

# AG MECHANICS

## 2024 COMPETITION GUIDE

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

For more than 170 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 2024 Competitive Exhibits Program allows you the opportunity to showcase your abilities, and revel in your accomplishments! The 2023 annual State Fair had competitive entries from all 58 counties in California.

The California State Fair's friendly competitions are designed to acknowledge 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 12-28. 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

### **GOVERNOR**

Gavin Newsom

### **CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair, Willie Pelote, Sacramento

Vice Chair, Kim Craig, Sacramento

Arturo Barajas, Sacramento

Sonney Chong, Sacramento

Rina V. Dimare, Clarksburg

Nick Hardeman, Sacramento

David Mallel, Calabasas

Che Salinas, Sacramento

Brian May, Sacramento

### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Senator Angelique Ashby

Assembly Member Kevin McCarty

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Tom Martinez

### **EXPO EVENTS ACCOUNT MANAGER**

Sandi Hurtgen Montiero



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### **2024 California Fair Season**

Welcome to the 2024 California fair season!

California fairgrounds continue to play a vital role in our state. As we enter a new year, and prepare for the new fair season, there is so much to be excited about. As a California fair exhibitor, you have a key part to play in teaching the public about the history of agriculture and its importance for the Golden State. Whether you are a new or a seasoned exhibitor, this is a unique opportunity to engage with members of your community, form a connection with California's farmers and ranchers, and attract future generations of agricultural leaders.

Annual fairs in California provide an invaluable family experience and proudly display our state's vast diversity of cultures and traditions, all while operating as economic engines and creating jobs within their communities. When fairgrounds are not hosting their annual fairs and other events, they serve their communities as resilience centers. During various floods, storms, and wildfires last year, fairgrounds across the state were activated by their local Office of Emergency Services to serve as evacuation centers for people, pets, and livestock.

Time and time again, fairgrounds demonstrate their importance to our state, and so much of this would not be possible without the good work of our dedicated fair exhibitors. Thank you for your advocacy and commitment to our state and the agricultural community. We look forward to another successful year in 2024!

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Important Information to Know</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Contact .....	5
Entry Dates.....	5
Why Enter the Competition? .....	5
<b>Competition Overview</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Who Can Enter & Entry Fee.....	6
Entry Deadline.....	6
How to Enter.....	6
<b>Rules &amp; Requirements</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Entry Limits for All Exhibitors .....	8
Insurance Information .....	9
Admission Credential Information .....	9
Entry Evaluation .....	9
Notification of Exhibitors .....	9
<b>Delivery &amp; Pick Up</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Judging</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Encourage High Standards .....	10
Systems of Judging.....	10
Best of Division (BOD).....	10
Best of Show (BOS).....	10
Judging Criteria Scorecard .....	11
<b>Awards</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Division 1005 - FFA Chapter Group.....	12
Best Welded Award.....	12
Best Wookworking Award.....	12
Best Recycle/Repurpose Award .....	13
FFA Instructor Sweepstakes .....	13
<b>Common Issues When Judging Trailers</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Statement of Need .....	14
Safety Chains.....	14
Lights (for new manufactured trailers).....	14
Brakes.....	15
Suspension and Body.....	16
<b>Divisions and Classes</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Metalworking Projects.....	17
Division 6335 - Premier Agricultural Exhibitor Competition .....	18
<b>2024 General Rules</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Definitions</b> .....	<b>39</b>



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

December 20, 2023

Thank you all for your efforts in showcasing California's bountiful agriculture!

California is very fortunate to have some of the richest agricultural resources in the world and your exhibits play a vital role in presenting this to your communities and the public. Each fair has a unique, local agriculture flavor that brings people together to celebrate the tradition and innovation of our farmers and ranchers.

In addition to helping promote California's agriculture, the annual fair events also educate the general public on new technology that improves agriculture's effect on the environment, stewardship of water and natural resources, and practices that help preserve farmland for future generations.

When fairgrounds are not hosting the county fair, they are also used for quinceaneras, weddings, funerals, and many other community events. In times of need, fairgrounds are amongst the first to open their doors and be used as resiliency centers to serve their communities as cooling centers, evacuation shelters, first responders, food hubs, and workforce development. Fairgrounds are equipped with kitchens, sanitation facilities, and provide a safe space for sheltering people, pets, and livestock.

