

ZAVALA COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW ASSOCIATION (ZCJLSA) 2025 – 2026 RULES

Rule 1: Interpretation and Violation of Rules

A. Authority and Jurisdiction

1. The **Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association**, hereafter referred to as **ZCJLSA or ASSOCIATION**, reserves to its Board of Directors:
 - The **final and absolute right** to interpret these rules and regulations and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences:
 - In regard to the show,
 - Arising out of the show,
 - Connected with the show,
 - Or incident to the show.
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B. Amendments and Revisions

1. Once these rules have been approved by the ZCJLSA Board of Directors:
 - They **may not be amended, added to, or changed** until the **following year**.
 - These rules will be **reviewed annually** by the **ZCJLSA Board of Directors** during their review process.
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C. Penalties for Violations

1. **Any Exhibitor** who violates any of these rules will:
 - **Forfeit all privileges and premiums.**
 - And are subject to **penalties** as determined and ordered by the **ZCJLSA Board of Directors**.
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D. Basis and Source of Rules

1. This set of rules and regulations is based in part on the:
 - Latest copy of the Texas 4-H / FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy.
 - The **Ethics Policy** will apply to **all ZCJLSA Rules and Regulations**.
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E. Ethics Policy Requirement

1. A copy of the latest released Texas 4-H / FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy:
 - Is available from the **Agriculture Science Teacher(s)** or the **Zavala County Extension Agent**.
 - **Must be signed** by the exhibitor:
 - **Prior to or at the time of validation.**
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Rule 2: Liability

A. Control and Responsibility

1. **All Exhibitors** will be:
 - Under the **control and direction** of the **show management** throughout the event.
2. The following parties **WILL IN NO CASE BE RESPONSIBLE OR HELD LIABLE** for any **loss, injury, or damage** which may occur:
 - The **Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association (ASSOCIATION) Board of Directors**,
 - **Agriculture Science Instructors**,
 - **County Extension Agents**,
 - **Consumer Science Teachers**,
 - **Family members**,

- **Volunteers, and**
 - **All others associated directly or indirectly with the Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association.**
3. This **release from liability** is in accordance with the:
- Volunteer Protection Act of 1997.

B. Exhibitor Liability and Indemnification

1. **Each Exhibitor** will be **solely responsible** for any damage:
 - Done **to** or
 - Occasioned **by** or
 - Arising from any animals or articles **exhibited by them.**
2. Each Exhibitor shall **indemnify** the show against:
 - All **legal proceedings,**
 - All **other claims,**
 - As well as any **damage** or **injuries** to persons or property, if such damage or injury is:
 - **Caused by** the Exhibitor, or
 - **Caused by** any animal exhibited by the exhibitor,
 - **Arising out of or in any way connected with** the exhibitor or the animals exhibited.

C. Limitation of Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association Responsibility

1. The **Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association** will **not be responsible** for:
 - Any **loss or damage** to:
 - **Animals,**
 - **Owners or attendants** thereof, including but not limited to:
 - **Personal property,**
 - **Supplies, or**
 - **Materials,**
 - Whether **direct or accidental,** and **regardless of cause.**

Rule 3: Conduct of Exhibitor

A. Misconduct and Penalties

1. **Willful misconduct** by any Exhibitor(s) will result in:
 - **Forfeiture of all privileges and premiums,** and
 - **Penalties** as determined by the **ZCJLSA - Board of Directors.**
2. **Misconduct includes,** but is not limited to:
 - **Taking or damaging** any equipment and/or accessories **without permission.**
 - Such individuals will be:
 - **Removed from the show grounds,** and
 - Suspended for a period based on the severity of misconduct,
 - As determined by the **ZCJLSA Board of Directors.**

B. Interference or Disrespect

1. If any **Exhibitor,** directly or indirectly through:
 - **In person**
 - An **agent,**
 - **Parent or legal guardian,**
 - **Family member,** or
 - **Servant,**Interferes with:
 - **Livestock judges,**

- **Sifting judges,**
 - **Arts and crafts judges,** and/or
 - **Division superintendents** during their adjudication,
or displays **disrespect** toward them or the show:
2. The management may:
 - **Require a proper apology** from the Exhibitor,
 - **Exclude the exhibitor from competition,** and
 - **May withhold any prizes** that may have been awarded.

C. Disqualification and Sale Eligibility

1. If an **animal or non-animal project exhibited by an Exhibitor** is awarded a prize or official placing by the judges, but is later **disqualified** then:
 - The lower placing animals or non-animal project will **NOT** move up into a higher placing,
 - Nor will the disqualified be placed on the sale list for the official livestock auction.
2. In such cases:
 - The division superintendent, in consultation with the division committee and with the **authorization and approval of the ZCJLSA Board of Directors**, will determine the sale order in response to the disqualification.

