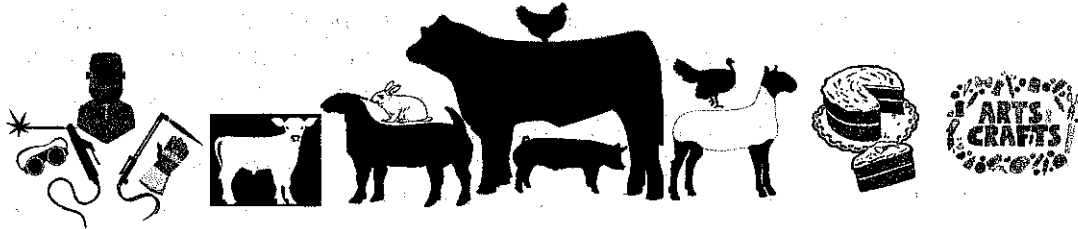


Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show 2025-2026 Rules & Guidelines

(Updated on June 11, 2025)



Please follow our new Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show Facebook page for announcements and updates! Thanks!

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Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show 2025-2026 Rules

Exhibitors and parents/guardians are advised to read these rules carefully, and to not enter the contest if he/she cannot wholeheartedly abide by these rules. An exhibitor who violates any of these rules may forfeit all privileges, premiums, and awards, and/or be subject to other penalties that the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show Board of Directors may order. Penalties may take effect before, during, and/or after the show/auction based on time of violation of the rule. At any time, the Board of Directors has the right to change, amend, or remove any of these guidelines, if needed.

Part One – Eligibility of Exhibitor

A. The exhibitor must be a full-time student. The exhibitor must be in the Nixon-Smiley CISD school or a home school program, must be in 3rd -12th grade, and has not graduated or completed the GED program.

- Clover exhibitors must be from the ages 3-8, Pre-kindergarten to 2nd grade. Participants must be 3 by September 1, 2025, and not turn 9 before September 1, 2025.

B. The exhibitor must reside in the Nixon-Smiley CISD or attend school in Nixon-Smiley CISD. If you are not residing in the Nixon-Smiley CISD, you must be paying to attend the Nixon-Smiley CISD to be eligible.

C. The exhibitors must be a member, in good standing*, of at least one of the following clubs:

- a. Nixon 4-H Club
- b. Smiley 4-H Club
- c. Leesville 4-H Club
- d. Nixon-Smiley FFA/Junior FFA
- e. Nixon-Smiley FCCLA

**Good standing includes attending 90% of the respective club meetings, following behavioral norms, etc. as deemed by the club leader.*

D. The exhibitor must be in good standing within his/her school program, which means he/she must not be expelled or enrolled in alternative school at any time after August 1st of the calendar year of the Show up to the check-in/weigh-in of the show entries. If the student is withdrawn from school, he/she must be in good standing with the school the exhibitor is enrolled in at the time of withdrawal.

E. The exhibitor must have a Semester 1 average of 70 or above in each subject area he/she is enrolled in. However, if the exhibitor does not pass the Semester 1 grade check, he/she can present a progress report from the 6-week mark of Semester 2 to the Board of Directors (mid-February) to determine eligibility. The progress report check will only apply to the course(s) that were below 70 at the semester check.

F. The NSLS Board will have a release form that is mandatory for exhibitors' legal guardians to fill out with the entry form packet, giving the board permission to check their children's standing with the school. (pg. 20 for reference)

G. The exhibitor may not participate in any other youth Livestock Show in Gonzales County or any other county in the State of Texas during the Show calendar year. This does not include major shows or prospect shows.

H. Each Exhibitor MUST volunteer four (4) hours of community service at the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show by March 7th before the Livestock Show.

- Clover exhibitors are required to work 2 hours of community service as well.

❖ Why do you need to complete service hours?

1. Service hours are required in most clubs. 4H and FFA both are committed to community service (see their pledges).
2. Will be charged \$100 per hour per exhibitor if hours not done by March 7th. Must be paid in cash by check-in/weigh-in time.
 - If not paid by check-in/weigh-in, the exhibitor will not be eligible to show or sale.

