# 2027 Polk County Youth Fair Rules & Regulations

Fair Dates: January 22, 2027 – January 30, 2027

863-519-1046

All exhibits must be entered online following instructions at www.pcyf.net. By entering your project online signified 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 and Regulations are subject to change at the discretion of the board of directors and/or the respective departments.***

| Date: | What's Due: |
|---|---|
| May 1, 2026 | Online Registration begins for: Commercial Market Steer, Brahman/European Influence, Market Goat Lottery and Market Lamb Lottery entries accepted along with registration fees. |
| June 12, 2026 11:59 PM | Commercial Market Steer Entry Deadline along with paid entry fee, tagging fee (per market steer), carcass ultrasound fee and t-shirt fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER**) |
| June 20, 2026 7:00 am | Commercial Market Steer Selection Day (Ag Center) |
| June 22, 2026 11:59 PM | Market Lamb Lottery and Market Goat Lottery online entries deadline along with paid entry fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED**) |
| July 7, 2026 6:00 PM | Mandatory Goat Lottery Selection Day |
| July 14, 2026 6:00 PM **(revised date)** | Mandatory Lamb Lottery Selection Day (Hayman Arena) |
| July 26, 2026 11:59 PM | 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 27, 2026 – August 2, 2026 @ 11:59 PM | Brahman/European Influence 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 (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER**) |
| August 1, 2026 | **ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS FO**R: Beef Breeding, Goat, Lamb, Poultry, Egg, Rabbit, Horticulture, Horse, Commercial Heifers, Dogs, Archery, Family & Consumer Sciences, Goat Typing, Top Ranch Hand & Whip Popping |
| August 15, 2026 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Mandatory Market Steer Brahman/European Influence Initial Weigh-in/Tagging Day (Ag Center) |
| September 3, 2026 6:30 PM | 1st Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting (all exhibitors must attend 1 of the 2 offered) (Stuart Center) |
| September 15, 2026 6:00 PM | Mandatory Market Steer Meeting (all exhibitors) Valencia Room or Zoom |
| September 20, 2026 | Horses must be owned/leased or cared for by this date (lease to be emailed/uploaded to the Youth Fair office by November 1, 2026) |
| September 21, 2026 – September 28, 2026 11:59 PM | **ONLINE REGISTRATIONBEGINS FOR**: MARKET HOGS. Registration will run Monday, September 21, 2026 – Monday, September 28, 2026 by 11:59 PM. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED. Exhibitors must also be able to register and pay for a dirt pen and sign up and pay for showmanship |
| September 24, 2026 6:00 PM | Horticulture Workshop Mandatory Meeting (all exhibitors) (Stuart Center) (must attend 1 of the 2 offered) **IN PERSON ONLY** |
| September 26, 2026 9:00 AM | Horticulture Workshop Mandatory Meeting (all exhibitors) (Stuart Center) (must attend 1 of the 2 offered) **VIRTUAL ONLY** |
| September 26, 2026 9:00 AM | 2nd Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting (all exhibitors must attend 1 of the 2 offered) (Stuart Center) |
| September 29, 2026 6:00 PM | Mandatory Market Hog Meeting (all exhibitors) The meeting will be offered via Zoom, if you are unable to attend via Zoom, you can watch the live stream in the Valencia Room at the Ag Center. |

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

| | |
|---|---|
| September 30, 2026 | **Ornamental Plants purchased AFTER September 30, 2026 WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHOW DURING THE FAIR.** |
| September 30, 2026 11:59 PM | **LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT A LATE FEE**: Horse, Beef Breeding, Breeding & Dairy Goats, Purebred & Commercial Meat Goats, Private Market Goat/Lamb, Fruit & Citrus, Commercial Heifers, Ornamental Plants, Plants for Display Only, Dish Gardens deadline online along with paid entry fee. |
| October 1, 2026 – October 6, 2026 11:59 PM | Horse online registration entry deadline online along with paid entry fee and a $50.00 late fee (**Last day to register is October 6, 2026**) |
| October 1, 2026 – October 11, 2026 11:59 PM | Breeding & Dairy Goats, Purebred & Commercial Meat Goats, Private Purchase Market Goat/Lamb, Beef Breeding, Fruit & Citrus, Commercial Heifers, Ornamental Plants, Plants for Display online, entries online along with entry fee and late fee |
| October 3, 2026 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Market Hog Tagging Day, Ownership deadline, USDA ID# & Bill of Sale Due |
| October 19, 2026 6:00 PM | Mandatory Tagging Day for Private Purchase Market Lamb & Market Goats Only (Hayman Arena) |
| November 1, 2026 | Beef Breeding Registration Paperwork Due (if you do not own the animal. Lease and registration paperwork are also due): Electronic copies: pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu |
| November 1, 2026 11:59 PM | Dog, Poultry, Eggs and Rabbit entries deadline online along with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER & NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED**) |
| November 30, 2026 11:59 PM | Bedding Plants, Foliage & Hanging Baskets Ownership Deadline |
| December 1, 2026 6:00 PM | Mandatory Goat & Lamb Exhibitor Meeting (**ZOOM ONLY**) |
| December 1, 2026 – December 6, 2026 11:59 PM | Vegetables late entries accepted online along with paid entry fee and late entry fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED**) |
| December 4, 2026 | Chili Cook-Off Contest Entry Forms Due Mailed/Hand Delivered (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED**) |
| December 4, 2026 5:00 PM | Copies of 2 different potential buyers due for Cake Auction, Citrus, Fruit, Ornamental Plants, Market Hogs, Market Steers, Commercial Heifers, Market Lamb and Market Goats. |
| December 5, 2026 – January 2, 2027 | Horticulture: Copies of late letters to 2 different potential buyers for Fruit, Citrus and Ornamental accepted along with late fee |
| January 8, 2027 11:59 PM | Scrap Off Entry Due – ONLINE REGISTRATION |
| January 8, 2027 11:59 PM | Archery Competition online entries deadline accepted online with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT A LATE FEE**) |
| January 9, 2027 – January 15, 2027 11:59 PM | Archery Competition entries accepted online with paid entry fee and late entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER)** |
| January 10, 2027 11:59 PM | Whip Popping Entry Due (L**AST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE**) |
| January 11, 2027 – January 17, 2027 11:59 PM | Whip Popping entry due along with late entry fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE)** |
| January 18, 2027 11:59 PM | Family & Consumer Sciences Non-Perishable Online final date for entries accepted along with paid entry fee (**ONLINE REGISTRATIONONLY-NO PAPER ENTRIES ALLOWED**) |
| January 19, 2027 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Cake Auction Paper Entries and Recipes Due in Stuart Center (**This form must be turned in, in person during this timeframe**) |
| January 21, 2027 11:59 PM | Family & Consumer Sciences Perishable Online & Special Activities Finale Date for entries accepted online along with paid entry (**ONLINE ENTRIES ONLY, NO PAPER ENTRIES ALLOWED**) |
| January 24, 2027 11:59 PM | Top Ranch Hand Registration Due (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE; Registration may end early if quantity reached)** Goat Tying Skills Contest Registration Ends (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE)** |

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**Polk County Youth Fair 2027 Rules and Regulations Table of Contents:**

Check-in/Check Out Times.....5
Schedule of Events Ag Center.....6
Schedule of Events Stuart Center.....7
General Rules & Regulations.....8
Exhibitor Requirements.....8
Online Entries, Entry Forms & Exhibitors.....9
Entry, Tagging Fees and Late Fees.....10
Overall Fair Rules.....11
Buyer Letters.....12
Sale of Project.....12
Checks from Sale Project.....13
Campground Rules.....13
Fairground Rules.....13
General Rules – Livestock Division.....14
Drug Testing.....14
Exhibit Space.....15
Trailers for Transporting Animals.....16
State of Florida Livestock Health Regulations.....16
Beef Breeding.....17
Dairy & Breeding Goats.....19
Market Goat & Market Lambs.....20
Commercial Heifer.....22
Dog Show.....23
Horse Department.....30
Market Hog Department.....37
Market Steer Department.....40
Poultry Department.....43
Egg Department.....44
Rabbit Department.....45
**Horticulture Division**.....46
Horticulture General Rules.....46
Fruit and Citrus Department.....47
Bedding and Foliage Plants.....48
Ornamental Plants.....48
Vegetable Department.....49
Archery Department.....50
**Family & Consumer Sciences Division**.....52

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

Child Development.....53
Clothing Exhibits.....53
Educational Exhibits.....54
Food Preservation Exhibits.....55
Foods.....56
Gift Basket for Silent Auction.....58
Home Furnishing Exhibits.....58
Welding Exhibits.....60
Outdoor Sports Equipment.....60
Photography Exhibits.....60
Woodworking Exhibits.....62
Special Activities.....62
Cake Auction.....63
Cake Decorating Contest.....63
Chili Cook Off Contest.....64
Decorative Food Centerpiece.....65
Demonstrations.....65
Illustrated Talks Contest.....66
Mannequin Modeling.....66
Scrap-Off.....66
Sew Off Contest.....67
Storytelling Contest.....67
Table Setting and Menu Planning Contest.....68
Working Booths.....68
Goat Tying Contest.....69
Top Ranch Hand Contest.....70
Whip Popping Contest.....70
Judging Contest.....71
Parade of Champions.....72

| Exhibitor Check In/Check Out Dates & Times | |
|---|---|
| **TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Check in for All Family & Consumer Non-Perishable exhibits. Cake Auction Paper Entries & Recipes Due (no online entries accepted for cake auction) |
| **FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2027**<br>8:00 AM – 4:00 PM<br>3:00 PM – 7:00 PM<br><br>4:30 PM | <br>Market Hog Check-In<br>Family & Consumer Sciences Perishable & Food Check-In<br>Ranch Horse Competition Check-In |
| **SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2027**<br>7:00 AM – 7:50 AM<br><br>7:00 AM – 11:00 AM<br>8:00 AM – 12:00 PM | <br>Horse Check-In (Gate Opens 6:30 AM for Coggins Check-in)<br>Commercial Heifer Check-In<br>Rabbit Check-In |
| **SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 6:00 PM<br>7:00 PM – 8:00 PM<br>By 8:00 PM | <br>Cakes for Auction Check-In (Stuart Center)<br>Judging of Cakes for Auction<br>Notification of Cake Auction winners |
| **MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2027**<br>1:00 PM<br>2:00 PM – 6:00 PM | <br>Dog Check-In<br>Rabbit Check-Out |
| **TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2027**<br>8:00 AM<br>10:00 AM – 4:00 PM<br>10:30 AM<br>1:00 PM<br>4:00 PM – 7:00 PM<br>4:30 PM<br>TBD – Immediately following show | <br>Archery Competition Jr Check-In/Safety Inspection<br>Horticulture Check-In<br>Archery Competitions Int. Check-In/Safety Inspection<br>Archery Competition Sr. Check-In/Safety Inspection<br>Goat/Lamb Check-In<br>Goat Tying Skills Contest Check-In<br>Commercial Heifer Check-Out |
| **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2027**<br>6:00 AM – 9:00 AM<br>7:00 AM – 11:00 AM<br>9:30 AM – 11:00 AM<br>12:30 PM<br>1:00 PM | <br>Market Steers Check-In<br>Poultry & Egg Check-In<br>Beef Breeding Check-In<br>Chili Cook Off Teams Check-In (Stuart Center)<br>Poultry Showmanship Exhibitors Sign In |
| **THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2027**<br>4:00 PM – 8:00 PM | <br>Horticulture – Red & White Ribbon Plants Check-Out |
| **FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2027**<br>9:00 AM – 10:00 PM<br>12:00 PM – 2:00 PM<br>12:00 PM – 9:00 PM<br>7:00 PM – 8:00 PM | <br>Beef Breeding Check-Out<br>Goat/Lamb Department Check-Out<br>Poultry Check-Out<br>Stuart Center Check-Out |
| **SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2027**<br>9:00 AM – 11:00 AM | <br>Stuart Center Exhibitors Check-Out |
| **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 4:30 PM | <br>Stuart Center Exhibitors Check-Out |

Check out of Exhibits: No exhibits may be removed except during the hours and dates specified above. Removal of exhibits without permission of the Fair Management, Department Superintendent or Department Representative will result in forfeiture of all premium and awards. All Exhibitors not removed from the Fair Grounds by 4:30 PM on Monday, February 1, 2027 will become property of the fair and the exhibitor will forfeit all premiums unless other arrangements have been made in advance with the Fair Management or Department Representative.

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| Schedule of Events – Agriculture Center | |
|---|---|
| **FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2027** | |
| 5:30 PM | Ranch Horse Competition (Horse Arena) |
| **SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2027** | |
| 8:00 AM | Horse Show (Horse Arena) |
| 11:00 AM | Dressage Competition (Horse Arena |
| 2:00 PM – Until Barn Closes | Judging of Rabbits (Barn Closed) |
| 4:45 PM | Market Hog Senior Walk |
| 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Market Hog Showmanship |
| **SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2027** | |
| 8:00 AM | Market Hog Show (Hayman Arena) |
| 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Rabbit Showmanship (Brenneman Room) |
| 6:00 PM | Whip Popping Contest |
| **MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2027** | |
| 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Market Hog Sale (Hayman Arena) |
| 10:00 AM | Cake Auction (Hayman Arena; first 5 to be auctioned) |
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Rabbit/Exhibitor Costume Contest |
| 12:00 PM | Cake Auction (Hayman Arena; last 5 to be auctioned) |
| 2:00 PM | Dog Show (Outside Tent) |
| **TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2027** | |
| 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM | Archery Competition (Open Horse Arena) |
| 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Top Ranch Hand Contest (Must pre-register online) |
| 1:00 PM | Goat Tying Skills Contest |
| 4:00 PM | Commercial Heifer Show/Showmanship |
| **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2027** | |
| 9:00 AM | Judging of All Horticulture Exhibits (Room/Tent Closed) |
| 11:00 AM | Dairy Goat Show/Dairy Showmanship |
| 12:00 PM | Market Steer Exhibitor Luncheon |
| 1:00 PM | Poultry Showmanship (Hayman Arena) |
| 4:00 PM | Market Lamb Showmanship; Lamb Show begins after Showmanship, Market Goat/Breeding Showmanship immediately after Lambs. Market Goat Show after Showmanship & Breeding Show after Showmanship. |
| 5:30 PM | Market Steers Bred & Owned Show (Unofficial Show) |
| 6:00 PM | Market Steer Showmanship (Hayman Arena) |
| **THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2027** | |
| 8:30 AM | Poultry will be Judged (poultry barn closed) |
| 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM | Rabbit Skillathon (for 4-H Individuals & FFA TEAMS) |
| 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Beef Breeding Show/Showmanship (Hayman Arena) |
| 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Poultry & Egg Judging Contest (for 4-H Ind & FFA Teams) (not held in poultry barn) |
| 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Goat/Lamb Costume Contest (Goat Tent) |
| 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Goat/Lamb Skillathon |
| 6:00 PM | Market Steer Show (Hayman Arena) |
| **FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2027** | |
| 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Livestock Judging Contest (Hayman Arena) |
| 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Horticulture Judging Contest (Hayman Arena) |
| 12:30 PM | Horticulture Awards Presentation for Exhibitors |
| 1:00 PM | Judging Contest Awards Presentation (Hayman Arena) |
| x4:15 PM | Parade of Champions (Hayman Arena) Line up at Stuart |
| x5:00 PM | Commercial Heifer Sale & Market Goat/Lamb Sale (Hayman) |
| 6:30 PM | Market Steer Sale (Hayman Arena) |
| **SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2027** | |
| 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Volunteer & Buyer Brunch (Valencia Room) |
| 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Fruit, Citrus & Ornamental Plants Sale (Hayman Arena) |

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| Schedule of Events – Stuart Center | |
|---|---|
| **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2027** | **Closed to Public** |
| 9:00 AM | Judging for Non-Perishable Exhibits |
| **THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2027** | **Closed to Public** |
| 10:00 AM | Tri-Color Judging of Non-Perishables Exhibits |
| **SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2027** | **Closed to Public** |
| 9:00 AM | Judging of Perishables & Tri-Color Judging Exhibits |
| **SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2027** | **Open to Public 11:00 Am – 7:00 PM** |
| 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Judging of Cakes for Auction (Stuart Center) |
| 8:00 PM | Notification of Cake Auction Winners |
| **MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2027** | **Open to Public 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM** |
| 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Table Setting & Menu Planning Contest (see rules for details) |
| 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Scrap Off Contest |
| 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Mannequin Modeling |
| 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Working Booths |
| **TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2027** | **Open to Public 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM** |
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Sew Off Contest – Individuals |
| 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Sew Off Contest – Team |
| 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Storytelling Contest |
| **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2027** | **Open to Public 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM** |
| 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Decorative Food Centerpiece Contest |
| 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Closed for Chili Cook Off (Teams preparing for contest) |
| 3:00 PM | Reopen to Public – Chili Cook Off |
| 5:00 PM | Chili Cook Off Winners Announced |
| 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Open to Public |
| **THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2027** | **Open to Public 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM** |
| 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Demonstrations |
| 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Illustrated Talks |
| 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Mannequin Modeling & Working Booth |
| 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Cake Decorations Contest |
| **FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2027** | **Open to Public 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM** |
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Working Booths |
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Mannequin Modeling |
| 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM | Tri-Color Presentation |
| x4:15 PM | Parade of Champions |
| **SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2027** | |
| 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Stuart Center Exhibits Check Out |
| **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2027** | |
| 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 above. Removal of exhibits without permission of the Fair Management, Department Superintendent or Department Representative will result in forfeiture of all premiums and awards. All exhibits not removed from the fairgrounds by 4:30 PM Monday, February 1, 2027 will become 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 1, 2027 may be claimed by the exhibitor for a $25.00 fee. Arrangements must be made with the PCYF Manager prior to arriving for the late pick up.**

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**POLK COUNTY YOUTH FAIR**
**STREET ADDRESS: 1702 US HWY 17 S, BARTOW, FL 33830**
**MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 9005, DRAWER HS03, BARTOW, FL 33831**
**(863) 519-1046**
**FAIR DATES: JANUARY 22, 2027 – JANUARY 30, 2027**

# 2027 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, 2026), 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. **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, 2026. 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 of entering an exhibit in the Fair.

b. **Exceptional Students**: The Fair encourages parents, leaders, and teachers of exceptional students to review exhibit categories and select those appropriate to the abilities and interests of the individual exhibitor. Fair Management, when contacted in advance, will make all reasonable accommodations to provide exhibitors with the opportunity to participate whenever possible.