Rule 3-A: Official Protest

A. Protest Submission Requirements

1. All official protests must be:
 - Submitted in writing to **the ZCJLSA Board President** or the appropriate **division superintendent**, and
 - Accompanied by a **\$300.00 deposit**, which will be:
 - **Forfeited** (non-refundable) if the protest is **not sustained**.
2. The written protest must:
 - Clearly state the cause of the complaint or appeal.
 - Provide good and sufficient reasons to justify the complaint.

B. Timeliness and Limitations

1. All protests must be:
 - Officially filed **within 24 hours** of the alleged incident.
 - Protests submitted **after 24 hours** will **NOT be considered**.

C. Authority and Finality

1. All valid protest cases are:
 - Referred to the **Zavala County Junior Livestock Show (ZCJLSA) Board of Directors**,
 - Who have the **full and absolute power to act** on the matter.
2. **Judging, weighing, classification, and/or sifting procedures:**
 - Will **not be interrupted** for the purpose of investigating a protest.
3. The decision of the **Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association (ZCJLSA) Board of Directors:**
 - Is **FINAL**, and **cannot be appealed**.

Rule 4: Validation Rules and Entry and Closing Dates

A. Validation and Entry Deadlines

1. **ZCJLSA Membership Requirement**
 - At least **one parent or guardian from each family** must have active Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association membership by:

- **Deadline: Midnight on September 30, 2025**
- 2. **Validation Schedule by Species**
 - **Cattle**
 - Date: **Wednesday, June 25, 2025**
 - Time: **6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**
 - Location: **Chaparrosa Ranch, La Pryor, Texas**
 - **State Fair Lambs, Goats, and Wether Does**
 - Date: **Wednesday, June 25, 2025**
 - Time: **Immediately following Cattle Validation**
 - Location: **Chaparrosa Ranch, La Pryor, Texas**
 - **County/Major Lambs, Goats, and Wether Does**
 - Date: **Saturday, October 11, 2025**
 - Time: **8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**
 - Location: **ZCJLSA Grounds, Crystal City, Texas**
 - **County/Major Hogs**
 - Date: **November 15, 2025**
 - Time: **8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**
 - Location: **ZCJLSA Grounds, Crystal City, Texas**
 - **Rabbits**
 - Must be **purchased before Saturday, November 30, 2025**
 - **Poultry**
 - Must be **purchased through the Zavala County Extension Agent**
 - **Pickup Date: November 21, 2025**
 - Location: **ZCJLSA Grounds, Crystal City**

3. **Important Notes Regarding Validation**

- Animals **arriving AFTER the close of validation** will **NOT be validated** by the **ZCJLSA**.
- The Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association reserves the right to:
 - Retrieve hair follicle samples for any species at the time of validation.
 - If necessary, any retagged animals will be subject to testing at the expense of the Exhibitor.

B. Eligibility and Animal Location Requirements

1. All animals must be validated on the **above-stated dates** to be eligible for the **2026 Zavala County Junior Fair**.
2. **Validation Process**
 - Conducted by the **designated superintendent** or his/her official replacement, in cooperation with the validation committee, Board of Directors, Superintendents, Ag Teachers and Extension Agents.
3. **Location and Care Requirements**
 - All validated animals must be:
 - Fed, managed, and cared for by the Exhibitor.
 - Kept on premises that:
 - Is located in **Zavala County, and**
 - Is **owned, rented, or leased** by the Exhibitor or an **immediate family member**.
 - **Immediate family members** are defined as:
 - Father, mother, legal guardian,
 - Brother or sister,
 - Step-siblings, and
 - Grandparents.

- Alternatively, animals may be kept on property in Zavala County that:
 - Is owned by an FFA Chapter or 4-H Club,
 - And is designated as an FFA or 4-H animal project center.
- 4. **Exceptions**
 - Any exceptions to these requirements are subject to:
 - **Approval by the majority vote of the ZCJLSA Board of Directors.**
 - Valid exception: Transfer Members approved by Texas 4-H & give notice to the Board of Directors.
 - Animals must be kept at the exhibitor's residence.

C. Tagging, Entry Designation, and Animal Limits

1. Exhibitors are **not limited** in the number of animals they may validate, however, exhibitors must **designate**, by **first and last name**, the animal they intend to show at the Zavala County Junior Fair.
 - This is to:
 - Ensure **individual ownership**, and
 - **Prevent dual ownership** of animals at the county level.
2. Tagging Requirements:
 - All animal entries must have either:
 - A **county tag**, or
 - A **state tag** (if validated for state shows).
 - Tags must be:
 - **Applied at the time of validation**, and be
 - **Fully intact** at the time of official weighing and check-in on:
 - **January 8, 2025**

D. Validation Fees

1. A \$20.00 validation fee per immediate family is to be collected, and a
 - **\$5.00 per animal** tag fee will be collected unless:
 - State tags were purchased through the Zavala County Extension Agent or Agriculture Science Teacher.
 - In such cases, the \$5.00 tag fee is waived.

