

Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition

2026 Premier Market Beef Exhibitor Competition

- Division # 915
- Entry Fee: N/A

Overview Competition Requirements

1. All exhibitors must have read and be familiar with the General Competition Requirements, General Livestock and Small Animal Competition Requirements, Junior Livestock Competition Requirements, Colorado State Fair Exhibitor Code of Conduct, Animal Welfare Policy, and Health Requirements.
2. All entrants must be 4-H members (being 8 years of age and not having reached their 19th birthday as of December 31, 2025) or in FFA and active in an approved Vocational Agriculture school program as of January 1, 2026 (not to have reached their 19th birthday as of December 31, 2025).
3. This competition is open only to those junior market exhibitors who successfully enter and compete at the 2026 Colorado State Fair. In addition, the exhibitor must qualify for the 2026 Colorado State Fair Junior Livestock Sale (“Sale”). Once the final sale determination has been made for a species, all qualifying exhibitors will automatically be eligible to compete in the Premier Exhibitor Competition. Participation is voluntary for each sale qualifier.
4. The competition comprises five different event categories that earn the exhibitor points towards a final maximum score of 250 points. These categories include Live Animal Placings (50 points maximum), Market Showmanship Placing (50 points maximum), Livestock Judging Class (50 points maximum), Written Exam/General Species Applied Knowledge (combined 100 points maximum).
5. To maintain eligibility within the competition, the exhibitor must actively participate in each of the five event categories.

6. Ties of the highest cumulative points will be decided based on scores in individual categories in the following order: first: highest Market Class Placing; second: highest Market Showmanship Placing; and third: highest combination of scores between the “Live Judging Classes” and the “Written Exam.”
7. COMPETITION TIME AND LOCATION: Monday, August 31st following the selection of the Grand Champion Market Beef. Please meet the superintendent at the northwest corner of the Livestock Pavilion by the bathrooms. Information will also be posted at the Livestock Office and in the respective barns. If an exhibitor has a conflict, please contact the Superintendent to arrange a time to complete the contest requirements.

Competition Logistics

Market Class Placing

1. The Market Class Placing will account for 20% of the overall score, earning points ranging from a minimum of 10 points to a maximum of 50 points.
2. Only those entries that receive a 1st through 10th placing while also qualifying for the Sale will be eligible to receive a score. Exhibitors will earn only one score per species, which must be their highest-placing animal within the respective species.
3. Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, Third Overall, Fourth Overall, Fifth Overall, Division Champions, and Reserve Division Champions will receive higher scores than the original market classes.
4. To receive the full culmination of points for a specific placing within a class, there must be at least ten entries within that same respective class. For every class that does not showcase ten entries, exhibitors will receive a 2-point discount in their score for each entry below the minimum threshold of ten entries.
 - a. Example: There are eight animals in a class. An exhibitor placing 5th would normally receive 20 points had there been the minimum of ten entries within the class. Because there are only eight entries, a 2-point discount in score will be applied for every entry

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below the minimum threshold. In this case, a 4-point discounted score would be applied, awarding the exhibitor 16 points.

- b. See Table 1.1 for the scoring breakdown of Market Class Placing.

Table 1.1 Market Class Placing Scoring Breakdown

Placing	Ten Entries Points	Nine Entries Points	Eight Entries Points	Seven Entries Points	Six Entries Points	Five Entries Points	Four Entries Points	Three Entries Points	Two Entries Points	One Entry Point
1st	30	28	26	24	22	20	18	16	14	12
2nd	26	24	22	20	18	16	14	12	10	0
3rd	24	22	20	18	16	14	12	10	0	0
4th	22	20	18	16	14	12	10	0	0	0
5th	20	18	16	14	12	10	0	0	0	0
6th	18	16	14	12	10	0	0	0	0	0
7th	16	14	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
8th	14	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9th	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10th	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Grand Champion Overall	Reserve Grand Champion Overall	Third Overall	Fourth Overall	Fifth Overall	Division Champion
50 points	45 points	42 points	40 points	38 points	34 points

Note: Points do not stack. The Grand Champion entry receives 50 points only and does not receive additional points from class placing.

Market Showmanship Placing

1. The Market Showmanship Placing will account for 20% of the overall score, earning points ranging from a minimum of 20 points to a maximum of 50 points.

