

## **DEPARTMENT K—JUNIOR LIVESTOCK—4-H & FFA LARGE LIVESTOCK RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026**

ALL GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS AS SPECIFIED BY THE GILA COUNTY FAIR APPLY. Please read them carefully.

Purchasing a livestock project does not guarantee that project(s) will be eligible to exhibit at the fair. Exhibiting at the fair does not guarantee that an animal will be sold at auction. Selling an animal at the Gila County Fair Auction does not guarantee a profit. It is not guaranteed that there will be a buyer for every animal.

**Deadline for purchasing steers is May 1, 2026; swine, goats, lambs June 1, 2026.**

**Gila County Fair deadline for Livestock Entry Forms, Department K & A (Open), is Wednesday June 3, 2026.**

**Dog and Horse Entries are due at the regular entry time, September 2, 2026.**

### **1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Only Gila County 4-H and FFA members in good standing may enter this division. Members of 4-H and FFA may only enter at one county fair. Members may enter only those animals which have been used as their 4-H or FFA project for the current year. Exhibitors of large stock may initially enter two (2) entries per class but may exhibit only one animal per class during the fair. If more than one animal of the same species is entered, the Exhibitor must choose which animal will be designated as the market entry at fair weigh-in. The second animal may be entered in another class or in the Dept. A Open show following weigh-in. Exhibitors of small stock may enter and exhibit two (2) entries per class, per breed. Animals to be shown as breeding stock or prospects will not be required to sell at the Gila County Fair. No premium will be paid for breeding stock. All entry forms must be submitted electronically no later than 10 pm Wednesday June 3, 2026. The entry form portal will be available on the Gila County Fair website, through ShoWorks. You are responsible for entering in the correct Divisions and Classes. Copies of the following supporting documents must be submitted to your 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor by **July 24, 2026**, and received by the Gila County Fair's Livestock Committee no later than **July 31, 2026**; Seasonal Pass, YQCA Certificate, Bill of Sale and three required pictures. Required pictures are to be color, in print and consist of the following views: up close of the head with ear tag and/or markings; left and right-side views. The Exhibitor must appear in each picture.

- Bill of Sale must include date of sale, animals age at time of purchase by the Exhibitor (month and year acceptable), seller's name and address.
- All Livestock entering from out of state are required by the Arizona Department of Agriculture to have import permit number and health certificate issued by a veterinarian prior to obtaining Seasonal Pass.

### **2. RESPONSIBILITY**

Exhibitor must have raised animal he/she shows and provide proof of ownership. Exceptions for Showmanship classes may be made by the Livestock Committee (should something happen to the Exhibitor's original animal). These situations will be handled on a one-on-one basis. Each Exhibitor must exhibit and care for his/her animal during weigh-in and for the duration of the fair. Exceptions can be made only by the Livestock Superintendent. The Exhibitor is responsible for the fitting and showing of

their own animal and may assist and be assisted by others in this learning experience. The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Class certification will be required each year to enter the fair. This is a required class for all Exhibitors showing Large and Small stock in Department K. Dog and horse Exhibitors are encouraged to attend but not required.

Deadline to complete YQCA class is July 24, 2026, contact your FFA advisor, 4-H Extension Agent or leader for information on how to enroll in this class. A copy of the certificate must be submitted with your supporting documents.

Official Dress for the respective organizations will be required for all shows as well as the Livestock Auction.

- Official 4-H Dress - A buttoned up, collared long sleeve shirt, of the appropriate 4-H colors of solid green, solid white, or a mix of green and white. No third color mix or additional colors are allowed. Long pants or knee length to longer skirt (dark color - blue or black jeans), belt, boots or closed toed shoes and green neckwear (tie, ribbon or scarf).
- Official FFA Field Dress- Official FFA Jacket, white collared button-down shirt, black or dark blue jeans, belt, closed toed shoes or boots, official tie or scarf.

### 3. SELF-INSPECTION SEASONAL PASS

A Self-Inspection Seasonal Pass is required for ALL (not just market) exhibition of cattle, sheep, goats and swine owned by Arizona residents and exhibited in Arizona according to state law (ARS3-3146. Section R3-27030). To receive a Seasonal Pass, Exhibitor must complete an application form with the Arizona Department of Agriculture. To obtain an application visit [www.azda.gov](http://www.azda.gov). or call the Self-Inspection desk at 800-294-0305. Each Exhibitor is allowed to list up to ten animals on a pass. The Exhibitor MUST have their Seasonal Pass in their possession at the time of Fair check in.

