

# COMMERCIAL CHEESE

## 2023 COMPETITION GUIDE

**It's your moment to shine!**  
**Enter today.**

For more than 169 years the California State Fair has been a constant showcase of the talents and achievements of the people of California. Entering into the California State Fair's 2023 Competitive Exhibits Program allows you the opportunity to showcase your abilities, and revel in your accomplishments! Over the history of the annual State Fair, there has been competitive entries from every single county in California. Prior to COVID, there were competitors representing 57 of the State's 58 counties.

The California State Fair's friendly competitions are designed to recognize the best of the Golden State. Our Competitive Programs inspire talented Californians, as well as highlight the latest advances in technology, agriculture, and industry.

More than 750,000 visitors are expected at the State Fair this summer. Your work is an integral part of the State's celebration, and we look forward to seeing your talents on display during the annual State Fair from July 14-30. We encourage you to enter today and begin making lasting memories for yourself, and for the hundreds of thousands of State Fair patrons!

Sincerely,

  
Tom Martinez  
Chief Executive Officer

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Gavin Newsom

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### ***California Agriculture Fair Season***

On behalf of the State of California, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 California Fair Season.

California fairs have a very important role in their communities. Every year, millions of people gather at fairgrounds throughout California to celebrate time-honored traditions that reflect the diversity of our state. Each fair takes great pride in showcasing their community through unique performances, events and exhibits.

Livestock and other competitive exhibits demonstrate integral parts of agriculture that provide a link between the public and California's farmers and ranchers. By displaying local crops, crafts and livestock, fairs educate the community about our state's agricultural sector.

Thank you for your participation and dedication to our state and the agricultural community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom



## Showcase your award-winning Cheese in the Guide to the Best of California Magazine!

The Guide to the Best of California Magazine showcases the Double Gold and Gold winning cheese, wine, craft beer and olive oil from the 2023 California State Fair competitions.

Showcase your award-winning cheese to enthusiasts eager to learn about the Best of California in one publication.

The guide is marketed as a resource all year long and is available online on the Official California State Fair website, shared on Facebook and Twitter to over 200,000 followers, emailed to 100,000+ people. 10,000 print magazines are also distributed at high profile locations, and Farm-to-Fork events:

-  Governor's Office and State Capitol
-  California State Fair Wine Garden & Wine Experience Classes
-  California State Fair Hot Spots
-  Industry & Community Events

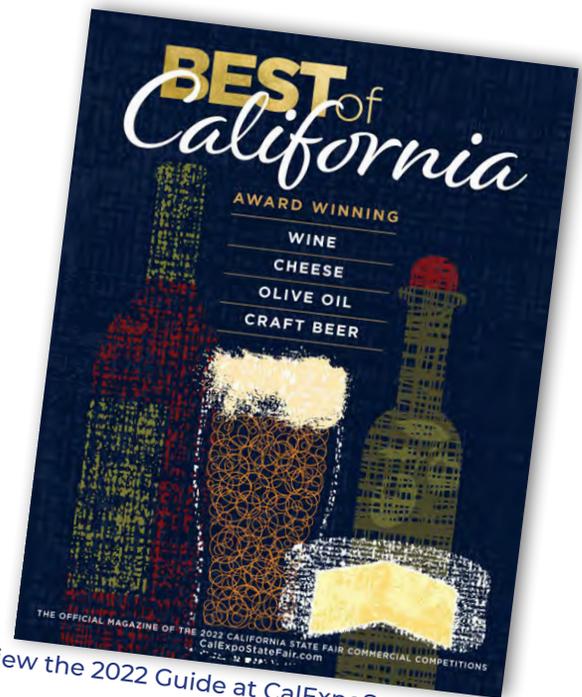
Ad spaces are available in the Guide to the Best of California Magazine starting at \$2,250.

Contact Event Partnership:

**Brian Honebein**

[brian@eventpartnership.net](mailto:brian@eventpartnership.net)

916.402.8313



View the 2022 Guide at [CalExpoStateFair.com](http://CalExpoStateFair.com)

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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW

**Contact:** Marilyn Langhorst

Cheese Competition Coordinator

Phone: (916) 263-3159 & E-mail: [cheese@calexpo.com](mailto:cheese@calexpo.com)

**Entry Dates:**

March 20	Entries Open
April 21	Entries Close
April 24 - 28	Ship or Hand Deliver according to Times & Locations (p.7)
May 10	Judging Day
July 14	Opening Day, California State Fair

## The California State Fair July 14-30, 2023

The California State Fair has always been the awe-inspiring showcase of the state's finest, and ever since the first fair in 1854, California has upheld this tradition. People come from all over to witness the competition and innovation that our exhibitors produce. We continue to add new and exciting competitions to our competitive programs to showcase California's very best!

