

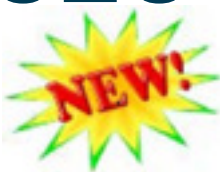


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# 2020 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS<sup>®</sup>



## CONTEST HANDBOOK

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<a href="#">GENERAL INFORMATION AND RULES</a>	3
<a href="#">YOUTH SPECIAL RULES</a>	7
<b>CONTESTS</b>	
<a href="#">Job Interview</a>	8
<a href="#">Public Speaking</a>	11
<a href="#">Science Fair</a>	14

### SFT MARKET SHOWS

- For information on 2020 market livestock shows please view the [Market Exhibitor Handbook](#).

### THE UNITED:

- For information on shows that are in partnership with the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo please visit [hotfair.com](http://hotfair.com).
- All partnership breeding gilt, breeding heifer, and prospect steer entries will be taken through the HOT Fair on-line entry program. Entries will open Monday, August 3, 2020 and close at 11:59PM on August 25, 2020. Other entry details, schedule and rules will be posted as they become available and final at [hotfair.com](http://hotfair.com).
- Exhibitors showing at the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo through one of our partnership shows in 2020, are still eligible to apply for a Big Tex Youth Livestock scholarship. For more information regarding scholarship eligibility, please visit [BigTex.com/scholarship](http://BigTex.com/scholarship).

### CONTEST IMPORTANT DATES:

Contest Entries Due	11:59PM	August 25
Contest Entry Application, Indemnity & W9 Postmark Deadline		September 1
Contest Uploads Due to Submittable	11:59PM	September 1
Job Interview Online Application portion of contest		September 2-3
Job Interview Finalists Posted		October 5
Public Speaking Semi-Finalists Posted		October 6
Science Fair Results Announcement	2PM	October 8
Job Interview Finals via Zoom	9AM	October 12
Job Interview Results Announcement	2PM	October 12
Public Speaking Semi-Finals via Zoom	9AM	October 13
Public Speaking Finals via Zoom + Broadcast	1PM	October 14
Public Speaking Results Announcement	2PM	October 14

## GENERAL INFORMATION & RULES

**WELCOME:** The State Fair of Texas® (“State Fair”) welcomes you to Dallas. We encourage you to participate in all the activities that this year’s Fair has to offer. The State Fair staff looks forward to hosting you and your exhibits at the 2020 State Fair of Texas at Fair Park.

**FAIR DATES:** The 2020 State Fair of Texas Livestock Show (the “Fair”) will be held at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas, from September 23, 2020 to October 2, 2020, unless postponed, shortened or extended by the Board of Directors, which they reserve the right to do if deemed necessary for the general welfare of all concerned.

**HOMELAND SECURITY/EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF LIVESTOCK/PROPERTY STATEMENT:** During such time as deemed necessary by local, state or federal authorities, State Fair, and/or its officials may, temporarily or permanently, evacuate Fair Park under the authority of the Homeland Security Act. Incidents such as, but not limited to, extreme weather conditions, bomb threats, terrorist acts, acts of war, declarations of war, code red of the Homeland Security System, etc., will be acted upon in accordance and cooperation with local, state and federal authorities. Priority evacuation will be given to human life, then livestock and/or property. In such cases, exhibitors may turn over the care of their livestock or property to State Fair, or as directed by governmental authorities. Proper animal husbandry practices will be followed within reasonable expectations. At such time the evacuation notice is lifted, exhibitors will be allowed to re-enter Fair Park and claim their livestock or property.

**INTERPRETATION OF RULES:** State Fair reserves to its Board of Directors the final and absolute right to interpret these General Information and Rules, the Youth Livestock Show Special Rules, and/or any applicable special requirements as published in this exhibitor handbook (collectively, the “Rules”) and to reasonably settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to the Fair, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. An exhibitor who violates any of the following rules may forfeit all privileges, fees paid and premiums awarded and may be subject to such penalties as the Board of Directors may determine. The failure of State Fair to enforce any of the provisions, rules, rights or remedies of this exhibitor handbook or to exercise any options or sanctions herein provided will in no way be construed to be a waiver of such provisions, rules, rights, remedies, sanctions or options. Special rules or conditions are published in each department where necessary. If there is a conflict between the special rules or requirements of any department or division and the general rules and regulations, the special rules or requirements shall apply.