3. Buyers are watching and asking about who works and what they do. They pay attention. Some of these individuals are potential employers—show them your work ethic.
- Examples include:
 1. Working at the Wild Hog Cook-Off.
 2. Helping with a variety of chores to maintain the grounds under the direction of a NSLS board director.
 3. Volunteering to work at Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show concession stand during the Stockdale FFA prospect show.
 4. Prepping the show grounds for the annual Livestock Show and Auction. (the weekend before the Show/Auction in March) (or prepping the grounds before the cook-off in November which is the weekend before the event).

CLEAN UP AT THE NIXON-SMILEY LIVESTOCK SHOW DOES NOT COUNT! Failure to complete the required hours needed (the Thursday before the show) may result in disqualification from the show and Auction if so determined by the Board of Directors.

- * Exhibitors are responsible for getting the “work hour log” completed and signed by a NSLS board member by March 7th before the NSLS Show. This log will remain with the NSLS Board of Directors.
 5. If the exhibitor is asked multiple times to get off the phone, the exhibitor will forfeit the hours worked on that day and will have to make up the hours before the Thursday before the show.
 6. Questions or concerns about the eligibility of the exhibitor or project must be addressed prior to March. Emergencies are the exception, and the Board (or Board Members) need to be contacted as soon as possible.

Part Two – Eligibility of Project

- A. The project may not have been shown and may not be shown at any other youth Livestock Show in Gonzales County or any other county in the State of Texas. This does not include major shows or prospect shows. Projects cannot be from previous years with the exception of breeding projects and Bucket Calves.
 1. Bucket Calves from the previous year will need to be entered into the Market Steer or Breeder Heifer class.
- B. The project must reside at the exhibitor's residence. The Club Leader and the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show Board of Directors must approve any exceptions to this rule. If the project must be moved for any reason, a change of address must be reported to the Board of Directors. If this is not done, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the Show and Auction if so, determined by the Board of Directors.
- C. Exhibitors must own, take care, and exhibit their animals at the beginning of and throughout the entire feeding and fitting period. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the Show and Auction, if so determined by the Board of Directors.
- D. The same animal cannot be shown in both the Market and Breeder classes.

Part Three – General Rules

- A. The NSLS Board of Directors reserves the right to interpret these rules and regulations, and to settle all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto. They also reserve the right to amend the rules as the need arises. Any situation not covered in these rules will be decided by a majority vote of the NSLS Board of Directors. Any of these decisions will be final.
- B. All entries will be under the control and direction of the NSLS Board of Directors; however, the Directors and Officials will not be responsible for any loss or damage to any property of the exhibitor or persons.
- C. Exhibitors/participants, parents and Club Leaders are reminded to display proper manners, sportsmanship, and leadership abilities at all times during the Competition, Show, and Auction.
- D. Any exhibitor whose conduct is detrimental to the NSLS Livestock Show, and/or any exhibitor that displays unacceptable conduct (i.e.: drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking, vaping, dipping, cursing, public display of affection, etc.) on the Nixon-Smiley Show grounds at any time before, during, and/or after the Show and

Auction, will be disqualified from the Show, Auction, and all future shows, if so determined by the NSLS Board of Directors.

E. All exhibitors and participants are required to wear appropriate clothing at weigh-in, check-in, show, and Auction. Appropriate is considered as jeans or slacks with no holes or rips, long or short sleeve shirts, and boots or athletic shoes.

Exhibitors and participants will not wear the following:

- Sunglasses except prescription glasses, hats, caps, low cut or low rise jeans, shorts, skirts (unless skirt is knee length or longer or worn with leggings), dresses, sandals, flip-flops, open-toed shoes, skin-revealing and/or cleavage exposing clothing, see through or see-in clothing, earrings worn by males, piercing in any visible parts except the ears of females, exposed and visible tattoos or body art, hair coloring or dying hues that do not occur in natural human hair.
- Clothing must not have decals, paintings, pictures, emblems, etc. that display anything lewd, offensive, or vulgar.
- Clothing must not contain obscenity, profanity, drug use, alcohol use, violence, or gang identification.
- Any exhibitor that is not in dress code may result in disqualification from the Show or Auction if so determined by the NSLS Board of Directors.