### Why enter the Competition?

Cheese judges are selected from respected cheese makers, cheese merchants, writers, promoters, and educators. The California State Fair will be highlighting and celebrating the winners in press releases as well as showcasing them in all of our social media platforms.



# COMPETITION OVERVIEW



Entry in the California State Fair Cheese Competition is open to California Cheese companies only.

The California State Fair will award Best of California and Best of Show for cow milk and other milk types to include goat, sheep, buffalo, etc. This competition guide is posted in advance and will be subject to any action that may cause revision or curtailment of the sections or regulations as listed.

## How to Enter

Go to [CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions](https://CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions) and click on the Commercial Cheese icon under the competitions page and follow the instructions. Use a Visa or Mastercard to pay entry fees.

# RULES & REQUIREMENTS

1. Entry information and fees must be submitted online no later than April 21, 2023.
2. Entry fee: \$40 per entry.
3. Entry Size: For each entry, submit two samples, no smaller than 16 ounces or 1 pound each. **If cheese is produced in sizes smaller than 1 pound, submit a minimum of 2 pounds total.**
4. Entry is open to California Cheese companies only.
5. Enter online at [CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions](https://CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions).
6. Entries are limited to original licensed manufacturers. Those wishing to enter products produced by another plant must submit a letter stating which products are involved. There will be no duplication of samples entered under different brand names.

7. All samples must meet the standards of the California State Food and Agriculture code and are subject to testing at the discretion of the Fair Management and/or Judges.
8. Award-winning producers will be invited to participate in the Cheese Shoppe sampling and sales center in California's Kitchen exhibit at the California State Fair.
9. Copies of official scores, awards and ribbons will be sent to exhibitors. Results are not given by telephone.

## DELIVERY & SHIPPING

**Deliveries must be received between Monday, April 24, 2023 and Friday, April 28, 2023, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

### **Shipping & Hand Delivery**

#### **California Cheese Competition**

California State Fair  
Attn: Cheese Competition  
Administration Building  
1600 Exposition Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95815



# AWARDS

## Medal Qualifications

**Gold Medal:** 95% or over

**Silver Medal:** 90% - 94%

**Bronze Medal:** 84% - 89%

## Best of Show

Two winners will be selected from the fourteen Best of California Winners, one for cow milk and one for other milk type.

## Best of California Awards

One Best of California Award for cow milk and other milk type will be given in each Division, selected from only Best of Division winners, for a total of fourteen awards

## California Cheese Score Card

Aroma: 10%

Texture/Body: 20%

Appearance - Color/Rind/Paste: 20%

Flavor (includes Finish): 50%

Results will be available on [CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions](https://www.calexpo.com/competitions).

Should you be awarded a Bronze, Silver, or Gold award for your entries, you may choose any of the following forms of recognition:

**OPTION 1:** Choose an electronic version of an award winning medal (bronze, silver, and/or gold) to use for digital marketing.

**OPTION 2:** You may purchase award seals for application to your product.

**OPTION 3:** You may order the traditional award ribbon for the award your entry received.

Following the competition, you will receive an award letter and an order form sent via email. Order form must be submitted to receive any of the above awards.

# DIVISIONS & CLASSES

**No restriction on the number of entries for Classes. However, entries shall not be duplicated varieties.**

## **Division 1300: Cottage Cheese**

- Class 1 Small Curd Cottage Cheese
- Class 2 Large Curd Cottage Cheese
- Class 3 Nonfat Cottage Cheese
- Class 4 Flavored Cottage Cheese (*fruit, herb, vegetable*)

## **Division 1305: Cultured Cheese**

- Class 1 Crème Fraîche
- Class 2 Fromage Blanc
- Class 3 Quark
- Class 4 Kefir
- Class 5 Mascarpone
- Class 6 Fresh Cultured Cheese with Flavor Added

## **Division 1310: Soft Cheese**

- Class 1 Cream Cheese
- Class 2 Pasta Filata - fresh mozzarella
- Class 3 Feta - all milk
- Class 4 Feta - all milk, flavor added
- Class 5 Ricotta
- Class 6 Teleme (cryovac or flour)
- Class 7 Soft Fresh Cheese - open category, goat
- Class 8 Soft Fresh Cheese - open category, sheep, water buffalo or mixed
- Class 9 Soft Fresh Cheese - open category, cow
- Class 10 Soft Fresh Cheese Flavored
- Class 11 Middle Eastern, Eastern European, Indian
- Class 12 Other - Not described above

## **Division 1315: Semi-Soft Cheese**

- Class 1 Blue Veined Cheese
- Class 2 Open Category Goat
- Class 3 Open Category Sheep, Water Buffalo or mixed
- Class 4 Open Category Cow