### 4. EAR TAGGING

Steer tagging will occur on the second Thursday in May, with a make up day the following Saturday. Swine, Lamb and Goat tagging will occur on the second Thursday in July, with a make up day the following Saturday.

**May 14 Gila County Fairgrounds-(5-7pm) Steer**

**May 16-Gila County Fairgrounds-(7-8am) Steer-Make up**

**July 9-Gila County Fairgrounds-(5-7pm) Swine, Lamb and Goat**

**July 11-Gila County Fairgrounds-(7-8am) Swine, Lamb and Goat-Make up**

All livestock animal entries must be tagged. (tag size will be specific to species). The Livestock Superintendent or his designee will tag up to two 4-H/ FFA animals per species per Exhibitor.

### 5. WEIGH-IN AND SIFTING

Fair weigh-in is Tuesday, September 8, 2026. Exhibitors will have from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm to weigh-in. Unloading- Designated unloading areas will be marked. Steers can be unloaded into the arena and tied to the fence or put in their pen until ready to weigh. Pigs, lambs and goats can be put in their pens until ready to weigh. Pig unloading: There will be a designated area to unload trailers close to the pig barn, but you will not be allowed to back up to the pens. The Exhibitor must be able to walk his/her pig from the designated unloading area to the pig barn.

Weighing- Upon arrival at the Fairgrounds the Exhibitor (not a Leader/Parent) is to check in with the Livestock Committee and all fair documents must be submitted before the animal is weighed. All animals must be dry and cleaned of excessive debris when weighed. You will be notified of the weight of your animal during the weigh in time frame and if you so choose, you can re-weigh once during the time

frame up until 7:00 pm, which at that time, the weight of your animal will be official. Any animal to be reweighed can not leave the assigned area prior to second weighing.

Sifting- All animals must be evaluated and approved by the sifting committee. Sifting will begin once the sifting committee arrives. Only the Exhibitor will handle his/her animal from the time it enters the holding area during sifting and weighing until excused by the sifting committee. Only the Exhibitor, sifting committee and the committee's helpers will be allowed in the sifting area. The judgement of the livestock and sifting committee is final. The Livestock Superintendent has the right and responsibility to reject any livestock exhibit showing evidence of disease, infection, or safety hazards to other animals, spectators or Exhibitors throughout the entire duration of the Fair. All market steers, lambs and goats must be dehorned (regrowth up to 1 ¼ inch will be allowed). Animals will be sifted if they exceed the maximum age. Unmanageable animals will be sifted and must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately. The sifting committee may sift at any time during the fair if an animal is unmanageable by the Exhibitor. Minimum weights will be strictly enforced, underweight animals will be sifted from the market class and cannot be sold in the Gila County Fair Livestock Auction. Underweight animals that are manageable may be used in the showmanship class to allow the Exhibitor to complete the year's project and they may also enter a prospect class. No excessive shrinkage of animals will be tolerated regardless of the distance traveled to weigh-in. The Gila County Fair Board and Livestock Committee wish to publish to the buyers the true and accurate weight of the animals at the official weigh-in. If any 4-H/ FFA member is concerned about shrinkage, the Livestock Committee suggests that the members arrive a day early at or near weigh-in site in order to give the animal the best opportunity to recover any lost weight. It is the responsibility of the 4-H/ FFA member to sell his/her own sifted animal. No advertising or "for sale" signs will be allowed in the livestock area.

\*The use of prohibited substances in any animal such as antibiotics, growth stimulants, or tranquilizers without the prescription of a licensed veterinarian and proper documentation, is strictly forbidden by the Gila County Fair Rules and Federal Law. The fair Livestock Superintendent and/ or fair veterinarian may require drug testing on any animal exhibited at the Gila County Fair. Other causes for disqualification of Exhibitors include:

- a) Unnecessary roughness or abuse of animals.
- b) Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of Exhibitor, parent or leader.
- c) Disrespectful behavior or abusive language on part of the Exhibitor, the Exhibitor's parents, or leader.

First Offense: Disqualification from the Class

Second Offense: Disqualification from the Show

## 6. APPEALS

All livestock appeals will be taken to the Livestock Superintendent who may make the decision, or with his/her approval the appeal may be referred to the Livestock Committee. All decisions by the Livestock Superintendent and/or Committee are final.

