

CALF SCRAMBLE RULES & REGULATIONS

GENERAL RULES

1. The Jim Wells County Fair Association of Jim Wells County, Texas will not be responsible for any accidents that may occur to any contestant in the Calf Scramble before, during or after the scramble.
2. Contestant will be permitted to catch a calf no more than one time in his/her 4-H or FFA career at the Jim Wells County Fair.
3. No contestant will be permitted to participate in more than one scramble performance (either 4-H or FFA) in any one year at the Jim Wells County Fair.
4. The Jim Wells County Fair Association reserves the right to confiscate an individual's heifer and return it to the sponsor if the animal has been abused, fed or cared for improperly.
5. Each contestant must submit a minor's release/entry card, the five answered questions and summary to the Fair Office on the 2nd Wednesday of September. Release forms may be obtained from the County Agents, FFA Advisors or the Fair Office. Contestants will be notified of their acceptance and the date and time they are to participate. An announced meeting will be held prior to the calf scramble. This is a mandatory meeting that each contestant must attend to be eligible to compete.
6. INCOMPLETE MINOR'S RELEASE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. All information requested on the minor's release must be complete. The parents and contestant along with the notary must sign the release. Both parents must sign the release. However, if the parents are divorced, or if one is deceased, one signature is sufficient. But the notation of "divorced" or "deceased" must be made on the minor's release will be returned.
7. Calf scramble will be held in the Rodeo Arena during the Ranch Rodeo Contest.
8. Calf scramble winners will obtain their heifers from their sponsor that will be determined at the calf scramble. Each sponsor will donate a heifer to his or her 4-H or FFA winner.

SELECTION OF CONTESTANTS

1. Only active 4-H Club or FFA Chapter members that live or go to school in Jim Wells County may participate in the calf scramble.
2. The Calf Scramble Committee will select contestants.
3. Scramble participants must have reached their 12th birthday, but not their 17th birthday before the date of the scramble and not be beyond their sophomore year in high school.
4. Each FFA Chapter or 4-H Club may submit as many applications as desired, but final number of participants will be determined based on number of heifer sponsors obtained.
5. Twice as many contestants will be placed in the rodeo arena as there are calves or closest to this ratio as possible.
6. After positions have been filled, remaining applications will be kept on file and alternates will be notified should a position become available.
7. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WILL NEED TO BE ANSWERED AND TURNED IN ON A SHEET OF PAPER ALONG WITH YOUR MINOR'S RELEASE FORM AND ENTRY CARD.
 1. Are you financially able to care for this animal?
 2. Do you have access to facilities to house and feed a heifer? If yes, please give a description and physical address to facility.

3. Do you have a sincere interest to learn and become knowledgeable of beef cattle production practices and the beef cattle industry as well?
 4. Do you have the time that is needed to care for this animal?
 5. Give a summary of why you want to be a participant in the calf scramble.
8. RECIPIENTS OF CALF SCRAMBLE HEIFERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT MONTHLY REPORTS TO THEIR ORGANIZATION ADVISOR, SPONSORS AND THE SCRAMBLE COMMITTEE SUPERINTENDENT BY NOT LATER THAN THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH.

ARENA RULES

1. The calf scramble is to be refereed by an appointed group of referees.
2. Participants and calves will be placed in the arena as directed by the arena director.
3. Contestants must wear blue jeans and a calf scramble jersey (Jim Wells County Fair Association will provide jerseys).
4. SHOES WITH ANY TYPE OF METAL CLEATS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.
5. Undue roughness will not be tolerated by the referees. Poor sportsmanship automatically disqualifies any participant.
6. Participants will take into the arena a rope halter, which will be supplied by the Jim Wells County Fair Association. The halter can not be used as a lariat. Halters must be placed on the head of the animal in the usual way. (It is suggested that the supervisors of all participants instruct the participants in the proper use of a rope halter and how to place it on the head of a calf before coming to the show to participate in the scramble).
7. At no time will a participant be permitted to tie the rope to his body or belt.
8. Each participant will attempt to catch and halter one of the calves released. The participant catching a calf is required to halter it and lead it across the finish line without aid.
9. If a participant catches a calf, no other participant will be allowed to touch the calf unless it breaks free.
10. If a participant catches a calf by the tail, they will be given a reasonable amount of time to work around to the head; otherwise, the referee will instruct them to release the calf.
11. If two or more participants simultaneously catch the same calf, the calf will be released.
12. Contestants may not work as a team.
13. If a participant loses a calf with his halter on it, it then becomes a "free calf". The participant is permitted to recapture the calf by the halter or rope, but any other participant who catches this calf will have to catch it in the usual manner, then remove the halter and put his own halter on the calf.
14. A participant who catches and properly halters a calf and leads it across the finish line will be declared a winner when so indicated by the referees.
15. Sponsors will be numbered and calves will be awarded in order of contestants finish.

OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION OF HEIFER

1. The heifer will remain the property of the Jim Wells County Calf Scramble Committee until all obligations are fulfilled by the scramble participant.
2. The Jim Wells County Calf Scramble Committee reserves the right to regain possession of the heifer and return it to the sponsor if the scramble participant fails to meet all the requirements for exhibition.
3. Forfeiture of the heifer will include, but is not limited to the following criteria:
 - a. Failure to contact sponsor and secure possession of heifer prior to validation.
 - b. Failure to follow ethical husbandry practices including providing adequate facilities, feed, water and, health care. Any abuse including physical mistreatment will be grounds for forfeiture.
 - c. Failure to halter break and train the heifer to effectively and safely participate in the show.
 - d. Failure to present the heifer for validation.
 - e. Failure to submit an entry for the Calf Scramble Show.
 - f. Failure to comply with any and all eligibility requirements for exhibition at the Jim Wells County Fair.
 - g. Failure to exhibit the heifer in the Calf Scramble Show in the next Jim Wells County Fair.
4. Calf scramble heifers may be commercial or registered and are encouraged to participate in the Commercial or Junior Breeders Shows. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to submit an entry in these divisions. Calf scramble heifers must comply with the age requirements of the commercial and junior divisions.
5. A "FOR SALE" sign cannot be displayed under any circumstance while a calf scramble heifer is being exhibited at the Jim Wells County fair.
6. Calf scramble participants will be required to post an exhibitor sign recognizing the sponsor of the heifer.

CALF SCRAMBLE

Calf scramble will be held at the Jim Wells County Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena, on Friday, October 23, 2026, immediately following the Overall Showmanship Contest.