- Class 5 White Surface Mold - Brie
- Class 6 White Surface Mold - Camembert
- Class 7 White Surface Mold - Flavor added
- Class 8 White Surface Mold - Open
- Class 9 Washed Rind - Schloss type
- Class 10 Washed Rind - Raclette type (*aged over 45 days*)
- Class 11 Washed Rind (*aged over 60 days*)
- Class 12 Hispanic Style (*state type*)
- Class 13 Pasta Filata (*Mozzarella, Provolone, String*)
- Class 14 Middle Eastern, Eastern European, Indian
- Class 15 Other - Not described above

### **Division 1320: Semi-Hard Cheese**

- Class 1 Monterey Jack
- Class 2 Goat, Sheep, Water Buffalo, or Mixed Milk
- Class 3 Hispanic (*state type*)
- Class 4 Cheddar (*aged over 30 days*)
- Class 5 Medium Cheddar (*aged 3-6 months*)
- Class 6 Aged Cheddar (*aged over 6 months*)
- Class 7 Flavored Cheddar
- Class 8 Colby
- Class 9 Swiss
- Class 10 Italian Style
- Class 11 Open Category - Goat, Sheep, Water Buffalo, Cow or Mixed Milk
- Class 12 Other - Not described above

### **Division 1325: Hard Cheese**

- Class 1 Hispanic, Portuguese Style
- Class 2 Aged Jack
- Class 3 Flavor Added
- Class 4 Grating or Grana Style
- Class 5 Other - Not described above

### **Division 1330: California Originals**

For cheeses that are California original recipes not following the standard of identity for any Old World Style cheese.

- Class 1 Cow Milk
- Class 2 Goat Milk
- Class 3 Sheep or Mixed Milk

# 2023 GENERAL RULES

## California Exposition & State Fair

General Rules are subject to any action that may cause revision or curtailment at any time before each competition or judging. Upon submission of online entry and signature on detailed receipt if applicable, the exhibitor acknowledges that they have read and understood these rules and all others of the competition in which they enter. Furthermore, exhibitors are responsible for viewing, reading and understanding all revisions or curtailments on the State Fair's website before the competition. Exhibitors may request an additional copy of the most current rules by contacting the entry office: email: [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com).

## Exhibitors Entry Responsibilities

### STILL EXHIBITS

1. All submissions and information necessary to determine that the exhibit is eligible must be submitted online, uploaded if necessary, and entry fees paid by Visa or MasterCard by the entry deadline.

It shall be the responsibility of the exhibitors to correct all deficiencies in connection with entries or exhibiting which are required of them by the rules printed in the Competition Guide.

Entries will not be judged if deficiencies have not been cleared or fees paid.

### LIVESTOCK & AG MECHANICS

2. All signatures and information necessary to determine that the exhibit is eligible must be submitted online for Junior Livestock, Open Livestock, Ag Mechanics, Best of Show and Small Animals.

All Livestock, Small Animal, Best of Show and Ag Mechanics exhibitors will be required to submit a Detailed Receipt with all required signatures within one week of the entry deadline.

It shall be the responsibility of the exhibitor to correct all deficiencies in connection with entries or exhibiting which are required of them by the rules printed in the Competition Guide.

A deficiency penalty of \$20 per entry must be paid for any deficiency or fees which have not been paid by July 1 for Livestock and Small Animals, this includes not returning the detailed receipt by the due date.

Entries will not be judged if the detailed receipt is not received.

This rule shall apply to all equine shows with a requirement for their fees, forms, and signatures being submitted by the entry deadline date within each equine section of any competition guide.

### **ENTRY LIMIT**

3. The State Fair management shall reserve the right to limit entries displayed and/or exhibited to facilities available and may limit the number of entries made by an exhibitor.

Entries may also be limited or not displayed based on size, content, subject material, or for any reason determined not in the best interest of the California State Fair.

Any return of entries under this rule will be done at the sole discretion of the State Fair management.

### **OWNERSHIP OF ENTRY**

4. Unless specific provisions are otherwise made in the Competition Guide (printed or on the web), exhibitors must be the bona-fide owner of their entries.

The management may demand such proof of ownership as it deems necessary in each case.

### **EXHIBITOR LIABILITY**

5. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage done to, or occasioned by, or arising from, any animal or article exhibited by him/her.

Exhibitor agrees to indemnify, and hold harmless, the State of California, California Exposition & State Fair and all officers, agents, and employees thereof from all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, or liability costs suits or actions of every name, kind and description, brought forth from or on account of, injuries to death of any person including but not limited to workers, and the public, or damage to property resulting from the performance of the exhibitor or entries.

Neither party shall request apportionment of liability by a jury.

### **NO GUARANTEE**

6. The State Fair cannot guarantee that all exhibition requirements of an entry can be provided (i.e., electricity, a showcase, a pedestal, special lighting, special location, total space requirements, water source, computer services, or any other special requirements).

