McLennan County Livestock Newsletter

May 2026 Edition

Inside this issue:

Tag Order & Validation Info	2
Poultry info	2
Sheep & Goat Clinic	3
Feeding Tips	4
Goal Setting	5
Major Show entry	8
Major Show Result	9
Major Show Judges	10
Jackpot Shows	11
Show Dates	12

Special points of interest:

- Major Show Dates
- Major Show Judges
- Tag Order Dates
- Major Show Updates
- Validation Information
- Jackpot Shows
- Major Show Entry
- Show Clinic
- Goal Setting Tips
- Feeding Tips

CHANGES FOR 2026/2027 YEAR

ALL LIVESTOCK WILL BE MAJOR SHOW VALIDATED STARTING IN JUNE 2026.

No longer will there be a county only option for validation on steers, sheep, goats, or swine.

Please share this with your exhibitors as we start the tag ordering process because this is a major change for some and we will need to make sure everyone orders tags accordingly.

All tags cost $30 each.

2026/2027 Major Show Steer & Heifer Validation

Major Show Steer & Heifer Validation will be held at the following dates. Locations & Times will be sent as we confirm them.

Also please bring registration papers with you to validation so we can verify and scan them in.

- *June 23rd* at Groschke's Show barn from 4:30-6:30pm
- *June 29th West Livestock Auction from 7:30-9:30am*

If you have issues or conflicts, please contact the validation committee prior to June to make arrangements.

2026 State Fair of Texas & Heart O' Texas Fair Validation Sheep, Goats & Swine

For the 2026 all State Fair & Heart O' Texas Fair Swine (breeding gilts only) validation will be held at the dates and locations listed below. We ask that you make plans to attend one of these set validation dates, if there is a major conflict, please contact us ASAP and we will have to address it with the validation committee. Packets will be available to pickup prior to validation

If you have registered animals please have the papers with you at time of validation if possible.

- *June 17th 5-6pm at Extension office (all state fair & HOT animals only)*
- *June 29th – West Livestock Auction*

2025-2026 McLennan County Validation Dates & Tag Orders

Steers

Validation June- 23rd & 29th

Heifers

Validation- June 23rd & 29th
Fall Validation Tag Orders Due August 14th
Fall Validation- October

Sheep & Goat

Validation – June 17th & 29th
Major Tag Orders Due- August 14th
Major Validation- October

Swine

Validation- June 17th & 29th
Major Tag Orders Due
Major Validation- November

Broilers

State Fair 2026 orders due May 15th
Major Broiler Orders due- August 28th

Turkeys

MCJLS Orders Due May 10th
Major Orders Due May 15th

Rabbits

Show Entry Information

Fall Major Show Entry - West Texas Fair- July 15th HOTFR/State Fair- August 5th
Spring Major Show Entry – November 4th
MCJLS Entry- December 4th

All tag order forms can be found at the following link:
https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/mclennan-county/

Poultry Order Information

Here are order deadlines coming up for different shows Poultry Projects:

- **MCJLS Turkey Orders- Due May 10th**
- **Major Show Turkey Orders- Due May 15th**
- **State Fair Broiler Orders- Due May 15th**
- **Major Show Broiler- August 28th**
- **MCJLS Broiler- October 1st**

Order forms can be found at the following link:
https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/mclennan-county/

Sheep & Goat PROJECT WORKSHOP

Come join us to learn about the sheep & goat project to help you prepare for the County & Major Shows.

Topics will include: Daily Care, Selection, Feeding, Health, Equipment Need, & Important Dates

MAY 18TH

6:00PM

McLennan County Extension Office

Please RSVP to 254-757-5180

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Poultry Order Info.

Its time once again to start making plans to get your poultry orders in for Turkeys and State Fair Broilers. Order info and details are listed below.

ORDER DETAILS:

- MCJLS Turkey orders- Due to Riesel ISD by May 1st
  These are only eligible for the 2027 MCJLS
- Major Show Turkey orders- Due to Extension office by May 15th
  This is for 4-H orders, if ordering through FFA please check with your advisor.
  These turkeys can also be shown at MCJLS
- State Fair of Texas Broiler Orders due to Extension office by May 15th
  This for 4-H orders, if ordering through FFA please check with your advisor.

