

Hays County Livestock Show

New Rule Changes for 2025-2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND RULE CHANGES FOR 2025-2026

2026 Hays County Livestock Show Schedule of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sat	Jan 10	8:45am	Presentation of Queen's Court and Ambassador's
		9:00am	Horse Show
Sat	Jan 17	6:00pm-10:30pm	Buyer's Gala Horse Show Awards
Sun	Jan 18	5:00pm-7:00pm	Ag Mechanics Projects Check In
Mon	Jan 19	8:00am	Barn Open
		8:00am (must be in line by 9:00am)	Check in Market Rabbits Followed by Market Rabbit Show, Breeding Rabbits immediately after Market
		9:00am	Judging of Ag Mechanics
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Home Skills Projects Check In
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Goat and Lamb Check In
Tues	Jan 20	9:00am	Breeding Goat Show Followed by Market Goat Show
		9:00am-4:00pm	Judging of Home Skills
		3:00pm	Breeding Sheep Show Followed by Market Sheep Show
		4:00pm	Presentation of Home Skills Awards
		4:30pm-6:30pm	Home Skills Open for Public Viewing
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Swine Check In

Wed	Jan 21	9:00am	Breeding Swine Show Followed by Market Swine Show
		1:00pm-5:30pm	Home Skills Public Viewing and Check Out of Projects
		3:00pm	Poultry Check In
		5:00pm	Poultry Show
		5:00pm-7:00pm	Cattle Check In
Thurs	Jan 22	12:00pm	Breeding Cattle Show Followed by Market Steer Show
Fri	Jan 23	10:00am	Setup auction ring. All help is appreciated
		by 6:00pm	All livestock and Ag Mechanics projects not going through the auction must be removed
Sat	Jan 24	10:00am	Awards
		10:30am	Auction Starts
Sun	Jan 25	9:00am	Show Breakdown/Clean-up

1.7 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY: Participants must be a member of a Hays County FFA Chapter, FCCLA or 4-H Club. Participants must reside within the geographic boundaries of a Hays County School District or attend a public or private school located within Hays County. Participants must be in good standing in an FFA Chapter and/or 4-H Club in Hays County at the time of the Show. **Good Standing means that a youth participant must have met the attendance requirement of attending three (3) meetings and/or events of the organizations between the months of August through January. FFA Advisors and CEA's will certify eligibility of all of the chapter/club exhibitors to the Hays County Livestock Exposition, Inc Board. Exhibitors who do not follow this eligibility will not be allowed to participate in the Hays County Youth Livestock Show. The Hays County Livestock Exposition, Inc. Board has the final determination of General Eligibility.

1.10

Item	Date	Fee
Turkeys	Ordered by County Agent Deadline July 7, 2025	—
Broilers	Ordered by County Agent Deadline September 30, 2025	—
Steers	June 13th and 20 th , 2025	\$21.00

Heifers	June 13th and 20 th , 2025 3 rd Saturday in October DSRP	\$16.00
Lambs	3 rd Saturday in October DSRP	\$16.00
Ewes	3 rd Saturday in October DSRP	\$16.00
Market Goats (Male & Female)	3 rd Saturday in October DSRP	\$16.00
Breeding Meat Goats	3 rd Saturday in October DSRP	\$16.00
Horses	Saturday, November 1, 2025	-
Market Barrows & Gilts	Saturday, November 8, 2025 Dripping Springs HS Ag Barn	\$17.00 Late Fee \$20
Breeding Gilts	Saturday, November 8, 2025 Dripping Springs HS Ag Barn	\$17.00 Late Fee \$20
Market Rabbits	Saturday, December 20, 2025 Buda VoAg Building	\$2.00
Breeding Rabbits	Saturday, December 20, 2025 Buda VoAg Building	\$2.00

VALIDATION TIMES WILL BE FROM 8-11AM

1.14 ENTRY DEADLINE: All entries must be submitted online and paid in full by 11:59pm on the third Wednesday of December. There will be NO REFUNDS ON ENTRY FEES. Late entries for ALL PROJECTS will be accepted up to check-in on:

