

Polk County Youth Fair

Fair Dates – January 23 – January 31, 2026

(863) 519-1046

All exhibits must be entered online following instructions at www.pcyf.net. By entering your project online signifies that you have read and understand the rules and regulations and agree to abide by said rules and regulations. Please read specific department rules for other deadlines and penalties related to market animals and plants for auctions. The PCYF Rules & Regulations are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the board of directors and/or the respective departments.

Date:	What's Due:
May 1, 2025	Online Registration begins for: Commercial Market Steer, Brahman/American Influence Market Steer, Market Goat Lottery & Market Lamb Lottery entries accepted along with registration fees.
June 1, 2025	Commercial Market Steer Entry Deadline along with paid entry fee, tagging fee(per market steer), carcass ultrasound fee and t-shirt fee.
June 2, 2025 – June 6, 2025	Commercial Market Steer late entries accepted along with paid late entry fee, tagging fee(per market steer) carcass ultrasound fee, and t-shirt fee
June 6, 2025 11:59 pm	Market Lamb Lottery & Market Goat Lottery online entries deadline along with a paid entry fee (NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED)
June 21, 2025 8:00 am	Commercial Market Steer Selection Day (Ag Center)
June 24, 2025 6:00 pm	Mandatory Lamb Lottery Selection Day (Hayman Arena)
July 8, 2025 TBD	Mandatory Goat Lottery Selection Day (Location Details to be emailed)
July 27, 2025	Brahman/European Influence Market Steer Entry Deadline along with paid entry fee, tagging fee (per market steer) carcass ultrasound fee, and t-shirt fee.
July 28, 2025 – August 6, 2025	Brahman/European Market Steer late entries accepted along with paid entry fee, tagging fee (per market steer), carcass ultrasound fee, t-shirt fee and late entry fee
August 1, 2025	ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR: Beef Breeding, Goat, Lamb, Poultry, Egg, Rabbit, Horticulture, Horse, Commercial Heifers, Dogs, Archery, Family & Consumer Sciences, Goat Tying, Top Ranch Hand & Whip Popping
August 16, 2025 6:00 am – 9:00 am	Mandatory Market Steer Open Show Initial Weigh in/Tagging Day
September 4, 2025 6:30 pm	1st Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting (exhibitors must attend 1 of the 2) (Stuart Center) (no zoom option)
September 18, 2025 6:00 pm	Horticulture Workshop Mandatory Meeting (ALL EXHIBITORS) (Stuart Center) (must attend 1 of the 2 meetings) IN PERSON ONLY
September 20, 2025 9:00 am	Horticulture Workshop Mandatory Meeting (All Exhibitors) (must attend 1 of the 2 meetings) VIRTUAL ONLY
September 20, 2025 9:00 am	2 nd Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting (exhibitors must attend 1 of the 2) (Stuart Center) (no zoom option)
September 20, 2025	Horses must be owned/leased or cared for by this date (least to be emailed/uploaded to the Youth Fair by November 1, 2025)
September 22 – September 29, 2025 11:59PM	Online registration begins for MARKET HOGS: Registration will run Monday, September 22, 2025 – Monday September 29, 2025, by 11:59 pm. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED Exhibitors will also be able to register and pay for a dirt pen, and sign up for and pay for showmanship
September 30, 2025 7:00 pm	Mandatory Meeting for ALL Market Hog Exhibitors. This meeting will be held via Zoom, if you are not able to attend via zoom, you can watch the live stream in the Valencia Room at the agriculture center at this time.
September 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Horse, Beef Breeding, Breeding & Dairy Goats, Purebred & Commercial Meat Goats, , Private Market Goat/Market Lam, Blueberry, Citrus, Commercial Heifers, Ornamental Plants, Plants for Display only, Dish Garden entries deadline online along with paid entry fee

x Denotes Changes from 2025 Rules & Regulations

September 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Ornamental plants purchased AFTER September 30, 2025, will <u>not be allowed</u> to show during the fair.
October 1 – Oct 6, 2025 11:59 pm	Horse online entry deadline online along with a paid entry fee and \$50.00 late fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS OCTOBER 6, 2025)
October 1 – Oct 10, 2025 11:59 pm	Breeding & Dairy Goats, Purebred & Commercial Meat Goats, Private purchase Market Lamb/Market Goat, Beef Breeding, Blueberry, Citrus, Commercial Heifers, Ornamental Plants, Plants for Display only, entries deadline online along with paid entry fee and late fee.
October 4 6:30 am – 10:00 am	Market Hog Tagging Day, Ownership deadline, USDA ID# and Bill of sale due.
October 14, 2025 6:00 pm	Mandatory Tagging Day (Private purchase Market Lamb & Market Goats only) (Hayman Arena)
November 1, 2025	Dog, Poultry & Eggs and Rabbit accepted online with paid entry fees (LAST DAY TO REGISTER, NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED)
November 18, 2025 6:00 pm	Goat and Lamb Exhibitor Meeting (ZOOM ONLY) Link will be emailed
November 30, 2025	Archery Competition online entries accepted with paid entry fee
November 30, 2025	Bedding Plants, Foliage & Hanging Baskets Ownership Deadline
December 1 – December 7, 2025 11:59 pm	Archery Competition entries accepted online with paid entry fee and late entry fee
December 1 – Dec 7, 2025 11:59 pm	Vegetables late entries accepted online with paid entry fee and late entry fee. (REGISTRATION ENDS DECEMBER 7, 2025, NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE)
December 5, 2025	Chili Cook Off Contest Entry Forms Due BY MAIL. (NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED) Vegetable ownership deadline/entries accepted online with paid entry fee. (LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE)
December 5, 2025	Copies of letters to two different potential buyers due for cake auction, blueberry, citrus, ornamental plants, market hogs, market steers, commercial heifers, and market lambs.
December 5 – January 4, 2026	Copies of late letters to two different potential buyers for blueberry, citrus and ornamental plants late letter with paid late letter fee due
January 11, 2026 11:59 pm	Whip Popping entry due (LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE)
January 9, 2026	Scrap Off Entry due; NEW ONLINE ENTRY
January 12, 2026 – January 16, 2026	Whip Popping entry due along with a late entry fee. (NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 16, 2026)
January 19, 2026 11:59 PM	Family & Consumer Sciences NON-PERISHABLE ONLINE final date for entries accepted along with paid entry fee (ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY-NO PAPER ENTRIES ALLOWED)
January 20, 2026 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Cake Auction Paper Entries and Recipes Due. No online entries accepted (Stuart Center) This form must be turned in, IN PERSON during this timeframe.
January 22, 2026 11:59 pm	Family & Consumer Sciences PERISHABLE ONLINE AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FINAL date for entries accepted along with paid entry fee (ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY-NO PAPER ENTRIES ALLOWED)
January 25, 2026 11:59 pm	Top Ranch Hand registration due (NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE) & Goat Tying Skills Contest Registration ends (NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE)

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Exhibit Check In/Check Out Dates & Times

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 x3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Check in for All Family & Consumer Sciences Nonperishable exhibits. Cake Auction Paper Entries and Recipes Due (no online entries accepted for cake auction)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026 8:00 am – 4:00 pm 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm 4:30 pm	Market Hog Check in All Family & Consumer Sciences Perishable Check-in and Food Preservation Ranch Horse Competition Check-in
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 7:00 am – 7:50 am x8:00 am – 12:00 pm 7:00 am – 11:00 am	Horse Check In (Gate Opens for Coggins Check in at 6:30am) Rabbit Check In Commercial Heifer Check in
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 x3:00 pm – 6:00 pm x7:00 pm – 8:00 pm X By 8:00 pm	Cakes for auction check-in (Stuart Center) Judging of Cakes for Auction Notification of auction winners
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 1:00 PM 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Dog Check-In Rabbit Check-out
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 8:00 am 10:00 am – 4:00 pm 10:30 am x1:00 pm 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm 4:30 pm TBD – Immediately following show	Archery Competition Juniors check-in/safety inspection Horticulture check-in (All Divisions) Archery Competition Intermediate check-in/safety inspection Archery Competition Seniors check-in/safety inspection Goat/Lamb department check-in Goat Tying Skills Contest check-in Commercial Heifer check-out
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 6:00 am – 9:00 am 7:00 am – 11:00 am 9:30 am – 11:00 am 12:30 pm x1:00 pm	Market Steers Check-in (Open & Commercial) Poultry and Eggs Check-in Beef Breeding Check-in Chili Cook Off Teams Check-in Poultry Showmanship Exhibitors sign in
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Red & White Ribbon Plants - Horticulture check-out
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 9:00 am – 10:00 pm 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm x12:00 pm – 9:00 pm x7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Beef Breeding Check-out Goat/Lamb Department check-out Poultry check-out Stuart Center Exhibits Check Out
xSATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 9:00 am – 11:00 am	Stuart Center Exhibits Check out
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Stuart Center Exhibits Check out

Check out of Exhibits - No exhibits may be removed except during the hours and dates specified listed above. Removal of exhibits without permission of the Fair Management, Department Superintendent or Department representative will result in the forfeiture of all premiums and awards. All exhibits not removed from the Fair Grounds by 4:30 pm., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 will become the property of the Fair and exhibitor will forfeit all premiums unless other arrangements have been made in advance with the Fair Management, Department

Schedule of Events – Agriculture Center

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026 5:30 PM	Ranch Horse Competition
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 8:00 am TBD x2:00 pm – Until Barn Closes x4:45 pm 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Horse Show (Open Horse Arena) Dressage Competition Judging of Rabbits (barn closed) Market Hog Senior Walk Market Hog Showmanship
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 8:00 am x12:00 pm – 5:00 pm x7:00 pm	Market Hog Show (Hayman Arena) Rabbit Showmanship (Location TBD) Whip Popping Contest
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 8:00 am – 4:00 pm 10:00 am 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 2:00 pm	Market Hog Sale (Hayman Arena) Cake Auction (Hayman Arena; first 5 of 10 to be auctioned) Rabbit/Exhibitor Costume Contest Cake Auction (Hayman Arena; last 5 of 10 to be auctioned) Dog Show
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 8:30 am – 4:00 pm 9:00 am – 12:00 pm x1:00 pm x5:00 pm	Archery Competition (open horse arena) Top Ranch Hand Contest (must pre-register online) Commercial Heifer Show/Showmanship Goat Tying Skills Contest
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 9:00 am 1100 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm x5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Judging of all Horticulture Exhibits (room/tent closed during judging) Dairy Goat Show/Dairy Showmanship Poultry Showmanship (Hayman Arena) Purebred and Commercial Meat Goat/Showmanship Market Lamb & Market Goat show will be following immediately after breeding show Market Steers Bred & Owned Show Market Steer Showmanship (Brahman/European Influence & Commercial) (Hayman Arena)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 8:30 am 8:30 am – 9:30 am 9:00 am – 4:00 pm 9:30 am – 12:00 pm 11:00 am – 1:00 pm 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Poultry will be judged (poultry barn will be closed) Rabbit Skillathon (for 4-H Individuals & FFA Teams) Beef Breeding Show/Showmanship (Hayman Arena) Poultry & Egg Judging Contest (for 4-H Ind & FFA Teams) not held in poultry barn Goat/Lamb Costume Contest Goat/Lamb Skillathon Market Steer Show (Brahman/European Influence & Commercial) (Hayman Arena)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 8:30 am – 10:30 am 10:30 am – 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 12:30 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Livestock Judging Contest (for 4-H Ind. & FFA Teams) (Hayman Arena) Horticulture Judging Contest (for 4-H Ind. & FFA Teams) (Hayman Arena) Judging Contest Awards Presentation (Hayman Arena) Horticulture Awards Presentation for Exhibitors Parade of Champions (Hayman Arena) Line up at Stuart Center Commercial Heifer Sale & Market Lamb & Goat Sale (Hayman Arena) Market Steer Sale (Hayman Arena) immediately following Commercial Heifer Sale
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 x8:00 am – 10:30 am x9:00 am – 12:30 pm	Volunteer and Buyer Brunch (Valencia Room) Blueberry, Citrus & Ornamental Plant Sale (Hayman Arena)

Schedule of Events – Stuart Center	
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 9:00 am	Closed to Public Judging for Non-perishable Exhibits
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 10:00 am	Closed to Public Tri Color Judging of Non-Perishables Exhibits
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 9:00 am	Closed to Public Judging of Perishables/Tri-Color Judging
xSUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm 8:00 PM	Open to public 11:00 am – 7:00 pm Judging of Cakes for Auctions (Stuart Center) Notification of Cake Auction Winners
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 8:30 am – 3:30 pm 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Open to Public 8:30 am – 7:00 pm Table Setting & Menu Planning Contest (see rules for details) Scrap Off Contest Mannequin Modeling Working Booths
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 3:30 pm 5:30 pm	Open to Public 8:30 am – 7:00 pm Sew Off Contest – Individuals (Pajama Pant) Sew Off Contest – Team (Pillow) Storytelling Contest
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 9:00 am – 10:00 am 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Open to Public 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Decorative Food Centerpiece Contest Closed for Chili Cook Off, teams preparing for Contest Reopen to Public Chili Cook Off Chili Cook Off Winners Announced Open to the Public
xTHURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 9:00 am – 11:00 am 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Open to Public 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Demonstrations Illustrated Talks Mannequin Modeling & Working Booth Cake Decoration Contest
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm x4:30 pm	Open to public 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Working Booths Mannequin Modeling Tri-Color Presentation Parade of Champions
xSATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026 9:00 am – 11:00 am	Stuart Center Exhibits Check Out
xMONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Stuart Center Exhibits Check Out

Stuart Center Check out of Exhibits - No exhibits may be removed except during the hours and dates specified listed above. Removal of exhibits without permission of the Fair Management, Department Superintendent or Department representative will result in the forfeiture of all premiums and awards. All exhibits not removed from the Fair Grounds by 4:30pm., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 will become the property of the Fair and the exhibitor will forfeit all premiums unless other arrangements have been made in advance with the Fair Management, Department Superintendent or Department representative. Exhibits not picked up by 4:30 PM, Monday FEBRUARY 2, 2026 may be claimed by the exhibitor for a \$25 fee. Arrangements must be made with the PCYF coordinator prior to arriving for the late pick up.

POLK COUNTY YOUTH FAIR, INC.

Street address - 1702 Highway 17 South, Bartow FL 33830 mailing

Address - P O BOX 9005, DRAWER HSO3, BARTOW FL 33831-9005

(863) 519-1046

January 23 - January 31, 2026

2026 GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: YOU MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE YOUTH FAIR IF YOU FAIL TO FOLLOW ANY OF THE YOUTH FAIR RULES. Exhibitors:

- a. Any bonafide member of 4-H (November 1, 2025), FFA, FCCLA and YLPA (Youth Leaders in Production Agriculture) as determined by the respective organization on date of entry. Exhibitors must declare organization affiliation at time of entry of exhibit and may not change affiliation between entry time and Fair. Each exhibitor must also be a bonafide full time student in the Polk County school system (12th grade or below). All exhibitors must be a resident of Polk County including those who are home schooled in their own home. ~~x~~Students must raise their animal in Polk County, unless discussed and approved by the board. **Minimum age of exhibitors is 8 years old as of September 1, 2025.** No adult school students or students over the age of 22 will be eligible. An exception may be made for exhibitors attending a special needs school outside of Polk County if the exhibitor notifies the Polk County Youth Fair in advance for consideration
- b. of entering an exhibit in the Fair.
- c. **Exceptional Students:** The Fair encourages parents, leaders and teachers of exceptional students to study the exhibit categories and select those that are reasonably within the abilities of the individual youngster. The Fair Management, if contacted in advance will make all reasonable efforts to permit alternatives to be used in such a way to allow the youngster an opportunity to participate.
- d. **All exhibitors must wear organizational dress for all shows and sells. Not hats are allowed during showmanship, show or sale. Exhibitors failing to comply will be fined \$50.00 for market hogs and \$100.00 for steers per event.**

Polk County Youth Fair Official Guidelines are as follows:

FFA: FFA jacket zipped to the top. White collared shirt with FFA scarf or tie - solid black or navy tie/scarf. Black pants. Black, dark brown or gray boots/shoes.

4-H: A white shirt with green scarf, green ribbon or green neck tie and dark pants. No soft shoes such as tennis shoes allowed.

FCCLA:

Females: Red, black or white polo or oxford shirt (long or short sleeves)

Black or khaki dress slacks/pants/capris (no shorts)

Black or khaki skirts

Dress shoes or dress sandals

Jeans, t-shirts, athletic wear ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE Males:

Red, black or white polo or oxford shirt (long or short sleeves)

Black dress slacks or khaki pants

Dress shoes

Jeans, t-shirts, athletic wear ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

YLPA:

Shirts: Polo or Button-down BLACK shirt (long or short sleeve are acceptable) with YLPA Patch or embroidered logo

Pants: Dark Denim Pants/Jeans. No holes or fades. Pants should always be worn outside of boots/shoes

Boots/Shoes: Black or brown closed toed boots or shoes

d. Showmanship, Competitions, Special Activities and Judging Contests:

Age of exhibitors to compete in shows, showmanship classes, special activities and judging contests will be divided into three divisions and will be based on the exhibitor's age as of **September 1, 2025**:

Junior - 8 to 10 years old

Intermediate - 11 - 13 years old

Senior - 14 to 18 years old

xShowmanship Contests - Exhibitors in the showmanship contest may be allowed to show another exhibitor's animal that is entered in the same department, if the committee of the department in which they are entered determines an exhibitor's animal shows signs of having health issues and cannot be shown at the time of the showmanship contest. Committee contact prior to show is required.

Poultry Showmanship - Exhibitors can only show birds they entered.

Market Hog Showmanship – EXHIBITORS CAN ONLY SHOW ANIMALS THAT THEY HAVE ENTERED.

Beef Breeding/Commercial Heifer Showmanship – EXHIBITORS CAN ONLY SHOW ANIMALS THAT THEY HAVE ENTERED.

e. Exhibitor Conduct: Exhibitors are required to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen.

Appropriate dress is required at all times. No radios are allowed to be played in the building including the inside of the barn.

NO SNUFF OR CHEWING TOBACCO IS ALLOWED DURING AN EVENT. The use of alcoholic beverages, drugs and related substances is forbidden on the Fair Grounds. Violators will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for prosecution. Unbecoming conduct such as the use of profanity, on the part of the exhibitor or anyone associated with the exhibitor will, at the discretion of the Fair Management, result in the disqualification of the exhibitor and requires the immediate removal of the exhibitor and his/her exhibits from the Fair Grounds with forfeiture of all premiums and awards.

f. School Attendance: School attendance is important, but exhibitors should take care of their own exhibits during the Fair and make prior arrangements with teachers to make up work missed while at the Fair.

Online Entries, Entry Forms & Exhibits:

Exhibits are to be the result of a planned learning experience -- made, grown, raised, trained, and/or completed by the exhibitor since the last Fair. The exhibitor must be involved on a continuing basis to provide a meaningful educational and personal development experience. Please refer to the rules of each department for specific requirements in regards to entry deadlines, ownership deadlines, etc. Preparation of any exhibit **should** be done by the exhibitor.

Online Entries and Entry Forms: Exhibitors who knowingly state false information entering online or on any entry forms will be subject to disqualification from the Fair. Exhibitor's entering online and signature, parent/guardian's signature and teacher/leader's signature on an entry form that is submitted for a project signifies the rules and regulations have been read by the exhibitor, parent/guardian, teacher/leader and that all understand and agree to abide by rules and regulations. **A bill of sale listing buyer and seller's name with complete address and contact information is required to be submitted along with entry forms for all market hog, market steer, breeding goats and commercial heifers (not shown in a prior year).** *A physical address where market animals will be raised is required to be listed on the entry submitted.* **Market animals must reside in Polk County, Florida.** Specific committee members may spot check market animals from initial entry deadline until final date of check-in at fair time. Entry forms Special Activities (CAKE AUCTION ONLY), online entry and additional copies of the Rules and Regulations are available from the Youth Fair Office, located at 1702 Highway 17 South, Bartow, Florida 33830 **or ONLINE AT WWW.PCYF.NET**

Ownership and Payment Disputes: If a department rule requires an exhibitor to own an exhibit, exhibitors shall have good, marketable and sole title to exhibits as of the date identified in the rule. Fair Management reserves the right to prohibit display of any exhibit at the Fair where title to the exhibit is disputed, title to the exhibit cannot

be proven by bill of sale, or where an action for the price has been filed against the exhibitor.

Number of Exhibits - The number of exhibits allowed will vary with each department. See specific rules for the Department under which the exhibit will be entered for details.

Exhibit Tags - A completed exhibit tag available from the Youth Fair office is required for all Family & Consumer Sciences projects, blueberry, citrus tree, ornamental plants, vegetables and eggs.

ENTRY AND TAGGING FEES

Entry Fees: A \$5.00 entry fee will be in effect for the following departments: Archery. This entry fee **must** be paid online for entry to be considered valid.

Online entries received without entry fee being paid will not be accepted. Entry fees are nonrefundable.

xENTRY FEES:

- **Commercial and Brahman/European Influence Market Steer: \$50.00 per steer**
- **Market Hog: \$30.00 per hog**
- **Market Hog Showmanship: \$10.00 (must register online during online registration for market hogs)**
- **Horse: \$1.00 per Class**
- **Dog: \$10 per animal (only two dogs allowed)**
- **Rabbit: \$5.00 one rabbit & \$10 for two rabbit entries**
 - **\$2.00 Rabbit Showmanship**
 - **\$2.00 Rabbit Costume contest**
- **Poultry: \$2.50 per entry (animal)**
- **Eggs: \$2.50 per entry (animal)**
- **Commercial Heifer and Beef Breeding: \$20.00 per entry (animal)**
- **Breeding and Dairy Goat: \$10.00 per entry (animal)**
- **Market Lamb and Market Goat: \$10.00 entry fee per (animal)**
 - **Lamb Lottery: \$460.00 & Goat Lottery: \$360.00**
- **Horticulture: \$10 overall entry fee (ONE TIME FEE)**
- **Family & Consumer Science: \$1.00 per entry**

xSTUART CENTER

NO entry fee required for special events in the Family and Consumer Sciences Division

Entries for special events are due ONLINE on Thursday January 22, 2026 ONLY ONLINE

ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED *Scrap-Off will be due January 9th, 2026 online.

Chili Cook Off will be the only entry still mailed in and is due by Friday, December 5, 2025. Cake

Auction will be turned in during Non-Perishable Check-in on TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

LATE ENTRY FEES:

- **Beef & Commercial Heifer: \$100.00**
- **Market Steer: \$100.00**
- **Archery Competition: \$10.00**
- **Horse: \$50.00**
- **Horticulture: \$10.00**

Late fees in addition to the entry fee for the proper amount must be paid online for entry to be considered valid.

Online entries received without late entry fee will not be accepted. All late fees are nonrefundable.

Overall Fair Rules:

Protests: Protests of any ruling or incident arising will be considered **only** if submitted in writing within 6 hours of the occurrence. **Protests of any judge's decision will not be considered.** Protests must be submitted in writing to the Protest Committee accompanied by a \$50.00 protest fee payable in cash. Within 24 hours of filing the protest, the Protest Committee will assemble a quorum to rule on the matter. Protestor will be afforded the opportunity to address the committee for a brief statement, no longer than 10 minutes, on the protest if they desire before a ruling is made. Upon rendering their ruling, all parties involved or affected will be notified of the outcome by the Protest Committee or their designated representative. Once a ruling is made, the matter will be considered closed; no further action will be considered by the Protest Committee. If the ruling goes in favor of the protestor, the \$50.00 will be returned; otherwise, the protestor forfeits same.

Liability - Exhibitors, by entering the Polk County Youth Fair, assume all responsibility for their exhibits. The Polk County Youth Fair, Inc. will not assume any responsibility for loss or damage to an exhibit or any liability caused by an exhibit or exhibitor. The Fair will make every reasonable effort to protect property or exhibits from loss or damage.

Sale or Advertisement of items other than exhibits - No posting of advertisements for sale of property, exhibits or any other items allowed on the Fair Grounds without prior approval of Fair Management.

Judging - The Danish System of judging will be used and the decision of the judges will be final. Exhibits may be screened at the time of check-in for quality, appropriateness, and conformity to the rules and regulations prior to being placed on exhibit. Excellent (blue), Good (red), Worthy (white) and other appropriate awards will be given to each entry based on the judge's decision. Should an exhibit not meet the minimum standards, in the opinion of the judges, a **No Award** may be given and the entry will not be exhibited.

Tri-Color & Special Contests Awards - Exhibitors will be notified to participate. Eligible winners should report to the Stuart Center at 3:00 p.m., JANUARY 30, 2026 in FCCLA, FFA, YLPA or 4-H dress to receive awards.