Part Four – Entries

A. Entry Forms must be filled out completely (must be legible) and be signed by the Exhibitor and his/her parent or guardian. (pgs. 18-19 for reference)

- We will **not** be accepting late entry forms after the October deadline due to the need to order awards and contact sponsors in a timely manner. We will be accepting them before the deadline in case you are not able to turn them in at the deadline date.
- Bucket Calf entries have a deadline of December 14, 2025. There is **no** entry fee for Bucket Calves.

B. A minimum of four (4) entries is required to establish a Class. This minimum is for all classes. A class is made, or not made, at the validation date.

C. No refunds are made unless the Class does not make.

D. All entries and fees will need to be turned in at the group meeting held in October. Please see "NSLS Calendar" for exact dates and times. (pg. 13 for reference)

E. An exhibitor may enter more than one Class but may have only one entry per Class in the Show. The same animal cannot be shown in both the Market and Breeder classes.

F. The Entry Fee includes validation of one animal or one pen.

Part Five – Validation

A. The exhibitor may validate as many animals as they choose per class. The Entry Fee includes validation of one animal or one pen. Additional validation fees will be charged if the exhibitor wishes to validate more than one animal or pen for a Class. Validation by the pen is considered 5 rabbits, 25 chicks, or 5 poults. If validating more than one animal or pen there is an additional fee of \$10 per animal or pen.

B. If a family chooses to do a family validate an animal project, the animals must be in the same animal class, reside at the same place, and exhibitors must notify the weigh-in/check-in committee of the ear tag number of the project at check-in/weigh-in. Each exhibitor must pay the initial \$30 entry fee and \$10 for each family validated animal project.

C. All animals will be validated only on the appointed day and time. Rabbits will be tattooed at validation. All other animals except poultry will be ear tagged or ear tattooed unless they are State Validated for major shows. *All validated animal entries other than poultry must have the official Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show ear tag or tattoo at all times.* If the ear tag is lost, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact his/her Club Leader or NSLS Director as soon as possible.

- All animals must show up on the day of designated validation date, pictures will not be accepted as proof of validation.

D. Exhibitors are responsible for the care, grooming, and clean-up of their entry(s).

- E. All Ag. Mechanics projects must submit in writing a declaration of the project, submit a detailed handwritten blueprint, and describe how the project is agriculturally related in December for validation. If the project is not agriculturally related, there will be an option for the exhibitor to move the project to the craft division.
- F. Crafts exhibitors will be required to submit a description of the project in December for validation.
- G. Food exhibitors will be required to submit the type of cake and description of the project they will be making in December for validation.
- H. All entries will be checked by the Club Leaders and/or the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show Board of Directors at any time without notice.

Part Six – Buyers' Invitation

Exhibitors are encouraged to personally invite buyers to the Nixon-Smiley Livestock Show. Exhibitors are no longer required to bring letters to the show board.

Part Seven – Raffle Tickets

All exhibitors (including Clover exhibitors) from all 4H and FFA will be required to sell at least 25 raffle tickets. No exceptions. If you need more tickets to sell, get extra tickets from a Board Member. All money and/or tickets must be turned in (with the envelope given as they will be labeled for inventory purposes) to the designated director at the group meeting held in March prior to the Livestock Show. Please see "NSLS Calendar" for exact dates. (pgs. 13-14 for reference) Any of the required 25 tickets/money not turned in at the designated time will be deducted from the exhibitor's check. If you asked for extras and did not sell all of them, please turn them in as well (with the envelope given as they will be labeled for inventory purposes).

