

LOCAL RULES

ENTRIES: IMPORTANT – READ CAREFULLY

Special attention should be given to the filling out of entry forms. Write legibly, supply signatures, check Section and Class numbers carefully. Errors on entry forms can lead to disqualification.

NOTE: All rules contained in “State Rules for California Fairs” as prescribed by the Division of Fairs & Expositions apply to this fair and are listed following the local Rules.

1 ELIGIBILITY

Junior Department open to 4-H, FFA and Independent exhibitors from Sonoma and Marin Counties only, (except where noted).

4-H age requirements:

- Primary Level: Must be 5 years old or in kindergarten as of December 31, 2024. Primary membership ends when members qualify as junior members. Exhibitors who are under 9 years of age on or before December 31, 2024, are not eligible to compete in large animal competitions at California Fairs. Or in any breed classes.
- Junior, Intermediate, & Senior: Must be 9 years old or in 4th Grade on or before December 31, 2024. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age.
- FFA members may participate as members until the end of the calendar year following the year of graduation from high school.
- Independent Exhibitors must be at least 9 years old or in the 4th Grade by January 1, 2025. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age.
- Grange Members must be at least 5 years old on January 1, 2025 to exhibit. They may exhibit until the end of the calendar year in which they reach age 19.
- All Grange Youth must be 9 years old on January 1, 2025 to exhibit large animals.

2 ENTRY FORMS

MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO: Sonoma-Marin Agricultural Association - Entry Department, 175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma, CA 94952. Must be postmarked by Monday May 9, 2025, OR received through online entry system by 12:00 a.m. (midnight) on Tuesday May 27, 2025. **FAXED ENTRIES ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

- a. Entry forms will be accepted starting April 14, 2025. (See above schedule for closing dates.) After closing dates exhibitor will be charged a \$5.00 late fee for each entry.
- b. Fair Office Hours are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. (closed from 12-1 for lunch) **Starting May 15th, 2025 – The Fair office will be located in the Livestock Office at the back of the fairgrounds.** – Please call with any questions – 707-283-3247
- c. Entry forms not accompanied by entry fees will be returned. No refunds will be made. Entry forms are obtainable from the Fair Office, 4-H Offices, Fair website and from 4-H & FFA Leaders. Checks that are returned for non-sufficient funds for any payments to the Sonoma-Marin Fair (entries, passes, etc.) are subject to a \$25.00 fee for each check.
- d. Entry Forms must be signed by 4-H Leader, Ag. Instructor or parent if Independent Youth before they will be accepted.

- e. All entries that are exhibited in the same building may be entered on the same entry form. (Each section of livestock must be entered on separate sheets). All Livestock entries must be accompanied by the Code of Ethics Form.
- f. Exhibitors shall provide the following for each entry of grade, purebred, or registered livestock: (i) breed; (ii) name of animal (or exhibit); (iii) registration number of the entry (if applicable); (iv) sex; (v) numbers and/or letters of the permanent marking, such as ear tags, tattoo or ear notching; (vi) month, day, and year of birth (month and year for sheep will be accepted); (vii) registration number of the sire and dam; and (viii) breeder's name. Animals not identified at least by dam, birth date, ear tattoo or permanent markings, or registration number prior to the closing date may be made eligible only by paying a \$5 penalty per entry. For clarity, a "Section" in the Sonoma-Marin Fair Participants Guide and Award Book is the same as a "Division" in the State rules. Please read the latest copy of the California State Rules here: www.cdfa.ca.gov/fe.

