

# **ROCKDALE FAIR**

## **October 14, 15, 16, & 17, 2026**

### **GENERAL RULES**

#### **Junior Market– Commercial Heifers --Ag Mechanics Baked Goods -- Breeding Beef Heifers**

##### **A. Eligibility:**

1. Junior Market, Commercial Heifer and Breeding Beef Heifer Shows
  - a. Exhibitor must be a Milam County resident attending public, private, or home school or a non-resident attending a Milam County public or private school.
  - b. Exhibitor must be an **ACTIVE** member of a Milam County FFA Chapter or 4-H Club.
  - c. Exhibitor must be a minimum of 5 years old and in Kindergarten as of September 1 of the current year.
  - d. Exhibitor must not participate in any other out of county “county-level” market show during the current school year.
- e. Projects must be owned, raised and fed by the exhibitor and housed on exhibitor premises or school barn facility. If fed & raised at another physical address, prior approval is required from the Livestock Vice President.**
- f. An ineligible exhibitor, according to his/her school administration, will not be permitted to have an entry shown at the Rockdale Fair.

B. Health rules are subject to change yearly. Contact your C.E.A. or Ag. Science Teacher before the show for specific requirements regarding health rules. Any unhealthy or sick animals will be subject to disqualification and removal from the grounds. The Rockdale Fair Association (RFA) is not responsible for any illness, injury, death or damage of a project during the fair. All animals will be shown at the owners' risk.

C. Each individual will be allowed to exhibit three (3) animals per market division with the exception of Market Rabbits, Broilers and Turkeys which will be two (2) pens only.

##### **D. Entry Fees and Stall Reservations:**

1. Entries for the Market Show will be due at each individual tag-in or pick-up, \$30.00 fee per entry. Commercial Heifers pen entries will be \$60.00.
2. There will be one (1) entry blank per exhibitor with number of head or pens indicated on entry form. Must also submit an IRS W-9 form with social security number for each exhibitor. **The Premises Acknowledgement Form must also be completed and signed by parent.**
3. There will be no refund of entry fees, pellets, shavings, Commercial Heifer vet fees.
4. Stall space is limited and will be assigned.
5. Only Market Barrow Swine, Market Wether Lambs and Market Wether Goat are eligible to be tagged.

E. An Exhibitor is permitted to tag a maximum of 5 animals in each division, and 10 rabbits per exhibitor. A \$5.00 per head fee will be charged for each additional animal after 5 animals or 10 rabbits. The family order rule will apply to all divisions.

Ownership and Tag-in dates are as follows:

- 1. Commercial Heifers: April 4, 2026, 8:30 to 10:30 am, Rockdale Fair Park at Comm Heifer barn.**  
**Palpation and Body Condition Scoring: Oct. 3, 2026, 8:30 to 10:30 am, Fair Park at Comm Heifer barn.**
- 2. Steers: Major show tag will be accepted or steers need be tagged July 11, 2026, 7:00 to 9:00 am, Rockdale Fair Park. ALL ENTRY FORMS DUE OR POSTMARKED BY JULY 11, 2026 and must show Texas major show tag validation number with exhibitor or family name.**
- 3. Lambs, Swine & Goats: July 11, 2026, 7:00 to 9:00 am, Rockdale Fair Park**
- 4. Rabbits: September 14, 2026, 5:30 to 7:00 pm, Home Demonstration Building, Rockdale Fair Park.**

**5. Broilers: Order through RFA, by May 15, 2026 pick-up September 4, 2026 Home Demonstration Bldg., Rockdale Fair Park, 12:00 to 2:00 pm, Cost per broiler: \$1.74. A minimum of 25 chicks per entry must be purchased by each exhibitor.**

**6. Turkey: Order through RFA, by May 15, 2026 pick-up June 19, 2026 Home Demonstration Bldg., Rockdale Fair Park, 3:00 to 5:00 pm, HENS ONLY. Cost per turkey: \$5.00. A minimum of 5 poults per exhibitor must be ordered and in multiples of 5.**

