

## ELBERT COUNTY FAIR GENERAL RULES

The following rules apply to all 4-H and Open Class Divisions in the fair book. Exhibitors are responsible for reading and understanding fair rules (general rules, schedules, deadlines, notes, division rules, and class rules) wherever printed in the fair book.

Where the term "Fair Official" is used that shall mean an Extension Agent, Fair Board member, or Superintendent.

Fair Board reserves the right to make any changes as necessary.

### Entering:

1. Check entry forms and website for due dates. Any entry fees paid during the fair must be paid in **cash**.
2. **NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED, UNLESS NOTED.** See Summary of Entry Deadlines for more information.
3. All entries must be entered in the name of the owner.
4. If in doubt as to what class an item or animal is to be entered, contact the Elbert County Extension Office at (303) 621-3162, Monday through Thursday, before sending in the entry. In some divisions, exhibits entered in the wrong class will be disqualified.
5. All exhibits entered at the fair are done so at the owner's risk and the management will not be responsible for damages or injuries to persons and/or animals or property or for any loss whatsoever.
6. It is recommended that all exhibits have the name of the exhibitor attached if feasible. All exhibits must bear the entry tags/cards provided. **Exhibitors are encouraged to fill out entry tags before check-in. Entry tags are available at the Extension Office.**

### Exhibiting:

1. All exhibits will be under the control and direction of the Fair Board while on exhibition.
2. All animals exhibited or brought to the fairgrounds must be disease free. The Fair Board reserves the right to reject any unhealthy stock, upon recommendation of a licensed veterinarian. See 4-H Division for additional requirements for 4-H Animals.
3. All livestock exhibitors and those involved with livestock at the fair must, at all times, behave in an ethical manner and practice acceptable methods of good animal husbandry. Unethical practices include, but are not limited to, actions that violate FDA law, harming an animal, showing an animal of ineligible age, showing of unethically fitted animals, violating Elbert County General Rules, or violating 4-H rules.
4. Feed and bedding must be supplied by the exhibitor as well as buckets and feed troughs.
5. Beef, sheep, swine, dairy, horses, and small animals may use wood chips, which must be provided by the exhibitor. **NO STRAW ALLOWED BECAUSE OF INSURANCE** (with the exception of lactating dairy cows).
6. All livestock exhibitors must display stock in the designated show areas and must exhibit livestock for the official judges when requested.
7. **ALL EXHIBITS MUST REMAIN ON EXHIBIT UNTIL 3:00 P.M. SUNDAY OF THE FAIR, UNLESS OTHER AUTHORIZATION HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE FAIR BOARD. JUNIOR MARKET SALE ANIMALS WILL BE LOADED OUT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MARKET SALE COMMITTEE.**
8. Additional classes may be added if there is a need and if there are at least 5 exhibitors (3 exhibitors in the Open Class Division). The Fair Board reserves the right for superintendents to combine classes if there is not enough competition.
9. It will be at the discretion of the Fair Board as to the removal of any animal that cannot be shown or handled.
10. Judges, at their discretion, may dismiss unmanageable animals from a class.

### Judging:

1. Where there is but one exhibit in a class, the award shall be made on merit alone and a premium may be given at the discretion of the judge, but the premium may not be withheld because of lack of competition.
2. Unworthy articles will not receive awards/premiums whether there is competition or not.
3. Awards will be designated by ribbons. The American System of individual placing (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) will be used at the fair. Premiums are paid on the American System only. Please refer to the individual division for the system(s) that will be used.
4. In the 4-H and Open Class divisions, Champions are chosen from all 1st places in the appropriate classes. Reserve Champions are chosen from the remaining 1st place exhibits and the 2nd place exhibit to the Champion (only if it is of blue quality in the 4-H division and of acceptable quality in the Open Class division, as determined by the judge). If a Champion and/or Reserve Champion is designated, those awards will be chosen from classes from within the same Department & Section. 4-H Showmanship species Champions and Reserve Champions will be chosen from the exhibitors selected to return for the final classes. Champions and Reserve Champions may be chosen from any of these exhibitors, regardless of their placing in the qualifying classes.