**c. All exhibitors must wear organizational dress for all shows and sales. NO HATS are allowed during showmanship, show or sale. Exhibitors failing to comply will be fined $50.00 for Market Hogs and $100.00 for Market Steers PER event.**

**Polk County Youth Fair Official Guidelines are as follows:**

**FFA:** FFA Jacket zipped to the top. White collared shirts with FFA scarf or tie – solid black or navy tie/scarf. Black Pants. Black or dark brown boots/shoes.
**4-H:** A white shirt with green scarf, green ribbon or green necktie 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 (not shorts), black or khaki skirt. Dress shoes or dress sandals. Jeans, T-shirts, and athletic wear ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. ***Males***: Red, black or white polo or oxford shirt (long or short sleeved). Black dress slacks or khaki pants. Dress shoes. Jeans, T-shirts, and athletic wear ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.
**YLPA: Shirts**: Polo or button-down BLACK shirt (long or short sleeves 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. ***x***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, 2026 (applies to all departments except the Horse Department – see page 30 for more information)**:
    - Junior – 8 to 10 years old
    - Intermediate – 11 to 13 years old
    - Senior – 14 to 18 years old
- **Showmanship Contests**: An exhibitor participating in showmanship may be allowed to show another exhibitor's animal entered in the same department if the department committee determines the exhibitor's animal cannot be shown due to health concerns at the time of the contest. Committee approval and contact prior to the show are required. **In the following departments, exhibitors may only show animals they personally entered: Poultry Showmanship, Market Hog Showmanship, and Beef Breeding/Commercial Heifer Showmanship.**

e. **Exhibitor Conduct**: Exhibitors are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and sportsmanlike manner at all times. Appropriate attire is required. Radios or amplified music are not permitted inside buildings or barns.

**NO SNUFF OR CHEWING TOBACCO IS ALLOWED DURING AN EVENT. <u>The use of alcoholic beverages, drugs and related substances is forbidden on the Fair Grounds.</u> Violations may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency when applicable. Inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct, including the use of profanity, by an exhibitor or anyone associated with the exhibitor may, at the discretion of Fair Management, result in disqualification and immediate removal of the exhibitor and their exhibits from the Fairgrounds, along with forfeiture of all premiums and awards.**

**f. School Attendance**: School attendance remains important. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their exhibits during the Fair and should make prior arrangements with teachers to complete any missed assignments or coursework.

**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 for each department for specific requirements regarding entry deadlines, ownership deadlines, and other department specific regulations.

**Online Entries and Entry Forms**: **Exhibitors who knowingly provide false information on online entries or entry forms may be disqualified from the Fair**. Submission of an online entry or signed entry form by the exhibitor, parent/guardian, and teacher/leader signifies that all parties have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Fair rules and regulations. **A bill of sale, including the buyer's and seller's names, addresses, and contact information, must be submitted with entry forms for all market hogs, market steers, breeding goats, and commercial heifers not shown in a prior year.** A physical address where market animals will be housed and raised must be listed on the entry form. ***x****If the animal's location changes, the exhibitor must notify the Youth Fair Office within 48 hours of the change*. ***All market animals must reside in Polk County, Florida***. Designated committee members may conduct spot checks of market animals from the initial entry deadline through final Fair check-in. Entry forms for Special Activities (Cake Auction only), online entry information, and additional copies of the Rules and Regulations are available from the Youth Fair Office 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.

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**Number of Exhibits**: The number of exhibits allowed varies by department. Please refer to the specific department rules for details.

**Exhibit Tags**: A completed exhibit tag, available from the Youth Fair Office, is required for all Family & Consumer Sciences projects, fruit, citrus trees, ornamental plants, vegetables, and eggs.

## ENTRY AND TAGGING FEES

**Entry Fees**: Entry fees must be paid online for entries to be considered valid.

**Online entries submitted without payment will not be accepted. All entry fees and late fees are non-refundable.**

**Fees**:
**Archery Competition**: $5.00 per entry
**Commercial and Brahman/European Influence Market Steer**: $50.00 per steer
- **Market Steer Showmanship**: $10.00 (must register online during online registration)

**Market Hog**: $30.00 per hog
- **Market Hog Showmanship**: $10.00 (must register online during online registration)

**Horse Division**: $1.00 per class
**Dog Division**: $10.00 per animal (limit 2 dogs per exhibitor)
**Rabbit Division**: $5.00 per animal (limit 2 rabbits per exhibitor)
- **Rabbit Showmanship**: $2.00
- **Rabbit Costume Contest**: $2.00

**Poultry**: $2.50 per entry (limit 2 animals per exhibitor)
**Eggs**: $2.50 per entry
**Commercial Heifer and Beef Breeding**: $20.00 per entry
**Breeding and Dairy Goat**: $10.00 per entry
**Market Lamb and Market** Goat: $10.00 per entry
- **Lamb Lottery**: $510.00
- **Goat Lottery**: $460.00

**Horticulture Division**: $10.00 overall entry fee (ONE TIME FEE)
**Family & Consumer Sciences**: $1.00 per entry

**Stuart Center Special Events**
No entry fee is required for special events in the Family & Consumer Sciences Division.

Special event entries must be submitted online by Thursday, January 21, 2027. Only online entries will be accepted. Scrap-Off entries are due online by January 8, 2027. Chili Cook-Off entries must be mailed and are due by Friday, December 4, 2026. Cake Auction entries must be turned in during Non-Perishable Check-In on Tuesday, January 19, 2027.

**The following late fees are in addition to the regular entry fee and must be paid online for the entry to be considered valid:**

**Beef and Commercial Heifer**: $100.00
**Market Steer**: $100.00
**Archery Competition**: $10.00
**Horse Division**: $50.00
**Horticulture Division**: $10.00

Online entries submitted without the required late fee payment will not be accepted. All late fees are non-refundable.

**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. Protestors 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 the 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 PM, January 29, 2027, in FCCLA, FFA, YLPA or 4-H dress to receive awards.

**xParade of Champions**: Notification of participation eligibility will be attached to the exhibitor's award. Eligible winners should report to the Stuart Center at 4:15 p.m. dressed in official FCCLA, FFA, YLPA, or 4-H attire and bring all awards received. Please refer to page 72 for the Parade of Champions list of participants.

**Record Books**: Exhibitors in the following departments **must present an approved, up-to-date, FFA or 4-H record book at check-in**: Beef, Breeding Goat, Commercial Heifer, Horse and Market Steers. **YLPA exhibitors**: Contact your committee to confirm which record book format you must turn in. **Market Hog Exhibitors**: Record books are NOT required unless the exhibitor wants to compete in the Record Book Contest. **A Market Hog Cost Analysis Sheet IS REQUIRED** for all Market Hog Exhibitors. The Cost Analysis Sheet must be fully completed and will only be accepted after final weigh-in by Saturday, January 23, 2027 between 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM. P**enalties for Missing or Incomplete Record Books/Cost Analysis Sheet**: Purebred Beef, Commercial Heifer, Breeding Goats and Horse exhibitors who do not turn in an up-to-date record book, WILL NOT be allowed to participate, no exceptions. Market Hogs: $25.00 will be deducted from the exhibitor's sale check. Market Steers: $100.00 will be deducted from the exhibitor's sale check.

## Buyer Letters for Livestock Projects

Exhibitors must submit 2 separate, legible buyer letters, each addressed to different potential buyers (one letter with two names DOES NOT COUNT). Letters are due in the Youth Fair's office by 5:00 PM on December 4, 2026, or postmarked (email/electronic copies will be accepted). Letters must be marked to the attention of the correct department committee. If one letter is used for multiple projects (hog, cake, fruit, citrus, ornamental plant), a separate copy must be submitted for each committee. Where to send electronic copies: Market Hog: pcyfmarkethog@gmail.com and Market Steers: pcyfsteers@gmail.com. Penalties: Market Hog exhibitors MUST turn in 2 letters. Failure to do so will result in DISQUALIFICATION FROM SHOWING AND SELLING their Market Hog in January 2027. Market Steer Exhibitors failing to turn in their 2 copies will result in a $100.00 deduction from their sale check. No Letters will be accepted after December 4, 2026. (letters postmarked by the deadline will be accepted)

## Buyer Letters for Cake Auction Projects

Exhibitors must submit 2 separate, legible buyer letters, each addressed to different potential buyers (one letter with two names DOES NOT COUNT). Letters are due in the Youth Fair's office by 5:00 PM on December 4, 2026, or postmarked. NO ELECTRONIC COPIES ACCEPTED (emails are not accepted) Letters must be marked to the attention of the correct department committee. If one letter is used for multiple projects (hog, cake, fruit, citrus, ornamental plant), a separate copy must be submitted for each committee. No sharing letters: each exhibitor must submit their own original letters. Penalties: Failure to submit by deadline will result in a $50.00 deduction for their sale check. No Letters will be accepted after December 4, 2026. (letters postmarked by the deadline will be accepted)

## Buyer Letters for Fruit, Citrus and Ornamental Plants

Exhibitors must submit 2 separate, legible buyer letters, each addressed to different potential buyers (one letter with two names DOES NOT COUNT). Letters are due in the Youth Fair's office by 5:00 PM on December 4, 2026, or postmarked. If one letter is used for multiple projects (hog, cake, fruit, citrus, ornamental plant), a separate copy must be submitted for each committee. Late Submission Window: Letters received between December 5, 2026 through January 3, 2027 will be accepted along with a $10.00 non-refundable late fee. Letters not received by January 3, 2027, will have a $25.00 fine deducted from their sale check. Letters inviting buyers to the Horticulture Auction must mention Fruit, Citrus Trees, and Ornamental Plants if the exhibitor has entries in those areas. Where to send electronic copies: 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 is not limited to hats, bandanas, ornaments, etc.**

At time of sale, no additional incentives can be added to sale of any project which includes but no limited to fishing trips, hunting trips, vacation, etc.

## Sale Of Projects

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

**Commercial Heifers**, only the top five Blue Ribbon Commercial Heifers will be eligible to sell. Exhibitors must own their animals if they choose to participate in the sale.
**Sale Fee**: 5% sale fee will be deducted from the final sale price of every project sold at auction.
**Add-Ons**: A 5% fee will also be deducted from all add-ons. Add-ons that have been paid by the donor before checks are issued will be included in the exhibitor's sale check. Any add-ons received after sale checks are printed will be paid separately.

**A 2.5% Buyer Premium will be added to each sale and included in the buyer's total purchase amount.**

## Checks From Sale Projects

Monies from the sale of fruit trees, citrus trees, cakes, gift baskets, commercial heifers, market hogs, ornamental plants, and market steers will be mailed to exhibitors as soon as payment is received from the buyer and resale packer, and once a copy of the exhibitor's thank you letter to the buyer has been submitted. **Electronic copies of thank you letters are accepted and may be emailed to pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu**. Market Hog and Market Steer exhibitors will have the opportunity to complete their thank you letters after the sale, and the committee will mail those letters on their behalf. **Exhibitors who do not submit a copy of their thank-you letter within 90 days of the sale will be fined 50% of all sale money. Add-on checks will be mailed separately if the add-on payment has not been received by the time sale funds are processed. Add-ons submitted for exhibitors who do not sell an auction project cannot be accepted and will be returned to the donor. Special Contests**: Awards for special contests depend on sponsor funding and will only be presented if funding is secured prior to fair time. **Premium checks** will be distributed to YLPA, 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapters, and FCCLA Chapters as soon as possible following the close of the Fair.

## CAMPGROUND RULES

**Registration for camping must be received by December 4, 2026**. Please contact the Youth Fair Office for full details. Youth Fair exhibitors and their families who plan to park travel trailers or other equipment on the Fair Grounds must preregister with the Youth Fair Office. Registration requests may be emailed to pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu. Only Fair exhibitors and their families are permitted to camp on the Fair Grounds. All campers must stay in designated camping areas. **Cancellations must be made before December 18, 2026; otherwise, the camping fee will be forfeited**. Any exhibitor remaining on the grounds after Fair closing time must be always accompanied by a responsible adult. Campers may not plug into the Agriculture Center's electrical system due to shock hazards and the risk of overloading circuits. A camping permit will be issued upon arrival and must be displayed visibly from the roadway. **Complete camping rules are attached to the camping registration form**.

**Camping Fees:**

- **Main Campground**: $275.00
- **Dry Camping**: $175.00
- **Club/Chapter Tent Site** (20'x20'): $75.00

## FAIRGROUND RULES

No golf carts, ATVs, or any other off-road vehicles—other than those used by Fair Officials—are allowed on the fairgrounds at any time unless prior approval has been granted by Fair Officials. After the Horse Show, all livestock trailers, regardless of size, must be parked in a designated area. Any trailer parked elsewhere is subject to impoundment by Security. Trailers may NOT be parked or left in the parking lot or under the tree at any time during Fair Week.

**No cooking or food preparation is allowed in the cattle grooming area.**

Pop-up tents and grills are not permitted on the property except in designated camping areas, unless prior approval has been given by the Fair President.

Bicycles, mopeds, electronic scooters, skateboards, hoverboards, and any other electric or battery-operated devices may not be ridden on sidewalks or anywhere around the fairgrounds. These devices pose a safety risk to exhibitors and visitors.

No dogs are allowed on the fairgrounds except service dogs assisting individuals with disabilities, or dogs on leashes within the campgrounds only. **No other animals of any kind—other than those officially entered—are permitted on the fairgrounds at any time.**

# GENERAL RULES
# LIVESTOCK DIVISION

Chapter animals are not permitted to be entered in the 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 if they appear medically unsound or show any condition that could affect their market value.

**Each exhibitor may show and sell only one terminal market animal.**

Youth who are not present to show their animal will be disqualified and must remove the animal from the premises immediately. Animals belonging to youth who are not present to take their animal into the sale ring at the designated time, according to the sale order, will be sold at packer price, and the exhibitor will forfeit all premiums and awards.

No livestock—except horses—are allowed in the Horse Arena at any time during the Youth Fair for any purpose. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification from the Fair and forfeiture of all awards and premiums.

The Commercial Heifer and Purebred Beef Committee reserves the right to adjust 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 any other combustible bedding material is prohibited. Exhibitors are encouraged to use hay bags for feeding. Hay and show boxes must be placed in designated areas of the barn to reduce fire hazards and improve access through the aisles for exhibitors and spectators. Smoking is strictly prohibited in the barn. ***The use of shavings in the grooming area is also prohibited.***

**Handling of Animals**: Exhibitors must be able to handle their animals at all times; failure to do so may result in disqualification. All animals (except market hogs) must be halter-broken. Animals that cannot be properly handled by the exhibitor will not be accepted. All large animals must be shown using halters only, except bulls, which must use nose rings in addition to a regular halter. Each exhibitor must show and sell their own animal unless prior approval is granted by Fair Management. All beef cattle, including market steers, must be always double-tied with a halter and neck rope provided by the exhibitor.

## *x*ATTENTION ALL MARKET ANIMALS EXHIBITORS – DRUG TESTING

The Polk County Youth Fair reserves the right to pull urine, blood, and/or other body samples from all Grand and Reserve Champions, as well as random samples from each division, for all market animals, including but not limited to lambs, goats, swine, and steers, using a 3rd party agency during or directly after the show.

At the time samples are taken, the exhibitor and a parent/guardian must be present. The parent/guardian will be required to sign documentation confirming that the sample was collected. All samples will be tested by a qualified laboratory selected solely by the Polk County Youth Fair Board for prohibited drugs and/or substances. A split sample of each animal's urine, blood, and/or other body sample will also be taken.

**Use of Drugs:** The use of animal drugs or other substances by non-veterinarians in any manner not consistent with FDA-approved labeling is a **violation of federal law** and is prohibited by the Polk County Youth Fair. Exhibitors and their parents/guardians must complete the Drug Certification Form, which must 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 acknowledges the following:

1. **The exhibitor is fully responsible for the care and custody of their animals.**
2. **All medications and dewormers administered to the market animal throughout the project must be disclosed.**
3. **Drug test results from the testing laboratories are final and binding** on the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents/guardians, even if the source of the drug is unknown.

Positive test results will be classified according to the following categories. The PCYF considers any detectable amount to be positive (e.g., 1.0 or 0.01 will be treated the same). All animals testing positive—regardless of the drug or consequence—will automatically be tested at all future fairs at the owner's expense, if they are permitted to return after a suspension.