**7. Breeding Beef Heifer entries postmarked and due September 14, 2026.**

- F. If a steer, lamb, swine, goat or Commercial Heifer loses an ear tag, immediately notify Livestock Vice President Brian Fisher at 512-567-0722. The animal must be retagged by the Superintendent as soon as possible after notification.
- G. All exhibitors showing market animals, commercial heifers, breeding beef heifers, baked food and ag mechanic projects will be required to come to one board approved cleanup/set up day, **Sunday, October 4th, 1:30 to 4:30 pm or Sunday, October 11, 1:30 to 4:30 pm**. Exhibitors will be required to sign in. FAILURE TO ATTEND MAY RESULT IN PROBATION OR DISQUALIFICATION.
- H. All market animals can begin arriving at 7:00 am on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The following division and in place times are as follows: Commercial Heifers by 9:00 am; Poultry, Rabbits, Swine, Lambs, Goats, Steers, and Breeding Beef Heifers by 11:00 am. ALL park gates will close at 11:00 am, and all cars, trucks, and trailers must be removed from Fair Park to public parking areas. Rabbits, Broilers and Turkeys will park at Patterson Center and walk cages through the front gate. Carts will be available to help. Swine, Lambs and Goats will enter in the front gate to unload; all others will enter through the back gate by the Livestock office to unload.
- I. Shavings for Lambs, Goats and Swine and pellets for Steers and Breeding Beef Heifers must be purchased through the Rockdale Fair Association on entry forms. No other shavings will be allowed on the premises. They will be available for pickup on Wednesday, October 14th. Only 1 bag of shavings per exhibitor will be allowed for Lambs, Goats and Swine.
- J. All entries must be exhibited by the owner, except when a boy or girl has more than one entry in the same class or is participating in another Rockdale Fair Event. Substitutions must be a bona fide 4-H or FFA member of Milam County, by Sept. 1, must not have completed his/her secondary education, and must meet approval of the Division Superintendent prior to judging.
- K. Ownership cards must be presented at the scales at time of weigh-in. There will be NO re-weighs except for scale check.
- L. Showmanship will be in Swine, Lambs, Goats, Broilers, Turkeys, Rabbits, Breeding Heifer, and Steers. **Owners must only exhibit their animals for showmanship. Only animals that are eligible to show can participate in showmanship.** Classes will be based on the exhibitor's age at time of show.
  - 1. Junior: ages 5 to 8
  - 2. Intermediate: ages 9 to 13
  - 3. Senior: ages 14 and up
- M. There will be a herdsman award in Market Swine, Lamb, Goat, Broiler, Turkey, Rabbit, Steer, Breeding Heifer and Commercial Heifer Divisions after each show. Exhibitors must keep a clean pen, free of trash, excessive droppings, dirty food and water bowls, and keep supply area close to or above their pen neat. Exhibitors must also show evidence that they are attentive to pen area and animals.
- N. No market animals, poultry, or breeding heifers will be released until 6:00 am on Sunday. Commercial heifers may be released on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm ONLY, loading out on the south side of heifer barn and exiting Gate 5 or Sunday morning from 6:00 to 9:30 am. All animals, tack and exhibits must be picked up no later than 9:30 am on Sunday. All exhibitors are responsible for cleaning out their pens/stalls, raking hay to the center of the aisles and removing their trash to the dumpsters by 9:30 am Sunday or they will be put on probation or disqualified for the next year.