Part Eight – Weigh-in, Check-in, and Show

- A. Animals must be in good health, and free of drug or residues. All animal entries are subject to drug testing, and must be free of disease, physical defects, and parasites. Animals showing signs of drug use will be inspected by a committee of show officials and will be subject to removal from the show, and the Exhibitor must forfeit all rights to awards and the auction price. The NSLS Board of Directors reserves the right to have all livestock and poultry entries visually examined by a veterinarian.
- B. Exhibitors must show and sell their own project. Exhibitor substitutions for check-in/weigh-in must have prior approval from the Board. Poultry exhibitors may have help in the Show Ring, but the helpers must be an eligible exhibitor and follow the eligibility rules and the show rules. No adults/parents are allowed to be helpers for any division their child is in.
- C. All entries must be checked-in or weighed-in at the designated time and place. Entries will not be accepted after this designated time. All animals must be in their pens prior to weigh-in/check-in. Animal project weights will be written on the back of the exhibitor number card and not announced.
- D. All Exhibitors may weigh his/her animal at their discretion between 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Friday before the Livestock Show check-in. See the NSLS Calendar for the exact date. NSLS scales are open anytime and calibration of scales is normally in January or February. Exhibitors may use the scales throughout the year. After weigh-in begins for their class, any animal that crosses the scale will be considered officially weighed-in, and the animal and weight will be recorded as such. Animals will be given only one official weighing. Reweighs will only be allowed at the discretion of the Sift Judge. If the animal is not within weight limits for its class, it is automatically ineligible for the Show.
- E. The Sift Judge will be used to inspect soundness, quality, and weight for all animals at the time of weigh-in and/or check-in. The Sift Judge may also disqualify any Exhibitor from the show for incapability of handling his/her animal.
- F. No parents or guardians of Exhibitors will be allowed near the scales or animals when being weighed-in or checked-in. **EXHIBITOR and ANIMAL or PROJECT ONLY.** Exhibitor must show capable of handling animal project.

G. Pens are available on a first come first serve basis and are marked for Hogs, Lambs, and Goats. The larger pens are for cattle and bucket calves, the smaller pens are for poultry, and the wire cages are for rabbits. Exhibitors may not dismantle or alter the pens or panels.

For safety:

- (1) All supplies **must** be kept in designated areas. Blocking aisles with supplies will not be permitted.
- (2) Pen alleyways **must** be kept clear during the animal judging competition.
- (3) Only adults designated by the NSLS Board of Directors will be allowed to stand near pens/alleyways during judging.

H. The exhibitor must supply his/her own animal's bedding of wood shavings. When cleaning of the animal pens, wood shavings must be scattered on the ground in the designated area by the side fencing or placed in the exhibitor's own trash container and placed in the dumpster. Do not make mounds of wood shavings as this makes the show grounds hard to mow.

I. Only the exhibitors, the official Judge, designated board members, and designated helpers assigned by the NSLS Board, will be allowed in the judging ring, show area, check-in/weigh-in area, and Auction area.

J. All classes may be divided at the discretion of the Board of Directors or Show Judge(s).

K. During the judging, all entries will be placed in blue or red quality categories. Breeding division entries (hog, lamb & goat), fryer rabbits, roaster chickens, and breeder/commercial heifers and bucket calves will not sell. Entries are placed in the Auction Catalog based on the Show Judge's decisions and placings.

L. Showmanship awards will be judged in Market Hogs, Market Lambs, Market Goats, Market Steers, Local Bred Steers, Market Rabbits, Broilers, and Turkeys.

M. The decision of the Judge(s) will be final.

N. No oil products will be allowed for washing or as finishing spray on the animal for the show.

Part Nine – Auction

A. Exhibitors may sell only one entry. The only exception is that all Grand and Reserve Champions will be sold. If an exhibitor enters more than one class, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to notify the Livestock Show Board office as to which project will be sold at the Auction. If the exhibitor does not notify the office within one hour after the last class shows, the Show Board will decide which project will be sold in the Auction. No changes concerning any entry to be sold will be made after this time.

B. The exhibitor must be present with his/her project at the Auction. If the Exhibitor is not present, his/her project will not be sold.

