

General Fair Rules and Regulations

1. Any person residing in Rio Arriba County, or any youth enrolled in Rio Arriba County or Los Alamos County 4-H program and FFA Chapters, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status may exhibit in the Rio Arriba County Fair, unless specific department rules allow entries from other Counties/States. Youth enrolled in the Los Alamos County 4-H Program are permitted to exhibit livestock and enter the homemade delights contest, upon meeting project and contest requirements. The Rio Arriba County Fair will be held on **July 27th – August 2nd, 2026.**
2. In a case where there is not a rule to cover a situation, the Rio Arriba County Fair Association Board will make a rule and define its application for that given situation(s).
3. All 4-H/FFA and NON-4-H/FFA, contests, awards, advertising, entertainment, and other activities related to the Rio Arriba County Fair must have written authorization from the Rio Arriba County Fair Association Board prior to the event.
4. Any person who violates any of the General or Specific Rules will forfeit all entry fees, privileges, and premiums, and may face expulsion from current and future Rio Arriba County Fairs.
5. The Fair Management will take every precaution for the safety of Visitors and Exhibits but assumes no liability for personal injury or for loss or damage to any property of patrons, concessionaire, or exhibitors, due to theft, fire, weather conditions or other causes.
6. Any 4-H/FFA and Open Indoor Exhibitor may choose to sell the exhibit(s) following these guidelines:
 - On the last Saturday of the Fair, Saturday, the exhibitor may choose to place a silent auction sheet alongside their item(s). The silent auction sheet, including any reserve price (if applicable), must be provided by the exhibitor or their family. The management and oversight of the silent auction process will be the responsibility of the exhibitor or their family, with Extension staff and volunteers not involved in supervising this process.
 - All items, including purchased items will remain in the exhibit hall until the conclusion of the Fair.
 - Items must be picked up by the exhibitor or their family on Sunday, the tear-down day of the Fair. Any sales transactions will be conducted privately between the purchasing party and the exhibitor or their family.
 - If the item is selected for display at the New Mexico State Fair, it will not be released to the owner until after the event concludes. The final sales transaction, if applicable, will be arranged privately between the involved parties.
7. The Fair Board reserves the exclusive and final authority to interpret these rules and regulations, and to resolve all matters, questions, and grievances arising out of or in connection with the Fair.
8. Use and possession of liquor and/or illegal drugs of any form will not be allowed by anyone during, before, or after Fair activities. Only County made wines will be allowed as a County Fair exhibit. The Rio Arriba County Fair Grounds is a Drug & Alcohol-Free facility. The Rio Arriba County Fair & Livestock Auction and all events herein are Non-Alcoholic events. Any person(s) who are found in violation will be asked to leave the premises immediately and/or will have their vehicles towed at their own expense. If the Exhibitor and/or his/her Guests are in violation at any time, the Exhibitor will be disqualified from any/all events and will have any titles and/or awards stripped from them immediately.
9. **Conduct: There is a ZERO Tolerance Policy when it comes to conduct displayed by an Exhibitor, any Family Member or Visitor to the Fair.** All persons are warned that any act of discourtesy or disobedience to Officials, Parents or Exhibitors on the part of the Exhibitor,

Parents or Sponsors will result in a disqualification of the Exhibitor from adjudication, and the Owner shall forfeit his/her entrance and other fees.

10. The Rio Arriba County Fair Association reserves the right to remove/ask any individual to vacate the Fair Grounds and forfeit any winnings or placing should their behavior/conduct warrant it. Any Exhibitor, Parent or Sponsor who shall attempt to interfere with any Judge in the performance of their duties or shall make any false statement(s) in regard to any animal exhibited or shall interfere with Clerks' and Judges' books shall be excluded from the competition and may be subject to other disciplinary actions.
11. All - Exhibitors must always adhere to the 4-H/FFA and the Rio Arriba County Fair Association dress code during the Fair.
 - Long sleeve button up shirt is required to be worn in the Show Ring.
 - Clothing must be clean and free from holes and tears.
 - No bare skin exhibited between shirt and pants/shorts.
 - Skirts and shorts must be at least mid-thigh length.
 - Underclothing cannot be visible.
 - No garments with offensive slogans.
 - No muscle shirts.
 - No tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti strap tops, off the shoulder tops, low cut tops, backless tops or sheer shirts.
 - No caps or hats will be worn in the Show Ring.
 - Western Hats will be allowed during the Horse Show.
12. Ages:
 - Novice** - 8-year olds in the 3rd grade, 9-year olds, 10-year olds, 11-year olds in the 5th grade
 - Junior** - 11 year olds in the 6th grade; 12 year olds; 13 year olds in the 7th grade
 - Senior** - 13 year olds in the 8th grade; 14 year olds; 15 year olds; 16 year olds; 17 year olds; 18 year olds; Youth who are 19 by December 31.

All Judges and Judging

1. The Rio Arriba County Fair will utilize the Judging system of the Modified Danish System for all Categories including Livestock.
 - The difference between the Danish and Modified Danish system is the degrees of specificity in the number of exhibits distributed between the Blue, Red, White, and no awards groups. In the Danish System, exhibits are generally assigned an award based on a numerical score for blue, red, and white ribbons. When the Modified Danish System is employed individual entries or contestants within each group are further ranked in relation to their relative standing within each group giving strict adherence to a standard of characteristics for a blue, red, or white ribbon that is used by the judge.
 - Livestock Award Ribbons: Blue, Red, White, Best of Show, Champion Breed Rosette, Grand Champion Rosette, Reserve Grand Champion Rosette and/or Buckle, and Trophy.
2. 4-H Indoor Exhibit Award Ribbons: White, Red, Blue, State Fair designation, Best of Show and Grand Champion ribbons will be awarded.
 - Awards will be presented to High Point Winners, determined by a point system, in the following 4-H categories: Home Economics, Horticulture, Creative Arts, and General Indoor Exhibits. Awards will be given within the three official 4-H age divisions: Novice, Junior, and Senior. (Note: State Fair Designation does not apply to live horticulture exhibits).
 - A State Fair Sticker may be awarded to one First Place Entry in each class, nominating them to advance to the New Mexico State Fair. Only one exhibit per class, per age group (Novice, Junior, Senior), may advance.
3. A total of three (3) overall indoor buckles will also be awarded. One buckle to the Novice; one buckle to the Junior and one buckle to the Senior Individual with the most overall combined indoor exhibit points.
4. No person shall act as a Judge/Superintendent at the Rio Arriba County Fair in any division in which they are a Member, or their immediate Family is an Exhibitor.
5. Judges may disqualify or transfer any exhibit to the correct class if the exhibit is not truly a representative of the current class or division.
6. During judging, Judges will stress the educational value of the judging process. Judges will be expected, whenever possible and reasonable, to give reasons for their decisions.
7. During adjudication, no person or persons shall be allowed to express positive or negative influence on Judges. Violators of this rule shall face immediate exclusion from judging area and entry would face immediate expulsion from the Rio Arriba County Fair and forfeiture of entry fees and premium money.
8. Judges will verify the recordings of the Clerk and Superintendents immediately following the respective Livestock Show(s) and sign the official documentation.
9. The decision of the Judge is final, allowing only formal appeal as is indicated in the rules following.

Protests and Appeals

Judges Decisions

1. Any Exhibitor has the right to appeal the decision of a Judge if they can provide evidence that the award was made in violation of the rules that govern the event or 4-H/FFA project requirements, or that there has been misrepresentation, fraud or collusion. All appeals must be made in writing and filed with the respective Rio Arriba County Fair Superintendent (for specific project) immediately. Concern will be brought to the attention of the Rio Arriba County Fair Association Board. All department rules shall be referenced that govern the event.
2. All disputes not covered by these rules shall be referred to the Rio Arriba County Fair Association Board and will follow the Grievance Process if applicable.
3. A formal complaint form is included in the Livestock Exhibitor Packet and may be obtained from a Rio Arriba Fair Association Board Member. **All complaints or grievances must be WRITTEN and any verbal complaints during the Fair will not be discussed/accepted. The Rio Arriba County Fair Association Board will answer any questions or clarify rules, but complaints will not be accepted unless in writing.** The Rio Arriba County Fair Board will meet in a timely manner to address complaints received in writing and decisions made by the Fair Board will be final.

General Livestock Rules

4-H/FFA Classes

- Must be a registered 4-H or FFA member in Rio Arriba or Los Alamos County and enrolled in the respective project.

