

# OPEN DAIRY SHOW

February 13 – 16, 2026

Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey

Dairy Barn Superintendent ..... Gene Holcomb

## Show Schedule

**NEW**

**Entry Deadline ..... December 5, 2025**  
**(No paper entry forms will be accepted for the 2026 Fair.)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Late Entry Period ..... December 12, 2025**  
**..... (Double Entry Fees)**

**Final Late Entry Period ..... January 12, 2026**  
**..... (Double Entry Fee plus \$100.00)**

**NEW**

**Arrival..... Feb. 13, 7 a.m.- 1 p.m.**  
**Check-in at Livestock Office..... Feb. 13, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**All Exhibitor Meeting..... Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Open Heifer Show (All Breeds)..... Feb. 15, 9 a.m.**  
**Open & Youth Cow Show (All Breeds) .. Feb. 16, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Supreme Champion ..... Feb. 16, at the end of Show**  
**Release..... Feb. 16, 4 p.m.**

## INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The management of the Florida State Fair reserves the right to amend, add to, and interpret the following Rules and Regulations; and to arbitrarily settle and determine all questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with or incident to the Fair.

## ELIGIBILITY

1. All animals showing in the Dairy Cattle division must be registered with their respective National Breed Association. Papers pending **will not be accepted** if registration papers are not available by show day.

NOTE: All animals recorded in Step 2 in breed Identity Enrollment programs are eligible. For Holsteins, this includes those animals with 75% or more known ancestry as recorded on their registration or breed ID papers.

2. Any exhibitor from a family with an outstanding balance owed to the Fair will not be eligible to show at the Florida State Fair.

***A SPECIAL  
THANKS TO  
FLORIDA DAIRY  
FARMERS  
FOR THEIR CONTINUED  
SUPPORT AS THE  
SUPREME SPONSOR OF  
THE OPEN DAIRY SHOW***

## ENTRIES

**1. Entry Due Date - All entries must be submitted online on or before December 5, 2025.** Hand-delivered or mailed entries **WILL NOT** be accepted this year.

It is the policy of the Florida State Fair to abide by all Rules and Regulations as posted on the Florida State Fair website at [www.floridastatefairag.com](http://www.floridastatefairag.com).

**NEW**

**NEW**

Entry fee will be determined by the date entries are submitted online to the Agribusiness Office. **Payment is required at the time of online entry.**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Late Entry Period for entries submitted online between December 6<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is subject to space availability and will be charged double (\$50.00) entry fees.

The Final Late Entry Period for entries submitted online December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 & January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, is subject to space availability and will be charged double entry fees plus a \$200.00 fee (Open).

**TO EXPEDITE THE CHECK-IN PROCESS AT THE FAIR, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT COPIES OF THE REGISTRATION PAPERS BE EMAILED TO THE AGRIBUSINESS OFFICE OR UPLOADED TO THE AGRIBUSINESS WEBSITE. (Original papers must still be presented at check-in)**

**2. Entry fee is \$25.00 per animal.** This amount must be paid online before animals are officially entered and space is reserved. Overpayments will not be refunded if \$25.00 or less.

**Please Note: Space is allocated on the number of animals that are brought to the Fair - not on the number of entry fees paid. Due to the number of animals, extra space cannot be purchased. Do not pay for additional tack space or animals you do not intend to bring.**

3. Any youth exhibitor with a registered animal desiring to enter the Open Show must meet the Open Show deadline of December 5, 2025, and pay a regular \$25.00 entry fee per animal.

4. The Florida State Fair reserves the right to limit entries based on stall/pen availability. Entries will be accepted in chronological order based on the timestamp.

**5. Group and/or herd classes must be pre-entered during the online entry process. Be sure to specify classes and/or multiple entries in classes** but it is not necessary to name the animals which make up your group or herd entries until after judging the individual classes. **HOWEVER, NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.** Entries in group and herd classes must have been exhibited previously in individual classes. **\*\*\*ANY GIVEN ANIMAL CAN ONLY BE SHOWN IN ONE ENTRY PER GROUP CLASS\*\*\***

6. Animals owned in partnership may be shown in the name

of the partnership only; except that at the time of entry, a determination may be made that such animals will be shown in the name of one (but not both) partners; but the animals must be shown in the same way in the group classes as they are in the open single classes.