- O. A protest against an award or eligibility must be in writing, accompanied by a \$500.00 cash deposit to the Vice President of Livestock, within one hour following the conclusion of the division show. No check will be accepted. In the case where the protest is not sustained, the deposit will be forfeited to the Rockdale Fair Association. The protest committee will consist of Division Superintendent, President, President Elect, Past-President and Vice President of Livestock. The Vice President of Livestock will notify the exhibitor of the protest. No other type of protest will be considered by the Livestock Committee.
- P. Violation of any Rockdale Fair rule or misconduct by exhibitor or parent/guardian, will serve as a disqualification of exhibitor/family from the show for the current year and future years if the Rockdale Fair Association deems it necessary.
- Q. Any exhibitor who participates in the Youth Auction, Commercial Heifer, Baked Food & Ag Mechanics sale or who is the proud recipient of a Belt Buckle or Herdsman Award, must write thank you notes to their buyers, added money donors and sponsors. Leave the **stamped** thank-you notes **UNSEALED** and put your name and return address on the envelope. The thank you notes may be mailed to Rockdale Fair Association, PO Box 1582, Rockdale, TX 76567, hand delivered to Cindy in Thorndale, or **dropped off at the Livestock office on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 pm**. The thank you notes are due or postmarked by **November 13, 2026**. The sale picture and delivery confirmation card; provided by the Rockdale Fair Association must be picked up by the Exhibitor, their parent or representative on **Tuesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the livestock office**. Failure to pick up the picture will result in a \$100.00 deduction from the exhibitor's sale check. The Exhibitor must personally hand deliver his/her picture to the Buyer or Sponsor by **January 11, 2027**. The picture confirmation card will need to be signed by the buyer/sponsor when the picture is delivered, and the exhibitor will then need to **mail the card postmarked by January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2027** to the sale Secretary. Checks will be mailed after signed confirmation cards are received. Failure to write thank you notes or deliver pictures within the above time frame will result in a \$250.00 deduction for each obligation not met by date specified. Herdsman award winners that fail to meet these obligations will forfeit the \$25.00 Herdsman award. If any of the obligations listed above are not met, this would be a violation of the Rockdale Fair Sale rules and the exhibitor may be sent a probation or disqualification letter.

Livestock Vice President, Brian Fisher 512-567-0722  
Email: blindekuhbbq@gmail.com

Livestock Secretary: Cindy Hughes, Cell: 512-760-0669  
Email: cedar\_hughes@yahoo.com

Rockdale Fair Association  
P. O. Box 1582, Rockdale, Texas 76567  
Email: rockdalefair@yahoo.com

## **DIVISION RULES**

### **MARKET RABBITS:**

**Superintendent – Robin Heintze 512-760-0060**  
**MUST BE IN PENS BY 11:00 am, Thursday**  
**WEIGH-IN: 11:30 am, Thursday**  
**SHOW TIME: 2:00 pm, THURSDAY**

- A. Upon entrance to the Fair, each pen of 3 rabbits will be assigned an individual identification number per exhibitor.
- B. Entries shall consist of meat pens only. Only 2 pens may be entered per exhibitor. 3(three) rabbits, either sex, must weigh at least 3½ pounds and not be over 5½ pounds each.
- C. Pre-sift at weigh in and unhealthy or sick animals (ear canker or snuffles) will be subject to disqualification and removal from the grounds.

### **MARKET TURKEYS:**

**Superintendent –Missy Christman 979-739-8370**  
**MUST BE IN PENS BY 11:00 am, Thursday**  
**SHOW TIME: At the conclusion of the Market Broiler show, THURSDAY**

- A. The Market Turkey show is a **HEN** show.
- B. A minimum of 5 poults per exhibitor must be ordered and in multiples of 5. If there is more than one exhibitor per family, exhibitor may show any of the poults purchased by that family. A maximum of 2 (two) entries will be allowed to enter the show per exhibitor.
- C. Exhibitors may only enter one hen per five poults ordered.
- D. Turkeys will have numbered wing bands. If the wing band is lost, the bird is ineligible.
- E. **Turkeys must be fed and watered for the duration of the Fair.**

### **MARKET BROILERS:**

**Superintendent – Missy Christman: 979-739-8370**  
**MUST BE IN PENS BY 11:00 am, Thursday**  
**SHOW TIME: 11:30 am, THURSDAY**

- A. Market broiler pens shall consist of 3 (three) broilers.
- B. A minimum of 25 chicks per entry must be purchased by each exhibitor. If there is more than one exhibitor per family, exhibitor may show any of the birds purchased by that family. A maximum of 2 (two) entries/pens will be allowed to enter the show per exhibitor.
- C. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to have at least one person and the exhibitor present at each of his/her pens of broilers during judging time to hold broilers for judging.
- D. Chicks will have numbered wing bands. If the wing band is removed or lost, the bird is ineligible.
- E. Broiler pen will consist of either 3 (three) pullets or 3 (three) cockerels. Pullets will be judged against pullets, cockerels against cockerels. If an exhibitor has a mixed pen, it will be shown as cockerels.
- F. Only 3 broilers per pen can remain on Fair grounds, all others need to be removed.
- G. **Broilers must be fed and watered for the duration of the Fair.**

### **MARKET GOATS:**

**Superintendent- Glenn Clinard – 512-661-8058**  
**MUST BE IN PENS BY 11:00 am, Thursday**  
**Weigh-In – at the conclusion of Market Lamb Weigh-In**  
**SHOW TIME- 12:00 noon, FRIDAY**

- A. All market wether goats must weigh at least 50 pounds and not more than 125 pounds upon entry into the show. All goats must be weighed upon entry at the show and will be divided into four weight classes by the Division Superintendent.
- B. All horns must be tipped blunt.
- C. All market wether goats must be shown slick shorn from hock and knee up, excluding tail switch upon arrival Thursday at the Rockdale Fair.
- D. Breeder tags must be removed before weigh in.

### **MARKET SWINE:**

**Superintendent – Duane Kuhl 512-924-1348**  
**MUST BE IN PENS BY 11:00 am, Thursday**  
**Weigh-In: 11:30 am, Thursday**  
**SHOW TIME: 9:00 am, FRIDAY**

- A. All market barrow swine entered in the show must weigh a minimum of 230 pounds but not over **300** pounds. All swine must be weighed upon entry to the show and will be divided into four weight classes by the Division Superintendent.
- B. Breeder tags must be removed before weigh-in.
- C. **NO FEED ALLOWED TO SALE SWINE ON THE DAY OF THE SALE.**

### **MARKET LAMBS:**

**Superintendent – Laramie Payne 512-760-0009**  
**MUST BE IN PENS BY 11:00 am, Thursday**  
**Weigh-In: 12:30 pm, Thursday**  
**SHOW TIME: 6:30 pm, THURSDAY**

- A. All market wether lambs must weigh at least 90 pounds upon entry at the show. All lambs must be weighed upon entry at the show and will be divided into four weight classes by the Division Superintendent.
- B. All market wether lambs must be slick shorn from hock and knee up, upon arrival Thursday at the Rockdale Fair.
- C. Breeder tags must be removed before weigh-in.

### **MARKET STEERS:**

**Superintendent – Chad Hobbs 512-848-8282**  
**MUST BE IN THE BARN BY 11:00 am, Thursday**  
**Weigh-In – 1:30 pm, Thursday**  
**SHOW TIME: 4:30 pm, FRIDAY**

- A. All steers must be weighed upon entry at the show and will be divided into three weight classes by the Division Superintendent.
- B. Steers must weigh a minimum of 1000 pounds at show weigh-in.
- C. All steers must be clipped to have no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of hair on any part of the steer body upon arrival Thursday at the Rockdale Fair. The only exception will be the tail switch.
- D. Breeder tags must be removed before weigh-in.

**BREEDING BEEF HEIFERS:**

**Superintendent: Linda Hicks: 512-994-6332**

**Must be in the barn by 11:00 am, Thursday.**

**Show Time: 2:00 pm, FRIDAY.**

- A. Purebreds--Animals with registration papers  
Crossbreds---Animals without registration papers
- B. Heifers will be shown by their breed division, American, British, Exotic and Crossbreds  
All heifers must be in the exhibitor's name by September 4th.  
Crossbreds with no papers must be tagged in on July 11th from 7:00 to 9:00 am  
Heifer papers will be checked before the show.
- C. Classes:
  - 1. **Heifers born 1/1/26 thru 04/30/26**
  - 2. **Heifers born 1/1/25 thru 12/31/25**
  - 3. **Heifers born 1/1/24 thru 12/31/24**
- D. Heifer papers will be checked after the Steer weigh-in on Thursday.