Parade of Champions - Notification to participate will be attached to exhibitor's award. Eligible winners should report to the Stuart Center at 4:30 p.m. in FCCLA, FFA, YLPA or 4-H dress with all received awards. Please refer to page 59 for Parade of Champions list of participants.

xRecord Books: Exhibitors are required to present either an approved up to date record FFA or 4-H (YLPA exhibitors, please reach out to your committee to confirm correct record book to turn in) record book at check in for **the following departments: Beef, Breeding Goat, Commercial Heifer, Horse, and Market Steers.**

Market hog exhibitors are REQUIRED to complete a cost analysis sheet. Record Books are only required if the exhibitor wishes to participate in the Record Book contest. Market hog COST ANALYSIS SHEET (completely filled in) will only be accepted after final weigh-in, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026, 12:00 pm 3:00 pm. Penalties for not turning in an up to date record book are as follows: Purebred Beef, Commercial Heifer, Breeding Goats and Horse exhibitors will not be allowed to participate. No exceptions will be made.

Market Hog \$25.00 to be deducted from sale check. Commercial and Open Market Steer exhibitors \$ 100.00 to be deducted from sale check.

xBuyer Letters for Livestock Projects

Copies of at least two letters which are legible with potential buyers names (one letter with two potential buyers names is not acceptable) to potential buyers are due in the Youth Fair office by **5:00 P.M., December 5, 2025** or postmarked (email - electronic copies will be accepted) on that date and should be marked to the attention of the committee for the department they are selling. If one letter is sent to a potential buyer and is used for several different projects (hog, cake, blueberry plant, citrus tree, or plant buyer letter), a separate copy must be sent to the Youth Fair office addressed **to each committee.**

Exhibitors not submitting copies of two letters to potential buyers to the Youth Fair office by **5:00 P.M., December 5, 2025, will be fined. x Market Hog Exhibitors MUST turn in their 2 letters; failure to submit 2 copies of potential buyer letters will result in disqualification from both showing and selling their market hog in January 2026. Market Steer Exhibitors will be fined \$100 to be deducted from sale check.** No buyer letters will be accepted after **December 5, 2025.**

Letters postmarked by the deadline are acceptable.

xMarket Hog Department will accept electronic copies, to be sent to pcyfmarkethog@gmail.com Market Steers - pcvfsteers@gmail.com

Buyer Letters for Cake Auction Projects

Copies of at least two letters which are legible with potential buyers names (one letter with two potential buyers names is not acceptable) to potential buyers are due in the Youth Fair office by **5:00 P.M., December 5, 2025** or postmarked (no metered mail, email or fax copy accepted) on that date and should be marked to the attention of the committee for the department they are selling. If one letter is sent to a potential buyer and is used for several different projects (hog, cake, blueberry plant, citrus tree, or plant buyer letter), a separate copy must be sent to the Youth Fair office addressed **to each committee**.

Exhibitors not submitting copies of two letters to potential buyers to the Youth Fair office by **5:00 P.M., December 5, 2025** **will be fined \$50.00 to be deducted from sale check**. No buyer letters will be accepted after **December 5, 2025**. Letters postmarked by the deadline are acceptable. No sharing of buyer letters, original letters should be submitted per student. ***NO ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED***

Buyer Letters For Blueberry, Citrus & Ornamental Plant Projects

Copies of at least two letters which are legible with potential buyers names (one letter with two potential buyers names is not acceptable) are due in the Youth Fair office by **5:00 P.M., December 5, 2025** or postmarked on that date. Exhibitors submitting copies of letters after **5:00 P.M., December 5, 2025** and prior to **5:00 p.m. January 4, 2026** will be assessed a nonrefundable late fee of \$10.00. Late fee is due with copies of letters. x Exhibitors not submitting copies of letters to potential buyers by **January 4, 2026** will be charged a \$25 fine to be taken from their sale check. If one letter is sent to a potential buyer and is used for several different projects (blueberry, citrus buyer letter and hog or steer buyer letter), a separate copy must be sent to the Youth Fair office addressed **Attn: Horticulture Committee. Letters inviting potential buyers to the Horticulture Auction must mention Blueberry, Citrus Tree and Ornamentals Plants, if the exhibitors have entries in these areas. *Electronic copies can be sent to Ritchiemichael10@yahoo.com***

No costumes or decorations of any kind will be allowed on any livestock animal during the show or sale which includes but not limited to hats, bandanas, ornaments, etc.

At time of sale, no additional incentives can be added to sale of any sale project which includes but not limited to fishing trips, hunting trips, vacations, etc.

Sale of Projects

Only live animals, blueberry plants, citrus trees, ornamental plants, cakes for auction and gift baskets for auction will be auctioned. **NO** medically unsound or dead animals will be auctioned.

Commercial Heifers: A total of five Blue Ribbon Commercial Heifers will be allowed to sell at auction. Exhibitors must own their animals should they choose to participate in the sale. **Health certificates on sale heifers must be available to buyers.**

Sale Fee: Each exhibitor participating in an auction will be assessed a 5% fee to be deducted from the sale of their project.

Add-ons: A 5% fee will be deducted from all add-ons received. Add-ons will be included with sale check provided they have been paid for by the donor. Other add-ons received after sale check has been written will be paid separately.

A 2.5% Buyer Premium will be added to each sale, will be added to the bidder's purchase.

xChecks From Sale Projects

Monies from the sale of blueberry plants, citrus trees, cakes, gift baskets, commercial heifers, market hogs, ornamental plants and market steers, will be mailed to exhibitors as soon as money is received from the buyer and resale packer, and copies of thank you letter to the buyer (email -electronic copies will be accepted) is received from exhibitor. *Electronic copies can be sent directly to pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu.* Market Hog Exhibitors will have a chance to complete thank you letters post sale, and the committee will mail them out for you.

Exhibitors not submitting copies of thank you letter to buyer to the Youth Fair within 90 days following the sale will be fined 50% of all sale money.

Add-on check will be mailed separately if not paid by the time money from sale has been received.

Add-ons received by the Youth Fair office for exhibitors that do not sell an auction project cannot be accepted and will be returned to the donor.

Special Contests: Awarding of special contests is subject to funding from sponsors and will not be awarded unless sponsor provides funding before fair time.

Premium checks will be distributed to YLPA, 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapters, FCCLA Chapters as soon as possible after the closing of the Fair.

CAMPGROUND RULES:

Registration for camping must be received by December 5, 2025. Contact the Youth Fair Office for full details. Youth Fair exhibitors and their families planning to park travel trailers or other equipment on the Fair Grounds must pre-register with the Youth Fair office. EMAIL pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu for registration.

People other than Fair exhibitors and families will not be permitted to camp on the Fair Grounds.

Campers must camp in designated areas only.

Cancellation of camping space must be done prior to December 19, 2025, otherwise camping fee will be forfeited.

All exhibitors remaining on the grounds after Fair closing time must be accompanied by a responsible adult **at all times.**

Campers may not plug into the Agriculture Center's electrical system because of the shock hazard and danger of overloading electrical circuits.

A permit will be issued to each camper upon arrival and permit must be displayed visually from roadway. **See complete rules for camping attached to camping registration form.**

Camping Fees:

Main Campground - \$275.00

Dry camping – \$175.00

Club/Chapter Tent Site (20' x 20') \$75.00

FAIRGROUND RULES:

No golf carts, ATV's or any other off-road vehicles other than used by Fair Officials will be allowed on fairgrounds at any time unless prior approval is made with Fair Officials.

After the Horse Show, ALL livestock trailers, regardless of size, **MUST** be parked in a designated area. Any livestock trailer parked in any other location is subject to impoundment by Security. **TRAILERS CANNOT BE PARKED/LEFT IN THE PARKING LOT OR UNDER THE TREE FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK OF THE FAIR.**

xNO COOKING OR FOOD PREPEATIONS IN THE CATTLE GROOMING AREA

No pop up tents, grills are allowed on property, unless in the specified camping areas unless you have approval from fair president.

On the fairgrounds, no bicycles, mopeds, electronic scooters, skateboards, hover boards or any other electric

or battery operated type of device are allowed to be ridden on sidewalks, or around the fairgrounds. Riding on these devices on fairgrounds can pose a safety risk to both the exhibitors and others visiting. No dogs, other than dogs in service to the disabled or dogs on leashes IN THE CAMPGROUNDS are allowed on the fairs grounds. **No other animals of any kind other than those entered are allowed on the fairgrounds at any time.**

General Rules

xLIVESTOCK DIVISION

Chapter animals are not permitted to be entered in market livestock departments. However, they may be allowed in certain other departments with prior approval from the department chair and completion of the required lease agreement paperwork. All market animals presented at check in will be refused entry should animal appear to be medically unsound or exhibit any condition that would affect the market value.

xEach exhibitor may show/sale only one terminal market animal.

Youth not present to show animal will be disqualified and must remove animal from premises immediately.

Animals belonging to youth who are not present to take their animal into the sale ring at designated time as per the sale order will be sold at packer price and forfeit all premiums and awards.

No Livestock (except horses) will be allowed in the Horse Arena at any time during the Youth Fair for any purpose. Violation of this rule will subject exhibitors to disqualification from the Fair and forfeiture of all awards and premiums.

The commercial heifer and purebred beef committee reserves the right to make changes to tie spaces, after check-in, if needed.

Fire Safety: All animals will be bedded on sand provided by the Fair. The use of straw, hay or other combustible materials to bed animals is prohibited. It is suggested that exhibitors use hay bags to feed animals. Hay and show boxes will be placed in designated areas of the barn to minimize the fire hazard and provide more access through the alleys for the exhibitors and spectators. **SMOKING** is strictly **prohibited** in the barn. *The use of shavings in grooming area is **prohibited**.*

Handling of Animals: Failure of the exhibitor to be able to handle his/her animal **at all times**, may result in disqualification. All animals (except market hogs) must be halter broken. No animals will be accepted that cannot be handled properly by the exhibitor. All large animals must use halters only, except for bulls which must use nose rings in conjunction with the regular halter. Each exhibitor must show and sell his/her own animal (unless prior approval is received from fair management. All beef cattle including market steers, must be double tied at all times with halter and neck rope furnished by the exhibitor.

xATTENTION ALL MARKET ANIMAL EXHIBITORS

The Polk County Youth Fair will pull urine, blood and/or other body samples from all Grand and Reserve, Division, and Breed Champions, random sample(s) from each division, for all market animals, including but not limited to: (Lamb, Goat, Swine, and Steer) by using a 3rd party agency during or directly after the show.

At time of drawing the sample, the exhibitor and parent/guardian must be present. The parent/ guardian will be required to sign a document stating the sample has been taken. These samples will be tested by a qualified laboratory chosen by the Polk County Youth Fair Board in its sole discretion for any prohibited drugs and/or substances. A split sample of each animal's urine, blood and/or other body samples shall also be taken.

Use of Drugs: The use by non-veterinarians of animal drugs or other substances in a manner other than in accord with the labeling approved by the FDA is a VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW and prohibited by the Polk County Youth Fair. Exhibitors and exhibitor's parents and/ or guardians will complete the Drug Certification Form which is to be signed in the presence of a Notary. A Notary will be available during check-in to witness and notarize the completed form. The Drug

Certification form will be used to acknowledge the following:

1. Exhibitor is absolutely and completely responsible for the care and custody of their animals.
2. All medications and dewormers given to market animal by the Exhibitor through the duration of the project.
3. The drug test results of the testing laboratories are final and binding upon the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents and/or guardians. Even if the source of the drug is unknown.

Positive test results will be classified based on the following categories. The PCYF will consider test results of any degree to be positive (i.e. 1.0 or 0.01 will be treated equally). All positive animals despite drug or repercussion will be tested at all future fairs automatically at owners expense if allowed to come back after a suspension.

1. Any substance which, regardless of approval by the FDA or USDA, was not administered in accordance with drug label directions; and/or has not met the required withdrawal period.
2. Any substance which was not administered in accordance with drug label directions; and/or any substance that has the potential to enhance an animal's performance including but not limited to steroids, diuretics, anti-inflammatory, tranquilizers, and pain killers.
3. Any substance which is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for use in slaughter animals and for use in the specific species and sex of the animal being exhibited.

The use of any medication(s), on fair grounds, must be done under the direct supervision of a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. The DVM must complete a Polk County Youth Fair Medication form and must have approval of fair management prior to any medications being administered.

IF ANY EXHIBITOR'S MARKET ANIMAL THAT TEST POSITIVE, THE POLK COUNTY YOUTH FAIR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: FINES, FORFEITURE OF ALL PREMIUMS, ADDONS, AND SALE PROCEEDS, AND SUSPENSION FROM ACTIVITY IN FUTURE FAIRS.

Removal of Horns: No animal will be allowed to show with dangerous horns. Animals with spurs, nubs or tipped horns, and certain registered horned breeding animals, may be allowed to show, if in the opinion of the Department Superintendent they are not dangerous to the exhibitors or spectators. Questions concerning horns **must be resolved prior to entry.**

Grooming and Fitting Assistance: Please see Page 18 for Beef Breeding, Page 20-21 for Goats/Lambs, Page 29 for Horses, Page 33-34 for Market Hogs and Page 35-37 for Market Steers.

xExhibit Space:

Market Hogs: Exhibitors will be assigned a specific pen. No show boxes in pens or decoration of pens is allowed. No advertisement signs are to be posted or displayed by exhibitors in the barn. Any appropriate personalized sign that is posted by an exhibitor, cannot cover pen numbers or tag numbers. Hog committee has the right to remove signs at any time during the fair.

Large Animals: Each commercial heifer, market steer and purebred beef exhibitor will be assigned an exhibit space and be expected to arrange his or her own exhibit. Each exhibitor will be required to furnish feed and care of his/her exhibit(s) with the exception of poultry and rabbits. **Show boxes will be placed in a designated area rather than exhibit space.** Retainer boards not to exceed six inches in height will be allowed. Carpet, ornamental plants, and other decorative material will not be allowed in the exhibit area of the barn.

Exhibitors will be responsible for maintaining a clean tie space. Exhibitors are also required to leave beds completely clean and be inspected by a Youth Fair Official before checking out. Exhibitors who fail to clean assigned stall areas will forfeit all premium money.

Only 10x10 open tents allowed in designated grooming areas. No tent shall have enclosed sides.

All animals must be housed inside the barn **AT ALL TIMES** except when showing, exercising or during washing or grooming times. Exhibitors shall keep animals on display in their assigned areas. Exercising, walking, etc. of large animals will be limited to designated areas only. **No feed or hay is allowed on wash racks.** Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the Fair.

xNO COOKING OR FOOD PREPEATIONS IN THE CATTLE GROOMING AREA

Herdsman Contest: Each exhibitor will automatically be entered in the Individual Herdsman Award Contest. In order to qualify for the individual award, the exhibitor must do all work in maintaining the exhibit and exhibit area. Failure to maintain minimum standards may result in disqualification of the exhibit and forfeiture of premiums and awards. Individual Herdsman Awards will be given for first place in Beef, Breeding Goat, Commercial Heifer, Market Hog, and Market Steer Departments. Those individuals who choose to compete within a club or chapter will not be eligible for individual competition. Club or Chapter Herdsman Awards will be given for first place in the Beef and Commercial Heifer Departments. There will be no club or chapter competition in the Breeding Goat, Market Hog Department and Market Steer Department.

xEagle(Barn) Award Contest: Each exhibitor will automatically be entered in the Individual Eagle Award Contest. In order to qualify for the individual award, the exhibitor must do all work in maintaining the barn and helping the committee with anything they made need. This individual is also working behind the scenes and supporting their fellow exhibitors. Failure to maintain minimum standards may result in disqualification of the exhibit and forfeiture of premiums and awards. Individual Eagle Awards will be given for first place in Beef, Breeding Goat, Commercial Heifer, Lamb, Market Hog, and Market Steer Departments.

TRAILERS FOR TRANSPORTING ANIMALS

A. Vehicles -Trucks & Trailers (Beef, Commercial Heifer, Market Hog, and Market Steer)

1. Trailers or boxes used for transporting animals deemed unloading or inhumane by officials will not be unloaded and the exhibitor must leave check in line and return to the end of the check in line with another trailer before the deadline.
2. Commercial vehicles and trailers must be cleaned and disinfected under the supervision of an accredited veterinarian with a statement to this effect indicated on the Health Certificate..
3. Non-Commercial (Owner's) vehicles and trailers may be cleaned and disinfected by the owner. A Vehicle Disinfectant form for each animal must be turned in prior to animal being unloaded. Proper cleaning means that all dried manure, bedding and other materials must be removed prior to disinfecting. Vehicle Disinfectant Forms are available from the Youth Fair Office and can be found online.
4. The cleaning and vehicle disinfectant form is valid for thirty (30) days provided no livestock, other than those qualified for exhibition are hauled.
5. Any of the acresylic disinfectants are acceptable. Examples are Lysol or other commercial acresylic compounds.

Livestock Health Regulations

Exhibitors are responsible for and shall follow Florida Administrative Code 5C-4 also known as Admission of Animals for Exhibition. Information can be found at freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Industry-Rules

Chapter 5C-4. Admission of Animals for Exhibition

Exhibitors are responsible for and shall follow Florida Administrative Code 5C-31 also known as the Florida Cattle Identification Rules. Further information can be found at <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=5C-31>

Beef Breeding Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitors must be 8 years old
September 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Ownership/Online Entry due with paid entry fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE)
October 1, 2025 – October 10, 2025 11:59 pm	Late online entry accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/10/2025)
January 28, 2026 9:30 am to 11:00 am	Check-in of animals
xJanuary 29, 2026 9:00 am	Beef Show/Showmanship
January 30, 2026 9:00 am – 9:00 pm	Check-out of animals

Important Dates:

All Beef Breeding animals must be registered

All purebred beef breeding animals must be registered. The exhibitor must list on the entry form the breed, sex, birth date, registration numbers, ear tattoo numbers or brand. At the time of check-in, the exhibitor must show either registration papers or a letter from the Breed Association showing the registration to be pending to the Department Superintendent. No Grade animals will be allowed to show in the Beef Breeding Department.

x EACH EXHIBITOR IS ALLOWED TO ENTER FIVE ANIMALS BUT CAN SHOW ONLY THREE, WITH ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS. THE SAME ANIMAL CANNOT BE SHOWN IN BOTH PUREBRED AND COMMERCIAL. SHOW BOXES WILL BE STORED IN DESIGNATED AREA.

NO CATTLE TRAILERS IN HORSE ARENA AREA. Trailers can be parked across the railroad tracks in the open field. Maximum age of beef animals is three years of age as of **January 1, 2026**. Beef cattle born prior to **January 1, 2023** will not be eligible to show.

Calves born after **July 15, 2025** will not be allowed to show as a single entry. Single entry calves born prior to July 15, 2025 must meet a minimum weight requirement of 400 lbs. (no minimum weight for zebu cattle only) **Nose rings must be used for all bulls.**

Classes for the 2026 Youth Fair Purebred Beef Breeding Show:

Class 01 - Calves born May 1, 2025 and after

Class 02 - Calves born April 1 to April 30, 2025

Class 03 - Calves born March 1 to March 31, 2025

Class 04 - Calves born January 1 to February 28, 2025

Class 05 - Calves born November 1 to December 31, 2024

Class 06 - Calves born September 1 to October 31, 2024

Class 07 - Calves born July 1 to August 31, 2024

Class 08 - Calves born May 1 to June 30, 2024

Class 09 - Calves born April 1 to April 30, 2024

Class 10 - Calves born March 1 to March 31, 2024

Class 11 - Calves born January 1 to February 28, 2024

Class 12 - Calves born September 1 to December 31, 2023

Class 13 - Calves born May 1 to August 31, 2023

Class 14 - Calves born January 1 to April 30, 2023

All beef breeding animals must be handled by the exhibitor only from the trailer to tie space at fair check-in. Exhibitors who cannot handle their cattle will have two hours after the end of check-in to demonstrate handling ability or be disqualified. During the show any unruly cattle deemed a safety hazard by the beef committee will be removed from the arena, placed last in class and receive a white ribbon.

AOB Division:

At the discretion of the beef committee, an AOB Division MAY be implemented. Classes will be determined after all entries are received and animals are checked in. If implemented, breeds with less than 5 animals will be placed in AOB (all other breeds)

****SHOWMANSHIP: EXHIBITORS CAN ONLY SHOW ANIMALS THAT THEY HAVE ENTERED.****

Each exhibitor must show his/her own animal in the class which they are entered. No adult assistance in the show ring will be allowed.

Grooming and Clipping: The use of fitting products is allowed. Exhibitors are encouraged to clip animals before they arrive to the fair, but are allowed to clip on grounds if they clean up hair. Assistance with fitting is allowed.

Fire Safety: All animals will be bedded on sand provided by the Fair. The use of straw, hay or other combustible materials to bed animals is prohibited. It is suggested that exhibitors use hay bags to feed animals. Hay and show boxes will be placed in designated areas of the barn to minimize the fire hazard and provide more access through the alleys for the exhibitors and spectators. **SMOKING** is strictly **prohibited** in the barn.

Growth & Courage Buckle Award – The Growth & Courage Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated persistence and dedication with working with their project, even when faced with challenges. This award honors those who have overcome obstacles with grace and resilience, while consistently showing kindness, personal growth and a positive attitude throughout the fair season.

Dairy & Breeding Goat Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old
September 30, 2025 11:59 PM	Online entry due with paid entry fee
October 1, 2025 – October 10, 2025 11:59 pm	Online entry due with paid entry fee along with a late fee
November 18, 2025 6:00 pm	Goat and Lamb Exhibitor Meeting (Zoom Only)
January 27, 2026 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Check-in/weighing for all animals in this department
January 28, 2026 11:00 am – 3:00 pm 4:00 pm	Dairy Goat Show/Showmanship Market Lamb Show/Showmanship Meat Breeding Show/Showmanship to follow Lamb show
January 29, 2026 11:00 am – 1:00 pm 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Goat/Lamb Costume Contest Skillathon Contest
January 30, 2026 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	Exhibitor Exit Meeting Release of all non-sell animals following meeting Market Goat/Lamb Sale

Goats can be registered or commercial females. NO MALE GOATS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN BREEDING SHOW.

xNo Baby goats are allowed in the show ring, during the breeding shows.

Record Books or Project Summary – These are due during check in on TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026.

All exhibitors must follow all health regulations and general rules stated in the Youth Fair Rule Book.

Animals must be owned/leased by exhibitor on or before November 1, 2025 Please upload Bill of sale/lease agreement must support the November 1, 2025 date on the Polk County Youth Fair website.

EACH EXHIBITOR IS ALLOWED TO ENTER FOUR ANIMALS, WITH ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS.

- It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to care for their animals, their pens and the surround areas during the fair.
Failure to do so many result in the forfeiture of premiums and/or removal from the barn.
- All goats must be trained for the show and be controlled by the exhibitor. Animals that cannot be handled properly will be removed from the ring and not judged.
- No Feed, water buckets with handles or hay bags are allowed to be left in the pens overnight.
- Animals will be placed in classes by age and type.
- Goats must be shown in their respective age classes
- Any goats not in a pen, must not be left unattended. Goats are not permitted to leave the fenced in arena, unless you have permission from the committee chairperson.

Classes for the 2026 Youth Fair Goat Breeding Show:

Junior – Doe January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Yearling – Doe January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Senior – Doe January 1, 2023 or older

Meat Breeds:

- Registered Boer (Grand & Reserve)
- Registered Pygmy (Grand and Reserve)
- Commercial (Overall Grand & Reserve)
 - Boer Influenced
 - Pygmy Influenced
 - All Other Meat Breeds

Grand and Reserve champions for each breed will be selected from class winners in each category.

Dairy Breeds:

Registered Nigerian Dwarf

Registered Nubian

A.O.P. (All other Purebreds)

Recorded Grade (A Mix of 2 Large Breeds)

Commercial Dairy

There will be breed winner and reserve winner for each category in addition to an Overall grand and reserve dairy female.

xMarket Goat & Market Lamb Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old
May 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins for Market Lamb Lottery & Market Goat Lottery
June 6, 2025 11:59 pm	Market Lamb Lottery & Market Goat Lottery online entry due along with paid entry fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER, NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED)
June 24, 2025 6:00 pm	Market Lamb Lottery (Selection Day) (Hayman Arena)
July 8, 2025 TBD	Market Goat Lottery (Selection Day) Location/time will be emailed to you
August 1, 2025	Online registration begins for Market Goat & Market Lamb (private sale)
September 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Market Goat/Market Lamb online entry due with paid entry fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYMENT A LATE FEE)
October 1 – October 12, 2025 11:59 pm.	Market Goat/Market Lamb online entry due with paid entry fee along with a late fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER)
October 14, 2025 6:00 pm	Mandatory Tagging Day (Private purchase market lambs and goats only) (Hayman Arena)
November 18 2025 6:00 pm	Goat and Lamb Exhibitor Meeting (Zoom Only)
December 5, 2025	If you are planning to sell your Market Lamb or Market Goat, A Sale Contract is Due along with Buyer Letters
January 27, 2026 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Goat/Lamb Department Check-in (ALL ANIMALS FOR THIS DIVISION) Exhibitor Meeting
January 28, 2026 3:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Market Goat and Market Lamb Show/Showmanship (immediately following the breeding and meat show)
January 29, 2026 11:00 am – 1:00 pm 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Goat/Lamb Costume Contest Skillathon Contest
January 30, 2026 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	Exhibitor Exit Meeting Check out of animals not selling Market Goat/Lamb Sale

Important Information:

Record Books or Project Summary – These are due during check in on TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026. All exhibitors must follow all health regulations and general rules stated in the Youth Fair Rule Book. Valid health certificate and scrapie tags or Registration papers are required at check-in.

