2026 STATE RULES FOR CALIFORNIA FAIRS
ADDENDUM I
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR 2026

Changes or additions in red type, deleted wording is ~~struck through~~.

V. PROTEST

1. Protests will be considered only if there has been a violation of State or Local Rules that have not been enforced. Decisions of judges, veterinarians, weighmasters, breed callers, tail dock officials, ~~and~~ timers, and other fair officials cannot be protested and are final.

VII. JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Exhibitor Age Requirements

1. FFA members must be enrolled in a state-approved agricultural education program at their school to participate as an FFA exhibitor and may participate as members as early as entering into the seventh grade, until the end of the calendar year following the year of graduation from high school. (For example, a graduate this year is eligible until December 31 of next year.)

5. **Special Divisions** - Youth under 9 years of age must exhibit in special small animal and non-livestock divisions designated by the local fair~~,~~. ~~with the exception of Pee Wee Showmanship.~~ Youth organization affiliation is not required. No premiums or monetary awards to be provided by the fair, as well as no possibility of participating in the livestock auction.

    a. Pee Wee Showmanship is a learning experience for youth 5 to 8 years of age to participate in livestock showmanship divisions. ~~No premiums or monetary awards to be provided by the fair, as well as no possibility of participating in the livestock auction.~~ Participants should sign a release of liability/Hold Harmless statement provided by the Fair.

Livestock and Horse Exhibits, Ownership

1. Animal and horse projects must be owned (and leased horses as specified in this document) solely by and under the exhibitor's care and management and under the supervision of the organization in which the project will be shown as specified below. Animal projects may NOT be shown/entered by another person at ANY other show/jackpot regardless of the other shows' rules, within the animal's ownership period, except when multiple animals are entered by the same exhibitor in the same class. The official ownership date is the date shown on the receipt of sale unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor. The days are counted prior to the opening day of the fair unless the event in the case of horse shows is held separately from the Fair. Ownership must be maintained through show date(s) of fair or event. See also VIII Livestock Department and XI. HORSE SHOW DEPARTMENT Ownership of Lease, rules 1 and 2.

2. No animal exhibit (excluding rabbit & poultry) owned by a chapter or club, conducted as a joint project by two or more individuals, or jointly owned by two or more individuals is eligible in the junior department, unless the division or class specifically so states, or in the case that breeding animals are jointly owned by siblings only.

   Breeding animals entered in the junior department may be jointly owned by siblings provided the animal is entered and exhibited solely and in the name of one individual junior exhibitor, and that exhibitor is one of the siblings listed on the registration paper issued by a recognized-breed association. All entries must be registered and recorded by a recognized breed association in the name of the exhibitor(s). A 30-day consecutive ownership requirement applies to each sibling – meaning if one sibling shows the breeding animal at one fair, it cannot be shown by the other sibling within 30 days at another fair. Animals with a farm, family, ranch, or non-sibling owner's name listed as the owner are NOT eligible to enter. No pending papers will be accepted. Only ORIGINAL REGISTRATION PAPERS will be accepted.

3. Under no circumstances may an exhibitor ~~concurrently~~ simultaneously enter the same species of animal or bird (horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, dairy goats, meat goats, pygmy goats, poultry, pigeons, or rabbits) under more than one youth organization (~~in~~ FFA, 4-H, Grange~~, and~~ or Independent) in classes of the junior department in the same year. **(Please refer to 4-H/FFA/Grange/Fairs & Expositions Youth Agreement at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/fairsandexpositions/ for more information).**

4. No junior exhibitor may exhibit an animal in a market class once it has been sold as a market animal through a fair junior livestock auction. These animals may be shown following the 30 consecutive day ownership requirement as breeding animals only. ~~All champion and reserve champion market animals will be permanently identified by the fair if sold through a fair junior livestock auction unless these animals are sold at a terminal sale with no live animal pick-up.~~ All market animals sold through a fair junior livestock auction with a live pick-up disposition will be permanently identified using universal tattoo in the left ear (for 2026 fair season, use "FE26") with green ink prior to the release of market animals.

VIII. LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

Definitions *(See also Section I Definitions.)*

2. **Barrow** – Castrated male swine.

4. **Cryptorchid** – Male with retained testicle(s) and is not considered a castrated male.
16. **Steer** – Castrated male bovine.
18. **Wether** – Castrated male goat or sheep.