- January 18, 2026 for Ag Mechanics
- January 19, 2026 for Home Skills
- January 19, 2026 for Rabbits, Goats and Sheep
- January 20, 2026 for Swine
- January 21, 2026 for Cattle and Poultry

Entry Fees

Item	Fee
Exhibitor Fee	\$10.00
Market Steers	\$25.00
Market Swine (includes a bag of shavings)	\$35.00
Market Goats (Male or Female)	\$25.00
Market Lambs	\$25.00
Market Rabbit Pen	\$20.00
Market Rabbit Fryer	\$20.00

Broiler Pen	\$20.00
Turkeys	\$20.00
Breeding Cattle	\$25.00
Breeding Swine	\$25.00
Breeding Meat Goats	\$25.00
Breeding Ewes	\$25.00
Breeding Rabbits	\$20.00
Ag Mechanics	\$20.00
Home Skills	\$10.00
Horses	\$10.00 per Class
Horses- Goat Tying	\$20.00 per Class
Horses- Breakaway Roping	\$40.00 per Class

1.22 SIFTING: All animals and poultry brought to the show must be of sufficient quality to show. A sifting committee may inspect all entries. Three classifiers and/or sifters may be used in each division to the discretion of the HCLE Board of Directors.

Horse Rules

Classes:

1. Showmanship at Halter-Junior
2. Showmanship at Halter- Senior
3. Showmanship at Halter- Clover Kids
4. Mares (5) five and over
5. Mares (4) four and under
6. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Mare
7. Geldings (5) five and over
8. Geldings (4) four and under
9. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Gelding

A warm-up will be allowed after Halter Classes

10. English Hunter Under Saddle (English Pleasure)- Junior
11. English Hunter Under Saddle (English Pleasure)- Senior
12. English Equitation- Junior
13. English Equitation- Senior
14. Hunter Hack- Junior
15. Hunter Hack- Senior

A break will be allowed for lunch

16. Western Pleasure- Junior
17. Western Pleasure- Senior
18. Western Horsemanship-Junior
19. Western Horsemanship-Senior
20. Stock Horse Trail- Junior
21. Stock Horse Trail- Senior
22. Stock Horse Pleasure-Junior
23. Stock Horse Pleasure-Senior

- 24. Stock Horse Horsemanship-Junior
- 25. Stock Horse Horsemanship-Senior
- 26. Stock Horse Reining-Junior
- 27. Stock Horse Reining-Senior

A warm-up will be allowed after Judged Performance Classes

- 28. Pole Bending- Junior
- 29. Pole Bending-Senior
- 30. Stake Race-Junior
- 31. Stake Race- Senior
- 32. Clover Leaf Barrels-Junior
- 33. Clover Leaf Barrels-Senior
- 34. Straight Away Barrels-Junior
- 35. Straight Away Barrels-Senior

Jackpot Classes

- 36. Goat Tying- Junior and Senior
- 37. Break Away Roping- Junior and Senior

4.18(a.) All Around Awards, Patronage and Jackpot Awards will be distributed in presentations at the Buyer's Gala.

(b.) Tie Breakers. Tie Breakers (High Points): Break ties as follows: 1.) Placing a greater number of classes within the division; 2.) Greater number of horses placed over in all classes within the division. If a tie still exists, contestants will be named Co-Champion and duplicate Champion awards will be provided at show management expense. No Reserve Champion will be named.

4.19 Horse Program Patronage Awards

- 1. All exhibitors earning an award must send their sponsor/sponsors a "Thank You" letter.
- 2. All classes will be jackpotted based on the number of horses per class.

7.0 MARKET POULTRY

7.1 Refer to the "General Rules" regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

7.2 If at any time from the time you receive your chicks up to showtime you have any wing band issues, do not remove the wing band. Immediately contact the Poultry Superintendent or County Agent to resolve the issue.