3 EXHIBITORS

- a. All wristbands will be put on exhibitors by Fair personnel at the Mandatory Livestock Exhibitor's meetings on Wednesday, June 19th. For your convenience, there will be TWO meetings at -10:30 AM & 1:30 PM in the Cattle Judging Ring. You may attend whichever meeting fits your schedule. The wristbands will be given out after the meetings. A \$10.00 fee will be charged to any exhibitor who does NOT pick their wristband up at one of the meetings.
- b. 4-H Exhibitors must enter in the unit they are enrolled in and in accordance with the requirements or recommendations of the project program.
- c. Description of entry must appear on entry form.
- d. Exhibits must be housed where management designates.
- e. Any exhibit not in place by time specified above each section will not be eligible for awards or exhibit.
- f. All FFA/4-H members are responsible to their leaders or instructors at all times.
- g. Exhibitors are required to care for, prepare for showing and show their animals. Where it is impossible for an exhibitor to show all his own animals, he may be assisted only by a person who is eligible to enter animals in this department. (Except in cases of excusable sickness, the exhibitor must be present in the ring with his/her animals). If, in the opinion of the management, physical assistance in the care and preparation of an animal is being given by an adult, the animal will be disqualified and cash awards withheld.
- h. The management and Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any exhibitor and/or exhibits from the fairgrounds for behavior deemed disruptive, e.g. alcohol, drugs (use or possession), smoking in barns, defacing property, etc. Award money may be withheld. Anyone on grounds is subject to search by security. It is illegal to bring any alcoholic beverages on fairground property. Any illegal act will be reported to the police.
- i. FFA and 4-H Club members must wear the official uniform of their organization in the show ring, including showmanship contest.
- j. An Independent Youth may compete in an appropriate 4-H class in direct competition with an organization member but the independent exhibitor must meet all age requirements.

- k. The Fair management shall not be responsible for accidents or losses that may occur to any of the exhibitors or exhibits at the fair and the exhibitors shall hold the management harmless and indemnify it against any legal proceedings arising from any accident or loss.

4 DISPUTES

The management's decision shall be final in any and all controversies.

5 AWARDS PROGRAM

Awards program will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, June 22, 2025, in the Cattle Judging Ring. Exhibitors MUST be in full uniform to participate. Those individuals receiving an Open Junior Classic award must be in show attire in order to receive their award.

6 RECEIVING, WEIGH-IN & VET CHECKS

a. LIVESTOCK RECEIVING TIMES & VET CHECKS

- Livestock will only be received during the following times:
- Tuesday, June 17, 2025 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm for all large animals.
- Vet Checks will take place before the animals are unloaded.

b. RABBIT & CAVY RECEIVING TIMES & VET CHECKS

- All Rabbits & Cavies will only be received on:
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Vet Checks will take place in the Livestock Parking Lot.

c. WEIGH IN SCHEDULE

- All animals entered in the Junior Classic show will be weighed in on
- Wednesday June 18, 2025, at the times listed below in order to show:
 - Steers – 9 am
 - Lambs & Goats – 10 am
 - Hogs - 11 am

7 LIVESTOCK

- a. During fair, livestock business will be handled at the Livestock Office located next to the Milk Barn. Office hours: 8:00 am to 7:00 pm (hours may vary).
- b. Exhibitors, leaders, and parents (those possessing a livestock parking permit) will enter the Livestock Parking lot through Gate #5, located off Kenilworth Street across from Dick's Sporting goods. A livestock parking permit is required to enter this area, a wristband or fair ticket is required for everyone in the vehicle. No foot traffic will be allowed through this gate. Tack can come through Gate #4 (off Payran Street) on Monday, June 16th from 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm.
- c. Registration papers for all livestock is to be checked at the Livestock Office by 8PM on Tuesday, June 17th.
- d. Upon arrival, report to the Livestock Office for instructions and assignment of stalls/pens. Once assigned, no change will be permitted.
- e. Exhibitor must be bonafide owner of all entries for 30 days prior to the opening of the Fair. Unless otherwise noted.
- f. All bulls are to be double tied.

- g. Only livestock exhibitors, parents or guardians tending to animals will be allowed in the barn area after 10 pm. NO SLEEPING IN BARNs.
- h. Exhibitors assigned end stalls must keep the ends of the barns clean at all times.
- i. Show boxes must be placed to keep aisles clear.
- j. No clipping chutes or generators allowed inside barns.
- k. NO stacking of straw against barns will be allowed per Fire Marshall rules.
- l. Exhibitors may designate an individual (Night Hawk) to monitor and pick up manure for their animals between the hours of 10:00 pm and 5:00 am. Designated individual must be 16 years of age or older and be registered with the Fair Office by 5:00 pm on Friday, June 13th. NIGHT HAWK PASSES Are \$50 and must be purchased at the Livestock Office prior to the start of Fair.
- m. *NOTE:* Livestock exhibitors are strongly encouraged to do their best to conserve water in recognition of California's drought situation.
- n. Due to current restrictions placed by CDFA, no dairy cattle or poultry will be allowed on grounds during the 2025 fair.