IX. ANIMAL SPECIES RULES

Sheep

~~1. All sheep in California require official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership, except:~~

~~a. Lambs less than 18 months of age in slaughter channels that have not lambed, aborted, or are pregnant.~~

~~b. Low–risk sheep (those not exposed to scrapie or to any sheep, unless low risk commercial sheep).~~

~~c. Castrated animals less than 18 months of age that are not for exhibition.~~

1. Official Identification

Sheep Entries from California

All exhibition sheep in California require official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership. (See also Section X. Animal Health Rules, SHEEP AND GOATS for a list of acceptable methods of official identification.)

Sheep Entries from Other States

All exhibition sheep imported into California require official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition.

Goats

~~All goats in California require official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when goats change ownership, except:~~

~~a. Kids less than 18 months of age in slaughter channels that have not lambed, kidded, aborted, or are pregnant.~~

~~b. Low–risk goats (those not exposed to scrapie or to any goats, unless low risk commercial goats).~~

~~c. Castrated animals less than 18 months of age that are not for exhibition.~~

Goat Entries from California

All exhibition goats in California require official identification issued by the USDA. Official identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when goats change ownership. (See also Section X. Animal Health Rules, SHEEP AND GOATS for a list of acceptable methods of official identification.)

Goat Entries from Other States

All exhibition goats imported into California require official identification issued by the USDA. Official scrapie identification (official eartags, official tattoos, official electronic identification, or official premises identification numbers) is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition.

X. ANIMAL HEALTH RULES

Eligibility. See also Eligibility Rule II – 1.

9. Sellers are responsible for animals that are condemned or rejected at processing centers, ~~unless contamination/injury occurred after the sale~~ except if injury is caused during transport to the processing facility.

Use of Pharmaceuticals in Market Animals:

4. Per Food and Ag Code 14363 (a), it is unlawful for any livestock owner or agent to sell or dispose of any livestock or livestock carcasses which within 48 hours after the buyer takes possession have drug residues in excess of allowable federal or state tolerances. In addition to any other penalties imposed by this chapter, any livestock owner or agent violating this section shall be liable to the buyer for an amount equal to three times the purchase price of any livestock or livestock carcasses with drug residues in excess of allowable federal or state tolerances so long as the liability does not conflict with the federal Packers and Stockyards Act, and shall be liable for a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars ($100) for each head of livestock or livestock carcass disposed of or sold. In addition, the livestock owner or agent shall be liable for any attorney's fees. See also Food and Ag Code (FAC) 14360 and 14362.

CATTLE

Cattle Entries from California

4. As of November 5, 2024, all official ID tags applied to cattle and bison must be both electronically (EID) and visually readable. For a list of manufacturers currently licensed by USDA as approved tagged manufacturers for cattle EIDs, please visit the Animal Identification Number Management System.

   Acceptable methods for official identification of cattle include:
   a. Official USDA individual identification eartags:

i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartag (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
ii. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) eartags (if applied prior to November 4, 2024):
• USDA metal brucellosis calfhood vaccination (orange) eartags for females
• USDA metal "silver brite" eartags

b. Legible breed registration tattoos with accompanying registration paperwork.

Cattle Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition cattle entering California require individual official identification, an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit issued within 15 days prior to entry, and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state. Official identification must be listed on the ICVI.
2. Lactating dairy cattle must be accompanied by a negative HPAI (H5N1) test date within 10 days prior to entry into the state.
3. As of November 5, 2024, all official ID tags applied to cattle and bison must be both electronically (EID) and visually readable. For a list of manufacturers currently licensed by USDA as approved tagged manufacturers for cattle EIDs, please visit the Animal Identification Number Management System.

~~2.~~ Acceptable methods for official identification of cattle include:

a. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartag (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
b. Official USDA individual identification eartags (if applied prior to November 4, 2024):
i. National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) eartags (if applied prior to November 4, 2024):
- USDA metal brucellosis calfhood vaccination (orange) eartags for females
- USDA metal "silver brite" eartags

c. Legible breed registration tattoos with accompanying registration paperwork.

~~3.~~5. It is unlawful to remove official identification eartags. Requests to remove an official identification eartag must be submitted to CDFA, AHFSS in writing at least 72 hours prior to the need to remove the eartag. The request must include a photo of the eartag, the reason the eartag must be removed, and all other official eartags on the animal.