All Order Forms can be found at this link:
https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/mclennan-county/

How to Prevent Show Livestock from Going Off Feed

Many people change their eating habits with the seasons. A steaming bowl of soup is satisfying on a cold winter day, but that doesn't sound appetizing when the heat index reaches 90 degrees or hotter. Your show livestock are no different, but whereas we just change what we eat, they go off feed. Their appetites tend to decrease as the temperatures rise, and that can leave you scrambling to preserve your hard work with that project in the warmer months.

Chris Cassady, Ph.D., BioZyme® Director of Beef Technical Sales, explains 4 reasons why show animals go off feed. He also provides some tips to keep your animal's appetite in check and ensure they continue to perform.

Why Show Animals Go Off Feed

Seasonal Changes

One of the primary reasons animals stop eating during the summer months is due to seasonal changes. The combination of extended sunlight and the warmer temperatures can alter the animal's desire to eat. Other seasonal impacts, like flies and insects, can cause your animals to go off feed. Flies buzzing around an animal's head and similar pests can be distracting at feeding time.

Increased Temperatures

Animals are typically less active as the temperatures increase, which requires less overall energy, causing them to go off feed. Animals that expend less energy will have a decreased appetite since they don't require the same amount of nutrients as they would if they were actively using energy.
"Think about this. When we are hot, the last thing we want to do is eat a big meal. That has a lot to do with temperature triggers," Cassady said. "The temperature alters stress hormones in the animal and has an impact on metabolism and their overall appetite."

Environmental Changes

During show season, we haul our livestock to jackpots, progress shows, state previews, junior nationals, county fairs and state fairs. Sometimes these are weekly occurrences, and the hauling adds stress to the animal. Loading on the trailer and traveling 20 minutes to 20 hours takes its toll. Then, we stall or pen the livestock in unfamiliar barns with new animals, sights, smells, and sounds, and expect them to eat exactly what we put in their feed pan. This is stressful and will cause the animal to go off feed.

Diet Shifts

Show animal diets are not a one-size-fits-all, and feeding is a science that takes precise calculation in the nutrition needed to meet a specific weight by the target endpoint. If you are making dietary changes, Cassady reminds you to transition gradually. If abrupt changes are made and the animal goes off feed, it will take just as long to get it back on feed as it would to make a gradual transition.

How to Prevent Show Livestock from Going Off Feed

Don't Let Your Project Go Off Feed

No one has time for show animals that go off feed, so take a proactive approach to keep your livestock eating. Animals are very routine-oriented, so set a feeding schedule and stick to it.

Be Consistent

Though we can't control the seasons, length of day, or the temperatures, we can do our best to be consistent. Feed your animals at a consistent time each day, both morning and night. And, if that means feeding them in a darkened, cool barn with fans, then—if resources allow—we encourage it. Keeping your animals cool is important to maintaining their appetite throughout the summer.

The same goes for when you are traveling. Maintain a normal schedule as much as possible. Keep their feeding times consistent and keep their feed pans the same as they are at home. If they are accustomed to drinking from a tank or another water source other than a bucket, start bucket-watering them before going to the show, as water intake is vital to good health. Water intake is also highly correlated to feed intake.

When you do make feed changes, make them gradually. Yes, feed can change the appearance of an animal over time, but drastic changes too quickly can also lead to decreased appetites that can be detrimental to your feeding program.

Control Flies

Be sure to use a fly spray around your barn and on your animals to keep them comfortable and to keep them eating.

Management and nutrition are the keys to keeping our show animals from going off feed.

Setting Goals, Working Hard Are Integral Parts of Livestock Showing

For many, livestock showing is a way of life. For others, it is a hobby. For some, showing livestock is like a sport—a competition that they can't get out of their blood.

No matter why you decide to make livestock showing a part of your lifestyle, there is one thing you should consider. You will need to set goals, work hard and persevere. Like any sport, you have good days and bad days, and you don't always win. But if you don't stop trying, magic can happen.

