

# EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

## 2025 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 2025 Competitive Exhibits Program allows you the opportunity to showcase your abilities, and revel in your accomplishments!

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 11-27. 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, Kim Craig, Sacramento  
Vice Chair, Nick Hardeman, Sacramento  
Arturo Barajas, Sacramento  
Heather Bernikoff, Catheys Valley  
Rina V. Dimare, Clarksburg  
Willie Pelote, Sacramento  
Che Salinas, Sacramento

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Senator Angelique Ashby  
Senator Melissa Hurtado  
Assembly Member Maggy Krell  
Assembly Member Esmeralda Soria

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tom Martinez

### EXPO EVENTS ACCOUNT MANAGER

Sandi Hurtgen Montiero



## Showcase your award winning Olive Oil in the Guide to the Best of California Magazine!

The Guide to the Best of California Magazine showcases the Double Gold and Gold winning wine, craft beer, cheese and olive oil from the 2025 California State Fair competitions.

Showcase your award winning wine and reach wine enthusiasts eager to learn about the Best of California wines in one publication.

The guide is marketed as a resource all year long and is available on the official California State Fair website, shared on Facebook, Instagram, and X to over 220,000 followers, emailed to 100,000+ people, and 10,000 print magazines are 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:

**Holly Palandoken**  
[Holly@eventpartnership.net](mailto:Holly@eventpartnership.net)  
805.888.9165



# 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>
How to Enter.....	6
Rules and Requirement .....	6
<b>Delivery &amp; Shipping</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Shipping & Hand Delivery.....	9
<b>Judging</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Awards Catalogue</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Best of California Awards .....	11
Best of Show.....	11
Friend to the Consumer Award .....	11
Benefits For Award Winners .....	11
<b>Divisions &amp; Classes</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Extra Virgin Olive Oil Monovarietal Show.....	14
Extra Virgin Olive Oil Blend Show .....	14
Flavored Olive Oil Show .....	14
<b>2025 General Rules</b> .....	<b>15</b>
Exhibitors Entry Responsibilities.....	15
Still Exhibits.....	15
Livestock & Ag Mechanics.....	15
Entry Limit .....	16
Ownership of Entry .....	16
Exhibitor Liability .....	16
No Guarantee .....	16
Division/Class Cancellation .....	17
Entry Errors.....	17
Substitution.....	17
Previously Entered Entry.....	17
Verification .....	18
Responsibility .....	18
Removal of Entries .....	18
Dishonored Checks .....	18
Entry Fees.....	18
Late Entries .....	18

Design .....	19
Juniors Entering Senior Department.....	20
State Fair Employee Participation .....	21
Disqualification.....	21
Entry Disqualifications/Transfers.....	21
Disqualifications .....	21
Cooperation .....	22
Public Disturbances .....	22
Probation.....	23
Judging.....	23
Judging.....	23
Judge/Exhibitor Information.....	23
Judge/Fraternization/Criticism .....	23
Judge’s Decision .....	24
Chief Judge Policy.....	24
Protests.....	24
Awards .....	25
Special Awards .....	25
Tax Laws.....	25
Premium Awards.....	25
Age Requirements.....	25
Junior Exhibitors Membership Age and Affiliation Requirements.....	25
Independent Junior and Grange Age Requirements .....	26
FFA Age Requirements .....	27
Independent and Grange Animal Exhibitors.....	27
Member Standing and Ownership Requirements .....	27
Eligibility Questions .....	27
4-H Age Requirements.....	28
Independent Junior and Grange Age Requirements .....	28
No Dual Affiliation in Competition .....	28
Adult Supervision Requirement .....	28
FFA Supervision Requirement.....	29
Uniforms .....	29
Free Speech Activities Guideline .....	29
<b>Definitions .....</b>	<b>31</b>

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW

**Contact:** Michelle E. Johnson

Program Coordinator

Phone: (916) 263-3189 & E-mail: [oliveoil@calexpo.com](mailto:oliveoil@calexpo.com)

## Entry Dates:

January 15	Entries Open
February 19	Entries Close
January 13 - Feb 28	Ship or Hand Deliver
February 28	Lab Test and Oil Delivery Deadline 4pm
March 12	Judging Day
March 18	Results Available Online

## Why enter the Competition?

Inspire consumer confidence at the market shelf to select a quality product with official award stickers. Gain new customers by sampling and selling your award-winning oil during the California State Fair to over 750,000 annual visitors. Establish relationships and brand familiarity during the California State Fair at tasting and educational events. 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. The California State Fair is committed to supporting California Agriculture Businesses by showcasing the best!