1. Any substance that, regardless of FDA or USDA approval, was not administered according to label directions and/or has not met the required withdrawal period.
2. Any substance not administered according to label directions and/or any substance with the potential to enhance an animal's performance, including but not limited to steroids, diuretics, anti-inflammatories, tranquilizers, and painkillers.
3. Any substance not approved by the FDA and/or USDA for use in slaughter animals, or for use in the specific species and sex of the animal being exhibited.

All medication administered on the fairgrounds must be given **under the direct supervision of a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)**. The DVM must complete a Polk County Youth Fair Medication Form and obtain approval from Fair Management before administering any medication.

**Consequences: If any exhibitor's market animal tests positive, the Polk County Youth Fair reserves the right to impose consequences including, but not limited to fines, forfeiture of all premiums, add-ons, and sale proceeds, and suspension from participation 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 19-21 for Goats/Lambs, page 31-36 for Horses, page 38 for Market Hogs and page 42 for Market Steers.

**Exhibit Spaces:**
**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 are 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.

**NO COOKING OR FOOD PREPARATION 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 the 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, and Market Steer Departments.

**Eagle (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 help the committee with anything they may need. This individual also works behind the scenes and supports 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 the 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 unloadable or inhumane by officials will not be unloaded, and the exhibitor must leave the 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 the 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 acrylic disinfectants are acceptable. Examples are Lysol or other commercial acrylic 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

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **September 30, 2026** 11:59 PM | Ownership/Online Entry Due with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE**) |
| **October 1, 2026 – October 11, 2026** 11:59 PM | Late Online entry accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/11/2026**) |
| **November 1, 2026** 11:59 PM | Registration Paperwork Due: (if you do not own the animal. Lease and registration paperwork are also due (**registration paperwork can be emailed to pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu**) |
| **January 27, 2027**<br>9:30 AM – 11:00 AM | Check-in of animals |
| **January 28, 2027**<br>9:00 AM | Beef Show/Showmanship |
| **January 29, 2027**<br>9:00 AM – 9:00 PM | Check-Out of Animals |

### Important Dates:

**xAll Beef Breeding animals must be registered. Registration paperwork must be turned in by November 1, 2026.** The exhibitor will be asked for breed, sex, birth date, registration numbers, ear tattoo numbers or brand. At 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.

**EACH EXHIBITOR IS ALLOWED TO ENTER FIVE ANIMALS BUT CAN ONLY SHOW THREE, WITH ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS. THE SAME ANIMAL CANNOT BE SHOWN IN BOTH BEEF BREEDING 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, 2027. Beef cattle born prior to January 1, 2024 will not be eligible to show. Calves born after July 15, 2026 will NOT be allowed as a single entry. Single entry calves born prior to July 15, 2026 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 2027 Youth Fair Beef Breeding Show:**

Class 01 - Calves born May 1, 2026 and after
Class 02 - Calves born April 1 to April 30, 2026
Class 03 - Calves born March 1 to March 31, 2026
Class 04 - Calves born January 1 to February 28, 2026
Class 05 - Calves born November 1 to December 31, 2025
Class 06 - Calves born September 1 to October 31, 2025
Class 07 - Calves born July 1 to August 31, 2025
Class 08 - Calves born May 1 to June 30, 2025
Class 09 - Calves born April 1 to April 30, 2025
Class 10 - Calves born March 1 to March 31, 2025
Class 11 - Calves born January 1 to February 28, 2025

Class 12 - Calves born September 1 to December 31, 2024
Class 13 - Calves born May 1 to August 31, 2024
Class 14 - Calves born January 1 to April 30, 2024

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 fewer 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 at 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 in 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 AND BREEDING GOAT DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **September 30, 2026** 11:59 PM | Ownership/Online Entry Due with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE**) |
| **October 1, 2026 – October 11, 2026** 11:59 PM | Late Online entry accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/11/2026**) |
| **December 1, 2026**<br>6:00 PM | Goat and Lamb Exhibitor Meeting (Zoom Only) |
| **January 26, 2027**<br>4:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Check-in/weighing for ALL ANIMALS |
| **January 27, 2027**<br>11:00 AM – 3:00 PM<br>4:00 PM | Dairy Goat Show/Showmanship<br>Market Lamb Show/Showmanship, Lamb Show after Showmanship; Market Goat/Breeding Goat Showmanship after Lambs; Market Goat Show after Showmanship & Breeding Show |
| **January 28, 2027**<br>11:00 AM – 1:00 PM<br>1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Goat/Lamb Costume Contest<br>Skillathon Contest |
| **January 29, 2027**<br>12:00 PM<br>12:00 PM<br>***x***5:00 PM | Exhibitor Exit Meeting<br>Release of all non-selling animals following meeting<br>Market Goat/Lamb Sale |

**Goats can be registered or commercial females. NO MALE GOATS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THE BREEDING SHOW.**
No 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 26, 2027. All exhibitors must follow all health regulations and general rules stated in the Youth Fair Rule Book. Animals must be owned/leased by the exhibitor on or before November 1, 2026. Please upload a bill of sale/lease agreement that supports the November 1, 2026 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 surrounding areas during the fair. Failure to do so may 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 2027 Youth Fair Goat Breeding Show:**
Junior – Doe, January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026
Yearling – Doe, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
Senior – Doe, January 1, 2024 or older
**Meat Breeds**:
Registered Boer (Grand & Reserve)
Registered Pygmy (Grand and Reserve)
*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

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 a breed winner and reserve winner for each category, in addition to an Overall Grand and Reserve dairy female.**

## MARKET GOAT AND MARKET LAMB DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **May 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins for Market Lamb Lottery & Market Goat Lottery |
| **June 22, 2026 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**) |
| **July 7, 2026**<br>6:00 PM | Market Goat Lottery Selection Day (Hayman Arena) |
| **July 14, 2026 (updated)**<br>6:00 PM | Market Lamb Lottery Selection Day (Hayman Arena) |
| **August 1, 2026** | Online registration begins for Market Goat and Market Lamb (private purchase) |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **September 30, 2026 11:59 PM** | Market Goat/Market Lamb online entry due with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE**) |
| **October 1, 2026 – October 11, 2026 11:59 PM** | Market Goat/Market Lamb online entry due with paid entry fee along with a late fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER**) |
| **October 19, 2026**<br>6:00 PM | Mandatory Tagging Day (Private purchase Market Lamb/Market Goat only) (Hayman Arena) |
| **December 1, 2026**<br>6:00 PM | Goat and Lamb Exhibitor Meeting (Zoom Only) |
| **December 4, 2026 5:00 PM** | Market Lamb/Market Goat Buyer Letters Due; Sale contract to sell is also due |
| **January 26, 2027**<br>4:00 PM – 7:00 PM<br>7:00 PM | Goat/Lamb Check-In (ALL ANIMALS)<br>Exhibitor Meeting |
| **January 27, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Market Goat and Market Lamb Show/Showmanship (immediately following the breeding and meat show) |
| **January 28, 2027**<br>11:00 AM – 1:00 PM<br>1:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Goat/Lamb Costume Contest<br>Skillathon Contest |
| **January 29, 2027**<br>12:00 PM<br>12:00 PM<br>***x***5:00 PM | Exhibitor Exit Meeting<br>Check-out of animals not selling<br>Market Goat/Market Lamb Sale |

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

**Important Information:**
**Record Books or Project Summary** – These are due during check-in on Tuesday, January 26, 2027. All exhibitors must follow all health regulations and general rules stated in the Youth Fair Rule Book. A valid health certificate and scrapie tags or registration papers are required at check-in. **Exhibitors may choose to sell their Market Lambs/Market Goats through the Polk County Youth Fair on Friday, January 29, before the Market Steer Sale**. Please contact the committee chair for further information. Market Lambs and Market Goats must attend the mandatory tagging day on October 19, 2026. 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 4, 2026. Market Lamb/Market Goat animals will sell before the steer sale starts on Friday, January 29, 2027, at 5:30 pm. If your animal does not sell, the animal needs to be removed from the grounds by 10:00 pm following the sale.

Valid health certificates, along with a scrapie tag, are expected at check-in on Tuesday, January 26, 2027.

- It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to care for their animals, their pens, and the surrounding areas during the fair. **Failure to do so may 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 wethers.
- Animals are not to be over 14 months of age at the time of the show.

## COMMERCIAL HEIFER DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **September 30, 2026** 11:59 PM | Ownership/Online Entry Due with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE**) |
| **October 1, 2026 – October 11, 2026** 11:59 PM | Late Online entry accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/11/2026**) |
| **January 23, 2027**<br>7:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Check-in of animals |
| **January 26, 2027**<br>4:00 PM | Commercial Heifer Show/Showmanship |
| **January 26, 2027**<br>Immediately following show | Check-Out of Animals |

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

All commercial heifers must be handled by the exhibitor only from the trailer to the 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 THE 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 in 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 THREE 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 a designated area. No heifers/cows over 3 years old.
All heifers must be polled, dehorned, or tipped to a 1" diameter end. Calves born after September 30, 2026, will not be allowed to show as a single entry.

**NO MINIATURE BREEDS OF CATTLE ALLOWED.**

Exhibitors need a signed lease, contract agreement, or bill of sale from the 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 2027 Youth Fair Commercial Heifer Show (Brahman Influence and European Influence) will be determined by the committee.**

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

## DOG SHOW DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **November 1, 2026 11:59 PM** | Ownership/Online Entry due with paid entry fee **(LAST DAY TO REGISTER**) *Proof of rabies vaccination is a country registration paper, a receipt, or a signed vaccination certificate from the issue veterinarian including the dog's description is due at time of check-in* |
| **January 25, 2027**<br>1:00 PM<br>2:00 PM | <br>Check-in for exhibitor and dogs<br>Dog Show |

**Entry Fee**: The entry fee per exhibitor is $10.00 for 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 or FFA. Handlers may compete in Basic classes 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, 2026. The junior handler must be the exclusive handler in all venues (4-H, AKC, UKC, etc.) throughout the project (November 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027).
- **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 or co-owned. PROOF OF OWNERSHIP OR LEASE OR CO-OWNERSHIP 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.

● Approval for use of a substitute dog, due to extenuating circumstances, may be granted by the Youth Fair Dog Show Chairperson. Exhibitors must notify the chairperson as soon as possible after determination that a substitute dog is necessary no later than one week before the fair.
● Upon Check-in the exhibitor must have a copy of proof of ownership or lease, and vaccination records
● Until one hour after check-in exhibitor may enter more classes if they are already entered in the dog show
● 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.
● 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.

**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. **Obedience, 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 and Tracking**: 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. **Agility**:
5. **A six-foot leash is required for all classes outside Showmanship, Fetch, Tracking, & Agility**

**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.
- Dogs must be at least 15 months of age to compete in agility
  - Dogs under 15 months may enter agility under the 4-8”

**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 fairgrounds.
- No dogs other than dogs entered in the competition will be allowed on show grounds.

**HIGH POINT AWARD**
**Basic High Point** - One award for basic exhibitors only. Given to the exhibitor with the highest total points from the Quiz class, Showmanship class, Trick, Obedience, Farm dog & Fetch. Tie breakers will consist of best Showmanship score and then best quiz score.
**Overall High Point** - One award for each age group. Given to the exhibitor with the highest total points from the Quiz class, Showmanship class and two other classes. Tie breakers will consist of best Showmanship score and then best quiz score.
**Ranch dog High Point**- One award given to the exhibitor with the highest combination of Showmanship, Agility, and Farm dog scores.
**Hunting dog High Point**- One award given to the exhibitor with the highest combination of Showmanship, Tracking, and Fetch dog scores.
**Companion dog High Point**- One award given to the exhibitor with the highest combination of Showmanship, Obedience, and Trick scores.

**COMPETITIONS**:
**An exhibitor without a dog entered in the Fair, may enter the Quiz, Record book, and Dog Judging category only unless leasing a dog.**

**Dog Judging Class**: Exhibitors are scored based upon breed knowledge with tie breakers given in the form of additional questions. Exhibitors will be provided with a breed standard in accordance to AKC or UKC upon the closing of entries to study. Upon the day of the show, they are to judge 2-4 dogs of the same breed as if they were a judge in a conformation dog show.

- **Even years: Hound, Sporting, & Non-sporting breeds**
- **Odd years: Herding, Working, Toy, & Terrier breeds**

**Quiz Class**: Exhibitors are tested 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.

**Record book Class**: Exhibitors are judged upon the completion, neatness, and presentation of their record book.
- Record book will be provided by the Polk County Youth Fair Dog Show Committee

**Showmanship Classes**: 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**: 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.

**Obedience**: Obedience classes judge the dog and handler on their abilities to work together. 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.

**Classes**:
Each class will be given 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**: For dogs and handlers who have not passed the CGC test or who have previously failed the CGC test. Dogs who are AKC registered through full registration, Purebred Alternative Registration, or Canine Partners may receive the title if they so indicate upon check-in.
  - 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. Dogs who are AKC registered through full registration, Purebred Alternative Registration, or Canine Partners may receive the title if they so indicate upon check-in.

○ 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. Dogs who are AKC registered through full registration, Purebred Alternative Registration, or Canine Partners may receive the title if they so indicate upon check-in.

○ 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.

● **Beginner Novice**: For dogs and handlers who have earned or passed the CGC test and are ready to compete in AKC or UKC levels of obedience.

○ The test consists of:
1.) Walk around the ring and in a figure 8 on a loose leash
2.) Sit for exam
3.) Sit (or down) stay and walk around the ring
4.) Recall

● **Novice**: For dogs and handlers who have earned or passed the CGC test or have earned their BN title and are ready to compete in AKC or UKC levels of obedience.

○ The test consists of:
1.) Walk around the ring and in a figure 8 on a loose leash
2.) Sit (or stand) for exam
3.) Walk around the ring off leash
4.) Sit (or down) stay and walk around the ring
5.) Recall

● **Graduate Novice**: For dogs and handlers who have earned or passed the CGC test or have earned their CD title and are ready to compete in AKC or UKC levels of obedience.
○ The test consists of:
1.) Walk around the ring and in a figure 8 off leash
2.) Sit (or stand) for exam
3.) Moving down
4.) Dumbbell recall
5.) Recall over jump
6.) Stand stay and get your leash
● **Brace**: Two dogs handled by the same exhibitor performing simultaneously. Dogs do not have to be the same breed but should be similar in size. Dogs must be coupled using the same leash.
○ The class will be judged using Novice exercises as listed below:
1. Heel on leash
2. Figure 8--Figure 8 is done simultaneously using five (5) posts.
3. Stand for exam
4. Recall--handlers leave dogs in unison, call dogs one at a time, and finish in unison.

● **Four-Member Team:** The team consists of four handlers, each with their own dog, who work simultaneously.
○ The class will be judged using Novice exercises as listed below:
1. Heel on leash
2. Figure 8--Figure 8 is done simultaneously using five (5) posts.
3. Stand for exam
4. Recall--handlers leave dogs in unison, call dogs one at a time, and finish in unison.

**Trick Dog**: 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 given 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. Dogs who are AKC registered through full registration, Purebred Alternative Registration, or Canine Partners may receive the title if they so indicate upon check-in.
● **Elite Intermediate**: Dog and handler perform a storyline with ten 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. Dogs who are AKC registered through full registration, Purebred Alternative Registration, or Canine Partners may receive the title if they so indicate upon check-in.

● **Elite Advanced**: Dog and handler perform a storyline with ten 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. Dogs who are AKC registered through full registration, Purebred Alternative Registration, or Canine Partners may receive the title if they so indicate upon check-in.

**Farm Dog**: 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 given 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:

1. Greet the judge
2. Walk around the ring and a passive stranger
3. Jump on hay/straw bale
4. Walk past farm animals
5. Walk over or through unusual surfaces
6. Supervised separation
7. Pass through a gate
8. Handler feeds livestock
9. Reaction to another dog
10. Reaction to noise distraction
11. Dog approaches livestock
12. Physical examination

**Agility**: In agility dogs and handlers work together through a simple course which may include any of the following: A-Frame, Dog-Walk, Tunnel, Table, 6-12 Weavepolls, Teeter, & Hurdles Course time will be used only to break ties.

**Jump Heights** (measured from the ground to the dog's withers)
● 4" Dogs measuring 11" and under
● 8" Dogs measuring 14" and under
● 12" Dogs measuring 18" and under
● 16" Dogs measuring 22" and under

**CLASSES**:
Each class will be given the option for an adaptive class.
Dogs must be 15 months or older to compete in agility.
○ Dogs under 15 months may enter agility under the 4-8”
● **Basic**: For beginner handler and beginning dog. Class will be on lead and consist of 7 obstacles.
● **Sub Novice**: 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 never competed at a AKC or UKC dog show. Class will be on leash and consist of 10 obstacles.
● **Novice**: Exhibitors 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. Class will be off leash and consist of 10 obstacles.
● **Open**: Exhibitors who have won first place in Novice Class at the previous year’s Polk County Youth Fair Dog Show or who have placed at an AKC or UKC dog show. Class will be off leash and consist of 12 obstacles.
● **Advanced**: Exhibitors who are showing competitively in an outside venue (AKC, UKC, etc) or who have previously scored 200 at a previous PCYF Dog Show. Class will be off leash and consist of 14 obstacles.

**Fetch**: In Fetch exhibitors and their dogs work together to retrieve a ball or bumper over a variety of obstacles and distances.

**Classes**:
Each class will be given 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 judge's 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 judge's 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 judge's 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 judge's discretion. In advance, dogs will not be restrained and must be commanded by the exhibitor to wait until released. Dogs must do four retrieves 30 feet away with distractions; two retrieves behind a blind and two retrieves thrown by the exhibitor. Judge will inform the exhibitor which direction to throw.