At Sure Champ®, we understand that the ultimate goal in livestock showing is to hang the purple banner – getting to the backdrop. However, it isn't always as easy as it looks. That's why we develop educational resources for young exhibitors, their parents and leaders to help you.

But more than just tips and tricks, we also make livestock products that support the health and well-being of your show livestock. It's critical to keep your animals healthy, eating and drinking before, during and after livestock shows. And that's what our products do.

As many exhibitors know all too well, you don't get those purple banners and fancy awards just by showing up and smiling at the judge.

Let me tell you a tale about one exhibitor who set goals when she was showing Hereford heifers and Hampshire sheep many, many years ago.

Setting Goals, Working Hard Are Integral Parts of Livestock Showing

Once Upon a Time. . .

Once there was a little girl raised in the Nebraska panhandle, and we'll call her Suzy. She lived on a ranch with her parents where her dad was the herdsman – he cared for lots of cattle. Suzy knew she would show Hereford heifers because all the ranch owner's kids also showed Herefords. Suzy's parents told her she must set goals.

She was just a youngster, so in her first year in 4-H she cut out pictures in magazines of big trophies and rosette ribbons – it was the **1980s**, after all. She hung those magazine pictures on the family's refrigerator, somewhere that the family saw every day. Think of this as an early precursor to today's vision boards.

Suzy worked hard. She rinsed her heifer daily, brushed her dry with a rice root brush, and she practiced showmanship every evening. That year at the county fair, she had champion Hereford heifer. Then, she won Grand Champion Heifer! She was so excited! It was the best feeling ever. Suzy had set her goals, focused on them daily and worked hard to achieve them.

Fast Forward

Not every livestock showing experience will turn out like Suzy's inaugural year. Although she did have a three-peat performance claiming the Grand Champion Heifer trophy, Suzy soon started showing lambs. The sheep show was a bit of a learning experience. Although she still set goals, Suzy had some hard luck along the way, and not every time in the ring was positive. However, as she grew up and gained more experience in 4-H and eventually FFA, Suzy learned about the value of setting S.M.A.R.T. goals. These structured goals can make a great impact.

The Benefits of Setting Goals

Regardless of whether you are livestock showing or studying for a big exam, many benefits exist for setting goats. Let's look further into three of the key advantages of setting goals.

1. **Increase Productivity**

You will undoubtedly work harder to achieve your goals, once you have a goal or goals set. ***A goal is a dream that you have written down.***

2. **Maintain Focus**

Once you know what your goal is – say for instance – learning to fit the back leg of a calf, you are going to focus on attaining that goal until it is met and perfected. If you have something to focus on – the calf's back legs, you are not going to mess around when it is time to fit the calf. You will focus on helping, watching and learning from others on your crew until they turn that task over to you.

3. **Measure Progress**

Goal setting helps you measure progress. If you don't set goals, you never realize how close you are to achieving them or if you are progressing or getting better at a skill.

Let's take Suzy as an example. When she started showing lambs, it was her goal to win lamb showmanship to advance to the Round Robin at the county fair. She placed about the middle of the class during her first showmanship experience at a summer progress show. She went home, worked with her lamb some more, and during the next show, she was in fourth place, making significant improvements. Every time she worked with her lamb, she strengthened the relationship between herself and her lamb, and every time she practiced showing, she made progress. By the time the county fair arrived in August, she was the reserve grand champion in her age division! She might not have won but was able to measure her progress by setting a goal.

The Elements of SMART Goals

Remember how we mentioned earlier that goals should be S.M.A.R.T? What does that mean? Every time you set a goal it should meet five criteria:

•**S**pecific
•**M**easurable
•**A**chievable
•**R**ealistic
•**T**ime-relevant

Setting Goals, Working Hard Are Integral Parts of Livestock Showing

Let's break each of these criteria down further to see how you can set your own SMART goals in the year ahead with your livestock showing projects.

Specific

Every goal should be specific and sensible. That way you know where to maintain your focus as you work to achieve your goals. Like any good journalist or detective, ask yourself the five **W** questions:

•***What*** do I want to accomplish?
•***Why*** is it important?
•***Who*** will help guide or mentor me?
•***Where*** will I achieve my goal?
•***Which*** resources or supplies do I need?