## The California State Fair July 11 - 27, 2025

Showcasing the Best of the Best from all over the State!

- Winners get first date selection priority to sample and sell their award-winning olive oil to hundreds of thousands of visitors at the California Extra Virgin Olive Oil Exhibit.
- Best of Show winners are awarded and announced at the annual California State Fair Commercial Competitions Awards event.
- The annual Best of California magazine features a listing of Gold Medal Winners and articles about Best of Show Olive Oils.



# COMPETITION OVERVIEW



The California State Fair Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition celebrates the olive-growing and olive oil producing industries in California. This competition is open to Extra Virgin and Flavored Olive Oils made from 100% olives which are grown, pressed and packaged in California.

## How to Enter

Go to [CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions](https://CalExpoStateFair.com/competitions) and click on the Extra Virgin Olive Oil icon on the competitions page. Use a Visa or Mastercard to pay entry fees.

## Rules and Requirements

1. Entry Fee: \$80 per entry.
2. Entry Size: Submit for each entry four identical bottles of 250 ml to 500 ml (send five bottles if less than 250 ml) Two bottles are reserved for judging, one is used for display, and any remaining bottles are used for tasting events and demonstrations during the California State Fair.
3. A chemical analysis report must arrive with each entry in the EVOO Monovarietal and Blends Show. Copies are accepted. (Free Fatty Acid must be  $\leq .5\%$ )
4. Only oils made from 100% olives which are grown, processed and packaged in California are eligible for this competition.
5. Only oils which are commercially available for public purchase are eligible for this competition.
6. Entries may only be submitted by the original producer of the oil. Oils purchased from other producers and rebranded are not accepted.
7. Entries are limited to those produced in the current harvest season.
8. Entries become the property of the California State Fair.
9. Single Variety entries must contain 90% of the named variety.
10. Blends must arrive with the percentage of each variety listed.

11. All entries must arrive bottled and labeled for regular retail sale, and abide by CDFA 2024-2025 Grade and Labeling Standards for Olive Oil, Refined Olive Oil and Olive-Pomace Oil. [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/pdf/CA\\_Olive\\_Oil\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/pdf/CA_Olive_Oil_Standards.pdf)

12. Divisions Defined:

**Delicate** - Very little to no bitterness and/or pungency; predominately ripe fruit character.

**Medium** - Some bitterness and/or pungency; pronounced ripe and/or green fruit flavors.

**Robust** - Distinct bitterness and/or pungency; predominately green fruit flavors.

13. Blend Regional Classes Defined:

At least 85% of the oil must be from olives grown in named region. (CDFA 2024-2025 Grade and Labeling Standards for Olive Oil, Refined Olive Oil and Olive-Pomace Oil, 11.3.4)

**North Coast Blend** - Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma Counties

**Sacramento Valley Blend** - Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba Counties

**Sierra Foothill Blend** - Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer and Tuolumne Counties

**Central Coast Blend** - Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties

**San Joaquin Valley Blend** - Fresno, Kern, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Kings, and Tulare Counties

**South Coast and Southern California Blend** - Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties

**California Blend (Interregional)** - Any other California County not listed above, or Blends which are not made with 85% olives which were grown within a single region.

14. Producer Categorization Defined:

**Micro Producer** - Business produced less than 500 gallons total during the current harvest season.

**Artisan Producer** - Business produced 500 to 4,999 gallons total during the current harvest season.

**Large Producer** - Business produced 5,000 gallons or more during the harvest season, and for producers of Extra Virgin Olive Oil, is registered

with the Olive Oil Commission of California.

