

## 2025 Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo ROADMAP FOR FIRST TIME YOUTH EXHIBITORS

Exhibiting at the Wyoming State Fair is an exciting opportunity to showcase your hard work, make new friends, and gain valuable experience. Here's what you need to know:

### GETTING STARTED

**Eligibility** Youth must be enrolled in 4-H (through ZSuite) or FFA in Wyoming to enter Youth Show Livestock competitions and 4-H/ FFA static competitions. All youth, regardless of club/chapter activity, may enter the Open Classes for both livestock and static, and are encouraged to do so.

**County Fair Participation** Youth 4-H and FFA Static (non-livestock/indoor) exhibits must qualify at the county level before advancing to State Fair. Livestock exhibitors do not need to qualify at the county level to enter State Fair. The exceptions for livestock are Champion of Champions and FFA Showmanship classes, both of which require qualification at the county level (COC) / chapter level (FFA). Any entry you make into the Open shows need not place at the county level.

**Entry Process** Livestock and FFA exhibits are entered via ShoWorks; 4-H static exhibits are entered via 4-H. Wyoming State Fair uses Group Entry, meaning 4-H educators/FFA advisors log in and do the entries for their respective groups. Each county may have different procedures for how they accomplish this, so check with your 4-H leader, Extension Educator, or FFA advisor on the process for your county. You, as the exhibitor and parent, will not be able to enter your 4-H/FFA projects into ShoWorks directly, but you can enter your Open projects! Please work with your educator/advisor to ensure you have access to the password that will get all your open projects entered under your same login as your youth projects. This will help ensure all your prizes are included in one check after fair.

**Deadlines** State Fair entry deadlines must be met. These can be found in the official premium book. The most notable deadlines are listed on page 11 under the General Information. Ownership deadlines are listed on page 19 under Youth Livestock. There are ownership and tagging deadlines, as well as entry deadlines. Talk with your educator/advisor if you are unsure of a deadline.

### ADMISSIONS & FEES

**Passes** Daily or season passes are required for all exhibitors and guests starting Tuesday, August 12. Many educators/advisors will secure passes for the youth exhibitors (and sometimes, for the exhibitor's family) when submitting entries and credentials prior to fair. These passes are given to the educator/advisor and they will distribute them to their exhibitors. Check with your educator/advisor for the process in your county. Additional passes can be purchased for family and friends online or at the ticket booths at the fairgrounds.

**Processing/Entry Fees** All livestock are charged a processing fee, and there are some additional stock fees for the horse show. All youth fees are typically paid through the club/chapter/school. Each county, club or school may have a different way of collecting these fees from the exhibitor (and some cover all or part of the fees). Get with your educator/advisor to learn what fees you will need to cover and what help they may be able to give. These fees must be paid by the chapter/club/school upon arrival on grounds. Any additional passes, entry fees for Open class, parking, etc, must be paid upon arrival.

### PREPARING FOR STATE FAIR

**Static Exhibits** Most 4-H indoor projects are transported by county Extension Educators. Oversized or fragile items may require personal delivery. Confirm with your county on how they do this.

**Livestock Exhibits** Some counties work together to transport animals, while many leave that up to individual families. Check with your educator, advisor, and county staff to verify your transportation options. Animals may begin arrival on grounds on Monday, August 11, at 8:00 AM, and must be in place by 5:00 PM that day.

Review the requirements for health certificates, brand inspections, drug declaration forms, breeding papers, and vaccinations. Make sure to bring all appropriate papers, certificates, and documentation with you. Brand paperwork, health certificates, vaccination records can all be digital as long as they are clear and accessible. Drug declaration forms must be a physical copy to turn in. Check show guidelines for breeding paper requirements.

It is a good idea to print out the section of this book that pertains to your species. You can use this as a reference when you get to the fairgrounds, knowing which classes you are in, show times, and the basic entry requirements. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the requirements, policies, and general expectations for fairtime.

**Lodging Options** There are several different lodging options for youth exhibitors. Both 4-H and FFA exhibitors have the option of staying in the dorms on the fairgrounds. If staying in the dorms, you will need to bring your own bedding and towels. The respective programs provide chaperones. There is also a campground with RV hookups on the fairgrounds if the whole family wants to come. Reservations for these spots open up on July 1st each year and can be made via the website, [www.wystatefair.com](http://www.wystatefair.com). There are also several hotels and other camping options in and around Douglas. If needing a hotel, please keep in mind rooms sell out quickly, so book early.

**Meals** There is a cafeteria available to all exhibitors starting with dinner on Monday night. You can purchase a weekly meal pass or buy meal tickets separately. Your educator/advisor can assist you in pre-purchasing these, but they are also available once you arrive from the Exhibitor's Office. Don't forget there is also the midway and food court, with lots of tasty options. Some spending cash will go a long way!