Measurable

A goal needs to be measured so you can track your progress and stay motivated (another fun M-word). How many times will I win a skillathon? How long will it take me to learn proper feed rations? How many show camps should I attend? Measurable goals tend to have a number associated with them.

Attainable

It is frustrating to keep working toward something we can never achieve. That is why goals need to be realistic or achievable. Yes, it is good to stretch yourself outside of your comfort zone. However, don't set goals so high that you will likely never achieve them, just setting yourself up for disappointment. Consider how you might accomplish your goal – working hard and having the proper resources. And in today's era of livestock showing, this probably also means having the financial means, too.

I might point out in livestock showing, that the results in the show ring are one person's opinion. It might not always be attainable to set a goal of winning X number of shows since that decision is not in your control. However, more realistically, placing in the top 5 or setting a goal that has more with learning a skill or is less subjective would be more attainable.

Relevant

Make sure your goals are relevant. Sometimes in livestock showing, we get wrapped up in winning, which is fun, but we forget about the most important lessons. Some of those lessons are camaraderie, learning new skills, livestock care, ethics and building relationships.

A relevant goal can answer "yes" to these questions:

•Does this seem worthwhile?
•Is this the right time?
•Does this match our other efforts/needs?
•Am I the right person to reach this goal?

Time-bound

Like everything else in life, your goals also need a deadline. Goals should have an endpoint to help you measure progress and keep you motivated as you work toward them. Suzy's parents encouraged her to have long-term, mid-range and short-term goals as a way to help measure her progress and work toward her goals.

Short-term goals are those that you might want to accomplish this month. For example, if you are slated to present a talk to your 4-H club next month, make a short-term goal to decide on your topic and prepare your talk.

If you know you want to show pigs at the county and state fairs, 8 months away, work with your family now to determine your budget. Know the quantity of pigs you plan to purchase and what operations you want to deal with. Setting these goals now are mid-range goals.

As a freshman in high school, it is your goal to win a national FFA proficiency. You are working on building your flock of sheep and keeping record books. You market lambs to other young exhibitors and help them. Winning the FFA proficiency is a great example of a long-term goal.

Setting Goals, Working Hard Are Integral Parts of Livestock Showing

What Happened to Suzy?

Well, Suzy is at the height of her career now. She continued showing cattle for a while and transitioned 100% to sheep due to a family move. She even was able to join a group of breeders and exported a few of her breeding ewes to South America.

Thanks to her parents for encouraging goal setting early in her livestock showing adventures, Suzy made goal setting part of her routine. She set SMART goals through college, which included being a member of a member of a national champion livestock judging team.

She still sets professional and personal goals for herself, every year on her birthday. She writes them down and checks back on them periodically to check her progress and motivate herself.

Let Sure Champ Help You Achieve your Goals

Set your SMART goals before you start your livestock showing project. Remember, goals take time, hard work and patience. It also helps to have a little assistance keeping your animals healthy and performing with products from Sure Champ.

Major Show Results

Houston Livestock Show

Mkt Swine

- Peyton Weitheron- 4th Cross
- Kanon Kolar- 3rd place Berkshire
- Hartley Kutscherousky- 1st place York
- Kaylie Schroeder- 3rd place Chester
- Madison Morris- 9th place Cross
- Caty Birch- 9th place Cross

Breeding Heifer

- Maverick Beaman- 2nd place Shorthorn
- Blaine Allen- 2nd place Shorthorn
- Paige Denniston- 6th place Hereford
- Quinnlan Dieterich- 4th place Polled Hereford
- Kate Swain- 2nd place Maine
- Duke Groschke- 4th place Charolais
- Noah Anthony- 3rd place Charolais
- Jacob Fulp- 5th place Charolais
- Hayleigh Gerik- 2nd place Charolais
- Aryanna Anthony- 3rd place Charolais
- Karsen Fussel- 2nd place ORB
- Emma Caffey- 3rd place ORB
- Kolsen Fussel- 10th place Simi
- Makenna Makovy- 2nd place Brahman
- Paytyn Welle- 8th place Brahman
- Brenden Driskell- 3rd place ARB
- Paisley Groschke- 2nd place ARB
- Brookly Beard- 8th place Simbrah
- Paisley Rendon- 3rd place Simbrah
- Aubrey Johnson- 1st place Beefmaster