**LIABILITY STATEMENT:** All exhibitors and exhibits shall comply with these Rules of State Fair. State Fair shall not be liable to exhibitor for lost profit or other financial loss of any type or description including any special, indirect, reliance, incidental or consequential damages which may be caused directly or indirectly by the enforcement of these Rules, or for any time delays, inadequacies of services of State Fair or any use of the premises or by any deficiency or defect therein. Additionally, State Fair is not responsible for any loss, injury or damage caused by exhibitor or exhibitor’s property that may arise directly or indirectly from exhibitor’s participation at the Fair. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any such loss, injury or damage, whether to person or property, and shall indemnify State Fair, the City of Dallas and their officers, directors and employees against all losses, damages and legal proceedings arising there from.

### **COVID-19 WARNING, RULES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK:**

- a. The novel coronavirus commonly known as COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 (the “Virus”) has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. An inherent risk of exposure to the Virus exists in any public place where people are present, including State Fair’s livestock events at State Fair’s facilities at Fair Park. The COVID-19 Virus is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to potentially life threatening illness and even death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), senior citizens and persons with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. The state of medical knowledge is evolving, but the Virus is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact, as between persons who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, and some recent studies have suggested that the Virus may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms. There is also some indication that it may be spread by contact with recently contaminated surfaces and objects. There is no known vaccine for the Virus, and studies are currently underway but not completed to determine a treatment or cure.
- b. All Exhibitors, their family members and other related persons participating in the livestock events or on-grounds at State Fair’s facilities shall comply with all health and safety orders, rules and guidelines related to the Virus promulgated by the State of Texas, County of Dallas, City of Dallas, CDC, and SFT. Without limiting the foregoing, Exhibitor, their family members and other related persons participating in the livestock events agree that they will wear a face mask, wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizer or antibacterial wipes, maintain social distancing, and submit to non-invasive body temperature measurement. Any person presenting a body temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will not be permitted to participate in the livestock events or be on property at the State Fair’s facilities.

- c. Exhibitors and their family members acknowledge that personal protective equipment (“PPE”) designed to reduce the chances of exposure to or infection with the Virus may not be readily available at State Fair’s facilities for their participation in the livestock events. Exhibitors and their family members acknowledge that SFT may not, and is under no legal duty to, provide any PPE to Exhibitors or their family members. Exhibitors and their families should provide their own PPE for participation in State Fair’s livestock events.
- d. Exhibitors and their family members understand and acknowledge that participation in the State Fair livestock events or use of State Fair’s facilities may expose them to contact with one or more persons who have been infected with, and/or exposed to, the Virus. Exhibitors and their family members further understand that participation in the State Fair livestock events or use of the facilities may expose them to contact with surfaces or objects that contain the Virus and may serve as a means for transmission of the Virus to others who participate in the livestock events or use the facilities. Based on the forgoing, Exhibitors and their family members understand and acknowledge that participation in the State Fair livestock events and use of the facilities may expose them, along with others with whom they may come in contact after they leave State Fair’s facilities, to a risk of infection with the Virus, which may cause significant and serious illness, bodily injury, disfigurement, temporary or permanent disability, and/or death.

**DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES:** State Fair expressly disclaims any express or implied warranties (including warranty of merchantability), whether the goods or services are provided by State Fair, its vendors or others (such as drug testing). State Fair does not provide special security or guard services for the livestock area and is not responsible for the acts of third parties. Exhibitor (and exhibitor’s parent or legal guardian, if exhibitor is a minor) agrees and acknowledges that State Fair will disqualify any exhibitor whose animal tests positive for ANY drug, even if the exhibitor (and the exhibitor’s parent(s)/guardian) are innocent of any wrongdoing and had no role in the administration of the drug shown by the drug test. Even if the source of the drug is unknown, State Fair shall be entitled to disqualify the exhibitor. Disqualification will result in the forfeiture of all auction proceeds and/or premiums, and the exhibitor may be prohibited from participating in future State Fair shows and competitions.

**PRESS INFORMATION:** Members of the State Fair Publicity Staff will be glad to furnish any information requested by representatives of newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations. Results of judging will be furnished as quickly as reasonably possible. All reasonable cooperation and assistance will be given to all representatives of the working press covering the State Fair. Accommodations for the working press will be available through the State Fair’s Public Relations Department.