**Releasing:**

1. All exhibits will be released after 3:00 p.m. the last day of the fair, unless a different release time is stated for that section. If exhibits are removed prior to this time, without official permission of the Fair Board, all premiums will be forfeited for all exhibits.
2. All livestock exhibitors must clean stalls or pens to receive "Clean Stall/Pen" approval. Premiums will not be paid without approval.

**Premiums:**

1. Where exhibitors can exhibit more than one per class, the exhibitor may receive more than one award (ribbon). Exhibitors may receive no more than two premiums per class.
2. **Cash premiums will be paid during the fair on Sunday at the Fair Office from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Premiums will be paid as listed in the fair book schedule. The Fair Board and Elbert County reserve the right to change the method and date of payment if the need should arise. Any premiums not picked up by that date shall be forfeited unless prior written arrangements have been made with the Extension Office.**
3. **Violation of any Elbert County Fair rule may result in loss of awards and/or premiums.**

**Miscellaneous:**

1. Any exhibitor found guilty of any practice deemed unethical by the Fair Board will forfeit all premium monies and the exhibitor will be barred from future participation until such time as reinstatement is made by the Fair Board. Exhibitors may petition the Fair Board for reinstatement.
2. The Fair Board will provide attendants and watchmen to take all possible precautions for the safe keeping and protection of all articles/animals or exhibits, but will not be responsible for loss, damage, or injury of any kind while the same is on exhibition.
3. **CAUTION:** Smoking is prohibited in the exhibit barns and buildings. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the exhibiting area.
4. Every effort will be made to run events on schedule. If an event is delayed by more than 30 minutes, that event may be rescheduled so as not to conflict with previously scheduled events.

**Protests:**

5. A formal protest must be made in writing to the fair office within 12 hours of announcement of contest results. Such protest must state plainly the cause of complaint or appeal and be accompanied by a **\$25.00 fee**. The protest committee shall consist of the President of the Fair Board, a representative from Extension Office, and the superintendent of the division involved. In the event the complaint is justified, the \$25.00 will be returned and necessary action taken. If the committee rules against the complaint, the \$25.00 fee will be forfeited.

## 4-H/FFA DIVISION RULES

### Overall 4-H Superintendent:

#### Kali Benson, Elbert County 4-H /AG Agent & County Director

In addition to Elbert County Fair General Rules and Specific Class Rules, the following 4-H and FFA Division Rules apply. All exhibitors are responsible for reading and understanding ALL fair rules, (General, Department, Section and Class rules) as published and posted.

### ENTERING:

#### Qualified Members:

1. Only Elbert County 4-H members actively enrolled through 4honline.com may enter in the 4-H Division and must be in good standing to compete for awards. FairEntry requires 4-H member's current project enrollment to enter a 4-H Class of competition.
2. Only students in an Elbert County FFA program may compete in an appropriate Class under the 4-H Senior Age Division. These exhibitors must have completed the requirements of their specific programs and must adhere to Elbert County General Rules as well as 4H/FFA Rules.
3. Exhibitors who are members of 4-H and FFA are expected to complete the requirements of both programs.
4. Record Books are required for every 4-H project. Project record books not completed will cause the member to be ineligible to enroll in that project the following year.
  - Livestock records must be current, pre-checked by club leader before fair, completed post fair, and final sign-off by club leader in September.
  - Shooting Sports records must be current and submitted at designated general project check-in dates/times. Current records are required to qualify for state.
  - All General Project records must be complete, labeled, and submitted with exhibit at designated general project check-in date/time.

#### Class and Age Divisions:

5. Most 4-H CLASSES are based on the 4-H Member's age. 4-H age is determined by how old the member was on December 31.

##### 4-H Member Age Divisions Are:

- Cloverbud = Ages 5-7
- Junior = Ages 8-10
- Intermediate = Ages 11-13
- Senior = Ages 14-18

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##### CLASS Age Exceptions:

- If only two age divisions, the split will be:  
(Junior: Ages 8-13 and Senior: Ages 14-18)
- Animal ages apply to breeding livestock and some animal Classes.
- Novice Classes are for first year exhibitors in that animal project, regardless of 4-H member age.