~~4.~~6. Testing and/or vaccination requirements include the following:

a. All female dairy cattle four (4) months of age and over must bear evidence of official calfhood vaccination against brucellosis with a legible, official tattoo visible in the right ear.

b. All sexually intact dairy cattle six (6) months of age and over require a negative tuberculosis (TB) test within 60 days prior to entering California or must originate from a TB accredited free herd with documentation of the herd number and last test date on the ICVI.
c. Cattle do not require a brucellosis test unless originating from a designated brucellosis surveillance area. If a brucellosis test is necessary, the test needs to be collected within 30 days of entry and be performed by a state or federally-approved lab.
d. All bulls 18 months of age and over, and non-virgin bulls less than 18 months of age, require a negative individual PCR trichomoniasis test performed within 60 days prior to entry, except bulls used solely for exhibition that are confined to the exhibition location, without access to mature female cattle, ~~and~~ will return directly to the state of origin after exhibition, and are not changing ownership. Pooled samples are not acceptable for testing.

SHEEP AND GOATS

Sheep and Goat Entries from California

1. All sheep and goats entering fairs require individual official scrapie identification issued by the USDA. Individual official identification must be kept on the animals. Acceptable methods of official identification of sheep and goats include:
    a. Official USDA individual identification eartags:
        i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartags (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
        ii. Scrapie eartags: either flock identification eartags (flock identification number with individual animal number) or serial eartags (alphanumeric combination for individual animal). Scrapie identification is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership, except:
            - Wethers for exhibition and wethers under 18 months of age.

Sheep and Goat Entries from Other States

1. All exhibition sheep and goats entering California require individual official ~~scrapie~~ identification issued by the USDA, an Interstate Livestock Entry Permit issued within 15 days prior to entry, and an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) with an inspection date within 30 days before movement into the state with the following scrapie statement “The animals are not scrapie positive or suspect or from a scrapie non-compliant flock”. Official identification must be listed on the ICVI.
2. Acceptable methods of official identification of sheep and goats include:
    a. Official USDA individual identification eartags
        i. Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartags (15 digits long, must begin with 840, usually Radio Frequency Identification Devices [RFID])
        ii. Scrapie eartags: either flock identification eartags (flock identification number with individual animal number) or serial

eartags (alphanumeric combination for individual animal). Scrapie identification is required before transport to show, fair, petting zoo, or exhibition and/or when sheep change ownership.

POULTRY

Poultry Entries from Other States

~~2. All exhibition poultry entering California shall be free of any evidence of Avian Influenza, Virulent Newcastle Disease, and all other contagious diseases.~~

2. All exhibition poultry entering California shall be free of any evidence of Avian Influenza, Virulent Newcastle Disease, and all other contagious diseases and not originate from a control area in place for those diseases.

RABBIT AND CAVY

Rabbit and Cavy Entries from Other States

2. No rabbits and hares or rabbit and hare products (meat, pelts, hides, carcasses, etc.) and equipment or other items or associated materials may enter California from a premises known to be affected with Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD).

~~2.~~ 3. Persons who intend to bring their animals back to the origin state after the show should check with their state's department of agriculture to make sure the animals will be allowed to return to origin state.

XI. HORSE SHOW DEPARTMENT

Exhibitors

2. Exhibitors shall provide the following on the entry form for each entry if registered:
    a. owner's name;
    b. home barn address (physical origin address where the horse is primarily housed);
    c. animal's breed;
    d. animal's name;
    e. animal's sex; and
    f. animal's year of birth

XII. EQUINE HEALTH RULES

Equine Health Regulations

Direct specific questions to CDFA, Animal Health and Food Safety Services, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, California 95814 -- (916) 900-5002.

1. Equines known to be EIA positive or non-negative reactors are forbidden to enter, reside, compete, or sell at any state-supported fairgrounds.
2. Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP)
    a. Horses are subject to random drug and medication testing specified in the Food and Agricultural Code Sections 24000-24018. The applicable

fee is $14.00 per horse per event. The following events are exempt from the Equine Medication Monitoring Program:

i. A rodeo – related competition, which is strictly a timed performance with no subjective judging, held apart from a public event.
ii. A sale of solely racehorses.
iii. Competitions under the jurisdiction of the California Horse Racing Board.
~~iv. A public equine event for which the class or event entry fee is less than $4.99 per class and other fees do not exceed $19.99 (Other fees include but are not limited to, grounds fees, stall fees or office fees.)~~
~~v. A public equine event in which all fees for participation are less than $19.99 (Fees include but are not limited to class fees, grounds fees, stall fees or office fees.)~~
iv. As of January 1, 2026: A public horse show in which the class or event entry fee is fifteen dollars ($15) or less, and either no other fees are charged, or all other fees combined do not exceed sixty dollars ($60). Fees charged may include ground fees, stall fees, or any other fees composed of money, goods, or services assessed to permit competitors to enter into the event.