15. Definitions (CDFA 2024-2025 Grade and Labeling Standards for Olive Oil, Refined Olive Oil, and Olive Pomace Oil)

**Olive Oil** is the oil obtained solely from the fruit of the olive tree (*Olea europaea* L.), solely by mechanical or other physical means under conditions, including thermal conditions, that do not lead to alterations in the oil, and which has not undergone any treatment other than washing, crushing, malaxing, decantation, pressing, centrifugation, and filtration and to the exclusion of oils obtained using solvents or re-esterification processes and of any mixture with oils of other kinds.

**Extra Virgin Olive Oil** is olive oil that has a free acidity, expressed as free oleic acid, of not more than 0.5 grams per 100 grams, a median of defects equal to 0, and the other characteristics which correspond to the limits fixed for this grade in these standards. Extra Virgin Olive Oil is fit for consumption without further processing.





## DELIVERY & SHIPPING

Deliveries must be received between Monday and Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. Please include entry receipt and lab report with entries. (For Shipping and Delivery Deadlines, see calendar on page 5)

### **Shipping**

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

### **Hand Delivery**

Directions for Hand Delivery:

Enter Cal Expo Fairgrounds at Exposition Blvd and Challenge Way (Blue Gate). Follow signs to Administration. Call the phone number posted on the front door for access.

Deliveries may be dropped off Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

# JUDGING

1. Blind Judging: Judges will taste oils out of a standard, blue olive-oil tasting glass, labeled only with the division, class and a randomly assigned identification code.
2. Double Gold, Gold, Silver & Bronze Awards are given based on individual merit, using a points system. Aroma - 20 points, Flavor - 45 points, Final - 35 points
3. Best of Class Awards are given based on highest score of 90+ point entries. Ties are broken by a comparison tasting.
4. Best of Show and Best of California Awards are given by a blind comparison tasting among eligible Best of Class entries.
5. The decision of the Judges is final. No changes will be made after judging is complete.
6. Judging Sheets are confidential and are not provided.
7. The California State Fair reserves the right to create or combine divisions or classes if warranted by the number of entries.
8. Judges reserve the right to transfer entries to another division or class, if appropriate..
9. In the interest of safeguarding the reputation of integrity of the California State Fair competitions and its judges, it is required that all judges of the Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition make full disclosure of all relevant industry involvement or association, so that they may be assigned to judge only those Divisions and Classes in which there may be no possible perception of a conflict of interest.

# AWARDS CATALOGUE

Each entry will be awarded a State Fair Rosette representing the highest award won. Bottle stickers and duplicate ribbons will be available for purchase if desired.

**Best of Class** - 58 awards available, one in each class of each division, selected from only gold medal winners with scores of 90+.

**Double Gold Award** - score of 98-100

**Gold Award** - score of 86-97

**Silver Award** - score of 76 - 85

**Bronze Award** - score of 65-75

## Best of California Awards

**Selected from only Best of Class winners in the Extra Virgin Olive Oil Show**

- Best California Delicate Single Variety EVOO
- Best California Medium Single Variety EVOO
- Best California Robust Single Variety EVOO
- Best California Delicate Blend EVOO
- Best California Medium Blend EVOO
- Best California Robust Blend EVOO
- Best California EVOO by a Micro producer (less than 500 gallons)
- Best California EVOO by an Artisan Producer (501- 4,999 gallons)
- Best California EVOO by a Large Producer (more than 5,000 gallons)

**Selected from only Best of Class Winners in the Flavored Olive Oil Show**

- Best California Co-Milled Flavored Olive Oil
- Best California Infused Flavored Olive Oil

## Best of Show

Three (3) awards given, one in the Extra Virgin Olive Oil Monovarietal Show, one in the Extra Virgin Olive Oil Blend Show and one in the Flavored Olive Oil Show. Best of Show winners will receive an engraved Golden Bear Trophy.

## Friend to the Consumer Award

The Judge may select up to (2) two Producers whose labeling exemplifies education and disclosure to the consumer.

Qualifications:

- Oil is packaged in dark glass or other opaque, non-porous packaging
- Package includes a Harvest Date, Best if Used By or Use by date.