## **DIVISION/CLASS CANCELLATION**

7. The State Fair management reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

## **ENTRY ERRORS**

8. State Fair management is not responsible for finding errors in entries.
9. Exhibitors are responsible for any and all errors which were submitted online.
10. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his own error.
11. The State Fair management shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post audits of State Fair records. However, exhibitors with a cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Such exhibitors should inform the State Fair management immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, complete description of the entry and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than ninety (90) days after receiving notice of disallowance.

## **SUBSTITUTION**

12. Substitutions may be made in still exhibits only in the same division of the original entry of the original exhibitor, and may be made only if completed by the entry delivery date.
13. Substitutions for livestock must be in the same division of the original entry by the original exhibitor.
14. Substitutions must be made at the time of check-in to avoid penalty.
15. Fees may apply for substitutions in excess of two per division.
16. The State Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer to the correct class any entry which is not a true representative of the division or class in which it is entered.

## **PREVIOUSLY ENTERED ENTRY**

17. Any non-animal (still exhibit) entry that has been exhibited at a previous California State Fair is not eligible for entry in the 2023 California State Fair.

## VERIFICATION

18. Online submissions will receive a confirmation once entries are submitted.

## RESPONSIBILITY

19. The State Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times.
20. All Still Exhibits or display elements remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before September 1 of the same year.

## REMOVAL OF ENTRIES

21. An exhibitor may not remove his or her entry from the California State Fair once it has been accepted.
22. **Judged or Accepted:** Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the State Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Guide and shall not be removed from the fairgrounds prior to the release date printed in the guide, except (at the discretion of the State Fair management) in cases of positive evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the State Fair.

## DISHONORED CHECKS

23. A penalty of \$25.00 per dishonored check must be paid if a check for payment of entry fees or other applicable fees is refused by the bank. Only cash, certified check or money orders are acceptable for the penalty payment.

## ENTRY FEES

24. Entry Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.

## LATE ENTRIES

25. Late Entries may be accepted at the sole discretion of the California State Fair under the following conditions:
  - a. Late Entries will **NOT be accepted** for **California Crafts, Fine Art, Student Showcase, Photography, Canning & Baking, and County Fair Best of Show Master Showmanship.**
  - b. If the department accepts late entries, the completed entry form(s) and other completed required forms, signatures and full payment for all required fees must arrive at the California State Fair Entry Office

(by Certified Mail, Hand Delivery or Electronically) no later than five calendar days after the official entry deadline requirement of the competition.

For example, if the Official Entry Deadline is June 15, the last day and time a late entry may be eligible would be June 20 at 4:00 pm. If late entries arrive after 4:00 pm on that fifth day, they will NOT be considered.

- c. Open **Livestock Late Entries** will be accepted until July 5, 2023, with **an additional \$100 per entry**. Payment must be received no later than 5 pm on July 5, 2023.
- d. All late entries must be accompanied with the entry fee as listed within the program in addition to a **late fee of \$20 per entry for all Junior Livestock, Open Livestock and Best of Show Horse** entries and a **late fee of \$10 per entry for non-livestock competitions and small animals** (Fur and Feathers and dogs). Acceptable forms of payment are Visa, Master Card, check or money order.
- e. No entries will be accepted beyond the capacity of the facility.
- f. All other entry requirements as well as any rules, regulations and schedules shall apply.
- g. No entry is a guarantee of acceptance and it is the exhibitor's responsibility to confirm that the State Fair has accepted any and all entries.
- h. The California State Fair expressly reserves the right to reject any and all entry forms for any reason whatsoever.

## DESIGN

26. The California State Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of the exhibits.
27. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the State Fair.
28. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed.
29. Once an entry has been received by the State Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitor shall be permitted.
30. Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by State Fair personnel.
31. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly.

32. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display.

### **JUNIORS ENTERING SENIOR DEPARTMENT**

33. All divisions and classes within Junior Departments are intended for Juniors exclusively. Entry into the Junior Department is regulated by age and youth organization requirements as outlined in this competition guide. In no case may a person, group or organization outside of these age requirements (younger or older) be allowed to enter and compete in the Junior department.
34. However, Juniors may elect to enter, exhibit and compete (animal or non-animal) in the Senior Department when the rules of that department, division or class allow for such. Such entries shall be restricted to:
  - a. A class for the exhibit that is not provided in the Junior Department.
  - b. Junior Livestock Exhibitors that officially enter and show in the Junior Livestock Show are eligible to compete in the Open Show as long as the same exhibit/animal is entered and shown in the Junior Show and the same exhibit/animal is entered and meets all Open Division entry deadlines and guidelines.
  - c. Open classes or divisions that allow for the participation of Juniors due to the open competition being a specialty, feature, regional or national show sanctioned by the State Fair and/or recognized organization. In this case, the Junior exhibitor must also enter and compete (with the same exhibit) in the current year's Junior department, division, class offered for the exhibit. This provision must be printed specifically within the rules of the feature show within this guide.
35. Anyone under the age of 18 who meets the California State Fair age requirements and is planning to exhibit in a Senior department must have their parent or legal guardian sign their detailed receipt.
36. If the exhibitor is required to be on the fairgrounds, the Junior must be supervised by their parent or legal guardian while at the State Fair.
37. Exhibit animals owned in partnership between Seniors and Juniors shall not affect Junior's eligibility when the Senior partner is the exhibitor.