Your support of California fairgrounds and the annual fair is extremely important to the success of current and future generations and I look forward to hearing about the great success of the 2024 season.

Yours truly,

Karen Ross  
Secretary



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW

**Contact:** Sandi Hurtgen Montiero  
*Expo Events Account Manager*  
**Phone:** (916) 263-3149 & **E-mail:** [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)

## Entry Dates:

May 1	Entries Open Registration online
June 19	Entries Close online at 11:59 PM & entry fees must be paid
June 19	All Outstanding Exhibitor Forms due
June 24	Detailed receipt for online entries with all required signatures due
July 16	<b>9 - 11 AM</b> - Projects delivered, Gate 12, follow signs to Ag Mechanics. Outstanding Exhibitor Interviews for FFA Ag Mechanics
July 17	Judging
July 24	Judging Results posted online
July 24	Premier Exhibitor Final Interviews, Check in with the Livestock Office upon arrival at the State Fair
July 24	<b>3:30 PM</b> Awards Ceremony, Livestock Pavilion Release Ag Mechanics Projects following the completion of the Awards Ceremony
July 29	Release remaining Ag Mechanics Projects

## The California State Fair July 12-28, 2024

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?

The Ag Mechanics Competition gives you the opportunity to compare your project with other school projects throughout the state. You receive an impartial evaluation of your project and gain insight into what others are doing. The Ag Mechanics Program is an exciting opportunity to compete, win money and be exhibited at the California State Fair. Competing is an exciting way to showcase your best!

# COMPETITION OVERVIEW



**Ag Mechanics are for projects built by 4-H and FFA Members. FFA Projects are constructed in class as part of the student's curriculum. Entries may vary from Wood Projects to BBQ stands to Livestock Trailers to Almond Hullers.**

## Who Can Enter & Entry Fee

Entry in the California State Fair Ag Mechanics Competition is open to California residents who are current members of FFA and enrolled in a Career Technical Education in Agriculture program or 4-H members enrolled in an ag mechanics project.

\$10- Woodworking & Metalworking Divisions (materials cost to up \$5000)

\$15 - Metalworking Divisions (materials cost to up \$10,000)

\$15 - Recycle or Repurpose project

\$0 - FFA Chapter Group

## Entry Deadline

All entries must be registered online an image of your entries uploaded, and entry fees paid, at **CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions** by **11:59 pm, June 19, 2024**.

## How to Enter

1. Go to **CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions** and click on the **Ag Mechanics** icon under the competitions page and follow the instructions. Use a Visa or Mastercard to pay entry fees.
  - a. Names, titles, addresses, etc. will be used **exactly** as entered for award tags and payment of award premiums. Please pay special attention

to proper spelling, capitalization, full names of cities/counties, no abbreviations and the correct mailing address.

2. **Everyone must register as a new exhibitor** when logging in for the first time in any given year. If you entered last year, you would still enter as a first-time exhibitor.
3. Take a moment to look through this Competition Guide to see which competition your entry is eligible to compete in.
4. Note that sessions expire after 20 minutes of inactivity, so “save the cart” if you plan on leaving the computer for more than 20 minutes
5. If an entry is for sale, please indicate this by clicking the “Project for Sale” checks box when entering on online. All inquiries regarding the sale of the entry will be referred directly to the exhibitor. No signs, flyers, etc. regarding the sale of the entry will be allowed.
6. Once the entry is submitted, **print the Detailed Receipt**, obtain **signatures** and return to the California State Fair by **June 24, 2024**.
7. Exhibitors wishing to verify that the State Fair has received Detailed Receipt must include a self-addressed/stamped postcard when submitting a receipt.
8. All entries in the Ag Mechanics Competition must be the work of the exhibitor in whose name they are entered and to whom the premium award is to be paid.
9. Each individual is considered to be a separate exhibitor. Entries completed by two or more individuals are permitted but will be counted as one exhibitor. Any premiums and/or special awards won by a group project shall be awarded to the individual or organization signing the entry form (groups must be stated on one separate entry form and will be counted as one exhibitor). Group projects shall only be entitled to receive one (1) award per Premium Award schedule.
10. If you have any questions, please contact:  
California State Fair  
**Ag Mechanics Competition**  
P. O. Box 15649, Sacramento, California 95852  
(916) 263-3149 & [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)
11. This Competition Guide is posted in advance and will be subject to any action that may cause revision or curtailment of the sections, premiums or regulations listed.