**FIREARMS:** A person holding a valid Texas License to Carry a Handgun (LTC), or a valid concealed handgun license from a reciprocating state, is permitted to enter the Fair with his or her concealed handgun, provided that he or she thereafter fully complies with all applicable laws. LTC holders are responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable Texas laws. For example, under Texas Penal Code Section 46.035 a LTC holder is prohibited from carrying a concealed handgun (1) inside the Cotton Bowl, Livestock Barns or on any other premises where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place, (2) on the premises of a business that derives 51 percent or more of its income from the sale or service of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, or (3) while intoxicated. State Fair of Texas prohibits Fair attendees (including LTC holders) from openly carrying handguns while at the Fair. If an individual attempts to enter the Fair with an openly carried handgun, he or she will not be allowed to enter the Fair unless he or she conceals the handgun (if he or she has a valid LTC) or secures the handgun in his or her vehicle or at some off-site location. If an LTC holder enters the Fair with a concealed handgun and then begins to openly carry the handgun, he or she will be asked to either conceal the handgun or to leave the Fair.

**FIRE REGULATIONS:** Smoking is prohibited in and around buildings in Fair Park, regardless of whether such building is open air or enclosed. No containers containing flammable liquids will be allowed in any buildings.

**GUEST ASSISTANCE:** It is the intent of State Fair to welcome all visitors and treat them with courtesy and respect. Should guests experience any problems with a State Fair employee or vendor, these concerns should be reported immediately to State Fair’s Guest Relations or State Fair management, so that the matter can be addressed before the Fair concludes.

**FIRST AID STATION:** State Fair will maintain a completely equipped First Aid Station staffed by registered nurses, paramedics and/or emergency medical technicians to provide emergency treatment and facilities for accidents and illnesses occurring in Fair Park. The First Aid Station is located on the Southwest side of Fair Park Coliseum. Call (214) 421-8818 for assistance. Management assumes no responsibility for accidents in Fair Park.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. **NON-ADHERENCE TO THE RULES:** Any person found guilty of misrepresentation, fraud or not abiding by the rules in this exhibitor handbook will be disqualified and denied the privilege of competing at the Fair.
2. **SIGNED LIABILITY STATEMENT:** Each exhibitor/contestant (and exhibitor's parent or legal guardian, if exhibitor is a minor) must sign a statement acknowledging that he/she understands and agrees to the release and/or limitation of liability statement and agrees to abide by all rules of State Fair. If the exhibitor does not sign this statement (contained on all entry application forms), application for entry will be rejected.
3. **ENTRY ELIGIBILITY:** The State Fair does not discriminate against any applicant, exhibitor, volunteer, customer or patron on the basis of race, sex, color, age, disability, religion, citizenship, veteran status, nationality or ethnic origin. Competition in Youth Livestock Show and Contest classes is restricted. Refer to the Youth Livestock Show Special Rules for entry eligibility. Only animals officially entered will be allowed on the Fairgrounds during their scheduled time (see individual competition rules).
  - a. **TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION:** Any exhibitor eligible for premiums MUST complete an IRS Form W-9 and return it with entry applications.
  - b. **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Exhibitors and their exhibits must meet and adhere to the requirements of these rules and any and all Special Rules listed under the appropriate department(s) and division(s) as printed in this exhibitor handbook to be eligible for entry..
4. **INELIGIBLE TO ENTER:**
  - a. **DISQUALIFIED EXHIBITORS:** State Fair reserves the right to refuse entry of any contestant for violation of these Rules. Contestants who previously have been disqualified from State Fair shows will not be allowed entry until such time as expressed in the penalties handed down by the State Fair Board has expired.
5. **ENTRY PROCEDURE:**
  - a. **ENTRY APPLICATION:** All applications for entry must be made on current, official State Fair of Texas entry application forms in accordance with their instructions, providing division, class, and all other necessary information required.
  - b. **ENTRY ACCEPTANCE:** In all cases, State Fair management reserves the right to reject, accept, or accept conditionally an application for entry and does not guarantee space in the exhibition buildings. Rejected entries may be returned to the applicant.
  - c. **ERRONEOUS ENTRIES:** At the discretion of State Fair management, exhibits that have been erroneously entered may be transferred to their proper classes prior to judging. Management will decide the disposition of each case of erroneous entry upon its merits.
  - d. **INCOMPLETE ENTRIES:** Incomplete entries are defined as entries made by entry deadline (online or mailed) but are missing signatures, W-9's, payment, or other required information and may be accepted conditionally. Incomplete entries are subject to additional fees. See miscellaneous fees. State Fair may reject any late/incomplete entry without explanation.
6. **ENTRY DEADLINES:** All youth entries must be postmarked by postal/shipping service no later than September 1. Postal meter date is not acceptable.
  - a. Youth Livestock and Contest entries must be submitted **online by 11:59PM, August 25, by CEA/AST.** **All additional contest materials must be uploaded to the Submittable online platform by 11:59PM, September 1. See each contest page for specific rules and directions.**  
\*\*The following **must also be postmarked on or before September 1**, (in addition to online submission) to be considered complete YOUTH entries:
    - i. One check per county/chapter
    - ii. Each exhibitor's entry worksheet(s)
    - iii. One W-9 per exhibitor
    - iv. One Release and Liability Signature form per each exhibitor or team
    - v. All required supplemental contest materials uploaded with all signatures (by September 1)
7. **ENTRY FEES:** All applications for entry must be accompanied by related fees. If the entry does not have fees enclosed, the application for entry will not be accepted or may be accepted conditionally.

