



2026 Needville Youth Fair General Rules

April 24, 2026 – May 3, 2026

Section 1: Authority and Eligibility

1. Authority

- The Needville Youth Fair reserves the right for its Executive Officers to interpret all rules and regulations. They have the final and absolute authority to settle all matters arising from or connected to the Fair.

2. Rule Violations

- Any rule violation or misconduct by an exhibitor or parent may result in disqualification from awards and the sale for the current year.

3. Fair Dates

- The Needville Youth Fair is held annually in April.

4. Exhibitor Eligibility

- To be eligible to enter the NYF, an exhibitor must:
 - Be a member of FFA, 4-H (3rd grade and 8 years or older), or FCCLA.
 - Be a member of one of the following recognized NYF clubs or chapters: Big Creek 4-H, Lone Star Bend 4-H, 2 Rivers Rabbit & Photography 4-H, Needville 4-H, 4-H Livestock Producers, Needville FFA, Needville Jr. FFA, or Needville FCCLA.

4a. Residency/Enrollment Requirement

- Additionally, an exhibitor must:
 - Attend a Needville ISD (NISD) or Damon ISD (DISD) school, or
 - Reside within the boundaries of NISD.

5. Academic Eligibility

- NYF adheres to NISD/DISD school policies, including academic, attendance, and disciplinary eligibility. Ineligible students under UIL or TEA rules (Texas Education Code Sec. 33.081) may not participate. Eligibility is verified as of **April 10, 2026**, based on the most recent report card or progress report.
-

Section 2: Registration, Entries, and Substitutions

6. Entry Process

- All division entries and fees must be submitted online at www.needvilleyouthfair.com.

- Livestock and Creative Arts entries are due **7 days before the tag-in/tattoo date**.
- Late registration incurs a **\$150 fee**, paid on the tag-in/tattoo date.
- Required entries: Livestock, Creative Arts, Archery, BBQ Cook-Off Teams, Jr. BBQ Cook-Off, Bucket Calves, Mutton Bustin.
- Exhibitor/Participant Liability Release must be submitted prior to tag-in/check-in.

7. Substitution of Exhibitor

- Animals must be shown and sold by their owners. Substitutes must be current NYF exhibitors and approved by the Livestock Superintendent. Substitution types:
 - **Type A: Substitution: School Activity** – these are school-sponsored UIL/4H events only. A written request is required. The form is due 30 minutes after the Steer Show.
 - **Type B: Illness or Family Emergency** – Written request with substitute name required.

8. Ownership and Care

- Animals must be owned 100% by the exhibitor from entry/order date. Projects must be housed at the location listed on the entry card and may be verified.

9. Family Tagging

- **Definition:** Family tagging is allowed and applies to **all market livestock divisions**.
- Family tagging is defined as **“immediate family members living in the same household.”** This includes:
 - Brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, half-brothers, and half-sisters.
 - It does **not** include cousins, nieces, nephews, or other extended family.
- **Requirements:**
 - Each exhibitor participating in family tagging must:
 - Submit a **separate entry in ShoWorks** (i.e., two entries for two exhibitors).
 - All exhibitor names must be listed at the time of animal tagging or poultry ordering.

Section 3: Fees, Check-In, and Fair Participation

10. Entry Fees

- Livestock Entry: \$30 per animal (\$10 for each additional tag, except rabbits and poultry).
- 5% auction commission applies to sale items. No commission on add-ons.

11. Check-In Schedule

Division	Check-In Date & Time
Commercial Heifer	Saturday, April 25, 4–5:30 PM

Division	Check-In Date & Time
Lambs & Goats	Wednesday, April 29, 5:30–6:30 PM
Rabbits	Wednesday, April 29, 6–7 PM
Swine & Steers	Thursday, April 30, 4:30–6 PM
Roasters & Broilers	Friday, May 1, 7–8 AM

- No tack may be placed in barns before **Wednesday at noon**.
- No tack may leave until **Sunday 8:30 AM**.

12. Animal Removal

- Animals may not be removed from the fenced area until officially released by the Division Chairman.