#### Fair Entry And Fees:

6. **All 4-H Fair Entries Are Due By July 1 -**
  - **4-H members must enter fair online** through **FairEntry**, using same login as your 4HOnline account.
  - Once all entries for all exhibitors in the family have been completed, then **CONTINUE TO PAYMENT** to finalize and submit your family's entries.
  - **PRINT** out your invoice, **PAYABLE TO ECEF**, deliver your invoice and payment to the Extension office **BEFORE JULY 1**.
  - **Your invoice and payment must be received BEFORE July 1 in order for your 4-H member and projects to be officially entered in the Elbert County Fair.**
  - **\$5 Basic Entry Fee - Per 4-H Member**
7. **\$3 Vet Inspection Fee - per market animal: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat.** *This fee is charged once to EACH animal* Late Entries only taken in person at the Extension office. The regular entry fees, plus an **additional \$150 late entry fee will be due in CASH**. No 4-H/FFA fair entries accepted after the Monday Superintendents' pre-fair meeting.

8. **LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS:**
1. Cooperation with judges, fair officials, other exhibitors, the general public, etc., is expected.
  2. Exhibitors should be conscious of their appearance and actions in view of the general public.
  3. All 4-H/FFA animals housed on the fairgrounds must have a Health Inspection. This service is available for each species according to the Fair Schedule.
  4. Any animal deemed unhealthy any time during the Fair will be removed from the Fairgrounds with the approval of the superintendent and the Fair Board. Exhibitors who protest the decision may contact a veterinarian at their own expense and provide written recommendations in a timely manner as to not delay any Fair events.
  5. Market beef must be in possession of the exhibitor by April 1 of the current year and ID entered in 4HOnline by May 1.
  6. All Beef, Dairy Cattle, Horse, and Dog must have ID's in 4HOnline by May 1 in order to be entered in county fair through FairEntry.
  7. All other livestock: Goats, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, and Rabbits (birth doe of any meat rabbits), must be in the exhibitor's possession and ID's in 4HOnline by June 1 in order to be entered in county fair through FairEntry. Exception will be Show Birds that may be ID'ed directly in Fair Entry at time of entry.
  8. Ownership of the animal should be designated at the time of weigh-in at the spring weigh-in for that species. However, in any case, designation of ownership must be made within one week from the spring weigh-in for the animal to be
  9. Animals that are not weighed in and identified at the spring weigh-in will not be eligible to compete in the Grand Champion Class or Rate of Gain Contest. Exhibitors whose animals not weighed in at the spring weigh-in are required to make arrangements with the Extension Office to have their animals tagged for fair.
  10. At Fair weigh-in, exhibitors will be limited to the number of market animals weighed-in and exhibited. Market Beef, Lambs, and Goats will be limited to three (3). Market Swine will be limited to two (2). See Poultry and Rabbit Division Rules for limits for those species.
  11. Re-weigh requests will be granted only immediately following the balancing of the scales. No other animals will be weighed between. Re-weigh animals will not be permitted to leave the weigh area.
  12. In all species, the same animal may NOT be shown in both a market/meat class and a breeding/show class.
  13. Intact males or cryptorchids will not be accepted for beef, sheep, swine, goat, and horse classes and will be disqualified.
  14. All market beef, lamb, and goat, to be entered in the Rate-of-Gain Contests at the Elbert County Fair should be weighed in and tagged at the spring weigh-in for that species. Animals that are not weighed in and identified at the spring weigh-in will not be eligible to compete in the Rate-of-Gain Contest, or the Grand Champion Class. Exhibitors whose animals not weighed in at the spring weigh-in are required to make arrangements with the Extension Office to have their animals tagged for fair.
  15. Limit of one designated ultrasound animal per species per exhibitor for contest purposes.
  16. **EXHIBITORS MUST SHOW THEIR OWN ANIMAL IN SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES.** Exception: Novice exhibitors may show another animal in cases where safety is an issue. Exhibitors will be required to sign up with the tag number of their Showmanship animal at Fair.