**Tracking**: In Tracking exhibitors and their dogs work together to locate a scent or an object through a variety of distractions and terrain.

**Classes**:
Each class will be given the option for an adaptive class.
● **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 hides a treat in one of three boxes while the dog is secured outside the ring, upon entering the ring the ring the ring the dog is to find the treat in a timely manner.
● **Novice**: For dogs who have never competed previously. The judge is to hide a treat or toy, at the exhibitor's discretion, in one of six boxes, dog and exhibitor must work together to find the object in a timely manner.
● **Advanced Novice**: For dogs who placed 1st in the Novice class in a previous fair or have earned a tracking or scent work title. The judge is to hide a treat or toy, at the exhibitor's discretion, in one of six boxes, dog and exhibitor must work together to find the treat in a
timely manner. There will be four distractions or obstacles the team must ignore to find the object in a timely manner.
● **Advanced**: For dogs who placed 1st in the Advanced Novice class in a previous fair or have earned a tracking or scent work title above the novice level. The judge is to hide a treat or toy in the ring. The dog must find the object in a timely manner. There will be four distractions or obstacles the team must ignore to find the object in a timely manner. Unlike in lower levels exhibitors may not talk with their dog
● **Utility**: For dogs who placed 1st in the Advanced Novice class in a previous fair or have earned a tracking or scent work title above the novice level. Exhibitors choose two items with their scent on it for the judge to hide within the ring. The dog must find the object in a timely manner. There will be four distractions or obstacles the team must ignore to find the object in a timely manner. Unlike in lower levels exhibitors may not talk with their dog. Dogs and exhibitors actively competing in obedience may use dumbbells or gloves as their item.

## HORSE SHOW DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **September 3, 2026**<br>6:30 PM | 1st Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting (exhibitors must attend 1 of 2 offered) Stuart Center (no zoom) |
| **September 20, 2026** | Exhibitors must own/lease horses (lease to be turned via email: pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu |
| **September 26, 2026**<br>9:00 AM | 2nd Mandatory Horse Exhibitor Meeting (exhibitors must attend 1 of 2 offered) Stuart Center (no zoom) |
| **September 30, 2026 11:59 PM** | Online entry Due with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE**) |
| **October 1, 2026 – October 9, 2026 11:59 PM** | Online Late entries accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (**NO ONLINE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/09/2026)** |
| **January 22, 2027**<br>4:30 PM<br><br>5:30 PM | Gates Open: Coggins Check – **Must have a copy of a negative Coggins to enter facility**<br>Ranch Hand Competition |
| **January 23, 2027**<br>7:00 AM<br><br>8:00 AM<br>11:00 AM | Gates Open: Coggins Check – **Must have a copy of a negative Coggins to enter facility**<br>Horse Show (Horse Arena)<br>Dressage Competition, at will |

**Important Information:**

1. 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 found at: Florida 4-H Area & State 4-H Horse Show Rules 2026 , unless otherwise noted.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Management reserves the right to cancel all or part of the show based on weather conditions.
5. 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 fairgrounds. No parental or professional grooming, "tuning up," or assistance from outside the ring will be allowed. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. If there are any questions referring to assisting participants, rule compliance, or conduct at the show, please contact one of the committee members.
6. Divisions will be divided by age as of September 1, 2026: junior (ages 8–13) and senior (ages 14–18) divisions.
7. Each exhibitor is responsible for all classes entered and for making sure they are ringside and enter the class when called. Classes will not wait on an exhibitor and will not be repeated if an exhibitor misses a class. Class announcements are a courtesy.
8. A concession stand will be available on the day of the Horse Show. No horses will be allowed in the concession stand area.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Mandatory Meeting:** A mandatory meeting for all horse show exhibitors, parents/guardians, 4-H leaders, and teachers will be held to review the rules, regulations, and answer questions.
   - Meeting dates: Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 6:30 pm or Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 9:00 am.
   - The meeting will be held at the Agriculture Center in Bartow. NO ADMITTANCE AFTER DOORS ARE CLOSED.

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● Exhibitors failing to attend one of the mandatory meetings will be fined $50.00 for non-attendance. This fine will be due at the Youth Fair office by November 6, 2026, payable to PCYF, with the memo "Horse Show."

2. Exhibitors must provide a negative Coggins for their horse at check-in.
3. Bit and helmet checks 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 a vet note if you need to switch horses after registration.
5. **Record Book:** Exhibitors must present an up-to-date record book on 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. 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.
6. **Required Classes:** All exhibitors are required to participate in the quiz class and only one Showmanship/Ground Handling class.

● **Quiz:** 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 for their age group. The quiz will cover questions from the following categories:

- General Knowledge; Nutrition & Feeding; Reproduction & Genetics; Conformation/Unsoundness/Action; Internal Anatomy/Physiology; Facilities/Pastures/General Management; Breeds/Colors/Markings/History; Tack & Equipment; Showing & Competition; Health; Psychology/Training Safety

● **Showmanship/Ground Handling:** Participants must compete in one and only one Showmanship or Ground Handling class.
● Failure to participate in the quiz class or showmanship/ground handling class will result in forfeiture of all premiums.

***x*OTHER CLASSES:**

1. **Open Classes:** These classes will not be divided by age. Exhibitors ages 8–18 will show together.
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, including but not limited to speed classes.
3. **Horse Therapy:** The PCYF Horse Committee is dedicated to helping all riders achieve their goals. The Horse Therapy Class is designed for individuals who need assistance with riding or for those with disabilities.
    - If an exhibitor requiring assistance wishes to participate in a different class (I.e. barrel race, etc.), please contact the Horse Committee to discuss how we can support them for success.

**HORSE SHOW CLASS NUMBERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Sr. Record Book | |
| 2. Jr. Record Book | |
| 3. Sr. Quiz | |
| 4. Jr. Quiz | |
| **Antique Showmanship \|** $25 entry fee (sign-up at the mandatory meetings or day of the show) | |
| **GRASS ARENA** | **DIRT ARENA** |
| 5. Open English Type Mares & Geldings | 22. Open Western Type Mares & Geldings |
| 6. Sr. English Showmanship | 23. Sr. Western Showmanship |
| 7. Jr. English Showmanship | 24. Jr. Western Showmanship |
| 8. Open W/T English Pleasure | 25. Sr. Ranch Ground Handing |
| 9. Sr. English Pleasure | 26. Jr. Ranch Ground Handling |
| **10.** Jr. English Pleasure | 27. Sr. Speed Ground Handling |
| 11. Open W/T English Equitation | 28. Jr. Speed Ground Handling |
| 12. Sr. English Equitation | 29. Sr. Ranch Rail |
| 13. Jr. English Equitation | 30. Jr. Ranch Rail |

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|---|---|
| 14. Sr. Hunter Hack 2' | 31. Sr. Ranch Riding |
| 15. Jr. Hunter Hack 2' | 32. Jr. Ranch Riding |
| 16. Open Horse Therapy | 33. Sr. Ranch Reining |
| **Trail Events: Will be held "At Will" immediately following Class #16, Open Horse Therapy** | 34. Jr. Ranch Reining |
| 17. Open W/T Trail | 35. Open W/T Western Pleasure |
| 18. Sr. Ranch Trail | 36. Sr. Western Pleasure |
| 19. Jr. Ranch Trail | 37. Jr. Western Pleasure |
| 20. Sr. Western Trail | 38. Open W/T Western Horsemanship |
| 21. Jr. Western Trail | 39. Sr. Western Horsemanship |
| **Costume Events: Will be held at the conclusion of the Trail Classes & Class #40, Jr. Western Horsemanship** | 40. Jr. Western Horsemanship |
| 41. Sr. Costume | **Speed Events: Will be held at the conclusion of Class #42, Jr. Costume** |
| 42. Jr. Costume | 43. Sr. Hollow Log |
| | 44. Jr. Hollow Log |
| | 45. Sr. Barrel Race |
| | 46. Jr. Barrel Race |
| | 47. Sr. Pole Bending |
| | 48. Jr. Pole Bending |
| | 49. Sr. Keyhole Race |
| | 50. Jr. Keyhole Race |
| | 51. Sr. Stakes Race |
| | 52. Jr. Stakes Race |

**DIVISION APPOINTMENTS:** Brief descriptions are listed below. Refer to the Florida 4-H Area & State 4-H Horse Show Rules for full class descriptions, class rules and regulations, descriptions of legal bits, scoring, and other information.

**SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES:**
**Description:**
● Showmanship and Ground Handling classes are not conformation, model, or grooming classes, although grooming and fitting are 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 English divisions, while Ground Handling is the appropriate class for the Ranch and Speed Events divisions.
**Appropriate Attire:** Personal appearance of the club member should be neat, clean, well-groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire as described in each division. An SEI or SEI/ASTM-approved equestrian helmet with a 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.

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● 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 loosely coil the excess lead shank/bridle reins in the left hand.
2. When showing with a 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.

**ENGLISH DIVISION:**

**Appropriate Attire:** All exhibitors are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM-approved equestrian safety helmet with a fastened chin harness in every class. Clothing must be clean, neat, and appropriate for English classes. The rider must wear a shirt with a 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 a 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 equitation and dressage classes.
**Tack:** Clean English forward, hunting, or dressage-type saddles. Saddles may have a 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 cavesson nosebands and plain leather browbands. Pelham bridles must have two sets of reins attached (pelham connectors are not allowed). Breastplates 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 noseband that includes a strap which fastens in front of the bit is allowed in Hunter classes.

**WESTERN 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 a fastened chin harness in every class, regardless of age.
**Tack:** Horses shall be shown with a stock saddle; silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Martingales, tie-downs, nosebands, 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 constitutes excessive harshness or cruelty.

**RANCH 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 a fastened chin harness in every class.
**Tack:** Horses shall be shown with a stock saddle. Ranch work equipment is recommended but show equipment will not be penalized. Roping reins or reins with a romal are permitted. Martingales, tie-downs, nosebands, or draw reins are prohibited. Carrying of a rope on your saddle is preferred. Horses may wear protective boots only in Ranch Reining. 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. When showing in a curb bit, reins must be held in one hand but may be held in any manner.
**Other:** Hoof polish, braided or banded manes, tail extensions, and trimming inside ears are strongly discouraged.

***x*SPEED 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 a fastened chin harness.
**Tack:** Western-type saddles must be used. The 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. The use of standing martingales, tie-downs, and nosebands is permitted in these classes. Draw reins, including tack that has the action of draw reins, and any other kind of martingales are not allowed in speed events. Horses may wear protective boots, but bandages (leg wraps) are not permitted in any speed event class.
**Other:**
● Striking a horse with anything other than the open hand in front of the cinch is an automatic disqualification. Striking the horse with anything, including the 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.

**HIGHPOINTS:**
You must compete in the correct showmanship for each specific high point (e.g., Ranch must do Ranch Ground Handling). Grand and Reserve High Points are awarded 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 Ranch Ground Handling, Ranch Reining, Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, and Ranch Rail
● **SPEED HIGHPOINT:** Greatest amounts of points from Speed Ground Handling, Barrels, Poles, Keyhole, and stakes Race.
● **OPEN W/T HIGH POINT**: Greatest amount of points from either Western or English Showmanship, Open W/T Western Pleasure, Open W/T English Pleasure, Open W/T Western Horsemanship, Open W/T English Equitation, and Open W/T Trail.
ALL AROUND HIGH POINT and RESERVE HIGHPOINT will be awarded:
● **ALL AROUND HIGHPOINT** will be comprised of ALL points from the entire day, including but not limited to record book, quiz, and showmanship.

***x*DRESSAGE COMPETITION**
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**
1. Cost is $20.00 per test.
2. Sign-ups are available at the mandatory meetings or through PCYF.net online entry portal
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.
4. Age divisions are separated into junior and senior divisions.
   ● Juniors are ages 8–13 years old, as of September 1.
   ● Seniors are ages 14–18 years old, as of September 1.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Exhibitors must provide a negative Coggins for their horse at check-in.
2. Bit and helmet checks are required in accordance with 4-H rules.

**DRESSAGE CLASSES:**

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|---|---|
| 1. Sr. Western Dressage, WDAA 2022 Basic TOC | 2. Jr. Western Dressage, WDAA 2022 Basics TOC |
| 3. Sr. Training Level dressage, USEF 2023, TOC | 4. Jr. Training Level Dressage, USEF 2023, TOC |

**DRESSAGE APPOINTMENTS:** Brief descriptions are listed below. Refer to the Florida 4-H Area & State 4-H Horse Show 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 cutback). A plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson or a dropped, flash, or figure-8 noseband. Except for buckles and a small disk of sheepskin, which may be used at 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, or 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, or hoods are prohibited. Tack may be inspected prior to competition. Unauthorized tack will be removed, or the contestant will be disqualified.
In addition, dressage whips are optional and may be no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including the 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 the horse's jowl. No metal, studs, or rigid material may be part of the cavesson. No flash, figure-8, or dropped nosebands.
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 and made of leather or leather-like material.
3. Breastplate and/or crupper.
4. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including the lash.
5. A standard stock saddle is customary, but a working saddle, Aussie saddle, 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 or 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 reins. 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 off hand to pull the reins back to the desired length. Riders using romal reins may use the hand holding 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, and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, and nose covers.

**DRESSAGE AWARDS:**
Grand and Reserve are awarded to the top scoring tests in each age division:
- Traditional dressage
- Western dressage

***x*COW HORSE COMPETITION**
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**
1. Cost is $25.00 per class.
2. Sign-ups are available at the horse show mandatory meetings or through the PCYF.net online portal.
3. Herd help for cattle classes will be provided.
4. Riders can show multiple horses in the same class.
5. Age divisions are separated into junior and senior divisions.

- Juniors are ages 8–13 years old, as of September 1.
- Seniors are ages 14–18 years old, as of September 1.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Exhibitors must provide a negative Coggins for their horse at check-in.
2. Bit and helmet checks are required in accordance with 4-H rules.

***x*OPEN RANCH HORSE CLASSES:**

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|---|---|
| 1. | Sr. Ranch Boxing |
| 2. | Jr. Ranch Boxing |
| 3. | Sr. Ranch Cow Work |
| 4. | Jr. Ranch Cow Work |
| 5. | Sr. Ranch Roping |
| 6. | Jr. Ranch Roping |

**COW HORSE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND SCORING:**
**RANCH BOXING:**
- This class has been designed to demonstrate the horse's ability to do cow work.
- This class will follow Florida 4-H Area & State 4-H Horse Show Rules.
- For class description, procedure, and scoring, please visit: https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/media/animalifasufledu/horse-extension/Rulebook-2026.pdf, Working Cow Horse, Boxing Only, Class 21 (pp. 61–63).

**RANCH ROPING:**
- The idea of this class is to show the skill of the horse and rider in handling cattle as if they were doctoring injured or sick cattle. Cattle should be handled as calmly and slowly as possible. The judge should judge this class as if the cattle belonged to him or her. The entry does not have to separate the cow from the herd and should not receive credit for separation from the herd. If the cow is separated from the herd, there should be no excessive running or cutting of the cow.
- This class will follow Florida 4-H Area & State 4-H Horse Show Rules.
- For class description, procedure, and scoring, please visit: https://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/media/animalifasufledu/horse-extension/Rulebook-2026.pdf, Ranch Roping, Class 20 (pp. 60–61).

**RANCH COW WORK:**
- The goal is to show the horse can contain the cow at one end, then set up and drive/rate the cow down the fence with control, and finally pen the cow. This class is to be judged on the horse's natural cow ability, agility, and responding softly to the rider's cues to help rein the horse into position to hold the cow and on the way to pen the cow.
- There are three parts to the work: boxing the cow; setting up the cow and driving/rating it down the fence; penning the cow.
- After calling for the cow, there will be a 120-second time limit to box the cow, drive/rate the cow down the fence, and pen the cow. Time begins when the gate closes behind the cow after being let into the arena. The announcer will make an announcement at 60 seconds to let the exhibitor know they have 60 seconds left.
- A contestant does not need to use all allotted time. The cow is considered penned when the horse enters the winged area of the pen and the whistle is blown.
- A contestant will be disqualified if he/she fails to pen the cow at the end of 120 seconds.

**COW HORSE AWARDS**:
Grand and Reserve are awarded to the top-scoring rides in each age division:
- Ranch Boxing
- Ranch Cow Work
- Ranch Roping

**Overall Cow Horse** will be awarded to the highest points in each age division.

## MARKET HOG DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **September 21, 2026 – September 28, 2026 11:59 PM** | Online Registration begins for Market Hogs: NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED. Exhibitor can register for dirt pen (while it lasts) and sign up for showmanship |
| **September 29, 2026**<br>6:00 PM | Mandatory Exhibitor Meeting. (**This meeting will be held via Zoom, if you are unable to attend via zoom, you can watch the live stream in the Valencia Room at the Ag Center**) |
| **October 3, 2026**<br>7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Mandatory Tagging Day: Ownership Deadline, USDA ID and Bill of Sale Due |
| **December 4, 2026**<br>5:00 PM | Buyer Letters Due: Electronic copies send to pcyfmarkethog@gmail.com (**exhibitors who do not turn in your potential buyer letters, will not be able to show/sell your animal**) |
| **January 22, 2027**<br>8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Final Weigh In (check-in) |
| **January 23, 2027**<br>12:00 PM – 3:00 PM<br><br>5:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Market Hog Cost Analysis Sheet to be turned in & Market Hog Meeting in Hayman Arena<br>Market Hog Showmanship (optional; must pre-register online during online registration)<br>*Senior Walk prior to Showmanship beginning* |
| **January 24, 2027**<br>8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Market Hog Show (Hayman Arena) |
| **January 25, 2027**<br>8:00 AM | Market Hog Sale (Hayman Arena) |

**Eligible Animals**: Projects are limited to market barrows 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 an exhibitor has two market hogs entered, he/she must decide which market hog they want weighed in at the 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.