E. Castration Requirement for Male Animals

1. All male animals must be:
 - Castrated **PRIOR** to validation.
2. If testicles are still present:
 - The animal **must be banded**, and
 - The band **must be intact** at validation.
3. Non-compliance with this rule will result in:
 - The animal **not being validated**, and the animal being **ineligible** to show in the Zavala County Junior Fair.

F. Loss or Death of Validated Animal

1. If a validated animal:
 - **Dies, or is lost, stolen, or escapes** from the Exhibitor's facilities for any reason after the validation deadline:
2. Then:
 - The Exhibitor is not allowed to replace the animal, and
 - **No substitution of animals will be allowed after the county validation process.**

G. Lost or Missing Tags

1. If a properly validated animal **loses its original validation tag**:
 - The Exhibitor must:
 - **Immediately notify** one of the following:
 - Supervising project leader,

- County Extension Agent, or
 - Agricultural Science Teacher.
- 2. Re-tagging Procedure:
 - Must be completed by:
 - A **Member of the Board**,
 - The **County Extension Agent**, or
 - The **Agriculture Science Teacher**.
 - Must occur in the presence of:
 - The Exhibitor, **and / or**
 - The parent or guardian of the Exhibitor.

Rule 5: Exhibitors Defined

A. Eligibility for Exhibiting

1. Enrollment Requirements
 - Exhibitors must be enrolled in a:
 - Public, private, or home school of less than college level.
2. Membership Requirements
 - Exhibitors must be in good standing with:
 - A Zavala County 4-H Club, or
 - A chartered FFA or Junior FFA Chapter in Zavala County, or
 - Batesville 4-H'ers attending Uvalde Schools, or
 - 4-H or FFA members who are legally designated as homebound students who meet all criteria under:
 - Senate Bill 1,
 - House Bill 3573, and
 - House Bill 5.
3. Age and Grade Requirements
 - Exhibitors must:
 - Be in third grade and 8 years of age,
 - Not exceed 19 years of age,
 - Have properly entered and validated their animal project.
4. Eligibility to Show and Sell
 - Only individuals meeting the above criteria are eligible to:
 - Show and sell animal projects at the Zavala County Junior Fair.

B. Accommodations for Exhibitors with Disabilities

1. Exhibitors with disabilities may:
 - Receive assistance from another 4-H or FFA member during:
 - The sift, show, and auction.
2. Notification Requirement:
 - Exhibitor must notify the species superintendent at the time of the sift if assistance is needed.
3. Additional Assistance:
 - The ZCJLSA Board may allow a parent to assist in addition to a 4-H or FFA member.

C. Academic Eligibility – "No Pass, No Play"

1. Exhibitors must be **passing all classes** at the end of the **grading period prior to the show**.
2. Verification Process
 - Grade verification forms will be:
 - Submitted to school principals by a date determined by the **Agricultural Extension Agent and Agricultural Science Teacher**
3. Consequences for Failing Grades:
 - Exhibitors not passing:
 - Will be **deemed ineligible**,
 - **May NOT bring** any animal or other projects to the ZCJLSA show grounds,
 - **May NOT show** under another 4-H/FFA member's project,

- **May NOT participate** in the show in **any capacity**.
 - 4. No Substitutes
 - Ineligible Exhibitors **may not** request substitute Exhibitors.
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D. Dress Code for Exhibitors

1. General Appearance
 - Exhibitors must wear:
 - Neat, attractive, and socially acceptable clothing.
 2. Prohibited Items
 - The following are **not allowed**:
 - Chewing gum,
 - Tobacco products,
 - Caps/hats in show/sale ring,
 - Body piercings (eye, nose, lip rings, or boy's earrings),
 - Shorts or T-shirts,
 - Clothing with advertisements for alcohol, tobacco, or any vice.
 3. Required Attire

All exhibitors are required to wear:

 - A collared button-down, polo, or dress shirts, that is tucked in and will stay tucked in, and
 - Shirts must buttoned up to the collarbone and
 - Pants must be free of holes, and
 - Must wear closed-toed shoes only. (no sandals or Crocs allowed).
 4. Enforcement
 - A Dress Code Committee, made up of:
 - Superintendents and three ZCJLSA Board Members
 - They will enforce these rules during the show and sale.
 5. Penalty
 - Violation of the dress code is grounds for **disqualification** from showing or selling the animal project.
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E. Required Workday Participation

1. All Exhibitors must:
 - Attend **one** of the two ZCJLSA workdays to be eligible to show.
 2. Attendance Expectations:
 - Exhibitor must be present for the **entire duration** of the assigned workday.
 - If arriving late:
 - The exhibitor must make up missed time at the next scheduled workday.
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F. 4-H/FFA Membership & Meeting Attendance

1. Membership Deadline:
 - Exhibitor must be a paid member in good standing of:
 - Zavala County 4-H, OR
 - La Pryor FFA / La Pryor Jr. FFA
 - Deadline: **No later than midnight on September 30th.**
2. Required 4-H Meetings:
 - Exhibitors must attend a **minimum of 3** regularly scheduled 4-H meetings between **August and December** of the show season.
3. Alternate Meeting Attendance:
 - If the exhibitor cannot attend their "home" 4-H club meeting, they may attend:
 - Any regularly scheduled Zavala County 4-H meeting, including:
 - Batesville 4-H,
 - Crystal City 4-H,
 - La Pryor 4-H,
 - Shooting Sports 4-H.
4. Excused Absences:
 - In cases of sickness or school activity conflict, **the parent or Exhibitor must:**

- Contact the 4-H Club Leader AND Zavala County Agent,
- Prior to the meeting start time, to obtain an excused absence.