### CONTESTS

Job Interview	\$25 per entry
Public Speaking	\$25 per entry
Agri-Science Fair	\$25 per entry

### MISCELLANEOUS FEES

Youth Processing Fee <b>REQUIRED</b>	\$20 <u>per</u> submitted cart
Youth Incomplete Entries	\$100

### 8. LIVESTOCK CREDENTIALS:

- No credentials will be issued to 4-H or FFA members only participating in contests. We look forward to seeing you in person again in 2020.

- 9. RETURNED CHECKS:** Any check issued for payment that fails to clear will have five (5) days to re-issue payment accompanied with a \$35 returned check fee in order to keep entries eligible.
- 10. REFUNDS:**
- Entry fees for competitive events are refundable when written notification of cancellation is postmarked prior to the applicable entry deadline.
  - All refund requests must be made for amounts greater than \$20.
  - Refunds will be forwarded to the entry applicant after the closing of the Fair. All refunds are payable by check. All refunds, whatsoever, not claimed within 90 days upon receipt, shall be deemed forfeited to State Fair.

## COMPETITION

### 11. JUDGES/OFFICIALS:

- SELECTION OF JUDGES/OFFICIALS:** Judges will be selected by State Fair management. Judges will be familiar with all rules and department requirements.
- JUDGES' DECISIONS/OFFICIALS:** The judges' decisions are final.
- INTERFERENCE WITH JUDGES/OFFICIALS:** If any exhibitor, in any way, whether in person or by their representative, interferes with the judge(s), or shows any disrespect to the judges or show officials, State Fair management may excuse the exhibitor from the ring, disqualify him/her from further competition, and any exhibitor premiums that may have been awarded may also be forfeited.

### 12. PROTESTS:

- FILING:** All protests must be on an official protest form obtainable from the livestock office and accompanied by a deposit of \$300.00, cash or certified check, which will be forfeited if protest is not sustained. Such protest must state plainly the cause of the complaint or appeal and must be delivered to State Fair management immediately after the occasion for such protest. Protests will be accepted prior to, during and within twelve (12) hours immediately following the conclusion of judging.
- INVESTIGATION:** Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation; and depending on the basis of the protest, a decision may be withheld until a thorough investigation is completed. State Fair reserves the right to hold all protests and investigation findings confidential.

**13. PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEOS:** Exhibitor hereby grants State Fair permission to utilize photographs/videos, image or likeness in whole or in part for use in official State Fair publications, social media, webcasts and other promotions.

**14. PREMIUM PAYOUT:** Total premiums will be paid by State Fair unless otherwise stated. Premiums will be forwarded to designated person(s) as directed, after the close of the Fair as they can properly be processed. Premiums are payable by check. Checks will be made payable to the exhibitor listed on the entry form. All premiums whatsoever, not claimed within 90 days upon receipt, shall be deemed forfeited to State Fair. State Fair reserves the right to withhold premiums awarded in every case in which it appears to State Fair management that the Rules have been violated, or that fraud or deception has been attempted or practiced.