Breeding Sheep

- Wylie Jager- 2nd place Dorper Ram

Mkt Lamb

- Giddeon Scoggins- 13th place MW
- Logan Bowers- 10th place SD

Mkt Steer

- Paisley Groschke- Reserve Shorthorn
- Duke Groschke- 3rd place Angus
- Emily Fulp- 7th place Charolais

Mkt Turkey

- Jed Boehme- 38th place Hen

Mkt Goat

- Brenlie Williams- 4th place
- Emma Turner- 6th place
- Hartley Kutscherousky- 5th place
- Eden Smith- 8th place
- Brighton Meurer- 14th Place
- Addisyn Myers- 14th place

Rodeo Austin Livestock Show

Breeding Heifer

- Whiteny Buerlein- 1st place Angus
- Emily Fulp- 3rd place Charolais
- Makenna Makovy- 1st place Brahman
- Noah Anthony -2nd place Charolais
- Jacob Fulp- 3rd place Charolais
- Quinnlan Dieterich- 3rd place Hereford
- Aubrey Johnson -1st place Beefmaster
- Hayleigh Gerik- 3rd place Charolais
- Jace Ellis- 2nd place Gert
- Kate Swain- 1st place Maine & 3rd place Shorthorn
- Blaine Allen- 2nd place Shorthorn
- Makenna Makovy- Champion Jr. division
- Paytyn Welle- 2nd place Brahman

Major Show Judges

West Texas Fair & Rodeo

- Steers- Tyler Stutsman
- Youth Swine- Mike Fischer
- Mkt Goat- Mike Gann
- Mkt Lamb- Kase LeRow & Clay Burson
- Wkend 1 Cattle- Amber Jennings & Emily Lochner
- Wkend 2 Cattle- Carter McClendon Chad Oates

State Fair of Texas

- Steers- Shane Bedwell
- Mkt Barrow- Blake Danner
- Mkt Lamb- Barrett Carlisle
- Mkt Goat- Payton Dahmer
- Mkt Broiler- Jason Lee
- Wave 1 Heifer (Brahma/Brangus)- Kody Lucherk

Brazos Valley Fair & Rodeo

- Steers- Ausitn Nauman & Tyler Mackey
- Swine- Lincoln Hart & Kade Pendley
- Mkt Lamb- Chad Coburn & Wayne Morse
- Mkt Goat- Wayne Morse & Chad Coburn
- Breeding Heifer- Tyler Mackey & Austin Nauman

Heart O' Texas Fair

- Scholarship Steer – Scott Werning
- Premium Steer – Brady Ragland
- Scholarship American Heifer- Kolten Thigpen
- Premium American Heifer – Glenn Martin
- Scholarship Brith/Exotic Heifer- Krish Geffert
- Premium Brit/Exotic Heifer- Chad Breeding
- Scholarship Goat- Caleb Boden
- Premium Goat- Kase Lerow
- Scholarship Lamb- Craig Beckmie
- Premium Lamb – Dr. Shawn Ramsey
- Scholarship Swine – Garrit Sproull
- Scholarship Gilts- Zachary Schwecke
- Premium Swine – Todd Beyers