**Planning Your Visit** Check out Converse County Tourism's website, <https://conversecountytourism.com/> to help plan your time in the Douglas area.

### DURING FAIR WEEK

**Arriving** Upon arrival, check in with your species superintendent and follow their direction for unloading, stalling, etc. Each species superintendent has an office in the livestock area (either in the barn or nearby) or at the show tent (for walk in shows). Stall cards with contact details must be displayed in the pen for the duration of fair for cattle, goats, sheep, and swine.

**Herdsmanship** Pens must be cleaned by 9 AM daily. Most counties will have a trailer parked near the barns for storing extra feed and bedding. Work with your county advisors and educators to know when they will have those unlocked during the day. Any additional loading of supplies should happen during loading windows (5:00 AM-9:00 AM and 5:00 PM-9:00 PM daily). Be sure to bring enough bedding & feed to last the week! Limited shavings are available on grounds for purchase.

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*(continued)*

**Livestock Showing** As a livestock exhibitor, be sure to note when your species needs to be checked in, weighed in (market classes), and classified (market classes). Some species use weight cards that must be turned in, and some have the animals pass over the scales. Check your species pages in the book for these times and locations. It is your responsibility to be present for these activities and turn in the required information on time.

On your show day, be ready to enter the ring when your class is called. Review schedules and listen for announcements. Be on time and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.

**Jackpot Shows** The Wyoming Ag Teacher Association (WATA) puts on jackpot shows for each of the four market species (goats, swine, sheep, and cattle). You can enter these when you weigh in (beef and goats) or check in (for sheep and swine). Get with your species superintendent for more details. You will need cash to enter. There is more info in the Youth Livestock section of this book on entry fees and show times.

**Have Fun** Remember, fair is about celebrating all the things our exhibitors (YOU!) have accomplished over the past year. We hope you enjoy showing off your animals and non-animal projects. Be sure to check out the midway, exhibit halls, shows of other species, and the great entertainment on grounds while you are here!

**Exhibits Release** Youth livestock exhibits may leave starting Saturday, August 16, at 6:00 PM. Open livestock release times vary and are listed in this book. Statics vary by 4-H/FFA and Open, and times are listed in this book. You are responsible for cleaning the pens/stalls your animals were in before you depart.

## AFTER FAIR

**Premium Checks** If your exhibits earned a monetary prize given by the WSF, known as a premium, a check will be mailed to the address provided on your entry (either online or submitted form for Open). If you had multiple entry files, or if you win a special 4-H award, you may receive more than one check. If you have not seen your premiums by September 30th, please first check with your advisor or educator. If a school or club address was used when they did entries, your check would have been mailed there. If they do not have it, call the WSF office and ask for Sara. The last day to report a missing or inaccurate check is November 1st, 2025.

Any exhibitor earning over \$600 in premiums must fill out a W-9 before the check will be released. If you believe you earned over \$600, please contact Sara in the office to complete your form.

Any exhibitor who has an animal exhibit drug tested will have their premiums held until the results are received and verified that they are negative or excuseable.

**Plan for Next Year** Start thinking about your next project and how you can improve for the following year's competition! The fair will be August 11-15, 2026. We hope to see you and your exhibits there!

*For more details, consult the Wyoming State Fair premium book or contact your county Extension Office or FFA Advisor.*

## COMING TO FAIR CHECKLIST

	Confirm enrollment of project(s) through ZSuite or FFA
	Coordinate with educator/advisor to complete State Fair entries and additional passes (meals, dorms, entry, etc)
	Enter any additional projects into Open Class. Educators/advisors can assist, but may have you do this on your own. Online entry opens July 1 at <a href="http://www.wystatefair.com">www.wystatefair.com</a>
	Verify and coordinate with educator/advisor on transportation of exhibits (both static and animal)
	Gather and verify all required paperwork: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Health Certificate</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Brand inspection (paper or digital)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vaccination records (paper or digital) for dogs &amp; cats</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Breeding papers (if required)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drug declaration form (physical copy to turn in, one per market species being shown)</li> </ul>
	Print out Premium Book sections for your species & shows. Be familiar with your show times and locations!
	Bedding and feed for your animal exhibit for the week
	Pick and confirm lodging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dorms (4-H and FFA youth only)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> WSF Campground (reservations open July 1)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hotel or other option in Douglas (book early!)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ul>
	Pick your meal options and arrange (if needed) with your educator/advisor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria (single meal or weekly pass)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Food court/Midway options</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local eateries in Douglas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bring groceries/meals/snacks</li> </ul>
	Plan ahead for jackpot and Open show entries. Cash may be required for entry fees