Open Classes

Must be a resident of Rio Arriba or Los Alamos County

- **Booster** - Age 5-8 and completed 2nd Grade
 - **Youth** - Age 8 and completed 3rd Grade through age 17
 - **Adult** - Age 18+
1. No animals will be allowed to unload at the Fairgrounds until they have been inspected by the Veterinarian and Livestock Inspector. Animal(s) unloaded without inspections will be banned from the Fairgrounds.
 2. All animals with communicable diseases may not unload.
 3. All animals need to be washed and cleaned prior to arriving at the Fairgrounds.
 4. All animals leaving Rio Arriba County/District to a Meat packer at the end of the Fair on Sunday will need a Form One inspection done by species (lambs, steers, and goats) NO PAPERWORK IS NEEDED FOR SWINE.
 5. If the Livestock Exhibitor enters an agreement with their Buyer to transport their animal(s) home with a later scheduled date to deliver to the Buyers' choice of Meat Packer, the Livestock Exhibitor is fully responsible for getting a new Form One inspection from a New Mexico Livestock Inspector at that time.
 6. Livestock Exhibitors are required to comply with all the statutory and regulatory provisions of the State of New Mexico related to animal health and brand inspection. For updated information please contact the New Mexico Livestock Board at 505-861-6161.
 7. All 4-H/FFA entries must be certified for eligibility through their Rio Arriba County or Los Alamos County 4-H Agent or FFA Advisor.
 8. No individual entry or entries without all required signatures will be accepted, including but not limited to registration, nomination, and health forms
 9. All animals must be owned, cared for and entered in the individual name of the Livestock Owner.
 10. Booster Showmanship Show: Youth ages 5 to 7 are eligible to show Horse, Beef, Swine, Lambs, Goats, Rabbits, or Poultry. All animals will need to be recognized animals of the fair and must adhere to the rules of the Rio Arriba County Fair. Youth may pre-arrange to show another Exhibitors animal. All Booster Exhibitors must register in Fair Entry.
 - Awards for the booster shows will be participation ribbons only.
 - Booster classes will be conducted at the beginning of each Species Showmanship Show.
 - Each booster showman will be allowed one animal per species.
 - **Exhibitors are limited (5) exhibits per species.**
 11. All Livestock Exhibitors must always keep stalls and animals presentable, including walkways in the immediate area. Livestock Exhibitors must feed, water, and care for their own beef, sheep, swine, goats, llamas, rabbits, and poultry.
 12. All feed and bedding materials for livestock must be furnished by the exhibitor. Bedding is permitted for all species; pellet bedding is allowed. The use of muzzles is encouraged for sheep and goats. If an exhibitor is unable to be present, arrangements for the care of the animal(s) must be made in advance, and justification for the exhibitor's absence must be provided. Failure to provide proper care for animal(s) until release may result in the Rio Arriba County Fair Association refusing the exhibitor's entry in future years.

13. Beef Neck Ropes: For the safety of the animal, exhibitor, and public, all beef animals are mandated to wear a neck rope while in stalls. No closed-in pens, tie stalls will only be allowed. Breeding bulls will be required to always have a nose ring.
14. Trimming Chutes and stands will be permitted as space permits and only in a designated area of the Barn at the discretion of the Superintendents. No more than one chute per Livestock Exhibitor or two per family, per species will be allowed. Chutes and stands must be removed after each show, to allow for the next species to use the area.
15. Only one fan per beef will be allowed.
16. Priority of the washing area will be given to the species that is currently being shown and in accordance with class order.
17. Lounging areas will be set up only if space permits and at the discretion of the Superintendents.
18. Aisles must be kept clear for access to Fair Visitors. All tack boxes, chairs, tools, etc. must be kept out of the walkways, safe and presentable to our public. Dividers will be allowed, but they MUST remain within the stall space assigned to the Livestock Exhibitor, or they will be removed.
19. Feed must be removed from in front of the animal, apart from horses, rabbits, and poultry, by 10 o'clock AM, after the morning feeding. Feed must remain in the animals' designated feeders during feeding time allotments. No feed will be allowed to be stored in the barn or alleys. Livestock Exhibitors must store feed at their trailer or outside of the barn.
 - **Feed Times: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m.**
20. Pens must be clean and should be checked and cleaned at a minimum of every three hours. The Superintendents will enforce cleaning rules and disciplinary actions could occur if not followed.
 - **For livestock exhibitors who do not follow the minimum pen cleaning standards, there will be a \$5.00 fine per species for the 1st offense, assigned grounds cleanup for 2nd offense, and the 3rd offense will result in the offending Exhibitor being designated to the last Exhibitor to check out on Sunday. These disciplinary actions will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.**
21. Each Livestock Exhibitor is responsible for the care, showing and selling of his/her own animal until the Superintendent has approved and signed their release forms.
22. It is the responsibility of the Livestock owner to see that their sale animal is delivered to the Buyer or correct Meat Packer.
23. If instruction or assistance is required, the livestock exhibitor must be present and actively involved at all times. An exhibitor with more than one animal entered in the same class may designate another currently enrolled member of the Rio Arriba or Los Alamos County 4-H or FFA Program to exhibit an animal on behalf of the owner. The substitute exhibitor must have a current exhibitor number as listed in the Fair Entry registration system. The exhibitor must notify the superintendent of the designated substitute exhibitor at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the show.
24. Livestock exhibited in the 4-H/FFA Division must be tagged/inspected at the designated time established by the Rio Arriba County Fair Association, Extension Office, and FFA Advisor.
25. No livestock can be transferred from a 4-H Club to an FFA Chapter or vice versa or within the family during the period.
26. All Market Steers, Breeding Heifers, Market Lambs, Market Goats, Market Swine, Rabbit, Poultry, Horse, and animals to be exhibited must have been declared via a nomination certificate.
 - To be eligible to exhibit in 4-H/FFA Divisions, Livestock Exhibitors must have adhered to official tagging dates; otherwise, entry will be considered for the youth Open Division.

27. All 4-H/FFA Animals must be ear tagged and/or tattooed for identification with an ear tag provided by the Rio Arriba County Fair Association, Rio Arriba or Los Alamos County Extension Service Offices, Mesa Vista FFA Chapter, or New Mexico State Fair.
28. All Livestock in a Registered Breeding Class must have a Certificate of Registration in the name of the Livestock Exhibitor. The Certificate must be verified by the Superintendent of this department.
29. The Official Livestock Classifier/Superintendent will be the sole Judge in determining the Class Weight Divisions.
30. Livestock Exhibitors will be assigned stall space(s) and an RV space by a lottery drawing handled by the Rio Arriba County Fair Association Board/Committee Chair. Drawing will be held on the Sunday prior to the Fair, or stall spaces/poultry cages may be pre-assigned due to event planning; all livestock species exhibitors will be handled in the same manner. All animals will be kept in assigned stall space throughout the Fair. Stall space must be neatly kept and supplied with fresh bedding. It is encouraged that RV spaces are paid for during space assignments on the Sunday prior to the fair, and no later than the last day of fair. Spaces are \$100 each. RV spaces can be paid by cash or check (made out to RACFA). All species exhibitors will be handled in the same manner. All animals will be kept in assigned stall space throughout the Fair. Stall space must be neatly kept and supplied with fresh bedding.
31. Market animals which do not meet the minimum weight requirements in their prospective class will only be allowed to show for ribbons and to complete their 4-H or FFA project(s). These animals will not be eligible for Champion or Grand Champion awards. Such animals are not eligible to be sold in the Junior Livestock Auction and the sale of these animals outside of the auction ring is the responsibility of the Livestock Owner. The Rio Arriba County Fair Association assumes no responsibility in the sale of these animals.
32. All animals will be required to have one official weight. Livestock Exhibitors may choose to weigh their animal(s) upon arriving on the fairgrounds (off trailer) or wait to settle animal(s) into their pen(s) then receive an official weight(s) by the check-in deadline. All animals will only be allowed to cross the scale one time on check-in day. Check-in will run from 9am to 6pm and it is the Livestock Exhibitor's responsibility to ensure their animal has an official weight on record by 6pm. There will not be any re-weigh opportunities. Once an animal is weighed that will become the official weight of record.
33. Junior Market Livestock weights will be as follows:
 - **Steers** 900 lbs. minimum; no top weight (will be paid up to 1,300lbs if sold at auction)
 - **Lambs** 90 lbs. minimum; no top weight
 - **Southdowns** 80 lbs. minimum; no top weight
 - **Goats** 60 lbs. minimum; no top weight
 - **Swine** 190 lbs. minimum; no top weight
 - **Poultry Fryer Pen & Rabbit Meat Pens** 3.0lbs - 5.5lbs (individual weights)
34. The following are termed Unethical Practices:

Doctoring, doping, injections, body "Fill-In" or the alteration, changing, defacing or modification of the anatomical structure.

 - The removal, alteration, changing, or purposeful damaging of an ear tag.
 - Any type of injection where oils, glycerin or like substances are used for body "Fill-In," or added materials such as mud and/or water for added weight.
 - External applications of such things as liniments and blistering agents that would cause an edematous condition.
 - No adding of artificial or animal hair.
 - Any medication and/or approved FDA substance administered during the Rio Arriba County Fair must be given under the direct supervision of the Livestock Superintendent and the official Veterinarian(s) on the Fairgrounds.