Exhibitors may chose to sell their Market Lambs/Market Goat through the Polk County Youth Fair on Friday,

January 30th before the Market Steer Sale. Please contact committee chair for further information. Market Lambs and Market Goats must attend the mandatory tagging day on October 14, 2025. This tag must remain in the ear until after the fair. Please notify the committee chair with any tag issues. If an exhibitor is planning to sell their animal, A sale Contract and buyer letters are due by, Friday December 5, 2025. Market Lamb/Market Goat animals will sell before the steer sale starts on FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 at 6:00 pm. If you animal does not sell, the animal needs to be removed from the grounds by 10:00 pm following the sale.

Valid health certificate along with a scrapie tag are expected at check-in on Tuesday January 27, 2026.

- It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to care for their animals, their pens and the surround areas during the fair.
Failure to do so many result in the forfeiture of premiums and/or removal from the barn.
- All animals must be trained for the show and be controlled by the exhibitor. Animals that cannot be handled properly will be removed from the ring and not judged.
- No Feed, water buckets with handles or hay bags are allowed to be left in the pens overnight.
- Animals not in a pen, must not be left unattended. Animals are not permitted to leave the fenced in arena, unless you have permission from the committee chairperson
- Animals can be does or wether
- Animals are not to be over 14 months of age at time of show

Commercial Heifer Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old
September 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Online entry due with paid entry fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE)
October 1 – October 10, 2025 11:59 pm	Online entries accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/10/2025)
January 24, 2026 7:00 am – 11:00 am	Check in of animals
xJanuary 27, 2026 1:00 pm	Commercial Heifer Show/Showmanship
January 27, 2026 <i>Immediately following show</i>	Check out of animals not selling

Important Dates:

There will be two divisions for commercial heifers – Brahman Influence and European Influence. The divisions will show separately. Both of the divisions will show by weight. At check-in the beef committee will confirm the placement of each heifer in the correct division. Brahman influence heifers will have Brahman breed characteristics, and European influence will have European breed characteristics. All beef committee judgements are final.

All commercial heifers must be handled by the exhibitor, only from the trailer to tie space at fair check-in. Exhibitors who cannot handle their cattle will have two hours after the end of check-in to demonstrate handling ability or be disqualified. During the show any unruly cattle deemed a safety hazard by the beef committee will be removed from the arena, placed last in class and receive a white ribbon.

NO CATTLE TRAILERS IN HORSE ARENA AREA. Trailers can be parked across the railroad tracks in the open field

Each exhibitor must show his/her own animal in the class which they are entered. No adult assistance in the show ring will be allowed.

******SHOWMANSHIP: EXHIBITORS CAN ONLY SHOW ANIMALS THAT THEY HAVE ENTERED******

xAnimal Requirements: EACH EXHIBITOR IS ALLOWED TO ENTER **FIVE** ANIMALS, BUT CAN SHOW ONLY **THREE**, WITH ONLY ONE ANIMAL PER CLASS. THE FAIR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO FURTHER LIMIT ENTRIES BELOW FOUR IF SPACE BECOMES LIMITED.

ALL HEIFERS/COWS MUST HAVE A FORM OF PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION. USDA TAGS AND CALFHOOD VACCINATION TAGS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE AS VALID ID (NO PLASTIC HERD EAR TAGS WILL BE ACCEPTED). ID MUST BE INCLUDED ON THE ENTRY FORM AND HEALTH CERTIFICATE. NO PUREBRED ANIMALS ALLOWED. NO PUREBRED ANIMALS ALLOWED. Show boxes will be stored in designated area. **xNo heifers/cows over 3 years old.**

All heifers must be polled, dehorned or tipped to a 1" diameter end. Calves born after **September 30, 2025** will not be allowed to show as a single entry.

NO MINIATURE BREEDS OF CATTLE ALLOWED

Exhibitors need a signed lease or contract agreement or bill of sale from breeder estimating the month in which the heifer was born. If necessary, classes could be further divided to prevent overly large classes

Show Order will be done by weight and the classes for the 2026 Youth Fair Commercial Heifer Show (Brahman Influence and European Influence) to be determined by the committee.

Dog Show Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitors must be 8 years old
November 1, 2026 11:59 pm	Ownership/Online Entry due with paid entry fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER) (<i>Proof of Rabies vaccination is a county registration paper, a receipt, or a signed vaccination certificate from the issuing veterinarian including the dog's description is due at time of check in</i>)
January 26, 2026 1:00 pm	Check-in for exhibitor and dogs
January 26, 2026 2:00 pm	Dog Show

Entry Fee: The entry fee per exhibitor is \$10.00 per entry up to two dogs.

Youth Dog Show Definitions:

Basic Handler/Dog - Exhibitors or dogs who have **NEVER** competed in ANY Polk County Youth Fair dog show, any other outside venues (AKC, UKC, etc.) and are competing within their FIRST PROJECT YEAR of 4-H, FCCLA, YLPA or FFA. Handlers may compete in Basic classes (assuming the dog is also a beginner/basic dog) for only one year.

Experienced Handler/Dog - Exhibitors or dogs who have previously competed in Polk County Youth Fair dog show or any other outside venues (AKC, UKC, etc.)

EXHIBITOR GUIDELINES:

- All dogs must be owned or leased and in your possession by November 1, 2025. The junior handler must be the exclusive handler in all venues (4-H, AKC, UKC, etc.) throughout the project (November 1, 2024 through March 1, 2025).
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Dogs participating in the Polk County Youth Fair Dog Show must either be owned by the exhibitor or the exhibitor's immediate family or leased. Immediate family is defined as the exhibitor's father, mother, brother or sister. PROOF OF OWNERSHIP OR LEASE MUST BE PRESENTED AT CHECK-IN. Accepted proof of ownership is an AKC, UKC, PAL or Canine Partners registration and number. Also accepted is the owner's information on the county rabies tag registration. (A record book, a vet bill, etc. are not acceptable proof of ownership).
- Approval for use of a substitute dog, due to extenuating circumstances, may be granted by the Youth Fair Dog Show Chairperson. Substitute dogs must be owned or leased and must be in your possession by November 1, 2025. Exhibitors must notify the chairperson as soon as possible after determination that a substitute dog is necessary no later than January 16, 2026. No substitutes will be allowed day or show, except females in heat.
- Upon Check-in the exhibitor must have a copy of proof of ownership or lease, and vaccination records
- Each exhibitor is responsible for picking up after his/her dog.
- While on grounds each exhibitor will be responsible for their dog.
- Purebred and mixed dogs will be allowed to compete.
- EXHIBITORS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO DOGS ENTERED IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS. For families, a dog will be allowed in each division one time.
 - Basic exhibitors may only enter one dog.

- Classes for each dog must be chosen at the time of online entry.
- Dogs must be on a leash, except during performance requiring unrestricted movement.
- Dogs must be kept in the Dog Show Area only. Dogs must be removed from the grounds at the conclusion of the show.
- No pinch collars are allowed on show grounds. No tags are allowed in the show ring.
- Proof of vaccinations must be with the exhibitor the day of the show and check-in.
- ANY DOG EXHIBITING ACTS OF AGGRESSION WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION.
- **RECORD BOOK:** Failure to present a record book will result in forfeiture of all premiums and awards earned in the Polk County Youth Fair Dog Show. The preferred book will be the FSF Dog Project Record Book available on the Florida State Fair Agribusiness website.

EXHIBITOR ATTIRE: See Polk County Youth Fair General dress code with the exception of showmanship, which can be 4-H, FFA, YLPA or FCCLA showmanship attire or business attire in accordance with established recognized Kennel Club Junior Showmanship rules.

DOG COLLAR REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Showmanship:** Showmanship collars and leads must be in accordance with the American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club. Points will be taken off for inappropriate collar.
2. **Canine Good Citizen(and its advanced levels), Farm Dog, and Trick Dog :** Dogs may wear nylon, leather or fabric leashes and collars with a flat buckle. Choke chains, rolled leather collars AND/OR martingales are preferred. No gentle leader, pinch collars, tags or harnesses.
3. **Fetch:** Nylon, leather or collars with a flat buckle are preferred. No choke chains, rolled leather collars, martingales, gentle leader, pinch collars, tags or harnesses. Dogs entered in BASIC or NOVICE classes must be wearing a 20 foot longline, one may be provided by the Polk County Youth Fair Dog Show Department.
4. **A six foot leash is required for all classes outside Showmanship & Fetch DOG HYGIENE:**
 - For Showmanship dogs should be in a breed appropriate clip (if eligible)
 - Dogs should be bathed, combed, and nails clipped.

SAFETY:

- All dogs will be in a crate or on leash when not performing
- Dog show committee receives the right to remove a dog(s) in distress or in danger.

MINIMUM DOG AGE REQUIREMENTS:

- Dogs must be at least 6 months of age.

VACCINATIONS:

- All dogs are required to have all up-to-date rabies, parvo and distemper vaccinations.
- ALSO, with the exhibitor the day of the show and produced at check-in. Vaccinations must be given by a licensed veterinarian.
- Proof of Rabies vaccination is a county registration paper, a receipt, or a signed vaccination certificate from the issuing veterinarian including the dog's description.

EXCLUSIONS:

- Each exhibitor is liable and responsible for his/her dog's behavior. ANY DOG EXHIBITING ACTS OF AGGRESSION WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION. This decision will be made by the Dog Show Committee representatives.
- Female dogs in season will not be allowed on fair grounds.
- No dogs other than dogs entered in the competition will be allowed on show grounds.

HIGH POINT AWARD

High point award will consist of total points in Quiz class, Showmanship class, Canine Good Citizen class, Trick Dog class, Fetch class and Farm Dog class. Tie breakers will consist of best Showmanship score and then best Canine Good Citizen score.

Basic High Point - For the basic exhibitors only. One award will be given for all age divisions.

Overall High Point - To exclude all basic exhibitors. Awards are given for each age group.

COMPETITIONS:

A student with a dog project but without a dog entered in the Fair, may enter the Quiz and Record Book category only unless leasing a dog.

Record Book Class: The preferred book will be the FSF Dog Project Record Book which may be found linked at the bottom of the page.

Record books must be up to date and presented at time of check-in. Record books will be checked and returned to the exhibitor by the end of the show. Copies or a draft copy will be accepted.

- The results of the Record Book will be added to the high point score.

Quiz Class: Quiz classes will be held on January 26, 2026 at 2:00pm. Exhibitors are judged on their knowledge of canine care, materials for the quiz will be taken from the 4-H Dog Project Manual.

- Tie breakers will be given in the form of additional questions.
- The results of the quiz will be added to the high point score.

Showmanship Classes: Showmanship classes will be held on January 26, 2026 at . Handlers are judged on preparation and presentation of their dog in grooming, posing, and gaiting.

Showmanship exercises are to be performed according to AKC & UKC rules and regulations. Tie breakers are at the discretion of the judge(s)

Classes:

Each class will be broken down by exhibitor's age with the option for an adaptive class.

- **Basic Showmanship** - For beginner handlers and dogs who have never competed at a 4-H, AKC, or UKC dog show prior to the current show year.
- **Novice Showmanship** - Handlers who have shown for one or more years but have not placed at a previous year's Polk County Youth Fair Dog Show or have not placed at a AKC or UKC dog show more than three times.
- **Open Showmanship**- Handlers who have won first place in Novice Class at a previous year's Polk County Youth Fair Dog Show or who have placed at an AKC or UKC dog show more than three times.
- **Advanced Showmanship** – Handlers who are showing competitively in an outside venue (AKC, UKC, etc) or who have previously placed Best Showman at a previous Dog Show

Costume Contest Classes: Costume Contest classes will be held fifteen minutes after Best Showman has been judged. Exhibitors and their dog must be in a costume. Exhibitors will be judged on creativity, originality, presentation, control and showmanship of their dog's breed along with knowledge of dog and costume construction. Classes will be broken down by age with 1st place winners competing for best costume in show.

- The results of the Costume Contest will not be added to the high point score.

Canine Good Citizen: Canine Good Citizen classes will be held on [DATE] at [TIME]. CGC and its more advanced levels, CGC Advanced, and CGC Urban are 10 step tests designed to test dog and handlers reaction and skills to everyday situations. Dogs who are AKC registered through full registration, Purebred Alternative Registration, or Canine Partners may receive the title if they so indicate on the entry form.

Classes:

Each class will be broken down by exhibitor's age with the option for an adaptive class.

- **Canine Good Citizen Basic:** For beginner handlers and dogs who have never competed at a 4-H, AKC, or UKC dog show prior to the current show year.
 - The test consists of:
 - 1.) Accepting a friendly stranger
 - 2.) Sit politely for a petting
 - 3.) Appearance & grooming
 - 4.) Walking on a loose leash
 - 5.) Walking through a crowd
 - 6.) Sit/down and stay
 - 7.) Coming when called
 - 8.) Reaction to a friendly dog
 - 9.) Reaction to a distraction
 - 10.) Supervised separation
- **Canine Good Citizen Neighbor:** For dogs and handlers who have not passed the CGC test or who have previously failed the CGC test.
 - The test consists of:
 - 1.) Accepting a friendly stranger
 - 2.) Sit politely for a petting
 - 3.) Appearance & grooming
 - 4.) Walking on a loose leash
 - 5.) Walking through a crowd
 - 6.) Sit/down and stay
 - 7.) Coming when called
 - 8.) Reaction to a friendly dog
 - 9.) Reaction to a distraction
 - 10.) Supervised separation
- **Canine Good Citizen Advanced:** For dogs and handlers who have not passed the CGCA test or who have previously failed the CGCA test. Dogs must have passed the CGC test in previous years to be eligible to compete in the CGCA.
 - The test consists of:
 - 1.) Dog stands, sits or lies down and waits under control while the Exhibitor has a conversation with evaluator
 - 2.) Walks on a loose leash — does not pull.
 - 3.) Walks on loose leash through a crowd
 - 4.) Dog walks past distraction dogs present; does not pull
 - 5.) Sit-stay in a small group with two other people and dogs (total of 3 people, 3 dogs in group).
 - 6.) Dog allows a person who is carrying something (backpack, computer bag, etc.) to approach and pet it.
 - 7.) Dog walks by distractions and follows the Exhibitor's instructions to "Leave it." alone
 - 8.) Down or sit stay at a distance (Exhibitor's choice, maximum of 20ft)
 - 9.) Recall with distractions present (coming when called). Exhibitor goes out 20–ft. (off center) and calls a dog.
 - 10.) Dog will sit or stand and stay (Exhibitor's choice) while the exhibitor enters/exits the ring
- **Canine Good Citizen Urban:** For dogs and handlers who have not passed the CGCU test or who have previously failed the CGCU test. Dogs must have passed the CGCA and CGC test in previous years to be eligible to compete in the CGCU.
 - The test consists of:
 - 1.) Exit/enter the ring with no pulling.
 - 2.) Walk through a crowd
 - 3.) Appropriate reaction to distractions. This includes movement, noises, and walking on a variety of surfaces.
 - 4.) Crosses surfaces under control.
 - 5.) Ignore food. (Dropped food, or cups, bags, cans, in which food was wrapped).
 - 6.) Person walks up and pets the dog. May be carrying an item such as a computer bag, etc.
 - 7.) Down stay (1 min)
 - 8.) Walks up/down surfaces under control
 - 9.) Housetrained for apartment, condo, city living. Exhibitors must describe appropriate housetraining methods.
 - 10.) Transportation. Exhibitors must describe appropriate dog transportation.

Trick Dog: Trick Dog Contest will be held fifteen minutes after the final Canine Good Citizen Class has been judged. Dogs and exhibitors performing appropriate tricks for their level of expertise with each level being harder than the next. Dogs who are AKC registered through full registration, Purebred Alternative Registration, or Canine Partners may receive the title if they so indicate on the entry form.

Classes:

Each class will be broken down by exhibitor's age with the option for an adaptive class.

Exhibitors may enter both regular trick dog & elite trick dog however, only the highest score will be added for highpoint.

- **Basic Trick Dog:** For beginner handlers and dogs who have never competed at a 4-H, AKC, or UKC dog show prior to the current show year. Dogs perform three tricks with an allowed lure (lure being a treat or toy) exhibitor may reward the dog with the lure until all three tricks have been completed. Exhibitors will be judged upon creativity and the speed it took to complete the tricks.
- **Elite Basic:** For beginner handlers and dogs who have never competed at a 4-H, AKC, or UKC dog show prior to the current show year. Dog and handler perform a storyline with three tricks, exhibitors may utilize the use of costumes and props along with an allowed lure (lure being a treat or toy) and may reward when the trick has been completed.
- **Novice Trick Dog:** Dogs perform five tricks with an allowed lure (lure being a treat or toy) exhibitor may reward the dog with the lure until all five tricks have been completed. Exhibitors will be judged upon creativity and the speed it took to complete the tricks.
- **Elite Novice:** Dog and handler perform a storyline with five tricks, exhibitors may utilize the use of costumes and props along with an allowed lure (lure being a treat or toy) however, may not reward the dog until the performance has completed.
- **Intermediate Trick Dog:** Dogs perform ten tricks with an allowed lure (lure being a treat or toy) exhibitor may not reward the dog with the lure until all ten tricks have been completed. Exhibitors will be judged upon creativity and the speed it took to complete the trick. Exhibitors may not repeat tricks from the Novice classes.
- **Elite Intermediate:** Dog and handler perform a storyline with five intermediate level tricks, exhibitors may utilize the use of costumes and props along with an allowed lure (lure being a treat or toy) however, may not reward the dog until the performance has completed.
- **Advanced Trick Dog:** Dogs perform ten tricks without a lure (lure being a treat or toy). Exhibitors will be judged upon creativity and the speed it took to complete the trick. Exhibitors may not repeat tricks from the Novice or intermediate classes.
- **Elite Advanced:** Dog and handler perform a storyline with five advanced level tricks, exhibitors may utilize the use of costumes and props along with an allowed lure (lure being a treat or toy) however, may not reward the dog until the performance has completed.

Farm Dog: Farm Dog Class will be held fifteen minutes after the final Canine Good Citizen Class has been judged. In Farm Dog the team will be judged by how well the dog exhibits self-control, confidence, and trust in his handler such as a working farm dog would.

PLEASE NOTE: there will be no herding within the farm dog class & all livestock will be contained.

Each class will be broken down by exhibitor's age with the option for an adaptive class. There is only Basic Farm dog and Farm dog offered, both classes follow the same criteria.

The test items are as followed:

- Greet the judge
- Walk around the ring and a passive stranger
- Jump on hay/straw bale
- Walk past farm animals
- Walk over or through unusual surfaces

- Supervised separation
- Pass through a gate
- Handler feeds livestock
- Reaction to another dog
- Reaction to noise distraction
- Dog approaches livestock
- Physical examination

Fetch: Fetch classes will be held simultaneously with the Canine Good Citizen tests. In Fetch exhibitors and their dogs work together to retrieve a ball or equivalent toy over a variety of obstacles and distances.

Classes:

Each class will be broken down by exhibitor's age with the option for an adaptive class. A helper may throw the ball or equivalent toy if the handler is unable to throw.

- **Basic:** For beginner handlers and dogs who have never competed at a 4-H, AKC, or UKC dog show prior to the current show year. Exhibitor throws a toy 10 feet away at the judges discretion while the dog waits to be released to fetch, the dog must be restrained by a long-line. Once directed by the judge the exhibitor releases the dog to retrieve the toy.
- **Novice:** For dogs who have never competed previously. Exhibitor throws a toy 10 feet away at the judges discretion while the dog waits to be released to fetch, the dog must be restrained by a long-line. Once directed by the judge the exhibitor releases the dog to retrieve the toy. There will be four obstacles dogs must run through/over to retrieve the toy.
- **Intermediate:** For dogs who placed 1st in the Novice class in a previous fair or have earned the FTN title. Exhibitor throws a toy 30 feet away at the judges discretion while the dog waits to be released to fetch, the dog may be restrained by the exhibitor holding onto its collar but must wait for the exhibitor to release it. Once directed by the judge the exhibitor releases the dog to retrieve the toy. There will be four obstacles and distractions dogs must run through/over/ignore to retrieve the toy. In intermediate dogs must do three retrieves; one to the right, one to the left, and one in the center. Judge will inform the exhibitor which direction to throw.
- **Advanced:** For dogs who placed 1st in the Intermediate class in a previous fair or have earned the FTI title. Dogs will be released by the exhibitor to retrieve the toy at judges discretion. In advanced dogs will not be restrained and must be commanded by the exhibitor to wait until released. Dogs must do four retrieves 30 feet away; two behind a blind and two thrown by the exhibitor. Judge will inform the exhibitor which direction to throw.
- **Ranch Dog High Point:** One award given to the exhibitor with the highest combination of Showmanship, Treibball, and Farm Dog scores.
- **Dog Judging Class:** Exhibitors will be scored based on breed knowledge with tie-breakers given in the form of additional questions. Exhibitors will receive a breed standard (AKC or UKC) upon closing of entries to study. On show day, exhibitors will judge 2-4 dogs of the same breed in a conformation-style evaluation.
 - Even years: Hound, Sporting, & Non-sporting breeds.
 - Odd years: Herding, Working, Toy, & Terrier breeds.

Obedience Class Levels:

- **Beginner Novice:** For dogs and handlers who have passed the CGC test and are ready for AKC/UKC obedience competition.
- **Novice:** For handlers who have passed CGC or earned a BN title.
- **Graduate Novice:** For handlers who have passed CGC or earned a CD title.

High Point Awards:

- **Hunting Dog High Point:** Highest combined Showmanship, Tracking, and Fetch Dog scores.
- **Companion Dog High Point:** Highest combined Showmanship, Obedience, and Trick scores.

Treibball Classes:

- Basic, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced levels with increasing difficulty in pushing inflatable balls into a pen.

Tracking Classes:

- Basic, Novice, Advanced Novice, Advanced, and Utility levels with increasing difficulty in locating a scent or object.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

- [RECORD BOOK](#)

SCORE SHEETS:

- Showmanship
 - [ALL LEVELS](#)
- Canine Good Citizen
 - [Basic & Neighbor](#)
 - [Advanced](#)
 - [Urban](#)
- Tricks
 - [ALL LEVELS](#)
- Farm Dog
 - [ALL LEVELS](#)
- Fetch
 - [Basic & Novice](#)
 - [Intermediate](#)
 - [Advanced](#)

Horse Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old (as of September 1, 2025)
September 4, 2025 6:30 pm	1 st Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting (exhibitors must attend 1 of the 2) Stuart Center (no zoom available)
September 20, 2025 9:00 am	2 nd Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting (exhibitors must attend 1 of the 2) Stuart Center (no zoom available)
September 20, 2025	Exhibitors must own/lease horses (lease to be turned in with entry form)
September 30, 2025 11:59 PM	Online Entry Due with paid entry fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE)
October 1, 2025 – October 6, 2025 11:59PM	Online late entries accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (NO ONLINE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER 10/06/2025)
xJanuary 23, 2026 5:30 pm	Ranch Rand Competition (check-in begins at 4:30 pm for Coggins Check)
January 24, 2026 7:00 am- 7:50 am	Check in of animals/Horse Show (GATES OPEN AT 6:30 AM FOR COGGINS CHECK– MUST HAVE A COPY OF NEGATIVE COGGINS TO ENTER FACILITY)
January 24, 2025 8:00am TBD	Horse Show (Horse Arena) Dressage Competition

xImportant Information:

- The PCYF Horse Show rules will be governed by the Florida 4-H Area & State 4-H Horse Show Rules, copies of the rule book are available through the 4-H office at the Polk County Extension Office or can be able to find below at:
<https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/media/animalifasufledu/horse-extension/2025-FL4HRulebook-Final.pdf>
- An official of the show may check the appointments of any horse/rider combination throughout the duration of the show. It is the responsibility of the contestant to comply with all rules and regulations of both the youth fair rules and the Florida 4-H Area & State 4-H Horse Show Rules. The judge at his/her discretion may disqualify an exhibitor for inappropriate clothing or equipment.
- Show management reserves the right to refuse an exhibitor entry into any class or event if they deem that entry unsafe for the exhibitor and/or other exhibitors or animals. With the exhibitor's safety in mind, any activity or situation deemed unsafe can be stopped by show management and may result in disqualification from that class.
- Management reserves the right to cancel all or part of the show based on weather conditions.
- Only horse exhibitors are allowed to work their horses while on the show grounds. NO COACHING OR SCHOOLING BY PARENTS/TRAINERS IS ALLOWED ON THE FAIR GROUNDS.** Failure to comply may result in disqualification. **No parental or professional grooming, "tuning up" or assistance from outside the ring will be allowed. If there are any questions referring to assisting participants, rule compliance, or conduct at the show, please contact one of the committee members.**
- Each exhibitor is responsible for all classes entered and making sure they are at ring side and enter the class when called. The classes will not wait on an exhibitor and the class will not be repeated if an exhibitor misses a class. Class announcements are a curtesy.**
- Concession stand will be available day of the Horse Show. No horses will be allowed in the concession stand area.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Mandatory Meeting:** A mandatory meeting for all horse exhibitors, parents/guardians, 4-H leaders and teachers will be held to review the rules, regulations and questions
 - Meeting dates: Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 6:30 pm or Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 9:00 am**
 - Meetings will be held at the Agricultural Center in Bartow. **NO ADMITTANCE AFTER DOORS ARE CLOSED.**
 - Exhibitors failing to attend one of the mandatory meetings will be fined \$50.00 for non-attendance. This fine will be due to the Youth Fair office by October 31, 2025.
- Exhibitors must provide a negative Coggins for their horse at check in.
- Bit and Helmet check are required in accordance with 4-H Rules
- Number of Entries:** Each exhibitor will be allowed to enter ONE horse. Exhibitors can participate only once in each event. No substitute riders will be allowed. You must provide a vet note if you need to switch horses after registration.
- Record Book:** Exhibitors must present an up-to-date record book the day of the show. The record book must begin at the start of the project and **be up to date through** the day of the show. **Because the horse projects sometimes continue through Youth Fair the record book does not have to be final.** Failure to present an up to date record book on the day of the show will result in the exhibitor not being allowed to participate.
- Required Classes:** All exhibitors are required to participate in the quiz class and one and only one Showmanship/Ground Handling class.