7. Where an adult exhibitor's herd is registered in the names of different members of his immediate family, all residents of one farm; and where the herd is one unit, all entries may be considered as a single exhibitor for Dairy Herd, Produce-of-Dam, Best 3 Females, Best 3 Junior Females, Breeders Herd, Premier Breeder, and Premier Exhibitor. Online entry must indicate the exhibitor for group class entries and the breeder for premier breeder tabulation.

8. **Registration papers must** arrive with the cattle and remain at the State Fair with cattle. At the discretion of management, registration papers may be called for in the show ring on all animals showing in group classes.

## OWNERSHIP

1. **All animals must be registered in the owner's name.**

2. **PLEASE NOTE – Properly authorized State 4-H/FFA/YLPA Leased animals will be eligible to show in the Open Dairy Show.**

## CANCELLATIONS/SUBSTITUTIONS

1. Notice of cancellations must be received for the Dairy Show by **January 12, 2026**, to qualify for a refund of fees. Cancellations may be made by mail, fax, or email. Send an email to [Shayla.Ashmore@FloridaStateFair.com](mailto:Shayla.Ashmore@FloridaStateFair.com) or fax 813-740-3520.

2. All substitutions must be emailed to [Shayla.Ashmore@FloridaStateFair.com](mailto:Shayla.Ashmore@FloridaStateFair.com) on or before Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. **Only TWO substitutions can be made at check-in and must be submitted on the Substitution Form.**

## HEALTH REGULATIONS

1. **All animals must meet health regulations as specified in the Rules for Exhibition as required by the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.**

**Notice to Out-of-State Dairy Exhibitors:** Regardless of age, all out-of-state dairy cattle must be negative for tuberculin tests within 30 days of entry into the state.

2. **Contact the Florida Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry, District 4 Office at (863) 578-1863 with questions pertaining to Health Regulations and/or Rules of Exhibition.**

## RULES OF EXHIBITION

**As required by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

5C-4.0015 Definitions.

5C-4.0017 General Requirements, Exemptions, and Limitations.

5C-4.002 Cattle or Bison.

### 5C-4.0015 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the definitions in Section 585.01, F.S., and the following shall apply:

(1) Accredited tuberculosis-free herd. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(2) Accredited tuberculosis-free state or zone. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(3) Accredited veterinarian. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(4) Approved livestock facility. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(5) Authorized Representative. An employee of the state or federal government, or a licensed veterinarian accredited by the USDA, who is authorized to conduct animal disease control and eradication activities.

(6) Certified brucellosis-free state or area. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(7) Certified brucellosis-free herd. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(8) Classified brucellosis-Class A state or area. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(9) Department. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(10) Electronic Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ECVI). An electronic certificate provided by USDA Veterinary Services Process Streamlining System or a third-party vendor approved by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) ECVI Data Standards Subcommittee and issued by licensed and accredited veterinarians in animal's state of origin.

(11) Exhibition. Any fair allowing the displaying or presenting livestock, including poultry, to the general public for an animal exhibit or animal show.

(12) Fair(s). Annual public fair as defined in F.S. 616.001, that exhibits domestic animals.

(13) Group. One or more Animals maintained on the same premises or in contact with one another.

(14) Isolation. Separation of individual Animals by a physical barrier in a manner that assures one Animal does not have access to the body, excrement, or discharges of another Animal; does not share a building with a common ventilation system; and is not within ten feet of another Animal.

(15) Market class. An exhibition class consisting of finished fed animals.

(16) Official certificate of veterinary inspection (OCVI). As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(17) Official individual identification. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(18) Official test. A test conducted by a licensed and accredited veterinarian with method approved by Department rules for the specific disease and animal species.

(19) Owner. The owner of the animal or herd or the owner's authorized agent.

(20) Pseudorabies. A contagious, infectious herpesvirus, causing communicable disease of livestock and other animals also known as Aujeszky's disease or mad itch.

(21) Recognized slaughtering establishment. As defined in Rule 5C-3.001, F.A.C.

(22) Swine brucellosis. An infectious bacterial disease caused by *Brucella suis* (B. suis) biovars 1 or 3, most frequently affecting swine but able to cause disease in other animals and humans.

(23) Terminal swine show. An exhibition market class consisting of swine that are isolated and housed separately from all other animals and designated for slaughter only channels.