C. Projects will be sold in order of placing.

D. Auction Order will be posted prior to the Auction. Auction Order rotates each year. *See the back pages of the rulebook. (pg. 15) *

E. Auction prices will be determined as follows:

a. Grand Champion

- i. No limit – Market Steer, Local Bred Steer, Market Hog, Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Rabbit, Broiler, Turkey, and Ag. Mechanics.
- ii. \$750 limit – Craft
- iii. \$600 limit – Layered Cake

b. Reserve Champion

- i. \$50 below Grand Champion – Market Steer, Local Bred Steer, Market Hog, Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Rabbit, Broiler, Turkey, and Ag. Mechanics.
- ii. \$25 below Grand Champion – Layered Cake and Craft

c. Blue Ribbon Projects

- i. \$100 below Reserve Champion - Market Steer, Local Bred Steer, Market Hog, Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Rabbit, Broiler, Turkey, and Ag. Mechanics.
- ii. \$10 below Reserve Champion – Layered Cake and Craft

d. Red Ribbon Projects

- i. \$150 below of lowest Blue Ribbon Project - Market Steer, Local Bred Steer,

Market Hog, Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Rabbit, Broiler, Turkey, and Ag. Mechanics.

ii. \$10 below lowest Blue Ribbon Project – Layered Cake and Craft

F. The Show Board may take up to a 5% Auctions commission on the auction price of each entry. Commission will be no less than \$25.

G. Bucket Calf exhibitors will have a commission fee of \$25.

H. This is a non-terminal show for all animals and poultry.

I. Projects that are not allowed to sell in the Auction may be sold by private treaty. Exhibitors are responsible for this, responsible for making contact with the buyer, and responsible for delivery of the project to the buyer.

J. All Auction decisions and prices are final.

Part Ten – Clean-Up and Post-Show/Auction

A. Every exhibitor will be required to clean up at the Livestock Show.

a. Exhibitors that show on Friday are required to clean up the Friday night after the show ends. *Collect trash in cans and around grounds/barn and take to dumpsters. Clean and stock the restrooms.

b. Exhibitors that show on Saturday are required to clean up after the show on Saturday afternoon.

*Collect trash in cans and around grounds/barn and take to dumpsters. Clean and stock the restrooms.

c. Exhibitors that show both days may choose which day to clean up at.

d. All show exhibitors are required to clean up on Sunday morning after the show, starting at 9:00 A.M. If an exhibitor checks-in with the Clean Up Director after 9:15 A.M., a \$50 fine will be charged.

e. All exhibitors are required to sign in and get a clean-up assignment from the Director in charge of clean up.

f. A \$50 fine will be charged for each missed clean up assignment. Fines must be paid in cash before the exhibitor can receive his/her check. These fines will not be taken out of an Exhibitor's check.

g. If not available to clean the Sunday following the show and sale arrangements must be made with the Board of Directors.

B. All animal and poultry projects must be removed from the grounds by 12:00 noon on the Sunday after the show.

C. Any projects and/or supplies left on the show grounds after 12:00 noon on Sunday after the show will become property of the Livestock Show Board.

Part Eleven – Thank You Notes

A. Exhibitors will be **required** to write a **hand-written** thank you note to each buyer of his/her project, and to any Add-on buyer the exhibitor receives.

B. Exhibitors that are awarded a medal, buckle, or other material award will also be required to write a **hand-written** thank you note to each donor of the award.

C. Thank You notes must be properly addressed, hand-written, stamped, but **not sealed**, and presented to the NSLS Board of Directors on the date indicated on the NSLS Calendar. (pg. 14)

D. The Thank You notes will be checked for appropriateness. If the Thank You notes are **not hand-written** or presented in the appropriate manner, the Thank You notes will **not** be accepted. This includes being stamped and unsealed. A fine of \$50 will be charged to the Exhibitor if he/she does not turn in all thank you notes on time. Fines must be paid in cash before the Exhibitor can receive his/her check. These fines will not be taken out of an Exhibitor's check.

E. Note for Team Ag. Mechanics: **Each** team member is expected to write a thank you note to each one of the buyers/donors. Thank You notes for add-ons will be by each exhibitor.

Rules for Individual Projects

Market Rabbits Class

- A. Each exhibitor will show one pen of three rabbits.
- B. This rabbit meat class will be open to all breeds, and shall consist of three rabbits of any sex, but of the same breed and variety.
- C. Each pen of three must weigh between 9 and 17 pounds at the time of the show.
- D. At weigh-in, the first three rabbits weighed will be the exhibitor's entry. No substitutions will be allowed after the entry is weighed.