G. Parent/Guardian ASSOCIATION Membership Requirements

1. At least **one parent or guardian** must be a PAID MEMBER of the ZCJLSA:
 - Deadline: **By midnight, September 30, 2025.**
 - Payment can be made to any member of the ZCJLSA Board of Directors.
2. New Members:
 - If a new 4-H/FFA member is recruited after the membership deadline:
 - The new family has **1 week** after paying 4-H/FFA dues to become a paid ZCJLSA member.
 - However, the new Exhibitor **CANNOT** participate in species already validated.
3. Steer Exception:
 - A new Exhibitor **may validate steers in June** if:
 - They become a paid 4-H/FFA member **no later than midnight on September 30th.**

H. Parent/Guardian Meeting Attendance

1. At least 1 parent or guardian must be a PAID member and attend:
 - Two regularly scheduled Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association meetings between August and December of the show season.
2. **Failure** to attend these meetings will result in:
 - The associated Exhibitor being ineligible to show.

I. Concession Stand Obligation

1. A **parent/guardian or exhibitor** is required to:
 - Work the concession stand on the day(s) their child's 4-H Club or is assigned by the ZCJLSA Board.
2. Scheduling:
 - Times will be assigned by the **4-H Club Leader.**
 - The parent/guardian must fulfill the assigned shift.
3. Failure to Fulfill Obligation:
 - Results in the Exhibitor forfeiting any earnings from the auction for that show year.
4. Extenuating Circumstances:
 - Must be reported **immediately** to the **ZCJLSA Board of Directors** for a possible resolution.

Rule 6: Arrival of Livestock Entries at the Zavala County Livestock Show Association Show Grounds

A. Pen Setup

1. Exhibitors may begin pen setup on:
 - **Date:** Wednesday, January 7, 2026
 - **Time:** Starting at 3:00 PM

B. Animal Arrival Deadline

1. All Exhibitors must have their animals inside the barn at the **ZCJLSA Show Grounds** by:
 - **Date:** Thursday, January 8, 2026
 - **Start Time: 10:00 am for Swine, All other animals may begin at 12:00 pm**
 - **End Time: 3:00 PM**
2. **Late Arrivals:**
 - Any animal arriving **after 3:00 PM** will be **sifted.**
3. **Pen Assignments:**
 - If necessary, **Division Superintendents** and/or the **ZCJLSA Board of Directors** may:
 - Assign pens to Exhibitors upon arrival,
 - To accommodate the number of livestock entries.

C. Grooming Guidelines

1. After animals have arrived on the show grounds:
 - **Only** light clipping and grooming will be allowed.
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D. Official Animal Check-In Process

1. **Arrival Start Time:**
 - Exhibitors may begin arriving at the ZCJLSA Show Grounds on:
 - **Date:** Thursday, January 8, 2026
 - **Start Time: 10:00 am for Swine, All other animals may begin at 12:00 pm**
 - **End Time: 3:00 PM**
 2. **Check-In Location:**
 - Entry lane will be set up through one of the roll-up doors located at the end of the barn.
 3. **Animal Health Check:**
 - Upon arrival, animals will be checked by ZCJLSA Board Members or Superintendents for:
 - **Ringworms,**
 - **Lice, and**
 - **Other communicable parasites or diseases.**
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E. Weighing Access Prior to Official Weigh-In

1. Animals may use the scales for weighing at any time before 2:00 PM.
 2. At 2:00 PM:
 - The scale will close for rechecking to ensure accuracy.
 3. The official weigh-in will begin at:
 - Time: 3:30 PM
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Rule 7: Weighing Livestock Entries

A. Official Weighing Committee

1. The official weighing committee shall consist of:
 - A Club Manager,
 - The ZCJLSA Board Member(s), Junior Fair Superintendent.
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B. Weighing Procedure and Finality

1. All market animals will be weighed by the Official Weigher.
 2. The announced weight at weigh-in is:
 - **Final,** and
 - **No reweighing** will be allowed.
 - **There is no weigh back**
 3. Refer to specific livestock division rules for:
 - Entry weight requirements.
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Rule 8: Sifting of Livestock Entries