13. Exhibitor Signage

- All exhibitors must display a sign by the end of check-in day and maintain it through the fair.

14. Bedding and Feed

- Poultry: Wood shavings provided.
- Swine/Sheep/Goats: 1 bag of shavings provided per pen.
- Steer/Heifer: cedar shavings required.
- Exhibitors are responsible for feeding and pen/stall cleaning.

15. Grooming Rules

- See individual animal species for specifics

16. Disqualification Practices

- Evidence of “sharp practices” (e.g., altering appearance) results in disqualification.

Section 4: Awards & Showmanship

17. Division Awards

- Each market division will have a Grand and Reserve Champion.
- Ribbons awarded to top 5 in each division.

18. Showmanship

- Awards for Junior (3rd–5th), Intermediate (6th–8th), and Senior (9th–12th) in Steer, Lamb, Goat, Swine, Rabbit, and Commercial Heifer.
- Exhibitors must show their own animal—no substitutes.

19. Judge’s Decision

- The judge’s decision is final in all competitions.

Section 5: Auction & Sale

20. Sale Eligibility & Limits

- Each exhibitor may sell up to two (2) market projects.
- All Grand and Reserve Champions must sell.
- One entry per animal division allowed.
- Sale selections must be submitted within 30 minutes after the Steer Show.

21. Sale Lots

Division	Max Entries Sold
Steers	15
Lambs	15
Swine	22
Roasters	18
Broilers (Pen of 3)	18
Rabbits (Pen of 3)	22
Goats	15
Commercial Heifers	20 (Not in sale rotation)

- Items are rotated in order (starting 2026): Roaster, Steer, Lamb, Swine, Broilers, Rabbits, Goats.
- Exhibitors must present their animals on time or forfeit sale.

22. Sale Terms

- Livestock sold by the head; poultry/rabbits by the pen.
- Donated poultry/rabbits incur a \$20 fee from the exhibitor's check.

23. Add-Ons

- Only allowed for sale lots. No add-ons for non-sale items.

24. Billing & Payments

- NYF Corp handles all billing and payments.
- Thank-you letters and disposition sheets must be turned in before checks are issued.

25. Buyer Contact Rules

- No one may approach buyers to:
 - Buy back animals.
 - Donate animals back to the exhibitor.
 - Buy non-sale animals—until after the auction.
- No “for sale” signs before the end of the auction.

26. Thank You Letters

- Must be handwritten with at least two sentences (or include a photo with written content).
- No shared letters among family members.

- Must include:
 - Buyer
 - Add-on contributors
 - Trophy/banner/buckle donors

27. Submission of Letters & Forms

- Due **June 2, 2026, 6–7 PM** at the fair office.
- Postage must be provided by the exhibitor.

28. Non-Compliance

- Late submission of letters/forms will delay checks.
- Auction Committee will release checks only once documents are verified.

29. Delivery of Sale Animals

- Exhibitors must deliver animals within 14 days (by **May 17, 2026**).

30. Auction Checks

- Issued no sooner than **45 days** after the fair unless approved by NYF Board.

31. Non-Sale Check-Out

- Non-sale livestock must be signed out with Division Chair.

32. Final Check-Out

- All animals (sale and non-sale) must remain until **8:30 AM Sunday**.
- Pen/stall must be cleaned before release.

Section 6: Grounds, Safety, and Parent Responsibilities

33. Grounds Access

- No entry into fenced area between **11 PM and 6 AM**, from first Saturday through end of fair.

34. Pets

- No pets allowed on NYF grounds, except those entered in the Pet Show.

35. Liability

- NYF is not responsible for lost animals or poultry, theft, injuries, or damages before, during, or after the event.

36. Parent Work Contract

- A parent/guardian of an exhibitor who is entered into Commercial Heifer, Market Livestock and/or Creative Arts must work 4 hours (SignUp Genius opens March 1).
- \$250 fee applies if you choose to opt out or no-show.
- Fee due by April 1 or at tag-in/registration.
- Unpaid fees/or no shows will result in \$250 being withheld from the exhibitor's auction check.