(24) Validated brucellosis-free herd, as defined in 9 CFR §78.1 (JAN 2024). This definition of validated brucellosis-free herd is hereby incorporated by reference and available online at <http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-17727>.

*Rulemaking Authority 570.07(23), 585.002(4), 585.08(2), 585.145(2) FS. Law Implemented 585.08(2)(a), 585.145(1),*

(2) *FS. History–New 1-1995, Amended 6-4-95, 6-21-06, 2-19-14, 11-21-18, 3-17-25.*



#### **5C-4.0017 General Requirements, Exemptions and Limitations.**

(1) OCVI Required. Animals presented for exhibition purposes in Florida, unless specifically exempted, must be accompanied by an OCVI.

(a) The OCVI must be complete including the breed, sex, and registration number and, if applicable, the official individual identification of each animal.

(b) Results of a specific test requirement or herd accreditation, certification or validation number for each animal must be recorded on the OCVI with the date of the test or herd accreditation, certification or validation.

(2) Expiration of Required OCVI.

(a) For Florida-origin animals, an OCVI is valid for 90 days from the date of issue; or until the expiration date of any required tests, whichever is the earliest date.

(b) For animals imported into Florida for exhibition purposes only, the OCVI is valid for 30 days.

(3) Inspection. Prior to immediate acceptance at an exhibition, all animals presented for exhibition must be made available for inspection by an authorized representative for:

(a) The required Official Individual Identification of the Animal; and

(b) Clinical signs of disease including, but not limited to: caseous lymphadenitis, blisters/ulcers around the mouth, nostrils, coronary band, pinkeye, pox, scabies, lice, ringworm, atrophic rhinitis, or multiple warts that are clearly visible; and (c) Evidence of compliance with Animal tests and OCVI requirements, where required.

(4) Animals Rejected for Exhibition.

(a) Any Animal in noncompliance with Animal tests and OCVI requirements, or

(b) Any Animal not meeting the Official Individual Identification requirements, or

(c) Any animal which is suspected of having or showing clinical signs of dangerous transmissible, contagious or infectious disease on visual inspection, or any animal which is known to be exposed to such diseases must be:

1. Immediately withdrawn from exhibition and returned to the place of origin, or

2. Examined at the owner's expense, by a Florida-licensed accredited veterinarian who certifies by a signed, written statement, that the animal is free of dangerous transmissible, contagious or infectious diseases and pests. The accredited veterinarian's examination must take place within 24 hours of the initial inspection by the authorized representative.

*Rulemaking Authority 570.07(23), 585.002(4), 585.08(2)(a), 585.145(2) FS. Law Implemented 570.07(15), 585.003, 585.08(1), (2)(a), 585.145(1), (2), 585.16, 585.162 FS. History–New 6-21-06, Amended 10-17-18, 12-8-24.*



#### **5C-4.002 Cattle or Bison.**

(1) OCVI Required.

(a) Florida-origin cattle or bison moved for exhibition must be accompanied by an OCVI dated not more than 90 days prior to exhibition.

(b) Cattle or bison imported from other states for exhibition must be accompanied by an OCVI dated not more than 30 days prior to exhibition.

(2) Official Identification Required. All cattle or bison entered for exhibition purposes, including market class animals, must have an official individual identification. If the breed registry and brand or tattoo are used to complete the identification requirements, then the breed registry number and brand or tattoo must be listed on the OCVI accompanying the animal to exhibition.

(3) Testing Requirements.

(a) Tuberculosis.

1. Florida-origin cattle or bison may be entered for exhibition without a tuberculin test.

2. Dairy Cattle. Dairy cattle imported into Florida, may be entered for exhibition provided they have: a. a negative caudal fold tuberculin skin test within 60 days prior to the date of the exhibition, or; b. originate from an accredited tuberculosis-free herd in an accredited tuberculosis-free state or zone.

3. Beef Cattle. Beef cattle or bison imported into Florida may be entered for exhibition provided they have: a. a negative caudal fold tuberculin skin test within 60 days prior to the date of the exhibition or; b. originate from an accredited tuberculosis-free herd or state.

(b) Brucellosis.

1. Test Required. Cattle or bison, six (6) months of age or older, must have evidence of a negative brucellosis test within 30 days prior to the date of exhibition.