### **STATE FAIR EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION**

38. No employee of the State Fair will be permitted to enter an exhibit for competition. No person shall be an exhibitor or sign an entry form

as an agent in any Division or Department in which the exhibitor is a department head, judge, or paid employee.

## Disqualification

### ENTRY DISQUALIFICATIONS/TRANSFERS

39. A complete exhibit eligible in more than one Division and/or Class shall be entered and judged only in the Division and/or Class for which it best qualifies.
40. The State Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer to the correct Class (at his/her discretion) any exhibit which is not a true representative of the Division or Class in which it is entered.

It is not, however, the responsibility of the State Fair or judges to transfer an entry to the correct Division and/or Class.

### DISQUALIFICATIONS

41. The State Fair management shall reserve the right to vacate, declare ineligible for competition, and/or order the removal of any entry which is not in the best interest of the State Fair, is unsightly, unhealthy, injured, lame, unsound, endangers public safety, violates the State Fair's Animal Welfare Policies, or has been entered in violation of these rules and regulations.
42. In the event, an entry or an exhibitor is disqualified for any rule or policy violation (including but not limited to practices or procedures that are unethical, those in violation of the State Fair's Residue Avoidance Program, DNA Testing Program and those not adhering to the State Fair's schedule for the program), any or all of the following actions may take place:
  - a. The entry or exhibitor that is disqualified will be declared ineligible and will not receive awards, premium money and/or any sale proceeds. Further, the exhibitor shall be responsible for payment of any fees, fines due or costs incurred by the State as a result of disqualification.
  - b. The owner/exhibitor and members of his/her immediate family will not be eligible to compete in subsequent California State Fair Programs. The extent and degree of future eligibility shall be determined by State Fair Management.
  - c. State Fair Management reserves the right (but does not guarantee) to move entries up in placing after judging has taken place when an award void is created by a disqualification.

- This process of moving up judged entries shall only take place, however, when it is clear what the judge's placing would have been had the disqualified entry not been in competition.
- For example, when a Champion is disqualified, the Reserve shall move up and be named the Champion; however, no other changes shall take place below the Reserve Champion. The same shall apply in the case of a class, section or division winner when a 2nd place has been clearly indicated by the judge.
- If it is not possible to clearly determine a new placing, no change shall take place.
- When a placing change does take place the entry moving up will receive all the awards, appropriate titles and all premiums of the disqualified entry but will not receive any of the original placing awards or premiums won in the second category. In other words, 2nd place will now receive 1st money and "no" entry will receive 2nd money.

## COOPERATION

43. Exhibitors, their immediate family, leaders, advisors and agents thereof, not cooperating with security personnel or any other State Fair officials in all matters of policy, including but not limited to parking, stall/pen/space assignments and appearance, judging and/or animal care will have their entries cancelled and will be ordered to remove their exhibit from the grounds immediately and forfeit all awards, premium monies, and sale proceeds. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in being banned from the State Fair.

## PUBLIC DISTURBANCES

44. Exhibitors causing public disturbances, those who are uncooperative and/or unsportsmanlike, those not following good animal welfare practices as determined by management, or those found in violation of rules or in practices unethical or inimical with the State Fair program and/or policies/procedures shall be penalized by forfeiture of premiums awarded, any and all awards, payments of fines and/or damages to State Property, privileges, and/or disqualification at this or subsequent State Fairs as may be deemed appropriate by the State Fair Management and/or the Board of Directors.

Further, if the exhibitor and/or exhibitor's adult supervisor, parent or family member's actions are deemed to be illegal, inhumane or unethical

to livestock; the proper authorities will be notified for further investigation by those agencies for possible prosecution and/or civil penalties.

## **PROBATION**

45. Any exhibitor found in violation of any rule may be placed on probation for one year or longer if State Fair management deems appropriate.

## **Judging**

### **JUDGING**

46. The judge(s) shall award first, second or third place, etc., according to merit and if without merit the judge shall make no award under any circumstances. This rule applies whether there are one or more entries in the class.

### **JUDGE/EXHIBITOR INFORMATION**

47. No person shall act as a judge in any Division in which he/she or a member of his/her immediate family is an exhibitor, is in charge of an exhibit or division, in charge of a group of exhibitors, or is a member of a group of exhibitors.