A. Sifting Judge Appointment and Authority

1. An official sifting judge will be appointed by the ZCJLSA Board of Directors.
 2. The sifting judge will have the sole responsibility for:
 - Classifying all show entries
 - Sifting any disqualified or non-compliant entries
 3. The sifting judge holds final authority to determine acceptable animal types.
 4. **All** sifting decisions made by the sifting judge are **final**.
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B. Minimum Weight Requirements

1. **Any** market animal that does not meet the minimum weight requirements:
 - Will be sifted.
 2. Refer to specific livestock division requirements for minimum weight standards.
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C. Maximum Weight Requirements

1. **Any** market animal that exceeds the maximum weight requirements:

- Will be sifted.
 - 2. Refer to specific livestock division requirements for maximum weight standards.
-

D. Bred Female Animals

1. Female animals eligible for market classes that are **determined to be bred** by the sifting judge:
 - **Will be sifted,**
 - And **not allowed** to show.
 2. Bred females **entered in market classes:**
 - **Cannot be reclassified** to a breeding show division.
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E. Shearing Requirements

1. Animals **not sheared** according to division rules by the time of the official weighing:
 - Will be **sifted**.
-

F. Animal Health Standards

1. Animals must be:
 - Healthy, and
 - Free from signs of disease, in the opinion of the sifting judge.
 2. Animals that are:
 - Diseased,
 - Sick, or
 - Infested with external parasites,
 - **Will be sifted.**
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G. Drug Use and Exceptions

1. All animals **must** be free of illegal drugs.
 2. Animals determined to be under the influence of any drug by the sifting judge:
 - **Will be sifted.**
 3. Exception – Emergency Medication Use:
 - If an animal becomes **injured or ill** while on the **ZCJLSA Show Grounds**, medication may be administered:
 - **ONLY** by a licensed veterinarian, AgriLIFE Extension Agent, or FFA Teacher
 - Must be under the direction or order of a licensed veterinarian.
 - A copy of the prescription must be filed with the division superintendent.
 - All veterinary costs are the responsibility of the Exhibitor.
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H. Removal of Sifted Animals

1. Owners of sifted animals must:
 - **Immediately** remove their animals from the **ZCJLSA Show Grounds**.
 - Deadline for removal: **By 7:00 PM**, Thursday, January 8, 2026.
 - Release must be granted by the division superintendent.
 2. Sifted animals:
 - **Do not qualify** for market or floor price.
 - **Will NOT be sold** through the Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association
 - **Disposal** of sifted animals is at the discretion of the Exhibitor.
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Rule 9: Judging Rules

A. Livestock Judge

1. All animal entries will be judged by an official livestock judge who is:
 - **Approved by the ZCJLSA Board of Directors.**
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B. Determination of Livestock Classes

1. The number of weight classes (e.g., **light, medium, intermediate, heavy**) in each division:
 - Will be determined and adjusted by the division superintendent,
 - After the official weigh-in,
 - Based on the total number and weights of qualifying entries in each division.

C. Exhibitor Showing Requirements and Substitutions

1. Exhibitors are required to show their own animals, except in cases of:
 - Illness or injury,
 - UIL conflicts,
 - Two animals in the same livestock class, or
 - Religious beliefs.
2. Substitution Guidelines:
 - a. Two Animals in Same Class:
 - Exhibitors with two animals in the same class may request another eligible 4-H or FFA member to show one animal.
 - Exhibitor must notify the **division superintendent** and provide the substitute's name before entering the ring.
 - b. UIL Conflicts:
 - Exhibitors involved in a UIL-approved event at the time of the show may request an eligible 4-H or FFA member to substitute.
 - **Must** provide written notice from:
 - UIL sponsor, coach, or director
 - The notice must include:
 - Type of event
 - Date and time
 - Confirmation of the conflict
 - c. Illness or Injury:
 - Exhibitors must submit a physician's memo stating they are unable to show/sell the animal.
 - Memo must be submitted to the **division superintendent**.
3. Important Note on Substitutes:
 - All substitute exhibitors must be approved and their names submitted in advance.
 - Substitute exhibitors are **NOT** eligible for the Showmanship Contest.

D. Market Entry Limits

1. Each Exhibitor is limited to:
 - A **maximum of two (2)** market animals per species.
 - **No more than two (2)** animals of the same species are allowed **ZCJLSA Show Grounds** per Exhibitor.
2. Breeding Show Entries:
 - Exhibitors who submit entries for the breeding show:
 - Will be eligible for the breeding show **ONLY**.
 - Animals entered in breeding classes **cannot** be transferred to market classes.

E. Show Ring Access

1. Only the following individuals are allowed inside the **judging ring**:
 - **Exhibitors**
 - **Show officials**
 - **Official judge**
 - **Division superintendent** and their assistants
 - **ZCJLSA Board of Directors**
2. **Physically challenged exhibitors**:
 - May be assisted in the ring by another eligible 4-H or FFA member.

Rule 10. Showmanship Contest

A. Eligibility

1. All Exhibitors are eligible to participate in the showmanship contest.
2. Substitute Exhibitors are not eligible to compete in the showmanship contest.