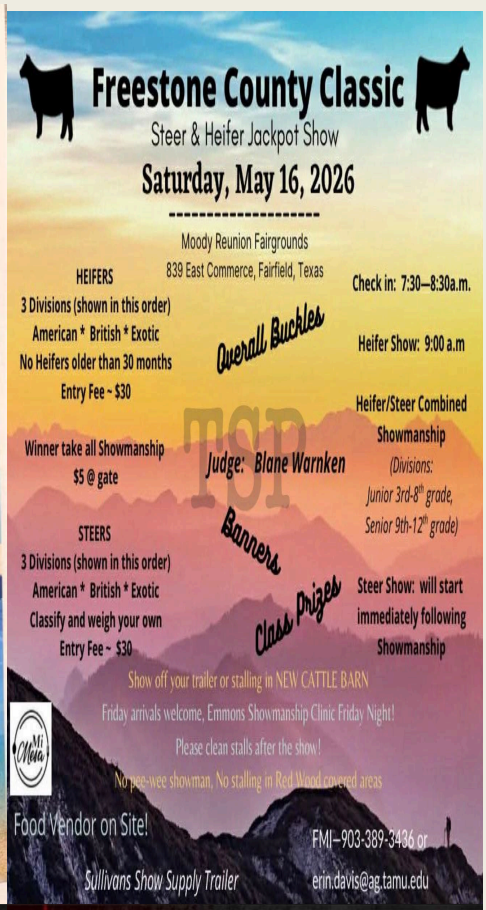
Sandhills Livestock Show

- Cattle - Dr. Mark Hoge
- Mkt Lamb-
- Mkt Goat-

Rodeo Austin

- Mkt Steers- Blake Nelson
- Mkt Lamb- Payton Dahmer
- Mkt Swine- Will Taylor
- Mkt Goat- Dr. Scott Greiner
- Hfr- Kase Lerow & Willie Weis

Jackpot Shows



McLennan County Extension Office

4224 Cobbs Drive.
Waco, Texas 76710

Phone: 254-757-5180
Fax: 254-757-5097
E-mail:
Mclennan@ag.tamu.edu

We're on the Web!
https://mclennan.agrilife.org/

Upcoming Events:

Tag Order Deadlines:

MCJLS Turkey Orders- May 10th

Major Show Turkey Orders- May 15th

State Fair Broilers- May 15th

Fall Heifer Tag Orders- August 14th

Major Sheep & Goats August 14th

Major Show Broilers August 28th

Validation Dates:

State Fair Sheep/Goat/Swine June- 17 & 29

Cattle Validation- June 23 & 29

Show Entry Dates

West Texas Fair- July 15th

State Fair & HOTFR Entries due August 5th

Show Dates

2026 West Texas Fair & Rodeo

September 10-19

Heifers (Hereford, Angus, R Angus) 9/4-9-5
Goat- 9/4-9-5
Lambs- 9/5-9/6
Heifers (Shorty, Brangus, Beefmaster) 9/11-9-12
Heifers(Simi, ORB, ARB) 9/12-9/13
Steers- 9/17-9/19
Breeding Sheep- 9/18-9/19

2026 State Fair of Texas

September 25-October 18

Breeding Gilt- 9/23-9/27
Mkt Lamb- 9/24-9/25
Mkt Goat- 9/26-9/27
Mkt Steer -9/29-10/1
Mkt Swine 1 -9/28-9/29
Mkt Swine 2 9/30-10/1
Poultry -9/28
Prospect Steers- 10/2-10/4
Heifer #1- 10/5-10/7
Heifer #2 -10/8-10/12
Heifer #3-10/14-10/18
Wether Dam/Doe- 10/6-10/8
Breeding Sheep- 10/16-10/18

2026 Heart O' Texas Fair

September 25- October 18

Heifers- 10/1-10/3
Steers- 10/5-10/7
Lambs- 10/9-10/11
Goats- 10/12-10/14
Swine- 10/15-10/18

2026 Brazos Valley Fair

October 23-25, 2026

Goats- 10/24
Lambs- 10/24
Heifers- 10/24
Steers- 10/25
Swine- 10/25

2027 Sandhills

January 9th

2027 Ft. Worth Livestock Show

January 15-February 6

2027 MCJLS

February 1-5

2027 San Angelo

2027 Elite Gilt Showcase

2027 San Antonio Livestock Show

February 11-28, 2027

2027 Houston Livestock Show

March 2-21, 2027

2027 Rodeo Austin

March 12-27

Contacts

Jerod Meurer	Dr. Shane McLellan	Madeline Makovy	Rachel Esquivel
NR Agent	AG Agent	4-H & Youth Development	Family & Community Health Agent

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genet- ic information or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating