

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL DIVISIONS

ENTRY DEADLINE AND FEES:

Entry Deadline: Postmarked on or before January 20, 2026, **\$25.00** per animal (**Youth Show \$20.00 per animal**) . **HANDWRITTEN ENTRY FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

ENTRY FEES WAIVED FOR NEW EXHIBITORS:

To encourage new exhibitors throughout the state of Florida and beyond to exhibit cattle, The Fair will offer a program in which fees for new exhibitors who meet the following criteria will be waived:

1. Must be the exhibitors first time showing at The Fair Open Shows (**Waiver not accepted for the Youth Show**).
2. The maximum number of head for which the entry fees will be waived is 10 head per exhibitor. There will be no minimum required.
3. The exhibitor must apply to have their entry fees waived. The waiver must be sent along with their entry form prior to the entry form deadline. The waiver may be found online at fairexpo.com

INTERPRETATION OF RULES:

The management of the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc. (The 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 Open Cattle Division must be purebred and registered with their respective National Breed Association; and must conform to all special rules of their particular breed association.
2. Registration papers must be presented at check-in. In the case of papers pending, it will be the responsibility of the exhibitor to provide The Fair with a letter from the Breed Association stating that the papers have been applied for, but have not yet been processed.
3. Any exhibitor entering an animal in any name other than the bona fide owner or owners or showing an animal in a class for which it is not eligible may, at the discretion of the Management, be barred from further showing and any or all premiums previously awarded may be forfeited.
4. Any exhibitor from a family with an outstanding balance owed to The Fair will not be eligible to show.

ENTRIES:

1. Entry Form Deadline - Entries must be postmarked on or before the published deadline, January 20, 2026. It is the policy of The Fair to abide by all Rules and Regulations as posted on The Fair website at fairexpo.com. Hand delivered entries will be accepted in the Exhibits Office until 5:00 p.m. on the day of deadline. Certified mail or a Certificate of Mailing validated by the Post Office is recommended. A metered postmark will not be considered as a valid postmark for entry deadline purposes.
2. **HANDWRITTEN ENTRY FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
3. Entries must be made on Official Open Show Entry Form (of their breed), which is located on the website. Entries will not be accepted unless accompanied by full entry fee made payable to The Fair. **TO EXPEDITE THE CHECK-IN PROCESS AT THE FAIR, IT IS REQUIRED THAT COPIES OF REGISTRATION PAPERS BE MAILED IN WITH THE ENTRY FORM. (ORIGINAL PAPERS MUST STILL BE PRESENTED AT CHECK-IN).**
4. Entries must be made in the name of the owner.
5. Use separate entry form for each owner.
6. Send all entries and fees to: Exhibits Office, Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, Inc. 10901 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33165.
7. Entry fees are \$25.00 per animal. This amount must be paid before animals are officially entered and space is reserved. Overpayments will not be refunded if \$30.00 or less. **Unpaid entry fees at time of arrival will be deducted from premium check.**
8. 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, SPACE IS LIMITED.**
9. The Fair reserves the right to limit entries based on stall/pen availability. Entries will be accepted in chronological order based on the postmark.
10. **GROUP AND/OR HERD CLASSES MUST BE SUBMITTED ON ENTRY FORM. BE SURE TO SPECIFY CLASSES AND/OR MULTIPLE ENTRIES IN CLASSES. ANIMALS IN THESE CLASSES MUST BE INDICATED AT CHECK-IN TIME AND ENTRY NUMBER OF EACH ANIMAL AND REGISTRATION # OF DAM OR SIRE MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THIS TIME. NO WALK-IN ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THE RING. ENTRIES IN GROUP AND HERD CLASSES MUST HAVE BEEN EXHIBITED PREVIOUSLY IN INDIVIDUAL CLASSES.**
11. Animals owned in partnership may be shown in the name of the partnership only, except that at time of entry a determination may be made that such animal 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.

12. **ALL SUBSTITUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE FAIR BY MARCH 1, 2026. SUBSTITUTIONS CAN BE MADE BY E-MAIL. NO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED UPON ARRIVAL. ADDITIONAL ANIMALS WILL BE TREATED AS A LATE ENTRY AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.**
13. Cancellations - Notice of cancellations must be received for the Open Cattle Show by March 1, 2026 in order to qualify for refund of fees. Cancellations may be made only by e-mail.