Judge will consider disclosure of:

- Provenance (as specific as possible: state, region, and/or estate),
- Freshness Assurance (Harvest Date, Best By, and/or Best if Used By Date, Storage Instructions)
- Tasting & Flavor Notes (flavors, aromas, intensity, name of varietal(s))
- Use Notes (suggested culinary uses)
- Consumer-friendly clarity.

## **Additional Benefits For Award Winners**

The dedication of producers to crafting high-quality extra virgin olive oil embodies the spirit of excellence we aim to highlight with this competition. Together, let's elevate the prestige of California's olive oil industry!

The California State Fair is proud to promote award-winning California Olive Oil in the following ways:

### **The Best of California Magazine**

The official magazine of the California State Fair's commercial competitions features award-winning wine, cheese, beer and extra virgin olive oil with full page articles and photos. It's a great buyer's guide to California's very best. Visit our website to view past editions.

### **Competition Results Press Release**

This annual press release is full of competition information and highlights the Best of Show winners. Add your own list of awards, business info and a personalized statement, and forward to all of your favorite local news outlets to spread your good news!

### **Best of Show Award Ceremony & Press Event**

Best of Show winners from the California State Fair's esteemed commercial competitions for wine, beer, cheese, olive oil and cannabis are presented with their engraved Golden Bear statuette awards at this annual event, set against the backdrop of the beautiful Cal Expo wine garden. Watch for special events throughout the day!

### **Sales & Sampling at the California State Fair**

Sample and sell your oils at the Extra Virgin Olive Oil exhibit. A beautiful, pre-decorated tasting booth includes merchandising space, large counters, and food prep and storage facilities. Reserve the space by the day. Priority registration is offered to 2025 competition winners, starting with Best of Show winners. Fees apply.



## Tasting Classes at the California State Fair

Your consumers have spoken! They desire additional knowledge of how to taste, purchase and enjoy extra virgin olive oil. Sign up to lead one or more 20-minute tasting classes in the beautiful Taste of California Classroom. Facilities, sampling supplies, a classroom aide, and seating for 24 students are provided.

## Cooking Demonstrations at the California State Fair

Show your consumers how to prepare dishes that feature lots of delicious and healthful California extra virgin olive oil. The Cooking Theatre is a full demonstration kitchen with seating for up to 100 with additional standing room. Ingredients, food storage and prep areas, MC Services, and sample portioning and passing assistance are provided.



# DIVISIONS & CLASSES

Only oils made from 100% olives which are grown, processed and packaged in California are eligible for this competition.

## **Extra Virgin Olive Oil Monovarietal Show**

Monovarietal entries must contain 90% of the named cultivar.

### **DIVISION 1100: EVOO Monovarietal Delicate**

### **DIVISION 1101: EVOO Monovarietal Medium**

### **DIVISION 1102: EVOO Monovarietal Robust**

#### **VARIETAL CLASSES**

1	Mission	7	Koroneiki
2	Manzanillo	8	Frantoio
3	Sevillano	9	Picual
4	Ascolano	10	Coratina
5	Arbequina	11	Leccino
6	Arbosana	12	Any Other Cultivar

## **Extra Virgin Olive Oil Blend Show**

At least 85% of the oil must be from olives grown in named region. Regions are defined by County on page 7.

### **DIVISION 1103: EVOO Blend Delicate**

### **DIVISION 1104: EVOO Blend Medium**

### **DIVISION 1105: EVOO Blend Robust**

#### **REGIONAL CLASSES**

1	North Coast Blend
2	Sacramento Valley Blend
3	Sierra Foothill Blend
4	Central Coast Blend
5	San Joaquin Valley Blend
6	South Coast and Southern California Blend
7	California Blend (Interregional)

## **Flavored Olive Oil Show**

### **DIVISION 1106: Co-Milled Flavored Olive Oil**

### **DIVISION 1107: Infused Flavored Olive Oil**

#### **FLAVOR CLASSES**

1	Citrus Flavored Oil
2	Herbal Flavored Oil
3	Chili-based Flavored Oil
4	Garlic Flavored Oil
5	Any Other Flavored Oil



# 2025 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:
- a. **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.
  - b. **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.
  - 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, 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  
1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815

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.