

Gonzales County Youth Show

2025-2026 Bucket Calf Mentor Rules and Requirements

Our Mission: To give high school age students an opportunity to work with 5 to 8 year olds to expose basic care and responsibility of raising and showing cattle.

The Bucket Calf Program offers an opportunity for young kids to start getting involved in the livestock industry. This program is for kindergarten through 2nd graders (5-8 years old) who get a calf at a few days old, bottle feed, halter break, and finally show the calf at the Gonzales County Youth Show. The calf will be around three to five months old when shown at the Gonzales County Youth Show.

Bucket Calf Mentors

High School youth who apply will be selected as a Bucket Calf Mentor by committee members based on their application and reference letter. Those selected will work with youth mentees participating in the project. The mentors will be required to: visit participants at calf location, attend meetings, present as a group at an educational project meeting, attend and help prepare for the practice show with mentees, attend and assist with the Bucket Calf Show at the Gonzales County Youth Show.

Requirements:

- All youth must be an active 4-H or FFA member in Gonzales County.
- Application selection preference will be made for youth with experience showing beef, goats, lambs, and swine. However, all youth interested and who meet the requirements are encouraged to apply.
- Youth must be in the 9th grade-12th grade to participate as a mentor.
- All youth must be in good academic standing (passing or as specified by school).
- All youth must completely fill out the online application and have it submitted electronically no later than October 1, 2025 at midnight.
- All youth Mentors must have parental consent.

- All youth Mentors must present as a part of the educational program at two educational project meetings. Meeting dates are October 7th, November 17th, and January 12th at 5:30 PM at the Gonzales Elks Lodge, 1222 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr, Gonzales.
- All youth mentors must make at least two exhibitor home visits in differing months prior to the practice show.
- All youth mentors must attend and assist with the practice show Sunday, February 22nd or March 1st starting at 3:00 PM at JB Wells. Mentors are expected to be there early to assist mentee upon arrival.
- All youth mentors must attend and assist with the Bucket Calf Show at the Gonzales County Youth Show on the date determined by the show board, March 5th – 7th.

Contact Information – gcysa.bucketcalf@gmail.com

Cash Rathmann- 830-263-0735

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