## COMPETITION EXHIBITS

- 15. CONDUCT:** Any exhibitors or their representatives not cooperating with State Fair officials in all matters, while on State Fair property, will have their entries disqualified and may be ordered to remove their exhibit from the grounds immediately and may lose the opportunity to participate in future competitions.
- 16. CARE OF EXHIBITS/PROPERTY:** All owners or others in charge of livestock, poultry, rabbits or other property shall care for, guard, protect and preserve the same. State Fair does not undertake to guard or protect exhibitor's livestock or property, and it shall not be held responsible for any loss, death or damage to said livestock, poultry, rabbits or property. State Fair does not provide special security services for the livestock area and is not responsible for the acts of third parties.
- 17. OBJECTIONABLE EXHIBITS:** State Fair management, in its sole and reasonable discretion, reserves the right to remove from the Fairgrounds any exhibit, animal, stand or display that may be falsely entered, or may be deemed unsafe, unsuitable or objectionable. State Fair will refund any money already paid by the removed exhibitor which shall exonerate State Fair from any and all claims whatsoever.
- 18. ADVERTISING:** No person will be permitted to distribute any literature or advertising materials on the Fairgrounds, except from a valid contracted exhibit space authorized by State Fair. The tacking or posting of any advertisement, bills, etc., other than within an official State Fair exhibit space is strictly prohibited. The distribution of handbills, fliers and heralds will not be permitted. Exhibitor shall not be permitted to sell or distribute any items or merchandise to State Fair patrons while on the Fairgrounds.

## YOUTH SPECIAL RULES

The State Fair of Texas® (State Fair) encourages a practical interest among young people in the responsibilities and practices of feeding and raising livestock and competing agricultural contests. The purpose of the Youth Livestock Shows and Contests at the State Fair is to encourage and promote the educational aspects of agriculture/livestock projects conducted by youth exhibitors under the proper supervision and direction of an Agriculture Science Teacher (AST) or a County Extension Agent (CEA). State Fair recognizes that the Texas AgriLife Extension, through 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapters and the Texas Education Agency, provides a valuable service to the public in educating Texas students in the principles of successful production livestock and agricultural knowledge. In order to encourage participation in the 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters throughout the state, State Fair includes as a part of its annual fair and exposition, the youth livestock division which is a special exhibition for Texas 4-H and FFA members.

- 1. RULES/REGULATIONS:** Entries made in the Youth Livestock Show and Contests shall be subject to and each contestant agrees to abide by the General Rules, Youth Livestock Show Special Rules, and any applicable special requirements as published in this exhibitor handbook (collectively, the “Rules”). In the event of any conflict between the Youth Livestock Show Special Rules and the General Rules, the provisions of these Special Rules shall apply. Additionally, any conflict between any additional special requirements and the Youth Livestock rules, the additional special rules shall apply.
- 2. PARTICIPATION:**
  - a. ELIGIBLE EXHIBITORS:** Participation in the Youth Livestock Show is limited to Texas residents only, who are members of a Texas 4-H Club or Texas FFA Chapter (except where stated otherwise) who have continuously owned and personally fed and cared for their animal under the direct supervision of a CEA or AST. Exhibitors must be enrolled in, and attending, public, private or home school elementary or secondary schools in Texas and they must be at least 8 years old and in the third grade, but not more than 18 years old on September 1. Exhibitors must be bona fide residents of the state of Texas.
  - b. INELIGIBLE EXHIBITORS:**
    - i. If an exhibitor is suspended under the Texas Education Code 33.081 “No Pass, No Play”, then that exhibitor/competitor and their animal are not eligible for competition.
    - ii. Exhibitors who have been disqualified from competition at State Fair or have had a premium withheld or withdrawn are not eligible for competition. This shall include, but is not limited to: disqualification for fraud, misrepresentation, unethical fitting, tampering or deception. State Fair of Texas reserves the right to determine show eligibility.
    - iii. Exhibitors who have had a Grand Champion are not eligible to compete in the contest in which their prior Grand Champion was exhibited.
- 3. ENTRY PROCEDURE:**
  - a. ENTRY APPLICATION:** All entries must be submitted online at [livestock.bigtex.com](http://livestock.bigtex.com) by 11:59PM, August 25th. In addition, complete entry applications, indemnities with all applicable signatures, W9s and payment must be submitted by AST/CEA with a school/county check, cashier’s check, or money order and postmarked on or before September 1 to the State Fair of Texas, Livestock Office, PO Box 150009, Dallas, TX 75315.
  - b. ENTRY CERTIFICATION:** The Certification, Release, and Indemnity portion of each entry application must be signed by the youth exhibitor, a parent or guardian, AND the CEA/AST. By signing the certification, each party acknowledges that they have read, understood and will abide by all the rules.
  - c. INCOMPLETE ENTRIES:** Incomplete entries include entries made online by 11:59PM, August 25, postmarked by the deadline but missing signatures, W-9’s or other required information. Incomplete entries will be accepted conditionally and will be assessed incomplete fee(s) on a case by case basis. Otherwise, the entry may be disqualified.
  - d. LATE ENTRIES:** Late entries are defined as entries not submitted online by 11:59PM, August 25 or not postmarked by September 1. Entries made after midnight, on entry deadline must still be mailed to State Fair’s Livestock Office. Late contest entries will not be accepted.
- 4. SCHOLARSHIPS:** Each youth livestock exhibitor shall be eligible to competitively apply for educational support upon completion and submission of the State Fair of Texas Scholarship Application.