35. Any Livestock Exhibitor found using the above listed unethical practices, or any other practice deemed unethical by the management will forfeit all awards, premiums, and sale money if any. The Livestock Exhibitor will also be barred from future participation until such time as reinstatement is made by the Rio Arriba County Fair Management.
36. Livestock Exhibitors exhibiting in Showmanship classes must own the animal they show. The Showmanship Classes will not be judged during the Market Classes.
37. Junior Livestock Showmanship Contest will consist of Junior Market Beef, Cattle Breeding, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Horse, Poultry and Rabbit. Livestock exhibitors will be asked questions covering parts of their animal, basic diseases and overall knowledge of species industry, example topics: how to check teeth, sex, toenails, etc.
 - Awards will be based on the care and presentation of animals, training, and showmanship ability of the Exhibitor.
 - Showmanship Classes will be divided by the age of the youth livestock exhibitor and follow the age divisions of Novice, Junior, and Senior. If an overall showman title is given, perhaps note an overall showman per species will be selected from the topic age group showman.
38. Livestock exhibitors are allowed to sell up to two animals in the Junior Livestock Auction. If an exhibitor qualifies with more than one animal of the same species, they may sell two animals of that species, with the exception of beef. Only one beef animal may be sold per exhibitor.
39. The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion in the Homemade category must be sold, regardless of whether the exhibitor has already filled their two allotted animal sale slots.
40. The Sifting Committee for the Junior Livestock Department will be composed of the Superintendents of the Junior Market Steer, Lamb, Goat and Swine Divisions. All livestock will be checked by the Sifting Committee and the official Veterinarian, and their decision will be final.
41. The Superintendents reserve the right to remove a potentially dangerous animal from the ring and/or if a Livestock Exhibitor is unable to control their animal they can be removed from the ring/barn. This is for the safety of the Livestock Exhibitor and others in the ring and barn.
42. All Rio Arriba County Fair Junior Market Livestock Exhibitors are required to complete a Wholesome Meat Act Certificate. A signed Certificate for each animal must be presented to officials during check-in/weigh-in. The undersigned certifies designated livestock has not been adulterated within the meaning of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act or the Wholesome Meat Act.
43. Rio Arriba County Health records must be completed and turned in by the Livestock Exhibitor at the time of check-in for each animal entering the Rio Arriba County Fair. The Health Forms serve as an official record to ensure that the product you are selling at the time of the Rio Arriba County Fair is safe for human consumption. Health records can be downloaded off the Rio Arriba County Fair Association website, or you may contact the Rio Arriba County Fair Association to get an electronic copy sent to you.
44. Each exhibitor is responsible for the care and well-being of their animals until they are officially released. In the event that livestock is not properly cared for, the necessary labor, feed, and other required services will be provided at a rate of \$25 per animal, which will be billed to the exhibitor. The Rio Arriba County Fair Association reserves the right to deny future participation to any exhibitor who fails to properly care for their animals until release or who does not adequately clean their pens and surrounding grounds. **The Livestock barn and Arena Close at 10:00 p.m. every night of fair and will reopen at 6:00 a.m. the following morning.**

Cattle Rules

Official Points of Contact

Species Superintendent:

Overall Superintendent:

Junior Market Steer Rules:

All Beef shows will follow a Blow and Show format. The use of adhesives and glues is strictly prohibited. Weight Limits: Minimum 900lbs - no top weight. All market steers will be sold by the pound. Steers making the Junior Livestock Auction will be paid by the pound. NOTE: Any Steer weighing more than 1,300lbs will only be paid up to 1,300lbs.

1. Market Steers will be classified by hip height and weight combined.
2. Market Steer – Calves must have all their temporary incisors. No Steer will be permitted to show which has lost its temporary teeth at the time of sifting.

Breeding Cattle Rules:

All Beef shows will follow a Blow and Show format. The use of adhesives and glues is strictly prohibited. Weight Limits: no minimum no maximum

1. Breeding Cattle will be classified by hip height.
2. Heifers – Calves must have all their temporary incisors. No Heifer will be permitted to show which has lost its temporary teeth at the time of sifting.
3. Beef can be tied outside in the arena or surrounding pens (weather permitting). This will help with the urine smell in the barn and allow the animals to de-stress. Superintendent approval is required.

Cow/Calf Pair Rules:

All general beef cattle show rules apply to the Cow/Calf Show. Junior Livestock Exhibitors are encouraged to expand their scope of livestock project experience to include breeding livestock projects. Any cow/calf pair may be exhibited provided the calf is bred-and-owned by the junior exhibitor and the following rules are met:

1. Cow must be solely owned by the junior exhibitor. The issue date on the recorded transfer of the cow must precede the breeding date of the cow for the calf at side and the cow must be continuously owned until show time.
2. Calves on the side of cow-calf pairs MUST BE the cow's natural calf. Calf must be the cow's most recent natural calf and must be born during the current year. Cow must be lactating, in the expression that the calf is nursing. Embryo transfer or cloned calf will not qualify to participate in this show.
3. Both cow and calf are required to be officially 4-H/FFA identified. Cows will be identified during the designated beef tagging process. Calf will be identified during designated event registration and must have a breeder brand or tattoo. The calf may be a steer, heifer or bull. Calf is eligible for individual classes but must be entered in the appropriate class. Calves exhibited in the calf class are not eligible for the Breeding Heifer class.
4. Both cow and calf must be haltered and lead to exhibit.
5. Both cow and calf have to follow "Blow and Show" guidelines at the beginning of the beef section.
6. Cow/Calf Pairs are required to be penned for the duration of the fair. Tie-outs: A row in tie-outs will be designated for Cow/calf pens only.

Division champions in the respective categories will be named:

Cow/Calf Pairs: Two-year-old and mature cows

The individual classes will be made up and divided after the cattle are checked in at the show. Classes will be judged from the youngest class to the oldest within each class. The calf classes may be divided into classes at the discretion of the show committee. County bred class may be developed for cow/calf pairs. Cow/calf pairs are not eligible for Junior Livestock Auction. Beef can be tied outside in the arena or surrounding pens (weather permitting). This will help with the urine smell in the barn and allow the animals to de-stress. Superintendent approval is required.

Division 1 - Junior Beef Cattle

Lot 1 Market Steers – All breeds

Division 2 - Breeding Beef Cattle

Lot 2 Registered Beef Cattle

Class 1 Heifers (Under 2 years)

Class 2 Cows (Over 2 years)

Class 3 Bulls (Under 2 years)

Class 4 Bulls (Over 2 years)

Lot 3 Non-Registered Beef Cattle

Class 5 Heifers (Under 2 years)

Class 6 Cows (Over 2 years)

Class 7 Bulls (Under 2 years)

Class 8 Bulls (Over 2 years)

Division 3 – Dairy Cattle

Lot 4 Dairy Cows

Class 9 Heifers

Class 10 Cows

Division 4 - Miniature Beef Breeds

Class 11 Heifers (Under 2 years)

Class 12 Cows (Over 2 years)

Class 13 Bulls (Under 2 years)

Class 14 Bulls (Over 2 years)

Class 15 Steers

Sheep Rules

Official Points of Contact

Species Superintendent:

Overall Superintendent:

Weight Limits: Southdowns: Minimum 80 lbs. - No top weight.

All others Market Breeds Minimum 90 lbs. - No top weights.

All lambs making the sale will be sold by the head.

All lamb shows will follow a Blow and Show format. The use of adhesives and glues is strictly prohibited. Market Lamb classes will be divided by breed and weight (Western Whiteface and Fine Wool, White and Black, Mutton Cross and Southdown – Shropshire). Market animals in each class will be listed by consecutive weights.

1. All Market Lambs must have their temporary incisors (milk teeth). No lamb will be permitted to show which has lost its temporary teeth at the time of sifting.
2. Health Requirements & Inspection Procedure:
 - All Market Lambs will be slick shorn (no more than 1/4" of wool) prior to arrival at the fair.
 - All Market Lambs will be inspected at the gate or receiving area, any market lambs entering the barns without being ear tagged will be barred from the show and sent home.
 - The Rio Arriba County Fair Association will provide a licensed Veterinarian with capability of sampling skin lesions and conducting a microscopic examination to determine the presence or absence of ringworm.
 - Sheep with ringworm lesions will be denied entrance to the fairgrounds. However, sheep without lesions hauled on the same trailer will be allowed to show.

Division 5 - Sheep

Lot 5 Fine Wool Breeding Sheep

Class 1 Buck (Over 2 Years)

Class 2 Ewe (Over 2 Years)

Class 3 Ewe (Over 1 Year)

Class 4 Buck Lamb (Under 1 Year)

Class 5 Ewe Lamb (Under 1 Year)

Lot 6 Mutton Type Breeding Sheep

Class 6 Buck (Over 2 Years)

Class 7 Ewe (Over 2 Years)

Class 8 Buck (Over 1, Under 2)

Class 9 Ewe (Over 1, Under 2)

Class 10 Buck Lamb (Under 1 Year)

Class 11 Ewe Lamb (Under 1 Year)

Lot 7 Market Lamb

Class 12 Fine Wool Fleece (Must grade 64's or finer. A patch of wool must be left on the shoulder and wool must be left on the lower leg. If wool does not grade 64's or finer from the unshorn patch on shoulder, or lamb does not have full leg wool around leg from knees and hocks down, lambs will go to Western White Face Class. If there are not at least 3 lambs in this class, the other 1 or 2 will go into the Western White Face Class.)

Class 13 Western White Face (To include Columbias, Corriedales, Panama, Targhee, and crosses between these breeds.)

Class 14 Mutton Class (To include those lambs showing no predominance of any breed.)

Class 15 Black Face (To include Suffolk's, Hampshire's, and crosses of both.)

Class 16 Southdowns, Dorset's, Cheviots and Shropshire's (Must have at least 3 lambs to make a class. If not, 3, then the other 1 or 2 lambs will go to the Mutton Class.)