Fryer Rabbit Class

- A. This rabbit may not be a rabbit from the exhibitor's Market Rabbit pen of three.
- B. This rabbit must weigh a minimum of three pounds.
- C. Fryer Rabbits will not be sold.
- D. The fryer rabbit must be marked by the Rabbit Director at check-in/weigh-in to be eligible for show.

Broiler Class - Banded

- A. All broilers will be purchased from the same hatchery and be from the same hatch.
- B. Each exhibitor will start with 25 chicks to a pen.
- C. Broiler entry will consist of three birds.
- D. Broiler exhibitors may recruit and use helpers in the show ring, but the helper(s) must follow the eligibility rules and the show rules. No adults are allowed to be helper(s).
- E. No weight limits are enforced in the Broiler Class.
- F. Exhibitors will be informed of a time, place, and date for pick up well in advance.

Roaster Class - Banded

- A. This chicken may not be a chicken from the exhibitor's Broiler Class pen of three.
- B. No weight limits are enforced in the Roaster Class.
- C. Roaster chickens will not be sold.
- D. The roaster chicken must be marked by the Broilers Director at check-in/weigh-in to be eligible for show.

Turkey Class - Banded

- A. All turkeys will be purchased from the same hatchery and be from the same hatch.
- B. Each exhibitor will start with 5 poults to a pen.
- C. A Turkey Class entry will consist of one unsexed bird.
- D. No weight limits are enforced in the Turkey Class.
- E. Turkey exhibitors as a group will designate a responsible party to pick up the poults. Donations for fuel cost may be requested.

Market Hogs

- A. Hogs may be of any breed.
- B. Show weight limits: Minimum of 220 pounds to 290 pounds maximum.
- C. If necessary, market hogs must be clipped prior to arrival on show grounds.

Market Lambs

- A. Lambs may be of any breed.
- B. Show weight limits: Minimum of 130 pounds to 180 pounds maximum.
- C. Lambs must be dehorned and sheared prior to arrival on the show grounds.

Market Goats

- A. Goats may be of any breed.
- B. Show weight limits: Minimum of 70 pounds to 130 pounds maximum.
- C. All goats must be slick shorn above the knee and hock joints, excluding the tail switch prior to arrival on the show grounds. All goats must be dehorned prior to arrival on show grounds.

Market Steers

- A. Steers may be of any breed.
- B. Show weight limit: Minimum of 1,000 pounds.
- C. All steers must be polled or dehorned, and slick shorn except the tip of the tail prior to arrival on the show grounds.
- D. All steers must be halter broken, able to be led, and controlled.

Local Bred Steers

- A. Steers may be of any breed as chosen by the Board of Directors.
- B. Steers will be purchased by the Board of Directors.
- C. Eligible exhibitors must have notified the Board of Directors by August 1, 2025. All candidates will be drawn at random to participate and drawn at random to each assigned steer.
- D. Exhibitor assumes all responsibility for the steer:
 - pay the cost of the steer if the exhibitor backs out.
 - pay cost of the steer if it dies.
 - pay cost of veterinarian if the steer requires the attention of a vet.
 - pay the cost of the steers upkeep.
- E. If the steer dies, replacement is at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- F. There are no weight limitations, but weight will be recorded at check-in.
- G. All steers must be polled or dehorned, and slick shorn except the tip of the tail prior to arrival on the show grounds.
- H. All steers must be halter broken, able to be led and controlled, as determined by the sift judge.
- I. Project Books are required and must consist of:
 - a. Steer Information page
 - b. Feed Log
 - c. Other Expense Log
 - d. Time Management Log
 - e. Performance Log
 - f. Receipts
 - g. Pictures – Photos are to be taken at the beginning and throughout the making of the project. The exhibitor may be in pictures.
- J. The Exhibitor's name must not appear on the Project Book or in the Project Book during Judging.
- K. Project Books must be neatly handwritten by the exhibitor.
- L. Exhibitors may be questioned by the Judge(s) during the competition.
- M. After the exhibitor sells, the Board of Directors then takes back the possession of the animal.
- N. Exhibitor and parent will sign an agreement to these rules in addition to the entry form.