### **JUDGE/FRATERNIZATION/CRITICISM**

48. Judges should avoid unnecessary fraternization with exhibitors. No person shall be allowed, under any circumstances, to interfere with the judge, or judges, during their adjudications, or with the State Fair's staff, or to offer any criticism of any exhibit of another.

Violators of this rule shall be excluded immediately from the judging area and competition and be subject to such additional penalties, including cancellations of awards, as the State Fair management shall consider appropriate.

49. No exhibitor shall receive more than two cash awards in any one class. For this rule only, a husband, wife, and unmarried children (including foster children) under 18 years of age shall be considered as being one exhibitor, except that brothers and/or sisters shall be considered as being separate exhibitors in Junior Department classes.

This rule shall have no bearing on consideration in the placing of entries by judges. Ribbons shall be presented in the order of placing by the judges.

The management shall, however, pay third money to the fourth winner,

etc., when the third winner is prohibited from receiving third cash award under the provisions of this rule. (Any entry or exhibit in which one or more members of the family described above has a financial interest shall be included in the limitation of not more than two cash awards per class.)

50. Management reserves the right to combine or to divide classes in a manner it deems necessary in order to assure adequate competition.

In the event of a show change, as a result of this rule, or where classes are established after the close of entries, premiums and awards will be distributed, divided or eliminated in a manner as deemed necessary by State Fair Management.

### JUDGE'S DECISION

51. The judge's decision is final.
52. The judge's decision cannot be protested.

### CHIEF JUDGE POLICY

53. A Chief Judge will be assigned by the State Fair, for still exhibits only, to mediate in the event there is a conflict during the judging process. All decisions of the Chief Judge shall be final and may not be protested.

### PROTESTS

54. **For still exhibits and horse only** - Any protest must be submitted in writing and given to the State Fair's staff member responsible for the Competitive Program in question within 24 hours of the time of the cause of the protest.

Protests must be based on a violation of rules, and you must reference the rule in your protest. The judge's decisions on awards cannot be protested.

No protest shall be considered by the management unless accompanied by a deposit of \$300.00 (Cash, money order or certified check).

The deposit shall be forfeited if the protest is not upheld.

Protests shall be adjudicated by State Fair management.

State Fair management will consult with a member of the California State Fair Board of Directors who shall be designated by the Chairman of the Board.

The decision of State Fair Management shall be final and unappealable. See special livestock rules for protests in the Livestock Program.

55. Under no circumstances will any entry which has been previously judged

be “rejudged” due to the disqualification or removal or another entry.

## Awards

### SPECIAL AWARDS

56. Special Awards contributed by businesses or individuals are offered in some California State Fair Competitive Programs. These Special Awards are the obligation of the contributor/donor. The California State Fair is not responsible for redemption of these awards.

### TAX LAWS

57. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to investigate and adhere to State and Federal tax laws/regulations regarding premiums paid, and awards received.

As an out-of-state payee who earns \$1500 or more, Cal Expo must withhold 7.5% for State taxes.

You may request an exemption or a reduction of this withholding by filling out and submitting the Nonresident Withholding Waiver Request, California Form 588.

### PREMIUM AWARDS

58. Awards, ribbons, tags or cards have no value as payment. Premiums are paid only from the records of the judges’ sheets.
59. Premium checks will be issued as soon as auditing, drug testing, if applicable, and processing can be completed. If checks are not received by November 15, please phone or write the State Fair.
60. Checks must be **cashed within six months** of the date of issue.
61. Exhibitors have until December 31 of the same year, to claim checks returned to the State Fair. Checks will not be reissued after this date.

## Age Requirements

### JUNIOR EXHIBITORS MEMBERSHIP AGE AND AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS

62. Organization affiliation requirements: If a Junior (youth) exhibitor has been a member of a junior organization for 60 days immediately prior to the opening date of the State Fair (May 16, 2023), and their project or entry was produced or conducted at any time during the year of 2023 under the supervision of the organization, the Junior must enter the divisions or classes designated for that organization.

If, however, the project or entry was not produced or conducted under the supervision of the organization, the Junior must enter as an Independent Junior for that project or entry.

Example: If a 4-H member wishes to enter a Market Lamb competition and the Youth Canning & Baking competition, in a situation where they are only enrolled in a 4-H Sheep project, the entry is as follows: Enter 4-H for the Market Lamb competition and Independent Junior for the Canning & Baking competition (even though the exhibitor is a 4-H member, the baked goods project was not produced or conducted under the supervision of the organization).