Lot 8 Natural Colored Sheep Carpet (hair or fur) Sheep that are descendants of Karakul, Navajo, Churro or any other breed with hair or a combination of hair and wool grading 36's and coarser.

Animal preparation: Wool length is expected to be 2" or longer, except in young lambs.

Sheep may be trimmed, tipped, or fuzzed off, but not blocked. Bellies, head, lower legs, and dock area may have wool of any length preferred by the exhibitor, but wool must not be trimmed or blocked to unequal lengths on chest, back, shoulders, sides or britches area. Wool must be free from excessive vegetable matter, manure, paint, permanent stains, wool rot, breaks or tenderness and cutting. These problems will be penalized according to their severity.

All sheep will be judged 40% on conformation and 60% on wool.

All sheep must be at least 35% colored.

Class 17 Pair of both sexes, any age.

Swine Rules

Official Points of Contact

Species Superintendent:

Overall Superintendent:

Weight Limits: Minimum 190lbs – No top weight

1. All market swine must have been farrowed on or after January 1st of the current year.
2. No dressing (such as oil, paint, powder, etc.) other than water may be used on swine.
Any swine with dressing other than water will not be allowed to show in a market class.
All swine making the sale will be sold by the head.

Division 7 - Swine

Lot 12 Registered Breeding Swine

Class 1 Sow (Over 1 Year)

Class 2 Gilt (Under 1 Year)

Class 3 Boar (Over 1 Year)

Class 4 Boar (Under 1 Year)

Lot 13 Non-Registered Breeding Swine Class 5 Sow (Over 1 Year)

Class 6 Gilt (Under 1 Year)

Class 7 Boar (Over 1 Year)

Class 8 Boar (Under 1 Year)

Lot 14 Market Swine (Gilts/Barrows) Classified by Breeds then Weight

Class 9 Heavyweight Market Swine

Class 10 Medium weight Market Swine

Class 11 Lightweight Market Swine

Goat Rules

Official Points of Contact

Species Superintendent:

Overall Superintendent:

Junior Market Meat Goat:

Meat Goat Weight Limits: Minimum 60lbs - No top weight.

1. Classes will be determined by breed and weight.
 2. All Market Goats must have their temporary incisors (milk teeth). No goat will be permitted to show which has lost its temporary teeth at time of sifting.
 3. All Market Goats must be uniformly shorn 3/8 inches or less above the knee and hocks upon arrival.
 4. Goats must be naturally hornless, disbudded or dehorned but shall have no horn or scur longer than three (3) inches.
 5. All goat shows will follow a Blow and Show format. The use of adhesives, glues, and baby powder is strictly prohibited.
 6. Breeding goats are not eligible to advance to the Junior Livestock Auction. Rosettes will be given to the Grand Champion Doe, Reserve Champion Doe, Grand Champion Wether and Reserve Champion Wether, Champion Billy, and Reserve Champion Billy.
6. Health Requirements & Inspection Procedure:
- The Rio Arriba County Fair Association will provide a licensed Veterinarian for the sampling of skin lesions and conducting a microscopic examination to determine the presence of ringworm.
 - Goats with ringworm lesions will be denied entrance to the fairgrounds. However, goats without lesions hauled on the same trailer will be allowed to show.
 - Goats must also be free of external parasites, scabies, sore mouth and foot rot or other contagious diseases or will not be allowed to show.
 - All meat goats making the sale will be sold by the head.

Pygmy, and Dairy Goat Rules:

Pygmy and Dairy Goat Weight Limits: No weight limits.

1. Classes will be determined by breed and type.
2. Breeding, Pygmy and Dairy goats are not eligible to advance to the Junior Livestock Auction. Rosettes will be given to the Grand Champion Doe, Reserve Champion Doe, Grand Champion Wether and Reserve Champion Wether, Champion Billy, and Reserve Champion Billy.
3. Health Requirements & Inspection Procedure:
 - The Rio Arriba County Fair Association will provide a licensed Veterinarian for the sampling of skin lesions and conduct a microscopic examination to determine the presence of ringworm.
 - Goats with ringworm lesions will be denied entrance to the fairgrounds. However, goats without lesions hauled on the same trailer will be allowed to show.
 - Goats must also be free of external parasites, scabies, sore mouth and foot rot or other contagious diseases or will not be allowed to show.

Division 6 - Goats

Lot 9 Dry Stock

Class 1 Junior Kids (under 3 months)

Class 2 Intermediate Kids (3 months and under 6 months)

Class 3 Senior Kids (6 months and under 9 months)

Class 4 Junior Yearling (9 months and under 12 months)

Class 5 Senior Yearling (12 months and under 18 months)

Class 6 Junior Get of Sire

Class 7 Does, Yearling Milkers (under 24 months)

Class 8 Does, 2 years and under 3

Class 9 Does, 3 years and under 5

Class 10 Does, 5 years and over

Lot 10 All Other Breeding Goats

Class 11 Senior Get of Sire

Class 12 Dairy Herd

Class 13 Breeders Trio

Class 14 Produce of Dam

Lot 11 Meat Goat

Class 15 Any Breed

Poultry Rules

Official Points of Contact

Species Superintendent:

Overall Superintendent:

Poultry Fryer Pen:

A poultry fryer pen must consist of three (3) birds 70 – 84 days of age and each weighing between 3.0 – 5.5 lbs. Grand Champion fryer pen will advance to the Junior Livestock Sale. The fryer pen will be sold as a pen. Fryer pen buckle and ribbon to be awarded.

Poultry Layer Pen:

A layer pen must consist of three (3) of any lay type of breed, either Pullets or Hens. Grand Champion Layer pen does not advance to the Junior Livestock Sale.

Division 10 - Poultry

Bird: Large Breed and Bantams Cock, Cockerel, Hen, Pullet, Young Pen and Old Pen. Single Only: Turkey: Old Tom, Young Tom, Old Hen, and Young Hen.

Ducks: Old Drake, Young Drake, Old Duck, Young Duck.

Geese: Old Gander, Young Gander, Old Goose, Young Goose.

Goose: Young Goose

The term cock, cockerel, hen, pullet, young pen, and old pen are defined as follows: Cock, a male bird hatched prior to January 1 of current year. Cockerel, a male bird hatched during the current year. Hen, a female bird hatched prior to January 1 of the current year. Pullet, a female bird hatched during the current year. Young Pen, One Cockerel and two Pullets. Old Pen, One Cock and two Hens. All birds in the pen must be of the same variety. An Old Duck, Drake, Goose, Gander and Tom are defined as those hatched after January 1 of the current year. A young Duck, Drake, Goose, Gander and Tom are those hatched after January 1 of the current year.

Lot 29 Standard Bird

Lot 30 Bantam

Lot 31 Layer Pen

Lot 32 Fryer Pen - See Fryer Pen rules for weight requirements.

Lot 33 Guinea

Lot 34 Standard Duck

Lot 35 Bantam Duck

Lot 36 Geese

Lot 37 Turkey

Lot 38 Game Bird

Lot 39 Pigeon

Rabbit Rules

Official Points of Contact

Species Superintendent:

Overall Superintendent:

Rabbit Meat Pen:

A rabbit meat pen must consist of three (3) rabbits under 69 days of age and each weighing between 3.0 – 5.5 lbs. They may consist of any color, variety, and/or breed. Grand Champion meat pen will advance to the Junior Livestock Sale. The meat pen will be sold as a pen. Meat pen buckle and ribbon to be awarded.

Division 11 - Rabbits

Exhibitors will be responsible for their own rabbits being carried to and from the show table when their class is called. All Rabbits must be permanently earmarked in the left ear for 4-H and FFA members. Pedigreed rabbits shall be shown in purebred classes only, including fur and meat. Purebreds will be classified and judged according to current ARBA and ABA rules and standards except for meat pen classes. Crossbred may be shown in crossbred classes only, including fur and meat. Crossbreeds will be classified by the Superintendent and judged accordingly.

Lot 39 Crossbreeds

Class 1 Pre-junior Class (under 3 months and 6 pounds)

Class 2 Junior Class (under 6 months)

Class 3 Intermediate Class (over 6 months and under 8 months)

Class 4 Senior Class (over 8 months)

Lot 40 Commercial Breeds

Class 5 Pre-junior Class (under 3 months and 6 pounds)

Class 6 Junior Class (under 6 months)

Class 7 Intermediate Class (over 6 months) Class 8 Senior Class (over 8 months)

Lot 41 Fancy Breeds

Class 9 Junior Class (under 6 months)

Class 10 Senior Class (over 6 months)

Lot 42 Rabbit Meat Pen - See Meat Pen rules for weight requirements.