# RULES & REQUIREMENTS

1. Entries must be submitted online by **11:59 pm** on **June 19, 2024**. **Signed Detailed Receipts** must be returned by **June 24**.
2. **Entry Fees are NOT refundable.**
3. 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 this Competition Guide. All deficiencies must be corrected by the **entry delivery date, July 16, 2024**. Entries will not be accepted for judging unless deficiencies have been corrected.
4. FFA Class 1 and 4-H Class 2 entries will compete against each other for Best of Division and Best of Show Awards. 4-H will not be eligible for Chapter Groups, Sweepstakes or Outstanding Exhibitor.

## Entry Limits for All Exhibitors

5. No more than four (4) entries per division. There is no maximum total number of entries.
6. Entries must be complete and ready to exhibit upon delivery. All parts must be secure and all paint and glue must be dry.
7. Entries must be labeled with the exhibitors' name, division, and class or it will not be accepted.
8. The California State Fair has the option of disqualifying any entry which the Fair feels is unsafe or is not properly presented for display.
9. Exhibits must have been completed within the last two years.
10. Entry substitutions may be made only within the same Division and Class of the original entry. A substitution may only be made by the original exhibitor and must be completed by the entry delivery date.
11. Same or identical items cannot be exhibited or win an award in more than one competitive program at the same time. Example: Metalwork project entry entered in the Ag Mechanics Competition cannot be entered in any other competitive programs (i.e., California Crafts, Student Showcase). Exhibitors will not be permitted to enter similarly or like items in two or more classes. 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 is best qualified. The State Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer to the correct Class and/or Division (at his/her discretion) any



exhibit which is not a true representative of the Division or Class in which it is entered.

12. Any non-livestock (still exhibit) entry that has been exhibited at a previous California State Fair is not eligible for entry in the 2024 California State Fair. Once an entry has been entered and judged at the California State Fair, it cannot be reentered for competition in any California State Fair Competition.

## Insurance Information

Any insurance desired on entry must be acquired by the exhibitor. The California State Fair does not insure and is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of entries even if the loss, damage, or theft occurs as the result of the handling of the entry by staff, volunteers, contractors and/or visitors.

## Admission Credential Information

Each Ag Mechanics exhibitor who wins an award in the Ag Mechanics Competition will receive 2 daily credential admission passes. Only two passes will be given regardless of the number of entries entered in the show.

## Entry Evaluation

All entries will be evaluated by a judge. Entries will be judged using a modified Danish System of judging (unless otherwise noted).

## Notification of Exhibitors

Results will be announced and displayed after judging. Results will also be e-mailed to our exhibitors and may also be seen on our website, <https://calexpostatefair.com/participate/competitions/ag-mechanics/>

Receive all premium checks, if applicable, and ribbons by November 1, 2024

# DELIVERY & PICK UP

1. Delivered, accepted projects may be delivered to Cal Expo Fairgrounds, **Gate 12**, follow signs to Ag Mechanics between the hours of **9:00 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** on Tuesday, **July 16, 2024**.
2. Projects may be picked up on July 24 at 4:30 pm or anytime on July 29, 2024.

# JUDGING

## Encourage High Standards

The judge shall award first, second, or third place, etc. according to merit. If at the judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placing, the judge shall make no award under any circumstances. This rule applies if there are one or more exhibits in the Class.

## Systems of Judging

### DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

Used in the basic evaluation of exhibits in divisions 975-998. Each entry is judged on its merit. Entries are placed first, second and third depending upon points received on the scorecard. There may be more than one first, second, or third per class. Each exhibit will be scored individually in accordance with the scorecard. Those receiving point scores as follows will be awarded the appropriate award.

First.....	Score of 90 to 100
Second .....	Score of 80 to 89
Third .....	Score of 70 to 79

### AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING

Used in the evaluation of exhibits for Best of Division and Best of Show. Each entry in a Class is judged in comparison to the other entries in the class. Entries are placed according to relative merit. There is only one first, one second, one third, etc. per class.