63. Non-designated “Junior” shows or divisions: If a show or division offered is not specified as 4-H or FFA, Junior exhibitors who are enrolled in a 4-H or FFA project relating to that show or division must still enter as members of their respective organizations and follow all applicable rules and regulations of the department.
64. All 4-H exhibitors must be 9 years old by December 31, 2022, and not be older than 19 years old as of December 31, 2022. Exhibitors must also meet age and membership requirements of their organizations when entering as a member of an organization. Exhibitors must also meet the ownership and all other requirements of the competition to be eligible for entry.
65. California Grange: California Grange youth shall be considered Independent Juniors for Livestock, Dairy, Small Animal and Still Exhibits.

## **INDEPENDENT JUNIOR AND GRANGE AGE REQUIREMENTS**

**(Rules 66-69 apply to Indoor non-animal Exhibits only.)**

66. Independent Junior and Grange exhibitors may enter California State Fair classes and divisions in indoor (Still Exhibit) competitions if they are 5 years old as of January 1, 2023.
67. Independent exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 18 years of age.
68. Grange exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age. Exhibitors must meet the ownership and all other requirements of the competition to be eligible for entry.
69. Independent Still Exhibit Exhibitors: Persons, who are “not” 4-H, FFA or Grange members may enter the Junior competitions provided they meet age requirements for youth exhibitors in the competition they are entering.

These Juniors are considered Independent Juniors and must enter Independent Junior classes or divisions when the classes or divisions are designated as such in the Indoor (Still Exhibits) Competitions.

Exhibitors who enter Independent of an organization must not be older than 18 years old as of January 1, 2023.

### **FFA AGE REQUIREMENTS**

70. The first year of eligibility will be determined by the FFA advisor; however, the exhibitor must have graduated from the 8th grade as of July 1, 2023.

FFA requirements allow exhibitors to enter FFA classes through the year following the year in which they graduate from high school.

### **INDEPENDENT AND GRANGE ANIMAL EXHIBITORS**

71. Persons who are “not” 4-H or FFA members may enter the Junior Livestock Show provided they meet age requirements for animal exhibitors at the State Fair.

These Independent and Grange exhibitors shall enter 4-H or FFA classes as follows:

- a. Independent and Grange Junior exhibitors who are 13 years of age or under (as of show day) shall compete in the appropriate 4-H divisions only.
- b. Independent and Grange Junior exhibitors who are 14 years of age (as of show day) or are incoming freshmen in high school shall be placed by State Fair Management in either 4-H or FFA divisions.
- c. Independent and Grange Junior exhibitors are eligible to enter 4-H or FFA Showmanship. Independent Juniors are not eligible for County or Chapter Groups or Outstanding Exhibitor.
- d. Independent Exhibitors are not eligible to compete for Outstanding Exhibitor.

### **MEMBER STANDING AND OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

72. Juniors who are members of 4-H, FFA or Grange must be in good standing with their organization and projects entered as such must have been conducted under the supervision of the organization and must be owned by the exhibitor (unless otherwise stated).

### **ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS**

73. Any questions as to the eligibility of an entry shall be determined

by the exhibitor's advisor (for 4-H, FFA or Grange), instructor (for Student Showcase) or parent or guardian (for Independent Juniors). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State Fair shall make the final determination of eligibility in all cases.

#### 4-H AGE REQUIREMENTS

74. The levels of membership for 4-H are aged based. Each level is defined as follows:
- a. **Primary Level:** Must be 5 years old as of December 31, 2022. Primary membership ends when members qualify as junior members. Exhibitors who are under nine years of age on or before December 31, 2022, are not eligible to compete in animal competitions at the California State Fair.
  - b. **Junior, Intermediate & Senior:** Must be 9 years old by December 31, 2022. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age.
  - c. **Home Schooled Children:** Age criteria, as listed in 1 and 2, only will apply to home-schooled children. A grade level will not be a consideration. (Exhibitors who are under 9 years of age as of December 31, 2022, are not eligible to compete in animal competitions at the California State Fair.)

#### INDEPENDENT JUNIOR AND GRANGE AGE REQUIREMENTS

##### **(This rule applies to Animal Exhibitors)**

75. Independent Junior and Grange animal exhibitors must be 9 years old as of January 1, 2023, and are eligible to compete through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age. Independent Juniors and Grange exhibitors shall enter 4-H or FFA animal classes.

#### NO DUAL AFFILIATION IN COMPETITION

76. Under no circumstances may an exhibitor show the same species or project in more than one Division of the Junior Department.

#### ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIREMENT

77. All Junior exhibitors, required to be on the State Fairgrounds, must be accompanied and supervised by an adult while on the State Fairgrounds. Instructors, advisors, leaders and other adults in charge of Junior exhibitors shall be responsible for their conduct at all times.

#### FFA SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

78. All FFA exhibitors entered as such must be supervised by their agricultural instructor.

Any deviation from this rule must be taken up with the State Agriculture Education unit representative in charge.

The CATA Curricular Activities Code shall govern the conduct and eligibility of FFA exhibitors and their projects.