- a. Quiz: Material for the quiz will be taken from the “Florida 4-H Horse Project Manual.” Copies of the manual are available through the 4-h office at the Polk County Extension office or can be found at the link below: <https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/media/animalifasufledu/horse-extension/2025-FL4HRulebook-Final.pdf>. **Each exhibitor is responsible for making sure they receive the appropriate quiz for their age group.** A student with a horse project but without a horse entered in the Fair., may enter the quiz category only.
- b. **Showmanship/Ground Handling:** Participants must compete in one and only one Showmanship or Ground handling class.
- c. Failure to participate in the required quiz class or showmanship class will result in forfeiture of all premiums.

OTHER CLASSES:

1. **Open Classes:** These classes will not be divided by age. Exhibitor ages 8-19 will show together. All other classes will be divided by ages as of September 1, 2025 – junior (ages 8-10), intermediate (11-13) and senior (ages 14-18) divisions.
2. **Walk Trot Class:** This class is for beginners only (Novice: Defined by this show as a horse or rider with one year or less of show experience) Outside of Showmanship/Ground Handling, exhibitors entering the Walk/Trot Classes will be prohibited from entering any other classes but not limited to speed classes.
3. **Horse Therapy:** This class for individuals who need assistance riding/anyone with disabilities. For further questions, please reach out to the horse committee. If you have entered this class, you will be contacted to notify the committee of the riders needs. management and may result in disqualification from that class.

xHORSESHOW CLASS NUMBERS

1. Sr Record Book	4. Sr Quiz
2. Int Record Book	5. Int Quiz
3. Jr Record Book	6. Jr. Quiz
<u>**GRASS ARENA**</u>	
7. Open English Type Mares & Geldings	31. Open Stock Type Mares
8. Open English Type Geldings	32. Open Stock Type Geldings
9. Sr. English Showmanship	33. Sr Ground Handling
10. Int. English Showmanship	34. Int Ground Handling
11. Jr. English Showmanship	35. Jr Ground Handling
12. Sr Western Showmanship	36. Sr Speed
13. Int Western Showmanship	37. Int Speed
14. Jr Western Showmanship	38. Jr Speed
<u>**Tack Change**</u>	
15. Open W/T English Pleasure	39. Open Horse Therapy
16. Sr. English Pleasure	40. Open W/T Western Pleasure
17. Int. English Pleasure	41. Sr. Western Pleasure
18. Jr. English Pleasure	42. Int. Western Pleasure
19. Sr. English Equitation	43. Jr. Western Pleasure
20. Int. English Equitation	44. Sr. Western Horsemanship
21. Jr. English Equitation	45. Int. Western Horsemanship
22. Sr. Hunter Hack 2'	46. Jr Western Horsemanship
23. Int. Hunter Hack 2'	47. Sr. Ranch Riding
24. Jr. Hunter Hack 2'	48. Int. Ranch Riding
- Trail will be held “at will” following the completion of English -	49. Jr. Ranch Riding
25. Sr. Ranch Trail	50. Sr. Ranch Reining
26. Int. Ranch Trail	51. Int. Ranch Reining
27. Jr. Ranch Trail	52. Jr. Ranch Reining
28. Sr. Western Trail	• Speed Events will begin immediately following Class #55 Jr Costume -

29. Int. Western Trail	56. Sr. Hollow Log
30. Jr. Western Trail	57. Int Hollow Log
• <i>Costume classes will take place immediately following Class #52 Jr Ranch Reining -</i>	58. Jr Hollow Log
53. Sr Costume	59. Sr Barrels
54. Int Costume	60. Int Barrels
55. Jr Costume	61. Jr Barrels
	62. Sr Poles
	63. Int Poles
	64. Jr Poles
	65. Sr Keyhole
	66. Int Keyhole
	67. Jr Keyhole
	68. Sr Stakes
	69. Int Stakes
	70. Jr Stakes

xDIVISION APPOINTMENTS: Brief descriptions are listed below. Refer to the Florida State 4-H rule book for full class descriptions, class rules and regulations, descriptions of legal bits, scoring, and other information.

xSHOWMANSHIP CLASSES:

Description:

- Showmanship and Ground Handling classes are not conformation, model, or grooming classes, although grooming and fitting is certainly part of the judging criteria. These are performance classes designed to test the exhibitor's horsemanship while working from the ground.
- Showmanship is the appropriate class for the Western and Hunter Divisions, while Ground Handling is the appropriate class for the Ranch and Speed Events Divisions.

Appropriate Attire: Personal appearance of the club member: neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire as described in each division. An SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness is required in all divisions.

Tack: Should be clean and properly adjusted.

- **English:** English bridle or halter.
 - **Western:** Halters only. Fancy halters shall not be given preference over good working halters.
 - **Ranch and Speed:** Halters only. Halters and leads may be rope, nylon, or plain leather (no silver). Lead ropes may not have chain.
1. Lead shank/bridle reins must be carried in both hands at all times and the lead shank/bridle reins must not be wrapped around either hand. It is acceptable to either figure-8 or loose coil the excess lead shank/bridle reins in the left hand.
 2. When showing with halter and lead with a chain, the chain may be under the horse's chin, or passed through the bottom, center ring of the halter and folded back on itself. No chain may be in the horse's mouth or over the nose.
 3. No whips, crops, or bats are permitted.

xENGLISH DIVISION:

Appropriate Attire: All exhibitors are required to wear a SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian safety helmet with fastened chin harness in every class. Clothing must be clean, neat and appropriate for English classes. Rider must wear shirt with choker, tie or fastened integrated collar; coat; boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable); and breeches. When management permits riders to ride without jackets, riders must wear traditional, short, or long-sleeved riding shirts without chokers or ties or with integrated collars either fastened or unfastened. Polo shirts are not permitted except in unjudged warm-up (schooling) classes. Unroweled spurs measuring no longer than one inch (where rowel is defined as a flat disc with or without points), spurs with a smooth rolling rubber or stainless steel ball, gloves, crops, or bats are optional (no whips except in Dressage classes). When riding over fences a crop may be used on the horse's shoulder. Gloves are preferred in the equitation and dressage classes.

Tack: Clean English forward, hunting or dressage type saddles. Saddles may have suede seat and/or suede inserts on the skirts. In Equitation classes, it is recommended that riders use traditional stainless steel stirrup irons that allow judges a clear and unobstructed view of the position of the foot in the stirrup. Judges may not eliminate a rider for using a particular style of stirrup iron. Iron or stirrup leather may not be connected to the girth by string or any other material. All bridles must have a cavesson noseband and plain 35 Yds. 30 Yds. 35 Yds. 20 Yds. 20 Yds. 2 1 3 Start and Finish Line >20 ft. 35 Yds. 30 Yds. 35 Yds. 20 Yds. 20 Yds. 2 1 3 >20 ft. OR 70 leather browbands. Pelham bridles must have two sets of reins attached (pelham connectors not allowed). Breast plates are optional. Standing martingales are optional in over fence classes. Martingales are not allowed in any under saddle flat classes. Draw reins and hackamores are not permitted. No boots below the fetlock will be permitted in any class. Boots confined to the cannon area will be permitted only in equitation over fences classes. No figure 8, flash, drop, or any other style of nose band that includes a strap which fastens in front of the bit are allowed in Hunter Classes.

Other: Under no conditions may the rider strike the horse with the crop in front of the shoulder.

xWESTERN DIVISION:

Appropriate Attire: Clothing must be clean and neat. Riders shall wear western boots (No tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable) and western dress pants or jeans. Shirts must have a collar and long sleeves or be appropriate show attire (i.e., slinkies, band collars, turtlenecks). Spurs, chaps and similar equipment are optional. All exhibitors are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness in every class, regardless of age

Tack: Horse shall be shown with a stock saddle; silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Martingales, tie-downs, nose bands or draw reins are prohibited. Carrying of a rope is optional. A judge or show official shall have the authority to require the removal or adjustment of any piece of equipment which in their opinion is unsafe, would give a horse an unfair advantage, or constitute excessive harshness or cruelty.

xRANCH DIVISION:

Appropriate Attire: Clothing must be clean and neat. Riders shall wear western boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable) and western dress pants or jeans. Shirts must have a collar and long sleeves or be appropriate show attire. Ranch work attire is recommended, but show attire will not be penalized. Spurs, chaps, gloves (leather or fabric) and similar equipment are optional. All exhibitors are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian safety helmet with fastened chin harness in every class.

Tack: Horse shall be shown with a stock saddle. Ranch work equipment is recommended, *but show equipment will not be penalized.* Roping reins or reins with romal are permitted. Martingales, tie-downs, nose bands, or draw reins are prohibited. Carrying of a rope on your saddle is preferred. Horses may wear protective boots only in Ranch Reining and Ranch Boxing. A judge or show official shall have the authority to require the removal or adjustment of any piece of equipment which in ~~his~~ their opinion is unsafe, would give a horse an unfair advantage, or constitute excessive harshness or cruelty.

Other: Hoof polish, braided or banded manes, tail extensions, and trimming inside ears are strongly discouraged.

xSPEED DIVISION:

Appropriate Attire: Clothing should be clean and neat. Riders shall wear western boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable) and western dress pants or jeans. Shirts must have a collar and sleeves (long or short) or be appropriate show attire (i.e., slinkies, band collars, turtlenecks). All riders are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian safety helmet with fastened chin harness.

Tack: Western-type saddles must be used. Use of two hands on the reins is allowed in speed events. A judge or show official shall have the authority to require the removal or adjustment of any piece of equipment which in their opinion is unsafe, would give a horse an unfair advantage, or constitute excessive harshness or cruelty. Use of standing martingales, tie-downs, and nosebands is permitted in these classes.

Other:

- Striking a horse with anything other than the open hand in front of cinch is an automatic disqualification. Striking the horse with anything, including hand, in front of the throatlatch is an automatic disqualification.
- No string, rubber bands or other material to tie feet or legs in stirrups is allowed.
- Protective leg equipment will be permitted in classes.
- The Horse Committee Members reserve the right to change specified classes for safety reasons or to cancel classes for insufficient entries. Any class times quoted by show staff are approximate.

xHIGHPOINTS:

You must compete in the correct showmanship for each specific high point (ex. Ranch must do Ranch Ground Handling)

Grand and Reserve Highpoint awards are given for each qualifying age division:

- **ENGLISH HIGHPOINT:** Greatest amount of points from English Showmanship, English Pleasure, Hunter Hack, and English Equitation
- **WESTERN HIGHPOINT:** Greatest amount of points from Western Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, and Western Trail
- **RANCH HIGHPOINT:** Greatest amount of points from Ground Handling, Ranch Reining, Ranch Riding, and Ranch Trail, and Ranch Rail
- **SPEED HIGHPOINT:** Greatest amount of points from Speed Ground Handling, Barrels, Poles, Keyhole, and Stakes Race

One ALL AROUND HIGHPOINT will be awarded:

- **ALL AROUND HIGHPOINT** will be compromised of points from the entire day including but not limited to record book, quiz, and showmanship.

xDRESSAGE COMPETITION**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- 1) Sign up for Dressage is completed at the mandatory meetings
- 2) Cost is \$25.00 per test
- 3) Each participant can sign up for 1 test. Once all registrations are complete the dressage chair may open the competition for additional tests based on availability

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) **Mandatory Meeting:** A mandatory meeting for **all dressage competitors**, parents/guardians, 4-H leaders and teachers will be held to review the rules, regulations and questions.
 - **Meeting dates: Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 6:30 pm or Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 9:00 am**
 - Meetings will be held at the Agricultural Center in Bartow. **NO ADMITTANCE AFTER DOORS ARE CLOSED.**
 - **Exhibitors failing to attend one of the mandatory meetings will be fined \$50.00 for non-attendance. This fine will be due to the Youth Fair office by October 31, 2025, payable to PCYF memo Horseshow.**
- 2) Exhibitors must provide a negative Coggins for their horse at check in.
- 3) Bit and Helmet check are required in accordance with 4-H Rules
- 4) **Number of Entries:** Each exhibitor will be allowed to enter **ONE** horse. Exhibitors can participate only once in each event. No substitute riders will be allowed. You must provide Vet note if you need to switch horses after registration.
- 5) **Record Book:** Exhibitors must present an up-to-date record book the day of the show. The record book must begin at the start of the project and be up to date through the day of the show. Because the horse project sometimes continues through Youth Fair the record book does not have to be final. Failure to present an up-to-date record book on the day of the show will result in the exhibitor not being allowed to participate. Participants who want to compete in the record book contest will turn in their record book at the show for judging.
- 6) **Required Classes:** All exhibitors are **required** to participate in the **quiz class and one and only one Showmanship/Ground Handling class.**
 - **Quiz:** Material for the Quiz will be taken from the “Florida 4-H Horse Project Manual”. Copies of the manual are available through the 4-H office at the Polk County Extension Office (or can be found online at <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/youth/horse/documents/HorseRules.pdf>). **Each exhibitor is responsible for making sure they receive the appropriate quiz for their age group.** A student with a horse project but without a horse entered in the Fair, may enter the Quiz category only.
 - **Showmanship/Ground Handling:** Participants must compete in one and only one Showmanship or Ground handling class to compete in dressage. Showmanship does not count toward dressage highpoint.

Failure to participate in the required quiz class or showmanship class will result in forfeiture of all premiums

DRESSAGE CLASSES:

1. Sr. Western Dressage, WDAA 2022 Basic, TOC	4. Sr. Training Level Dressage, USEF 2023, TOC
2. Int. Western Dressage, WDAA 2022 Basic, TOC	5. Int. Training Level Dressage, USEF 2023, TOC
3. Jr. Western Dressage, WDAA 2022 Basic, TOC	6. Jr. Training Level Dressage, USEF 2023, TOC

DRESSAGE APPOINTMENTS: Brief descriptions are listed below. Refer to the Florida State 4-H rule book for full class descriptions, class rules and regulations, descriptions of legal bits, scoring, and other information.

TRADITIONAL DRESSAGE DIVISION:

Appropriate Attire: Follow English attire description

Tack: Any English type saddle may be used (i.e., dressage, forward seat, flat, or cut back). A plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson, or a dropped, a flash, or a figure-8 noseband. Except for buckles and a small disk of sheepskin, which may be used in the intersection of the two leather straps of a figure-8 noseband, the noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. A padded noseband is allowed. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including “easy-boots”) or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are prohibited. Tack may be inspected prior to competition. Unauthorized tack will be removed, or contestant will be disqualified. In addition, dressage whips are optional, and may be no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash

WESTERN DRESSAGE DIVISION:

Appropriate Attire: Follow Western attire description. Spurs are optional and may be of Western style, with or without blunt tines, or English Dressage style.

Tack: Follow Western tack description.

The following exceptions and/or additions are allowed in Western Dressage:

1. Western cavesson on the bridle (braided or plain) with space for two fingers between the cavesson and horse’s jawl. No metal, studs, or rigid material may be part of the cavesson. No flash, figure-8, or dropped nose bands.
2. Bits/bridles that may be used on horses of any age:
 - a) Snaffle bit (as defined in Western Bits).
 - b) Hackamore (Bosal, as defined in Western Bits).
 - c) Bitless bridle. Must be Western style made of leather or leather-like material.
3. Breastplate and/or crupper.
4. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120cm) including lash.

5. Standard stock saddle is customary, but a working saddle, Aussie, and Western side saddle are also acceptable. A horn is optional but Western style fenders are required. Padding on the saddle's seat and tapaderos are permitted.
6. Reins:
 - a) With snaffle bit: loop/connected reins, split reins, buckled reins, mecate reins, or Romal reins without a popper; two hands must be used with any of these combinations.
 - b) With bosal: Horsehair, rope reins and mecate reins; two hands must be used. The mecate can be tied to the saddle horn or held by the rider.
 - c) With curb: Romal reins or Split reins. When using a curb with Romal reins, only one hand is allowed; when using split reins, one or two hands are allowed.
7. Hand position on reins:
 - a. Romal reins: the Romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins. The end of the Romal may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep the Romal from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.
 - b. Split reins: When split reins are held in one or two hands, the rider may not switch back and forth during a test. When the split reins are held in one hand, there are two ways that the rider may use them: (1) with one finger between the split reins; the ends of the reins fall on the side of the reining hand. (2) without a finger between the reins; the hand must be around the reins. The ends of the Split reins may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.
 - c. At the end of the Free Walk or Free Jog, riders using split reins held in one hand may use the free or offhand to pull the reins back to the desired length. Riders using Romal reins may use the hand using the Romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.

In addition to what is described in Appointments for the Western Division, the following are not allowed in Western Dressage:

1. Full cheeks, half cheeks, kimberwicks, roping bits with both reins attached to a single ring, or any type of rein or attachment which increases the effective length of the bit's shank or creates additional leverage.
2. Round, rolled, braided, or rawhide curb straps.
3. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots," splint/hock/bell boots, etc.), tail bandages, any form of blinkers, ear muffs or plugs, and nose covers.

DRESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS:

Grand and Reserve are awarded to the top scoring tests in each age division:

- Traditional dressage
- Western dressage

COW HORSE COMPETITION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1. Sign up for the Cow Horse competition is completed online or the day of the competition
2. Cost is \$25.00 per class
3. Riders can show multiple horses in the same class
4. Age divisions are separated into junior and senior divisions
 - Juniors are ages 8-12 years old, as of September 1
 - Seniors are ages 13-18 years old, as of September 1

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Exhibitors must provide a negative Coggins for their horse at check in.
2. Bit and Helmet check are required in accordance with 4-H Rules

OPEN RANCH HORSE CLASSES:

1.	Jr. Ranch Boxing
2.	Sr. Ranch Boxing
3.	Jr. Ranch Cutting
4.	Sr. Ranch Cutting
5.	Jr. Ranch Roping
6.	Sr. Ranch Roping

COW HORSE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND SCORING:

RANCH BOXING:

- The Ranch Boxing class will consist of a single cow worked (boxing) on the end of the arena. The time limit for the class is fifty (50) seconds.
- Class Procedure:** The exhibitors are permitted to hold the saddle horn or romels and tail in one hand while holding horn with other hand. If exhibitor chooses to show this way they must enter the arena with reins in one hand and are not allowed to touch rein with off hand at anytime during the class. If exhibitor comes in with both hands on the Romels they are required to keep both hands on the reins, the way they entered the pen.

1. This class is designed to demonstrate and measure a horse's ability to work a cow.
2. The rider will face the cow end of the arena and call for a cow. Each exhibitor upon receiving a cow, shall hold that cow on the prescribed end of the arena for fifty (50) seconds, demonstrating the ability of the horse and rider to control the cow. Timing will be done by the announcer or judge starting when the cow is turned into the arena. Horse will be judged when it enters the gate and time shall begin when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. At fifty (50) seconds, the announcer will call time. The judge may blow a whistle at any time for the contestant to cease work for any safety reasons.
3. A Superior Ranch Boxing Horse should be in complete control at all times. Showing natural cow sense along with softness of face and body with rider's cues. Horse should stop using haunches. Turns should be quick and snappy.
4. This class will be judged on run, rate, control, degree of difficulty and eye appeal.
5. The judge may blow the whistle at any time to terminate work. A score of zero will be given if the work is not completed at that time. Each work will be limited to fifty (50) seconds.
There will be no schooling between cows if a new one is awarded. The penalty for doing this is a -0-.
6. Split reins on junior horses and romals on senior horses are allowed to be used behind the cinch.

Scoring: Scoring will be on the basis of 0 - 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. This class will be judged from -1½ to + 1½ in half (½) point increments.

Credits:

1. Maintaining control of the cow at all times
2. Maintaining proper position
3. Degree of difficulty
4. Eye Appeal
5. Time Worked

Penalties: Should be assessed, per occurrence as follows for the Ranch Boxing:

1 POINT PENALTIES

- a) Loss of working advantage
- b) Working out of position

3 POINT PENALTIES

- a) Loss of control of cow
- b) Leaves working end of the arena/passing center marker

5 POINT PENALTIES

- a) Blatant disobedience (kicking, biting, rearing, striking, turning or backing away from the cow or gate before the cow enters the arena)

0-SCORE

- a) Turn tail
- b) Using 2 hands on reins with curb bit
- c) Balking
- d) Out of control
- e) Bloody mouth
- f) Illegal Equipment
*Reins should be held in one hand, but may be held in any manner
- g) Leaving arena before time is complete
- h) Fall of horse and/or rider
- i) If new cow is awarded, schooling between cows

NO-SCORE

- a) Abuse
- b) Lameness
- c) Fall of horse or rider

RANCH CUTTING:

- This class is designed to show a horse's ability to separate a cow from the herd, hold that cow away from herd, then drive that cow away from herd and to pen it. This class is to be judged on the horse's natural cow ability, agility and to respond softly to the rider's cues to help rein horse into position to hold cow from herd, on the way to pen and to pen cow. Horse should display softness of handle and quietness in herd. Horse and, rider should work as a team, seeming effortless to work together. In the Ranch Cutting class exhibitors are permitted to hold romels and tail in one hand while holding the horn with other hand. Should an exhibitor choose to show this way, they must enter the arena with reins in one hand and are not allowed to touch rein with offhand at any time during the class or if the exhibitor chooses to come in to the pen with both hands on the romels, they will be required to keep both hands on the reins, in the same way as when they entered the pen.

Class Procedure:

1. Settling of the herd is permissible by anyone but the first entries in the class.
2. There is a two and one half (2½) minute time limit.
3. Time will begin when a rider crosses a timeline just prior to entering the herd (minimum of ten head). The rider will then quietly separate one cow from the herd and work the cow, with the exhibitor and horse showing their ability to keep the cow from the herd. Upon herd work completion, the cow shall be driven to the opposite end of the arena and penned.
4. A whistle will be blown at the one-minute point to let exhibitor know that one and one half minutes remain to complete the run. A contestant will be disqualified if he fails to pen the cow at the end of 2½ minutes, if the cow returns to the herd after it has been clearly separated from the herd or if the cow crosses back over the time/foul line when attempting to be penned.

5. The contestant may have up to four helpers during the cutting portion, two turn back riders and two herd holders. The helpers may not assist the contestant in penning the cow. Herd holders/turnback riders are in no way to assist exhibitor once they have called for cow or have crossed time/foul line. In doing so, they could cause exhibitor to be disqualified. This is left up to the discretion of judge if he deems it excessive.
6. The pen shall be placed on the side of the arena two-thirds of the way down the arena from the herd. Cow is not considered penned until the horse enters the wing area of the pen and whistle is blown. Show management may use either
7. Horse will not be penalized for reining during cutting portion, but should respond softly to rider's cues, showing willingness to accept exhibitor's directions as well as to display horse's natural cow ability in controlling and driving the cow. A horse that can perform all tasks of this class on a loose rein with minimal help from its rider shall be credited accordingly.
8. Show management may supply two herd holders and two turn back riders, or exhibitors may supply their own helpers. If an exhibitor is a herd holder or turn back rider, he/she may use the horse they are competing on or use a different horse. Herd holders and turn back riders should use ARHA horses. All turn back riders and herd holders must have proper western attire. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of entry.

