

Butte County Fair
199 E. Hazel Street
Gridley, CA 95948
530-846-3626
livestock@buttecountyfair.org
www.buttecountyfair.org

2026 BUTTE COUNTY FAIR INDEPENDENT JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR REQUIREMENTS

INDEPENDENT junior exhibitor participation in the Butte County Fair and/or Junior Livestock Auction must meet requirements set out in the Local Rules and are subject to State Rules, Section VII. An Independent Junior Exhibitor is defined in the State Rules for California Fairs as an “Exhibitor not eligible to compete in a certain category as a member of 4-H, Grange or FFA junior organization” (2026 CDFA Rule, Section VII, #3). Butte County Fair requirements for an Independent Exhibitor follow and must be met in order to show as an Independent Exhibitor at the Fair, in addition to all State & Local & State Rules as seen in the Butte County Fair Exhibitor Handbook. See 2026 Local Rule #41 and State Rules Section VII.

Be a resident of Butte County. Proof of residency in Butte County must be submitted with an entry form (current utility bill, cell phone bill, etc.)

Attend a school in Butte County. Proof of attendance in a Butte County School must be submitted with an entry form. If the Independent Exhibitor has graduated from high school and meets the age requirements as specified in the State Rules, they must provide proof that they have graduated from a High School in Butte County. **Submit proof of current enrollment in a Butte County School (progress report, etc.) Proof of enrollment will be verified one week prior to fair.**

Be at least 9 years old on Jan. 1, 2026, to compete in large animal (beef, sheep, swine, dairy goats, boer goats, market & fiber goats) competitions. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through Dec. 31 of the year they turn 19 years of age. Exhibitors may compete as an Independent Exhibitor one year after graduating from High School providing, they were entered as a Butte County Fair livestock exhibitor the previous year & meet age requirement.

Youth may be ineligible to participate as Independent if documented disciplinary action involving project(s) has been taken against them by 4-H, FFA or Grange organizations. The Fair may revoke exhibition privileges for a period of 13 months from the date of documented disciplinary action taken against them by 4-H, FFA or Grange. Examples of documented disciplinary actions are, but not limited to:

- Expulsion
- Suspension
- Or any other action as determined by Fair Management

Must own and grow or construct their own exhibits. Animal(s) must be under exhibitor’s care and management for the length of time required in State & Local Rules. Days are counted prior to opening day of the Fair. Official ownership date is the date shown on the bill of sale unless the animal was bred by an exhibitor, in which it would be date of birth.

Have a responsible adult supervisor named on entry form, provide phone number (where supervisor can be reached at all times) & provide “on ground supervision” during Fair.

Provide project management records & proof of supervision as to length of project to Fair Staff. The

Project Record Form & Independent Exhibitor Affidavit may be found on our website www.buttecountyfair.org or is available in the Fair Office. **The Project Record & Independent Exhibitor Affidavit must be submitted to and approved as acceptable to the Livestock Office no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 24, 2026, or entries will be disqualified.**

Juniors who have been 4-H, FFA or Grange project members within 60 days (120 days market beef) prior to the fair are not eligible to compete in that project as Independent juniors or enter project(s) under a different organization.

All Junior Livestock Exhibitors are required to participate in a certified QUALITY ASSURANCE & ETHICS AWARENESS TRAINING or complete YQCA training (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) and provide current certificate of completion no later than 5:00 p.m. July 27, 2026 or entry will be disqualified. Certification will be verified and if it is not current or valid the entry will be disqualified. YQCA is a national multi-specie quality assurance program for youth. (See YQCA.org for information/certification.)

Provide Scrapie information for market lamb & goats & ear notch information for market hogs.

Exhibitors in 13 years old & below show in the 4-H divisions. Exhibitors in 14 years & above show in the FFA divisions.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT MARKET ANIMAL EXHIBITORS:

Provide Fair Management the following Proof of Ownership documents by ownership deadlines (120 days prior to the fair for beef, 60 days for sheep, swine, and goats & 30 days for rabbit meat pens.)

Bill of Sale with the exhibitor's name, date of purchase of animal & seller's name & address.

Photographs of the exhibitor with the animal including brands, ear tags or ear notches that would uniquely identify that animal (see Local Rule #75)

Verification of animal's permanent tag, tattoo and/or hog ear notch information

Replacement (back-up) animals of the same species will be allowed as approved by Fair Management only if the ownership information is submitted prior to entry closing (photos, breeder information, bills of sale, etc.), is within an immediate family, and is not another exhibitor's primary animal. If an exhibitor has more than one market animal, they must declare a "primary" and a "back-up" animal prior to entry closing. Photos and identification information must be marked accordingly. No exhibitor may enter or show a back up animal that is another exhibitor's primary animal entry. Under no circumstances, can a back-up animal be shared outside an immediate family or with a group of exhibitors. See Local Rule #32. For ownership deadlines see Local Rule #72. **Processing fee must be paid for each back-up animal entered. Back up animals are not eligible to be entered in any other Division.**

Market animal entry, photograph and Bill of Sale must be received by date below for the exhibitor to be eligible to participate. All requirements must be met, or entry will be disqualified:

- **5:00 p.m. April 27, 2026, for market steers (120-day ownership deadline)**
- **5:00 p.m. June 26, 2026, for market hogs, market lambs, market goats, & turkeys (60-day ownership deadline)**
- **5:00 p.m. July 27, 2026, for rabbit meat pens, market poultry, & ALL breeding livestock (30-day ownership deadline)**

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**INDEPENDENT
JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR AFFIDAVIT**

***Must be submitted with Independent Project Record no later than
5:00 p.m. Monday, August 24, 2026***

Name of Exhibitor

The undersigned declares that his/her livestock entry(s) has been under his/her ownership, care and management for the appropriate amount of time according to State Rules (120 days prior to fair for market steers; 60 days prior to fair for goats, sheep and swine; 30 days prior to fair for rabbit meat pens; 30 days for all breeding animals).

The undersigned declares that he/she has not been a member of a junior organization for this project within 120 days for horse and market beef, 60 days for goats, rabbit meat pens, sheep and swine, and states the youth has not been removed from 4-H, FFA or Grange due to documented disciplinary action as per State & Local Rules.

The undersigned declares that he/she has read and understands all State and Local rules pertaining to his/her junior livestock project printed in the 2026 Butte County Fair Exhibitor Handbook.

Exhibitor Signature

Date

Project Supervisor Signature

Date

Responsible, adult supervisor that agrees to provide project supervision prior to Fair and "on ground" supervision during Fair.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Number	List things made, animals raised, grown or improved	List honors or awards earned

<p>EXPENSES and INCOME/VALUE: Summary of expenses such as feed, supplements, vet supplies &/or visits, materials, exhibitor's fees, & all income such as: value of finished products, animals sold, exhibit premiums, etc.</p>		

If you plan to take this project next year, what would you like to learn or do differently?

Exhibitor's signature

Date

I have personally reviewed this report and believe it to be correct.

Parent/ Guardian's signature

Date

I have personally reviewed this report and believe it to be correct.

**This page is for additional information, pictures,
story, etc.**