Lot 43 Rabbit Breed Pen

Pen of three (3) of same breed type

Class 11 Junior Doe (under 6 months)

Class 12 Senior Doe (over 6 months)

Rio Arriba County Fair Species Bred and Born Show

Official Point of Contact

Program Supervisor: Andrew Thronas 505-690-3984

Rio Arriba County Bred and Born Species Show Rules

Exhibitors must meet the following qualifications:

1. Species must be owned by a 4-H or FFA member in a club or chapter from Rio Arriba or Los Alamos County and entered in the Rio Arriba County Fair Project. A copy of Form 1 from the NM Livestock Board must accompany this form. Novice, Junior, and Senior Members are allowed to show in the Rio Arriba County Bred and Born Species Show.
2. To be eligible, the species must be Bred and Born in the county of Rio Arriba. The Dam must be a resident of Rio Arriba; she must produce an egg that is fertilized by natural means or by AI in Rio Arriba County; the species must be born in Rio Arriba; and shown by a Rio Arriba or Los Alamos County livestock exhibitor. If an animal is AI, include a receipt from AI personnel performing the insemination.
3. All eligible species will be nominated by the Rio Arriba County Bred and Born Species Show Committee (RACBBSC). The Rio Arriba County Bred and Born Species Show Form along with the Proof of NMLB Form 1 will be required at the time of tagging. If this form is not turned in at time of tagging the species will not be eligible to participate in the show. Master Number must be registered within Rio Arriba. A Member of the RACBBSC must be present at all official 4-H/FFA tagging dates set by RACFBA. Forms will not be accepted after the official tagging dates provided by Rio Arriba County Fair Association.
4. Rio Arriba County Bred and Born Species Show exhibitors will all adhere to RACFA fitting rules and regulations as described in the fair rule book.
5. If any species is contested, the animal's qualifications will be researched by the Rio Arriba County Bred and Born Species Show Committee (RACBBSC). Two weeks will be given to the RACBBSC to review the qualifications of the species being contested. Once the review has been completed the RACBBSC will make an agreed decision on the eligibility of the species in question.
6. Any species contested must be done in writing to the RACBBSC. Only exhibitors showing the same species can contest. The exhibitor who is contesting will also have their animal's eligibility reviewed by the RACBBSC. Contestment can only be done from the date of species tagging to July 1st.
7. The RACBBSC reserves the right to review any and all County Bred Species eligibility at any time.

Open Horse Rules

Official Points of Contact

Species Superintendent:

Overall Superintendent:

Determination of eligibility and appropriate age divisions.

All contestants must be residents of Rio Arriba or Los Alamos Counties. Each contestant must enter their appropriate age group as follows:

Ages (at the time of Fair) for Open Horse Show only:

- **Booster** - 5-8 year olds
- **Novice** - 9-11 year olds
- **Junior** – 12-13 year olds
- **Senior** – 14-18 year olds
- **Adult** – 18+

Horses entered in the show must belong to the exhibitor/immediate family of the exhibitor. In the open horse show event, a horse can be used for more than one class, and in more than one age category. Parents/guardians/coaches will be allowed to assist in the booster class if the judge allows (Note: this is different than the 4-H horse show which does not allow this). The exhibitor is not allowed under any circumstances to exhibit stallions at any horse event.

By agreeing to enter the horse show, the exhibitor agrees to all rules provided by the Rio Arriba County Fair Board Association. The exhibitor, and parent and/or guardian agree that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the rules stated herein. The Rio Arriba County Fair Board will issue a Horse Show Exhibitor Number for that horse/exhibitor combination for the Open Horse Show. The same exhibitor number should be used by any 4-H/FFA member already participating in any other Fair shows.

Although horses are not required to be registered with any breed association, it is recommended that the owner/exhibitor has documentation verifying the identity and ownership of the horse (e.g., registration certificate, New Mexico brand inspection transport permit, etc.)

2. Conduct of classes and show management.

Show management must tally points and placings for each exhibitor according to their age division (booster, novice, junior, senior, adult).

The following classes* (and associated courses, patterns, equipment requirements, arena requirements, etc.) will be conducted and judged according to the rules printed in the most current handbook of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). The handbook is available online at www.aqha.com.

- Showmanship at Halter (AQHA SHW 370 to 378)
- Western Pleasure (AQHA SHW 402 to 414)
- Western Horsemanship (AQHA SHW 430 to 438)
- Ranch Riding (AQHA SHW 416 to 419)
- Ranch Trail (AQHA SHW 420 to 422)

- Ranch Reining (AQHA SHW 562)
- Barrel Racing (SHW 700 to 702)
- Pole Bending (SHW 703 to 705)

*Rule numbers given in parentheses are subject to change as updates to the AQHA and PtHA Official Handbook are made on an annual basis.

For any classes not specifically included in the AQHA rules, the horse show judge is the final authority on how that particular class should be conducted and judged. Furthermore, the horse show judge is the final authority for interpreting AQHA rules as they apply to conduct of a show. In the event of inclement weather, the horse show judge is the final authority on determining which classes can safely be held. If a class is not conducted due to the judge's ruling, then no points will be awarded for that class.

Open Horse Show rules for conduct and safety (supersede any AQHA/PtHA rules):

- Safety is the foundation of good horsemanship. If the judge or show manager deems an exhibitor and/or horse is displaying unsafe behavior or lack of control, the judge or show manager shall notify the exhibitor to refrain from such behavior. If this behavior occurs in the show ring, the judge may "whistle off" the exhibitor to conclude the performance at that point, and the exhibitor will exit the arena. If this behavior occurs outside the arena, the judge or show manager shall issue a warning to the exhibitor. If repeated occurrences of unsafe behavior continue, the judge or show manager may excuse them from the show.
- Positive youth development requires a fair and level playing field, and show management should make this a primary consideration for each Horse Show. Exhibitors expect fair and honest competition when they enter a contest, and all should strive to attain that at each event. If an exhibitor receives external aid (calling out specific maneuvers for a class, yelling out to correct a missed lead, etc. from a parent/guardian, trainer, coach, etc.) while in the competition arena, the judge and/or show manager shall issue a warning to those involved in the unfair behavior. If the external aid does not cease, the judge shall disqualify the entry in the class. If the external aid continues beyond one class, the show manager may disqualify the exhibitor/horse combination from the show.
- In speed events, a 5-second penalty shall be assessed any time the exhibitor's hat or helmet does not remain on their person when in the competition arena. For boosters, it is required that a helmet be worn.
- Any disqualification due to unsafe or unfair behavior forfeits any fees paid for participation in the show. However, any points gained prior to disqualification shall stand.

Upon accepting the judging assignment, the horse show management should send a copy of these rules to the judge. Horse show management should have a copy of these rules and the current year's AQHA and PtHA rulebook on hand at the show for review.

Division 9 - Horses

High Point Buckles will be given in each age group for each High Point individual for combined high points in all events. Western apparel is required (long sleeve shirt, blue jeans, hat, boots, and western tack for both shows). Participants competing in any Hunter Class **MUST** wear a safety helmet. AQHA Handbook of Rules & Regulations will be followed. Classes will follow age divisions. AMHA rules will apply where appropriate.

Lot 17 Showmanship at Halter

Class 1 Showmanship at Halter (9-11)

Class 2 Showmanship at Halter (12-13)

Class 3 Showmanship at Halter (14-18)

Lot 18 Western Pleasure

Class 4 Western Pleasure (9-11)

Class 5 Western Pleasure (12-13)

Class 6 Western Pleasure (14-18)

Lot 19 Western Horsemanship

Class 7 Western Horsemanship (9-11)

Class 8 Western Horsemanship (12-13)

Class 9 Western Horsemanship (14-18)

Lot 20 Ranch Riding

Class 10 Ranch Riding (9-11)

Class 11 Ranch Riding (12-13)

Class 12 Ranch Riding (14-18)

Lot 21 Ranch Trail

Class 13 Ranch Trail (9-11)

Class 14 Ranch Trail (12-13)

Class 15 Ranch Trail (14-18)

Lot 22 Ranch Reining

Class 16 Ranch Reining (9-11)

Class 17 Ranch Reining (12-13)

Class 18 Ranch Reining (14-18)

Lot 16 Obstacle Class

Class 4 Obstacle Course (9-11)

Class 5 Obstacle Course (12-13)

Class 6 Obstacle Course (14-18)

Lot 26 Barrel Racing

Class 28 Barrel Racing (9-11)

Class 29 Barrel Racing (12-13)

Class 30 Barrel Racing (14-18)

Lot 27 Pole Bending

Class 31 Pole Bending (9-11)

Class 32 Pole Bending (12-13)

Class 33 Pole Bending (14-18)

Lot 28 Miniature Horse

Junior Livestock and Homemade Delights Auction

The Junior Livestock and Homemade Delights Auction will be held on the Saturday of fair week, in the show ring. There will not be a secondary auction.

1. Rio Arriba County Fair Sale Order Procedure:

- One rabbit meat pen, one fryer pen, layer pen, the Grand and Reserve Champion Market Steer, Swine, Lamb, and Goat are eligible to be sold at auction.
- The sale order will follow the order of selection: Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, followed by first place, second place, and any eligible third and fourth place bump-ups.
- The number of livestock sale slots will be determined by the number of classes.
- Bump ups from livestock will be allowed: Allowing 3rd and 4th place winners to be bumped up if the 1st and 2nd place winners are pulled from sale. In cases where Grand and Reserve are selected from the same class then ONE representative can be bumped up from that class (3rd place).