## Best of Division (BOD)

These awards will be based on points earned. There will be no more than one Best of Division chosen for each division. All first place winners will be considered for Best of Division. In the event of a tie, judges will use the American System of Judging.

## Best of Show (BOS)

These awards will be based on points earned. There will be one Best of Show chosen for FFA Best of Show. All Best of Division winners will be considered for Best of Show. In the event of a tie, judges will use the American System of Judging.

## Judging Criteria Scorecard

The following is the scorecard for Metalworking Ag Mechanic Projects and Woodworking.

Practicality (Usefulness, Education Value) .....	35%
Quality of Workmanship (Design, Neatness, Safety) .....	35%
Amount of Work (Size of Job, Level of Difficulty).....	30%

## AWARDS

**California State Fair ribbons will be awarded for all entries placing first, second and third.**

### SPECIAL AWARDS

Best of Division (BOD) .....	Additional First Place Premium & Rosette
Best of Show (BOS) .....	\$100 & Golden Bear Trophy

### DIVISION 975 - WOODWORKING

1st Place .....	\$15
2nd Place .....	\$8

### DIVISION 980 - METALWORKING (BASIC MATERIAL COST OF LESS THAN \$750)

1st Place .....	\$15
2nd Place .....	\$8

### DIVISION 985 - METALWORKING (BASIC MATERIAL COST OF \$751-\$2,500)

1st Place .....	\$20
2nd Place .....	\$15

### DIVISION 990 - METALWORKING (BASIC MATERIAL COST OF \$2,501-\$5,000)

1st Place .....	\$40
2nd Place .....	\$20

**DIVISION 995 - METALWORKING (BASIC MATERIAL COST OF \$5,001-\$7,500)**

1st Place .....	\$70
2nd Place .....	\$50

**DIVISION 996 - METALWORKING (BASIC MATERIAL COST OF \$7,501-\$10,000)**

1st Place .....	\$70
2nd Place .....	\$50

**DIVISION 997 - METALWORKING (BASIC MATERIAL COST OVER \$10,000)**

1st Place .....	\$75
2nd Place .....	\$50

**DIVISION 998 - RECYCLE/REPURPOSE**

1st Place .....	\$25
2nd Place .....	\$15

**Division 1005 - FFA Chapter Group**

**RIBBONS ONLY, AMERICAN SYSTEM OF JUDGING**

Chapter group entries shall consist of three entries, not more than one by an exhibitor and items must be designated by the advisor prior to exhibits being judged. No monetary awards. Ribbons only for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place.

**Best Welded Award**

The Best Welded Award for Ag Mechanics will be awarded within Divisions 980, 985, 990, 995, 996, 997, and 998. All entries within Divisions 980, 985, 990, 995, 996, 997, and 998 shall be considered for a Best Welded award. This award is based on the American System of Judging.

Award ..... Best Welded Award Rosette

**Best Woodworking Award**

The Best Woodworking will be awarded to Division 975 or 998. All entries in Divisions 975 and 998 shall be considered for a Best Woodworking award. This award is based on the American System of Judging.

Award ..... Best Woodworking Award Rosette

## Best Recycle/Repurpose Award

The best recycle/repurpose project will be awarded to Division 998. All entries in Division 998 will be considered for this award

Award ..... Best Recycle/Repurpose Award Rosette

## FFA Instructor Sweepstakes

The FFA Instructor Sweepstakes will be awarded to the three (3) highest scoring FFA instructors based on no more than 20 entries using the following point system: Best of Show - 3 points, Best of Division - 3 points, 1st place - 3 points, 2nd place - 2 points, 3rd place - 1 point.

### AWARD SCHEDULE:

- 1st Place ..... \$100 and State Fair Plaque
- 2nd Place ..... \$75 and State Fair Ribbon
- 3rd Place ..... \$50 and State Fair Ribbon



# COMMON ISSUES WHEN JUDGING TRAILERS

**The thing to pay attention when creating your project:**

## **Statement of Need**

In the last few years, it has been observed that there have been a number of reoccurring issues with the design and construction of various types of trailers that are to be licensed for general use on public roads. The majority of the items mentioned here are legal or safety issues and could result in a citation being issued if a stop were to be made by a police officer. The licensing of a trailer by the Department of Motor Vehicles is not a guarantee that the trailer is safe or meets all of the requirements of the law. The items listed are taken from California DMV and Federal DOT requirements for safety chain, lighting, and brake systems for light trailers. The “suspension and body” portion deals more with the important component application and safety issues. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of judging expectations or legal requirements for trailers.