Breeding Classes

Breeder Hog (Gilt), Breeder Lamb (Ewe), Breeder Goat (Doe), and Breeder Heifer

Exhibitors in these classes will be subject to the general rules of the show and to the following additions:

- A. Breeding animals may be of any breed.
- B. Each breeder animal must have an ear tag placed by the NSLS Board at Validation.

- C. An exhibitor may validate up to two breeder animals but can only show one.
- D. Breeder Hogs must be gilts. No sows are allowed.
- E. In Breeder Lamb (Ewe), Breeder Goat (Doe), and Breeder Heifer classes, if the animal has her first baby before the Show, the offspring may be shown by its mother's side if:
 - a. the offspring is a minimum of 2 days old at check-in, and
 - b. approval to show with the offspring is granted by the Board of Directors prior to check-in, and
 - c. offspring is haltered.
- F. Breeder Lambs and Breeder Goats may be shown with a halter or chain.
- G. Heifers must be halter broke, able to lead and under control as determined by the sift judge.
- H. All breeder animals must follow horn rules of market class.
- I. Breeder animals will not be sold in the Auction.
- J. No weight limits on breeders
- K. Heifers **must** be **30 months or less of age**.
- L. Breeder Heifers will not be sold in the Auction; however, they may be sold by private treaty.
- M. The show is considered a hair show. It is a "blow and go." No adhesives, paints or 10 dyes.

Commercial Heifers

- A. Two heifers make up one pen. An exhibitor may validate three heifers.
- B. Heifers may be of any breed. No mixed breeds.
- C. Exhibitors must be standing at their pen of heifers to be judged.
- D. Commercial Heifers will not be sold at the Auction; however, they may be sold by private treaty.
- E. There are no weight or age limitations for Commercial Heifers, however, all projects must be heifers at the time of the Show, which means heifers may be bred, but must have **never** had a calf by the time of the Show. No cows are allowed in the Commercial Heifer class.
- F. Each heifer must have an ear tag placed by the NSLS Board at Validation.

Ag. Mechanics

The following rules apply to Individual and Team Ag. Mechanics projects:

- A. The ag mechanic project must be agriculturally related, and approved by the Livestock Show Board at validation in written form. All projects must be made entirely by the student under the supervision of the Ag. Teacher or 4-H Leader.
- B. Ag. Mechanic items that do not have a Project Book will be disqualified.
- C. The Exhibitor's name(s) must not appear on or within the Project Book during Judging.
- D. Project Books must be neatly handwritten by the exhibitor(s).
- E. Project Books must consist of:
 - a. Detailed Project Plan and/or blueprints.
 - b. Practice Log
 - c. Project Log
 - d. Summary of Expenses and Materials
 - e. Receipts
 - f. Pictures – Photos are to be taken at the beginning and throughout the making of the project. The exhibitor may be in pictures.
- F. Only quality projects will be accepted. Entries must be finished completely and must be clean and unused.
- G. Projects must be completed within the current school year, and from no previous youth or county show.
- H. Projects made from kits or packaged sets of related materials are not allowed.
- I. Each exhibitor must be standing by his/her entry during the judging and will be interviewed by the Judge(s).
- J. Placement of projects within the barn will be at the discretion of the Livestock Show Directors. Display space under shelter is not guaranteed. Projects may be displayed outside if sufficient space is not available.
- K. No vehicles are allowed in the judging area unless approved by the Board of Directors for display. If stands are needed, the exhibitor should plan for this and provide his/her own appropriate stands.

- L. All trailers entered must meet transportation codes.
- M. Ten (10) Ag Mechanics projects can be sold during the Auction. All other entries may be sold by private treaty. For Teams:
 - N. Each team member must submit his/her own entry form & fees.
 - O. A team must consist of 2-4 members.
 - P. A team captain **must** be named on the entry form of team projects.
 - Q. Auction amounts will be evenly split between the team members.

