediately under the skin).

- e. Skin pigmentation (results from the deposition of yellow or yellow-orange pigments in the outer skin layer).
12. All meat pens of broilers will be wing banded by the time of by Texas A&M University Poultry Science Department, and this will be used for validation purposes. The validation will consist of band numbers at the time of selection to the corresponding exhibitor.
  13. Wing Bands: The sifter and judge will disregard any wing damage caused by the required wing band.
  14. Exhibitors must own and possess the poultry stock (minimum of 10 birds) on or before November 9th of the current 4-H year. The Poultry Committee feels that this requirement offers exhibitors a wide range of learning opportunities such as maintaining stock, keeping records, involvement of culling, selections rations, grooming, selection of the animals, and show experience.
  15. Broilers cannot be removed from the assigned cage after they are cooped, except by permission of the show superintendent. Broilers may be touched, handled, and managed inside the cage only by the owner of the birds.
  16. Exhibitors will be responsible for the care of their own broilers at the show. Small containers of food and water should be furnished by the exhibitors for their broilers.
  17. Carrying cages will also be needed for broiler pens and to carry to the staging pens. The cage must have leakproof bottoms. Exhibitors will be required to provided their own transportation cages, pens, carriers, etc. to and from the show.
  18. There will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Broiler Pen selected.
  19. All exhibitors that own the chickens must display proper showmanship while in the ring.

**SPECIAL RULES** All entries in this department will be subject to the general rules and regulations of the ECJLA, except where they conflict with the special rules of this department. Then, the special rules of this department will prevail.

1. Chicks will come from a certified disease-free hatchery. All broiler chicks will be ordered through Texas A&M University's Poultry Science Department in accordance with the "Rules and Ordering Procedures" documents found on the website at [posc.tamu.edu](http://posc.tamu.edu). A minimum of 10 chicks will be ordered per exhibitor. The Edwards County Extension Agent will be the one to place the order and to schedule to pick up the birds from Texas A&M University Poultry Science Department. Broilers will be validated at the time exhibitors pick them up. Validation will consist of recording the wing band numbers to the corresponding exhibitors.
2. Handlers: Must meet the eligibility requirements outlined by ECJLA general rules. Additionally, handlers must be eligible members of either the 4-H/FFA Club in Edwards County. Handlers will assist the owner in exhibiting the broilers as this is a pen of three show. Handlers will not be eligible for Showmanship or Prize Money.

## Edwards County Junior Livestock Association

### Top Hand Award

The ECJLA Top Hand Award encourages exhibitors to participate in events and activities that promote leadership, volunteerism, education, and marketing. Award winners should demonstrate exceptional work ethic regarding ECJLA activities and livestock show.

#### ***Requirements and Procedures:***

1. Nominees for the award must have at least ten (10) required activity credits.
2. Nominees must be helpful around the barn on mandatory clean-up day and on show day. *\*Approved excuses for other approved extracurricular events will not exclude a nominee if mandatory clean-up day is missed.*
3. Nominees will exhibit the qualities of leadership, volunteerism, education, and marketing of the Edwards County Junior Livestock Association and Show.
4. Three (3) ECJLA Board members without exhibitor(s) eligible to earn the Top Hand Award will select the winner based on eligible nominees.
5. Winner will be announced during the show awards ceremony.