2. Exemption from Required Brucellosis Test.

a. Steers and spayed heifers; and

b. Cattle or bison originating from,

(I) a certified brucellosis-free herd. The OCVI must show the certified herd number and the date of the last herd certification test, or;

(II) a classified brucellosis-free state or area, or;

(III) Cattle or bison from non-quarantined herds originating from a classified brucellosis-Class A state or area provided that the cattle are under 18 months of age.

*Rulemaking Authority 270.07(23), 585.002(4), 585.08(2)(a), 585.145(2) FS. Law Implemented 570.07(15), 570.36(1), (2), 585.08(2)(a), 585.145(1), (2) FS. History–Amended 7-25-66, 11-15-67, 1-1-70, 7-1-71, 9-1-72, 8-7-77, 8-8-79, 9-30-80, 6-26-83, Formerly 5C-4.02, Amended 417-89, 1-19-95, 6-21-06, 11-21-18, 12-8-24.*

**For additional information on Florida Cattle identification requirements go to the following website:**

**<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Florida-Cattle-Identification>**

#### **GENERAL**

**1. Please Note: Due to health and safety issues, no cooking will be allowed in the barns or outside the grooming area. Food and drink should not be consumed in animal areas, and exhibitors should wash their hands after handling animals.**

**2. Smoking is not permitted in the barns.**

**3. The use of alcohol is prohibited in barns and livestock areas.**

**4. NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED IN THE BARNs.**

**5. Failure to maintain animals and exhibit to acceptable standards and/or failure to cooperate with Fair Officials may result in premium forfeiture and immediate dismissal from the Fairgrounds.**

**6. Sawdust bedding will be provided by the Fair. Exhibitors choosing to use straw must rake the straw from the bed (into the aisle) upon departure.**

7. Feeding and Bedding. Feed care and management of animals will be the responsibility of the exhibitor.
8. In order that exhibits may be presented in an attractive manner, each exhibitor is requested to limit the amount of feed and straw brought into the show barn to one day's supply.
9. Veterinarians. Names and telephone numbers of qualified local veterinarians will be available at the Superintendent's office. Each exhibitor is responsible for any bills incurred.
10. Signs. The Florida State Fair management reserves the right to refuse permission for any individual exhibit or to erect any sign of objectionable size or content.
11. Any person who violates any of the general rules or special rules as posted in this Premium List will forfeit all privileges and premiums won.
12. Grooming chutes must be in designated areas.
13. All exhibitors of livestock will be required to keep their stall and space in a clean, sanitary condition by removing any filth, litter, etc., and placing it in a designated pickup area where the Fair can remove it. If this rule is not complied with after a request from the Livestock Superintendent, personnel will be hired to clean such area, and the cost of labor will be deducted from the exhibitor's premiums.
14. Automatic water systems in the cattle tie area (barn) must be approved by the Livestock Superintendent. No nails, screws, or other fasteners are to be used on the wooded portion of the tie panels.
15. Milk from cows not milked in the Fair Parlor should be dumped as designated by the Fair.
16. Animals are restricted to designated areas of the Fairgrounds and must not be taken from designated areas. Violators are liable for any damage incurred by the owner or animals.
17. The physical condition of an entrant or entry, which the appropriate committee considers to be a problem for that entrant to participate in the show, may result in the committee not accepting an entry or not allowing that entrant or entry to participate in the show.
18. Any animal may be used for judging or promotional purposes.

#### LIABILITY FOR LOSS OR THEFT

1. The owner or custodian of the property of any kind brought to the Fairgrounds, either for exhibit or for other purposes, assumes as a condition of its admission to the grounds all risk and/or responsibility for its loss, damage, or theft.
2. The Fair, its officers, and its employees cannot and will not accept responsibility and liability for any damage or injury resulting from theft, fire, the elements, accidents, or other conditions or causes; whether to exhibits, property of exhibitor, vehicles on the grounds and articles left therein or any other property of any nature whatsoever.

#### ARRIVAL

1. Open Dairy Cattle will be received from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, February 13, 2026. This is the only time cattle will be received.
2. All cattle must enter the Livestock Gate at the Orient Road entrance which is located on the west side of the Fairgrounds
3. Cattle may not be unloaded until papers are checked by the state veterinarian.
4. **EARLY ARRIVALS: Due to the lack of space during the Fair, early arrivals will not be permitted except in cases where the scheduled arrival time presents a hardship due to travel time, etc. In such situations, a**

**WRITTEN REQUEST** must be submitted to the Livestock Office by January 12<sup>th</sup>. Exhibitors will be notified by February 1<sup>st</sup> if the request has been approved. **EARLY ARRIVALS MUST BE PREAPPROVED.**

5. Any animals arriving late due to an emergency must call the Livestock Office at 813-627-4229.
6. All exhibitors must present registration papers to the Agribusiness Office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> or they will be considered as a "No Show" and will be deleted from the show.
7. Registration papers and official health certificates must be available at the time of arrival.