7.3 Broilers will be shown at approximately 45 days old.

7.4 All poultry will be sifted and classified at check-in.

7.5 As per state requirements, "orders are placed in increments of 25. A minimum order per exhibitor or family unit is 25 chicks and up to a maximum of 75 chicks. **Therefore, each exhibitor/family may order 25, 50, or 75 birds.** Each exhibitor **MAY** order an individual set of birds (up to 75) OR siblings within the same household may order and share a set of birds (up to 75). In other words a family with multiple exhibitors can order an individual set of birds for each exhibitor in the family, OR if they wish, they can order one set of birds for the entire family. In either case, the maximum number of birds in a set that an exhibitor can select from for the show is 75 birds. Families with multiple exhibitors are **NOT** required to place a single order for the entire family. Family orders are an option." The sets will be assigned to the exhibitor or to the family by the County Agent, or their designee, when they arrive. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to keep track of their assigned birds.

7.6 Broilers will be of the Commercial Breed with all three birds from the same hatch date. These will be ordered through the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office, Hays County. The County Agent and FFA Advisors will coordinate.

- a. Each exhibitor's order will be identified by a series of numbered wing bands. Chicks are assigned to

exhibitors by these numbers.

- b. Disqualifications include but are not limited to: broken or dislocated legs, broken or dislocated wings, sickly birds, etc. Disqualifications will be up to the sifter and/or Superintendent.
- c. Broilers losing their wing band, for whatever reason, will not be allowed to enter the show. Broilers with wing bands that show evidence of tampering will be sifted and the decision of the Superintendent is final.
- d. The Superintendent will instruct the sifters and judges to disregard wing bruising and damage caused by a wing band.

7.7 Broilers will be divided into two classes, Pullets (**Females**) and Cockerels (**Males**), each shown as a pen of three. If an exhibitor has a mixed pen of Cockerels and Pullets with no replacement birds to make the pen all one sex, then that pen will be shown in the Cockerel show.

7.8 There will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Broiler (Pen of Three). The First Place Cockerel and Pullet will compete for Grand Champion. If the Cockerel wins Grand, Second Place Cockerel moves up to compete for Reserve. If Pullet wins Grand, Second Place Pullet moves up to compete for Reserve.

7.9 Turkeys will be shown as singles.

7.10 Turkeys will be of the Commercial Breed from the same hatch date. These will be ordered through the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office, Hays County. The County Agent and FFA Advisors will coordinate.

- a. Each exhibitor's order will be identified by a series of numbered wing bands. Chicks are assigned to exhibitors by these numbers.
- b. Disqualifications include but are not limited to: broken or dislocated legs, broken or dislocated wings, sickly birds, etc. Disqualifications will be up to the sifter and/or Superintendent.
- c. Turkeys losing their wing band, for whatever reason, will not be allowed to enter the show. Turkeys with wing bands that show evidence of tampering will be sifted and the decision of the Superintendent is final.
- d. The Superintendent will instruct the sifters and judges to disregard wing bruising and damage caused by a wing band.

7.11 Turkeys will be divided into two classes, Hens (**Females**) and Toms (**Males**).

7.12 There will be a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Turkey. The First Place Tom and Hen compete for Grand Champion. If Tom wins Grand, Second Place Tom moves up to compete for Reserve. If Hen wins Grand, Second Place Hen moves up to compete for Reserve.

7.13 Parents and Volunteers may assist the Exhibitor during check in. Parents and Volunteers may also assist exhibitors by helping to hold poultry during show **ONLY** if no Hay County 4-H or FFA members are available to assist **AND** with Superintendent's permission.

7.14 Poultry will be released by the Division Superintendent.

HOME SKILLS DIVISION

16.0 HOME SKILLS GENERAL RULES

16.1 Refer to the "General Rules" regarding all matters not listed under the specific division rules.

16.2 All entries must be submitted online and paid in full by 11:59pm on the third Wednesday of December. There will be NO REFUNDS ON ENTRY FEES. Late entries for all projects will be accepted up to check-in on January 19, 2026 with an additional late fee of \$300.00 per project as long as the exhibitor has met the general eligibility. In addition to entry forms and fees, you must also submit your recipes on the "Food Recipe Form", available on the HCLE website and from your advisor. Baked foods and preserved foods must be submitted on the proper "Food Recipe Form". Please keep a copy of your "Food Recipe Form(s)".