# YOUTH AGRICULTURAL JOB INTERVIEW CONTEST

## SUPERINTENDENTS:

Tammy Glascock, Sue Witt

Online Entry Deadline

Content Upload Deadline (*mandatory in addition to entry*)

Online Application Available (*see details below*)

Contest Finals via Zoom

Virtual Awards

August 25

September 1

September 2-3 **ONLY**

October 12

October 12

## CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

- RULES/REGULATIONS:** Entries made in this department shall be subject to and each contestant agrees to abide by the General and Youth Rules and Regulations of the State Fair of Texas as published in this exhibitor handbook and the following special rules.
- ENTRY APPLICATION/FEES:** See General Rules for entry information. **Late entries will not be accepted.**
- ELIGIBILITY:** Entries in this division are limited to Texas FFA, FCCLA and 4-H members. Any contestant violating any rule will be disqualified from the contest. Participants may enter the contest under only one youth organization (FFA, 4-H, FCCLA). Entries in multiple organizations will result in both submissions being disqualified. Cover letters, résumés, online applications and video presentations submitted must have been created and written, in their entirety, by FFA, 4-H or FCCLA members, only under direct supervision of the Agricultural Science Teacher, County Extension Agent or FCCLA Advisor. Past State Fair of Texas Grand Champion interview contestants are ineligible to enter. Each contestant is required to return a Youth Liability and Indemnity Form.
- AGE DIVISIONS:** (*as of September 1*)
  - Senior: must be in at least the 9th grade, but not older than 19 and in the 12th grade
- SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:** All entries for the job interview contest must be submitted by 11:59pm August 25, using the State Fair of Texas online entry portal. **Contestants will have from August 26th until 11:59pm September 1st to upload required supplemental materials using the Submittable platform. A direct link will be provided in the SFT entry portal and at [bigtex.com/livestock](http://bigtex.com/livestock). Contestants and/or CEA/ASTs will need to create a free account.** Only one upload per contestant is permitted. If a participant fails to meet or exceeds the guidelines for the cover letter, résumé, and/or video the participant is subject to disqualification and/or point deductions at the discretion of the superintendent, show management and judges. **No late entries will be accepted.** Contestants failing to submit all materials by entry deadline are subject to disqualification. A complete upload includes the following:
  - A COMPLETE SFT CONTEST UPLOAD INCLUDES:**
    - UPLOAD INFO** **\*\*See rule 8. for detailed information on each item**
    - Cover Letter
    - Resume
    - 2-minute job description video.DO NOT upload the Youth Liability and Indemnity Form and W9. Each contestant's SFT Entry Application, Youth Liability and Indemnity Form, and W9 **must be mailed-in in addition to the required upload.**
- NOTIFICATION OF ADVANCEMENT:**
  - The list of the top 6 contestants who will compete in the final round personal interview via Zoom will be posted at [bigtex.com/livestock](http://bigtex.com/livestock) no later than one week prior to contest day.
  - All entrants' AST, CEA or FCCLA Advisor listed will be notified by email to confirm contestants' accepted or disqualified entry.
- CONDUCT OF CONTESTANTS:**
  - Business attire or Official FFA/4-H/FCCLA attire is recommended.
  - Contestants may use a resume and cover letter to complete their online job application. In addition, the top 6 finalists may use a padfolio for the final personal interview via Zoom.
  - No cell phones, smart watches or electronic devices other than those being used for the contest are permitted at any time.
- CONTEST FORMAT:**