#### ADMISSION

1. Armbands will be issued on the following basis: 1-5 animals, Two (2) armbands; 6-10 animals, Three (3) armbands; 11 - 15 animals, Four (4) armbands; 16 animals & over, Five (5) armbands.
2. Armbands will be picked up at check-in. Additional armbands **CANNOT** be purchased. Single-day admission tickets can be bought in advance at discount prices. See the Advance Ticket Form on the website for details. Tickets will be for sale at the gate.
3. Vehicle/Trailer Parking Passes: All Trailers will be parked in the designated areas within the interior of the grounds. Exhibitors will receive a Vehicle Pass for the duration of the show to be able to park in the Ag Lot outside of Gate 3. Only vehicles with the appropriate tags are permitted in this area.
4. Each passenger must have an armband or admission pass.
5. Livestock Gate Drop-Offs Times (This is in addition to arrival): Vehicles will be allowed to enter through the Livestock Gate between the hours of 6 am to 10 am and 3 pm to 6 pm to drop off needed feed and/or supplies. After unloading supplies, vehicles will proceed to the Ag Lot for parking.
6. Parking Map and Detailed Instructions will be posted on the Agribusiness Website prior to the Fair.
7. Reserved parking is provided, and exhibitors must park in the assigned Ag Lot, or your vehicle will be subject to towing.
8. **Champion of Champion Lot:** Limited Parking Spaces can be purchased by Exhibitors within the interior of the grounds. All information will be posted on the FSF Agribusiness website. Spaces will open for purchase on January 1st, 2026. All proceeds will go towards the Youth participating in the Champion of Champions program

#### ALL EXHIBITOR MEETING

1. A Meeting for all exhibitors will be held in the TECO Arena on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. All exhibitors are required to attend.

#### SHOW ETHICS

1. The Florida State Fair Open Dairy Show will adhere to the PDCA Show Ring Code of Ethics. **PLEASE NOTE: PDCA RULES ARE LISTED ON THE FSF AG WEBSITE.**
2. Any animal found to have had its physical features altered or tampered with by surgical instruments for the purpose of improving its conformation or appearance in the show ring will be disqualified and ruled ineligible to compete for or retain any premiums.
3. Any animal that is obviously under extreme distress may be asked not to enter the show ring or if in ring may



**be asked to leave the show ring and not allowed to show.**

**4. Sharp Practice.** Upon request, every exhibitor agrees to submit any animal tendered by him to examination by a veterinarian appointed by the Florida State Fair to ascertain that there has been no unethical fitting or showing; and, to submit such animal to such tests as may be required by said veterinarian; and, to abide by conclusions reached as to whether such animal is unethically fitted or is an over age animal under the rules of the Florida State Fair. Conclusions shall be final and binding without any recourse against the Florida State Fair, any officer or director thereof, or said veterinarian or technician employed; and, the exhibitor releases any or all claims or demands whatsoever in connection with such examination.

**5. Udder Manipulations.** Judges are authorized to disqualify animals that in their opinion carry excess fat and cows that they believe to have over bagged udders filled by injection or bruising. Judges are also authorized to disqualify heifers not-in-milk that have been milked out or whose udders have been developed unnaturally by manipulation.

**6. The fair reserves the right to do quality assurance testing on any animal(s) at the fair. Please see the quality assurance section on page 7 for a full explanation.**

**7. Up to 25% of the animals in each milking cow class (if less than 4 animals, the top animal) may be REQUIRED TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE MILKING PARLOR as soon as they are done showing (after Champion and Group Classes – if applicable) so that a milk sample can be pulled. IF A COW IS MILKED BEFORE A SAMPLE IS PULLED, THAT EXHIBITOR WILL FORFEIT ALL AWARDS AND PREMIUMS RECEIVED AT THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR.**

## JUDGING

**1. The Open Dairy Show will be split between two judges. Separate shows will be held for each breed.**



**Shows will be in alphabetical order by breed.**

1. No premium will be paid to any animal in any class that, in the opinion of the judge, does not deserve the award.

2. In all group classes no premiums will be paid unless catalog entry numbers of the animals are given prior to group classes.