Day	Date	Time	Event
Mon	Jan 19	5-7:00pm	Check-In all entries
Tues	Jan 20	9am-4pm	Judging of Entries
		4pm	Presentation of Home Skill Awards
		4:30-6:30pm	Public Viewing of entries
Wed	Jan 21	1:00pm-5:30pm	Public viewing of Entries and Check-Out entries

16.3 Schedule* All entries must be checked out. Any entries not picked up before 5:30pm

will be taken to the Hays County Extension Office. You will need to make arrangements with that office for pickup.

16.9 Entries will be checked in between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Monday of the show. **No items will be accepted for check in after 7:00 PM on the Monday of the show, No Exceptions.** Each food item must have a “Baked Food Recipe Form” or “Preserved Food Recipe Form” attached. All other items must have an “Arts, Crafts, and Clothing, Photography, or Horticulture Form” attached. Forms are available from the HCLE website and your advisor. Names of participants will be covered during judging. No additional information may be attached to any entry.

The Home Skills Superintendent will have final decisions on division and class placement for each entry.

16.14 Check-out of projects will be Wednesday from 1:00pm-5:30pm. Premium money will be distributed to Participants based on points (see Rule 16.14). Premium money will not be given to Grand or Reserve Champion since these projects are eligible for the auction.

17.9 To ensure food safety, since refrigeration is not available, no uncooked foods are allowed. Examples include, but are not limited to, milk (up to 2 tablespoons allowed), half and half, cream, cream cheese, yogurt, whipping cream, egg or egg substitute. Food requiring refrigeration after baking is not accepted. Examples include, but are not limited to, cheesecakes, lemon bars, ganache or pudding type fillings, cream pies and fillings, pumpkin pies, custards, whipped toppings, cream cheese icings and fillings, meringue, or cakes with a high moisture content. If further clarification is needed concerning this rule, please contact the Home Skills superintendent. The Home Skills Committee will review recipes and will contact participants if any of their recipes are unacceptable. Participants will then have until the fourth Monday in December to submit a new recipe (must be within the same class) to the Home Skills Superintendent for approval. No new recipes or substitutions will be accepted after the fourth Monday in December.

17.13 Food Classes:

Baked Food Classes	
Class 1	Cakes
Class 2	Cookies
Class 3	Bars/Brownies
Class 4	Pies/Cobblers
Class 5	Candy
Class 6	Quick Breads
Class 7	Yeast Breads
Class 8	Sugar Free
Class 9	Gluten Free

Preserved Food Classes	
Class 10	Fruits/Vegetables
Class 11	Pickles/Relishes/Sauces
Class 12	Jellies/Jams/Preserves

18.5 Arts, Crafts, & Clothing classes:

Arts, Crafts, & Clothing classes	
Class 13	Art- Oil, Pencil, Ink, Water Color, Pastels, Acrylic
Class 14	Home Accessories and Decorations
Class 15	Leather
Class 16	Needlework-Crochet, Knit, Embroidery, Cross Stitch
Class 17	Ceramics
Class 18	Quilts
Class 19	Clothing
Class 20	Jewelry
Class 21	Recycled Items
Class 22	Miscellaneous

19.3 Photography classes:

Photography Classes	
Class 23	Photo-Animals
Class 24	Photo- People
Class 25	Photo-Landscape
Class 26	Photo- Miscellaneous

Each participant may enter a maximum of 2 entries per class. Photos do not have to be determined until time of check in. Any entry that is entered in the wrong class will be disqualified. (Example: a photo of a pig could not be entered in Class 24 People)

Horticulture Classes:

Horticulture Classes:	
Class 27	Fresh Flower Arrangements
Class 28	Dish Gardens/Terrariums
Class 29	Potted Plants
Class 30	Silk Floral Arrangements