

2026 FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL® YOUTH POULTRY & RABBIT SHOW



Sponsored by 



February 26th - March 8th

Located in the *Ed & Myrtle Lou Swindle Family Pavilion*

Trophies presented by *In The Field Magazine*

Feed supplied by *G5 Farm Supply*

Chairperson: Thomas Sturgis (813) 928-7211

Co-Chairpersons: Sandra Easters

Applications available at: www.flstrawberryfestival.com

Applications will be accepted, starting Tuesday, January 6th, 2026

Arrival of animals: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Release of animals: Sunday, March 8, 2026, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Competition open to: All youth residing in Hillsborough County and enrolled in grades K-12
including those that are home schooled

ABSOLUTELY NO COOLERS, FOOD OR DRINKS IN LIVESTOCK PAVILION

Go to the website at <https://flstrawberry.fairwire.com/>
and complete your online registration Prior to 2/5/2026 . Print the
receipt when you finish.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL® HAS THE RIGHT TO LIMIT
ENTRIES BASED ON PEN SPACE.**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Health requirements covering admission of poultry for exhibition (in compliance with the Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industry) : All chickens going to public exhibition shall originate from pullorum-typhoid clean flocks or hatcheries or have negative pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days prior to exhibition. Chickens entered for exhibition purposes which are from pullorum-typhoid clean sources must be accompanied by a certificate of purchase from the hatchers. All chickens entered for exhibition purposes must be free of mites and must not have been exposed to infections, contagious diseases or parasites of poultry.
- 1a. In the event of government or Florida Strawberry Festival® imposed quarantine of animal(s) entered for exhibit or sale at the Florida Strawberry Festival®, the Florida Strawberry Festival® accepts no responsibility for financial, or other loss by the exhibitor incurred as a result of the inability to exhibit and/or market the animal(s). Government refers to any City, County, State, or Federal Agency with the legal power to impose such quarantine. 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.

2. ELIGIBILITY: All youth residing in Hillsborough County and enrolled in grades K-12 including those that are home schooled

3. ELIGIBLE BREEDS ARE: American, English, Mediterranean, and Asiatic classes as contained in the American Standard of Perfection. Premiums also will be paid on recognized cross-breed and inbred crosses. Limit 4 birds per exhibitor and 2 rabbits per exhibitors, DEPENDING ON SPACE AVAILABLE, and on first come, first serve basis.

4. No classes are provided for game birds, ducks, guineas, pigeons, turkeys, geese or broilers.

5. Management reserves the right to reject any entry, or entries, from any exhibitor.

6. ONLINE ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE: County Agents, 4-H Leaders, Vocational Agriculture Teachers may obtain entry blanks by contacting the Florida Strawberry Festival®, (813) 752-9194, or at www.flstrawberryfestival.com.

7. There is no entry fee.

8. ENTRY DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH ,2026 ONLINE. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SCAN THE SAFETY RULES AS A PDF FILE TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION AND SEND IT TO EMAIL BELOW:

ATTN KellieAnne Kirkland EMAIL kellie@flstrawberryfestival.com

9. We are only accepting ONLINE ENTRY forms this year.

10. All cocks, cockerels, hens, and pullets must be entered as singles.

11. The Florida Strawberry Festival® will not be responsible for any loss that may occur, but will exercise every reasonable care of exhibits.

12. ARRIVALS: Birds will be received from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25th. All birds must be properly cooped in the tent.

13. All birds will be tested by State Vet prior to being caged.

14. The judging of birds will be conducted in consideration of productive capacity for meat and eggs as well as standard characteristics as distinguished from the use of a strictly exhibition standard.

15. The decision of the judge shall be final. No protests will be entertained.

16. During the period of exhibition, no specimen may be removed except by the consent of the Committee Chairperson.

17. During the period of exhibition, any unruly or disrespectful conduct to any Committee or Festival personnel will result in disqualification of the Exhibitor.

18. Feed will be supplied on a morning/evening feeding schedule throughout the duration of the Festival. Courtesy of *Southside Feed and Outdoor Supply*.

19. RELEASE: Birds will be released from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday, March 8, 2025. EACH EXHIBITOR SHALL UNDERSTAND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THIS RULE IS A CONDITION AGREED TO UPON PARTICIPATION IN THE SHOW.

THE FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL® WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ANIMAL LEFT AFTER 5:00 P.M.

20. Premiums will be given as you pick up your entry. POULTRY REMOVED BEFORE RELEASE DATE WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF PREMIUM MONEY. YOUR COMPLETE NAME AND ADDRESS MUST APPEAR ON THE ENTRY FORM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PREMIUM MONEY. EXHIBITORS NEED TO SAVE AT LEAST 2 ADMISSION TICKETS TO PICK UP THEIR ANIMALS.

21. TROPHIES & PREMIUMS:	• Grand Champion Rabbit/Poultry	\$25
	• Reserve Champion Rabbit/Poultry	\$20
	• Champion Production Rabbit/Poultry	\$15
	• Champion Fancy Rabbit/Poultry	\$15

PREMIUMS:	• Blue	\$7
	• Red	\$6
	• White	\$5

22. Anyone participating in this contest by way of entry, hereby agrees and consents to the use of any picture of contestant in any or all publications, TV, publicity brochure, internet, etc., that the Florida Strawberry Festival® may desire.

SAFETY RULES CONCERNING LIVESTOCK AND PLANT AREAS
(THIS PAGE MUST BE TURNED IN WITH APPLICATION)

The following rules govern all livestock shows including the plant show. It includes all areas in the Festival deemed as agricultural and all locations on the Festival grounds where animals are housed. The rules concern all participants, their families and any visitors to these areas. These rules are based on The Center for Disease Control Guidelines for the safe operation of livestock shows. These rules have been made policy by the Board of Directors of the Florida Strawberry Festival® and as such will be strictly enforced to ensure the Festival's continued ability to provide livestock exhibitions at the Florida Strawberry Festival® in future years.

1. Know that animals carry germs that can make people sick and have actually done so.
2. Any contact with animals should always be followed by washing of your hands.
3. There can be absolutely **NO FOOD or DRINK** in any form in the livestock or youth plant show areas. This includes visitors, family and exhibitors.
4. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to educate visitors and report food and drink violations to appropriate parties.
5. No animal can be fed anything but livestock feed in appropriate containers. If an exhibitor is feeding an animal food other than livestock feed, the exhibitor has already violated Rule #3 above.
6. No one but the exhibitor or his/her duly appointed designee can have direct contact with the animals.
7. All animal areas will be set up so that the general public cannot directly touch the livestock.
8. These rules may change from time to time. It is the exhibitor's and guardian's responsibility to verify the rules prior to entering the show.

Each exhibitor and their legal guardian must sign a copy of these rules agreeing to be bound by them. These rules will be enforced uniformly and without exception. Any exhibitor not following these guidelines will be disqualified from the livestock or plant show and no one will be permitted to exhibit or sell the disqualified individual's plant(s) or animal(s) at the Florida Strawberry Festival®. If a disqualified individual is exhibiting in more than one event referenced above, the individual will be disqualified from all from the point the infraction occurs and will forfeit premiums and awards.

We have read and understand these rules and we agree to the following as stated above.

Exhibitor's Signature	Please Print Name	Date
Parent/Legal Guardian	Please Print Name	Date

Applications to exhibit plants or animals in the 2026 Florida Strawberry Festival® will not be accepted if this statement is not signed and attached to the application to exhibit. You can scan and send as a pdf file to kellie@flstrawberry.festival.com A PHOTO SCANNED ATTACHMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Hold Harmless Agreement

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 of the event.