Whistles and/or Horns to be blown at:

1. One minute mark (Announcer may call over PA)
2. Cow crosses back over time line after attempting to pen
3. Losing the cow back to the herd
4. 2½ minute at end of time
5. *Completion of Run (judges discretion) *It is the exhibitor's responsibility to keep engaging the cow until judge's whistle is blown.

Scoring: Scoring will be on the basis of 0 - 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. This class will be judged from -1½ to + 1½ in half (½) point increments.

Credits: Credit will be given to those horses who demonstrate excellence in the herd work, driving and setting up the cow to cut, working in the center of the arena, and degree of difficulty of the cow drawn, within 2½ (two and a half) minutes. Horses will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should respond softly to rider's cues, showing willingness to accept exhibitor's directions as well as to display horse's natural cow ability in controlling and driving the cow.

1. Quiet in the herd and smoothness of cut
2. Degree of difficulty
3. Time spent working
4. Driving and controlling cow
5. Softness/williness of horse
6. Natural cow ability
7. Horse & riders ability to work together

Penalties:

1 POINT PENALTIES

- a) Loss of working advantage by more than 1 horse length
- b) Gaping mouth when reined
- c) Excessive spurring or cuing
- d) Working out of position
- e) Toe, foot or stirrup on the shoulder

3 POINT PENALTIES

- a) Cattle picked up or scattered [when working cow]
- b) Pawing or biting cattle
- c) Back Fence
- d) Excessive herd help driving cow by turn back beyond time/foul line per discretion of the judge

5 POINT PENALTIES

- a) Blatant disobedience
- b) Spurring in front of the cinch
- c) Excessive herd help to be applied when the helpers keep cows from going back to the herd

AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION

- a) Allowing cow to return to the herd after it is clearly separated OR crosses back over the time/foul line after attempting to be penned. A *Cow is considered to be "back in the herd" when it touches another cow in the herd
- b) Horse turns tail to cattle
- c) falls to ground during any portion of the run
- d) Penning trash cow
- e) Two hands on reins except when exhibiting a junior horse in either a Snaffle bit or hackamore (bosal)

0- SCORE

- a) Illegal equipment
- b) Excessive disturbance of herd to the point that the exhibitor is asked to leave the arena
- c) Out of control
- d) Using two hands on the rein with curb bit

*Reins should be held in one hand, but may be held in any manner

NO SCORE

- a) Abuse

- b) Lameness
- c) Fall of horse or rider

Whistles and/or Horns to be blown at:

- 6. One minute mark (Announcer may call over PA)
- 7. Cow crosses back over time line after attempting to pen
- 8. Losing the cow back to the herd
- 9. 2½ minute at end of time
- 10. *Completion of Run (judges discretion) *It is the exhibitor's responsibility to keep engaging the cow until judge's whistle is blown.

Scoring: Scoring will be on the basis of 0 - 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. This class will be judged from -1½ to + 1½ in half (½) point increments.

Credits: Credit will be given to those horses who demonstrate excellence in the herd work, driving and setting up the cow to cut, working in the center of the arena, and degree of difficulty of the cow drawn, within 2½ (two and a half) minutes. Horses will not be penalized for reining during the cutting portion, but should respond softly to rider's cues, showing wiliness to accept exhibitor's directions as well as to display horse's natural cow ability in controlling and driving the cow.

- 8. Quiet in the herd and smoothness of cut
- 9. Degree of difficulty
- 10. Time spent working
- 11. Driving and controlling cow
- 12. Softness/wiliness of horse
- 13. Natural cow ability
- 14. Horse & riders ability to work together

Penalties:

1 POINT PENALTIES

- f) Loss of working advantage by more than 1 horse length
- g) Gaping mouth when reined
- h) Excessive spurring or cuing
- i) Working out of position
- j) Toe, foot or stirrup on the shoulder

3 POINT PENALTIES

- e) Cattle picked up or scattered [when working cow]
- f) Pawing or biting cattle
- g) Back Fence
- h) Excessive herd help driving cow by turn back beyond time/foul line per discretion of the judge

5 POINT PENALTIES

- d) Blatant disobedience
- e) Spurring in front of the cinch
- f) Excessive herd help to be applied when the helpers keep cows from going back to the herd

AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION

- f) Allowing cow to return to the herd after it is clearly separated OR crosses back over the time/foul line after attempting to be penned. A *Cow is considered to be "back in the herd" when it touches another cow in the herd
- g) Horse turns tail to cattle
- h) falls to ground during any portion of the run
- i) Penning trash cow
- j) Two hands on reins except when exhibiting a junior horse in either a Snaffle bit or hackamore (bosal)

0- SCORE

- e) Illegal equipment
 - f) Excessive disturbance of herd to the point that the exhibitor is asked to leave the arena
 - g) Out of control
 - h) Using two hands on the rein with curb bit
- *Reins should be held in one hand, but may be held in any manner

NO SCORE

- d) Abuse
- e) Lameness
- f) Fall of horse or rider

Market Hog Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years of age
xSeptember 22, 2025 – September 29, 2025 11:59 pm	Online registration begins for MARKET HOGS: Registration will run Monday, September 22, 2025 – Monday September 29, 2025, by 11:59 pm. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED
xSeptember 22, 2025 – September 29, 2025 11:59 pm	Along with online registration, exhibitors can sign up for a dirt pen and sign up for showmanship at the same time.
September 30, 2025 7:00 pm	Mandatory Meeting for ALL Market Hog Exhibitors. This meeting will be held via Zoom, if you are not able to attend via zoom, you can watch the live stream in the Stuart Center at the agriculture center at the time of this meeting.
October 4, 2025 6:30 am – 10:00 am	Mandatory Tagging Day = Ownership Deadline – USDA ID & Bill of Sale Due
December 5, 2025 5:00 pm	Buyer Letters Due – if sent via email; send to pcyfmarkethog@gmail.com
January 23, 2026 8:00am – 4:00pm	Final Weigh in (Check In)
January 24, 2026 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Market Hog COST ANALYSIS SHEET to be turned in & Market Hog meeting in the Arena
xJanuary 24, 2026 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Walk prior to showmanship beginning Market Hog Showmanship (Optional) must pre-register online, when registering your animal
January 25, 2026 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Market Hog Show
January 26, 2026 8:00 am	Market Hog Sale

Eligible Animals: Projects are limited to market barrow or open gilts (boars and stags will not be permitted). Each exhibitor will be allowed to show and sell only one market hog. In the event exhibitor has two market hogs entered, he/she must decide which market hog they want weighed in at final weigh-in in January. **Only in the event of the first market hog being eliminated will the second market hog be allowed to unload and weigh-in.**

xDirt Pens – During online registration, exhibitors will have the option to sign up and pay for a dirt pen. The fee is \$25.00 per exhibitor. Dirt pens are first come, first served basis, and space is limited.

xBuyer Letters:

To be eligible to show and/or sell your market hog project at the 2026 Youth Fair, you must submit your buyer letters no later than December 5, 2025. Failure to submit a buyer letter by the deadline will result in disqualification from both showing and selling your market hog in January 2026. **Email copies of your potential buyer letters to pcyfmarkethog@gmail.com. *Once registration closes, a link will be provided for you to upload your buyer letters and your picture.**

Important Dates:

Mandatory Meeting: A mandatory meeting for **all market hog exhibitors** will be Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m (Zoom ONLY). If you are not able to join via zoom, the zoom meeting will be live streamed in the Valencia at the agriculture complex in Bartow.

The meeting will be to review the rules for the 2026 show. If you do not attend zoom or in person there will be a \$35.00 fine for the exhibitor.

xMandatory Tagging Date: All market hogs entered will be permanently ear tagged on Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 6:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. at the Agricultural Center in Bartow.

Exhibitors must notify the Polk County Youth Fair office of an incorrect ear tag number placed in hog's ear at initial tagging day by October 4, 2025. If the incorrect ear tag number is not reported, the ear tag placed in hog's ear will remain as is. In the event of loss of these ear tags, exhibitor is required to notify the Youth Fair within 48 hours after loss so market hog can be retagged. Please email the Market Hog Committee pcyfmarkethog@gmail.com.

CONTEST: Gain-in Weight Contest: Those wishing to enter the market hog gain in weight contest will have the opportunity to weigh in their market hogs on the mandatory tagging date scheduled for October 4, 2025. Weight recorded on certified scales at weigh-in site will be official weight. There is a \$25.00 gain in weight contest fee that can be paid in cash on October 4, 2025. This contest fee is nonrefundable. The gain in weight contest will be based on: 1-25 hogs entering - 1st place will be awarded, 26-50 hogs entering - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded, 51 or greater hogs entering - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places will be awarded. This will be an approximate 50% pay back with prize amounts to be determined by the Market Hog Committee. **YOU MUST COME TO THE TAGGING IN BARTOW TO COMPETE IN THIS CONTEST, NOT A REMOTE TAGGING.**

xShowmanship Contest: ANY EXHIBITOR IS ABLE TO COMPETE IN SHOWMANSHIP WHICH WILL HAPPEN ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026, FROM 5:00PM-9:00PM. THE SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE ARENA. EXHIBITORS

X Denotes Changes from 2025 Rules & Regulations

MUST PAY THE \$10 SHOWMANSHIP FEE ONLINE DURING REGISTRATION. REGISTRATION FOR SHOWMANSHIP ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2025 BY 11:59pm. If showmanship registration is extended, we will notify you.

OTHER: Weigh-in Procedures: If an exhibitor questions the accuracy of weight, he may request a reweigh of his/her pig immediately. At that point pig will be removed from scales for recalibrating and pig reweighed. This request must occur before pig leaves the scale area and before another pig is weighed. Pigs will not be reweighed under any other circumstances. This rule applies to both the October and January weigh-ins. **EXHIBITORS ENTERING TWO PIGS MUST HAVE BOTH ON VEHICLE AT WEIGH-IN IN OCTOBER AND JANUARY IN ORDER TO EXERCISE THE SECOND PIG OPTION. EXHIBITORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO SCALE WITH A PIG AFTER HAVING LEFT THE SCALE AREA.**

No holding of place in line. Animals must be present in the vehicle when you arrive to get in line.

xClipped/Shaved Hogs: If an exhibitor's hog that has been entered for the 2026 Polk County Youth Fair is found with hair that is less than 1/4" long at any time during the 2026 Polk County Youth Fair, exhibitors must remove hog from fairgrounds immediately.

No holding of place in line. Animals must be present in the vehicle when you arrive to get in line.

Penning/Class Sizes: The management reserves the right to determine the number and size of classes to ensure the maximum efficiency in conducting the show.

xOwners' Responsibility: Exhibitors are responsible for providing water and feed for their hog. If they are in a dirt pen, water will be not provided by the fair.

xWashing of animals: Must take place in the animals assigned pen. If show products are used, they must be washed off inside of their pen PRIOR to the sale.

Record Books: Market hog exhibitors are REQUIRED to complete a cost analysis sheet. Record Books are only required if the exhibitor wishes to participate in the Record Book contest. Market hog COST ANALYSIS SHEET (completely filled in) will only be accepted after final weigh-in, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026, 12:00 pm 3:00 pm.

xNo advertisement signs are to be posted or displayed by exhibitors in the barn. Any appropriate personalized sign that is posted by an exhibitor cannot cover pen numbers or tags. Hog Committee has the right to remove signs at any time during the fair.

Health Regulations: All hogs presented at check-in or **any time during the fair** will be disqualified should animal exhibit symptoms of communicable disease, hernias or any condition deemed unsatisfactory by the market hog committee. Also see livestock health regulations.

Final weight requirements: All market hogs will be weighed in on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026**. At the final weigh-in hogs must at least 240lbs. The **MAXIMUM** weight is 300lbs. *"Animals will be admitted to the fair if they are 239.5, being that number rounds up to 240."*

xSale: Order of sale will be Grand Champion, Reserve, 3,4,5, Junior Showmanship Champion, Intermediate Showmanship Championship, Senior Showmanship Champion, Eagle Award Winner, Herdsman Award Winner, Division Grand Champions, Division Reserve Champions, Class Winners with all other hogs being sold at random as penned in the barn. Market price will be established by packer bids. **At time of sale, no additional incentives can be added to sale of hog which includes but not limited to fishing trips, hunting trips, vacations, etc.**

xEach exhibitor will be allowed to show 1 market animal. Exhibitor must show and sell his/her own animal. Youth not present to show animal will be disqualified and must remove animal from premises immediately. Animals belonging to youth who are not present to take the hog into the sale ring at designated time as per the sale order will be sold at packer price and forfeit all premiums and awards.

Exhibitors removing ear tag from market hog after sale will be charged a fee of \$100.00 to be deducted from sale check. This rule will be strictly enforced.

**ALL MARKET HOGS MUST SELL AND GO TO SLAUGHTER TO A DESIGNATED
SLAUGHTERHOUSE.**

**Load out time for market hogs is MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 immediately following barn
reconciliation and TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026, 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.**

Market Steer Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years of age
June 6, 2025	Commercial Market Steer Entry Form Due
June 21, 2025 8:00 am	Commercial Market Steer Selection Day (Ag Center)
July 27, 2025	Brahman/European Influence Show Market Steer Ownership deadline
July 27, 2025 11:59 pm	Open Show Market Steer Online Entry due with paid entry fee, carcass ultrasound fee and tagging fee
July 28- August 3, 2025 11:59 pm	Late online entries accepted for Brahman/European Influence Show Market Steers with paid entry fee, late entry fee, carcass ultrasound fee and tagging fee
August 16, 2025 6:00 am - 9:00 am	Mandatory Initial weigh-in and Tagging day (Brahman/European Influence) (Ag Center)
December 5, 2025 5:00 pm	Buyer Letters Due (Brahman/European Influence and Commercial)
January 28, 2026 6:00 am - 9:00 am 1:00pm	Check In/Final Weigh in (Brahman/European Influence and Commercial) Luncheon
xJanuary 28, 2026 5:30pm 6:00 pm	Market Steers Bred & Owned Show Market Steer Showmanship (Brahman/American Influence & Commercial) (Hayman Arena)
January 29, 2026 6:00 pm	Market Steer Show (Brahman/European Influence and Commercial)
January 30, 2026 6:30 pm	Market Steer Sale (Brahman/European Influence and Commercial)

Exhibitor Rules

Age of Exhibitors: Exhibitors must be 8 years old as of September 1, 2025.

Animal Rules

Eligible Animals: Exhibitors must be sole owners of market steers from entry to sale. Partial ownership is prohibited. Each exhibitor will be allowed to enter two market steers but allowed to show and sell only one market steer. Exhibitors may enter two market steers but only sell/show one. In the event exhibitor has two market steers entered; he/she must decide which market steer they want weighed in at final weigh-in in January. **Only in the event that the first market steer does not make final weight of 1,000lbs, will the second market steer be allowed to unload and weighed in.**

xMarket Steer Show & Sale

Market Steers will be split up into three divisions: European Influence, Brahman Influence and Commercial. All divisions will be shown separately and bought by weight. The Market Steer Chairman reserves the right to determine the number, size of classes to ensure the maximum efficiency in conducting the show and the show order. The Market Steer show is a **terminal show**, the order of the sale will be set by the Market Steer Chairman. All market steers will be sold in a halter provided by the fair. Exhibitors can pick up these halters FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026, **AFTER** their tie spots (inside/outside the barn) have been checked off by the approved committee. **Failure to clear your spot will result in a \$100 fine.**

Commercial Steer Selection Day Procedures

On the day of steer selection, exhibitors will select their steer based upon a random order. Exhibitors may select up to two (2) steers based upon the availability of animals. If the exhibitor chooses to select two (2) steers, the second steer may only be chosen after all other exhibitors have chosen their first steer. All calves will be ear tagged with corresponding numbers and tattooed on the selection day. The sale of the animals will be between the producer and the exhibitor. All sales are final and payment is due on the day of selection. Immediate family members (children and grandchildren) of the approved commercial producer will be offered at least last choice of steer selection from the producer's group of steers, present on selection day. The selection must be made on the official selection day and must be of similar type/quality steers. The selection day will

serve as the official weigh-in for the commercial steers.

Market steers must weigh a minimum of 1,000 pounds (1,000 pounds or more) at the final weigh-in on January 28, 2026.

xBrahman/European Influence Steer Mandatory Weigh-in Dates and Weight Requirements:

xMANDATORY WEIGHTS – MINIMUM WEIGHT: 500lbs – MAXIMUM WEIGHT: 1,100lbs

Weigh-in will be held on Saturday, August 16, 2025 from 6:00 AM to 9:00AM at the Agricultural Center in Bartow. All market steers entered into European Influence and Brahman Influence will be weighed in and tattooed. European and Brahman Influence will be tagged with corresponding numbers and tattooed. During weigh-in, there will be a panel of three (3) representatives present to make the final decision of which division these exhibitors steers will be shown in. Market steers must weigh a minimum of 1,000lbs or more at final weigh-in on January 28, 2026.

***Please note:** For the 2027 Polk County Youth fair, the maximum weight at the initial weigh in, in August 2026 will be lowered to 1,000lbs.

Official Reweighs: At the sole discretion of fair management, one or more animals may be reweighed after the final weigh-in in January 2026. A market steer's show and sale weight shall be the most recent official weight as determined by fair management.

Bull Calves: No bull calves will be accepted at the August 16, 2025 weigh-in. The neutering process must be sufficiently healed before the weigh-in. We recommend the neutering be done as early as possible.

Animal Identification: As a condition for participation in the Polk County Youth Fair Market Steer Show and Sale, exhibitor hereby agrees to submit to unique animal identification of any and all animals entered by exhibitor for purposes of identification. The Polk County Youth Fair requires that the animal exhibited at the Polk County Youth Fair be the same as the animal entered at the initial weigh-in. If the animal's identity is found to differ from initial weigh-in exhibitor will forfeit any prize money and/or sale proceeds, any add-ons and may forfeit all rights and privileges to exhibit in the future at the Polk County Youth Fair. An identification tag fee in the amount of \$10.00 per animal entered will need to be submitted with entry form. The Polk County Youth Fair office must be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of a hanging tag that is lost, missing, or is no longer attached to the steer. Failure to notify the Youth Fair office within forty eight (48) hours will result in disqualification from the fair.

Tag Removal: All market steers **MUST** be double-tied with both halter lead and neck rope. The proper procedure for this is: Each steer is tied with a rope attached to the halter in addition to a neck rope. Steers will be tied between two rings on no more than 12 inches of ropes.



Certified Age Certificate and/or Mouthing

No market steer will be accepted whose known age is more than 24 months. A signed statement from the breeder certifying age will be accepted. The management reserves the right to determine age by mouthing in cases where the physiological age differs greatly from the certified chronological age.

Animal Handling: At final weigh-in market steers must be handled by exhibitor only. The Steer Committee has the right to determine that if an exhibitor cannot handle their steer at final weigh-in safely, they will be disqualified. During the 2026 Market Steer Show if any exhibitor cannot handle their steer safely, the Steer Committee has the right to remove the exhibitor and market steer from the show. They would place last in the class and will be sold at the end of the sale. Any market steers removed from the show by the market steer committee after being judged will also be sold at the end of the sale.

xGrooming and Clipping: The use of fitting products is allowed. Exhibitors are encouraged to clip steers before they arrive at the fair but are allowed to clip on grounds if they clean up hair. Assistance with fitting is allowed.

Ethics: Ethical treatment of animals at all times while on fair grounds. Any exhibitor that is caught hitting or injuring their steer will be removed from the show ring and not allowed to return. It is imperative that all animals are treated with respect and that Exhibitors do not use harm as a source of controlling said animal. If this occurs these steers will sell at the very end of the sale order. It is unethical to inject steers with air or any product that compromises the meat and changes the appearance

of the animal. When steers are processed, if the slaughterhouse reports any activity the exhibitor will forfeit their sale check any premiums earned, and be banned from the market steer division.

Carcass Ultrasound: A carcass ultrasound, held in conjunction with the Polk County Youth Fair, emphasizes the end product of the beef industry and provides a valuable educational compliment to the Steer Show. A comprehensive report is prepared following the judging of the carcass qualities using ultrasound. The ultrasound report measurements will include FOE (fat over the ribeye at the 13th rib), ribeye area, and marbling score, which is a measurement of intramuscular-fat. These measurements will be used to calculate yield grade and estimate carcass quality.

**ALL MARKET STEERS MUST SELL AND GO TO SLAUGHTER TO A DESIGNATED
SLAUGHTERHOUSE.**

Load out time for market steers is FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 immediately following barn reconciliation and SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026, 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.

xPoultry Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old
November 1, 2025 11:59 pm	Ownership/Online Entry due with paid entry fee(no late entries will be accepted after November 1, 2025)
xJanuary 28, 2026 7:00 am– 11:00 am 1:00 pm	Check-in of birds and eggs Poultry Showmanship Check In/Showmanship
January 29, 2026 9:00 am (until judge is finished)	Judging of Poultry (barn will be closed during this time)
January 30, 2026 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Poultry Check-out

- A. Entry Requirements:** Each exhibitor is allowed to enter and show TWO animals at the fair. All poultry must be owned by and in the possession of the exhibitor, including any and all animals housed at any Polk County School facility, by November 1, 2025. Poultry must be six months old or older at show time. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED** after the November 1, 2025 entry deadline. NO TURKEYS

Entry forms must be completed with the correct Class #, Breed, and Sex (male or female) of each bird. Eligible breeds and breed information can be found at:

- [American Poultry Association](#)
- [Bantam Club](#)

No substitute entries will be accepted at check-in. Only birds listed on the exhibitor's entry form may be shown and the exhibitor must own the bird he/she uses for showmanship.

Birds will be checked for lice and mites. Birds found to have lice or mites **any time** during the fair must be removed immediately. Also see state health regulations. Birds must remain caged at all times, except for the following: prior to and during the poultry showmanship contest (showmanship entrants only). Thursday morning prior to 9:00 am Poultry judging to prepare birds for show.

The poultry committee will be responsible for feeding and watering your all poultry

Eligible Breeds:

Eligible breeds & breed information can now be found at:

- [American Poultry Association](#)
- [Bantam Club](#)

Class # 01: BANTAM MALE OR FEMALE - Purebred bantam chicken breeds recognized by the American Poultry Association and/or the American Bantam Association.

Class # 02: COMMERCIAL FEMALE ONLY - Commercial female layer breeds accepted: Female Leghorn, Female Rhode Island Red (also known as Production Red), Female Barred Plymouth Rock, Female Sex Link. **NO MALE COMMERCIAL BIRDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Class # 03: LARGE FOWL MALE OR FEMALE - Purebred large fowl chicken breeds recognized by the American Poultry Association.

Poultry may be banded for identification purposes but is not required.

Awards: Banners will be given for Champion Commercial Female, Champion Bantam Male, Champion Bantam Female, Champion Large Fowl Male, Champion Large Fowl Female, and Overall Reserve Grand Champion. An Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be chosen from the five-champion poultry. A buckle will be awarded to the Overall Grand Champion.

B. POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP CLASS: Poultry Showmanship will be held WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Exhibitors will sign up for Poultry Showmanship on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 during check in. Classes will be divided into three divisions and will be based on the exhibitor's age as of **September 1, 2025:**

**Junior Division -8 to 10 years old Intermediate Division -11 to 13 years old Senior
Division - 14 years old and older**

Only poultry show exhibitors are eligible for showmanship. Exhibitors must use one of the birds listed on their entry form for showmanship, no substitutions are allowed.

Eggs Entry deadline: November 1, 2025. Eggs entries must be entered online.

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED after the November 1, 2025 entry deadline.

All eggs shown must be chicken eggs selected by the exhibitor. They need not be produced by the exhibitor's flock. Eggs should not be purchased from a grocery store. There should not be identification marks on the eggs. Eggs entered **should be cleaned** and displayed in **clean egg cartons**. Exhibitors need not have birds entered in the Poultry Show to be eligible to participate in the Egg Show. No eggs other than **BROWN OR WHITE** will be accepted.

Exhibitors may not enter more than 2 dozen eggs total. All eggs must be entered in single dozens. A separate exhibit tag will be filled out for each dozen and attached to the carton.

Eggs will be judged on interior as well as exterior quality.

Except for the Best Dozen Brown Eggs, the Best Dozen White Eggs, all other eggs will be disposed of after judging. Only the best of each category will be displayed.

