



Prepping Livestock for County Fair

Cattle Edition

FAQs

When do I get there?

Animals need to be at their ties by 9 AM on Wednesday, August 27

Where do I put my animals?

Pens are assigned based on the entries received. A pen map will be shared via email and posted at the fairgrounds.

How long do my animals have to stay?

Fair livestock are not released to be removed from the fairgrounds until Sunday, August 31st after all packer trucks are loaded. You are responsible for feeding and caring for your animal for the entirety of the fair.

Where do I find the Jr. Livestock Rules?

Everyone should be familiar with the Jr. Livestock Rules. They can be found on the extension office website at socorroextension.nmsu.edu



What to do in the weeks leading up to the fair

- Ensure animal weights are on track - market beef must weigh at least 1,000 lbs at check-in. Under weight animals will not get to show. Breeding heifers do not have a weight limit.
- Have a plan for getting animals clipped - Steers and heifers must be clipped prior to fair. Clipping cattle can be intimidating, but practice makes perfect! We recommend enlisting experienced help your first couple of times around. The breeder of your show calf may be a great resource to assist you in getting your animals clipped. This [video](#) is a good explanation of how show calves are clipped and what equipment is required. If you'd like to purchase clippers and/or clipper blades here are some good options:
 - [Clippers](#) (also available cordless)
 - [10 Blade](#)
 - [Blocking Blade](#)
 - [Blending Blade](#)
 - [Guards](#)

What to do in the weeks leading up to the fair (continued)

- Practice showmanship and ensure you have the necessary equipment - showmanship is one of the single most important aspects to project success at the fair. Be sure you are practicing showmanship with your animals daily and that you have all of the necessary equipment on hand (show halters, show stick, combs, etc.). Be sure you have practiced with these at home. It is also a good idea to do a fitting run through with your calves. Meaning see how long it will take you to get them show ready to help you with timing at the fair.
- Cattle can be finicky about drinking water at the fair if it smells/tastes different than what they are used to. It is good to come up with a plan before you have a problem. If you want to pack water from home and bring it with you, that is an option. Adding things like electrolytes to their water can help to mask smells and tastes, but they will need to get used to it at home before hand.
- All livestock projects must be entered for the Socorro County Fair. Entries are completed online and do carry a cost. Entries will open August 1 and can be done by visiting socorro.fairentry.com. Entries must be completed by 10:59 PM on August 15, 2025.

At the Fair

- What to take - you should pack everything you will need to feed your calves, groom your calves, show your calves, and help them look their best! Keep in mind the only thing that is provided to you is a place to tie your animals. That means you need to bring feed pans, watering pans, buckets, feed, any supplements you are using or plan to use, a hose, soap, conditioners, towels, brushes, chutes, blower, etc.
- What should I expect during the show? - when your animal is checked in on Wednesday morning, your animal will be weighed. Your calf will then be placed in a class with other calves of similar weights or hip heights. The classes will be posted prior to the cattle show so you know when your animals will be entering the show ring. Keep in mind if you win first, second, or third place in your class, you will need to come back to the show ring for the grand drive. During the grand drive the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion and top five overall steers will be selected.
- What if I make the sale? - at the conclusion of all the market shows (Friday after the pig show), fair officials will determine animals eligible for the sale based on class sizes and class placings. Check with officials to see if your animal has made the sale (animals below 6th place are not sale eligible). If you make the sale, you can make the

At the fair (continued)

decision to either sell your animal or pull your animal from the sale (if you want to take it on for further fairs). The Jr. Livestock Sale will happen at 3 PM on Saturday, August 30. You will need to complete and turn in a thank you note and exhibitor bio before noon on Saturday (look for the table next to the show ring). A sale order will be posted and your animal will enter the ring to be sold when it is its turn. Animals must be clean and well presented for the sale. After sale of the animal, your photo will be taken at the backdrop. Animals will be loaded on their respective trailers to be taken away on Sunday morning.

- What if I don't make the sale? - if you don't make the sale, your animal will remain yours and you may do what you please with them. We suggest trying to sell your animal directly to a buyer. If you find a buyer who would like to buy your animal and they want them to be processed, you can arrange for your animal to go on the meat packer trucks on Sunday morning. Be aware that the fair is not responsible for the handling of any animals that are sold outside of the sale. You will need to work with your buyer to pay the packer processing fee, etc.

Final Tips for Success

1. Familiarize yourself with the Jr. Livestock Rules located on the socorroextension.nmsu.edu website under Socorro County Fair.
2. Ask for help if you need it! Many experienced families are willing to help others and the extension office is always a resource for you. If you need help or have questions, please reach out to us.
3. Youtube and feed company websites such as showright, sure champ, etc. have great resources on how to clip, train, and show your animals.
4. HAVE Fun! This is a learning experience that should be fun for your whole family. The 4-H Livestock Project imparts many amazing skills into the youth who participate, so please work together as a family and enjoy all the work you have put into your animals.
5. Sportsmanship is key. Please remember that no matter if you win or lose, you have accomplished a great deal by getting an animal to the fair and getting it shown. Cheer on your fellow competitors and enjoy the experience!



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