



24th District Agricultural Association
2026 Tulare County Fair
 JUNIOR LIVESTOCK INDEPENDENT EXHIBITOR
 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Welcome to the Tulare County Fair Junior Livestock Independent Exhibitor Program!

We are pleased that you have decided to bring an animal to the fair to exhibit, and possibly sell at the 24th DAA Tulare County Fair. **Be sure to read all the enclosed information carefully and meet all the requirements and deadlines.** Failure to comply with any rules or requirements/deadlines may result in disqualification of all entries and the forfeiture of all entry fees.

WHO QUALIFIES AS AN INDEPENDENT EXHIBITOR?

An exhibitor who is not eligible to compete in a certain category as a member of a 4-H, Grange or FFA junior organization (i.e. exhibitor is not a member of a club; exhibitor is a member of 4-H but there is no project leader for the exhibitor's chosen project species or high school students who cannot fit FFA into their school class schedule may show at the Tulare County Fair as an independent exhibitor). Independent Exhibitors **MUST** be 9 years of age by **January 1, 2026**, to compete in large animal (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Market Goats, Rabbit Meat Pen & Poultry Meat Pen) competition at California Fairs to sell in the 24th DAA Junior Livestock Auction held during the Tulare County Fair. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31st of the year in which they turn 19 years of age and are Tulare County Residents. Exhibitors may be ineligible to participate as an Independent Exhibitor if documented, disciplinary action involving their project(s) has been taken against them by 4-H, FFA or Grange organizations. Length of ineligibility is to be determined by fair management. All exhibitors must have an "on ground" supervisor by a responsible adult during the fair. Independent Exhibitor Records are only required for animals being sold at the Tulare County Fair.

INDEPENDENT EXHIBITOR REQUIREMENTS (Market Animals Only):

- **Proof of Ownership**
 - Project Registration page completed and signed by both the Exhibitor and Parent/Guardian, upload the form into ShoWorks with your online entry.
 - Independents will need to pick-up and purchase ear tags from the fair office. The fair will provide each exhibitor up to two market tags, additional tags can be purchased at \$5.00 each. Exhibitors can enter as many market animals as they wish by the entry deadlines, but only two market animals per exhibitor may be shown at the Tulare County Fair.
 - **Replacement tags prior to the entry deadline the exhibitor will be charged \$5.00. Replacement tags after the entry deadline, the exhibitor will be charged \$100.00, and the original tag will need to be brought into the fair office to receive the replacement. The animal will then need to be tagged with the new tag, new photos taken and emailed to jmason@tcfair.org.**
 - Appropriate proof of ownership/bill of sale. A bill of sale, with all the pertinent information, **is required even if the animal was raised from birth by the exhibitor.**
 - All Market beef and beef replacement Heifers wishing to exhibit and sell at the 2026 Tulare County Fair must be entered into the fair by May 19, 2026. Entries close at midnight. To have a complete entry into the 2026 fair you must upload 3 photos-
 1. animal side profile picture
 2. animal front profile clearly identifying the animal and official fair tag (you receive from your advisor or leader)
 3. Back of official fair ear tag once animal has been tagged to show proof animal has been tagged.

To have a valid entry into the 2026 Tulare County Fair all photos must be legible and received, the official fair tag must be entered with the appropriate entry and you will need to be entered by the deadline.

- All Market Hogs, Lambs and Goats wishing to exhibit and sell at the 2026 Tulare County Fair must be entered into the fair by July 17, 2026. Entries close at midnight. To have a complete entry into the 2026 fair you must upload 3 photos-
 1. animal side profile picture
 2. animal front profile clearly identifying the animal and official fair tag (you receive from your advisor or leader)
 3. back of official fair ear tag once animal has been tagged to show proof animal has been tagged.

To have a valid entry into the 2026 Tulare County Fair all photos must be legible and received, the official fair tag must be entered with the appropriate entry and you will need to be entered by the deadline.

- All Market meat pen of rabbits wishing to exhibit and sell at the 2026 Tulare County Fair must be entered into the fair by August 16, 2026. Entries close at midnight. To have a complete entry into the 2026 fair you must upload 3 photos (include both rabbits in each photo)
 1. animal profile clearly identifying the animal.
 2. Inside of rabbits ear clearly showing tattoo. (Do not give your rabbits the same tattoo, each rabbit needs to be given a different tattoo. Tattoos must be permanent.)

To have a valid entry into the 2026 Tulare County Fair all photos must be legible and received, the tattoos must be entered online with the appropriate entry, and you will need to be entered by the deadline.

- All Market poultry meat pens wishing to exhibit and sell at the 2026 Tulare County Fair must be entered into the fair by August 16, 2026. Entries close at midnight. To have a complete entry into the 2026 fair you must upload 4 photos (2 for each rabbit)-
 1. animal profile clearly identifying the animal.
 2. each bird must be identified with a numbered leg band. (Do not give your birds the same leg bands.)