**Dirt 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, and space is limited.

**Buyer Letters**:
To be eligible to show and/or sell your market hog project at the 2027 Youth Fair, you must submit your buyer letters no later than December 4, 2026. Failure to submit a buyer letter by the deadline will result in disqualification from both showing and selling your market hog in January 2027. 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 29, 2026, at 6:00 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 2027 show. If you do not attend via Zoom or in person, there will be a $35.00 fine for the exhibitor.

**Mandatory Tagging Date**: All market hogs entered will be permanently ear-tagged on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. at the Agricultural Center in Bartow. ***xRemote and Main Tagging: All exhibitors, regardless of whether they participate in Remote Tagging or Main Tagging, must upload three (3) photographs of their animal clearly showing both***

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***the Polk County Youth Fair tag and the USDA Official Identification Tag through their exhibitor portal at www.pcyf.net no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 3, 2026. Detailed instructions, including the required photo angles and examples of acceptable photographs, will be emailed to exhibitors prior to the submission deadline. Failure to submit the required photographs by the deadline may result in the animal being ineligible to exhibit.***

Exhibitors must notify the Polk County Youth Fair office of an incorrect ear tag number placed in the hog's ear at the initial tagging day by October 3, 2026. If the incorrect ear tag number is not reported, the ear tag placed in the hog's ear will remain as is. In the event of loss of these ear tags, exhibitors are required to notify the Youth Fair within 48 hours after loss so the market hog can be retagged. Please email the Market Hog Committee at pcyfmarkethog@gmail.com.

**Showmanship Contest**: ANY EXHIBITOR IS ABLE TO COMPETE IN SHOWMANSHIP, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2027, FROM 5:00 PM–9:00 PM. THE SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE ARENA. EXHIBITORS MUST PAY THE $10 SHOWMANSHIP FEE ONLINE DURING REGISTRATION. REGISTRATION FOR SHOWMANSHIP ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2026, BY 11:59 PM. If showmanship registration is extended, you will be notified.

**OTHER: Weigh-in Procedures:** If an exhibitor questions the accuracy of weight, he/she may request a reweigh of his/her pig immediately. At that point, the pig will be removed from the scales for recalibration and reweighed. This request must occur before the 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 THE VEHICLE AT WEIGH-IN IN OCTOBER AND JANUARY IN ORDER TO EXERCISE THE SECOND PIG OPTION. EXHIBITORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE 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.

**Clipped/Shaved Hogs:**
If an exhibitor's hog that has been entered for the 2027 Polk County Youth Fair is found with hair that is less than 1/4" long at any time during the 2027 Polk County Youth Fair, exhibitors must remove the hog from the 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:**
Department Management reserves the right to determine the number and size of classes to ensure maximum efficiency in conducting the show.

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

***x*Washing of Animals:**
Must take place in the animal's assigned pen. If show products are used, they must be washed off inside of their pen prior to the sale. Acceptable show products will be shared at a later date.

**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 on Saturday, January 23, 2027, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

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 tags. The Hog Committee has the right to remove signs at any time during the fair.

**Health Regulations:** All hogs presented at check-in or at any time during the fair will be disqualified should the animal exhibit symptoms of a 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 22, 2027. At the final weigh-in, hogs must be at least 240 lbs. The MAXIMUM weight is 300 lbs. "Animals will be admitted to the fair if they are 239.5, as that number rounds up to 240."

**Sale:** Order of sale will be Grand Champion, Reserve, 3rd, 4th, 5th, Junior Showmanship Champion, Intermediate Showmanship Champion, 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 the time of sale, no additional incentives can be added to the sale of a hog, including but not limited to fishing trips, hunting trips, vacations, etc.**

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

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

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

## Load-out time for market hogs is Monday, January 25, 2027, immediately following barn reconciliation, and Tuesday, January 26, 2027, from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.

## MARKET STEER DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **May 1, 2026** | Online Registration begins for Commercial & Brahman/European Influence Market Steers along with paid entry fee. Exhibitors may also sign up for showmanship at this time |
| **June 12, 2026 11:59 PM** | Commercial Market Steer Online entries due along with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER**) |
| **June 20, 2026**<br>7:00 AM | Commercial Market Steer Selection Day (Ag Center) |
| **July 26, 2026 11:59 PM** | Brahman/European Influence Market Steer Ownership Deadline |
| **July 27, 2026 – August 2, 2026 @ 11:59 PM** | Brahman/European Influence Market Steer online entry accepted with paid entry fee and late entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER**) |
| **August 15, 2026**<br>7:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Mandatory Initial weigh-in and Tagging Day for Brahman/European Influence Market Steers (Ag Center) |
| ***x*September 15, 2026**<br>6:00 PM | Mandatory Meeting (All Exhibitors) Zoom or Valencia Room |
| **December 4, 2026**<br>5:00 PM | Copies of 2 Potential Buyer Letters Due: Electronic copes: pcyfsteers@gmail.com |
| **January 27, 2027**<br>6:00 AM – 9:00 AM<br>12:00 PM<br>5:30 PM<br>6:00 PM | Check-in/Final Weigh In<br>Exhibitor Luncheon<br>Market Steers Bred & Owned Show (unofficial show)<br>Market Steer Showmanship (Hayman Arena) |
| **January 28, 2027**<br>6:00 PM | Market Steer Show (Hayman Arena) |
| **January 29, 2027**<br>6:30 PM | Market Steer Sale (Hayman Arena) |

**Exhibitor Rules**

**Age of Exhibitors**: Exhibitors must be 8 years old as of September 1, 2026.

**Animal Rules**

**Eligible Animals**: Exhibitors must be the 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 an exhibitor has two market steers entered, he/she must decide which market steer they want weighed in at the final weigh-in in January. Only in the event that the first market steer does not make the final weight of 1,000 lbs will the second market steer be allowed to unload and be weighed in.

**Market Steer Show & Sale**

Market steers will be split 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 and size of classes to ensure 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.

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

Exhibitors can pick up these halters Friday, January 29, 2027, **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 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 minimum, 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 27, 2027.**

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

***x*MANDATORY WEIGHTS** – MINIMUM WEIGHT: 500 lbs – MAXIMUM WEIGHT: 1,100 lbs

Weigh-in will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2027, from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM at the Agricultural Center in Bartow. All market steers entered into the European Influence and Brahman Influence divisions will be weighed in and tattooed. European and Brahman Influence steers 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 on which division these steers will be shown in. Market steers must weigh a minimum of 1,000 lbs or more at the final weigh-in on January 27, 2027.

**Official Reweighs**: At the sole discretion of fair management, one or more animals may be reweighed after the final weigh-in in January 2027. 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 15, 2026 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, the exhibitor hereby agrees to submit to unique animal identification of any and all animals entered by the exhibitor for purposes of identification. The Polk County Youth Fair requires that the animal exhibited be the same as the animal entered at the initial weigh-in. If the animal's identity is found to differ from the initial weigh-in, the 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 the entry form. The Polk County Youth Fair office must be notified within forty-eight (48) hours if a hanging tag is lost, missing, or 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/Alteration**: Exhibitors shall not change, alter, remove, tamper with, or replace the official market steer ear tag at any time after tagging. Any exhibitor removing or altering an ear tag after the sale will be charged a fee of $100.00, which will be deducted from the sale check. This rule will be strictly enforced.

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 6 inches of ropes.

**Certified Age Certificate and/or Mouthing**

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

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. 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 the exhibitor only. The Steer Committee has the right to determine that if an exhibitor cannot handle their steer safely at final weigh-in, they will be disqualified. During the 2027 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 will be placed 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.

**Grooming 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 the grounds if they clean up the hair. Assistance with fitting is allowed.

**Ethics**: Ethical treatment of animals is required at all times while on the fairgrounds. Any exhibitor who 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 means of controlling the 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 such 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 complement to the Steer Show. A comprehensive report is prepared following the evaluation of 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 AT A DESIGNATED SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

## Load-out time for market steers is FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2027, immediately following barn reconciliation, and SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2027, from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.

## POULTRY AND EGG DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **November 1, 2026 11:59 PM** | Ownership/Online Entry due with paid entry fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED**) |
| **January 27, 2027**<br>7:00 AM – 11:00 AM<br>1:00 PM | <br>Check-in of birds and eggs<br>Poultry Showmanship Check-in/Showmanship |
| **January 28, 2027**<br>9:00 AM (until judge is finished) | <br>Judging of Poultry (Barn will be closed during this time) |
| **January 29, 2027**<br>12:00 PM – 9:00 PM | <br>Poultry Check-out |

**A. Entry Requirements:** Each exhibitor is allowed to enter and show TWO animals at the fair. All poultry must be owned and in the possession of the exhibitor, including any and all animals housed at any Polk County School facility, by November 1, 2026. Poultry must be six months old or older at the time of the show.
NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED after the November 1, 2026 entry deadline.

**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 at 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 a.m. poultry judging, to prepare birds for the show

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

**Eligible Breeds:**
**Eligible breeds and breed information can 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 – Accepted commercial female layer breeds include: Female Leghorn, Female Rhode Island Red (also known as Production Red), Female Barred Plymouth Rock, and 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 this is not required.

**Awards**: Banners will be awarded 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 selected from the five champion poultry. A buckle will be awarded to the Overall Grand Champion.

**B. POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP CLASS:** Poultry Showmanship will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2027, at 1:00 p.m.
Exhibitors will sign up for Poultry Showmanship during check-in on Wednesday, January 27, 2027.
Classes will be divided into three divisions based on the exhibitor's age as of **September 1, 2026:**

**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:** The entry deadline for eggs is November 1, 2026. Egg entries must be submitted online.

**NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED** after the November 1, 2026 entry deadline.
All eggs shown must be chicken eggs selected by the exhibitor. They do not have to be produced by the exhibitor's flock; however, eggs should not be purchased from a grocery store. There must be no identification marks on the eggs.
Eggs should be clean and displayed in clean egg cartons. Exhibitors do not need to have birds entered in the Poultry Show to be eligible to participate in the Egg Show.
**Only brown or white eggs will be accepted.**

**Exhibitors may enter no more than two dozen eggs total.** All eggs must be entered in single dozens. A separate exhibit tag must be completed for each dozen and attached to the carton.

Eggs will be judged on both interior and exterior quality.
Except for the Best Dozen Brown Eggs and the Best Dozen White Eggs, all other eggs will be disposed of after judging. Only the best in each category will be displayed.

## RABBIT DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitor must be 8 years old |
| **November 1, 2026 11:59 PM** | Ownership/Online Entry deadline with paid entry fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED**) |
| **November 1, 2026 11:59 PM** | Showmanship and Costume Contest Registration Due (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED**) |
| **January 23, 2027**<br>8:00 AM – 12:00 PM<br>2:00 PM – until barn closes | <br>Check-in of rabbits<br>Judging of rabbits (barn closed, results available Sunday 8:00AM) |
| **January 24, 2027**<br>12:00 PM – 5:00 PM | <br>Rabbit Showmanship |
| **January 25, 2027**<br>10:00 AM – 12:00 PM<br>2:00 PM – 6:00 PM | <br>Rabbit/Exhibitor Costume Contest<br>Rabbit Check-out |

Each exhibitor is allowed to enter and show **two rabbits**, which the exhibitor must have in their possession by **November 1, 2026**. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED** after the November 1, 2026, entry deadline.

**Acceptable Breeds: Only purebred rabbits will be permitted to show**. The breed of the rabbit must be identified on the entry form. **NO CROSSBRED rabbits will be accepted.** Rabbits must be at least **10 weeks old** at check-in.

***x*No substitutions of rabbits or exhibitors will be allowed at the 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, 2026. This is important for the identification of your rabbit. Rabbits will NOT be tattooed at the fair.**

Any rabbit with visible signs of distress or illness, including **ear mites, fur mites, or fleas**, will not be allowed into the fair. Exhibitors must feed and water their rabbits daily; failure to do so may result in the loss of ribbon and premium points. No toys or mats are allowed in the cage with the rabbit.
Once rabbits are checked in, exhibitors may not remove their rabbits from the cage until check-out time.

During 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**. A **Best of Breed** selection will be made, along with **Overall Best in Show, First Runner-Up, Second Runner-Up, and Third Runner-Up**.

**Divisions (based on age):**
**Junior Division**: 8 to 10 years old
**Intermediate Division**: 11 to 13 years old
**Senior Division**: 14 years old and older

**RABBIT 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, 2026.**
Exhibitors must use their own rabbit, and the rabbit must be entered in the **2027 Polk County Youth Fair Rabbit Show**. Exhibitors will demonstrate showmanship skills individually to a judge.
Rabbit showmanship guidelines can be found at **ARBA.net**. Exhibitors should also wear official dress.
Overall winners will include **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place** in the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions.

**RABBIT / EXHIBITOR COSTUME CONTEST:** Exhibitors must sign up for the Rabbit/Exhibitor Costume Contest during the registration period. **No entries will be accepted after November 1, 2026.**
Exhibitors must use their own rabbit. Both the exhibitor and their rabbit must be in costume.
Exhibitors will be judged on **creativity, originality, presentation, control and showmanship of the rabbit, as well as knowledge of the rabbit and costume construction**. Exhibitors will be interviewed by a judge following a short parade. Overall winners will include **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place** in the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions.

## HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Please read the 2027 General Rules and Regulations as it applied to all departments in the Horticulture Division. In addition, each department has specific rules related to entering, showing and in some cases selling plants by exhibitors. Please reach 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 any questions, they may be submitted to the Horticulture Committee via email: pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitor must be 8 years old |
| **September 24, 2026**<br>6:00 PM | Horticulture Workshop – Mandatory Meeting (ALL EXHIBITORS) Location: Stuart Center (must attend 1 of 2 meetings offered) **IN PERSON ONLY** |
| **September 26, 2026**<br>9:00 AM | Horticulture Workshop – Mandatory Meeting (ALL EXHIBITORS) (must attend 1 of 2 meetings offered) **VIRTUAL ONLY** |
| **September 30, 2026 11:59 PM** | Ownership/Online Entry deadline along with paid entry fee. (**Ornamental plants purchased AFTER September 30, 2026, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHOW DURING THE FAIR**) |
| **October 1, 2026 – October 11, 2026 11:59 PM** | Online entries accepted along with paid entry and late entry fee |
| **November 30, 2026 11:59 PM** | Bedding Plants, Foliage Plants and Hanging Baskets Ownership Deadline |
| **November 30, 2026 11:59 PM** | Vegetable Ownership and Online Entry Due |
| **December 1, 2026 – December 6, 2026 11:59 PM** | Vegetable Online late entry deadline along with paid entry and late entry fees |
| **December 4, 2026**<br>5:00 PM | Buyer Letters Due: electronic copies can be sent to ritchiemichael10@yahoo.com |
| **December 5, 2026 – January 3, 2027 11:59 PM** | Late Buyer Letters Accepted along with late fee (**NO LETTERS ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 3, 2027**) |
| **January 26, 2027**<br>10:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Horticulture Check-in |
| **January 27, 2027**<br>9:00 AM – 2:30 PM | Horticulture Department Judging (room/tent closed) |
| **January 28, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Red and White Ribbon Horticulture Check-out (**ALL PLANTS MUST BE PICKED UP ON THIS DATE**) |
| **January 29, 2027**<br>12:30 PM | Horticulture Awards Presentation |
| **January 30, 2027**<br>9:00 AM | Fruit, Citrus and Ornamental Plant Auction |

**GENERAL RULES:**

- **The committee has the final decision in any situation that may arise. Ornamental plants purchased after September 30, 2026, will not be allowed to show during the fair. The cost analysis sheet is only required for those wishing to compete for the Premier Horticulture Exhibitor Award, and a receipt must be attached.**

Plants will be checked during check-in for quality and pests. Any plant not meeting quality standards will be turned away. Plants will be judged according to **Florida Department of Agriculture grades and standards**. Blue ribbon plants will be auctioned; red and white ribbon plants will be checked out on Wednesday of the fair.

- **Blue ribbon plants will be auctioned with no exceptions. If the exhibitor does not attend the auction, the plants will be donated to the Garden Club. No substitutions for exhibitors for the auction will be allowed unless the exhibitor is in a Learning Center, and entries must be approved by the committee.**

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

- **If an exhibitor does not wish to sell their plant for any reason or due to prior commitments, the exhibitor must register their project(s) under Class 5 – Plants for Display Only during registration.**
- All students must submit **two buyer letters** to the youth fair office. If a student does not submit a buyer letter but receives a blue ribbon, they will still be allowed to sell but will be fined **$25** (the exhibitor will be informed of this fine before the sale).
- All plants must be grown in standard production pots, flats, or trade baskets. Any **patented plants** must be identified with a patent tag.
- An entry is considered **three plants or one full tray**. All plants must be entered using the common name and variety of the plant. Each set of three plants must be alike in kind, size, and potting.
- Exhibitors must be able to handle and move their own plants. Failure to follow the above rules will result in disqualification or a lowering of one ribbon color.