B. Contest Timing

1. The contest will be held Saturday, January 9, 2026 at 9:00 am

C. Judging and Criteria

1. Showmanship will be judged by the same judge(s) who officiated the species market show.
2. Winners will be selected based on the following:
 - Merits
 - Skills
 - Handling abilities
 - Overall presentation
 - As determined solely by the judge(s).

D. Participation Requirements

1. Exhibitors must use livestock projects that they personally own.
2. No substitutions of animals or Exhibitors are permitted during the contest.

E. Age Divisions

Age divisions will be based on the Exhibitor's age as of September 1st in the year preceding the Zavala County Junior Fair:

1. **Junior Division:** Ages 8–11
2. **Intermediate Division:** Ages 12–14
3. **Senior Division:** Ages 15 and up

Rule 11. Sale Rules and Regulations

A. General Sale Participation

1. Each Exhibitor is permitted to sell **one (1)** animal or non-animal project through the sale ring.
2. The item to be sold must meet the following criteria:
 - Shown or made by the Exhibitor.
 - Judged and placed by the official livestock show judge.

B. Multiple Champion Entries

1. Exhibitors may sell more than one entry if they qualify under either of the following:
 - The Exhibitor shows **both a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion of Show**.
 - The Exhibitor earns more than one **Grand Champion or Reserve Champion** title across any species division.
2. In such cases, **all qualifying Grand and Reserve entries** may be sold by the Exhibitor.
3. Exhibitors of non-animals are limited to selling two (2) Grand Champion entries.
 - A limit of two (2) entries per category may be entered.

C. Sale List Deadline

1. It is the responsibility of each Exhibitor to confirm the correct animal/non-animal entry is listed on the sale list.
2. Sale list confirmation must be submitted to the **division superintendent no later than 7:00 PM on Friday** following the show.
3. Failure to comply will result in the Exhibitor **not being permitted to sell** in the official auction.

D. Sale Distribution and Commission

1. The final sale price of each animal/non-animal project will be paid directly to the Exhibitor.
2. A **10% commission fee** will be retained by the Zavala County Junior Livestock Show Association to cover operating expenses.

Rule 12. Record Books

A. Record Book Submission Requirements

1. **Mandatory for All Exhibitors**
 - All livestock and non-livestock Exhibitors are required to complete and submit a record book.
2. **Submission Process**
 - The completed record book must be turned into one of the following:

- The Exhibitor's 4-H Club Manager
 - The AgriLIFE Extension Agent
 - The FFA Advisor
3. **Deadline**
 - The specific deadline for record book submission will be determined and communicated by the AgriLIFE Extension Agent or FFA Advisor.
 4. **Consequences for Non-Compliance**
 - Exhibitors who fail to submit their record book by the specified deadline:
 - **Will not receive proceeds** from the sale of their animal project(s).
 - This includes all payments earned through the Zavala County Junior Fair auction or sale process.

B. Thank You Letter Requirements

1. **Mandatory for All Exhibitors**
 - All Exhibitors must write thank you letters addressed to:
 - Buyers of their animal project(s) or non-animal projects
 - Buckle donors
 - Any additional sponsors or contributors to the Zavala County Junior Fair
2. **Guidelines for Thank You Letters**
 - Letters must be:
 - **Legible**
 - **Appropriate and acceptable** in tone and presentation, as determined by the AgriLIFE Extension Agent and FFA Advisor
 - Letters should include:
 - Gratitude toward the recipient's support
 - Information personalizing the Exhibitor's project or experience, when appropriate
3. **Submission Instructions**
 - Letters must be prepared for mailing:
 - Each letter should be placed in an envelope
 - Postage stamps should be affixed
 - **Envelopes must remain unsealed**
 - All letters must be submitted for review prior to mailing
4. **Deadline**
 - The deadline for submission of thank you letters will be posted by the AgriLIFE Extension Agent and FFA Advisor.
5. **Consequences for Non-Compliance**
 - Exhibitors who fail to submit appropriate thank you letters by the deadline:
 - **Will not receive premium money payouts** from the Zavala County Junior Fair
 - Payments will be held until all thank you letter requirements are met

Rule 13. Steer Division Rules

A. Validation

- Steers must be officially validated to be eligible to show (see above dates).

B. Halter Breaking

- All steers must be halter broken to be eligible to show.

C. Weight Requirements

- Minimum: 1000 pounds
- Maximum: 1450 pounds
- Animals outside of this range will be **sifted and disqualified**.

