

Florida Strawberry Festival 2026 Mosaic Steer Show and Sale Rules and Regulations

CHAIRMAN: JON POPPELL, PH: (813)-716-5290

SUPERINTENDENT: KENNETH PARKER, PH: (813)- 478- 9373

BE ADVISED THAT THE FINAL WEIGH-IN DATE AND OTHER DATES MAY NECESSARILY BE CHANGED DUE TO FCAT TESTING OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1A. GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS ARE GRADES 7-12. Only bona-fide Hillsborough County youth agricultural organization or FFA members will be eligible to enter. Non-residents of Hillsborough County may not be exhibited. Entrants must meet grade level requirements and be active in a 2025-2026 youth organization (4-H, FFA, or YPLA). The Steer Committee reserves the right to alter age, grade level, or entry date deadline requirements for the 2025 Steer Show.

1B. EXHIBITORS MAY NOT ENTER THE FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL MOSAIC STEER SHOW & SALE AND THE FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL MOSAIC SWINE SHOW AND SALE THE SAME YEAR.

1C. Anyone who has graduated from, currently dropped, or expelled from school shall be ineligible to enter Show or Sale. Physical condition of entrants which may result in physical danger to the exhibitor or others may result in the rejection of an entry or disqualification from the Steer Show and Sale.

1D. Exhibitor must be single, never having been married, and never having borne or fathered a child.

1E. Entrant shall conform to the following standards in academics (cumulative grades are not considered):
INITIAL ENTRY: At the time of initial entry, August 07, 2025, the exhibitor must have received a **2.5 GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR THE PRECEDING SEMESTER. FAILURE OF TWO (2) OR MORE SUBJECTS DURING THE PRECEDING SEMESTER WILL DISQUALIFY THE exhibitor. SEMESTER EXAMS ARE CONSIDERED IN CALCULATING**

SEMESTER GRADES. The preceding semester includes both 3rd & 4th nine weeks' grades and semester exam if administered. A computer-generated report card that exhibits grade for the preceding semester is acceptable evidence. If a change is made after the computer-generated report card is issued, a transcript denoting that such change has been officially recorded must be presented with the entry form. Enrollment in a "make-up" or "forgiveness" class that has not been completed PRIOR to the initial entry does not constitute an official grade change. Summer School or Virtual School Grades awarded after the end of the 2024-2025 Hillsborough County School Year may not be used in calculating grades. Only Virtual School courses concluded, and final grades recorded, during the first semester of the 2025-2026 Hillsborough County School Year will be included in the calculation of grades.

*****NOTE***STUDENTS MUST TAKE A COMBINATION OF 5 COURSES TO INCLUDE: VIRTUAL OR HOME- SCHOOL AND TRADITIONAL CLASSES DURING THE QUALIFYING SEMESTER.** The virtual school Transcript must reflect a 2.5 or greater for all credit awarded during the second semester of the school year. A Virtual School Transcript must be provided at the same time as all other report cards. Students taking both virtual and traditional school and are less than full-time in traditional MUST include both official documents. Your Virtual School Grade Transcript must be obtained from the Data Processing Clerk from your assigned high school, signed and documented. Students enrolled in dual enrollment classes must provide proof of a 2.5 grade in each dual enrolled class at the time of weigh- in if this is one of your five required classes. All students must maintain a 2.5 GPA. We have provided accommodation through the school district approved IEP's and 504 plans.

1F. If an exhibitor has shown a Grand Champion **TWICE** at the Florida Strawberry Festival Mosaic Steer Show and Sale, he/she will be ineligible to participate as an exhibitor in the Steer Show and Sale again.

1G. Each exhibitor may enter no more than one (1) steer. Steers may not be entered into another terminal sale.

1H. Exhibitors housing animals away from their physical-legal address must request, in writing and addressed to the committee chair, permission to do so. Should the distance be greater than 6 miles the exhibitor must personally meet with the Festival Steer Committee. **APPROVAL MUST BE GRANTED PRIOR TO ENTRY.** All distances are by public road and will be checked by the committee chair or his designee. Please do not purchase a steer until you have secured the above approval.

1I. THE MAXIMUM THAT CAN BE PAID FOR A STEER AT ANY TIME BY ANYONE IS \$2000.00 TO INCLUDE ANY AND ALL ACCESSORY EXPENSES. Proof of purchase price by canceled check, Bill of Sale, and receipt or otherwise MUST BE ATTACHED TO OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK ALONG WITH DECLARATION OF PURCHASE PRICE. ALL STEERS MUST BE BRED AND BORN IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND A BREEDER'S CERTIFICATE MUST ACCOMPANY EXHIBITOR'S APPLICATION.

1J. ALL STEERS MUST BE, OR HAVE BEEN, VIEWED BY A STEER COMMITTEE MEMBER AT, OR BEFORE, THE TIME OF PURCHASE, TO CERTIFY THAT THE STEER WAS BRED, BORN AND HOUSED ENTIRELY IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY. IN THE EVENT A DISCREPANCY ARISES, THE SELLER MUST PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE PROOF THAT ACCURATE INFORMATION IS BEING PRESENTED. CERTIFYING PARENTAGE VIA BLOOD TESTS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. THE STEER COMMITTEE MAY DETERMINE BY VOTE IF THERE ARE OTHER METHODS OF DETERMINING ACCEPTABLE PROOF. An exhibitor that enters a steer that was not born and bred in Hillsborough County, or who pays more than the allowed maximum price for the steer, shall be prohibited from exhibiting the animal and shall not be permitted to exhibit at future Florida Strawberry Festival Steer Shows and Sales.

1K. All exhibitors will be required to attend, or have attended, ethics training. The Florida Strawberry Festival will provide training at the Festival on December 6, 2025. Completion of any Florida State

Fair 2023-2024 ethics class prior to 2/2/25 will meet the requirements. Training must be completed by January 31, 2026. Training after that date will not be accepted. Training is good for 3 years. Currently verification of training can be found at <https://floridastatefairag.com/ethics/verify/> . Another site to use for help in locating and registering for workshops is <https://floridastatefairag.com/ethics/workshop/#>

1L. ALL ENTRIES NEED TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE THROUGH SHOWWORKS ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 7, 2025.

2. INITIAL WEIGH-IN

2A. TAGS & TATTOOS: Steers are required to be checked in, tattooed, ear tagged and weighed **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 2025, FROM 6:30 A.M. UNTIL 11 A.M. A SCHEDULE OF THE WEIGH-IN TIMES WILL BE SENT TO EXHIBITORS. WEIGH-IN:** Florida Strawberry Festival. At that time steers must weigh a minimum of 550 lbs. and a maximum of 1000 lbs. The festival reserves the right to change date, times, and location and will notify exhibitors by mail or other means if changes occur. Steers will only be allowed to weigh one time.

2B. All steers must be de-horned. Steers with horns more than one and one-half inches in length or considered dangerous will be disqualified. If horns grow after initial weigh in, they can be no longer than one and one-half inches long at final weigh-in.

2C. ANIMAL DNA SAMPLES MAY BE TAKEN SEPTEMBER 6th, 2025, AT THE INITIAL WEIGH-IN TO HELP VERIFY LINEAGE.

2D. Animals must be steers and the healing of castrated animals must be complete. Evidence of testicles remaining on animals castrated by bloodless techniques may result in disqualification. Failure to detect that an animal has not been steered does not qualify the animal for entry at the final weigh-in.

2E. Exhibitors will be issued an official record book which must be completed and submitted at final entry.

3. POST INITIAL WEIGH-IN TO FINAL ENTRY

3A. The steer must be fed and cared for by the exhibitor. **IF THE EXHIBITOR'S PHYSICAL OR LEGAL ADDRESS, OR THE LOCATION OF THE STEER, CHANGES, AND THE COMMITTEE CHAIR MUST BE NOTIFIED WITHIN ONE WEEK.**

3B. To be accepted for Show and Sale, steers must have a 1.75 LB MINIMUM DAILY GAIN from initial weigh-in held in September to check-in. All steers must weigh 900 lb. at the March weigh-in, regardless of the 1.75 lb., daily gain requirement.

4. FINAL WEIGH-IN (March 3, 2026) Students will be notified of entry time by electronically or U.S Mail

4A. Entrant shall conform to the following standards in academics (cumulative grades are NOT considered):

PLEASE REFER TO THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS APPLICATION FOR REPORT CARD

REQUIREMENTS. Exhibitors who do not have the necessary GPA will not be permitted to transport the animal to the festival on the day of the weigh-in. GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR THE PRECEDING SEMESTER. FAILURE OF TWO (2) OR MORE SUBJECTS DURING THE PRECEDING SEMESTER WILL DISQUALIFY THE Exhibitor SEMESTER EXAMS ARE CONSIDERED IN CALCULATING SEMESTER GRADES. The preceding semester includes both 1st & 2nd nine weeks' grades and semester exam if required, for the school year 2025-2026. A computer-generated report card that exhibits grade for the preceding semester is acceptable evidence. If a change is made after the computer-generated report card is issued, a transcript signed by a school administrator denoting that such change has been officially recorded must be presented on the day of final entry. Enrollment in a "make-up" or "forgiveness" class that has not been completed PRIOR to the final entry does not constitute an official grade change. Only Virtual School courses concluded, and final grades recorded, during the first semester of the 2025-2026 Hillsborough County School Year will be included in the calculation of grades.

*****NOTE***STUDENTS MUST TAKE A COMBINATION OF 5 COURSES TO INCLUDE: VIRTUAL OR HOME-SCHOOL AND TRADITIONAL CLASSES DURING THE QUALIFYING SEMESTER.** The virtual school transcript must reflect a 2.5 or greater grade for all credits awarded during the first semester of the school year. The Virtual School Transcript must be provided at the same time as all other report cards. Students taking both virtual and traditional school, and are less than full-time in traditional, MUST include both official documents. The Virtual School Transcript must be obtained from the Data Processing Clerk from your assigned high school, signed and documented. Note: Rules concerning homeschooled students (as set by the State) will be considered (must present most recent report card and evidence that the student has undergone evaluation as required by the Hillsborough County School District for the preceding year). All students must maintain a 2.5 GPA. We have provided accommodation through the school district approved IEP's and 504 plans.

Note: Rules concerning homeschooled students (as set by the State) will be considered (must present most recent report card and evidence that the student has undergone evaluation as required by the Hillsborough County School District for the preceding year).

4B. RECORD BOOKS: Each exhibitor must complete a record book on his/her steer. The record book must be submitted at the final entry on March 3, 2026. All exhibitors must use the official Strawberry Festival Livestock Record Book. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification. **ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE COMPLETED. Record books on steers entered, brought to the festival, and rejected because of daily weight requirement, are eligible for awards.**

4C. Steers must conform to established show standards in the sense that extremes in conformation, staginess, and other visible undesirable characteristics will be unacceptable. **Animals must be steers.**

4D. No steer may be exhibited in competition that cannot be properly managed and led by the exhibitor from the scale to the tie area. Consideration will be given for exhibitors involved in state-sponsored testing. A reasonable length of time (approx. 1 hr.) will be given to the exhibitor of an unruly animal to demonstrate that the animal can be calmed and safely exhibited. If at any time the animal is disqualified as unmanageable, it may not be sold in the Steer Sale. No nose tag, nose rings, other mechanical devices or drugs are allowed.

4E. HEALTH REGULATIONS: HEALTH CERTIFICATES WILL BE REQUIRED IN 2026.

4F. Tie spaces will be assigned by the Steer Committee.

4G. REJECTED STEERS: At the final weigh in, steers will only be weighed ONCE. Exhibitors whose steers are rejected will be advised by Show Management at the time of rejection that the steer did not meet Show standards in.

At that time, the steer should be removed immediately or upon completion of check-in. **Buyer solicitation for rejected steers is not permitted at the festival. An exhibitor whose steer is rejected shall not be entitled to receive entry tickets normally distributed to exhibitors.**

4H. Exhibitors, nor anyone associated with an exhibitor, shall make abusive comments in any manner to the committee, weigh officials, or judges. Doing so may jeopardize exhibitors' future eligibility to show. Questions may be directed to the Committee Chairman or member quickly afterwards as possible. All steers must participate and use the same kind of oil supplied by the technician. The festival reserves the right to cancel the Carcass Contest if a sonogram cannot be conducted.

4I. A sonogram will be conducted on all steers to determine quality and yield grade at the weigh-in.

5. EXHIBIT PERIOD

5A. Steers must be cared for from the time of arrival until steers are removed. The red tag system will be used. Upon checking stalls, if the Barn Supervisor determines housekeeping is below standards a red tag will be issued. Upon receipt of the third red tag, a \$25 deduction from the sale price will be made. Exhibitors, or those caring for the steer, **MUST** sign in each morning signifying the animal has been cared for BY 9:00 A.M. daily.

5B. FEED AND BEDDING: Bedding will be provided by Management. Feed and water pails must be provided by the exhibitor. **MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO STIPULATE THE PAIL TYPE.** Materials that may be dangerous, such as fences, **METAL PITCHFORKS, METAL RAKES,** will not be allowed in the Show area. No flowers or plants will be allowed in the exhibit area, **EXCEPT THOSE PROVIDED BY MANAGEMENT. WHEELBARROWS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE FESTIVAL. EXHIBITORS ARE LIMITED TO ONE SHOW BOX PER FAMILY. THE SHOW BOX** will not exceed 62" long, 30" high, and 26" wide. Show boxes will be measured upon arrival. **SHARING OF SHOW BOXES IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. SHOWBOXES, OR OTHER TACK, MAY NOT BE PLACED IN THE ANIMAL TIE AREA AISLES UNTIL ALL STEERS ARE ENTERED. PLACEMENT OF SHOWBOXES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE STEER COMMITTEE. Bring only a one-day supply of feed and hay each day. SHOWBOX SIZES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.** The number of chairs brought by exhibitors may be limited if cluttering occurs.

5C. Servicing of animals in the livestock area must be done between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. **NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE GROUNDS WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.**

5D. Each steer must be secured with a neck rope not more than three feet (3') from the tie area to the head stall during A \$25 deduction that may be made from the sale price of any steer found loose or red tagged for not being tied correctly.

5E. Unbecoming conduct on the part of an exhibitor, or anyone associated with the exhibitor, will, at the discretion of the Management, result in disqualification of the exhibitor and require immediate removal of the steer and the exhibitor from the Fairgrounds - with the loss of awards, premiums, show and/or sale privilege. **The presence of an exhibitor in the steer exhibit area during hours when the steer exhibit is closed will be considered unbecoming conduct (except for animal medical emergencies). Exhibitors will not be allowed to stay overnight on the Fairgrounds. Profanity in the show ring by the exhibitor will result in a \$250 fine or disqualification. Profanity at any event associated with the Steer Show could result in disqualification.**

5F: In the event of an Emergency (defined below) that results in the Florida Strawberry Festival Board of Directors necessarily cancelling any show or sale considered a part of the "Livestock Area Events" (defined below), the Exhibitor agrees to hold the Festival harmless for any financial or other loss by the exhibitor that occurs as a result of the inability to exhibit and/or market the animal(s) or plant(s) at the Florida Strawberry Festival. The preceding statement pertains to the entire time period (prior to, during, or after the exhibit days) of the show and/or sale. Financial, or other loss, refers to financial loss due to the inability to market the animal at the Florida Strawberry Festival and to loss of premiums and awards due to the inability to exhibit the animal.

“Livestock Area Events” currently includes the Swine Show and Sale, the Steer Show and Sale, the Plant Show and Sale, the Dairy Cattle Show, the Sheep Show, the Poultry Show, the Rabbit Show, the Beef Breeds Show, and events associated with the aforementioned shows and/or sales.

“Emergency” refers to any National, State, Local occurrence or occurrences that results in the cancellation of Livestock Area Events normally taking place during the Florida Strawberry Festival. The cancellation may be dictated by National, State, or Local government agencies that have the authority to decree such cancellations to protect the safety of patrons and/or participants or quarantines necessary to protect animal and human health. The Board of Directors of the Florida Strawberry Festival also reserves the right to cancel all Livestock Area Events that, in the Board’s sole discretion, threatens the health and/or safety of the patrons or participant in the event.

5G. TAMPERING: Tampering with any animal entered, such as filling with water and/or a foreign substance etc. is prohibited. The use of tranquilizers on Show animals, or the possession of the tranquilizers at the Fair, will be construed as a form of tampering. **RULE 5G ALSO REFERS TO ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO THE FESTIVAL THAT MAY EFFECT THE ANIMALS DURING THE FESTIVAL SHOW PERIOD.** Tampering will result in disqualification and immediate removal of the steer from the festival grounds.

5H. MEDICATIONS: The administration of medication for bloat, scours, or other conditions shall be done under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or steer committee member. The steer committee chairman must be notified that such medication is being administered. Unauthorized dispensing of medications is considered tampering.

6.SHOW & SALE

6A. Judging will take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026. The sale of steers will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 5th, 2026. No tack may be removed from the tent on sale day until directed to do so by the Steer Committee Chairman.

6B. Final classes will be determined by weight as necessary to ensure manageable numbers in Show Classes. Premiums will be paid in all weight classes. All class winners will compete for Division or Grand Champion. The steer standing second in the Grand Champion’s class, or other Division winner, will be eligible to compete for Reserve Grand Champion.

6C. THE FESTIVAL WILL PROVIDE GROOMING CHUTES. THOUGH UNLIKELY, IF CONDITIONS WARRANT, THE FESTIVAL MAY PROHIBIT THE USE OF CHUTES.

6D. GROOMING PRODUCTS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY A SPONSOR AND ALLOWED ON A LIMITED BASIS!

6E. On the nights of the Show and Sale, each exhibitor will be issued 2 arm band passes - one for the exhibitor and one for a parent or guardian. Prior to the initial entry, the exhibitor must provide the name of the parent, guardian, or approved sibling, selected to help. No one, other than those approved and issued an arm band, uniformed law enforcement officers, or Florida Strawberry Festival Officials, will be allowed in the barn immediately prior to and during the Show and Sale. **IT IS THE INTENT OF THE SHOW THAT NO ONE OTHER THAN PARENTS, APPROVED SIBLINGS, OR THOSE APPOINTED BY THE FESTIVAL, HELP EXHIBITORS RESTRAIN AND MANAGE ANIMALS. THE USE OF BLOWER, COMBS, OR BRUSHES MUST BE BY THE EXHIBITORS OR HELPER (PARENT OR DESIGNATED BY THE CHAIRMAN).** The steer committee will provide help for exhibitors whose parents, or approved siblings, are unable to assist physically.

6F. OFFICIAL DRESS DURING THE SHOW AND THE SALE IS REQUIRED. OFFICIAL DRESS FOR FFA IS AS DEFINED IN THE OFFICIAL MANUAL (Note comments below regarding shoes & pants). OTHER AGRICULTURAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION MEMBERS MUST WEAR EITHER BLACK, WHITE, OR GREEN PANTS (NO JEANS); A WHITE SHIRT WHICH MUST HAVE LONG SLEEVES- UNLESS A GREEN SWEATER OR JACKET OF 4-H COLORS IS WORN; AND A BLACK OR GREEN TIE OR SCARF. SKIRTS FOR LADIES ARE NOT RECOMMENDED. ATHLETIC SHOES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. BOOTS ARE ACCEPTABLE, THOUGH NOT REQUIRED. A 4-H GREEN JACKET, SWEATER, OR VEST IS PREFERRED FOR 4-H MEMBERS.

6G. NO CAPS, HATS, GLITTER, OR OTHER PARAPHERNALIA (OTHER THAN OFFICIAL PLACING RIBBONS) WILL BE ALLOWED TO DECORATE STEERS OR BE WORN BY EXHIBITORS IN THE SHOW RING DURING THE SHOW OR SALE.

6H. EXHIBITORS MUST EXHIBIT AND SELL HIS/HER ANIMAL. IT IS THE MANAGEMENT'S INTENT TO CONSIDER WAIVING THIS REQUIREMENT ONLY IN THE EVENT A MEDICAL EMERGENCY ARISES.

6I. The Grand Champion holds the esteem of the Show. Therefore, bids on other steers in the Show (Sale) must be at least 10 cents a pound less than the price bid for the Grand Champion Steer.

6J. ALL WHO BID AND PURCHASE MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED AND MUST HAVE A BUYER NUMBER.

6K. THE FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL STEER COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE HAIR SAMPLES BE TAKEN, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE STEER SHOW, FROM THE GRAND CHAMPION, RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION, AND RANDOMLY SELECTED CLASS WINNERS, AND THE DAMS OF SUCH ANIMALS TO SUBMIT FOR VERIFICATION OF LINEAGE - NEGATIVE TESTS MAY RESULT IN WITHHOLDING PREMIUMS AND THE RETURN OF THE DIFFERENCE IN MARKET PRICE AND THE SALE PRICE TO THE BUYER BLOOD SAMPLES ALSO MAY BE TAKEN AT RANDOM OR OF THE CHAMPIONS AND RESERVE CHAMPIONS TO ASSURE THAT NO UNAPPROVED CHEMICALS HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED TO THE ANIMAL.

7. POST SALE

7A. Steers may be disposed of immediately after the Steer Sale using one of the following: 1) Ship to local holding facilities and process by local meat markets, and market re-sales to a processor (packer or contract buyer). 2). Market to a central buyer to process animals and ship re-sales. The buyer will designate, on the Sale Buyer's Card, the preferred disposal method. Prior to final entry on March 7th, 2026, the Steer Committee Chair will notify exhibitors, 2025 steer buyers, and potential 2026 buyers of the selected disposal procedure.

7B. Loading of animals after the sale will be done by the Committee members and approved volunteers after show boxes, tack, etc. are removed. All trash must be removed from the tack storage area.

7C. The Florida Strawberry Festival is not responsible for, nor assures the buyers of carcass quality grade, meat color or palatability. The Florida Strawberry Festival is not responsible for spoilage after slaughter. Any carcass that is condemned due to disease damage, drug residue, or injury incurred prior to the loading after the Sale is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Each exhibitor must assume liability for his/her steer in case of death, injury during the festival or condemnation at slaughter.

7D. Up to six percent (6%) of the actual price will be deducted by the Show to help defray expenses. An additional \$1.00 may

be deducted from the exhibitor for the Beef Check-Off as required by law. **THE FESTIVAL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE BUYERS WHO DO NOT "RE-SALE" STEERS TO PAY UP TO \$50.00 DISPOSITION (SLAUGHTER) COSTS.**

7E. Responsibility for loss of animal or carcass either prior to or after slaughter, in the event the festival accepts responsibility for such loss shall be the wholesale value of the animal or carcass only. Such value is determined prior to the sale and is referred to as the resale value.

7F. **A LETTER OF THANKS** must be sent to the Buyer, and a copy should be delivered to Show Management prior to April 1st. No payment will be made to the exhibitor until after receipt of a thank-you copy. Mail or deliver a copy of the letter to Steer Show Management at:

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL STEER SHOW THANK YOU LETTER

P. O. BOX 1869

PLANT CITY, FL 33564-1869

7G. **CHECKS** will be sent to exhibitors **AFTER** payments for steers and add-ons have been made. Dispersal of money to the exhibitor will be made no later than May 31st if possible. Any add-ons not received by that date shall be deducted and the responsibility of collection shall be with the exhibitor. Add-ons for rejected steers will not be collected by the festival.

8. GENERAL STATEMENTS

8A. Final interpretation and administration of these rules will be vested in Show Management and their decision will be final. Any evidence of fraud coming to the attention of Show Management will be prosecuted to the limit of the law.

8B. Any questions or protest concerning compliance with the rules and regulations or the eligibility of an exhibitor or his/her animal must be submitted in writing to the steer Show Chairman within 24 hours after the discovery of the infraction. The Florida Strawberry Festival Steer Committee and/or Management may investigate possible infractions of rules at any time.

8C. Scholarship notices to steer exhibitors who are high school seniors: Senior exhibitors are eligible to apply for the 2026 Florida Strawberry Festival Livestock (Steer, Swine) Scholarship. Several are awarded each year. An attempt will be made to mail a copy to senior exhibitors. If a senior exhibitor inadvertently does not receive one, the scholarship applications will be available during the festival. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the application, fully complete it, and return it to the festival on or prior to the deadline.

OFFICIAL PREMIUMS AND AWARDS

THE FESTIVAL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER PREMIUMS AND AWARDS, DELETE CATEGORIES, CHANGE SPONSORSHIPS, OR ADD ADDITIONAL AWARDS. THE EXHIBITOR OF THE CHAMPIONS WILL RECEIVE ONE PREMIUM CHECK ONLY AND THAT WILL BE FOR THE HIGHEST AWARD WON.

PREMIUMS AND AWARDS

Grand Champion of Show: \$300, trophy, rosette	Reserve Grand Champion: \$225, trophy, rosette
Division Champion: \$75, trophy, rosette	Division Reserve Champion: \$50, trophy
Class Champion: \$25, plaque	Second in each class: \$20, ribbon
Third through remaining classes: \$15, ribbon	

The William R. McClelland family will present plaques to the buyers of the Grand and Reserve Champions.

BUYERS PLAQUE

In Honor of Bill McClelland

Sponsored by: **CIF Distributing**

Grand Champion Plaque

Reserve Grande Champion

Plaque

RECORD BOOK AWARDS

Sponsored by: Farm Credit of Central Florida, ACA

SENIOR DIVISION INTERMEDIATE DIVISION JUNIOR DIVISION

1st	\$30, plaque	1st	\$30, plaque	1st	\$30, plaque
2nd	\$20, plaque	2nd	\$20, plaque	2nd	\$20, plaque
3rd	\$15, plaque	3rd	\$15, plaque	3rd	\$15, plaque

SHOWMANSHIP AWARDS

Sponsored by: TBD

SENIOR DIVISION INTERMEDIATE DIVISION JUNIOR DIVISION

1st	\$30, plaque	1st	\$30, plaque	1st	\$30, plaque
2nd	\$20, plaque	2nd	\$20, plaque	2nd	\$20, plaque
3rd	\$15, plaque	3rd	\$15, plaque	3rd	\$15, plaque

GAIN-IN-WEIGHT AWARDS

Sponsored by CIF Distributing

1st Place: \$50, Plaque 2nd Place: \$40, Plaque 3rd Place: \$30, Plaque 4th Place: \$25, Plaque

5th Place: \$20, Plaque

HERDSMAN AWARDS

Sponsored by: Suncoast Credit Union

Show management reserves the right to withhold any or all the Herdsman Awards if they are not merited by virtue of superior housekeeping. The exhibits and exhibitors will be judged daily by a committee selected by Show Management. The judging will be based on the following criteria: 1) Orderliness and cleanliness of service areas, stalls, pens, steers, and public walkways. 2) Personal appearance of exhibitors. 3) Cooperation with Show Officials in presenting attractive exhibits and show area.

SENIOR DIVISION INTERMEDIATE DIVISION JUNIOR DIVISION

1st	\$30, plaque	1st	\$30, plaque	1st	\$30, plaque
2nd	\$20, plaque	2nd	\$20, plaque	2nd	\$20, plaque
3rd	\$15, plaque	3rd	\$15, plaque	3rd	\$15, plaque

PREMIER EXHIBITOR AWARD

Sponsored by: Poppell Insurance, Inc.

Senior Division: \$100, trophy Intermediate Division: \$100, trophy Junior Division: \$100, trophy

The recipient of this award is to be selected based on cumulative scores from the Record Book, Herdsman and Showmanship. This award will be an overall exhibitor's award. Ties will be determined by Placings, points in Record Book then Showmanship then Herdsman. The Premier Exhibitor will be calculated on the following basis:

Record Book:	1st = 3 points	2nd = 2 points	3rd = 1 point
Showmanship:	1st = 3 points	2nd = 2 points	3rd = 1 point
Herdsmen:	1st = 3 points	2nd = 2 points	3rd = 1 point

PRODUCER AWARDS

Sponsored by: Antioch Feed

Producer of Grand Champion of Show	Plaque
Producer of Reserve Grand Champion of Show	Plaque
Producer of Grand Champion Carcass of Show	Plaque
Producer of Reserve Grand Champion Carcass of Show	Plaque

2026 CARCASS CONTEST

AWARDS Sponsored by: TBD

Grand Champion Carcass	\$100	rosette, trophy
Reserve Champion Carcass	\$50	rosette, trophy
First through Eighth Best Carcass		\$15

2026 CARCASS CONTEST RULES

Judging will be by officials from the University of Florida Animal Science Department, the operator of the sonogram devices, or representatives of the Strawberry Festival Steer Committee. The contest emphasizes the end product of the beef industry and provides a valuable educational complement to the Steer Show and Sale. The Strawberry Festival reserves the right to evaluate carcass by sonogram if necessary and/or feasible.

1. ELIGIBILITY: CARCASS QUALITY WILL LIKELY BE DETERMINED BY SONOGRAM, ALL STEERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE. THE FESTIVAL WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN GATHERING DATA.

2. JUDGING: BY SONOGRAM (Some factors below may not be possible). Quality Factors:

- a. Must grade USDA Choice (At least Choice-)
- b. Shaded and dark-cutter cattle are less acceptable.
- c. A fine, smooth textured lean; carcasses with excessive amounts of connective tissue in the rib eye are less acceptable.
- d. A rib eye less than 11 sq. in, or unmarketable size, is not desirable
- e. Bullock carcasses are not eligible.

Yield Factors:

- a. Adjusted external fat covering between .2 and .6 inches preferred.
- b. At least average muscling, i.e. a 600-pound carcass needs at least an 11.0 square inch rib eye to be average. A 700-pound carcass should have a 12.2 square inch rib eye.
- c. Yield grade less than 3.2 and greater than 2.0 is desirable.
- d. Estimated hot carcass weight between 600 and 800 pounds.

3. EVALUATION DATA: All carcass data compiled will be organized into a comprehensive report that will be available to all

exhibitors. Among the major topic headings are Degree of Marbling, USDA Quality Grade, Estimated Carcass Weight, Rib Eye Area, Fat over Rib Eye, Percentage of Kidney Fat. SONOGRAM DATA, IF USED, WILL PRIMARILY BE RIB EYE AREA, FAT OVER THE EYE, MARBLING AND QUALITY GRADE, AND YIELD GRADE ESTIMATION.

4. DECISION OF JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

5. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS WILL BE AT THE LIVESTOCK BANQUET.

2026 Livestock Banquet

April 21st, 2026

The Steer and Swine Show premiums and awards will be given at the Livestock Banquet in the Patterson Companies Livestock Arena. The festival reserves the right to change the date and/or location. Tickets are provided for exhibitors and exhibitors' parents. The committee, sponsors, and buyers are invited and will not need tickets to enter. Additional tickets will be \$10.00 each. No awards will be given other than those listed in the official rules or deemed appropriate by the Steer & Swine Committee Chairmen. No flyers advertising awards (other than the official banquet program or official banquet sponsors), events, or any business will be allowed on tables. Official Club Dress will be required. No hats will be worn during the Banquet. Parents and guests should dress appropriately.

2025-2026 FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL STEER COMMITTEE:

JON POPPELL (STEER COMMITTEE CHAIR)

KENNETH PARKER (STEER SHOW SUPERINTENDENT)

**SETH POPPELL JOHN
DAVIDSON JAMES BAKER
BRIAN SHEPHERD
J. D. CAULEY
DANE HAMILTON
TERESA LOTT**

**LARRY SWINDLE
RAY CLARK JIM
JEFFRIES
REESE MCCLELLAND
JARROD CAULEY
MICHAEL PAUL**

**PAM WALDEN
ALYSSA ROGERS
GREG WOODARD
ETHAN CAULEY**

*****NOTE THAT IN THE EVENT THIS LIST CHANGES, THE CHANGES WILL BE MADE ON THE OFFICIAL APPLICATION WHICH WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL.**