Homemade Delights:

- One Grand Champion and one Reserve Grand Champion will be selected from the ten (10) classes and sold at the live (in-ring) auction. The remaining eight (8) classes will be available for bid at a silent, ringside auction. Bidding for the silent auction will begin at the start of the live, in-ring auction and will close once the last live, in-ring entry is sold. Please note, no minimum reserve price will be set by the exhibitor. See Department D – 4-H/FFA Homemade Delights Department for new and additional rules, requirements and changes.

See DEPARTMENT D - 4-H Homemade Delights Contest & Auction Rules for further parameters.

2. An exhibitor is limited to a maximum of two (2) total sale slots in the Junior Livestock Auction. A livestock exhibitor may sell more than one animal per species, excluding beef. Only animals entered under the individual name of the owner are eligible for sale. If an exhibitor owns both the Grand Champion and County Bred Champion of the same species, the County Bred Champion must be withdrawn from the sale. In cases where an exhibitor has multiple animals of the same species eligible for sale, only the highest placing animal of that species will be eligible to sell in the Junior Livestock Auction.
3. All eligible animals in the Junior Livestock Order of Sale must be sold unless the livestock exhibitor “pulls” the animal, in which case the Superintendent must be notified in writing one (1) hour after the final livestock show.
4. Livestock Exhibitors may not substitute a non-qualifying animal in place of an animal that qualifies for the sale.
5. The Sales order committee will approve the sale list prior to final sale posting. The sale order committee is composed of the head livestock superintendent, one member at large, and one executive member. Livestock Exhibitors will be charged an administration fee of \$30.00 per auction entry sold in the Junior Livestock Sale.

Animals sold in the Junior Livestock Sale become property of highest bidder and may not be exhibited at any other local, county, state, regional or national livestock show. Animals sold outside of the sale ring are the responsibility of the seller. All transactions must be negotiated between parties. The Fair Association will not act as an agent or accept responsibility in out-of-ring sale transactions. Buyer(s) are not allowed to donate the animal back to the seller for the purpose of showing it at other fairs.

Sale Terms and Conditions

The terms of sales are cash. Payment is to be made to the Rio Arriba County Fair Association. Complete payment in full is expected on the date of the sale unless previous arrangements have been made. **If payment is not received within 30 days of the auction, legal actions may be implemented to collect any outstanding debts.** Title passes when the purchaser signs the acknowledgment of purchase at the cashier's desk. However, the seller retains a security interest in items sold until the buyer's funds are cleared and processed.

The highest bidder shall be the buyer. If any dispute arises between two or more bidders, the sole authority to settle the dispute is reserved by the auctioneer and his/her decision shall be final. The purchaser assumes complete responsibility for items at the time the auctioneer says "Sold." Sale management auctioneers and employees of the sale management act as agents for the sellers but assume no liability for either buyer or seller. Any representation made by the sale management is made on behalf of the seller.

A **fee equal to 3%** of the final sale price per sale slot will be collected by the Fair Association from each Junior Livestock Auction sale and deducted from the sale amount prior to distribution of proceeds to the exhibitor. This fee will be used to help offset logistical and administrative expenses associated with planning, organizing, and hosting the subsequent year's fair. Exhibitors are required to frame and present to the buyer along with a thank you letter. Each participant who sells an animal must make a concerted effort to personally present the framed sale photograph and thank you note to the buyer. By entering an animal into the Junior Livestock Auction, exhibitors acknowledge and agree to these deductions and requirements.

All thank-you notes to buyers, add-on donors, and award donors are the responsibility of the exhibitor. Alternative arrangements may be made with a fair board member. The fair board will provide mailing information of the buyers, add-on donors, and award donors to every exhibitor through the email provided by the exhibitor in Fair Entry.

4-H auction add-ons will be accepted during the week of the fair, the night of the auction and up to five days after the auction. Add-ons are optional, flat-fee donations that allow supporters to provide extra financial support directly to 4-H/FFA youth, regardless of whether they purchase a market animal. Add-ons will be added directly to the total check (if the exhibitor sold in the auction) and accepted via cash or check (made to RACFA) accompanied by add-on pledge form. 4-H and FFA members listed on the pledge form will be those enrolled with projects in Fair Entry, therefore boosters will not be eligible for overall "all exhibitor" add-ons.

Non-Livestock 4-H/FFA Rules and Regulations

Official Points of Contact

Indoor Division Superintendents:

Indoor Overall Superintendent:

1. All 4-H & FFA members must be enrolled in the project area to exhibit in the department. Only currently enrolled 4-H & FFA members (in good standing and having received an overview of the Rio Arriba County Fair rules) are eligible to enter the 4-H & FFA Division of the organization they represent. All others will be entered in the Open Division.
2. Students enrolled in 4-H School Enrichment Programs and Special Interest Programs are eligible to exhibit at the County Fair in their appropriate Division or Category.
3. All 4-H & FFA entries must have been completed within the current 4-H project year.
4. For 4-H & FFA Divisions, only those exhibits selected for the State Fair are eligible to be exhibited at the State Fair.
5. Entries may be disqualified if they do not meet the project requirements.
6. All exhibits must be the individual member's own work.
7. Articles must have the exhibitor's name, address, and year covered and attached to the project or article.
8. Exhibitors are restricted to no more than one (1) exhibit per class.
9. Only classes listed in the fair book will be accepted; however, if there is an accidental omission in this Fair Book and there is a class listed in the current NM State Fair book for 4-H & FFA Divisions, the classifying official shall refer to the NM State Fair book to identify class, project, and description and then project will be accepted.
10. Superintendents oversee their departments. In all cases, the Superintendent does reserve the right to reject entirely, or accept conditionally, any entry if it does not meet project requirements.
11. The 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor who brings exhibitors to the Fair shall maintain responsibility and supervision of the youth. Every effort must be made to maintain proper conduct.
12. Exhibitors involved in illegal or disruptive behavior may be disqualified from the current or future fairs.
13. Where there is no competition or where classes are not filled, exhibits may be awarded first, second or third according to its merits. State Fair winners may or may not be designated.
14. New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service does not have the option of making Cloverbud activities competitive. 4-H is a youth development program and conducts activities that are based on sound principles of child development.
15. Any competitive events offered by the Rio Arriba County Fair Association for 5- to 8-year olds cannot be done under the name or emblem of 4-H Youth Development, and youth cannot be recognized as 4-H members as part of their participation in these events. Participation in these types of activities is the decision of the young person and his/her parent/guardian.

Special Rules: Novice, Junior and Senior age levels must be indicated as follows: Add an "N" to the class number if the exhibitor is a Novice (ages 9-11 or 8 years old and in third grade). Add a "J" to the class number if the exhibitor is a Junior (ages 12-13 or 11 years old and in 6th grade). Add an "S" to the class number if the exhibitor is a Senior (ages 14-18 or 13 years old and in 8th grade).

Project Poster/Exhibit Requirements

Poster

Posters may be no larger than 14 x 22 inches (this is half a standard sheet of poster board). Posters are defined as any flat paper, foamboard, cardboard, or other backing appropriate for hanging on the wall for display. Flat items placed on stands or with stands attached will be considered posters and the stands will not be utilized for display.

Display Boards

Display boards may be no larger than inches (this is a small display board or half of a standard display board). Display boards are defined as scored, freestanding science boards that may be purchased at any school supply store. These boards are made freestanding by the sides folded slightly.

3-D Display

3-D vertical displays may be no larger than 24 x 24 inches. A vertical display is defined as exhibits with a solid base where the exhibit itself rises. This would apply to small engines, self-determined, or any other appropriate 3-D display.

Project Specific Boards

Some projects are given measurements within the project. For example, leather craft and braiding have guidelines in the project book. If an exhibit is defined by the project book; that is the rule members must follow.

Mounting Material

Mounting material must sustain the week-long display.

Oversized Exhibits

Because of security and space limitations, extremely large/heavy project exhibits, such as large woods, welding or other large project displays, will need prior approval from the Extension Office. This only applies to actual items - posters, display boards, and vertical displays may not be oversized. We cannot guarantee that oversized items will be placed in the exhibit building.

Indoor Open Division Rules and Regulations

Official Points of Contact
Indoor Division Superintendents:
Indoor Overall Superintendent:

Any Rio Arriba County resident is eligible to exhibit.

All entries must be the entire work of the exhibitor and must have been completed since the prior Rio Arriba County Fair. Produce must be grown in Rio Arriba County by the exhibitor.

There will be five age categories: 5-8, 9-11, 12-13, 14-18, and 19 and up. Each entry will be classified and tagged according to specifications outlined in the Open Indoor Exhibits Fair Book.

The exhibitor is allowed a limit of three entries per class number. Entries in "Any Other" classes will only be used if there is no other listed class. Incorrectly classified entries shall be placed in the proper category by the superintendents.

Professionals or other individuals are invited to enter items for "FOR EXHIBIT ONLY", but their entries will NOT be eligible for competition. No advertising is allowed.

Open Indoor Exhibitor may choose to sell their exhibit(s). The Exhibitors must decide on a price and display the price after judging takes place. The Exhibitor must handle his/her own sale. All exhibits must remain on display until the designated release time.

Non-perishable exhibits may be dropped off on the Monday before the Fair between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Perishable exhibits may be dropped off on the Tuesday before Fair between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

No nonperishable entries will be accepted for judging after the Monday before the Fair at 7 PM. Perishables will not be accepted for judging after 10 AM on the Wednesday before Fair.