#### **PROPER CARE OF LIVESTOCK AT THE FAIR:**

1. All livestock will be properly cared for throughout the duration of the Fair. Any violation of this may be cause for removal of animals, forfeiture of prizes, forfeiture of sales monies, and/or other penalties.
2. If an animal becomes sick or injured, a representative of the Fair Board will make an attempt to contact the exhibitor using the emergency number(s) provided by the member on their entry form. If the member cannot be reached, a veterinarian will be contacted at the exhibitor's expense.
3. Notice of the USDA Wholesome Meat Act: Elbert County Fair endorses and supports the USDA Wholesome Meat Act and insists that exhibitors are in compliance. Exhibitors of all animal entries (except dog and horse) must certify their compliance with manufacturer's pre-market withdrawal periods specified for any and all medications, drugs, pesticides, implants, or feed additives administered. The use of any non-approved chemical or improper use of approved chemicals is strictly prohibited. **Certification will be required upon weigh-in at the show.** Any exhibitor found to have violated this rule will forfeit premiums for this animal and the sale of the animal in the Junior Market Sale will be declared void.
4. All livestock exhibitors and those involved with livestock at the fair must, at all times, behave in an ethical manner and practice acceptable methods of good animal husbandry. Unethical practices include, but are not limited to, actions that violate FDA law, harming an animal, showing an animal of ineligible age, **showing of unethically fitted animals**, violating Elbert County General Rules, or violating 4-H/FFA rules.
5. All livestock will be provided with fresh, clean water. A water container, with water, must be visible and available for watering on a regular basis in each penned or stalled area at all times. Elbert County Fair officials reserve the right, at their discretion, to contact a veterinarian to determine if water should be given.
6. Drenching of water and electrolytes (unless otherwise directed by a veterinarian) will be allowed for sheep and goats only in the sheep and goat barns. No stomach pumping devices will be allowed, unless directed and administered by a veterinarian.
7. All livestock, except Rabbits and Poultry, will be fed twice daily; once prior to 9:00 a.m. and the second time after 5:00 p.m. Rabbits and Poultry will be fed at least daily.
8. Injecting an animal shall be allowed only under the supervision of a Fair Official and upon approval by a veterinarian. No animal shall be fed or injected with any non-authorized substance unless the animal's health requires.
9. Beef, Dairy, Goats, Sheep, and Horses should be exercised at least once a day.
10. Beef and Dairy will be haltered and tied when in the barns or at tie-out spaces. **Night ties are required for night tying.**
11. All livestock will be clean and as properly groomed as possible at all times.
12. Comfort of the animal is a primary concern. Therefore, fans and appropriate insect control are allowed.
13. Exhibitors are expected to keep barns, pens, bedding, wash rack area, and grounds clean and free of trash.
14. Stall/pen signs must be displayed for the public to see easily. Stall/pen signs can be picked up at the fair office. Stall/pen space is assigned by species superintendent. Exhibitors are required to stall/pen animals as assigned or risk disqualification.

#### **JUDGING - (LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS):**

1. All classes (including Showmanship) will be awarded four places based on the American System. Champion and Reserve Champion will be awarded as indicated by the fair book.
2. Showmanship species Champions and Reserve Champions will be chosen from the exhibitors chosen to return for the final classes. Champions and Reserve Champions may be chosen from any of these exhibitors, regardless of their placing in the qualifying classes.
3. Poor quality, underweight, and prospect animals will not be allowed to sell in the Elbert County Junior Market Sale.
4. **Exhibitors should take care to dress appropriately for the species they are showing. Exhibitors are also strongly encouraged to dress tastefully so as to represent the agriculture industry in the best possible way.**
5. Cloverbud 4-H: State 4-H guidelines apply. Special ribbons are awarded during the fair at Fair Board sponsored non-competitive activities.