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.
2. To expedite entry into The Fair, ear tags that correspond to health papers are strongly recommended.

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 official rules regarding the Animal Health Requirements for Exhibition see the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry documentation.

GENERAL:

1. Please Note: Due to health and safety issues, no cooking will be allowed in the barns; food and drink should not be consumed in animal areas; and exhibitors should wash hands after handling animals.
2. The Fair provides shavings for bedding.
3. Feed, care and management of animals will be the responsibility of the exhibitor. Exhibitors may also use straw at their own expense. 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.
4. The Fair recommends that all clipping be done prior to arrival.
5. All cattle that are tied in the arena holding area must be attended to at all times.
6. Registration papers should remain at The Fair with cattle.
7. At the discretion of the Exhibits Staff, exhibitors may be instructed to double tie their animals.
8. The breeder of an animal is the owner of the dam at the time of service; however, the American Angus Association officially accepts for competition herds purchased in entirety as bred and owned by the current owner.
9. Sick animals may be released immediately if a signed statement of a veterinarian is presented to the Exhibits Staff.
10. The Fair will not provide space for nurse cows for open cattle, both breeding and steers, in Open Shows.
11. Animals are restricted to designated areas of the fairgrounds and must not be taken from designated area. Violators are liable for any damage incurred by owner or animals.
12. Sharp Practice - Upon request, every exhibitor agrees to submit any animal entered by him to examination by a veterinarian appointed by The 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 Fair. Conclusions shall be final and binding, without recourse against The Fair, officer(s), director(s) thereof, said veterinarian, or technician(s) employed. Exhibitor releases any or all claims or demands whatsoever in connection with such examination. 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.
13. Signs - The Fair Management reserves the right to refuse permission for any individual exhibitor to erect or display any sign of objectionable size or content.
14. NO chairs are allowed in the animal walkways.
15. 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.
16. The physical condition of an entrant, 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 to participate in the show.
17. Smoking or vaping is not permitted in the barns. This includes e-cigarettes.

ARRIVAL:

1. **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 Exhibits Office by March 1, 2026. Exhibitor will be notified by March 6th if the request has been approved. **EARLY ARRIVALS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED.**
2. Animals may not be unloaded on the fairgrounds until they have been checked by the Dept. of Agriculture, except in the case of emergency.
3. Registration papers and official health certificates must be available and in the hands of the owner or herdsman in charge of cattle on arrival at the fairgrounds.
4. All exhibitors must present registration papers to the Exhibits Office by time indicated on arrival day or they will be considered as a "NO SHOW" and will be deleted from the show.

5. All animals are subject to being officially checked by their respective associations.
6. **If you have an emergency and will not make the check-in time you need to contact the Exhibits Office at 786-315-5188 immediately so that the Agriculture Supervisor for the Division of Animal Industry can determine if they are able to stay, however they are only scheduled for a certain period of time.**

GATE PASSES:

1. There will be 1 truck/trailer pass issued per exhibitor, this will only allow everyone in the vehicle to enter the fair through service gate 9.
2. Reserved, secured parking is provided by the Exhibits Office, exhibitors must park in this assigned lot. Each trailer will be assigned a parking space and when they arrive, the groups must park in their assigned parking space. Cattle may be unloaded from there, each space will be located directly behind the stall areas.

JUDGING:

1. Judges will not award premiums to any article, product, or animal that is not deserving. It must be judged individually worthy.
2. The decision of the judge shall be final and no appeal will be considered except in cases of written protest (see Protests).
3. Any exhibitor who interferes with the judging will be promptly excluded from competition; if after judging, the premiums awarded will be withheld.
4. All animals must enter the show ring and be evaluated by the judge in order to receive premiums.

PROTESTS:

All protests must be in writing, must state plainly the complaint, be accompanied by a fee of \$100.00, which shall be forfeited to The Fair in case protest is not sustained, and must be delivered to the Director of Exhibits within 24 hours after the cause of protest.