The Danish System of Judging does not compare one person's work to another. The evaluation is made against a project standard. The judge evaluates whether the requirements have been met. Ribbons are awarded according to the degree that the exhibitor's project meets the standards.

Participation ribbons will be awarded to the 5-8 age group.

One Best of Show (Purple Rosette) may be awarded in each Department at the judge's discretion. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion awards may be given for an outstanding exhibit. A People's Choice Award will be awarded when voting ends at 5 PM Saturday.

Baked goods, flowers, fruits, and vegetables will not be returned.

The decisions made by the judges are final. Exhibits shall be claimed on the Sunday after the Fair week between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. Exhibits will NOT be released early.

ARTICLES NOT CLAIMED BY POSTED PICKUP TIME WILL BE CONSIDERED

RELINQUISHED. The fair committee, fair staff, or the county will not be held responsible for loss or damage of entered items or of unclaimed articles.

The Rio Arriba County Fair Board will take every precaution for the safety of visitor and exhibits, but assumes no liability for personal injury, loss, damage to any property of the exhibitor or patron due to theft, fire, or other not listed causes.

1. Any Rio Arriba County resident is eligible to exhibit. All entries must entirely be the work of the exhibitor and must have been completed during the time following last year's fair to that leading up to the Rio Arriba County Fair.
 2. Produce must be grown in Rio Arriba County by the exhibitor.
 3. There will be three age categories: booster: ages 3 – 4; youth: 8-18 and adult 19 and up.
 4. Each entry will be classified and tagged according to specifications outlined in the Open Indoor Exhibits Fair Book.
 5. The exhibitor is allowed a limit of three entries per class number. Entries in "Any Other" classes will only be used if there is no other listed class.
 6. Incorrectly classified entries shall be placed in the proper category by the superintendents.
 7. Professionals or other individuals are invited to enter items for "FOR EXHIBIT ONLY", but their entries will NOT be eligible for competition. No advertising is allowed.
 8. Open Indoor Exhibitors may choose to sell their exhibit(s). The Exhibitors must decide on a price and be specially tagged. Price and contact information should be provided to the staff. Transactions are made privately between buyer and exhibitor following the end of the Fair. All exhibits must remain on display until the designated release time.
 9. Non-perishable exhibits may be dropped off the week prior to the Fair between 8 AM and 5 PM at the Extension office
 10. Perishable exhibits may be dropped off the Wednesday before Fair between 7:00 a.m. at the and 10:00 a.m. at the multi-purpose building.
 11. The Danish System of Judging does not compare one person's work to another. The evaluation is made against a project standard. The judge evaluates whether the requirements have been met. Ribbons are awarded according to the degree that the exhibitor & project meets the standards.
 12. Participation ribbons will be awarded to the booster 3-8 age group. One Best of Show (Purple Rosette) may be awarded in each Department at the judge's discretion. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion awards may be given for an outstanding exhibit. A People's Choice Award will be awarded when voting ends at 5 PM Saturday.
 13. Baked goods, flowers, fruits, and vegetables will not be returned.
 14. The decisions made by the judges are final. Exhibits shall be claimed on the Sunday after the Fair week between 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM. Exhibits will NOT be released early.
- ARTICLES NOT CLAIMED BY POSTED PICKUP TIME WILL BE CONSIDERED RELINQUISHED. The fair committee, fair staff, or the county will not be held responsible for loss or damage of entered items or of unclaimed articles. The Rio Arriba County Fair Board will take every precaution for the safety of visitor and exhibits, but assumes no liability for personal injury, loss, damage to any property of the exhibitor or patron due to theft, fire, or other not listed causes.

New for 2026-2027: Calf Scramble Rules

Official Points of Contact

Program Supervisor: Connie Lujan

Program Supervisor: Alicia Maez

Application Deadline: May 15, 2026

Special Rules

1. The Rio Arriba County Fair Association (RACFA) will not be responsible for any accidents that may occur to any participant in the Calf scramble before, during or after the scramble.
2. Incomplete Minors Releases will not be accepted. All information requested on the Minors Release must be complete. There must be two adult witnesses to the signing of the release. However, if the parents are divorces, or if one is deceased, one signature is sufficient, but the notation of "DIVORCED" or "DECEASED" must be identified in the space provided or the Minor's Release will be returned.

Selection of Contestants

1. Entries for the Calf Scramble are taken on the RACFA website, Rio Arriba Country Extension. Entries will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis until the maximum number of contestants is reached (10), provided entrants meet the qualifications listed below. RACFA reserves the right to extend entries to fulfill the maximum number of contestants.
2. These participants should be carefully selected. Absolutely no substitution will be made in the participants lists after they are received by the Rio Arriba County Fair Board, from the Agriculture Extension Agent or County Extension Agent.
 - a. Ages: Participants must have reached their 13th birthday but not their 17th birthday by January 1, 2027, and not be enrolled beyond their junior year of high school.
 - b. Weight: Participants must weigh at least 100 pounds.
 - c. Participants: Participants who report to the Scramble Meeting place must be in top physical condition. Any participant appearing with broken limbs, etc. Will automatically be disqualified and the first alternate will be put in their place.
3. The following questions should be taken into consideration by Agricultural Education Advisor or County Extension Agents when making the selection of participants in the Calf Scramble:
 - a. Calf Scramble winners will be awarded \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of a heifer. Many of the participants have had to add more money to obtain a suitable heifer for showing. Would the participant's parents be financially able to do this if it is found to be necessary?
 - b. Does the participant have suitable facilities for caring for and developing a heifer?
 - c. Does the participant have a real desire to own and show a heifer?
 - d. Is the participant the type that would devote their attention to the calf to bring a heifer to the 2027 show that he or she, their sponsor, their supervisor and the Rio Arriba County Fair will be proud to show?
 - e. Are the parents willing (and are grades satisfactory) to allow the participants to spend their time away from school or other activities to bring the heifer to the 2027 show and stay with her for the days necessary to show and care for her?

- f. Will the participant be conscience in submitting regular monthly reports to the Rio Arriba County Fair Calf Scramble Superintendent, to the sponsor and to you, on forms we furnish.
4. Any participant who has won a calf through participation in the calf scramble at the Rio Arriba County Fair will not be eligible to participate in the calf scramble again.
5. After all Minor's Releases have been checked by RACFA, each applicant will be notified of their acceptance as a participant, when and where to meet on the date and time they are to participate in the calf scramble by RACFA.

Arena Rules

1. Participants and calves will be placed in the arena as directed by the arena director. All participants will be supplied with a rope halter.
2. At no time will a participant be permitted to tie the rope to his body or belt.
3. Each participant will attempt to catch one of the calves released. The participant catching a calf is requalified to lead it across the finish line without aid.
4. If a participant has hold of a calf in anyway, no other participant will be allowed to touch the calf until it breaks away.
5. If a participant catches the calf by the tail, they will be given a reasonable amount of time to work around to his head; otherwise, the referee will order him to let the calf go.
6. If two or more participants catch the same calf, the calf will be turned loose.
7. A participant who secures a calf and leads it across the finish line will be declared a winner when so indicated by the referee.
8. Undue roughness will not be tolerated by the referee. Poor sportsmanship automatically disqualifies any contestant. Do not drag calf.
9. The Calf Scramble is to be referred to by a select group of not less than four referees.
10. Shoes with any type of knob or cleat (rubber or metal) will not be allowed.

Rules for Purchasing Calves Won in the Calf Scramble

1. A participant catching a calf in the Calf Scramble and otherwise declared a winner will receive \$1,000.00 credit from the RACFA toward the purchase of a Rio Arriba County Bred Heifer of his or her choice from a list provided on date of scramble of eligible breeders or ranches. The exhibitor must contact RACFA via email with the name and address of the breeder along with a Bill of Sale and the RACFA will then mail a check directly to the breeder.
2. To enable each individual winner to make the decision as to the breed of heifer they desire to purchase, substitute calves will be used in the arena for the Calf Scramble. Winners and their supervisors will then purchase the animal of their choice. This places the responsibility for the proper selection on the participant and their supervisor. It is designed to give the participants experience in selecting the proper type of animal for their at home breeding purposes.
3. Beef Heifer Purchases:
 - a. The heifer must be purchased from a breeder on the list provided by the superintendent of the calf scramble. New Mexico Livestock board will verify said breeder's brand.
 - b. The nomination and tagging of the heifer need to follow all the Rio Arriba County Fair rules for Junior Heifers.
 - c. If the exhibitor's family produces their own Rio Arriba County bred Cattle, the exhibitor will NOT be allowed to exhibit their own stock for the Calf Scramble show.