Crafts

- A. All craft entries must be completed entirely by the exhibitor and ready for display.
- B. Only quality work will be shown. Entries must be finished completely, be clean and unused.
- C. Items must be completed within the current school year and from no previous youth or county show.
- D. Projects made from kits or packaged sets of related materials are not allowed.
- E. Each Craft project must have a related Project Book at check-in. Projects that do not have a Project Book will be disqualified.
- F. Project Books must consist of:
 - a. Detailed Project Plan and/or blueprints.
 - b. Practice Log
 - c. Project Log
 - d. Summary of Expenses and Materials
 - e. Receipts
 - f. Pictures – Photos are to be taken at the beginning and throughout the making of the project. The exhibitor may be in pictures.
- G. The Exhibitor's name must not appear on or within the Project Book during Judging.
- H. Project Books must be neatly handwritten by the exhibitor.
- I. Exhibitors may be questioned by the Judge(s) during the competition.
- J. Ten Craft projects may be sold during the Auction.
- K. An exhibitor's FCCLA, FFA, and/or 4-H Leader may make recommendations, but the Board will have final approval on any craft projects shown.
- L. Display props should not overshadow the project. The Show Board must approve all props.

Layered Cake

- A. All exhibitors are reminded to exercise health and sanitation precautions when preparing cake entries.
- B. All layered cake entries must be completed entirely by the exhibitor, and ready for display.
- C. All Layered Cakes must be prepared from scratch. Pre-packaged mixes and cake mixes are not allowed for all or any portion of the cake entry. No packaged frosting or icing is allowed.
- D. A layered cake must consist of two (2) or more layers.
- E. Any decorations must be edible.
- F. No refrigeration will be available.
- G. Practice Logs should include at least 3-5 practice cakes prior to the preparation of the final cake for show.
- H. At check in, the exhibitor will cut and place one slice of his/her cake into a separate container for judging.
- I. Each Layered Cake project must have a related Project Book at check-in. Projects that do not have a Project Book will be disqualified.
- J. Project Books must be kept, and consist of:
 - a. Recipe
 - b. Practice Log
 - c. Project Log
 - d. Summary of Expenses and Materials
 - e. Receipts

f. Pictures – Photos are to be taken at the beginning and throughout the making of the project. The exhibitor may be in pictures.

K. The Exhibitor's name must not appear on or within the Project Book during Judging.

L. Project Books must be neatly handwritten by the exhibitor.

M. Exhibitors may be questioned by the Judge(s) during the competition.

N. Layered Cakes must be presented and kept in a sturdy container.

O. The Layered Cake projects may be sold during the Auction.

Bucket Calf

A. Read and be familiar with the general rules stated in the Rules and Regulations of the Nixon-Smilely Livestock Show.

B. A picture of the participant and his/her calf **must** be included with the entry form or be sent electronically to our email: nsishowboard@gmail.com.

C. Calf **must** be born between October 1, 2025, and December 14, 2025.

D. It is strongly encouraged to get a clostridial and respiratory vaccine for the calf as recommended by your veterinarian. Contact your vet; timing is crucial and depends on the age of the calf.

E. Calf must be **bottle-fed**. No nurse calves.

F. Calves can be any gender/breeder, and no weight requirements.

G. Participants must feed and care for calves in Gonzales County.

H. Each exhibitor may show only one calf.

- Exhibitors may not share a calf.

I. If the calf becomes ill and/or dies before the show, one of the Nixon-Smilely Show Board Directors must be notified immediately.

J. Participant must halter break and be able to lead a calf by the time of the Nixon-Smilely Livestock Show.

K. The family may request a high school age mentor for their Clover Kid, if they choose, however a mentor is not required. (pg. 19 for reference)

- Mentors may be requested on the entry form.
- The Nixon-Smilely Livestock Show Board will assist with pairing and communication between mentors/mentees.

L. Only mentors and Nixon-Smilely Show Board members will be allowed in the show ring.

M. Bucket Calf Judging will be based on the appearance of the calf, the ability of the exhibitor to handle his/her calf, and the exhibitor's knowledge of the project.

- Appearance of the calf pertains to the overall health and cleanliness, not confirmation.

N. Bucket calves are not eligible for the Nixon-Smilely Livestock Show Auction, but exhibitors are eligible for add-ons.