Rabbit Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old
November 1, 2025 11:59 pm	Ownership/Online Entry Deadline with paid entry fee (no late entries will be accepted after November 1, 2025)
November 1, 2025 11:50 pm	Showmanship and Costume Contest Registration Due (no late entries will be accepted after November 1, 2025)
January 24, 2026 8:00 am – 12:00 pm 2:00 pm – until barn closes	Check-in of rabbits Judging of Rabbits (barn closed, results will be available Sunday 8:00am)
January 25, 2026 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Rabbit Showmanship (Location TBD)
January 26, 2026 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Rabbit/Exhibitor Costume Contest
January 26, 2026 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Rabbit Check out

Each exhibitor is allowed to enter and show **two rabbits** which exhibitor must have possession of by **November 1, 2025. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED** after the November 1, 2025 entry deadline.

Acceptable Breeds: Only purebred rabbits will be permitted to show. Breed of rabbit must be identified on the entry form. **NO CROSSBRED** rabbits will be accepted. Any rabbits not portraying the characteristics of a purebred will be disqualified by the Judge. xRabbits must be at least 10 weeks old at check-in.

xNo substitution of rabbits or exhibitors will be allowed at time of check-in

All rabbits must have a permanent, legible tattoo at the time of check-in and be pre-registered on the online entry form due on November 1, 2025. This is important for the identification on your rabbit. Rabbits will NOT be tattooed at the Fair.

xAny rabbit with visible signs of distress or illness, including **EAR MITES, FUR MITES & FLEAS**, will not be allowed into the Fair. Exhibitors must feed and water their rabbits daily, failure to do so may result in loss of ribbon and premium points. No toys or mats allowed in cage with rabbit. Once rabbits check in, exhibitors may not remove their rabbit from the cage until check-out time.

xDuring judging, the barn will be closed, no one will be allowed in the barn during this time.. All rabbits will be awarded a ribbon, based on quality: Blue, Red or White. Best of Breed selection will be made, along with the overall Best in Show, First Runner Up, Second Runner Up and Third Runner Up.

Junior Division -8 to 10 years old
Intermediate Division -11 to 13 years old
Senior Division - 14 years old and older

xRABBIT SHOWMANSHIP: Exhibitors must sign up for rabbit showmanship when they register their rabbits during the registration period. No entries will be accepted after November 1, 2025. Exhibitors must use their own rabbit, and the rabbit must be entered in the 2026 Polk County Youth Fair rabbit show. Exhibitors will demonstrate showmanship skills on an individual basis to a judge. Rabbit showmanship guidelines can be found at ARBA.net. Exhibitors should also be in official dress. Overall winners will consist of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in Jr, Intermediate and Senior divisions.

xRABBIT/EXHITOR COSTUME CONTEST: Exhibitors must sign up for the rabbit/exhibitor costume contest during the registration period. No entries will be accepted after November 1, 2025. Exhibitors must use their own rabbit. Exhibitors and their rabbit must be in a costume. Exhibitors will be judged on creativity, originality, presentation, control and showmanship of a rabbit along with knowledge of rabbit and costume construction. Exhibitors will be interviewed by a judge after a short parade. Overall winners will consist of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in Jr, Intermediate & Senior divisions.

xHorticulture Department

Please read the 2026 General Rules and Regulations beginning on page 1 as it applies to all departments in the Horticulture Division.

In addition, each department has specific rules related to entering, showing and in some cases selling of plants by exhibitors. Please read each section carefully and thoroughly. Please note that any exhibit that does not follow the rules listed for the class/department will be lowered by 1 ribbon placing. If you have questions, they may be submitted to the Horticulture Committee via the Polk County Youth Fair website: pcyf.net

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old
September 18, 2025 6:00 pm	Horticulture Workshop – Mandatory Meeting (ALL Exhibitors) Location: Stuart Center (must attend 1 of the 2 meetings) IN PERSON ONLY
September 20, 2025 9:00 am	Horticulture Workshop – Mandatory Meeting (ALL Exhibitors) (must attend 1 of the 2 meetings) Virtual Only
September 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Ownership/Online Entry Deadline along with paid entry fee (Ornamental plants purchased AFTER September 30, 2025, will <u>not be allowed</u> to show during the fair.)
October 1 – October 5, 2025 11:59 pm	Online late entries accepted along with paid entry fee and \$10.00 late entry fee
November 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Bedding Plants, Foliage Plants & Hanging Baskets Ownership Deadline
November 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Vegetable Ownership & Online Entry due
December 1–7, 2025 11:59 pm	Vegetable Online late Entry Deadline along with paid entry fee and late entry fee
December 5, 2025 5:00 pm	Buyer Letters Due (to two different potential buyers)
December 6, 2025 - January 4, 2026	Late Buyer Letters (to two different potential buyers) and \$10.00 late letter fee due
January 27, 2026 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Check in
January 28, 2026 9:00 am – 2:30 pm	Horticulture Department Judging (Room/tent will be closed for judging)
January 29, 2026 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Red & White Ribbon Horticulture check out (<i>ALL PLANTS MUST BE PICKED UP ON THIS DATE</i>)
January 30, 2026 12:30 pm	Horticulture Awards Presentation
January 31, 2026 9:00 am	Blueberry, Citrus, and Ornamental Plant Auction

xGENERAL RULES:

- **The committee has the final decision in any situation that may arise. Ornamental plants purchased AFTER September 30, 2025, will not be allowed to show during the fair. The cost analysis sheet is only required for those wishing to go for the Premium Horticulture Exhibitor Award, a receipt must be attached.**

Plants will be checked during check in for quality as well as pest checked. Any plant not meeting quality standards will be turned away. Plants will be judged by the Florida Department of Agriculture grade and standards. Blue ribbon plants will be auctioned, red and white plants will check out on the Wednesday of fair.

- **xBlue ribbon plants will be auctioned with no exception. If the exhibitor decides not to show up for the auction, the plants will be donated to the garden club. There is not substitution for exhibitors for the auction unless they are in a Learning**

x Denotes Changes from 2025 Rules & Regulations

Center, and entries must be approved by the committee.

- **If the exhibitor does not want to sell their plant for any reason or due to prior commitments, the exhibitor needs to register their project(s) under class 5– Plants for Display ONLY during registration.**
- All students must submit 2 buyers letters to the youth fair office. If a student does not submit a buyer letter but receives a blue ribbon, they will be able to sale but will be fined \$25 (*you will know about this fine before the sale*).
- All plants must be grown in standard production pots, flats, or trade baskets. Any pattered plants must be identified with a patten tag.
- An entry is considered 3 plants or 1 full tray. All plants must be entered using the common name and variety of plant. Your set of 3 should all be a like in kind, size, and potting.
- Exhibitors must be able to handle and move their own plants. Not following the above rules will result in disqualification or the lowering of one ribbon color.

The Premier Horticulture Exhibitor Award is given to the exhibitor that earns the most points based on Judge’s placing of exhibits and exhibitor’s level of participation in horticulture related activities such as:

1. A completed and up to date set of Horticulture Cost Analysis & Project Summary Sheets.
2. Entries of ornamental plants, plants grown for auction, plants for display, blueberry/citrus tree.
- Participate in the Horticulture Judging Contest.
4. Enter vegetables.
5. Be present for sale of project.
6. Submit copies of buyer’s letters

xUnclaimed Plant Policy:

All plants must be picked up by Thursday, January 29, 2026, by 7:00 PM. Any plants not claimed by this time will become the property of the Polk County Youth Fair. Unclaimed plants will be auctioned, and proceeds will be donated to the Horticulture Department.

If you are unable to pick up your project by the deadline, you must contact the Horticulture Department Chairman in advance to make alternative arrangements.

Blueberry and Citrus Department

Each exhibitor will be allowed to show and sell only one plant in this department. It may be **one** blueberry plant, **OR** one citrus tree. This is a contest organized solely for the purpose of recognizing participants' skills in growing containerized blueberry plants or citrus trees and rewarding participants by providing an auction for each of these plant types. Blueberry plants, citrus trees entered must have been purchased in April, 2025 from the Polk County Citrus Advisory Blueberry Plant/Citrus Tree/ Sale.

Growing instructions for participants interested in competing for the 2026 Contest is listed in the "Care of Blueberry Plants" "Care of Citrus Trees" fact sheet available from the Polk County Citrus Advisory Committee **AND online at pcyf.net.**

All blueberry plants must be grown and exhibited in a standard 5-gallon container.

All citrus trees must be grown and exhibited in a standard 7-gallon container.

If an exhibitor uses their own container, it may not be any larger than the containers available at time of purchasing the plants, soil and containers.

Bedding Plants & Foliage

Each student is eligible to pre-enter eight (8) entries, but may show only four at the Youth Fair AND participants may show a maximum of two exhibits in any one of the two classes (#01 - Bedding Plants, #02 – Foliage)

Class #01: Bedding Plants

An entry in each class shall consist of one standard full flat/tray. Plants may be grown in cell-pack, 2 1/4" pots or 4" pots and should fit in tray with no empty spaces.

All bedding plants shall be grown from seed or starter plugs by the exhibitor.

Listed below are some examples of bedding plants which may be used in this class:

Class #01 Bedding Plants			
Begonia	Coleus	Gerbera	Marigold

Petunia	Salvia	Snapdragon	Vegetables
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Other bedding plants may also be used but must be listed by name.

Class #02: Foliage Plants

The maximum container size is 10 gallons and a minimum of 8" pot.

Listed below are some examples of foliage plants which may be used in this class:

Class # 02 Foliage Plants		
Dieffenbachia	Dracaena	Ficus
Peace Lily	Pothos	Schefflera

Other foliage plants may also be used, but must be listed by name.

Ornamentals Department

Each student is eligible to pre-enter eight (8) entries, but may show only four at the Youth Fair **AND** participants **may show a maximum of two exhibits in any one of the two classes(#03 - Landscape Ornamentals, #04 - Hanging Baskets/Miscellaneous)**

Plants in a single exhibit must be of the same species or variety or cultivar and grown in containers of the same size. No substitute plants will be accepted at check-in in January.

Purchased plants must be transplanted to a larger container size and a dated receipt must be stapled to the Horticulture Cost Analysis & Project Summary Sheet, indicating proof of purchase.

NOTE: Exhibitor may show a maximum of 2 exhibits in any one of the two classes:

Class #03: Landscape Ornamentals

An entry in each category shall consist of 3 plants in three gallon or larger containers. Maximum container size: 10 gallon.

Listed below are examples of Landscape Ornamentals, which may be used in this class:

Class #03 Landscape Ornamentals			
Asparagus Fern	Azalea	Blue Daze	Boxwood
Confederate Jasmine	Croton	Daylilies	Heather
Hibiscus	Juniper	Ligustrum	Lorapetalum
Ornamental Grasses	Palms(outdoor)	Pittosporum	Plumbago
Podocarpus	Split Leaf Philodendron	Viburnum	Xanadu Philodendron

Other landscape ornamentals may be used, but must be listed by name.

Class #04: Hanging Basket/Miscellaneous Plants -

An entry in each class shall consist of 3 plants of the same species, grown in identical pots (6" pot or larger containers for each entry(trade baskets only). Maximum hanging basket size is 12".

Listed below are examples of Hanging Basket/Miscellaneous Plants - **name of plant must be included**

Class #04 Examples of Hanging Basket/Miscellaneous Plants			
Swedish Ivy	Spider Plant	Petunia	Viola

Plants for Display Only

Class: #05Plants For Display - Not To Be Auctioned

Exhibitors are allowed to enter and show (2) entries. This class allows the students to exhibit plants which they do not wish to sell in the plant auction. This also allows the student the possibility to earn additional points in competition for the Premier Horticulture Exhibitor Award.

No substitute plants will be accepted at check in on January 27, 2026. (If the exhibitor does not want to sell their plants for any reason or due to prior commitment, this is the category they should show in)

Dish Gardens

Class 6 – Dish Gardens – To Be Auctioned Online

xExhibitors are allowed to enter and show (1) entry.

All dish gardens must be AT LEAST 75% real plants. Dish gardens that receive a blue ribbon or higher will be to the silent auction.

xDish Garden projects MUST turn in a receipt, which must be dated by November 30, 2025.

Vegetables Department

Following are the acceptable varieties and the amount or quantity of specimens necessary to constitute an entry. Each exhibitor is eligible to **pre-enter only ten (10) entries** and show ten (10) different entries only in the Vegetable Department.

VEGETABLES MUST BE CLEANED FROM ALL DIRT BEFORE CHECK-IN AT FAIR TIME.

The Fair reserves the right to discard vegetable items which deteriorate and become unattractive for display. **No vegetables will be returned to exhibitors.** The Fair will dispose of all vegetables at the close of the Fair for health and safety reasons.

Vegetable:	Quantity:	Vegetable:	Quantity:
Beans - snap or pole	2 dozen	Mint - bunched	1 bunch(12 stems tied)
Beets - bunched	3 - tightly tied	Mustard - bunched	1 bunch(12 leaves tied)
Beets - topped	3	Onion - green bunched	6
Broccoli	3 heads	Parsley - bunched	1 bunch(12 stems tied)
Cabbage	2 heads	Peas - English(pods)	2 dozen
Cabbage - Chinese	2 heads	Peppers	3 or 1 pint
Carrots - bunched	6 - tied	Potatoes - Irish	6
Carrots - topped	6	Radishes - bunched	2 bunches of 3
Cauliflower	2 heads	Rutabaga	2
Chives - bunched	12	Spinach - bunched	2 bunches(12 leaves/bunch)
Collards	1 bunch(12 leaves tied)	Strawberries	1 pint

Cucumber	3	Swiss Chard bunched	1 bunch(12 leaves/bunch)
Endive	2	Tomatoes -	Large 3, Small 10
Escarole	2	Turnips -bunched	3
Kale	1 bunch(12 leaves tied)	Turnips - topped	3

Kohlrabi	3	Yellow Squash	3
Lettuce - head	2 heads	Zucchini	3
Lettuce - leaf	1 bunch(12 leaves tied)	Winter Squash	2

Please note that any exhibit that does not follow the rules for the class/department will be lowered one ribbon placing.

Archery Competition

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitors must be 8 years old
November 30, 2025 11:59 pm	Online Entry due with paid entry fee (LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE)
December 1 – December 7, 2025 11:59 pm	Online late Entries accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER December 7, 2025)
xJanuary 27, 2026 8:00 am Juniors 8:00 am – 11:00 am Intermediate 10:30 am – 1:30 pm Seniors 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Exhibitor Check-in Competition

xThere will be no mandatory meeting to attend.

Participants need to bring their own bow, arm guard, hip quiver, finger protection and five arrows to walk through. Participants not attending one of the mandatory meetings or does not sign in prior to 8:00 am and sign out at the end of the safety meeting will not be allowed to compete at the Youth fair in January 2026.

If a participant needs special assistance/allowances, please notify the Archery committee ahead of time so that proper accommodations can be made.

Dress Code: Closed toe shoes are required and long pants are recommended.

All archery equipment will only be allowed at the range and nowhere else on fairgrounds. Equipment must be kept in competitor's vehicle until time for their division's check-in. Participants will not handle bows or arrows until receiving permission from the Range Officer. Those who fail to meet this criteria will be disqualified. This requirement is necessary to maintain a safe and fun atmosphere.

Range will be maintained by certified 4-H archery instructors or those certified by "Archery in the School".

There will positively be no coaching of a shooter while on the range during the competition by parents, coaches, leaders or any other adult. The person committing the offense will be excused from the range.

There will be no arguing with a range commander by a shooter or adult regarding correction or elimination of a shooter for an infraction of a rule.

All range commanders have the right to correct or eliminate a shooter from the competition for the infraction of any rule listed in the 2026 Polk County Youth Fair Rules and Regulations. The range commander's decision will be final.

Participants can enter only one of the following divisions: Divisions are divided by ages as of September 1, 2025: junior(8-10 years old, intermediate(11-13 years old), senior(14-18 years old)

<i>Class Number</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Junior Instinctive Long or Recurve Bow
2	Junior Sighted Long or Recurve Bow
3	Junior Instinctive Compound
4	Junior Sighted Compound
5	Intermediate Instinctive Long or Recurve Bow
6	Intermediate Sighted Long or Recurve Bow
<i>Class Number</i>	<i>Description</i>
7	Intermediate Instinctive Compound
8	Intermediate Sighted Compound
9	Senior Instinctive Long or Recurve Bow
10	Senior Sighted Long or Recurve Bow
11	Senior Instinctive Compound
12	Senior Sighted Compound

Participants will use their own archery equipment which includes bow, arrows, arm guard, finger glove or tab, and quiver. All of these are required.

Quivers must be clip on hip quivers.

Hand carrying of arrows will not be permitted.

The Youth Fair will not provide any equipment.

Each archer must provide an adequate number of arrows to compete. That would mean a minimum of five arrows with at least two extras in case of damage or loss.

Each participant is responsible for the safe condition of his/her equipment. The Archery Committee reserves the right to safety inspect any equipment and pull it from the competition if found unsafe. If equipment is found to be over weight limit the participant will not be allowed to compete.

Maximum bow weight allowed in any division is 50 pounds. This can be checked any time before or during the match. If equipment is found to be over 50 pounds at any time the competitor will not be allowed to participate or complete the competition and all previous scores will be thrown out.

A nocking point indicator is required to position the nock of an arrow on the string. The nocking point indicator may be of any conventional design, including materials that may be crimped, wound or heat shrunk to the center serving.

An arrow must be released off of an arrow shelf or an arrow rest. The use of an overdraw arrow shelf or rest is prohibited.

Arrows consist of a shaft with a target or practice point, nock, fletching and personal identification markings. Arrows must be sound and spined for the bow.

At full draw, arrows must extend a minimum of 1" beyond the back of the bow.

Release aids may be used only by compound shooters. Competence with the equipment must be demonstrated before the release aid may be used.

Sky drawing is not allowed. Bringing arrow up from ground to shooting position during draw is permissible. Bringing arrow down to shooting position during draw is not permissible.

Commands for shooting will be done by the whistle method and are as follows:

- 2 blasts - go to shooting line
- 1 blast - shoot designated amount of arrows
- 3 blasts - retrieve arrows

Quick multiple blast - cease fire

40 centimeter FITA targets will be used for the competition. The distance from the shooting line to the target will be:

- Juniors - 30 feet
- Intermediate - 45 feet
- Seniors - 60 feet

Course of fire will consist of 3 ends of 5 arrows each. Five practice arrows will be allowed. Time limit for each arrow end will be five minutes.

Scoring is as such:

- Gold - 9 and 10 point rings
- Smallest center ring is 10 points for compound bows.
- Red - 7 and 8 point rings
- Blue - 5 and 6 point rings
- Black - 3 and 4 point rings
- White - 1 and 2 point rings

Any shaft that fails to remain in the target, such as pass throughs or bounce outs, may be scored by the mark on the target face.

In case of a tied score the winner will be determined by the most number of 10's scored. If still tied then determination will continue with number of 9's, then 8's, and so on. If still tied then a winner will be determined by the "Number Game". There will be a clear cut winner.

Awards will be given to the top six scores in each division.

Family & Consumer Science Department

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 1, 2025	Online Registration Begins
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old
December 5, 2025 - 5:00 pm	Chili Cook Off Contest PAPER Entry Forms Due
December 5, 2025 – 5:00 PM	Cake Auction Buyer Letters Due
January 9, 2026 – 11:59 pm	Scrap Off ONLINE Entry Due
January 19, 2026 11:59 pm	Non-Perishable Online entries due with paid entry fee (NO PAPER ENTRIES ALLOWED)
January 20, 2026 3:00pm – 7:00pm	Non-Perishable Exhibits Check In CAKE AUCTION ENTRIES ARE DUE, NO ONLINE ENTRIES <i>*Approved cake containers will be available for purchase</i>
January 22, 2026 11:59 pm	Perishable ONLINE entries due with paid entry fee SPECIAL EVENTS entries due ONLINE, no fee required. (NO PAPER ENTRIES ALLOWED)
January 23, 2026 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Perishable and Food Preservation Exhibits Check-in – Stuart Center <i>*Approved cake containers will be available for purchase</i>
xJanuary 25, 2026 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Cakes For Auction Check-in (Stuart Center)
January 30, 2026 3:30 pm	Stuart Center Tri-Color Awards

Class numbers must be entered online using the terms in classifications listed. Exhibitors entering online signify the rules and regulations have been read by the exhibitor, the parent/guardian, 4-H Leader or teacher understand and agree to abide by rules and regulations.

Only class numbers listed are eligible for exhibit and only one exhibit per class number is allowed.

Entries must have been completed by an individual (not group project) since the 2026 Youth Fair and evaluated in a 4-H, FCCLA, YLPA or FFA activity. **An entry from a previous year may not be repaired/updated/refinished and then reentered in any upcoming fair.**

xAll forms including exhibit tags, recipes, judges sheets etc. that are required to be submitted with exhibit must be attached to each exhibit and must be completely filled out legibly in ink. Exhibit tags will be available prior to the fair. Judges sheets are available online and in the Stuart Center during check-in for pick up. All paperwork (including judges sheets) must be completed by 7:00 pm.

Cell phone use by an exhibitor is NOT permitted during ANY contest in the Stuart Center.

Exhibits not conforming to directions will be lowered one ribbon place. Judges may reject or disqualify entries that they deem unworthy. **The Youth Fair encourages QUALITY not quantity.**

ALL PROJECTS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE ARRIVAL. ALL paper work must be completed by 7:00 p.m. Judges sheets are available online, please print and pre-fill them out before you arrive.

Tri-color rosettes may be awarded for outstanding (Best of Show) exhibits in any department by the judges and approved by the Department Superintendent. **Tri-Color winners and cake auction winners from a previous year may not enter an item made exactly like their winning entry (Example: may not use same recipe, pattern, etc.).**

xAll winners of the Tri-Color, Best of Show and Family and Consumer Sciences Special Events will be awarded at the

Tri-Color Awards ceremony, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026, at 3:00 pm., in the Stuart Center.

Exhibits judged as a white ribbon will not receive premium points. This rule applies for all Family and Consumer Sciences Department exhibits.

Child Development Department

A descriptive paragraph must accompany each project stating age level, explaining the intended use, how it addresses development, and when necessary how the product works. This statement must be attached to the project.

Items made from kits need to be labeled "KIT."

Items must be safe for children to play with or use. Safety of product is important.

Class Numbers and Description:

CD01	Babysitting kits or accessories (include one handmade item and list of contents with intended purpose)	CD06	Toy for toddler (one to three)
CD02	Child's Book	CD07	Toy for preschooler (three to five)
CD03	Game suitable for child	CD08	Teaching Portfolio
CD04	Storytelling aids (Example: puppets, flannel board) Story must accompany exhibit. Copies are acceptable. Mark if story is original.	CD09	Teaching Aide
CD05	Toy for infant (birth to one)	CD10	Other (not to duplicate previous categories)

xClothing Exhibits

Exhibits must be clean, pressed, and ready to water. All garments must be on hangers. Failure to comply will result in the lowering of 1 ribbon places.

Only class #C18 decorated garment may have purchased item that has been embellished. Recycled articles in class #C21 and class #C22, cannot resemble original use. Must be new use for old item. **Must be accompanied by what was done to purchased item.**

Class Numbers and Description:

C01	Apron (half, bibtop, pinafore)	C14	Sleep or lounge wear
C02	Clothing accessory (belt, tie, scarf, hat, wallet)	C15	Swimwear or beachwear
C03	Fabric bag (handbag, tote bag or purse)	C16	Coat or jacket
C04	Lingerie	C17	Costumes (examples: Historical or Halloween)
C05	Pants (shorts, slacks or skorts)	C18	Decorated garment using appliqués, embroidery, fabric painting, bead/rhinestone work, or vinyl. A list of embellishments must be attached to the garment. Garment will not be judged, only the technique."

C06	Skirt	C19	Crocheted or knitted accessory	Page 59
C07	Shirt	C20	Crocheted or knitted garment (label if knitting machine used)	

C08	Shirt (different pattern used for 1911)	C21	Recycled article (must be accompanied by description of article before it was recycled and explanation of what was done)
C09	Clothing for infant or preschooler	C22	Recycled article (must be different from C21 and must be accompanied by description of article before it was recycled and explanation of what was done)
C10	After 5 wear (long or short)	C23	Handmade jewelry - single item
C11	Dress	C24	Handmade jewelry set - must include 3 items; EARRINGS ARE 1 ITEM
C12	One piece outfit (gaucho, jumpsuit or tennis dress)	C25	Other(not a duplicate of any other item)
xC13	Ensemble (2 or more pieces that match or coordinate)		

Educational Exhibitors

Educational Exhibits should be informative and interesting. Exhibitors are encouraged to include examples that show or illustrate the topic as a part of the exhibit. Posters should be used to "tell" what the example(s) "show".

Educational exhibits should be related to a 4-H or school project.