8 STALLS/BEDDING

- a. Each club/chapter will be assigned tack stalls/pens (**ONLY if space permits**) for their members based on a formula that accounted for number of head and number of exhibitors. If an exhibitor scratches animals, the stalls allotted to those animals may be taken away from the exhibitor.
- b. Stalls must be cleaned BY 9 AM DAILY. It is mandatory that all stalls/pens be kept clean until the closing of the Fair on Sunday. Failure to comply with keeping stalls clean will result in the withholding of cash awards. NO furniture, or household appliances allowed in barns (i.e., microwaves, refrigerators, etc.) No eating in the barns – per Health Department Code.
- c. Animals must be kept thoroughly groomed, cleaned, and in show condition at all times.
- d. Pathways, approaches, and area around barns must be kept clean for the convenience of spectators.
- e. Metal bins will be provided for manure. It is mandatory that these be used. DO NOT PUT GARBAGE IN MANURE BINS – only manure and straw.
- f. No straw to be rowed behind cattle.
- g. Exhibitors must furnish their own bedding. NONE will be supplied by the Fair.
- h. No pop-ups or generators are allowed inside the barn area.
- i. Exhibitors **must clean out stalls** at the conclusion of the fair.

9 VEHICLE PARKING

- a. Exhibitors, Leaders and parents with livestock credentials and car passes must enter and leave the grounds through the Livestock Gate #5, located off Kenilworth Street across from Dick's Sporting goods. No foot traffic is allowed through this gate. Gate #4 on Payran Street is to be used from midnight to 7:00 am ONLY.
- b. No parking of any vehicle will be permitted around livestock barns or travel trailers. Violators will be towed away at owner's expense and all parking privileges will be revoked for the duration of the fair.

10 TRAILERS AND CAMPERS

- a. Trailer space is available only for those exhibitors showing livestock. Applications for trailer space MUST be accompanied with livestock entries and entry fees. NO STOCK TRAILERS ARE TO BE PARKED ON THE FAIRGROUNDS.

11 ANIMAL HEALTH

- a. All Livestock will be Vet checked.
- b. Any animal with hairy foot wart, ringworm lesions, show ring fungus, foot rot, lameness, sore mouth, pink eye, warts, developing or draining abscesses, or any other communicable diseases may not be exhibited at the fair. The decision of the Official Fair Veterinarian will be final.
- c. If an animal is found with a communicable disease at the time of entry or during the Fair, they will be required to leave immediately.
- d. A Veterinarian will be on call for livestock exhibits. The exhibitor must assume the cost of the call. If a veterinarian is called to the fairgrounds the Livestock Office must be notified.

12 RELEASE OF ANIMALS, ARTICLES, ETC.

- a. Claim checks must be presented when claiming entries.
- b. Unless otherwise stated, livestock, poultry, rabbits, cavy and wool may not be removed from the Fairgrounds until Sunday at 5:00 pm and not later than 10:00 pm (unless otherwise specified). All other exhibits released Monday between 8:00 am and 7:00 pm Large Animals exit via Gate 4 on Payran Street Sunday after release time; Poultry, rabbits, cavy and wool exit via Gate 3.

13 CHECKS

- a. Livestock, poultry, and rabbit checks will be mailed. All others will be issued when exhibit is picked up.
- b. There is a \$10.00 charge for replacement checks.
- c. Cash awards will be paid as recorded on the signed judging sheet.
- d. Cash awards will be paid to exhibitors in accordance with the scales announced for each class unless the total of such payments exceed the total cash awards budgeted for this fair. If this occurs the cash awards may be prorated by the management. (Prorating may be based on the average percentage of cash awards per type of exhibits averaged over the past three years).

14 JUDGING SYSTEM

- a. **American:** The judging process to rank exhibits against one another and awards one 1st placing, one 2nd placing, etc.
- b. **Danish:** The judging process to compare each exhibit on its own merit against the scorecard or recognized standard and awards as many 1st placings, etc. as merited.

STATE RULES

- a. Please read the latest copy of the California State Rules here: www.cdfa.ca.gov/fe. All rules contained in “**State Rules for California Fairs**” as prescribed by the Division of Fairs & Expositions apply to this fair. Exhibitors are expected to know, and adhere to, all State Rules as they will be strictly enforced. This includes the requirement for YQCA. <http://yqcaprogram.org/>

NOTE: State Rule IV-6– No exhibitor shall receive more than two cash awards in any one class using American judging system.