## UNIFORMS

79. Uniform requirements for Independent youth shall be the same as required for 4-H and FFA members excluding insignia.

The official show uniform for animal exhibitors at the California State Fair will be white pants, trousers or dress and a white blouse or shirt.

80. No exhibit owned by a chapter or club, or conducted, as a joint project by two or more individuals is eligible in the Junior Department unless the division/class specifically states.

## FREE SPEECH ACTIVITIES GUIDELINE

81. The California Exposition & State Fair (Cal Expo) hereby finds that these guidelines are intended to set forth in writing Cal Expo's long-standing policy governing the conduct of Cal Expo employees and exhibitors, as well as members of the public, under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I of the California Constitution, on Cal Expo's grounds.

These guidelines are not intended to enlarge upon nor create any rights guaranteed by existing law nor waive any defense or rights available to Cal Expo, nor do they represent any admission that the facilities of Cal Expo are open as a public forum.

It is the policy of Cal Expo to allow within the parameters set forth herein, reasonable access to its grounds and designated free speech expression zones for demonstrations for free speech activity as allowed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I to the California Constitution.

For further information regarding Free Speech Activities at the California Exposition & State Fair please write to:

Chief of Police, California Exposition & State Fair  
P.O. Box 15649, Sacramento, CA 95852

82. Should contractors, associations, clubs or individuals desire to arrange for beverages and food service, all such arrangements must be coordinated through Oak View Group, the State's Master Food & Beverage Contractor.

**83. No exceptions.**

Contractor shall be responsible for expenses related to these services if any. Alcoholic beverage service areas/facilities will only be allowed in designated locations. Only persons 21 years or older will be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages. Further, no alcoholic beverages may be brought onto the grounds. These products may only be acquired at OVG permitted locations on the grounds. Individuals that endanger themselves or others will be reported to authorities.

# DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this guide

**American System of Judging:** Each entry in a class is judged in comparison to the other entries in the class. Entries are placed first, second, third, etc. according to relative merit. There will be no more than one first, second, third, etc. per class.

**Danish System of Judging:** Each entry in a class is judged on its own merit. Entries are placed first, second, third, etc., depending on points received based on the score card. There may be more than one first, second, third, etc. per class.

**Senior Departments:** California Fine Art, California Crafts, Canning & Baking, Photography, Commercial Wine, Commercial Craft Brew, Home Brew, California Cheese, California Olive Oil, Open Livestock by species and Open Small Animals by species.

**Junior Departments:** Youth Canning & Baking, Student Showcase, Ag Mechanics, Junior Livestock by species and Junior Small Animals by species.

**Senior/Open Exhibitor:** An exhibitor who is no longer eligible to be a Junior Exhibitor or enter a Junior Department.

**Junior Exhibitor:** An exhibitor who is a member of 4-H, FFA, Grange, or an Independent Youth Exhibitor who meets the requirements of Independent Junior divisions offered. See the specific show and General Rules for exceptions to this definition.

**Entry Office:** The California State Fair Entry Office is located at 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento. Contact may be made by phone, mail, email or personal contact. Questions regarding competitions may also be directed to the Entry Office. (916) 263-3149 - [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com).

**Still Exhibits:** All competitive exhibits which are typically indoor and not involving animals, such as art, quilts, foods, crafts, sewing, metalwork, jewelry, graphics, drafting, sciences, etc.

**Livestock & Small Animals:** All competitive exhibits which animals are the entry; such as beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, goats, llamas, cavies, rabbits, poultry, dogs, etc.

**Online Entry:** Commitment to enter and abide by rules.

**Detailed Receipt:** An official form used in submitting an entry/exhibit in the California State Fair. The Detailed Receipt is only required for Open and Junior

Livestock, Small Animals, Best of Show and Ag Mechanic exhibitors.

Entry Fees: A fee charged to enter a competition. All entry fees must be paid online when entries are submitted.

Entry/Exhibit: Terms used to define the item entered in the competition or contest.

Entrant/Exhibitor: Terms used to define the person entering the competition.

Premium: A cash award is given to winners of the competition.

Department: Competition you wish to enter, i.e., California Crafts, Fine Art, Student Showcase, etc. which is comprised of similar shows.

Shows: Generalized sections of the competition.

Division: Categories within a show.

Class: Specific categories within a division.

Competition Guide: a printed or electronic (web) book, prospectus, or flyer which contains information for entry into the California State Fair competitions. Competition Guides can be a printed document or as an electronic document found on the California Exposition & State Fair website [CalExpoStateFair.com](http://CalExpoStateFair.com).

Bona-fide Ownership of Exhibit - ownership is the state or fact of exclusive rights and control over property considered an entry or exhibit. This definition includes livestock, small animals, and horses although not limited to that type of property. Objects/products created or produced are also included as well as intellectual property. Proof of such ownership may be required by management.