A complete and appropriate Project Summary page (not a 4-H record book) **is required**, and must be included with the exhibit.

It is recommended that these forms be submitted in a folder properly labeled with exhibitor name and name of exhibit. Project Summary forms are available online at www.pcyf.net under Family and Consumer Sciences division. Each exhibitor will be allowed to exhibit one educational exhibit.

Purpose: Educational exhibits will be judged on the following criteria:

- A. The appropriateness of the theme as a learning experience for the student
- B. How well the exhibit communicates a message to the general public
- C. Attractiveness and neatness of the exhibit
- D. Quality of the Project Summary form (appropriate, neat, complete).

Standard 48" x 36" Science Fair boards required. Minimum letter size ½". Each exhibit must have a clearly stated theme or title. Each part of the exhibit must relate to that central theme.

Exhibitors should complete a Youth Fair entry form as follows: Educational exhibit - Educational Display - 1401 - Florida Environment. The title of the exhibit should be written under "Description".

Each exhibit will be screened at the time of check-in for the following:

1. Completed Project Summary form
2. Neatness and attractiveness
3. Fulfilling the requirements of an Educational Display

If an educational display includes a live animal, the student is responsible for the care and safety of the animal. Valuable collections, such as coins, should not be entered because the Youth Fair cannot guarantee against theft.

Class Numbers and Description:

E01	Florida Environment: To inform the general public about an environmental concern. (Examples: endangered wildlife, water use and quality, mined-land reclamation, Asian cockroach, etc.).
E02	General: To inform and create interest among the general public on a selected theme. (Examples: home safety, insect pests in the home garden, poisonous plants, etc.).
E03	How-To: To show the general public an aspect or process related to making something or participating in a hobby. (Examples: collecting insects, making an object (syrup, lamp, sandals, etc.), mastering "close-up" photography, etc.).
E04	Scientific Experiments: Must state very briefly what is being measured, method, summary of results and importance of experiment. This must be done through specimens and visuals, not in report form. Supplementary materials may be included in the project summary form.

xFood Preservation Exhibits (due at perishable checkin, FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026)

Categories 01-14 must be in sealed standard **clear** glass canning jars. Other categories must be displayed appropriately. Paraffin on jellies and jams is not permitted. Decorated lids are unnecessary.

All entries must include a label with the name of the exhibitor, product name, date of preserving, and method of preservation. Labels must be affixed to the jars.

Exhibitors should follow the USDA guidelines online at:

[Home Page - National Center for Home Food Preservation \(uga.edu\)](https://nchfp.uga.edu/)

Recipes must be included.

- Processing procedure and processing time must be included on recipe.
- Inverting of jars as a process of sealing is not acceptable.
- Judges have the option of opening the exhibit for tasting.
- Dirty jars will be lowered 1 ribbon placing.
- Dry canning is not allowed.

Class Numbers and Description:

FP01	Berries	FP11	Tomatoes (whole or cut up)
FP02	Fruit or Vegetable juice	FP12	Other Products (barbecue sauce, salsa, etc.)
FP03	Jams	xFP13	Fruits (any kind)
FP04	Jellies	FP14	Syrup (recipe must be included)
FP05	Sweet Spread (fruit butter)	FP15	Flavored Vinegars
FP06	Marmalades, Preserves or Conserves	FP16	Flavored Oils
FP07	Pickles (any kind)	FP17	Dehydrated meats ½ cup or 12 slices
FP 08	Relishes or Chutneys (any kind)	FP 18	Dehydrated fruit for snacks ½ cup or 12 slices
FP 09	Tomato Juice	FP 19	Dehydrated vegetables ½ cup or 12 slices

FP 10	Tomato or Vegetable Sauce, puree or ketchup	FP 20	Pressure canned (soups, stews, meats etc.)
		FP 21	Vegetables (any kind)

A recipe form (you may use your own or one provided by Youth Fair) **MUST** be attached to each exhibit, including class #29 when a homemade product is included. **Recipes will not be returned to the exhibit.**

All food exhibits will be judged for taste with the exception of class #F29.

Exhibits must contain exact number of items specified in class.

The Fair reserves the right to discard food items which deteriorate and become unattractive for display. **No foods will be returned to exhibitors.** The Fair will dispose of all foods at the close of the Fair for health and safety reasons.

Tri-Color winners and cake auction winners from a previous year may not enter an item made exactly like their winning entry (Example: may not use same recipe, pattern, etc.).

Disposable containers are **REQUIRED**. These containers should be no more than 2" larger than exhibit. Container may not be larger than 19"x 19" x 19". Items should be securely wrapped and visible through clear plastic or Ziploc bag. Items not in or on a disposable container will not be accepted. **Container must fit and be securely closed.** Cake containers will be for sale at non-perishable check in for \$2.00. Decorated cakes should be in a disposable container also, but does not have to be a round container.

No canned, fresh fruit, or vegetables **may** be used as decoration or in frosting without being cooked (examples: strawberry, pineapple, mandarin oranges, peppers, broccoli, fresh coconut, cherries, etc.).

No item requiring refrigeration, warming or additional cooking will be accepted. No separate containers for additional ingredients. Examples of items requiring refrigeration include cheesecakes, meringue, custard, pudding, whipped cream, cool whip and all pies. Any entry containing any item needing refrigeration will be disqualified. Cream cheese icings are permissible.

After judging the Fair reserves, the right to use appropriate containers to display tri-color entries.

No cakes or baked goods will be accepted in pans they were baked in.

Class #12 - Recipe must include a mix and additional ingredients. Those ingredients must be in addition to those required on the box. Class #12 is the only class where a mix is permissible.

No bread machine, canned, frozen, or packaged bread products may be used. This includes **no** Bisquick except in Classes F12. **Class #F34 and #F35 are not to be baked or cooked- ONLY DRY INGREDIENTS ARE TO BE USED.**

No store bought items can be entered except in Classes #F12 and F29. A recipe must be included for any items made by the exhibitor. All loaves of bread must be standard size. No mini loaves will be accepted.

xFOODS (due at perishable checkin, FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026)

- **No Mug cakes will be accepted in any category.**
- **No cakes will be accepted in the pans they were baked in.**
- **Purchased decorations (gum paste, flowers, fondant flower) must be listed on the recipe.**
- **If handmade, the recipe must be provided.**

Class Numbers and Description:

F 01	Loaf, muffins without yeast	1 loaf or 12 muffins
F 02	Coffee Cake without yeast	1
F 03	Biscuits or cornbread without yeast	12
F 04	Loaf or rolls with yeast	1 loaf or 12 muffins
F 05	Specialty bread -such as braids with yeast	1
F 06	Cookies (No purchased mixes, bar cookies or cereal treats accepted. All 12 cookies must be the same recipe.)	12
F07	Bar Cookies (No DROPS COOKIES, NO RICE KRISPY TREATS)	12
F 08	No Bake Treats	12
F 09	Cookies using ¼ cup or more of citrus	12
F 10	Cookies using ¼ cup or more of honey	12
F 11	Cookies using ¼ cup or more of blueberries or strawberries	12
F 12	Product with mix as an ingredient	1 loaf or 1 cake/12 cookies/12 muffins/12 cupcakes
F 13	Cakes made from scratch 10" or less (uncut brownies are not accepted)	1
F 14	Decorated Cakes (must be labeled made from MIX or SCRATCH) CAKES WILL BE TASTED. Purchased decorations must be noted in the recipe.	1
F 15	Bread or Cake using 1/4 cup or more of citrus	1
F 16	Bread or Cake using 1/4 cup or more of honey	1
F 17	Bread or Cake using 1/4 cup or more of blueberries or strawberries	1
F 18	Cupcakes from scratch	12
F 19	Cupcakes, muffins, or rolls using 1/4 cup or more of citrus	12
F 20	Cupcakes, muffins, or rolls using 1/4 cup or more of honey	12
F 21	Cupcakes, muffins, rolls using 1/4 cup or more of blueberries or strawberries	12
F 22	Cakes - Pound	1
F 23	Candy – any kind (cereal treats not accepted)	12
F 24	Candy using 1/4 cup or more of citrus	12
F 25	Candy using 1/4 cup or more of honey	12
F 26	Candy using 1/4 cup or more of blueberries or strawberries	12
F 27	Microwave bread, cake, etc.	1
F 28	Microwave candy or cookies	12
F 29	Creative Edible Decoration/Decorative Food – judged on creative, artistic value (does not require covering)	1 cake/6 items or more (not a decorated cake)
F 30	Cake Pops	12 items
F 31	Sugar Free Product	1 cake/12 items
F 32	Gluten Free Product	1 cake/12 items
F 33	Other (pumpkin in rolls, petit fours, etc. Project Summary & Steps must be included)	1 roll/12 items
xF 34	Desserts in jar (see judges sheets)	1

xF 35	Meals in a jar (see judges' sheets)	1
F 36	Citrus Gift Box (no cut or pierced fruit allowed)	1
xF 37	Fresh Citrus Centerpiece (no cut or pierced fruit allowed) should only include fruit, fruit leaves and blossoms.	1
xF 38	Fresh Citrus Arrangement - Polk County Youth Fair will not be responsible for display container. Should only include fruit, fruit leaves and blossoms.	1

Home Furnishing Exhibits

All exhibits must be completed and ready to use or hang. Hangers must be attached when appropriate. Exhibits made from kits must be labeled "KIT" on the exhibit tag. **NO ART WORK ACCEPTED (IE. PEN AND INK, PAINTING CHARCOAL DRAWING, CERAMICS OR OTHER FINE ART)** No purchased items will be accepted with the exception of category #HF23 xGift Baskets for Silent Auction:

Baskets entered in class #HF38 that are judged the best will be placed in a silent auction. By entering a gift basket for auction class, exhibitors agree to sell the basket. Gift baskets entered for the silent auction will not receive premium points. Container may not be larger than 24" LONG x18" WIDE. Bidding will begin SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026. 11:00 am until FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 3:00 pm Bidding will begin at \$25.00 for all baskets chosen for the auction. Each exhibitor participating in the gift basket auction will be assessed a 5% fee to be deducted from the sale of their gift basket. Each exhibitor participating in the gift basket auction is required to submit a copy of their thank you notes to the Youth Fair Office. Payment will not be made until thank you letters are received.

Class Numbers and Description:

HF01	Door Decoration
HF 02	Floral Arrangement
HF 03	Table centerpiece - no taller than 15 inches
HF 04	Wall decoration (not artwork) - must have an appropriate hanger attached
HF 05	Wreath - must have a hanger – it can be loop with made of wire for example
HF 06	Fabric Covered Book
HF 07	Fabric lined or fabric covered Basket
HF 08	Fabric accessories (shoe bag, garment bag, purse caddy, sewing kit, etc.)
HF 09	Fabric furnishings/bath (shower curtain, toilet seat cover, etc.)
HF 10	Fabric furnishings/bed (bedspread, dust ruffle, coverlet, etc. twin or larger in size, no throws accepted)
HF 11	Fabric furnishings/kitchen (small appliance cover, minimum of 2 each: pot holders, mitts, dish towels)
HF 12	Fabric furnishings/table (tablecloth, napkins) napkins - minimum of 4, placemats - minimum of 4; table runner

HF 13	Framed needlework - needlework will be judged
HF 14	Pillow
HF 15	Rug
HF 16	Quilt -any size; must be pieced, tied, hand or machine quilted
HF 17	Blanket or Throw - can be crocheted, knitted or fleece
HF 18	Tree Skirt
HF 19	Window treatment
HF 20	Homemade Dolls - including mop dolls, rag dolls, and stuffed animals (no kits)
HF 21	Hoop hanging (ready to hang)
HF 22	*Purchased home furnishing item with decorative painting, tie die, etc. **A description of the steps taken must attached to the item
HF 23	Purchased home furnishing item with machine embroidery or hand stitching, etc. **A description of the steps taken must attached to the item
HF 24	Holiday Home Furnishings Item (no ornaments)
HF 25	Three Holiday Ornaments (can be different)
HF 26	Lamp - not purchased
HF 27	Lamp shade (shade must be handmade not purchased) (Lamp shade form may be used)
HF 28	Furniture -refinished (only finish will be judged)
HF 29	Furniture -upholstered (only upholstery will be judged)
HF 30	Scrapbooking Project (must be a book with minimum of 5 pages, front and back, completed by an individual, appropriate pictures only)
HF 31	Digital Scrapbooking Project (must be a book with minimum of 5 pages, front and back, completed by an individual, appropriate pictures only)
HF 32	Pet/Animal Project (dog bed, pet organizer, food storage center, etc.)
HF 33	Outdoor wood craft (not judged for woodworking skills)
HF 34	Homemade candles/soap. Must include ingredients and directions.
HF 35	Woven item
HF 36	Braiding, Plaiting, Weaving and Knot Tying (useful and or decorative items made from string, rope, cord strips of leather or strips of synthetic material. Examples: animal halters, horse tack, whips, belts, survival bracelets, mats, and macramé' plant hangers.
HF 37	Gift Basket- Large over 15" (on the outside of measurement of the basket) (must include something handmade by exhibitor and be labeled as such). Include list of contents, price list and total cost on <i>outside of the container</i> . Difficulty of handmade item will be taken into consideration. NOTE: Container does not need to be a basket

HF 38	Gift Basket for Silent Auction (container does not need to be a basket) - (must include something handmade by exhibitor and be labeled as such). Include list of contents, price list and total cost on <i>outside of the container</i> . Difficulty of handmade item will be taken in to consideration. We recommend baskets be wrapped in clear cellophane for safety.
HF 39	Small Gift Baskets (15" inches or smaller, on the outside measurement of basket or container) See rules for Class #37
HF 40	Eco Friendly Project example: reusable shopping bag
HF 41	Recycled article (must be accompanied by description of article before it was recycled and steps taken to upcycle the article). Article must be different than the original*
HF 42	Recycled article (must be accompanied by description of article before it was recycled and steps taken to upcycle the article). Article must be completely different than 41 . Example: not two purses, but may be a purse and a lamp
HF 43	Other home furnishing item (not a duplicate of any other category)

Metal Work Exhibits

Metal Works exhibits are non-perishable entries and are due **TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**. All exhibits must be free standing, no larger than 5 feet in any direction. No group projects are allowed. Projects must include FCS Project Summary Book (not a 4-H record book) located on the PCYF website. Committee reserves the right to not accept any project if deemed hazardous (example: too many sharp points or edges) **The exhibitor awarded Best in Show will have the option to sell their project prior to the Steer Sale on Friday, January 30, 2026. The FCS representative will coordinate directly with the qualifying exhibitor.**

Class Numbers and Description:

Utility:		Artistic:	
MW01	Welding with use of stick	MW04	Welding with use of stick
MW02	Welding with use of wire	MW05	Welding with use of wire
MW03	Other welded item with use of wire	MW06	Other welded item with use of stick

Outdoor Sport Equipment

Outdoor Sport Equipment exhibits are non-perishable entries and are due TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 Projects include fishing poles, fishing lures, golf clubs, baseball bats, etc. Sharp objects in a project must be covered for safety. No group projects are allowed. Projects must include Project Summary Book (not a 4- H record book). Project summary book available online at www.pcyf.net.

Committee reserves the right to not accept any project if deemed hazardous (example: too many sharp points or edges)

Class Numbers and Description:

OS01	Fishing Pole: Salt Water	OS 05	Golf Clubs
OS 02	Fishing Pole: Fresh Water	OS 06	Baseball Bats
OS 03	Lures: Fresh Water	OS 07	Other: not a duplicate
OS 04	Lures: Salt Water	OS 08	Other: not a duplicate

xPhotography Exhibits

Exhibitors may enter no more than four categories. **Only one exhibit per category.** Photography exhibits are non-perishable entries and are due TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026. All single enlargements and special effects photographs must be titled matted **AND** framed. All photo series must be titled, mounted, and framed. All photographs must be ready to hang using one hook at the center of back. **All photographs should be appropriate for a youth competition.**

***All photographs must be labeled with the exhibitors name and club or school on the back of the piece.**

***Photographs must be printed on photo paper (gloss or matte).**

All photographs within a series should be of the same size, no smaller than 4" x 6" and no larger than 5" x 7". They should all be in color or all in black and white. xPictures should be attached securely. The total finished product should not be any larger than 16" x 20".

All mounting and photographic work, except developing, must be the exhibitor's effort.

xFraming Changes:

Photographers Choice, Practice Series, Story Series

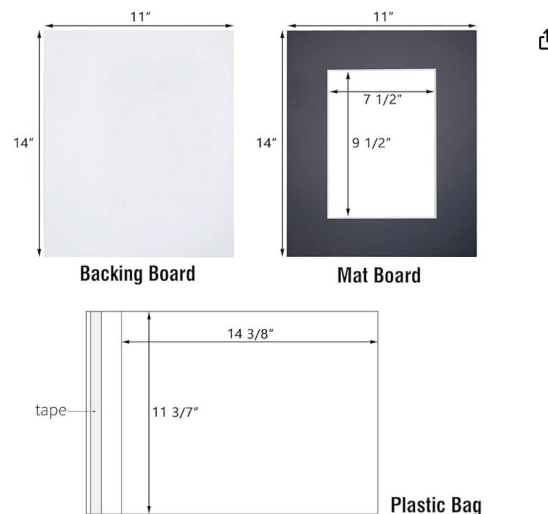
Must be framed in a 16 x 20 poster frame; do not use the frames that push together.



xSingle Enlargements and Special Effects:

Mounting kits will be used for single enlargements. They may be purchased at the link here. They may be purchased during the week between December 1st, 2025 – December 23, 2025 at the youth fair office.

Or at an art supply store.



All labels should be on front of exhibit. Labels should include title but not exhibitor's name.

Awards will be given for Best Single Enlargement, Best Series and Best Special Effects. Judging will be on overall presentation. This includes the quality of the photograph, matting, framing, labeling, and hanger. Placings will be lowered if rules are not followed. Mounting kits must include a black matte

8. Categories are defined as:

Photographer's Choice:

Class #P01. A series of five photographs chosen by photographer. Photos do not have to be related. The photographs must be displayed as a group. Photographs will be judged as a group. Each photograph is to be individually labeled underneath with a title. **Each project should have a label on the back containing the category name and number.**

Practice Series:

Class #P02. A series of five photographs containing one each of the following:

1. An interesting building or architectural structure (statue, fountain, archway)
2. An unusual tree or landscape
3. A person or portrait
4. A flower or flowering plant
5. An animal

Each photograph is to be individually labeled underneath with a title. Photographs must be displayed as a group.

Photographs will be judged as a group

Each project should have a label on the back containing the category name and number.

Story Series:

Class #P03. A series of five photographs that tell a story in sequence. All photographs must be displayed as a group. All photographs will be judged as a group. Each photograph is to be labeled underneath with a comment explaining the steps in the story. An additional label is also required with a title for the whole series.

Single Enlargement:

Class #P04. Photographs must be enlarged to 8" x 10". This does not include matting and frame size. Photographs enlarged on digital devices will be judged as digital enlargements. Photographs must be of fine quality, attractively matted, placed in mat board kit; found here. xPhotographs must be labeled with title and state SINGLE ENLARGEMENT.

Special Effects:

Class #P05. Includes such things as **MAJOR** alterations (anything more than 50% of original print). Such things as changing a photo from color to sepia or black and white is not considered a special effect. Photography must be enlarged to 8" x 10". This does not include matting and frame. Photographs must be of fine quality, attractively matted **AND** framed. **Attractively matted AND framed with the required mounting kit.** An original photograph before alterations must be attached on back of entry and can be 4"x6" or 5"x7". Also a list of what special effects were done and the process to achieve those effects must be listed on back. Judging will be on overall presentation and final appearance of photo.

Woodworking Exhibits

A completed FCS Project Summary (not a 4-H record book) is required and available at www.pcyf.net. Plans and directions are to be attached to the entry. **Exhibits are non-perishable entries and are due Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

It is recommended that the Project Summary, plans and directions be submitted in a folder properly labeled with exhibitor name and name of exhibit. Project summary forms are available from the Youth Fair office.

Exhibits entered must be cut, assembled, sanded, finished (if applicable) by the exhibitor and ready for use.

Each exhibitor is eligible to submit five entries, but only one made from kit. Duplicate entries are not allowed (i.e. only one bird house).

Class Numbers and Description:

WW01	Cut or constructed from kit	WW04	Items not made from a kit
WW02	Item not made from a kit	WW05	Item not made from a kit
WW03	Item not made from a kit	WW06	Item not made from a kit

xSPECIAL ACTIVITES

Special activities – All events occur in the Stuart Center except for the Cake Auction. Judges reserve the right to award ribbons according to quality of product. For Example, a blue ribbon is not guaranteed for a single entry. Please contact the FACS committee if there are conflicts with special activity event times and other fair activities.

NO entry fee required for special events in the Family and Consumer Sciences Division. Entries for special events are due ONLINE on Thursday January 22, 2026. ONLY ONLINE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED with the exception of the following:

*Scrap-Off will be due January 9th online.

*Chili Cook Off will be mailed in by Friday, December 5, 2025.

*Cake Auction will be turned in during Non-Perishable Check in on TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

xCake Auction

<i>Important Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>
September 1, 2025	Exhibitor must be 8 years old
December 5, 2025 5:00 pm	Buyer's letters due (Must be postmarked by December 5, 2025) NO emailed copies will not be accepted.
January 20, 2026 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Entry form for Cake Auction and Cake Recipe due at non-perishable check in IT IS NOT ONLINE No faxed or emailed entries will be accepted. Must turn in paper form, in person on this day!
January 25, 2026 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Check in of Cakes for Auction – Stuart Center
January 26, 2026 10:00 am & 12:00 pm	Cake Auction

✕CAKE MIXES CAN BE USED AS PART OF A RECIPE AND MUST INCLUDE OTHER INGREDIENTS THAT WILL ENCHANCE THE CAKE. A Mix CAN BE USED AS A BASE OF THE CAKE AND MUST BE REFLECTED IN THE RECIPE. NO CAKES REQUIRING REFRIGERATION WILL BE ACCEPTED.

FROZEN CAKES WILL NOT BE JUDGED!

No canned, fresh fruit, or vegetables may be used as decoration (example: strawberry, pineapple, mandarin oranges, peppers, broccoli, fresh coconut, cherries). No item requiring refrigeration include cheesecakes, meringue, custard, pudding, whipped cream, cool whip. Cream cheese icings are permissible. Purchased decorations must be noted in recipes.

Exhibitors entering a cake to be considered for auction must **pre-register on TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**, between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Stuart Center during the non-perishable check-in. No emailed, no mailed and no hand delivered forms to the youth fair office will be accepted. A recipe must be submitted with pre-registration cake auction entry form on TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026. At that time exhibitors may purchase a cardboard display disk and plastic cover for \$2.00. All cakes considered for auction must be displayed on these disks with these covers. xCake must fit in the purchased cake cover Cakes will not be transferred to these disks at check-in. Failure to follow this rule will disqualify cake. A completed exhibit tag must be submitted at check-in. The cake that is entered on SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 must match pre-registration entry form and recipe that was submitted January 20, 2026 or cake will be disqualified.

The exhibitor must sign in and designate a telephone number where they can be contacted that evening after the judging is completed should their cake be chosen for auction. xExhibitors will be notified BY 8:00 p.m. if chosen to have their cake auctioned as soon as cakes are judged. Only winners will be notified. A maximum of ten (10) cakes will be selected to be

auctioned.

Exhibitor may not enter more than one cake to be considered for auction. Exhibitor must be present to auction their own cake. If exhibitor is not present for the cake auction, cake will not be sold. Exhibitors who enter a cake for auction or exhibitors who auction their cakes will not receive additional premiums, or tri-color award, but will be awarded a special blue ribbon and will be invited to attend the awards ceremony. Each exhibitor participating in the cake auction is required to submit copies of thank you notes to buyers.

xCAKE DECORATION CONTEST

Online entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

Activity scheduled for THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 4:00 PM – 6:00 pm

You must bring your own supplies for this contest.

- Styrofoam cake form(s) - maximum 2 tiers, bottom tier no larger than 16 inches
- Prepared white buttercream icing

Specific Equipment for Cake Decorating:

Gel or paste icing colors (participant's choice); Pastry bags and couplers, any size/type Grease-proof cake board; Pastry tips of participants' choice; Cake turntable; Assorted spatulas, as needed; Rose nail; Scissors; Bowls or containers for mixing colors

Cake Decorating Parameters:

1. Styrofoam cake form(s) - maximum 2 tiers, bottom tier no larger than 16 inches.
2. Cake side must be smooth iced with buttercream – no combed or patterned sides.
3. The bottom border of the cake must be a shell border.
4. The top border of the cake must be a rosette border.
5. Three (3) buttercream roses and leaves.
6. Scripting – participants will be given a message to write at the time of the competition, in cursive (script), on the cake (spelling counts).

xCHILI COOK-OFF CONTEST

Entry forms are due December 5, 2025. Forms can be found on the youth fair website. Forms must be mailed in. Event will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Check-in at 12:30 pm.