3. The breeder of an animal is the owner of the dam at the time of service.

4. Judges will not award premiums to any article, product, or animal that is not deserving. It must be judged individually worthy.

5. The decision of the judge shall be final and no appeal will be considered except in cases of written protest (see General Disputes Policy).

6. Any exhibitor who interferes with the judging will be promptly excluded from the competition; if after judging, the premiums awarded will be withheld.

7. All animals must enter the show ring and be evaluated by the judge in order to receive premiums.

## SHOW ATTIRE

**To increase the quality of the show, traditional whites are highly recommended and encouraged.**

## GENERAL DISPUTES POLICY

With respect to any disputes which may occur with respect to an exhibitor at the show, such disputes shall be handled

by the appropriate Livestock Committee (the “Committee”) in accordance with the following:

**1.** An exhibitor may file a protest with respect to another exhibitor for violation of the rules and regulations of the Committee and/or the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) National Code of Show Ring Ethics by submitting a written protest (a “Protest”) on a form (the “Protest Form”) which will be available at the Agribusiness Department. The Protest must include the exact basis, cause, and description of the dispute, the name of the protesting exhibitor, the name of the exhibitor being protested, and any materials in support of the Protest as well as any other matters which may be required in the Protest Form and shall be accompanied by payment of \$50 which shall be refunded only if the Protest is sustained by the Committee. The Protest Form must be signed by the exhibitor (as the protesting exhibitor), and if the exhibitor is a minor, the Protest Form must also be signed by the exhibitor’s guardian or parent, unless the parent or guardian is not available under circumstances that warrant, as determined by the Agribusiness Department in its sole discretion. Failure to properly sign the Protest Form shall deem the Protest Form incomplete and nullity, and in such event, the Protest will not be considered. Any Protest must be submitted (and received by the Agribusiness Department) at least two (2) hours prior to the time that the show is scheduled to occur in order to be considered prior to the show. If a Protest is submitted less than two (2) hours prior to the time that the show is scheduled to occur (“a “Late Submittal”), then the Committee will handle the Protest after the show in accordance with its rules and regulations and the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics, but the Late Submittal shall not affect the award of ribbons for the show. In order to minimize disruption to the show, an exhibitor who intends to file a Protest should do so at the earliest feasible time. In any event, a Protest must be filed with the Agribusiness Department prior to the scheduled release hour for the protested exhibitor’s animal in order to be considered.

**2.** The Agribusiness Department will forward any Protest Form which is duly signed (by an exhibitor as the protesting exhibitor, and if the exhibitor is a minor, the Protest Form must also be signed by the exhibitor’s guardian or parent) and any accompanying materials submitted by the protesting exhibitor in support of the Protest to the Committee for its consideration. The Agribusiness Department will also notify the exhibitor being protested of the Protest as soon as reasonably practicable after the Protest has been duly submitted, and make available a copy of the written Protest to the exhibitor being protested. The exhibitor being protested may, but shall not be required to, provide a written response to the Protest (a “Response”) by submitting a Response to the Agribusiness Department, including any materials in support of the response to the Protest, and the Agribusiness Department shall provide the Response to Committee. A Response shall be on a form obtained from the Agribusiness Department and must be signed by the protested exhibitor, and if the protested exhibitor is a minor, the Response must also be signed by the protested exhibitor’s guardian or parent, unless the parent or guardian is not available due to circumstances that warrant, as determined by the Agribusiness Department in its sole discretion. The Agribusiness Department shall make available a copy of the Response to the protesting exhibitor upon request by the protesting exhibitor, but it shall be the protesting exhibitor’s responsibility to monitor the Protest

and to obtain a copy of the Response. The Agribusiness Department will attempt to notify the protesting exhibitor and the exhibitor being protested of the time of the Committee's review and consideration of the Protest by calling their respective cell phone numbers if provided on the Protest Form and/or the Response Form, but it shall be the protesting exhibitor and protested exhibitor's responsibility to monitor the Protest and obtain the time of the Committee's review and consideration of the Protest and to be available at the time scheduled for the Committee's consideration of the Protest. For any Late Submission, the Committee will handle the process for review of the Protest after the show.