D. Show Classes and Divisions

- **Five (5) Steer Classes:**

- Class I – Light Weight Steers
 - Class II – Medium Weight Steers
 - Class III – Heavy Weight Steers
 - **Class IV – Grand Champion Steer of Show**
 - **Class V – Reserve Champion Steer of Show**
 - **Three (3) Weight Divisions:** Light, Medium, Heavy
-

E. Sale Eligibility

- The amount eligible to sell is determined at the discretion of the ZCJLSA board.
-

F. Horns

- Steers must be free of horns.
-

G. Shearing

- Steers must be sheared completely down past knees and hocks to the hoofs.
-

H. Show Equipment

- Must be shown with leather show halter and show stick.
 - Non-compliance will result in disqualification.
-

Rule 14. Lamb Division Rules

A. Validation

- Lambs must be officially entered and validated.
-

B. Weight Requirements

- Minimum: 90 pounds
 - Maximum: 160 pounds
 - Animals outside of this range will be **sifted and disqualified**.
-

C. Classification

- Determined at weigh-in by the official classifier:
 - Southdown
 - Fine Wool
 - Fine Wool Crosses
 - Medium Wool
-

D. Classes and Divisions

- **22 Total Classes Across 4 Divisions:**

Division I – Southdown

- Class I – Light Weight
- Class II – Medium Weight
- Class III – Heavy Weight
- **Class IV – Grand Champion Southdown**
- **Class V – Reserve Champion Southdown**

Division II – Fine Wool

- Class VI – Light Weight
- Class VII – Medium Weight
- Class VIII – Heavy Weight
- **Class IX – Grand Champion Fine Wool**
- **Class X – Reserve Champion Fine Wool**

Division III – Fine Wool Cross

- Class XI – Light Weight

- Class XII – Medium Weight
- Class XIII – Heavy Weight
- **Class XIV – Grand Champion Fine Wool Cross**
- **Class XV – Reserve Champion Fine Wool Cross**

Division IV – Medium Wool

- Class XVI – Light Weight
- Class XVII – Medium Weight
- Class XVIII – Heavy Weight
- Class XIX – Champion Medium Wool
- Class XX – Reserve Champion Medium Wool
- **Class XXI – Grand Champion Lamb of Show**
- **Class XXII – Reserve Grand Champion Lamb of Show**

E. Wool Shearing

- Must be slick sheared to knees and hocks.

F. Gender

- Both wethers and ewe lambs eligible.

G. Sale Eligibility

- The amount eligible to sell is determined at the discretion of the ZCJLSA board.
-

Rule 15. Meat Goat Division Rules

A. Validation

- Goats must be officially entered and validated.

B. Horns

- Must be horn-free or have blunt-tipped horns no smaller than a dime.

C. Hair

- Goats must be slick sheared to hocks and knees.

D. Show Equipment

- May use collar (chain or strap) or halter.

E. Weight Requirements

- Minimum: 60 pounds
- Maximum: 120 pounds
- Animals outside of this range will be **sifted and disqualified**.

F. Gender

- Both does and wethers are eligible.

G. Classes and Divisions

- **Seven (7) Classes in Five (5) Divisions:**
 - Class I – Light Weight (60–71 pounds)
 - Class II – Light Intermediate Weight (72–83 pounds)
 - Class III – Medium Weight (84–95 pounds)
 - Class IV – Intermediate Weight (96–107 pounds)
 - Class V – Heavy Weight (108–120 pounds)
 - **Class VI – Grand Champion of Show**
 - **Class VII – Reserve Champion of Show**
-

H. Sale Eligibility

- The amount eligible to sell is determined at the discretion of the ZCJLSA board.
-

Rule 16. Wether Doe Division Rules

A. Horns

- Must be blunt tipped and no smaller than a dime.
-

B. Hair

- Slick shearing is not required.
-

C. Show Equipment

- May use collar (chain or strap) or halter.
-

D. Weight Requirements

- Minimum: 50 pounds
 - No maximum
 - Animals outside of this range will be **sifted and disqualified**.
-

E. Age/Teeth

- Must not possess more than first set of yearling teeth.
 - Animals not meeting the tooth rule will be sifted and not eligible to show.
-

F. Classes and Divisions

- **Seven (7) Classes in Five (5) Weight Divisions:**
 - Class I – Light Weight (60–71 pounds)
 - Class II – Light Intermediate (72–83 pounds)
 - Class III – Medium Weight (84–95 pounds)
 - Class IV – Intermediate Weight (96–107 pounds)
 - Class V – Heavy Weight (108–120 pounds)
 - **Class VI – Grand Champion of Show**
 - **Class VII – Reserve Champion of Show**
 - A minimum of 2 entries required per weight division. Class divisions may change based on entries.
-

G. Entry Limit

- Max of 2 Wether Does per exhibitor
 - Wether Does **may not** also be shown in the market class.
-

H. Tagging

- Must be tagged at the scheduled ZCLSA Lamb & Goat validation with a separate color tag.
-