**Premier Horticulture Exhibitor Award:** The Premier Horticulture Exhibitor Award is given to the exhibitor who earns the most points based on the judge's placement of exhibits and the exhibitor's level of participation in horticulture-related activities, including:

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, and blueberry/citrus trees; participation in the Horticulture Judging Contest
3. Entry of vegetables
4. Being present for the sale of the project
5. Submission of copies of buyer letters

**Unclaimed Plant Policy:**
All plants must be picked up by **Thursday, January 28, 2027, by 7:00 p.m.** 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.

## FRUIT AND CITRUS DEPARTMENT

Each exhibitor will be allowed to show and sell **only one plant** in this department. It may be **one fruit tree OR one citrus tree** from the lists below:

**Eligible Plants**

| FRUIT TREES | CITRUS TREES *(any variety, must be in a 7-gallon container)* |
|---|---|
| Raspberry *(grown on a trellis in a 5-gallon container)* | Grapefruit |
| Blackberry *(grown on a trellis in a 5-gallon container)* | Lime |
| Mango *(grown in a 7-gallon container)* | Lemon |
| Avocado *(grown in a 7-gallon container)* | Orange |
| Cherry *(grown in a 7-gallon container)* | |
| Guava *(grown in a 7-gallon container)* | |
| Blueberry *(grown in a 5-gallon container)* | |

Exhibitors may only show **one fruit tree OR one citrus tree**.
This contest is organized to recognize participants' skills in growing containerized fruit or citrus trees and to reward participants by providing an auction for each plant.
All entries must have been **purchased by September 30, 2026**.

Growing instructions for participants interested in competing in the **2027 contest** are provided in the *"Care of Fruit Plants"* and *"Care of Citrus Trees"* fact sheets, available from the **Polk County Citrus Advisory Committee** and online at **pcyf.net**.

- Raspberry, blackberry, and blueberry plants must be grown and exhibited in a standard **5-gallon container**.
- Mango, avocado, cherry, and guava must be grown and exhibited in a standard **7-gallon container**.
- All citrus trees must be grown in a **7-gallon container**.

Exhibitors must label each plant with their **name**.
Hanging baskets must be in a solid **black or green 10-inch container**.
All **red and white ribbon plants** must be picked up on **January 28, 2027, between 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM.**

## BEDDING PLANTS AND FOLIAGE

**Each student may pre-enter up to eight (8) entries but may show only four (4) at the Youth Fair. Participants may show a maximum of two exhibits in any one class (Class #01 – Bedding Plants or Class #02 – Foliage Plants).**

**Class #01: Bedding Plants**
An entry in this class shall consist of one standard full flat/tray. Plants may be grown in cell packs, 2¼-inch pots, or 4-inch pots, and should fill the tray completely with no empty spaces.
All bedding plants must be grown from seed or starter plugs by the exhibitor.
Examples of Bedding Plants

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Begonia | Coleus | Gerbera | Marigold |
| Petunia | Salvia | Snapdragon | Vegetables |

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 the minimum container size is an 8-inch pot.
Examples of Foliage Plants

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dieffenbachia | Dracaena | Ficus |
| Peace Lily | Pothos | Schefflera |

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

## ORNEMANTALS DEPARTMENT

Each student may pre-enter up to eight (8) entries, but may ONLY show only four (4) at the Youth Fair. **Participants may ONLY show a maximum of two exhibits in any one class (Class #03 – Landscape Ornamentals or Class #04 – Hanging Baskets/Miscellaneous**).
Plants in a single exhibit must be of the same species, 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 into a larger container size, and a dated receipt must be stapled to the Horticulture Cost Analysis & Project Summary Sheet as 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 this class shall consist of three (3) plants in 3-gallon or larger containers.
Maximum container size: 10 gallons.
Examples of Landscape Ornamentals

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Asparagus Fern | Azalea | Blue Daze | Boxwood |
| Confederate Jasmine | Croton | Daylilies | Heather |
| Hibiscus | Juniper | Ligustrum | Loropetalum |
| Ornamental Grasses | Palms (outdoor) | Pittosporum | Plumbago |
| Podocarpus | Split Leaf Philodendron | Viburnum | Xanadu Philodendron |

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

**Class #04: Hanging Baskets / Miscellaneous Plants**

An entry in this class shall consist of three (3) plants of the same species, grown in identical pots (6-inch pots or larger, trade baskets only).
Maximum hanging basket size: 12 inches.
Examples of Hanging Basket / Miscellaneous Plants

| Swedish Ivy | Spider Plant | Petunia | Viola |
|---|---|---|---|

The plant name must be included.
Other plants may also be used but must be listed by name.

**Class #05: Plants for Display Only (Not to Be Auctioned)**

Exhibitors may enter and show up to two (2) entries in this class.
This class allows students to exhibit plants they do not wish to sell in the plant auction. It also provides an opportunity to earn additional points toward the Premier Horticulture Exhibitor Award.
**No substitute plants will be accepted at check-in on January 26, 2027. If the exhibitor does not wish to sell their plants for any reason or due to prior commitments, this is the class in which they should enter.**

**Class #06: Dish Gardens – To Be Auctioned Online**

Exhibitors may enter and show one (1) entry.

Dish gardens must consist of at least 75% real plants. Dish gardens that receive a blue ribbon or higher will be entered into the silent auction.

A receipt is required for all dish garden projects and must be dated by November 30, 2026.

**VEGETABLES DEPARTMENT**

The following are the acceptable varieties and the quantity of specimens required to constitute an entry. Each exhibitor may pre-enter **up to ten (10) entries** and may show **ten (10) different entries only** in the Vegetable Department.
**ALL VEGETABLES MUST BE CLEANED OF ALL DIRT BEFORE CHECK-IN AT FAIR TIME.**
The Fair reserves the right to discard vegetable items that deteriorate or become unattractive for display. **No vegetables will be returned to exhibitors**. All vegetables will be disposed of 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 | Green onions (bunched) | 6 |
| Broccoli | 3 heads | Parsley (bunched) | 1 bunch (12 stems tied) |
| Cabbage | 2 heads | English peas (pods) | 2 dozen |
| Chinese cabbage | 2 heads | Peppers | 3 or 1 pint |
| Carrots (bunched) | 6 (tied) | Irish potatoes | 6 |
| Carrots (topped) | 6 | Radishes (bunched) | 2 bunches of 3 |
| Cauliflower | 2 heads | Rutabaga | 2 |
| Chives (bunched) | 12 | Spinach (bunched) | 2 bunches (12 leaves each) |
| Collards | 1 bunch (12 leaves tied) | Strawberries | 1 pint |
| Cucumber | 3 | Swiss chard (bunched) | 1 bunch (12 leaves) |
| 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 |

**NOTE:** Any exhibit that does not follow the rules for the class/department will be lowered one ribbon placing.

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

## ARCHERY DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitor must be 8 years old |
| **January 8, 2027 11:59 PM** | Online Entry due with paid entry fee (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER WITHOUT PAYING A LATE FEE**) |
| **January 9, 2027 – January 15, 2027 11:59 PM** | Online late entries accepted along with paid entry fee and late fee (**NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 15, 2027**) |
| **January 26, 2027**<br>8:00 AM<br>8:00 AM – 11:00 AM<br>10:30 AM – 1:30 PM<br>1:00 PM – 4:00 PM | <br>Safety Meeting<br>Junior Exhibitors Check-in<br>Intermediate Exhibitors Check-in<br>Senior Exhibitors Check-in |

There will be **no mandatory meeting to attend** prior to the event.
Participants must bring their own: bow, arm guard, hip quiver, finger protection and five (5) arrows for walkthrough

Participants who do **not sign in before 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 2027.
If a participant requires **special assistance or accommodations**, they must notify the **Archery Committee in advance** so proper arrangements can be made.

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

**Equipment & Safety Rules**

- Archery equipment is allowed **only at the range**
- Equipment must remain in the participant's vehicle until **division check-in**
- Participants are **not allowed to handle bows or arrows** until given permission by the Range Officer
- Failure to follow these rules will result in **disqualification**

These requirements are in place to ensure a **safe and enjoyable environment for all participants**

**Range Supervision**
The range will be supervised by: Certified 4-H Archery Instructors **or** Individuals certified through "**Archery in the Schools."**

**Conduct Rules: No coaching** is allowed during competition while a shooter is on the range**.** This includes parents, coaches, leaders, or any adult**.** Violators will be **removed from the range. No arguing** with the Range Commander is permitted regarding: Rule enforcement **and** Shooter correction or removal
The **Range Commander has full authority** to correct or remove a competitor for any rule violation outlined in the **2027 Polk County Youth Fair Rules and Regulations**.
**All decisions are final.**
**Divisions**
Participants may enter **only one division**, based on their age as of **September 1, 2026**:

- **Junior:** Ages 8–10
- **Intermediate:** Ages 11–13
- **Senior:** Ages 14–18

**Archery Classes:**

| Class Number | Description |
|---|---|
| 1 | Instinctive Long or Recurve Bow |
| 2 | Sighted Long or Recurve Bow |
| 3 | Instinctive Compound |
| 4 | Sighted Compound |

**Equipment Requirements**
Participants must provide their own: bows, arrows, arm guard, finger glove or tab, **clip-on hip quiver. All of these are required. Important:** Hand-carrying arrows is **not permitted**. The Youth Fair will **not provide equipment**.

Equipment sharing between shooters in the same class is **not allowed.** Each archer must bring: Minimum of **5 arrows** and **at least 2 extra arrows** in case of damage or loss

**Equipment Standards & Safety:** Each participant is responsible for ensuring their equipment is safe**.** The Archery Committee may **inspect equipment** at any time**.** Unsafe equipment will be **removed from competition**

**Bow Restrictions:** Maximum draw weight: **50 pounds.** Can be checked **before or during competition.** Exceeding weight limit results in: **Disqualification and all previous scores voided**

**Technical Equipment Rules:** A **nocking point indicator is required.** Arrows must be shot from an **arrow shelf** OR an **arrow rest**. **Overdraw rests are prohibited**. **Arrows Must Include: shaft, target/practice point, nock, fletching and personal identification markings.**

Additional arrow requirements: Must be properly matched ("spined") for the bow and at full draw, arrow must extend at least **1 inch beyond the back of the bow**

**Release Aids:** Allowed **only for compound bows and** Shooter must demonstrate **competence** before use

**Shooting Rules: Sky drawing is not allowed.** Raising arrow from ground into position is allowed**.** Lowering arrow down into position is **not allowed**
**Range Commands (Whistle System)**
- **2 blasts:** Go to shooting line
- **1 blast:** Shoot designated arrows
- **3 blasts:** Retrieve arrows
- **Multiple rapid blasts:** Cease fire

**Competition Format**
- Target: **40 cm FITA targets**

**Distances**
- **Junior:** 30 feet
- **Intermediate:** 45 feet
- **Senior:** 60 feet

**Course of Fire**
- 3 ends of **5 arrows each**
- 5 **practice arrows allowed**
- Time limit: **5 minutes per end**

**Scoring**
- **Gold:** 9–10 points
  - Smallest center ring = **10 points (compound bows)**
- **Red:** 7–8 points
- **Blue:** 5–6 points
- **Black:** 3–4 points
- **White:** 1–2 points

Any shaft that fails to remain in the target, such as a pass throughs or bounce outs may be cored by the mark on the target face.
**Tie-Breaking:** 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 numbers 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 AND CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **August 1, 2026** | Online Registration Begins |
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitor must be 8 years old |
| **December 4, 2026**<br>5:00 PM<br>5:00 PM | <br>Chili Cook Off Contest – Paper entry forms due<br>Cake Auction Buyer Letters Due (no electronic copies accepted) |
| **January 8, 2027 11:59 PM** | Scrap Off – Online Entries Due (no paper forms accepted) |
| **January 18, 2027 11:59 PM** | **Non-Perishable Online entries** due with paid entry fee (**NO PAPER ENTRIES ALLOWED**) Mannequin Modeling & Working Booth entries due online (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER**) |
| **January 19, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 7:00 PM | <br>Non-Perishable Exhibits Check-in<br>Cake Auction Entries & Recipes Entry Forms Due (no paper or online entries accepted)<br>**approved containers will be available for purchase** |
| **January 21, 2027 11:59 PM** | Perishable & Food Preservation Online Entries due with paid entry fee.<br>Special Events entries due online, no fee required (**NO PAPER ENTRIES ALLOWED**) (**LAST DAY TO REGISTER**) |
| **January 22, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 7:00 PM | <br>Perishable and Food Preservation Exhibits Check-in (Stuart Center) **approved containers will be available for purchase** |
| **January 27, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 6:00 PM<br>8:00 PM | <br>Cakes for Auction Check-in (Stuart Center)<br>Notifications of winners |
| **January 29, 2027**<br>3:00 PM | <br>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, and understand and agree to abide by the 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 a group project) since the 2027 Youth Fair and evaluated in a 4-H, FCCLA, YLPA, or FFA activity. **An entry from a previous year may not be repaired, updated, or refinished and then reentered at any upcoming fair.**

***x*All forms, including exhibit tags, recipes, judges' sheets, etc., that are required to be submitted with the exhibit must be attached to each exhibit and must be completely filled out legibly and 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 p.m. on the day of check-in.**

**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 paperwork must be completed by 7:00 p.m. Judges' sheets are available online. Please print and fill them out before you arrive.**

Tri-color rosettes may be awarded for outstanding (Best in 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 previous winning entry (Example: may not use the same recipe, pattern, etc.).**

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

All winners of the Tri-color, Best in Show, and Family and Consumer Sciences Special Events will be awarded at the Tri-color Awards Ceremony, Friday, January 29, 2027, at 3:00 p.m. in the Stuart Center.

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

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

A descriptive paragraph must accompany each project stating the 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 the product is important.

**Class Numbers and Descriptions**

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

## CLOTHING EXHIBITS

Exhibits must be clean, pressed, and ready to wear. All garments must be on hangers. Failure to comply will result in the lowering of 1 ribbon place.
Only class #C18 decorated garments may use a purchased item that has been embellished. Recycled articles in class #C21 and class #C22 cannot resemble their original use. They must be a new use for an old item and must be accompanied by a description of what was done to the purchased item.

**Class Numbers and Descriptions**

| Class Number | Description |
|---|---|
| C01 | Apron (half, bib-top, pinafore) |
| C02 | Clothing accessory (belt, tie, scarf, hat, wallet) |
| C03 | Fabric bag (handbag, tote bag, or purse) |
| C04 | Lingerie |
| C05 | Pants (shorts, slacks, or skorts) |
| C06 | Skirt |
| C07 | Shirt |

| | |
|---|---|
| C08 | Shirt (different pattern used for C07) |
| C09 | Clothing for infants or preschooler |
| C10 | After-5 wear (long or short) |
| C11 | Dress |
| C12 | One-piece outfit (gaucho, jumpsuit, or tennis dress) |
| C13 | Ensemble (2 or more pieces that match or coordinate) |
| C14 | Sleep or lounge wear |
| C15 | Swimwear or beachwear |
| C16 | Coat or jacket |
| C17 | Costumes (examples: historical or Halloween) |
| 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. |
| C19 | Crocheted or knitted accessory |
| C20 | Crocheted or knitted garment (label if a knitting machine was used) |
| C21 | Recycled article (must be accompanied by a description of the article before it was recycled and an explanation of what was done) |
| C22 | Recycled article (must be different from C21 and must be accompanied by a description of the article before it was recycled and an explanation of what was done) |
| C23 | Handmade jewelry – single item |
| C24 | Handmade jewelry set – must include 3 items (earrings count as 1 item) |
| C25 | Other (not a duplicate of any other item) |

## EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Educational exhibits should be informative and interesting. Exhibitors are encouraged to include examples that show or illustrate the topic as 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 (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 the exhibitor's name and the name of the exhibit. Project Summary forms are available online at **www.pcyf.net** under the 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)

**Display Requirements**
- Standard **48" x 36" science fair boards** are required
- Minimum letter size: **½ inch**
- 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."

**Check-In Requirements**
Each exhibit will be screened at the time of check-in for the following:

1. Completed Project Summary form
2. Neatness and attractiveness
3. Fulfillment of 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 Descriptions**

| Class Number | 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 the experiment. This must be done through specimens and visuals, not in report form. Supplementary materials may be included in the Project Summary form. |

## FOOD PRESERVATION EXHIBITS

***(Due at perishable check-in, Friday, January 22, 2027)***

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. Honey 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 – National Center for Home Food Preservation (uga.edu)**
Recipes must be included:

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

**Class Numbers and Descriptions**

| Class Number | Description |
|---|---|
| FP01 | Berries |
| FP02 | Fruit or vegetable juice |
| FP03 | Jams |
| FP04 | Jellies |
| FP05 | Sweet spread (fruit butter) |
| FP06 | Marmalades, preserves, or conserves |
| FP07 | Pickles (any kind) |
| FP08 | Relishes or chutneys (any kind) |

| | |
|---|---|
| FP09 | Tomato juice |
| FP10 | Tomato or vegetable sauce, puree, or ketchup |
| FP11 | Tomatoes (whole or cut up) |
| FP12 | Other products (barbecue sauce, salsa, etc.) |
| FP13 | Fruits (any kind) |
| FP14 | Syrup (recipe must be included) |
| FP15 | Flavored vinegars |
| FP16 | Flavored oils |
| FP17 | Dehydrated meats (½ cup or 12 slices) |
| FP18 | Dehydrated fruit for snacks (½ cup or 12 slices) |
| FP19 | Dehydrated vegetables (½ cup or 12 slices) |
| FP20 | Pressure canned (soups, stews, meats, etc.) |
| FP21 | Vegetables (any kind) |

## FOODS

***(Due at perishable check-in, Friday, January 22, 2027)***

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 with the exhibit.