## **Safety Chains**

1. All licensed trailers made after 1985 are required by the Federal Department of Transportation to have two safety chains. (*Note: the state of California requires only one safety chain, but a citation can be issued for not meeting federal regulations*)
2. If hooks are attached to the chain, they must be of the self-latching type.
3. If welded to the tongue, two links of the chain should be welded.
4. If a bracket or pin type attachment is used, it should be of equal or larger diameter material than that which the safety chain is constructed.

## **Lights (for newly manufactured trailers)**

5. Trailers that are licensed for use on public roads must have operational brake and tail lights that are automatically controlled by the tow vehicle lighting system. (*An exception to this rule is made for very small trailers such as cement mixers. These trailers can only be used during daylight hours and must be designed so that the brake lights of the tow vehicle are visible from the rear.*)
6. The license plate must be illuminated and on the same circuit as the tail lamps.

7. All lights and reflectors must be mounted on a rigid part of the trailer.
8. Clearance lights facing forward or to the side should be amber.
9. Stop lights and taillights facing to the rear must be red.
10. Two stoplights, two tail lights, and two reflectors, one on each side at the same level is required at the rear of the trailer.
11. Rear-facing stop and tail lights must be between 15 and 72 inches above the roadway. Reflectors must be between 15 and 60 inches above the roadway.
12. Amber reflectors and lights are required on each side at the forward end on trailers over 80 inches wide. Red reflectors and lights are required on each side within 24 inches of the rear of the trailer. All sidelights and reflectors must be mounted to indicate the extreme width of the trailer.
13. If the trailer is over 30 feet in length, an additional amber reflector and side light is required near the midpoint of the trailer.
14. D.O.T approved combination lights with reflective lenses are acceptable.
15. When in the towing condition, no part of the trailer or load may extend more than 48 inches behind the rear most lighted surface.

## **Brakes**

16. All licensed trailers having a gross weight of over 1500 pounds must have brakes on at least one axle.
17. If the axle has brakes, they must be operational.
18. All brake systems must have an operational break-a-way system that will automatically apply the trailer brakes in the event that the trailer becomes detached from the tow vehicle while being towed.
19. Trailers that are fitted with electric brakes that use a battery that is charged by the tow vehicle electrical system for powering the break-a-way system should be fitted with an isolation system that will prevent the discharging of the trailer battery if the tow vehicle battery cannot maintain a good charge.



## Suspension and Body

20. Axle mounting plates that go between the “U” bolt nuts and the leaf springs MUST be positioned so that the edges are bent downward towards the nuts.
21. The rigid mount for leaf spring suspension systems should be positioned towards the front of the trailer.
22. The moveable brackets at the rear of the leaf spring should be located so that in all conditions of trailer loading they will be within 20 degrees of vertical.
23. The ball and hitch capacity should be consistent with the axle rating and for the use of the trailer.
24. The tires installed must have a load rating appropriate for the axle rating for the trailer.
25. Modifications that prevent the mounting surfaces on the wheel making full contact with the hub or the use of incorrect wheel lug nuts and/or short mounting studs is unsafe and should be avoided.
26. Fenders covering the full width of the tire are required on all trailers that have an empty weight of over 1500 pounds.
27. The maximum width allowed without a special permit is 102 inches. This measurement is of the widest rigid portion of the trailer. The swelling of the rubber portion of the tires is not considered as a part of the width of the trailer consideration.
28. Have all tool boxes and other enclosed spaces open and accessible for inspection.
29. Any mechanisms such as hydraulic lifts, bed tilt systems, enclosed ramps, etc. should be fully operational so that the judges can check functionality.
30. Although not required, the judges would find the following helpful for inspection. A very short (one page / 50-60 words) explanation attached to the trailer stating how the trailer will be used and any particular design problems or special features that were incorporated into the project.

# DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

## Metalworking Projects

Entries must include a description card stating information about the project. This description card must be delivered with the project. Include the following: Materials utilized, cost of materials used, labor to construct, etc. Each project shall be of new construction. Describe project and dimensions on the entry form. Projects over 10 feet wide may not be displayed. All projects must be self-sufficient, fair support is not available. **All projects must arrive between 9 am and 11 am on Tuesday, July 16.** Late arrivals will be turned away and not judged, no exceptions.

Division 975 - Woodworking

Division 980 - Metalworking (basic material cost of less than \$750)

Division 985 - Metalworking (basic material cost of \$751-\$2,500)

Division 990 - Metalworking (basic material cost of \$2,501-\$5,000)

Division 995 - Metalworking (basic material cost of \$5,001-\$7,500)

Division 996 - Metalworking (basic material cost of \$7,501-\$10,000)

Division 997 - Metalworking (basic material cost over \$10,000)

Division 998 - Recycle & Repurpose

Division 1005 - FFA Chapter Group

## Classes

Class 1 - FFA

Class 2 - 4-H

# DIVISION 6335: PREMIER AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITOR COMPETITION

## No Premiums or Entry Fee

In recognition of the high-quality presentation made annually by 4-H, Grange, and FFA members, the California State Fair will recognize one Premier 4-H Exhibitor and one Premier FFA Exhibitor during the 2024 Exposition. To qualify for this award, entrants must first be selected as an Outstanding Exhibitor in their specific category of entry..

## Special Rules

1. FFA, Grange and 4-H Outstanding Exhibitor applications and official 4-H Report Forms must be received or postmarked by June 19, 2024, and must be signed by the 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor. Applications and/or official 4-H Report Forms are available on our website **www.CalExpoStateFair.com**, (916) 263-3149, or by writing to: Entry Office, California State Fair, P.O. Box 15649, Sacramento, CA 95852.
2. Official FFA Record Books and Grange Project Records must be available for judge's inspection at all times during judging schedule (judging times will vary according to program area.)
3. **FFA and Grange Applicants** - Do not mail record books with the application. Original record books must be available for judging/ interview.
4. **4-H Applicants** - Do not mail County 4-H record books with the application. Mail the official California State Fair 4-H Report Form with the application.
5. Each entrant will be required to be interviewed, in uniform and make a formal presentation. The presentation is to be no more than seven (7) minutes and emphasize the following areas: the member's exhibit, project scope and growth, knowledge, and skills gained in project, leadership, and citizenship within the organization.
  - a. Ag Mechanics, Poultry, Rabbit, and Cavy entrants: Formal, oral presentation using visual aids and/or demonstration is required.
  - b. Livestock entrants: Formal, oral presentation is required using visual aids that are a part of the exhibitor's pen or tie pace (i.e., signage, banner, educational information, etc.).
  - c. Dog, rabbit & cavy entrants, your animal must be present during the interview.
  - d. Interviews will be scheduled during dates listed for each category in

the Judging Interview Schedule. Check-in with Task Force Office for a specific interview time.

6. Only one entrant will be selected within each category and award recipients must receive a minimum of 70 points (from the scorecard) to qualify.
7. Outstanding Exhibitor applicants must enter and show in regular 2024 State Fair classes to qualify for this award and must compete within the program area for which they apply.
8. All Outstanding Exhibitor award recipients in each category must be available for a second complete interview when competing for the Premier Exhibitor award. This interview will be held during the 2024 California State Fair on Wednesday, July 24. Check in at the Livestock Office upon arrival at the Fair.
9. Cause for disqualification of an entrant shall be as follows:
  - a. Missing or incorrect signatures on the application or official 4-H report form
  - b. Providing false information.
  - c. Late entries. (Entries postmarked after June 19, 2024.)
  - d. Using any forms other than those printed for 2024.
  - e. Failing to attend a scheduled interview.
  - f. Failing to appear in uniform for any interviews.
10. Applicants must appear in uniform for all interviews and during award ceremonies.
11. **Do not alter or add pages to the official 4-H Report Form or to the application.** Altered forms or any additional pages (or back page of original) will not be considered.
12. All other rules of this competition guide apply.

## Scorecard

To be used for both Premier and Outstanding Exhibitor judging.