3. The Committee members present will review the Protest and the Response, if any, in the context of its rules and regulations and the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics, and will make a decision to resolve the Protest by a majority of the Committee members present. In the event of a tie vote, the Protest shall be deemed denied by the Committee. The decision of the Committee will be final.

4. The Committee also may apply and enforce its rules and regulations and the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics, with respect to exhibitors at the show.

5. By entering the show, all exhibitors, and their Respective parents and/or guardians, shall be deemed to have acknowledged and accepted this General Disputes Policy.

#### PREMIUMS

1. Premiums will be paid on the basis of the judging reports, which must be signed by the judge and by the department superintendent or clerk.

2. Premiums will be mailed to the exhibitor after the Fair to the address given on the entry form.

Checks will be void after 6 months from date on check. After 6 months, all uncashed checks will be voided, and replacement checks will not be issued.

3. If a Social Security Number or Federal ID number is not provided, the Fair will not issue a premium check.

4. The management of the Florida State Fair reserves the right to revise the dollar amount of the Premiums.

*A Special Thanks to  
**FLORIDA DAIRY  
FARMERS**  
for their continued Sponsorship of  
the Grand Champion Awards*

#### RELEASE

1. Open Dairy Cattle will be released at 4 p.m., Monday, February 16, 2026.

3. Exhibits shall not be disassembled before 3 p.m. on the day of release.

4. Out-of-state exhibitors will be given consideration for Early Release.

5. All manure and trash must be removed from stalls prior to release.

#### SUPREME CHAMPION

Breed champions will compete for the Supreme Champion on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at the end of the show in the

TECO Arena. Show personnel will ensure that no more than three hours of milk will be in udders (this flexibility is needed for champions selected in the late afternoon, so they need not be milked twice within a couple of hours). The judge will place all five Champions and provide the Show Superintendent with cuts for the purpose of the railbird judging contest.

Supreme Champion ..... \$350.00

Reserve Supreme Champion ..... \$150.00

Junior Supreme Champion ..... \$150.00

Junior Reserve Supreme Champion ..... \$75.00

#### SPECIAL HERDSMAN AWARDS

**Special Herdsman Awards are offered to exhibitors at the Florida State Fair with the purpose of encouraging exhibitors to present more attractive livestock displays.**

All livestock exhibitors are eligible to compete for these awards and exhibits will be judged daily on the following basis:

1. Orderliness and cleanliness of service area, stall, pens, animals, and public walkway.

2. Courtesy of herdsman and helpers.

3. Cooperation with show officials in presenting attractive exhibits and promptness in getting animals into the show ring.

4. Availability of personnel to furnish information about their exhibits.

1st ..... \$60 and Award

2nd ..... \$40 and Rosette

3rd ..... \$25 and Rosette

#### PREMIER BREEDER AND PREMIER EXHIBITOR AWARD

An award will be presented to the Premier Exhibitor and Premier Breeder in each of the dairy breeds showing at the Florida State Fair.

**Premier Exhibitor Award** - The exhibitor winning the most points, not to exceed six animals owned and exhibited by himself in the open single classes, shall be designated the Premier Exhibitor. The scale of points will be the same as that for determining Premier Breeder.

**Premier Breeder Award** - The breeder winning the most points, not to exceed six animals in the open single classes exhibited by himself and/or other exhibitors, shall be designated the Premier Breeder.

The point system for determining Premier Breeder is as follows:

Points	Points
Senior Females	Junior Females
1st ..... 20	1st ..... 10
2nd ..... 18	2nd ..... 9
3rd ..... 16	3rd ..... 8
4th ..... 14	4th ..... 7
5th ..... 12	5th ..... 6
6th ..... 10	6th ..... 5
7th ..... 8	7th ..... 4
8th ..... 6	8th ..... 3
9th ..... 4	9th ..... 2

Premier Exhibitor or Breeder ties will be broken by the 7th or subsequential animal in the herd.

## POLICIES FOR DAIRY CATTLE SHOWS AT THE FLORIDA STATE FAIR

1. **CONTINUING A BREED SHOW:** If a breed show drops below 10 animals for two (2) consecutive years the show will be cancelled.
2. **GRAND CHAMPION:** shows must have a minimum of six (6) animals for a grand champion to be awarded.