All food exhibits will be judged for taste, with the exception of class #F29. Exhibits must contain the exact number of items specified in the 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 the same recipe, pattern, etc.).

**Disposable containers are required**. These containers should be no more than 2" larger than the exhibit. Containers may not be larger than 19" x 19" x 19". Items should be securely wrapped and visible through clear plastic or a Ziploc bag. Items not in or on a disposable container will not be accepted. Containers 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 do 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 an item needing refrigeration will be disqualified. Cream cheese icings are permissible. ***x***Decorated cakes must be labeled made from MIX or SCRATCH. **Cakes will be tasted.** Purchased decorations must be noted in the recipe.

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 the 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 and #14 are the only classes where a mix is permissible.

No bread machine, canned, frozen, or packaged bread products may be used. This includes no Bisquick except in Class 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.

- **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 flowers) must be listed in the recipe.**
- **If decorations are handmade, the recipe must be provided.**
- **Frosting must be handmade, not store-bought.**

**Class Numbers and Descriptions**

| Class Number | Description |
|---|---|
| F01 | Loaf or muffins without yeast — 1 loaf or 12 muffins |
| F02 | Coffee cake without yeast — 1 |
| F03 | Biscuits or cornbread without yeast — 12 |
| F04 | Loaf or rolls with yeast — 1 loaf or 12 muffins |
| F05 | Specialty bread (such as braids) with yeast — 1 |
| F06 | Cookies (no purchased mixes, bar cookies, or cereal treats accepted; all 12 must be the same recipe) — 12 |
| F07 | Bar cookies (no drop cookies, no Rice Krispy treats) — 12 |
| F08 | No-bake treats — 12 |
| F09 | Cookies using ¼ cup or more of citrus — 12 |
| F10 | Cookies using ¼ cup or more of honey — 12 |
| F11 | Cookies using ¼ cup or more of blueberries or strawberries — 12 |
| F12 | Product with mix as an ingredient (enhancements must be included in recipe) — 1 loaf, 1 cake, or 12 cookies/muffins/cupcakes |
| F13 | Cakes made from scratch 10" or less (uncut brownies are not accepted) — 1 |
| F14 | Decorated cakes (must be labeled made from MIX or SCRATCH; cakes will be tasted; purchased decorations must be noted in recipe) — 1 |
| F15 | Bread or cake using ¼ cup or more of citrus — 1 |
| F16 | Bread or cake using ¼ cup or more of honey — 1 |
| F17 | Bread or cake using ¼ cup or more of blueberries or strawberries — 1 |
| F18 | Cupcakes from scratch — 12 |
| F19 | Cupcakes, muffins, or rolls using ¼ cup or more of citrus — 12 |
| F20 | Cupcakes, muffins, or rolls using ¼ cup or more of honey — 12 |
| F21 | Cupcakes, muffins, or rolls using ¼ cup or more of blueberries or strawberries — 12 |
| F22 | Pound cake — 1 |
| F23 | Candy (any kind; cereal treats not accepted) — 12 |
| F24 | Candy using ¼ cup or more of citrus — 12 |
| F25 | Candy using ¼ cup or more of honey — 12 |
| F26 | Candy using ¼ cup or more of blueberries or strawberries — 12 |
| F27 | Microwave bread, cake, etc. — 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| F28 | Microwave candy or cookies — 12 |
| F29 | Creative edible decoration/decorative food (judged on creativity and artistic value; all items must be edible; recipes required) — 1 cake or 6+ items (not a decorated cake) |
| F30 | Cake pops — 12 items |
| F31 | Sugar-free product — 1 cake or 12 items |
| F32 | Gluten-free product — 1 cake or 12 items |
| F33 | Other (pumpkin rolls, petit fours, etc.; project summary and steps must be included) — 1 roll or 12 items |
| F34 | Desserts in a jar (see judging sheets) — 1 |
| F35 | Meals in a jar (see judges' sheets) — 1 |
| F36 | Citrus gift box (no cut or pierced fruit allowed) — 1 |
| F37 | Fresh citrus centerpiece (no cut or pierced fruit allowed; only fruit, leaves, and blossoms) — 1 |
| F38 | Fresh citrus arrangement (Polk County Youth Fair not responsible for container; only fruit, leaves, and blossoms) — 1 |

## GIFT 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 the auction class, exhibitors agree to sell the basket. Gift baskets entered for the silent auction will not receive premium points. Containers may not be larger than **24" long x 18" wide**. Bidding will begin **Sunday, January 24, 2027, at 11:00 a.m.** and continue until **Friday, January 29, 2027, at 3:00 p.m.** Bidding will begin at **$25.00** for all baskets selected for the auction. Each exhibitor participating in the gift basket auction will be assessed a **5% fee**, which will 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.

## 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 artwork will be accepted** (i.e., pen and ink, paintings, charcoal drawings, ceramics, or other fine art).
No purchased items will be accepted with the exception of categories #HF22 and #HF23.
Projects must include an **FCS Project Summary Book** (not a 4-H record book) located on the PCYF website.

**Class Numbers and Descriptions**

| Class Number | Description |
|---|---|
| HF01 | Door decoration |
| HF02 | Floral arrangement |
| HF03 | Table centerpiece (no taller than 15 inches) |
| HF04 | Wall decoration (not artwork) – must have an appropriate hanger attached |
| HF05 | Wreath – must have a hanger (may be a loop made of wire, for example) |
| HF06 | Fabric-covered book |
| HF07 | Fabric-lined or fabric-covered basket |
| HF08 | Fabric accessories (shoe bag, garment bag, purse caddy, sewing kit, etc.) |
| HF09 | Fabric furnishings/bath (shower curtain, toilet seat cover, etc.) |
| HF10 | Fabric furnishings/bed (bedspread, dust ruffle, coverlet, etc.; twin or larger in size; no throws accepted) |
| HF11 | Fabric furnishings/kitchen (small appliance cover; minimum of 2 each: pot holders, mitts, dish towels) |

| | |
|---|---|
| HF12 | Fabric furnishings/table (tablecloth, napkins – minimum of 4; placemats – minimum of 4; or table runner) |
| HF13 | Framed needlework (needlework will be judged) |
| HF14 | Pillow |
| HF15 | Rug |
| HF16 | Quilt (any size; must be pieced, tied, hand, or machine quilted) |
| HF17 | Blanket or throw (can be crocheted, knitted, or fleece) |
| HF18 | Tree skirt |
| HF19 | Window treatment |
| HF20 | Homemade dolls (including mop dolls, rag dolls, and stuffed animals; no kits) |
| HF21 | Hoop hanging (ready to hang) |
| xHF22 | Purchased home furnishing item with decorative painting, tie-dye, etc. (must include project summary) |
| xHF23 | Purchased home furnishing item with machine embroidery or hand stitching, etc. (must include a project summary) |
| HF24 | Holiday home furnishings item (no ornaments) |
| HF25 | Three holiday ornaments (may be different) |
| HF26 | Lamp (not purchased) |
| HF27 | Lampshade (must be handmade; lampshade form may be used) |
| HF28 | Furniture – refinished (only finish will be judged) |
| HF29 | Furniture – upholstered (only upholstery will be judged) |
| HF30 | Scrapbooking project (must be a book with a minimum of 5 pages, front and back, completed individually; appropriate pictures only) |
| HF31 | Digital scrapbooking project (must be a book with a minimum of 5 pages, front and back, completed individually; appropriate pictures only) |
| HF32 | Pet/animal project (dog bed, pet organizer, food storage center, etc.) |
| xHF33 | Outdoor wood craft (not judged for woodworking skills; size requirements: no larger than 5 ft x 3 ft x 4 ft; no onsite assembly permitted) |
| HF34 | Homemade candles/soap (must include ingredients and directions) |
| HF35 | Woven item |
| HF36 | Braiding, plaiting, weaving, and knot tying (items made from string, rope, cord, leather strips, or synthetic material; examples include halters, horse tack, whips, belts, survival bracelets, mats, macramé plant hangers) |
| HF37 | Gift basket – large (over 15" measured on the outside; must include something handmade; include list of contents, price list, and total cost; container does not need to be a basket) |
| HF38 | Gift basket for silent auction (must include something handmade; include list of contents, price list, and total cost; container does not need to be a basket; recommended to wrap in clear cellophane for safety) |
| HF39 | Small gift baskets (15" or smaller; follow rules for Class #HF37) |
| HF40 | Eco-friendly project (example: reusable shopping bag) |
| HF41 | Recycled article (must include description of original item and steps taken to upcycle; must be different from original use) |
| HF42 | Recycled article (must include description of original item and steps; must be completely different from HF41, e.g., not two purses) |
| HF43 | Other home furnishing item (not a duplicate of any other category) |

## *x*WELDING EXHIBITS

Welding exhibits are non-perishable entries and are due Tuesday, January 19, 2027. All exhibits must be free-standing and no larger than 3 feet in any direction. No group projects are allowed.
Projects must include an FCS Project Summary Book (not a 4-H record book) located on the PCYF website.
The committee reserves the right to not accept any project if deemed hazardous (example: too many sharp points or edges).
No knives are permitted**. The exhibitor awarded Best in Show will have the option to sell their project prior to the Steer Sale on Friday, January 29, 2027. The qualifying exhibitor must coordinate with an FCS representative, or the item will not sell.**

**Class Numbers and Descriptions**

| Class Number | Description |
|---|---|
| MW01 | Welding with use of stick |
| MW02 | Welding with use of wire |
| MW03 | Other welded item with use of wire |
| MW04 | Welding with use of stick |
| MW05 | Welding with use of wire |
| MW06 | Other welded item with use of stick |

## Outdoor Sports Equipment

Outdoor Sports Equipment exhibits are non-perishable entries and are due Tuesday, January 19, 2027. 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 a Project Summary Book (not a 4-H record book). The Project Summary Book is available online at www.pcyf.net.

The committee reserves the right to not accept any project if it is deemed hazardous (example: too many sharp points or edges).

**Class Numbers and Descriptions**

| Class Number | Description |
|---|---|
| OS01 | Fishing pole: saltwater |
| OS02 | Fishing pole: freshwater |
| OS03 | Lures: freshwater |
| OS04 | Lures: saltwater |
| OS05 | Golf clubs |
| OS06 | Baseball bats |
| OS07 | Other (not a duplicate) |
| OS08 | Other (not a duplicate) |

## Photography Exhibits

Exhibitors may enter **no more than four categories**, with **only one exhibit per category**. Photography exhibits are non-perishable entries and are due **Tuesday, January 19, 2027**. All single enlargements and special effects photographs must be titled and matted using the kit specified below. All photo series must be titled, mounted, and framed. All photographs must be ready to hang using one hook at the center of the back. All photographs should be appropriate for a youth competition.

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

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

***Photographs must be printed on photo paper (gloss or matte).**
All photographs within a series should be 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. Pictures 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.

Awards will be given for: Best Single Enlargement, Best Series and Best Special Effects. Judging will be on overall presentation. This include the quality of the photograph, matting, framing, labeling, and hanger. Placings will be lowered if rules are now followed. Mounting kits must include a black matte.

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

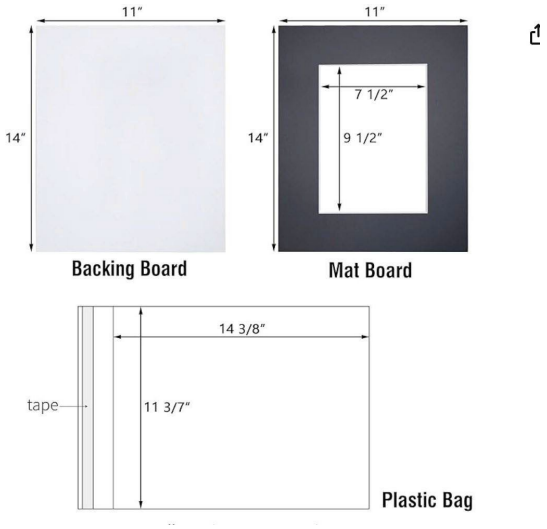
**Story Series (Class #P03)**
A series of five photographs that tell a story in sequence. All photographs must be displayed as a group and will be judged as a group. Each photograph must be labeled underneath with a comment explaining the steps in the story. An additional label is required with a title for the entire series.
**Framing Requirement:**
Photographer's Choice, Practice Series, and Story Series must be framed in a **16" x 20" poster frame**. Do not use frames that push together.

**Single Enlargement (Class #P04)**
Photographs must be enlarged to **8" x 10"** (does not include matting or frame size). Photographs enlarged on digital devices will be judged as digital enlargements. Photographs must be of fine quality, attractively matted, and placed in the required mat board kit. xPhotographs must be labeled with a title and state **"SINGLE ENLARGEMENT."**

**Special Effects (Class #P05)**
Includes major alterations (anything more than 50% of the original print). Converting a photo to sepia or black and white is **not** considered a special effect.
Photographs must:
- Be enlarged to **8" x 10"** (excluding mat/frame)
- Be attractively matted and framed using the required mounting kit
- Include the original unedited photograph attached to the back (4" x 6" or 5" x 7")
- Include a list of all special effects used and the process to achieve them

Judging will be based on overall presentation and final appearance.

**Display Information**
Mounting kits will be used for single enlargements. They may be purchased online or at the Youth Fair during business hours between **December 1, 2026 – December 18, 2026**.




## 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 19, 2027. It is recommended that the Project Summary, plans, and directions be submitted in a folder properly labeled with the exhibitor's name and the name of the exhibit. Project Summary forms are available from the Youth Fair office. Exhibits entered must be cut, assembled, sanded, and finished (if applicable) by the exhibitor and ready for use. Each exhibitor is eligible to submit five entries, but only one made from a kit. Duplicate entries are not allowed (i.e., only one birdhouse). No onsite assembly will be permitted. Projects cannot exceed 3 feet in any direction. The exhibitor awarded Best in Show will have the option to sell their project prior to the Steer Sale on Friday, January 29, 2027. **The qualifying exhibitor must coordinate with an FCS representative, or the item will not be sold.**

**Class Numbers and Descriptions**

| Class Number | Description |
|---|---|
| WW01 | Cut or constructed from kit |
| WW02 | Item not made from a kit |
| WW03 | Item not made from a kit |
| WW04 | Items not made from a kit |
| WW05 | Item not made from a kit |
| WW06 | Item not made from a kit |

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Special activities – All events occur in the Stuart Center except for the Cake Auction. Judges reserve the right to award ribbons according to the quality of the 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 is required for special events in the Family and Consumer Sciences Division. Entries for special events are due online on Thursday, January 21, 2027.

Only online entries will be accepted except for the following:

- ***Scrap-Off*** entries will be due **January 8, 2027**, online
- ***Chili Cook-Off*** entries must be mailed in by **Friday, December 4, 2026**
- ***Cake Auction*** entries will be turned in during non-perishable check-in on **Tuesday, January 19, 2027**

*x* Denotes Changes from the 2026 Rules & Regulations

## CAKE AUCTION

| Important Dates: | Event: |
|---|---|
| **September 1, 2026** | Exhibitors must be 8 years old |
| **December 4, 2026**<br>5:00 PM | Buyer's Letters due (must be postmarked by December 4, 2026) No electronic copies accepted |
| **January 19, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Entry Form for Cake Auction and Cake Recipe due at non-perishable check-in (PAPER ENTRY DUE) Stuart Center (**No faxed, mailed, or emailed entries will be accepted. Must turn in form, in person on this day**) |
| **January 24, 2027**<br>3:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Check-in of Cakes for Auction (Stuart Center) |
| **January 25, 2027**<br>10:00 AM & 12:00 PM | Cake Auction during Swine Sale (Hayman Arena) |

**Cake mixes can be used as part of a recipe and must include other ingredients that will enhance the cake. A mix can be used as the 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 (examples: strawberry, pineapple, mandarin oranges, peppers, broccoli, fresh coconut, cherries). Items requiring refrigeration include cheesecakes, meringue, custard, pudding, whipped cream, and 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 19, 2027**, between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Stuart Center during non-perishable check-in. No emailed, mailed, or hand-delivered forms to the Youth Fair office will be accepted. A recipe must be submitted with the pre-registration cake auction entry form on Tuesday, January 19, 2027. 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. Cake 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 the cake. A completed exhibit tag must be submitted at check-in. The cake that is entered on Sunday, January 24, 2027 must match the pre-registration entry form and recipe that were submitted on January 19, 2027, or the cake will be disqualified.

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

Exhibitors may not enter more than one cake to be considered for auction. Exhibitors must be present to auction their own cake. If the exhibitor is not present for the cake auction, the cake will not be sold.
Exhibitors who enter a cake for auction, or whose cakes are auctioned, will not receive additional premiums or a 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.

## CAKE DECORATING CONTEST
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027.**

Activity scheduled for **Thursday, January 28, 2027,4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**
You must bring your own supplies for this contest.
**Required supplies include:**

- 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 (participants 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 sides must be smoothly 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 with 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)

## CHILI COOK-OFF CONTEST

**Entry forms are due December 4, 2026. Forms can be found on the Youth Fair website and must be mailed in. The event will take place on Wednesday, January 27, 2027. Check-in is at 12:30 p.m.**

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. Selected teams will be notified as soon as possible. All teams will be contacted if they have been selected to participate. Once teams are notified, the first 32 teams will be listed on the PCYF website. Selected teams will also be listed on the Youth Fair's Facebook page.