I. Sale Eligibility

- Wether Does are not eligible for livestock sale.
-

J. Awards

- Banners for class winners
 - Buckles for Grand and Reserve Champion
-

Rule 17. Swine Division Rules

A. Validation

- Must be officially entered and validated.
-

B. Weight Requirements

- Minimum: 200 pounds
- Maximum: 280 pounds

- Animals outside of this range will be **sifted and disqualified**.
-

C. Classes and Divisions

- **Six (6) Classes Across Four (4) Divisions:**
 - Class I – Light Weight (200–220 pounds)
 - Class II – Medium Weight (221–240 pounds)
 - Class III – Intermediate Weight (241–260 pounds)
 - Class IV – Heavy Weight (261–280 pounds)
 - **Class V – Grand Champion of Show**
 - **Class VI – Reserve Champion of Show**
-

D. Hair

- All market swine must not have hair longer than 1” on any part of the body upon arrival on show grounds.
-

E. Gender

- Both gilt and barrows are eligible.
-

F. Show Equipment

- Allowed: Show tubs, bats, brushes or other equipment approved by the swine division superintendent.
 - Any swine exhibitor abusing such equipment to excessively hit the animals during the show will be asked to turn in such equipment and he or she will not be allowed to use such equipment during the duration of the show.
-

G. Sale Eligibility

- The amount eligible to sell is determined at the discretion of the ZCJLSA board.
-

Rule 18. Poultry Division Rules

A. Chick Orders

- Minimum: 25 chicks MUST be ordered per exhibitor; additional lots are to be purchased in lots of 25 only.
 - Max: 100 chicks,
 - Must be ordered in sets of 25
-

B. Eligibility

- The broiler chicks will be a straight-run commercial type. A box of chicks will be eligible for the show only.
-

C. Family Tagging

- Will be allowed with each exhibitor being assigned a set of consecutively numbered chicks.
-

D. Delivery

- Date, time, location to be announced via email by AgriLife Extension Agent
 - Exhibitors are responsible for verifying wing bands, and any missing / replacement birds prior to the exhibitor leaving the pick-up location.
-

E. Check-in

- The broilers presented to the Judge/Sifter will be the exhibitor’s “Official Entry”. No alternate at official check-in time.
-

F. Wing Band Integrity

- Tampering with wing bands will not be tolerated.
-

G. Bruising

- Bruising from wing bands will be disregarded, the judge’s decision is final.
-

H. Disqualification

- Broilers without wing bands cannot show and will be disqualified.
 - Sick, diseased, or injured birds shall be refused entry into the arena at the judge's or superintendent's discretion
-

I. Equipment

- All exhibitors are required to bring two (2) 1 lb. coffee cans (or alternatively acceptable containers) for feed and water per entry to be allowed to check in. NO EXCEPTIONS
-

J. Assistants

- Exhibitors are allowed to bring two (2) people to help hold the broilers during the show if needed. Those helping are not allowed to have any chapter/club affiliated attire being worn in the show arena.
-

K. Holding

- Only the top two pens will be required to remain in coops for the duration of the fair.
 - All others are required to check out and must leave immediately after the show.
-

L. Removal

- Non-placing broilers must leave fairgrounds post-show.
-

M. Sale Eligibility

- The amount eligible to sell is determined at the discretion of the ZCJLSA board.
-

Rule 19. Novice Rabbit Division Rules**A. Eligibility**

- Exhibitors ages 4–7 or up to 2nd grade in Zavala County
 - Must be member of 4-H Clover Club or La Pryor Jr. FFA Club
 - Home schooled children in Zavala County are eligible to participate.
-

B. Purpose

- Exhibition only – not eligible for sale
-

C. Entry

- Each exhibitor may show one (1) rabbit
-

D. Registration

- Rabbits must be purchased and registered by deadline set by AgriLife Extension Agent
-

E. Breed

- Only domestic rabbit breeds permitted
-

F. Gender

- Both does and bucks are eligible
-

Rule 20. Non-Animal Project General Rules**A. Entry Fee**

1. A \$20 entry fee is required per exhibitor or family, as defined in the livestock rules.
 2. The entry fee is waived for families who have entered livestock projects.
-

B. Responsibility for Entries

1. Exhibitors are solely responsible for their non-animal project entries.
-

2. Entry Deadlines:
 - **Non-food items** must be delivered to the Quonset Hut building by 10:00 AM on Thursday.
 - **Food items** must be delivered by **10:00 AM on Friday.**
 3. Pick-Up Requirement:
 - All entries must be picked up **after the auction on Saturday.**
 - Items **must remain in place** until the designated pickup time.
 - The committee is **not responsible** for any item left after **2:00 PM on Saturday.**
-

C. Entry Documentation

1. Each entry must be accompanied by an **official entry form.**
-

D. Project Authenticity

1. All entries must be **made, built, or constructed** solely by the exhibitor.
 2. All projects must be completed **between January 2025 and January 8, 2026.**
-

E. Contest Age Divisions

1. **Foods, Arts & Crafts, Clothing, Ag Mechanics and Photography Contests:**
 - **Junior Division:** Ages 8–13
 - **Senior Division:** Ages 14–19
-

F. Additional Rules

- Refer to the **additional Non-Animal Project Rulebook** for further guidelines and regulations.