### CAMPGROUND/GOLF CARTS

1. **PLEASE NOTE: ALL CAMPER/RVS MUST HAVE A CAMPING PERMIT IN ORDER TO BE ALLOWED ON THE FAIRGROUNDS WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE USED FOR CAMPING.**
2. Campground Rules and Reservation Form is available on our website.
3. Golf cart permits must be purchased in order to be allowed on the fairgrounds. Any golf carts without a permit will need to be removed from the grounds.

### SHOWERS/EXHIBITOR CHANGING AREA

1. Shower/changing area facilities are available on the grounds for use by exhibitors only!
2. Access to shower facilities will be allowed to Livestock Exhibitors through the Agribusiness Office.

### MOTEL ACCOMMODATION

1. For motel accommodation information, see our website for the Preferred Hotel List.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE AND LIVESTOCK ETHICS PROGRAM

The Florida State Fair believes that every animal participating in activities of the Florida State Fair shall at all times be provided proper care and management in the best interest of the animal's welfare.

1. Quality assurance testing or a survey may be done at the Florida State Fair.
2. All animals are subject to testing at any time:
  - A. To determine whether an animal qualifies for competition in a particular breed classification.
  - B. To determine whether the animal has been unethically fitted in any way.
  - C. To determine whether any false information or representation was made in a competition entry.
3. During the online process, the exhibitor acknowledges that they have read and agree to IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics, (Please note: Rule #4 deals specifically with drugs).
4. Use of drugs, in animals, not in compliance with manufacturer's label as to dosage, time of withdrawal limitations, or other manufacturer's limitations and show regulations are **PROHIBITED**. The use of tranquilizers or possession of same after arrival at the Fair will be construed as tampering.
5. Violators will be disqualified and will forfeit all premiums and awards, including the sale price of animals, if applicable, and future entry of exhibitors and/or family at the Florida State Fair.
6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices that are not recognized as acceptable training, restraint, or animal movement techniques are prohibited.

## IAFE (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS) NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open-class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial, and national levels.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards, and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership, and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.
4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of drugs. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations, and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations, and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.

If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other samples were taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample or urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the approved laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved, and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise at any hearing in regard to the matter conducted by the fair or livestock show.

At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or irritant substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.

6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.

7. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official shall be treated with courtesy,

cooperation, and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individuals to disciplinary action.

9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.

10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have any disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is giving consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including *Fairs and Expositions* and any special notices to members.

11. The act of entering an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action that contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

## **FLORIDA STATE FAIR AUTHORITY LIVESTOCK ADDENDUM**

OWNER represents to Florida State Fair Authority ("AUTHORITY") that no animals that are exhibited or otherwise transported onto FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS will in any way be suffering from any contagious or infectious disease. In addition, OWNER shall defend, indemnify, and hold the AUTHORITY, the applicable Show Committee and each of their respective officials, officers, directors, employees and agents harmless of and from all losses, damages, claims, expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees at the trial and appellate levels, actions and causes of action arising out of, or in any way connected with, or by reason of this Agreement, the presence of OWNER's livestock at FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS, and/or use of FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS including, but not limited to any claim for the death of, or injury to any person or livestock, or damage to, theft of, or destruction of any property arising out of any act or omission of OWNER, OWNER's officers, agents, employees, trainers, drivers, riders, handlers, contractors and livestock, violation of any Federal, State and Local environmental laws, rules, ordinances and/or regulations, actions for negligence, wrongful death, torts, defects in the real and personal property at FLORIDA STATE FAIRGROUNDS and from any alleged liability, cause, litigation or proceeding whatsoever, even if such injury, death, loss or property damage results, in whole or in part, from the negligence of AUTHORITY, or the applicable Show Committee and their respective officials, officers, directors, employees and agents or otherwise. Neither AUTHORITY nor such applicable Show Committee shall be liable to OWNER, or any officer, agents, employees, trainers, drivers, riders, handlers, or other contractors, invitees, or guests of OWNER for any injury or damage to livestock, person, or property. AUTHORITY, its officers, or agents, assume no liability for any loss or damage to property (including but not limited to livestock) on account of fire, theft, or any other cause including infectious or contagious diseases. In addition, OWNER acknowledges receiving and agrees to abide by the applicable rules and regulations of the AUTHORITY titled FLORIDA STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK RULES & PRIZE LIST, and the same are incorporated by reference herein.

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