To have a valid entry into the 2026 Tulare County Fair all photos must be legible and received, the leg bands must be entered online with the appropriate entry, and you will need to be entered by the deadline.

- If you have a backup animal (individual or family), the same above information needs to be submitted.
- Quality Assurance training verification. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals must be completed online (www.yqcaprogram.org). You must include your certificate with your proof of ownership to be eligible for the 2026 Tulare County Fair.
- Adult Supervision/Independent Exhibitor Leader Information Form completed and signed.
- Providing these documents will REGISTER you as an Independent Exhibitor for the 2025 Tulare County Fair. Turning in the Exhibitor Information form **DOES NOT** enter the exhibitor into the fair. See Entering the Fair section below.
- **DEADLINE (by species) no later than 4:00 PM at the Fair Office:**

▪ Beef	120 days before fair	Tuesday, May 19, 2026
▪ Sheep, Goats & Swine	60 days before fair	Saturday, July 17, 2026
▪ Rabbits & Poultry	30 days before fair	Monday, August 16, 2026

• Entering the Fair

- The project animal must be “entered” into the annual fair through the online system at www.tcfair.org and all entries fees must be paid. Please input “INDEPENDENT” for the club’s name. Be sure to complete the online entry by clicking submit, paying the fees and getting a confirmation email. Maintain the confirmation email for your records.

- All State and Local Rules in the Exhibitor Handbook are to be reviewed and followed by the Exhibitor.
- Parent passes can be purchased at the same time as the project gets entered online.
- Exhibitors will receive a free wristband after weigh-in.
- **ENTRY DEADLINE TO THE FAIR IS THE SAME DATE AS OWNERSHIP DEADLINE DO NOT WAIT OR BE LATE TO ENTER:**

- **ENTRY DEADLINE BEEF** **TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026**
- **ENTRY DEADLINE SHEEP, GOATS & SWINE** **SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2026**
- **ENTRY DEADLINE RABBITS, POULTRY & DAIRY REPLACEMENT HEIFERS** **MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026**

*****NOTE- ALL ENTRIES CLOSE at midnight on their respective DAY!**

- **Training & Education**

- MUST attend six (6) educational meetings/trainings, related to your project, from October to August of the current year.
- Document each meeting/training, in your own format, with the following items: Date of Meeting/Training, Type of Meeting/Training, a Summary of what was discussed and Location of the Meeting/Training.
- This information is to be turned into the fair office by the deadline below. If it is not turned in, the Independent Exhibitor **WILL NOT** be able to participate in the 2027 fair.
- **DEADLINE (minimum of 6 meetings/trainings):**
 - Meeting/Training Verification Report **Wednesday, September 30, 2026**

- **Reporting**

- MUST provide a minimum of six (6) hours of community service. Document each service, in your own format, with the following items: Date of Service, Type of Service, a Summary/Description of the service that you provided and who it benefited, Location of Service and time spent on Service.
- MUST provide documentation of all medication and weight gain/loss during the project. This record will show any shots or medication (including dosage and purpose) that was administered, and date(s) administered (follow withdrawal times on all medication). If NO medication was administered, a document stating that is to be turned in.
- **DEADLINE:**
 - Community Service and Medication & Weight Reports **Wednesday, September 30, 2026**

- **Tulare County Fair**

- A stall card is mandatory on the project pens. It is to identify the exhibitor, their animals, and their hometown.
- Exhibitors must follow all rules and regulations, including dress code, pertaining to junior livestock exhibitors at the annual fair. See the Exhibitor Handbook for more detailed information.

- **After the Tulare County Fair & 24th DAA Junior Livestock Auction**

- After the auction, a list of buyers and supporters will be posted. You are responsible for writing your buyer and those that gave you add-ons during the auction. You will need to deliver thank you cards in self-addressed stamped envelopes to the fair office in order to receive your auction check.
- Auction checks will be available approximately 10 days after the auction.
- **TO PICK UP YOUR PAYMENT**, all above items must have been turned in by the deadlines and the following:
 - **MUST** produce a Project Record. This record is used to record all expenses and income related to the project. If you have two projects, each animal should have its own project record. Document the information, in your own format, with the following items: Date, Description, Expense (including the purchase of the animal and feed costs), Income and Hours Spent on the project (training, feeding, etc.). All records should be documented clearly. Be sure to include all entry fees and sale costs as well as document the net profit on the project.
 - Addressed, sealed, and stamped thank you cards to each buyer and add-ons **MUST** be brought in with the final reports **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30th**.
- **Auction checks WILL NOT be released without the receipt of the Independent Exhibitor's Project Record, and appropriate thank you cards.**

All reports and records, with the exception of the Project Registration Page and Supervisor Form, may be handwritten or typed by the Exhibitor and in a format of the Exhibitors choice.

