

Gonzales County Youth Show

2025-2026 Bucket Calf Rules and Requirements

Our Mission: To expose 5 to 8 year olds to the basic care and responsibility of raising a calf.

We are excited that you have chosen to participate in the 2026 Gonzales County Youth Show Bucket Calf Program! The program involves getting a calf at a few days old, bottle feeding, halter breaking, and finally showing the calf. The calf will be around three to five months old when shown at the Gonzales County Youth Show.

Rules

Eligibility

- Open to Gonzales County youth ages 5-8 years old, Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Participants turning 9 as of August 31, 2025 are ineligible. Participants that will be 8 and in the 3rd grade are ineligible to show for the Bucket Calf Program. They now meet the requirements for 4-H and can show with Junior Livestock entries. Participants must be 5 by September 1, 2025.
- Participant **must** attend at least 2 of the 3 project meetings between October and January at the Gonzales Elks Lodge, 1222 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr, Gonzales.
- Participant **must** attend the practice show on February 22nd or March 1st, 2026 at the JB Wells Show Barn.
- Meetings are held once a month on October 7th, November 17th, and January 12th at 5:30 pm at the Gonzales Elks Lodge, 1222 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr, Gonzales.
- Participant must halter break and be able to lead a calf by the time of the Gonzales County Youth Show.

Calf Requirements

- Calf must be born between October 1st, 2025 and December 15th, 2025.
- All mentees must have the calf at the address the mentors visit by December 18th.
- It is strongly encouraged to get a clostridial and respiratory vaccine for the calf as recommended by your veterinarian.
- Calf must be bottle-fed. No nurse calves.
- Calves can be any gender/breed.
- Participants must feed and care for calves in Gonzales County.
- Each exhibitor may show only one calf.
- Each exhibitor may have their own calf or can purchase 1 calf per household to be shared by siblings.
- If the calf becomes ill and/or dies before the December 15th deadline, the committee must be notified immediately.

Project Requirements

- Online Entry Form must be completed by October 1, 2025, and fee of \$25 due at October 2025 meeting.
- Participant is required to keep a record log which must be presented to the Bucket Calf Committee at the Practice Show.

- A picture of the participant and his/her calf must be sent to the Bucket Calf Co-Chairs by December 20th or as soon as the participant has their calf.
- Participant is required to mail out 5 invitations to family, friends, and/or business acquaintances to watch them show. A picture of the letters and envelopes must be sent to the Bucket Calf Co- Chairs by February 9, 2026.
- Read and be familiar with the general rules stated in the Rules and Regulations of the Gonzales County Youth Show.

Mentor Mentee Pairings and Requirements

- Mentors may be requested on the application but cannot be older siblings or someone that lives at the same address as the mentee.
- Mentors are required to complete at least two home visits to work with the mentee and calf before the Gonzales County Youth Show.
- Parents are required to fill out the Mentee Bucket Calf Visit Google Form after each visit from a mentor.

At the Show

- Participant is to attend the Practice Show with calf on Sunday, February 22nd or March 1st at 3:00 PM at JB Wells. Attendance here does not count towards the 2 required meetings.
- Calves will check-in at JB Wells the morning of the show, (March 5th – 7th) and be released after they are shown. More information and times will be determined based off the show schedule set by the Show Board and will be sent out closer to the show.
- Calves will be stalled on asphalt, so it is encouraged for the participant to bring bedding.
- There will be no personal fan use in the stalling area for Bucket Calves.
- Show sticks will be required for the show and are recommended to have during the practice show.
- The calves will not be sold at the show. It is up to each family what they do with the calf after the show.
- The mentees will be introduced during the market animal sale.

Contact Information

Please email pictures of your child and their calf and pictures from mentor visits to:

gcysa.bucketcalf@gmail.com

Cash Rathmann- 830-263-0735

Renee Rathmann- 830-857-3348 or rrathmann@gmail.com