The Chili Cook Off will consist of a maximum of 32 teams. Each 4-H Club, YLPA, FFA Chapter or FCCLA Chapter will be allowed to enter up to two teams (an A team and a B team). Once the A teams have been selected, any remaining slots will be chosen by Lottery Draw from the B Teams. **Chosen teams will be notified as soon as possible. All teams will be called if they been selected to participate. Once teams are notified the first 32 teams will be listed on the PCYF website. Chosen teams will also be listed on the youth fairs Facebook page.**

xTeam members and alternates can be changed with approval from the committee prior to WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 at noon. (email Leann.bennett@polk-fl.net before 12PM) Team members must declare team A or B Teachers/Leaders must designate A or B on Entry Form. If names are on both teams, they will be disqualified. Teams **who need to cancel** have until Wednesday January 21 2026 to contact the chili chairperson so that he can get a replacement, and there will be no penalty. Each team will be composed of 3 members. Teams may come from 4-H, FFA, YLPA or FCCLA. Only registered members of the team may be in the booth during the entire time. All team members must be present at 12:30 for check- in. Those teams not present at this time will be disqualified. Once check in of teams is complete, no parents, 4-H leaders, FFA advisors, FCCLA advisors will be allowed past the point of check in. 4-H leaders, FFA advisors, FCCLA advisors & YLPA advisors are not allowed in the Stuart Center during set up and preparation. Tables will be assigned at 12:45 p.m. in the Stuart Center on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026. At that time teams may begin to decorate and set up their booth. **A 2.5' x 8' table and 3 chairs will be provided and cannot be moved. Each team will have a 5 ft. working area behind the table – starting at the table and nothing on the sides.** Any other table or props for storage or supplies or decoration must be provided by the team. When decorating booth be sure to bear in mind any safety hazards. **Contestants are allowed 3 ft. in front of the table for decorations. No decorations will be allowed behind the table. Chili should be incorporated into your display/decorations.** Costumes for team members will be considered part of the booth decoration. **xEach team must have an 8 ½ x 11 sign with name of club and theme on display.**

Any worktable cannot be larger than 2.5' x 6'. Winning teams' signs and trophies will be on display until the end of

the fair.

No spectators will be allowed in Stuart Center until notified by committee.

No canned or premade chili allowed. No ingredient may be pre-cooked or treated in any way prior to the starting time which will begin at 1:00 p.m. Meat may be pre-cut or ground but not treated in any way. All other ingredients must be chopped or prepared during the preparation period.

Set up, preparation and cooking will be for a maximum of 2 hours from start time. Cooking during the entire cooking period is at the sole discretion of the team.

Teams are responsible for supplying their own utensils, small appliances, etc. The Stuart Center kitchen facilities may not be used. Please bring refrigerated items in a cooler. No gas or open flames are allowed. Only one electric appliance 1,000 watts or less (i.e. crock pot, fry pan, food processor, etc.) may be operating and plugged in at one time. No multiple outlets are allowed. Extension cords and surge protectors must be provided by each team.

Teams **may not** bring their own chili serving cups. Serving cups will be provided by Youth Fair.

Teams must use a cutting board.

Members of teams must have their hair pulled back and must wear gloves when preparing food. Must be appropriately dressed. NO Tank tops.

Each team must cook a minimum of **two quarts** of chili. Teams are encouraged to prepare additional quantities of chili to serve. Teams are encouraged to bring recipes to share.

Each team will be assigned a team number by the director and will be given a container in which their chili will be

collected at the time of the official judging. A copy of the team's recipe must be submitted with the sample. After the official judges have collected their sample for judging, the spectators will be given the opportunity to purchase a bowl and spoon in order to sample the chili. They will also be given a ticket with which to vote for their favorite chili.

Awards will be given in the following categories: Judges' Choice, People's Choice and Best Decorated Booth. Winners will be announced at 5:00 p.m. Awards will be kept in the Stuart Center until the Awards presentation on Friday afternoon. They will be displayed with the team signs until that time. Each team will be responsible for cleaning their

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area after winners are announced. Teams may recruit others to help in this task. Each team must bring their own cleaning supplies - don't forget the floor! **No coaching** is allowed. Teams will be disqualified. Chili Cook Off participants may not have cell phones during contest in the Stuart Center. If club or organization selected for this event is a "NO SHOW" they will be ineligible for this event the following year. Doors open to public at 3:00 pm

xDECORATIVE FOOD CENTERPIECE

Online entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

Activity scheduled for WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM; set up 8:45 – 9 AM **TEAM of 2 or Individuals** will create a decorative food centerpiece based on a self-selected theme. Participants will have 45 minutes to create a decorative food centerpiece that may include fruits and/or vegetables. Skewers, toothpicks, gelatin/aspic, nuts, coconut, food coloring, fresh/dried herbs and spices, edible flowers and dry ice may be used to enhance the centerpiece. **Everything must be edible except skewers and toothpicks. Forms may not be used.** The finished piece must be displayed on a tray or mirror that is not larger than 18 inches. No advanced preparation, other than the aspic or gelatin may be done. Fruits and vegetables should be washed. Participants should be prepared to answer questions concerning nutritional value, product availability, etc. Twenty minutes will be given for clean up after time is called. No pre-cut fruit. **Presentations involving food preparation require hairnets, hats, or tiebacks and the use of gloves**

Projects will be judged on:

- Appearance
- Safety and Sanitation
- Production
- Creativity
- Response to questions

A sign, no larger than 8 ½ " x 11" is to be affixed to the front of the table with exhibitor name, organization, and product item and should be decorated nicely.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Online entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

Activity scheduled for THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 beginning at 9:00 am

A **demonstration**, as in practical showing or telling how to do something (actually making an end product) or showing (demonstrating) how a product works that has already been made. A product is involved. This event will be judged and ribbons awarded. **This event is a 4-H qualifier to go to districts. Please reach out to Shree for more info**

Presentations involving food preparation require hairnets, hats, or tie backs and the use of gloves. Sanitation standards should be followed. Items which need to be measured should be done so with appropriate equipment and correct techniques.

Individuals or a two-person team (NO GROUPS) in each division may enter this event.

Both team members should be actively involved by speaking and demonstrating.

All contestants are to arrive by 8:30 a.m.

Teachers/Leaders should review and approve presentation.

Participants should be appropriately dressed.

Time Limits: Juniors: 5 to 10 minutes Intermediate: 5 to 12 minutes Seniors: 7 to 12 minutes

xILLUSTRATED TALKS CONTEST

Online entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

Activity scheduled for THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 beginning at 1:00 pm

An **illustrated talk** is an oral presentation with talking to convey information by using a variety of visual aids such as charts, pictures, models, posters, etc. **Power Point may be used, but must be emailed to pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu.**

Flash drives will not longer be accepted.. Senior division only must use PowerPoint. Be sure to email you presentation to the email mentioned above. Please print three copies of presentation for judges. Participants should be appropriately dressed. *This event is a 4-H qualifier to go to districts. Please reach out to Shree for more info*

- This event will be judged and ribbons awarded.
- Individuals or a two-person team (NO GROUPS) in each division may enter this event.
- Both team members should be actively involved in speaking.
- Teachers/Leaders should review and approve presentation.

Time Limits: Juniors - 5 to 10 minutes Intermediate: 5 to 12 minutes Seniors - 7 to 12 minutes

MANNEQUIN MODELING

xOnline entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

Young people select appropriate outfits incorporating a theme and pose as if they are a "store mannequin". Models will pose for 10 minutes. Choice of time and date will be available during registration online.

Any type of weapon or any form of violence is strictly prohibited. No references to alcohol or tobacco products. Displays should reflect positive and appropriate values. Youth Fair board members reserve the right to eliminate inappropriate entries. Participants should provide all supplies and props needed for their presentation and should be appropriately dressed.

SCRAP-OFF

xOnline entries are due by Friday, January 9, 2026

Activity scheduled for

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026, 4:00 pm -

6:00 pm Set up at 3:45 pm

Individuals will be designing and completing a double page layout on 12 x 12 pages. Paper will be provided by the fair/coordinator at the time of the contest. Everyone in their division will have the same paper. Embellishments, stickers and/or other papers are not allowed, unless provided by the fair. Participants may bring any and all tools (such as scissors, pens, punches, cricut, paper cutters, stamps, or inks) as well as providing their own adhesives. **Participants may not have cell phones, tablets, pictures, or any drawing of already planned pages during contest in the Stuart Center.** Project will be judged on:

- a. Creativity & originality
- b. Workmanship
- c. Variety of methods used (tools)

- d. Use of materials provided
- e. Appearance of completed pages.
- f. Title included
- g. Journaling and space
- h. Creativity of sign

A sign no larger than 8 ½ " x 11" is to be affixed to the front of the table with exhibitor name and organization on it.

The sign should be decorated nicely.

Participants should be properly dressed.

Participants should use school appropriate pictures.

Exhibitor's sign and finished pages will be on display until the close of the fair.

xSEW OFF CONTEST

Activity for individuals scheduled for TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026, 10:00 am - 12:00

pm Online entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

Individuals will construct a pajama pant using a basic pajama pattern and a fabric of their choice. Fabric may be prepressed but not precut. They must bring their equipment, including sewing machines, irons, ironing board, scissors, all heavy duty extension cords, surge protector, pattern guide sheet, etc. Participants may practice as much as they want before the day of the Sew-Off. Pajama pants may be embellished. **No cell phones allowed during the event.**

Projects will be judged on:

- a. Workmanship
- b. Creativity
- c. Appearance of completed pant

Participants must have a sign no larger than 8 ½ " x 11" which includes exhibitor names and club or chapter.

Participants will set up at 9:30 a.m.

The contest will be from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Participants should be appropriately dressed.

The poster and finished products will be on display until the close of the Fair.

Activity for Sew Off teams scheduled for TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026, 1:00 pm - 3:00pm

Online entries are to due by Thursday January 22, 2026

Teams of two will construct a nine patch pillow from scratch to be stuffed or fitted on a pillow form. They may use the fabric of their choice to construct a pillow of any size. They must bring their equipment, including sewing machines, irons, ironing board, scissors, all heavy duty extension cords, surge protector, etc. Participants may practice as much as they want before the day of the Sew-Off. **No cell phones allowed during the event.**

Projects will be judged on:

- a. Workmanship
- b. Creativity
- c. Appearance of completed pillow

Participants must have a sign no larger than 8 ½ " x 11" which includes exhibitor names and club or chapter.

Participants will set up at 12:30 p.m.

The contest will be from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Participants should be appropriately dressed.

The poster and finished products will be on display until the close of the Fair

STORYTELLING CONTEST

Activity scheduled for TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Online entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

This is an individual event.

Participants demonstrate knowledge of the sensory and intellectual development of 3, 4, or 5-year-old children by selecting an appropriate story for one of the three age groups or combination of age groups and presenting it with appropriate visual aids.

Observers and listeners: Parents, teachers, leaders, participants, and members of the public may observe if space is available. Participants may bring small children if desired.

All exhibitors are to arrive by 3:00 pm with a copy of the story or book and all supplies and visuals needed for the presentation. Time Limit: Up to but not more than 10 minutes

Participants will not read the story from a book but will tell the story as if a group of children were present. Storytellers will be seated at children's level.

Visuals will be used as an integral part of the presentation; however, the emphasis is on storytelling.

No visual aids using a fire or flame may be used.

The story can be original or commercially published. Handmade visuals should be suitable to the story. Visuals may be puppets, toys, flannel boards, pictures, flip charts, and any other suitable materials or objects.

Set up is to be done by exhibitor only.

Judging will be based on introduction, verbal presentation, facial expression, and visuals. The introduction should gain the attention of the children and build up an anticipation for the story. The introduction may be a finger play, song, visit

from a puppet, or conversation about the story theme. Plan a conclusion for the story, to let the children know the story is finished. The conclusion may include a review or clarification of ideas.

TABLESETTING & MENU PLANNING CONTEST

Activity scheduled for January 26, 2026, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Online entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

Seniors - set up time 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Judging of event - 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.

Intermediate - set up time 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Judging of event 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch break 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Juniors - set up time 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Judging of event 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

No limit on number from club or school, but entries should be screened at local level to assure quality exhibits.

Individual entries only, no team entries.

The table set with two place settings should have a theme (Examples: Mother's Day, breakfast or dinner to celebrate friends; grandfather's lunch to say "I Love You")

Each contestant should plan a nutritious menu appropriate for the occasion. No actual food should be displayed.

Reference to alcoholic beverages in menu prohibited. Use sparkling juices, etc.

One place card including the theme, contestant's name and club must be displayed. A menu and should be neat and legibly displayed on the table. One recipe from the menu should also be included on the table. These should be separate items.

Each contestant will be assigned a 6 x 6 area and will supply their own table and chairs or alternate display. This should be set in keeping with the theme selected. It can be as simple as or elaborate as they wish. It should include eating utensils, glasses, dishes, cloth, napkins, and centerpiece. Materials may be handmade or purchased.

The contestant should wear an outfit that would be appropriate for the theme selected.

If parents or small children interfere with the proceedings of contest, they will be asked to leave.

ONLY contestant will be allowed in the exhibit area during set-up of the tables (no teachers, leaders or parents, please).

No coaching is allowed by spectators. Students may be disqualified. Each contestant will sit at the table during the judging and a break will be announced during the contest.

Contestants are not allowed to have cell phones during contests.

Every precaution will be taken to protect exhibits, but the Youth Fair will assume no responsibility for breakage and/or theft. We advise against using sterling silver. Winning entries will remain on display until checkout on Saturday morning.

Categories:

Best Informal Outdoor Entry

Best Informal Indoor Entry

Best Formal Entry

Most Creative Entry

Best Holiday or Celebration Entry

Judges Choice

WORKING BOOTHS

xOnline entries are due by Thursday January 22, 2026

The purpose of a working booth is to show "*youth in action*". Following the consecutive steps of a project or process from beginning to end. Topics should represent things taught in clubs/classes in Family & Consumer Sciences, Agriculture and 4H. The audience will be walking by and stop to watch for a short time. It will not be necessary to talk continuously, but participants should be prepared to explain steps and answer questions for the viewers.

Any chapter/club may enter. There must be at least three participants with no more than ten (10) participants during the 2-hour period.

Teacher or leader submits entry form due at nonperishable check-in.

This is an educational activity and nothing may be sold.

Participants must be ready and prepared to start on time and the event in each working booth must last two hours or more. Adults may not help with the working booths, other than to give assistance when problems occur or in the initial set up or take down. The participants need to be always doing something. All participants must stay at the working booth for the entire two-hour period or more.

Have a poster or banner showing the name of the school or club and the names of the participants. If food is being used in the working booth, you must follow health and safety standards. No eating or drinking is allowed while you are working. Participants are responsible for cleaning up after completion of their working booth, **especially the kitchen**. **A copy of thank you note to the sponsor of Working Booths from participants is required to be turned in to the Youth Fair office before club check will be disbursed.**

xGOAT TYING SKILLS CONTEST

Entries will be accepted until SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026. Activity Scheduled:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the arena (immediately following commercial heifer show)

All contestants are to arrive by 4:30 p.m.

1. This is a skill event. Participants must be 8 years old as of September 1, 2025. The event is open to junior (ages 8-10), intermediate (11-13) and senior (14-18) age groups. An adaptive division has been added to the online registration
2. A \$20.00 goat tying skills contest fee and a \$5.00 Youth Fair entry fee will need to be paid online with entry by November 1, 2025. The amount of cash awards to be given to exhibitors will be determined by the number of exhibitors entering the contest.

The contest fee and Youth Fair fee is nonrefundable.

3. The three fastest averages out of all rotations in all age categories will receive cash awards.

EVENT RULES:

1. This is an on-foot competition, no horses required.
2. Goat will be tied to a stake with a rope 10 feet in length.
3. If the goat is down when contestant reaches it, goat must be stood on at least three feet and thrown again. The contestant must cross any three legs and tie with leather string, pigging string, or rope. The contestant will then signal finish, and they must stand clear of the goat.
4. The goat's legs must remain crossed and secure for 6 seconds after completion of tie.
5. To qualify for a legal tie, there will be one or more wraps and a half hitch hooley or knot.
6. Time will start when the participant leaves starting point at the designated starting line.
7. Time will stop when the signal of completion of tie is given.
8. All participants will provide their own tie strings.
9. Each goat will be tied two times and then replaced by a new goat.
10. Participants will tie in all rotations. Number of rotations will be contingent upon number of participants. The committee has the right to increase or decrease the number of rotations.

Scoring and Penalties:

1. Judge will flag time and flag contestant out if the run is not legal.
2. The tie must pass inspection by the judge and if it is not secure for 6 seconds the participant will receive no time.
3. Each run has a maximum time of 45 seconds. If the goat is not tied in 45 seconds, they will be given a no time.
4. Participant will receive no time for touching the goat or string after signaling finish and before the 6 seconds is

signaled by the judge.

5. There will be three timekeepers. The slowest and fastest time will be void leaving the middle time as the final time.
6. If the participant is ruled too rough in handling the animal by the judges, participant will be disqualified.

Reruns:

1. No rerun will be given due to faulty tack.
2. Any rerun will be up to the decision of the judges and committee.

TOP RANCH HAND CONTEST

Entries due: January 25, 2026. Must pre-register online. Activity Scheduled: TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 at 9:00 am Purpose: First and foremost, to have fun. To teach young people and demonstrate skill in the area of ranch management. This is a knowledge and skill event. ****Once capacity is met for each heat, registration ends****

1. Top Ranch Hand Contest is open to any 4-H, FFA, FCCLA & YLPA member regardless of whether they are an exhibitor in the Fair. Registration day of if we have not reached capacity.
2. Participants must be 8 years old as of September 1, 2025. The event is open to junior (ages 8-10), intermediate (11-13) and senior (14-18) age groups.
3. Participants must wear long pants and closed toed shoes.
4. The contest will run in heats. Duration of each heat will be explained on the day of the event. Heats will be selected based on order of sign-up and special circumstances.
5. Results will be announced and awards presented immediately following the contest in the Hayman Arena. Scoring Participants will rotate through a series of stations. The total point value will be 100. Participants will be allotted a specified amount of time to complete each station prior to rotating. Each station will test either knowledge, skill or both. Awards will be presented to the highest score in each of the three age categories (junior, intermediate and senior). The committee will determine the tie-breaking station, if necessary.

xWHIP POPPING CONTEST

Entries due: January 11, 2026. Entries must be entered online by the entry deadline. Late entries will be accepted January 12, 2026 – January 18, 2026 along with a late fee of \$10.00. **NO LATE ENTRIES AFTER THIS NO WALK UPS WILL BE ACCPETED.** **An adaptive division has been added to the online registration**

Activity Scheduled: SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the arena

1. Exhibitor Conduct: Any unbecoming behavior of exhibitor will disqualify them, and all awards and premiums will be forfeited. Also refer to Exhibitor Conduct rule, rule 4, page 3. Exhibitors must be appropriately dressed.
2. A warm up session outside with a committee member present will be held between 5:35 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. (time may vary if hog show hasn't completed)
3. Each contestant will have forty-five (45) seconds to perform their whip popping ability.
4. Whips can be at lengths from 6 to 14 feet.
5. In case of a tie, there will be a Pop-off to determine the winner.
6. **Exhibitors will be disqualified from their contest or project if found popping at any time before or after entering the arena, or at any point during the fair. This rule applies to all exhibitors participating in the Polk County Youth Fair, not just those involved in whip popping contests. It is in effect for the entire duration of the fair, from Friday, January 23 through Saturday, January 31, 2026.**
7. Judges will score on the 1 to 10 scale with 10 being the highest score. Contestants will be judged on the most original, sharpness, loudness and best overall performance.

JUDGING CONTESTS

Results for the poultry, rabbit, horticulture and livestock judging contests will be posted outside of the Stuart Center 1 hour after the completion of contest. Trophies and ribbons will be given out in the arena prior to the Horticulture Awards Presentation on FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026 beginning at 12:00 pm

1. All judging contests are open to any 4-H, FFA, FCCLA & YLPA member regardless of whether they are an exhibitor in the Fair. Pre-entries are not required.
2. Only two teams from each FFA Chapter is allowed.
3. FFA members will participate on a team basis only and 4-H and other individuals will judge on an individual basis only.
4. Contestants may enter contest(s) representing only one organization (Example: The same individual may not judge as both a 4-H and an FFA student).

POULTRY AND EGG JUDGING CONTEST (Valencia/Kitchen/Hallway)

1. **Contest Scheduled For:** THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026-9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. in the arena
2. **Time Required:** Approximately one hour.
3. **Purpose:** To teach young people the proper selection of dressed birds, production layers, exterior shell egg quality, interior egg grading and broken out eggs. The contest will be based on the current USDA standards for the various classes.
4. The contest will be held in the Hayman Arena.

RABBIT SKILLATHON (Rabbit Barn)

1. **Contest Scheduled For:** THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 -8:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M.
2. **Time required** - Approximately one hour.
3. The Rabbit Judging Competition will consist of a multiple-choice test that is based on the Current year of the Florida State Fair Skillathon.

HORTICULTURE JUDGING CONTEST (Hayman Arena)

1. **Contest Scheduled For:** FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2026 – 10:30 am – 12:00 pm.
2. **Time required:** Approximately 45 minutes.
3. **Purpose:** To teach young people the identity of various horticultural specimens including vegetables, ornamentals, and fruit.

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST (Hayman Arena)

1. **Contest Scheduled For:** FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 2026 -8:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
2. **Time Required:** Approximately one hour.
3. **Purpose:** To teach young people the selection of the most desirable types of hogs and beef animals.
4. The contest will be held in the Hayman Arena

xPARADE OF CHAMPIONS LIST OF PARTICPATION

The following is the list of those who will be asked to attend the Parade of Champions on the final Friday of the Youth Fair. The Parade begins at 4:30 pm so please arrive, in Official FFA, FCCLA, 4-H or YLPA with awards, in front of the **Gazebo** to line up at 4:00 pm.

Swine Department:

Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, 1st in Showmanship (per division 3), Herdsman (per age division 3) & Eagle Award.

Steer Department:

Grand Champion (per division 3), Reserve Champions (per division 3), 1st in Showmanship (per age division 3) Eagle Award & Herdsman.

Commercial & Purebred Beef Department:

Grand Champion (per division 5), Reserve Champion (per division 5), Eagle Award (2), Group Herdsman (2) 1st in Showmanship (per age division 6)

Goat Department:

Grand Champion (per division 7), Reserve Champion (per division 7), Eagle Award, 1st in Showmanship (per age division 3) & Herdsman (per age division 3)

Lamb Department:

Grand Champion (per division 7), Reserve Champion (per division 7), Eagle Award, 1st in Showmanship (per age division 3)

Goat Tying Contest:

Winners (per age division 3)

Dog Department:

Best and Reserve Showman, High Point (per age division)

Top Ranch Hand Contest:

Overall Winners (per age division 3)

Horse Department:

Grand & Reserve Champion (per age division: Ranch 6, Western 6, Speed 6, English 6, Western Dressage 6, Traditional Dressage 6) Overall & Reserve Champion, Overall Ranch Horse Competition, Grand Roping Champion, Grand Sorting Champion & Grand Boxing Champion

Poultry/Egg Department: (10 Total parade participants)

Grand Champion Brown Eggs, Grand Champion White Eggs, Commercial Champion, Large Fowl Male Champion, Large Fowl Female Champion, Bantam Male Champion, Bantam Female Champion, Junior Showmanship Winner, Intermediate Showmanship Winner & Senior Showmanship Winner.

Rabbit Department:

Best of Show (overall), Showmanship Winners (per age division 3)

Whip Popping Contest:

Winners (per age division) & Spirit Award

Judging Contest: (Horticulture, Livestock, Poultry & Rabbit)

Middle FFA Teams 1st Place 4, Senior FFA Teams 1st Place 4, 4-H Individuals 1st place (4 per division) YLPA

Family & Consumer Sciences Department:

Tri Color Winners 30, Table Setting Winners 18, Cake Auction 10, Gift Basket 4 to 8, Best in Show Woodworking, Best in Show Metal, Best in Show Educational, Best in Show Photography (per division 3) (3 per category), Best in Show Outdoor Sport Equipment, Chili Cook-Off 9, Individual Sew-Off (per age division 3), Team Sew-Off (Per age division 3-6), Scrap-Off (per age division 3), Demonstrations (per age division 3 to 6), Decorative Centerpieces (per age division 3)

Archery Department:

1st place per class

Horticulture Department:

Premium Exhibitor, Citrus Grand Champion & Reserve Champion, Blueberry Grand & Reserve Champion, Ornamentals Grand & Reserve Champion & Tri Colors 25