Reporting and Exhibition

1. Winner MUST exhibit their heifer at the Rio Arriba County Fair in their respective Junior heifer class, unless circumstances approved by the RACFA, Sponsor and supervisor make this impossible. (For example: the animal may turn out to be unsuitable for the project due to deformity, disease or other unforeseen reasons).
2. The animal may be exhibited at any time, for any other shows or fairs. The animal may not be sold until after being exhibited at the Rio Arriba County Fair.
3. Once a month through August 2027 the winner will be required to make a report on their animal. Report must be mailed to RACFA PO BOX... Forms for report are in the calf scramble packet. By Thursday, noon, of the Rio Arriba County fair, the exhibitor must submit a final record book (500-word essay about their project experience, copies of monthly reports, pictures of project, registration papers or bill of sale, and any other relevant information) to the Calf Scramble superintendent.
4. Monthly progress reports shall be submitted to the sponsor and the participant's County Extension Agent or Agriculture Education Advisor.
5. Heifers must be entered in the same manner as any other Junior livestock entry and submit to the same deadlines. Entries must be made through the Rio Arriba County Fair Registration Process.
6. Purchase verification (bill of sale) must be presented on the date of the Rio Arriba County Fair Beef tagging date.

Department Rules Calf Scramble Showmanship Judge: TBD

Date & Time: To follow the Rio Arriba County Fair Heifer Show

1. Sponsor Relation
 - a. Accuracy and completeness of records
 - b. Objectives met
 - c. Project completion theme
2. Showmanship Phase
 - a. Members will exhibit the heifer at the 2027 Rio Arriba County Fair in the respective class of the Junior Heifer Show.
 - b. Calf scramble heifers will show in a separate showmanship class consisting of only catch-a-calf animals. For point purposes only.
3. Total points shall be assigned to each phase as follows: The heifer that accumulates the most points will be the Champion Calf Scramble Heifer.

Awards (Classes 1, 2, 3)

Champion: Buckle, Trophy, Banner, Rosset. Reserve: Buckle, Banner, Rosset. Third: Ribbon

Class 1: Sponsorship Relationship

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Accuracy and completeness of records | 20 Points |
| 2. Objectives met | 10 Points |
| 3. Project theme | 20 Points |

Class 2: Class Placing - Heifers placing in their respective breed, age or weight class (this applies to any shows, or jackpots throughout the year – verification will be required for points to count).

Placing in class: *(points shall be awarded based on the number of entries in the class).*

3 or more entries:

Placing	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Points		20	15 10

2 entries:

Placing	1 st	2 nd
Points		15 10

Single entry:

Placing	1 st
Points	10

Class 3: Showmanship – heifers placing in calf scramble class:

Placing in class: *(points shall be awarded based on the number of entries in the class)*

3 or more entries:

Placing	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Points		20 15	10

2 entries:

Placing	1 st	2 nd
Points		15 10

Single entry:

Placing	1 st
Points	10

Awards will be presented during the Rio Arriba County Fair awards held on Saturday. In the event of a tie. The tie will be broken on the score of the Calf Scramble record book.

Memorial Buckles and Scholarships

Barbara Faulkner Memorial Buckle

In honor of Barbara, the Faulkner family will donate one buckle to the Homemade Delights contest in memory of her. Barbara loved coming to the Rio Arriba County Fair. She enjoyed supporting the kids by buying as many Homemade Delights as possible. It was a huge thrill of hers to see the kids smile. Barbara passed away February 13, 2015. After the Homemade Delights have been judged and placed for the auction, the family will select one or two judges to choose a buckle winner. Judges will select from the 1st or 2nd place winners based on taste. A second-place winner could potentially win this buckle.

Gregorio F. Garcia, Sr. Memorial Buckle

The Gregorio F. Garcia, Sr. Memorial buckle will be awarded to the 4-H or FFA member observed giving of him or herself to make the fair a memorable experience for someone else. This buckle will be awarded by observation only, not by application. The observation may be done by either fair association members or by members of the Garcia family. A 4-H or FFA member can only win the Gregoria F. Garcia, Sr. buckle once.

Max Martinez Memorial Sweepstakes Buckle

Sponsored by Martinez Ranch, Cebolla, New Mexico. Buckle award to honor the memory of Max D. Martinez, a 46-year supporter of 4-H and youth activities in Rio Arriba County.

The Max Martinez Memorial Sweepstakes Buckle will be awarded to a senior age 4-H or FFA member exhibiting livestock at the Rio Arriba County Fair. The winner must excel in showing three (3) different species of large livestock during the same year at the Rio Arriba County Fair. Poultry and rabbit exhibits will not count toward the sweepstakes. The point system that will be used to determine the winner as follows:

- First Place = 5 points; Second Place = 3 points; Third Place = 1 point
- In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected by the criteria decided by the committee prior to the county fair.

A three (3) person committee will make the final determination and shall be composed of the Livestock Department Superintendent, the County Extension 4-H Agent, and one appointed Volunteer Leader/Fair Association member who is not enrolled in the same club(s) as the potential recipient(s).

If there are no senior age 4-H members eligible, junior age members will be considered using the same criteria listed above. A 4-H member can only win the Max D. Martinez Memorial Sweepstakes Buckle once.

Sammy Gurule Memorial Scholarship and Buckle

Sammy Gurule was a 4-H FFA member in Rio Arriba County. He held several leadership roles in both organizations and was dedicated to helping his community. Sammy's dream was to become a veterinarian and to remain closely involved with his hometown of Tres Piedras.

To honor Sammy; his family has established this academic 4-H/FFA scholarship to encourage 4-H and FFA members to continue their education beyond high school in any academic field. Amount of the scholarship will depend on funds available and will be payable directly to the individual. To apply, any 4-H or FFA high school graduating senior must apply and submit an essay:

Topic:

"How will this scholarship benefit me in furthering my education"? Include your most memorable experiences in 4-H or FFA. (250 words minimum / 500 max)

Scholarship requirements:

- Must be a graduating senior of the current year.
- Must be planning to attend a 4-year institution.
- Must be an outstanding 4-H or FFA member.
- Must be a resident of Rio Arriba County.
- Must have a 2.5 scholastic grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Copy of current transcripts must be attached.
- Preferably show more than one species of animals at the Rio Arriba County Fair.
- Care for their animals (feeding, washing, etc.).
- Ability to make activities fun for everyone.
- Exhibit outstanding showmanship and sportsmanship.
- Take pride in all accomplishments.
- Be active in and outside of Rio Arriba County (Jackpots, State fair, Community, etc.).
- Be knowledgeable about animals being exhibited.

Selection Committee:

Applications will be reviewed by two (2) Extension Staff Members, the Fair Association President, and members of the Gurule Family.

Application Deadline:

Application must be received by July 1, of the current year. Late applications will not be accepted. Return application to Rio Arriba County Extension Service, HCR 77 Box 9, Abiquiu, NM 87510.

Welding Memorial Buckle

Tito Garcia Memorial Buckle for Welding will be awarded to the 4-H or FFA exhibitor who has the best agricultural or farm welding project. The more complex the project, the better the chance to win. The buckle will be awarded by a member of the Garcia family. A 4-H or FFA member can only win the Welding Memorial Buckle once. This buckle is sponsored by the Ben Garcia Family in memory of Tito Garcia.

Tony Maez Memorial Round Robin Showmanship

Tony Maez was a member of 4-H in Rio Arriba County in the 50's and early 60's showing horses and leathercraft. Tony and his wife Anna's two youngest children were very active, very involved 4-H members in Rio Arriba County. From the time their children joined 4-H as Cloverbuds they would do everything they could to attend every event they were involved in, including FFA functions they were invited to. Tony was very supportive of the showing of livestock and nothing thrilled him more than watching the shows and even more thrilling were the showmanship classes. He always said, "that's how we really see who's been working hard all year with their animals." The Maez Ranch is happy to sponsor the Round Robin show in Memory of Tony. Invited to show will be the Showmanship winners of, Market Steer, Breeding Heifer, Market Lamb, Market Goat and Market Swine. If the showmanship winner is unavailable or drops out of the show the second-place showman will be invited to step in. In the event the second-place showman also chooses to not participate that species will not have a representative, but the species will still be shown in the Round Robin. If one exhibitor has won showmanship for two species, the said exhibitor will be asked to identify which species they are representing by Friday at 6pm to a member of the Rio Arriba County Fair Association. The second-place winner will then be invited to show for the dropped species.

Rio Arriba County “All Around Fair Participant”

An “All Around Participant” buckle will be awarded annually at the Rio Arriba County Fair. The buckle will be awarded to an outstanding 4-H and/or FFA member who exhibits all the character traits that these organizations instill in their youth.

The individual chosen to receive the “All Around Fair Participant” Buckle should exhibit the following characteristics:

- Be an outstanding participant and have at least 1 year in 4-H and/or be a green-hand in FFA
- or a combination of the two to equal up to 1 year.
- Community Service; at least 1 event in the current 4-H/FFA year.
- Academic Success, cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.
- Participated in at least one other event other than county fair (i.e., county, district, or state competitions etc.).
- Demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship and leadership (2 letters of recommendation: one from a schoolteacher and another from FFA Advisor or 4-H Agent).
- Exhibitors must be exhibiting at least two projects (indoor and/or outdoor) during the current fair.
- The finalists will be interviewed by a committee prior to the fair.
- Reflection on what you have learned through and/or by being involved in 4H/FFA (250-word essay).

Potential applicants should be observed throughout the program year. Applications shall be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the county fair. A committee will consist of a Fair Association member, the Board of Directors (buckle sponsor) and a teacher. All applications should be submitted to the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District, 19283 US Hwy 84/285 Suite 112, Hernandez, NM 87537 no later than two weeks prior to the fair at which time the committee will review the applications and make their selection.