## 7. EXHIBIT AREA

All large livestock must be stalled in the designated stall areas. All pens must have an approved pen card, distributed by the fair. All animals must be manageable by the Exhibitor. Colored spray finish and/or colored mousse will not be allowed. Black may only be used on the hooves; all clear grooming/fitting products are allowed. Livestock barns are off limits after 10:00 pm unless approved by the Livestock Superintendent. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to feed and water their animal throughout the duration of the fair. You should be aware of your animal's regular feeding schedule and keep to that schedule, to avoid disruption to their routine. Cattle must be stalled with a halter, a neck

rope and a butt rope. Exhibitors are expected to bring their own feed and appropriately sized feed and water bucket, with the exception of water for swine. All swine must use lickets; no buckets for watering will be allowed. Lickets will be provided by the Fair and Livestock Committee, or you can bring your own. Exhibitors are expected to keep their animal pens and adjacent walkways clean at all times. Each barn will have an area designated for tools/hoses. All tools/hoses must be put away and out of walkway areas except when being used for cleaning. There will be a Herdsman Award for each barn, given to the Exhibitor(s) who have been observed excelling at keeping their respective barns clean and presentable for the public.

## 8. CLASSES AND JUDGING

- \*Animals can be shown as market or breeding, but they can not be shown as both.
- \*Where there is no competition, judges may award one ribbon or no ribbon according to merit. What this means is, showing in a class with no competition does not guarantee you will be awarded Grand Champion. You need to show like you are being judged against others at top level to earn a ribbon or buckle.
- \*Danish system ribbons will be awarded, BLUE, RED, or WHITE.
- \*Premium awards (Buckles/Banners) will only be awarded in classes with three or more entries in the class.
- \*Each Market Division will have market, showmanship, and carcass classes available.
- \*Gila County Bred & Fed classes will require at least two animals entered in each class to hold the class.
- \*Depending on class entries and weights, there will be a light, middle and heavy weight class for Gila County Bred and Fed animals. The top two animals in each class will be called back for Final Drive. After completion of market class of remaining animals, the top two animals of each weight class called in for Final Drive for selection of Grand & Reserve, and Gila County Bred and Fed Grand and Reserve.
- \*Each Breeding Division will have appropriate classes for species. If you do not have a market animal and wish to enter Showmanship, you may use your breeding stock for the Showmanship Class. Otherwise, you will enter your market animal for Showmanship.
- \*Wool Sheep Division will have appropriate classes for species and Showmanship available.
- \*Dairy Goat Division will have appropriate classes for species and Showmanship available.
- \*All other goat and sheep divisions will have appropriate classes for species and Showmanship available.
- \*All horse divisions will have appropriate classes for species. Please see rules from that section in fair book.
- \*Small stock and Dog division: Please see rules from that section in fair book.

## 9. AUCTION

Members of 4-H and FFA shall sell their animals at only one county fair. Any 4-H or FFA member showing a market steer, swine, sheep or goat and who has completed his/her livestock project to date and whose animal places in the blue, red, or white ribbon color group is eligible to sell **one** animal at the Gila County Fair Auction. If by chance an Exhibitor has two different species entered and both animals win Grand and/or Reserve Champion, both animals will sell at auction. All Grand and Reserve champions are required to sell at the Gila County Fair Auction. All Exhibitors selling in the Gila County Livestock Auction must sign a waiver at weigh-in indicating which animal will sell waiving all rights to "no sale" of an animal. If an Exhibitor has more than one species entered in respective market classes the Exhibitor has until 5pm Friday September 11, 2026 to declare which species will sell, provided that neither animal placed Grand or Reserve Champion. All animals that enter the sale ring must sale. It is the responsibility of the Exhibitor to be at the sale ring on time and know the sale order. The Exhibitor (seller) will be paid

as soon as the Fair Committee processes each buyer's checks. All large livestock species will be paid by the head. If drug or chemical residues are found in carcass tissue and/or the carcass is condemned, the Exhibitor will reimburse the Gila County Fair all premium monies, forfeit sale proceeds from the animal, and may be barred from future fairs.

The auction will be held on Saturday afternoon, however, Livestock will not be removed until Sunday morning. Each exhibitor is responsible for the feeding and care of his/her animal up until time of removal, and responsible for the cleaning of his/her exhibit area. There will be official check out Sunday morning.

#### **LARGE LIVESTOCK WEIGHT AND AGE REQUIREMENTS**

	MIN WT	MAX AGE
STEER	950 LBS	24 MONTHS
LAMB	90 LBS	12 MONTHS
SWINE	200 LBS	8 MONTHS
GOAT	50 LBS	12 MONTHS