Complete Independent Exhibitor Documents will be available for pickup after September 29th.

Unacceptable Records/Documents turned in may result in not being able to register as an Independent Exhibitor in the following year.

All documents need to have the Exhibitor's Name and Project Year listed on the front.

The Tulare County Fair will run September 16-20, 2026.

We look forward to seeing you there and we hope you have an educational experience.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the fair office at (559) 686-4707.

INDEPENDENT EXHIBITOR PROJECT REGISTRATION PAGE

Be sure to upload this document with the required pictures with your entry and **a copy of the bill of sale or receipt for the purchase of the animal** and **quality assurance certificate to this form.**

Do a separate form for EACH animal you are registering.

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

ANIMAL INFORMATION:

Name _____

Species _____

Breed _____

Date Purchased _____

Breeder _____

Where Purchased _____

Birth Date _____

Sex _____

Cost _____

Identification (tag, notch, etc.) _____

The undersigned declares,

- That his/her livestock entry(ies) has been under his/her ownership, care, and management for the appropriate amount of time according to State Rules (120 days prior to fair for beef and dairy; 60 days prior to fair for sheep, goats, and swine; 30 days prior to fair for rabbits and poultry).
- That he/she has not been a member of a junior division organization for this project since the current calendar year.
- That he/she will read, understand, and abide by all State and Local Rules pertaining to his/her junior livestock project printed in the 2026 Tulare County Fair Exhibitor Handbook.
- That he/she has attached the Quality Assurance Certificate.
- That he/she has received, completed, and will turn in all the appropriate records as required by the Tulare County Fair Junior Livestock Independent Exhibitor Program. Meeting deadlines to submit forms is the responsibility of the junior livestock exhibitor. **Failure to comply with all rules, regulations and deadlines may result in the disqualification of your project animal, all entries, forfeiture of all entry fees and no sale at the 24th DAA Junior Livestock Auction.**

Exhibitor Signature & Date

Parent Signature & Date
Contact Number: _____

**INDEPENDENT EXHIBITOR
ADULT SUPERVISOR/LEADER INFORMATION FORM**

As the responsible adult supervising this project, I certify that the animal(s) stated on the Independent Exhibitor Project Registration Form and shown in the photos is currently owned by the Independent Exhibitor. The project animal is in his/her care, being fed, watered, housed, and trained primarily by the Independent Exhibitor.

I further certify that I or my below name designee, will remain on the fairgrounds as a supervisor of the named Independent Exhibitor throughout the days of the fair.

Name of Parent/Guardian _____
Relationship to Exhibitor _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Signature of Parent/Guardian _____
Date _____

Name of Alternate Designated Supervisor _____
Relationship to Exhibitor _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Signature of Alternate Supervisor _____
Date _____

INDEPENDENT EXHIBITOR 2026 TULARE COUNTY FAIR CHECKLIST

Name: _____

- **Proof of Ownership (date depends on species – May 19th, July 17th, August 16th)**

- _____ Project Registration page completed and signed.
- _____ Animal Ear tags purchased from fair.
- _____ Animal(s) entered in fair with all pictures, project registration form signed, adult leader/supervisor information form and bill of sale uploaded with entries.
- _____ YQCA www.yqcaprogram.org Youth for the Quality Care of Animals certification must be turned in at the time of entry. Upload your certificate with your entry.

- **Tulare County Fair- September 16-20, 2026**

- _____ MUST have a stall card on the project pens. It is to identify the exhibitor, their animals, and their hometown.

- **Enter the Fair (Entries CLOSE)**

- **ENTRY DEADLINE BEEF & DAIRY** **TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026**
- **ENTRY DEADLINE SHEEP, GOATS & SWINE** **SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2026**
- **ENTRY DEADLINE RABBITS & POULTRY** **MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026**

- _____ Be sure to receive the confirmation email that you have entered and keep that with your records.

- **Training & Education**

- _____ MUST attend six (6) educational meetings/trainings, related to your project, from October to August of the current year (exhibitor name, date of meeting/training, type of meeting/training and location of meeting/training).

- **Reporting**

- _____ MUST have a minimum of six (6) hours of Community Service (date of service, type of service, description, who it benefited, location of service and time spent).
- _____ MUST provide Medication & Weight Report (shots, medication, purpose, dosage, withdrawal times and weight gain/loss). Documentation must be provided even if no medication was given.

- **After Fair**

Auction Payment (you will receive a list of buyers and add-ons to complete thank you cards)

- _____ MUST turn in Project Record (all expenses and income related to the project).
- _____ Addressed and stamped Thank You Cards to each buyer and add-on supporter.
- _____ Drop your Project Record and Thank You Cards off to Fair office by September 30, 2026, to receive your auction check.