Exhibit Evaluation .....	20%
<i>At State Fair: awards won, fitting &amp; showing, exhibit area, entry presentation.</i>	
Interview .....	30%
<i>Knowledge of project area, communication skills &amp; formal presentation, QR codes.</i>	
Leadership/Citizenship within an Organization .....	20%
<i>Breadth and depth of leadership and citizenship activities.</i>	
Total Project Program Scope and Growth .....	20%
Records Evaluation .....	10%

*Completeness, appearance, documentation of learning experiences.*

FFA & GRANGE - Official Record Books required at time of judging  
4-H - CA State Fair 4-H Report Form required

Selection of winners will be based on results compiled through the use of the above scorecard by official judges.

## **Judges**

4-H - State Ambassadors and Ambassador Coordinator

FFA - FFA State Officers and Mr. Charles Parker

## **Judging/Interview Schedule**

Applicants will be scheduled for specific interview times. It is the responsibility of applicants to check-in with Task Force Leaders upon arrival to Fairgrounds for specific details.

FFA AG Mechanics - July 16

Livestock (Beef, Sheep, Swine & Market Goats) July 12-13

Rabbits - July 17

Cavies - July 17

Poultry - July 18

Dog Care & Training - July 19

Dairy Cattle & Goats - July 20-23

Premier Exhibitor - July 24

## **Outstanding Exhibitor Awards**

Awards will be presented to the Outstanding Exhibitors in each of the following areas:

### **Award (each) - Plaque**

4-H Beef Cattle	Grange Beef Cattle	FFA Beef Cattle
4-H Dairy Cattle	Grange Dairy Cattle	FFA Dairy Cattle
4-H Dairy Goats	Grange Dairy Goats	FFA Dairy Goats
4-H Sheep	Grange Sheep	FFA Sheep
4-H Swine	Grange Swine	FFA Swine
4-H Goats	Grange Goats	FFA Goats
4-H Cavies	Grange Cavies	FFA Cavies
4-H Poultry	Grange Poultry	FFA Poultry
4-H Rabbits	Grange Rabbits	FFA Rabbits
4-H Dog Care & Training		FFA Mechanical Sciences

## Award Presentations

Winners of the Outstanding Exhibitor award will be announced at the regular award ceremonies for each general category (livestock, dairy, poultry, rabbit, cavy, and dog).

**Award recipients will be presented their awards during a special ceremony in the Livestock Pavilion (L1) at 3:30 p.m., July 24, 2024.**

Recipients must be present and appear in uniform.

## Premier Exhibitor

All Outstanding Exhibitor award winners must return on Wednesday, July 24 for a final interview to be considered for Premier Exhibitor. This interview will not involve any demonstrations, visual aids or animals. FFA and Grange record books must be available, and both 4-H, FFA and Grange applicants must appear in uniform. Check in with the Livestock Office upon arrival at the Fair.

## Premier Exhibitor Award

One 4-H Premier Exhibitor and one FFA Premier Exhibitor shall be selected from the eligible Outstanding Exhibitors. The California 4-H Youth Development Office and the California FFA Association are proud to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the 4-H and FFA Premier Exhibitors at the 2024 State Fair.