Team members and alternates may be changed with approval from the committee prior to **Wednesday, January 20, 2027, at noon** (email Leann.bennett@polk-fl.net before 12:00 p.m.). Team members must declare Team A or B. Teachers/leaders must designate A or B on the entry form. If names appear on both teams, they will be disqualified. Teams that need to cancel have until **Wednesday, January 20, 2027**, to contact the chili chairperson so a replacement can be found, and there will be no penalty. Each team will consist of **3 members** and may represent 4-H, FFA, YLPA, or FCCLA. Only registered team members may be in the booth at any time. All team members must be present at **12:30 p.m.** for check-in. 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, or YLPA advisors will be allowed past the check-in point. Advisors and leaders are not permitted in the Stuart Center during setup and preparation. Tables will be assigned at **12:45 p.m.** in the Stuart Center on **Wednesday, January 27, 2027**. At that time, teams may begin decorating and setting 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, with nothing on the sides. Any additional tables or props for storage, supplies, or decoration must be provided by the team. When decorating booths, be mindful of 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 the display/decorations. Costumes for team members will be considered part of the booth decoration.

Each team must display an **8½" x 11" sign** with the name of the club and theme.

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 the Stuart Center until notified by the committee.

No canned or pre-made chili is allowed. No ingredient may be pre-cooked or treated in any way prior to the start time, which is **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. Setup, preparation, and cooking will be for a maximum of **2 hours** from the start time. Cooking during this period is at the sole discretion of the team. Teams are responsible for supplying their own utensils, small appliances, etc. Stuart Center kitchen facilities may not be used. Refrigerated items should be brought in a cooler. No gas or open flames are allowed.

Only **one electric appliance (1,000 watts or less)** (i.e., crock pot, frying pan, food processor, etc.) may be operating 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 the Youth Fair. Teams must use a cutting board. Team members must have their hair pulled back and must wear gloves when preparing food. Participants must be appropriately dressed. **No tank tops are allowed.**

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

Each team will be assigned a team number by the director and will be given a container for collecting chili samples for official judging. A copy of the team's recipe must be submitted with the sample.

After the judges have collected their samples, spectators will have the opportunity to purchase a bowl and spoon to sample chili. They will also receive a ticket to vote for their favorite chili.
Awards will be given in the following categories: Judges Choice, Peoples 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 and will be displayed with the team signs until that time.
Each team is responsible for cleaning their area after winners are announced. Teams may recruit others to help. Each team must bring their own cleaning supplies—**including for the floor**. **No coaching** is allowed. Teams found in violation will be disqualified. Chili Cook-Off participants may not have cell phones during the contest in the Stuart Center. If a club or organization selected for this event is a **no-show**, they will be ineligible for participation the following year. Doors will open to the public at **3:00 p.m.**

## DECORATIVE FOOD CENTERPIECE
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027.**

**Activity scheduled** for Wednesday, January 27, 2027, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM.; setup 8:15 AM – 8:30 AM.
**Teams of two 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 use only fruits and/or vegetables.
Skewers, toothpicks, gelatin/aspic, nuts, coconut, food coloring, fresh or 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.** Charcuterie-type displays are not appropriate. The finished piece must be displayed on a tray or mirror that is no larger than 18 inches. No advance 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 cleanup after time is called. No pre-cut fruit is allowed. **Presentations involving food preparation require hairnets, hats, or tiebacks and the use of gloves. A picture may be used for reference but is not required.**
**Projects will be judged on:**

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

A sign, no larger than **8½" x 11"**, is to be affixed to the front of the table with the exhibitor's name, organization, and theme, and should be decorated neatly.

## DEMONSTRATIONS
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027.**

Activity scheduled for THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2027, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
A **demonstration** is a practical showing or explanation of how to do something (actually making an end product) or showing 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 information.***
Presentations involving food preparation require hairnets, hats, or tiebacks and the use of gloves. Sanitation standards should be followed. Items that need to be measured should be done 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 AM**. Teachers/leaders should review and approve the presentation. Participants should be appropriately dressed.
**Time Limits**:

- Juniors: 3 to 10 minutes
- Intermediate: 3 to 10 minutes
- Seniors: 5 to 10 minutes

**ILLUSTRATED TALKS CONTEST**
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027.**

Activity scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2027, beginning at 11:00 AM
An illustrated talk is an oral presentation used to convey information by using a variety of visual aids such as charts, pictures, models, posters, etc. **PowerPoint may be used but must be emailed to pcyf@ifas.ufl.edu**. **Flash drives will no longer be accepted.** The Senior division only must use PowerPoint. Be sure to email your presentation to the address listed above.
Please print three copies of the 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 information.*

- This event will be judged and ribbons awarded
- Individuals or a two-person team (no groups) in each division may enter
- Both team members should be actively involved in speaking
- Teachers/leaders should review and approve the presentation

**Time Limits**:

- Juniors: 3 to 10 minutes
- Intermediate: 3 to 10 minutes
- Seniors: 5 to 10 minutes

**MANNEQUIN MODELING**
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027.**

Choose your timeframe online after completing entry. Participants will 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 online registration. Any type of weapon or form of violence is strictly prohibited. No references to alcohol or tobacco products are allowed. 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**
**Online entries are due by Friday, January 8, 2027**.

Activity scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2027, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Setup begins at 3:45 PM.
Individuals will design and complete a double layout on 12" x 12" pages. Paper will be provided by the Fair/coordinator at the time of the contest. Everyone in the division will have the same paper.
Embellishments, stickers, and/or other paper are not allowed unless provided by the Fair.
Participants may bring tools such as scissors, pens, punches, Cricut machines, paper cutters, stamps, or inks, as well as their own adhesives. **Participants may not have cell phones, tablets, pictures, or any drawings of pre-planned pages during the contest**. Participants must bring their own pictures to use in their scrapbook pages.
**Project will be judged on:**
a. Creativity and originality
b. Workmanship
c. Variety of methods used (tools) and use of provided materials
d. Appearance of completed pages
e. Title included
f. Journaling and space
g. Creativity of sign
Bring a sign no larger than 8½" x 11" to be affixed to the front of the table with the exhibitor's name and organization. The sign should be decorated neatly. Participants should be properly dressed and use school-appropriate pictures. Exhibitors' signs and finished pages will be on display until the close of the Fair.

## xSEW OFF CONTEST

**Individual**

Activity for individuals scheduled for **Tuesday, January 26, 2027, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.**
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027.**
Individuals will construct pajama pants using a basic pajama pattern and a fabric of their choice. Fabric may be pre-pressed but not pre-cut. Participants must bring their own equipment, including sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, scissors, heavy-duty extension cords, surge protectors, pattern guide sheets, etc. Equipment may not be shared with other participants. Participants may practice as much as they want before the day of the Sew-Off. Pajama pants may be embellished. **No cell phones are allowed during the event.**
**Projects will be judged on:**
a. Workmanship
b. Creativity
c. Appearance of completed pants
Participants must have a sign no larger than **8½" x 11"** that includes exhibitor names and club or chapter. Participants will set up at **9:30 a.m.**
The contest will be from **10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Participants should be appropriately dressed.
The poster and finished products will be on display until the close of the Fair.

**Teams**

Activity for Sew-Off teams scheduled for **TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2027, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027**.
Closed-toe shoes are required.
Teams of two will construct a nine-patch pillow from scratch to be stuffed or fitted on a pillow form. They may use fabric of their choice to construct a pillow of any size. Participants must bring their own equipment, including sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, scissors, heavy-duty extension cords, surge protectors, etc.
Participants may practice as much as they want before the day of the Sew-Off. No cell phones are 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 **8½" x 11"** that includes exhibitor names and club or chapter. Participants will set up at 12:30 PM
The contest will be from **1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.** Participants should be appropriately dressed. Closed-toe shoes are required.
The poster and finished products will be on display until the close of the Fair.

## STORYTELLING CONTEST

Activity scheduled for **Tuesday, January 26, 2027, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM**
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027.**
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 a 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 fire or flame may be used.**
The story may be original or commercially published. Handmade visuals should be suitable to the story and may include puppets, toys, flannel boards, pictures, flip charts, or other appropriate materials or objects.
**Set up is to be done by the 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 anticipation for the story. It may include a finger play, song, puppet visit, or conversation about the story theme. Plan a conclusion to indicate the story has ended. This may include a review or clarification of ideas.

**TABLE SETTING & MENU PLANNING CONTEST**

Activity scheduled for **January 25, 2027, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027**.
**Seniors:** Setup 8:30 AM. – 9:00 AM; Judging 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
**Intermediate:** Setup 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM; Judging 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Lunch Break: 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
**Juniors:** Setup 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM; Judging 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
There is no limit on entries per club or school; however, entries should be screened at the local level to ensure quality exhibits.
Individual entries only — no team entries.
The table setting with two place settings should have a theme (examples: Mother's Day, breakfast or dinner with 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. References to alcoholic beverages in menus are prohibited. Use sparkling juices, etc.

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

Each contestant will be assigned a **6' x 6' area** and must supply their own table, chairs, or alternate display. The setup should reflect the theme and may be simple or elaborate. It should include utensils, glasses, dishes, linens, napkins, and a centerpiece. Materials may be handmade or purchased.
The contestant should wear an outfit appropriate for the selected theme.
If parents or small children interfere with the contest, they will be asked to leave.
Only the contestant will be allowed in the exhibit area during setup (no teachers, leaders, or parents). **No coaching is allowed by spectators**. Students may be disqualified. Contestants will sit at their tables during 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; however, the Youth Fair assumes no responsibility for breakage or theft. The use of sterling silver is discouraged.
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**
**Online entries are due by Thursday, January 21, 2027.**

Choose your date and time online after completing your entry.
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 4-H. The audience will be walking by and may 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 or club may enter. There must be at least three participants and no more than ten (10) participants during the 2-hour period on Thursday, January 28, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM or Friday, January 29, 110:00 AM – 12:00 PM. **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 during the initial setup or

take-down. Participants need to always be 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, health and safety standards must be followed. No eating or drinking is allowed while working. Participants are responsible for cleaning up after completion of their working booth, especially in the kitchen. **A copy of a thank-you note to the sponsor of Working Booths from participants is required to be turned into the Youth Fair office before the club check will be disbursed.**

## GOAT TYING SKILLS CONTEST

**Entries will be accepted until Sunday, January 24, 2027**.

Activity scheduled: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2027, beginning at 1:00 PM in the arena** (immediately following the Top Ranch Hand Contest).
All contestants are to arrive by **12:30 PM.**

1. This is a skill event. Participants must be **8 years old as of September 1, 2026**. 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** must be paid online with entry by **November 1, 2026**. The amount of cash awards given to exhibitors will be determined by the number of exhibitors entering the contest.
   The contest fee and Youth Fair fee are 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 are required.
2. The goat will be tied to a stake with a rope **10 feet in length**.
3. If the goat is down when the contestant reaches it, the goat must be stood on at least three feet and thrown again. The contestant must cross any three legs and tie with a leather string, pigging string, or rope. The contestant will then signal completion and must stand clear of the goat.
4. The goat's legs must remain crossed and secure for **6 seconds** after completion of the tie.
5. To qualify for a legal tie, there must be one or more wraps and a half hitch hooey or knot.
6. Time will start when the participant leaves the starting point at the designated starting line.
7. Time will stop when the signal of completion of the tie is given.
8. All participants must 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. The number of rotations will depend on the number of participants. The committee reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of rotations.

**Scoring and Penalties:**

1. Judges will flag the time and disqualify a contestant if the run is not legal.
2. The tie must pass inspection by the judge; 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 within 45 seconds, the participant will receive no time.
4. Participants will receive no time for touching the goat or string after signaling completion and before the 6-second count is confirmed by the judge.
5. There will be three timekeepers. The slowest and fastest times will be discarded, leaving the middle time as the final time.
6. If a participant is ruled too rough in handling the animal by judges, the participant will be disqualified.

**Reruns:**

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

## TOP RANCH HAND CONTEST

**Entries due: January 24, 2027. Must pre-register online.**

Activity scheduled: **Tuesday, January 26, 2027 at 9:00 AM**
**Purpose:** First and foremost, to have fun while teaching and demonstrating skills in ranch management. This is a knowledge and skill event.
*Once capacity is met for each heat, registration ends.*

1. Open to any 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, or YLPA member, regardless of whether they are an exhibitor in the Fair. Registration the day of the event will be allowed if capacity has not been reached.
2. Participants must be 8 years old as of September 1, 2026 and will compete in junior (8–10), intermediate (11–13), and senior (14–18) age groups.
3. Participants must wear long pants and closed-toe shoes.
4. The contest will run in heats. The duration of each heat will be explained on the day of the event. Heats will be assigned based on sign-up order and special circumstances.

Results will be announced and awards presented immediately following the contest in the Hayman Arena.
**Scoring:**
Participants will rotate through a series of stations for a total possible score of **100 points**. Participants will have a set amount of time to complete each station before rotating. Each station will test knowledge, skill, or both.
Awards will be presented to the highest score in each age category. The committee will determine tie-breaking stations if necessary.

## WHIP POPPING CONTEST

**Entries due: January 10, 2027. Entries must be submitted online by the deadline.**

Late entries will be accepted January 11 – January 17, 2027 11:59 PM, with a $10.00 late fee.
No late entries after this period. No walk-ups will be accepted.
An adaptive division has been added to the online registration.
Activity scheduled: Sunday, January 24, 2027, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the arena

1. Exhibitor Conduct: Any unbecoming behavior will result in disqualification and forfeiture of awards and premiums. Exhibitors must be appropriately dressed. Refer to Exhibitor Conduct Rule 4.
2. A warm-up session with a committee member will be held from 5:35 PM – 5:45 PM. (time may vary).
3. Each contestant will have 45 seconds to perform.
4. Whips may range from 6 to 14 feet in length.
5. In case of a tie, a pop-off will determine the winner.
6. **Exhibitors will be disqualified if found popping at any time before or after entering the arena or during any point of the fair. This rule applies for the entire duration of the fair (January 22 – January 30, 2027) to all exhibitors.**
7. Judges will score on a 1–10 scale, with 10 being the highest. Judging criteria include originality, sharpness, loudness, and overall performance.

## JUDGING CONTESTS

Results for the poultry, rabbit, horticulture, and livestock judging contests will be posted outside of the Stuart Center one hour after the completion of each contest. Trophies and ribbons will be given out in the arena prior to the Horticulture Awards Presentation on Friday, January 29, 2027, beginning at 12:00 PM

1. All judging contests are open to any 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, or 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 are 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 contests 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 28, 2027, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the arena
2. **Time required**: Approximately 1 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 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 28, 2027, 8:30 AM – 9:30 PM
2. **Time required**: Approximately 1 hour
3. The Rabbit Judging Competition will consist of a multiple-choice test based on the current year of the Florida State Fair Skillathon

**HORTICULTURE JUDGING CONTEST** (Hayman Arena)

1. **Contest scheduled for**: Friday, January 29, 2027, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
2. **Time required**: Approximately 45 minutes
3. **Purpose**: To teach young people the identification of various horticultural specimens, including vegetables, ornamentals, and fruit

**LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST** (Hayman Arena)

1. **Contest scheduled for**: Friday, January 29, 2027, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
2. **Time required**: Approximately 1 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

## *x*PARADE OF CHAMPIONS – LIST OF PARTICIPATION

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 4:15 PM, so please arrive in official FFA, FCCLA, 4-H, or YLPA attire, with awards, in front of the **Gazebo to line up at 3:45 p.m.**
***Stuart Center exhibitors to come line up after tri-color awards***

**Swine Department:**
Grand Champion, 1st in Showmanship (per age division 3), Herdsman (per age division 3), and Eagle Award

**Steer Department:**
Grand Champion (per division 3), 1st in Showmanship (per age division 3), Eagle Award, and Herdsman

**Commercial & Purebred Beef Department:**
Supreme Overall Champion (2), Eagle Award (2), Group Herdsman (2), 1st in Showmanship (per age division 6)

**Goat Department:**
Grand Champion (per division 7), Eagle Award, 1st in Showmanship (per age division 3), and Herdsman (per age division 3)

**Lamb Department:**
Grand Champion (per division 7), Eagle Award, 1st in Showmanship (per age division 3)

**Goat Tying Contest:**
Overall Winners (per age division 3)

**Dog Department:**
Best Showman, High Point (per age division)

**Top Ranch Hand Contest:**
Overall Winner (per age division 3)

**Horse Department:**
Grand Champion (per age division: Ranch 2, Western 2, Speed 2, English 2, Western Dressage 2, Traditional Dressage 2), Overall Champion, Overall Ranch Horse Competition, Grand Roping Champion, Grand Sorting Champion, and Grand Boxing Champion

**Poultry/Egg Department:**
Grand Champion Turkey, 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, and Senior Showmanship Winner

**Rabbit Department:**
Best of Show (overall), Showmanship Winners (per age division 3)

**Whip Popping Contest:**
Winners (per age division) and Spirit Award

**Judging Contests (Horticulture, Livestock, Poultry, and 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 (4–8), 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 Sports 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 3–6), Decorative Centerpieces (per age division 3)

**Archery Department:**
1st Place per class

**Horticulture Department:**
Premium Exhibitor, Citrus Grand Champion, Fruit Grand Champion, Ornamentals Grand Champion, and Tri-Colors