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2. Only those exhibitors who received Division Champion, Reserve Division Champion, and 3rd through 10th placing will earn points. In addition, the exhibitor must qualify for the Sale to be eligible to earn points in the Market Showmanship category.

3. To receive the full culmination of points for a specific placing within a showmanship division, there must be at least ten entries within that same respective showmanship division. For every division that does not showcase ten entrants, exhibitors will receive a 2-point discount in their score for each number of entrants below the minimum threshold of ten exhibitors.
 - a. Example: There are eight showmen in a division. An exhibitor placing 5th would normally receive 30 points had there been a minimum of ten entries within the division. Because there are only eight entries, a 2-point discount in score will be applied for every entry below the minimum threshold. In this case, a 4-point discounted score would be applied, awarding the exhibitor 26 points.

4. Exhibitors will receive a score based on their placing
 - a. See Table 1.2 for the scoring breakdown

Table 1.2 Market Showmanship Scoring Breakdown

Placing	Ten Entries Points	Nine Entries Points	Eight Entries Points	Seven Entries Points	Six Entries Points	Five Entries Points	Four Entries Points	Three Entries Points	Two Entries Points	One Entry Point
1st	40	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22
2nd	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20	0
3rd	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	20	0	0
4th	32	30	28	26	24	22	20	0	0	0
5th	30	28	26	24	22	20	0	0	0	0
6th	28	26	24	22	20	0	0	0	0	0
7th	26	24	22	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
8th	24	22	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9th	22	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10th	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTE: Points do not stack. The Grand Champion entry receives 50 points only and does not receive additional points from the class placing.

Judging Classes

1. The “Judging Classes” will account for 20% of the overall score, earning points ranging from a minimum of 0 points to a maximum of 50 points.
2. The “Judging Classes” will be made available to exhibitors at an appointed time following the Market Show with the time and place specified by the contest Superintendent.
3. Exhibitors will judge at least one market animal class, each with four animals per class, worth 50 points maximum. These classes will be in the species in which exhibitors compete for the Premier Exhibitor Award (i.e., if competing for the Premier Beef Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor will judge market beef classes). In the event that more than one class is being judged, total points for this section will not exceed 50 points. This is at the discretion of the Premier Exhibitor Superintendent
4. Judging classes will be chosen by the Premier Exhibitor Superintendent using a nationally recognized livestock judging website.
5. All live judging and scoring will be based on and adhere to the Colorado State 4-H Livestock Judging Rules and Regulations.
6. The exhibitors will be allowed to judge 12 minutes per class to evaluate the provided videos and place the class. They will then hand-mark their placing(s) and turn into the competition Superintendent.
7. Exhibitors will evaluate the livestock and rank them 1-4 on a standardized “Judging Card” based on the animal’s overall conformation and quality.
8. Each “Judging Card” will allow for a maximum score of 50 points. If more than one class is being evaluated, then the score registered will be prorated. For example, if a participant scores a 35 and a 40 those scores will be converted to a 17.5 and 20 (respectively) with a total for this portion being a 37.5.
9. There will be no oral reasons following the judging of the live market classes.

Written Exam and General Species Applied Knowledge

1. The “Written Exam” and “General Species Knowledge” will account for 40% of the overall score, earning points ranging from a minimum of 0 points to a maximum of 100 points.
2. The “Written Exam” and “General Species Knowledge” will be held following the market show, with the time and place specified by the contest Superintendent.
3. All exams will be taken independently with no external guidance or aid. The Authority will provide all the material necessary to complete the exam.
4. The exam will include multiple-choice, beef industry-related questions. The general species applied knowledge will include activities relating to anatomy, retail products, medicine identification, antibiotic label reading, etc.
5. Exhibitors will have one hour to complete these portions.
6. Exhibitors will not receive any study guides or any sort of reference to the source material before the exam. The goal is to test the exhibitor’s current and intuitive industry knowledge.
7. Exhibitors will not have access to the tested materials before or after completion.

Awards

1803. Colorado State Fair Premier Market Beef Exhibitor

- \$500 Cash by CO Livestock
- Trophy by Need Sponsor
- Banner by Need Sponsor