#### 4-H GENERAL PROJECTS EXHIBITS:

1. **Check-in:** General 4-H Projects must be checked in at designated times as published to be judged and exhibited at the Elbert County Fair.
2. 4-H'ers who do not exhibit their projects at the Elbert County Fair must submit their project e-record and completed manual to the Elbert County Extension Office or Main Leader by September 1 to earn project completion for the current year. Projects not completed will cause the member to be ineligible to enroll in that project the following year. **NOTE:** *Project will be reviewed, but it will not be judged.*
3. **Label Projects and Record Books Before Check-in:** Each exhibit piece and e-Record and other materials MUST be labeled before check-in.  
Label Information:  
ELBERT COUNTY,  
EXHIBITOR NAME,  
4-H AGE,  
DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND CLASS.
4. **4-H Displays:** Display Boards are the ONLY display boards that can be used for 4-H projects. Display Boards should be the standardized size of 3 feet high X 4 feet wide. NO wooden display cases are allowed, except where specified Note: For more information on displays and projects:  
[www.colorado4h.org/project\\_resources/StateFairExhibitReq.pdf](http://www.colorado4h.org/project_resources/StateFairExhibitReq.pdf) - look under Display Hints and Tips and Project Tips.
5. All exhibits must be displayed and remain on display for the duration of the Elbert County Fair. Exhibits will be released on the last Sunday of fair at 3 pm and must be picked up at that time. The management will not be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits left unclaimed.
6. Any exhibit qualifying for state fair remaining with the Extension office must have a signed release and be properly packaged for transport to state fair.

#### JUDGING - (General 4-H Project Exhibits):

1. The Danish System will be used to GRADE the 4-H exhibits for QUALITY first. This system uses product standards and fulfillment of exhibit requirements to grade each exhibit.  
**Blue** - Exhibit meets exhibit requirements and is of high quality.  
**Red** - Exhibit meets exhibit requirements but is of average quality.  
**White** - Exhibit does not meet all exhibit requirements and/or is below average quality; (needs improvement).
2. Following Danish grading, the American System will be used to RANK the 4-H exhibits. Ranking is competition among exhibitors in a class, establishing 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> places. Regardless of number of entries in a class, place ranking cannot exceed quality. A red or white quality exhibit do not qualify for a first place ranking.
3. **Exhibits placing first in their class qualify to go to the Colorado State Fair.** This does not apply to those projects designated as County Only Projects. Any exhibit qualifying for state fair remaining with the Extension office must have a signed release and be properly packaged for transport to state fair.
4. A DIVISION County Champion and Reserve Champion is chosen by the judge from all the first place exhibits in classes in that division per the Champion listing at the end of general project exhibit requirements.
5. Cloverbud 4-H: State 4-H guidelines apply. Special ribbons are awarded during the fair at Fair Board sponsored non-competitive activities.

**ALL 4-H PREMIUMS AND AWARDS:**

1. Premiums are paid on the American System of placing for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> places only, as designated in the fair book. Champions receive awards or buckles as designated in the fair book and not additional premiums. Premiums will not be paid on Cloverbud activities, or other county only fun activities.
2. Cash premiums will be paid during the fair on the last Sunday at the Fair Office when announced after 3pm and close-out at 5pm. The Fair Board and Elbert County reserve the right to change the method and date of payment if the need should arise. Any premiums not picked up by that date shall be forfeited unless required paperwork completed and filed with Extension prior to Jr. Market Sale.
3. 4-H Exhibitors must meet certain requirements to sign-out and receive premiums:
  - Award/Buckle winners must have written Thank You notes to donors.
  - Animal project members must have clean stall sheets signed by barn superintendent.
  - Market Sellers must complete a market comparison worksheet.
4. Some awards will be presented at the time of show. All other awards will be presented at Awards Night.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Although some Units are divided into Junior and Senior Classes or Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Classes in this Fair Book, the Fair Board and Superintendents of each Division reserve the right to combine classes if there are not enough entries to justify the split. Exhibitors may still be eligible to compete at the State Fair level within their age division.