PREMIUMS:

1. Individual breed association rules will govern where more than 2 premiums are won in a single class.
2. No premium will be paid to any animal in any class that in the opinion of the judge does not deserve an award.
3. In group classes, where premiums are offered, no premiums will be paid unless catalog entry numbers of animals are given at arrival time for the group class that is to be judged.
4. Premiums will be paid on the basis of the judging reports, which must be signed by the judge and by the Exhibits department staff or clerk.
5. **If a Social Security Number, Federal ID Number, or W-9 is not provided, The Fair will not issue a premium check.**

NOTE:

All checks for premium monies awarded in connection with The Fair, shall be negotiated by the recipient/payee within 60 days from the date written on the check or by May 31, 2026, which ever expires first. If the recipient/payee fails to timely negotiate said check, all monies due the recipient/payee shall be deemed to have made an unconditional and irrevocable gift of said monies to The Fair. Errors in premium checks, awards, or lost checks will be corrected by the Exhibits Department until May 15, 2026. Any checks not cashed or deposited by May 31, 2026, will be considered as void and will not be replaced. **The Fair does not provide a check cashing service.**

RELEASE PER BREED AS SPECIFIED IN THE DIVISION:

1. Consideration will be given to out-of-state exhibitors & the different zone levels for a staggered early release. All arrangements must be coordinated with Exhibits Staff.
2. TRAILERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED OUT OF THE LOT UNTIL DESIGNATED RELEASE TIMES.
3. **Any exhibitor wanting to leave the barn prior to official release time, needs to inform the Exhibits Office at 786-315-5188.**

POLICIES FOR OPEN CATTLE SHOWS AT THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FAIR AND EXPOSITION:

The Fair is interested in expanding participation by Breed Associations. All requests for Breed Shows or exhibitions will be considered. Breeders must be endorsed by their Breed Association in order to exhibit.

CONTINUING A BREED SHOW:

If a breed drops below 15 head for 2 consecutive years, they will be considered an exhibition show and no premiums will be paid.

ESTABLISHING A BREED SHOW:

In order to establish a breed show, the breed must first put on an exhibition of at least 15 head shown by 2 different breeders at The Fair based on availability of space.

The following year, upon request (by June 30) from the breed association and approval by the Fair, a show will be established for ribbons only.

There must be at least 15 head shown by three different breeders or they will still be considered an exhibition. After 2 years, the show will be eligible for abbreviated premiums upon approval by The Fair. After 2 more years, they will be eligible for full premiums.

RE-ESTABLISHING A BREED SHOW:

A breed that has shown at The Fair, but the show has been discontinued, can re-establish the show by making a request to The Fair by June 30 of each year. Upon approval, there must then be at least 15 head of cattle shown by 3 different breeders or it will be considered an exhibition and no premiums will be paid.

OPEN CATTLE SHOW SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

The Fair sincerely appreciates the cooperation of the Breed Associations that have contributed to the Open Cattle Shows. See rules for each breed show for listing of participation.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND LIVESTOCK ETHICS PROGRAM:

The Fair believes that every animal participating in activities of The 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 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. Exhibitor's signature on entry form acknowledges that they have read and agree to IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics.
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 sale price of animals, if applicable, and future entry of exhibitor and/or family at The 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.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER:

An official photographer will be designated by The Fair. Any exhibitor wishing to engage the service of this photographer may get in touch with the Exhibits Office. Photographs of winners and participants will be taken by the Official Photographer for official use in Social Media. All owners, exhibitors, and herdsman handling such animals are required to cooperate with the photographer.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS:

From time to time photographs and video are taken during The Fair. These photographs and videos may be used for publicity or other purposes. By submitting your entry and entry form, you are consenting to The Fair photographing, filming, taping and/or otherwise recording Exhibitor's name, likeness, physical movements, voice and other sound effects (collectively, "Name, Etc."), which photographs, films, tapes and other recordings (collectively, "Recordings") shall be the sole and absolute property of The Fair for any and all purposes whatsoever in perpetuity; and Exhibitor grants to The Fair, its licensees, successors and assigns the exclusive right to reproduce, exhibit, perform, display, use and otherwise exploit the Recordings and my Name, Etc., in whole or in part, in and in connection with its events and the advertising, exhibition, promotion, publicity and any other exploitation thereof, in any and all languages, formats and media now known or hereafter devised, in perpetuity, for no compensation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if The Fair determines, in its sole discretion, that any rights herein granted are subject to the jurisdiction of any Union, I will enter into any agreement(s) with The Fair or its designee which The Fair determines is required in connection therewith, and agree that I shall receive and be entitled only to the applicable minimum compensation (if any) required by such Union.