

## **DEPARTMENT K – JUNIOR LIVESTOCK 4-H and FFA SMALL STOCK RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026**

ALL GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS AS SPECIFIED BY THE GILA COUNTY FAIR APPLY. Please read them carefully. In addition, please read the Large Livestock Rules and Regulations.

**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 small stock may enter two entries per class. The exception are meat pens of rabbits and poultry, which are one entry per class – consisting of three animals/birds.

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.

The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Class certification will be required for any exhibitor who will sell an animal at the auction.

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 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**.

### **2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPEALS**

Exhibitor must have raised animal he/she shows. 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 be exhibit and care for his/her animal for the duration of the fair. Exceptions can be made only by the Superintendent. The Exhibitor is responsible for the showing of their own animal and may assist and be assisted by others in this learning experience. All livestock appeals will be taken to the Livestock Superintendent who may decide or with his approval, the matter may be referred to the Livestock Committee, from which decision there can be no appeal. All decisions by the Livestock Superintendent and/or Committee are final.

### **3. EXHIBIT AREA**

Exhibitors of livestock must keep space occupied by them and their animals neat and clean. All litter must be deposited in a place designated by the Livestock Superintendent. Cages must be clean when

animals are checked out. The Exhibitor will lose premiums if not cleaned. The care of open entries will be supervised by the Superintendent. Animals are not to be removed from their cages unless permitted by the Superintendent. Exhibitors must provide, feed, feeders and water containers for their animals. Only bedding provided by the fair can be used.

#### 4. CLASSES AND JUDGING

If fewer than five entries of one breed variety are entered, two or more varieties may be combined into one lot to be judged. Diseased, unsightly or dangerous entries will not be admitted to the show. The Show Superintendent has permission to remove or quarantine any sick or injured animals. Judges may eliminate from competition any small stock entered as a breed or variety not recognized. The Danish System will be used to judge the small stock. Meat pens of poultry and rabbits should strive to be three animals/birds of the same breed that are as nearly identical as possible.

All breeds of rabbits must be recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection. The Danish system of judging will be used. If a breed is not recognized, they will be entered into the pet class. All rabbits must be three (3) months old by fair time, with the exception of Meat Pens, and fryer classes. Rabbits and covies (over 6 months of age) must have a permanent mark with an ID number in the left ear. It is recommended that rabbits have a permanent tattoo; covies have an ear-tag. The number must be included on the entry form. If the rabbit has a history of biting, a sign must be placed on the cage. Poultry, waterfowl and pigeons must be recognized breed and have a numbered ID band. This ID band must be included on the entry form. Turkeys, pigeons, geese, ducks, guineas, peafowl and pheasants must be entered as singles. Chickens may be entered as singles or trios. A trio consists of one male and two females that are the same breed, age, variety and size. The ID bands, breed and variety must be included on the entry form.

Classes for 2026 will include market classes for rabbit, poultry and waterfowl. To be entered in the rabbit, poultry, and waterfowl market class, the animal must be a recognized commercial or meat breed.

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.

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

## 5. BANDING/WEIGH IN

Any animal that will sell in the Junior Livestock Auction, must be banded. Banding will take place on the second Thursday in July, with a make-up day the following Saturday.

**July 9-Gila County Fairgrounds – (5-7pm)**

**July 11-Gila County Fairgrounds-(7-8am)**

Fair weigh-in is Tuesday, September 8, 2026. Exhibitors will have from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm to weigh-in. Turkeys must be weighed for an accurate accounting on the sale order.

## 6. AUCTION

The Small Stock Show is not a terminal show, and Exhibitors do not have to sell any lot in the auction, unless they choose to do so. Members of 4-H and FFA may enter, receive premiums, show and sell their animals at only one of the county fairs in Globe and Payson. Any 4-H or FFA member showing a Market Animal small stock species and who has completed his/her project to date-is eligible to sell one small stock Market animal, or one lot of Meat Pen, OR one large 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. 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 small stock will be paid by the lot.

Purchasing a livestock project does not guarantee that projects will 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.

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.