Award (each) - Golden Bear Trophy





## Past Winners of Premier Exhibitor Award

4-H	FFA
1987 - Corrie Skidmore, Fresno Co.	1988 - Dennis Albiani, Elk Grove FFA
1988 - Becky Dell, Sonoma Co.	1989 - Candi Grumbles, Kingsburg FFA
1989 - Patti Hurtgen, Stanislaus Co.	1990 - Eric Anson, Livingston FFA
1990 - Douglas Wakida, Fresno Co.	1991 - Thomas Albin, Sanger FFA
1991 - Kristie Moon, Sacramento Co.	1992 - Richey Hurtgen, Oakdale FFA
1992 - Tanya Bickel, Sacramento Co.	1993 - Scott Layne, Turlock FFA
1993 - Yvonne Rawlings, Sacramento Co.	1994 - Debbie Holbrook, Dixon FFA
1994 - Janice McCord, San Benito Co.	1995 - Justin Mayo, Red Bluff FFA
1995 - Julie Sims, San Luis Obispo Co.	1996 - Kalei Coleridge, Fairfield FFA
1996 - Philip Brunnengraeber, Fresno Co.	1997 - Nicola Xanthus, Hollister FFA
1997 - Erinne Mailman, Contra Costa Co.	1998 - Jake Parnell, Bear River FFA
1998 - Kristy Siefkin, Sacramento Co.	1999 - Doug Paasch, Bear River FFA
1999 - Kristy Siefkin, Sacramento Co.	2000 - Rachel Bailey, Turlock FFA
2000 - AnneMarie Diener, Fresno Co.	2001 - Tracy Schohr, Gridley FFA
2001 - Daniel Ryan, Sonoma Co.	2002 - Shannon Nodolf, Casa Robles FFA
2002 - Marta Kroger, Contra Costa Co.	2003 - Alex Xanthus, Hollister FFA
2003 - Lianne Garcia, Riverside Co.	2004 - Chrissy Renwick, Bear River FFA
2004 - Halley Fobes, Sacramento Co.	2005 - Krista Anderson, Escalon FFA
2005 - Karen Van Dollen, Santa Barbara Co.	2006 - Krista Anderson, Escalon FFA
2006 - Chrissy Renwick, Nevada Co.	2007 - Cody Jacobsen, Le Grand FFA
2007 - Keelyn Hanlon, Sonoma Co.	2008 - Jeannette McClure, Petaluma FFA
2008 - Alexandra Baker, Sacramento Co.	2009 - Jesse Silva, LeGrand FFA
2009 - Regina Pozzi, Sonoma Co.	2010 - Dominic Agresti-Assali, Turlock
2010 - Cynthia Hinde, Sonoma Co.	2011 - Jacob Carlson, Elk Grove FFA
2011 - Kayla Withrow, Sacramento Co.	2012 - Jacob Carlson, Elk Grove FFA
2012 - Kristin Clark-Webb, Solano Co.	2013 - Regina Pozzi, Petaluma FFA
2013 - Rebecca Schwartz, Napa Co.	2014 - Abby Carlson, Elk Grove FFA
2014 - Kaitlin Kozlowski, Sacramento Co.	2015 - Steven Pozzi, Petaluma FFA
2015 - Ellorine Carle, Sonoma Co.	2016 - Steven Pozzi, Petaluma FFA
2016 - Samuel Patton, Nevada Co.	2017 - Josh Heupel, Golden Valley FFA
2017 - Samantha Albiani, Sacramento Co.	2018 - Josh Heupel, Golden Valley FFA
2018 - Avery Permenter, Yolo Co.	2019 - Cole Marchy, Turlock FFA
2021 - Allison O'Neal - Madera Co.	2022 - Allison Lemm, Kerman FFA
2022 - Madeline Evans, Shasta Co.	2023 - Nathan Hutchison, Liberty-Madera FFA
2023 - Paige Swier, Stanislaus Co.	



# 2024 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 2024 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 12, the last day and time a late entry may be eligible would be June 17 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, 2024, with **an additional \$100 per entry**. Payment must be received no later than 5 pm on July 5, 2024.
- d. Extended Entry Deadline for Open Boer Goats, NDGA Nigerian Dwarf Goats and Open Pygmy Goat Shows will be July 10.
- e. 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 and Open Livestock** 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.
- f. Exhibitors who are already entered as exhibitors may add additional entries as long as the animal is already entered by paying a \$100 late fee plus the original entry fee.
- g. No entries will be accepted beyond the capacity of the facility.
- h. All other entry requirements as well as any rules, regulations and schedules shall apply.
- i. 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.
- j. 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 13, 2024), and their project or entry was produced or conducted at any time during the year of 2024 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, 2023, and not be older than 19 years old as of December 31, 2023. 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, 2024.

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, 2024.

### **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, 2024. 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 Junior exhibitors are eligible to enter 4-H or FFA Showmanship. Independent Juniors are not eligible for County or Chapter Groups or 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:
- Primary Level:** Must be 5 years old as of December 31, 2023. Primary membership ends when members qualify as junior members. Exhibitors who are under nine years of age on or before December 31, 2023, are not eligible to compete in animal competitions at the California State Fair.
  - Junior, Intermediate & Senior:** Must be 9 years old by December 31, 2023. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age.
  - 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, 2023, 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, 2024, 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 Hospitality, the State's Master Food & Beverage Contractor. **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.