**COMMERCIAL HEIFERS:**

**Superintendent—Wesley Janak-512-626-0511**

**Check-in: 7:00 to 9:00 am, Thursday**

**Must be in the barn by 9:00 am, Thursday**

**Show Time: 12:00 pm, THURSDAY**

**Buyer Brunch Saturday October 17th at 9:00 am, Patterson Center**

**Sale Time: 10:30 am Saturday at Show Barn**

- A. Commercial Heifer entries must be less than two years of age at tag-in date. Any heifer with an eruption of adult incisors will not be allowed to enter. Heifers must be polled or dehorned at tag-in and the committee will inspect heifers.
- B. Upon arrival Thursday and during the Rockdale Fair, ONLY RFA TAGS and FLY TAGS will be allowed. Heifers will not be required to be halter broken; however, the heifers must have a gentle disposition that would allow close viewing by a panel AT PALPATION, SHOWING and EXHIBITION AT THE FAIR. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. A pen of two heifers, same breed classification, type and kind must be exhibited for competition. A minimum of TWO and a maximum of FIVE heifers may be tagged in per exhibitor at the initial tag-in. If a heifer or heifers have calves at side, they may be exhibited for competition. Only 1 pen per exhibitor.
- C. Heifer palpation fee will be collected prior to unloading heifers and before palpation on October 3, 2026. Heifers must be palpated at least 90 days pregnant AS DETERMINED by a qualified person. Exhibitors will be responsible for the Veterinarian's fee. All heifers must have a minimum body condition score of at least 5 to compete at Rockdale Fair.
- D. A record book of the exhibitor's heifer project is OPTIONAL and is to be turned into the committee during the heifer check-in. The Commercial Heifer Expense Report needs to be part of the record book for each month that the exhibitor owns the heifers. Record Books will be judged for a Grand and Reserve award.
- E. Only 75% of the pens that qualify at palpation will sell at the Fair with a maximum of 40 and a minimum of 18. Heifers will sell as a pen, with the number of heifers times the money bid being the total amount received.
- F. In order to comply with the national law on the Beef Check-Off, \$1.00 will be deducted from the sale price of each heifer.
- G. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to make arrangements with the buyer for delivery of the heifers.
- H. All exhibitors will be required to feed, water and care for their heifers until the heifers are released to the buyer. Heifers may be released on Saturday between 12:00 and 2:00 pm loading on South side of comm heifer barn and exit Gate 5 or on Sunday morning from 6:00 to 9:00 am.
- I. All exhibitors will be required to recite or read a summary of their project while standing in front of a presentation before their heifers are sold at the auction. The summary should focus on the heifers, their breed and sire breed.
- J. All exhibitors will be required to place a poster, plaque, etc. on their pen that identifies their name, 4-H or FFA Chapter, the heifer's breeder's name and the sire's breeder's name, if known. This poster, plaque, etc. must be removed before the judge arrives at the heifer pens on Friday. After judging, the poster, plaque, etc. must be placed on the pen again. IF THE POSTER, PLAQUE, ETC. IS NOT PUT BACK IN PLACE A \$25.00 FEE WILL BE CHARGED.
- K. All Rockdale Fair Association General Rules and Sale Rules apply.
- L. There will be a Sales Talk Competition in all age divisions. This is strictly voluntary.

M. Stalls must be cleaned and checked by a Commercial Heifer Committee Member. If they are not cleaned, a fee of \$100.00 will be deducted from the exhibitor's check.

N. DO NOT DUMP WATER IN THE PENS.