**PRELIMINARY ROUND**

All contestants will submit a cover letter, résumé, and 2-minute job description video. **Following the September 1st entry deadline, all contestants will be emailed a link to complete a mock online application.** Contestants must apply for an agricultural position/internship which they are qualified for and reflects their current skills and abilities. A maximum of 30 contestants will be selected to advance to the semi-finals from the combined scores of the cover letter, resume and online application submission. All entrants will be contacted regardless of advancement.
  - Cover Letter:** Must be the result of the participants' own effort and cannot exceed more than one page and must be single spaced, 12 pt. size and Times New Roman font with 1" margins. Dated for the day of the contest and



addressed to:  
Daryl E. Real  
State Fair of Texas  
PO Box 150009  
Dallas, TX 75315

- b. **Resume:** Must be an accurate résumé based on the contestants current experience and credentials. Must not exceed two pages. Contestants are encouraged to format the résumé in a professional manner
- c. **Online Application:** Contestants will complete an online application following entry submission. A link will be provided to contestants via email. The link will only be accessible from Wednesday, September 2 to Thursday, September 3. Once the online application is started it must be completed. Only one submission is allowed. Contestants may use their cover letter and resume to complete the application.
- d. **2-minute Job Description Video:** A 2-minute pre-recorded video uploaded at the time of entry.

Guidelines as follows:

- Accepted file formats: mp4, mov, avi, mpg, 3gp, webm, wmv, mkv, m4v
- 2-minute maximum length
- Time begins when the contestant starts speaking and ends with 'thank you'.
- Videos exceeding the maximum time will incur a 10-point deduction for every five seconds.
- The video may be recorded from waist up or head to toe.
- The video should be recorded using a neutral background with contestant only.
- Judges will evaluate:
  - Introduction, which must include contestant's name and club or chapter
    - » Title, description and source of the position applied for.
    - » Desired qualifications and work experience needed for the position and how the contestant relays they are best suited for the job.
    - » Any other relevant and beneficial personal characteristics or skills included to base hiring upon

#### SEMIFINAL ROUND

The top 30 contestant's job description videos will be evaluated based on the criteria above. The video score will be added to the preliminary round (cover letter, resume, application) score. The top 6 contestants will move to the final round. Finalists will be notified at least one week prior to the final round date and time. The list of final contestants will also be listed on [bigtex.com/livestock](http://bigtex.com/livestock).

#### FINAL ROUND

Finalists will compete virtually on contest day in a personal interview via Zoom. Specific instructions will be sent to the selected contestants prior to the live event. The personal interview will be a maximum of 10 minutes in length and take place with a panel of three judges. The interview score will be added to the initial scores, all of which carry through to the final round. Finalists will compete for Grand and Reserve Champions and 3rd-6th placings, unless otherwise announced.

- 9. **FOLLOW UP LETTER:** This will not be scored as part of the 2020 contest, however all contestants are encouraged to write a thank you to the State Fair of Texas expressing appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the contest.

Address letters to:

State Fair of Texas Livestock Staff  
PO Box 150009  
Dallas, TX 75315

- 10. **RESOURCE MATERIALS:** This list of references is not intended to be inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available.

- National FFA Core Catalog – Strunk and White
- Elements of Style – Strunk and White
- 101 Toughest Interview Questions...and Answers That Win Job, Daniel Porto, Daniel Porot/Paperback/ Published 1999
- Best Answers to the 201 Most Frequently Asked Interview Questions, Matthew J. DeLuca, Mathew J. DeLuca/Paperback/Published 1996
- Greggs Manual
- Microsoft® Word ® résumé templates
- 25 Reasons Why I Won't Hire You! What You Did Wrong Before, During & After the Interview! Zenja Glass/Paperback/Published 1998
- The Complete Job Interview Handbook, John J. Marcus/ Paperback/Published 1994
- <https://www.texasffa.org/lde-job-interview>

- 11. **SCORING:** All contest submission materials and the online application will be reviewed and scored by judges through the Submittable platform. Judges' comments will be available to each contestant through Submittable following the contest.


#### TASK


COVER LETTER  
(25 points)

#### EVALUATION DESCRIPTION:

Did the cover letter meet the one page maximum? Was it addressed & dated correctly? Is the information in the cover letter true & relevant to the position being applied? Did the cover letter create interest in the applicant? Was the letter grammatically correct & professional?

RESUME (25 points)	Did the résumé not exceed two pages? Was the information & work experience non-fictitious & highlight the applicant's experience in a professional manner? Was the résumé easy to read & follow?
ONLINE APPLICATION (25 points)	Was the information presented in a legible format? Were all the questions & required areas filled in correctly? Were the answers to the application grammatically correct?
2-MINUTE VIDEO (25 points)	Did the video include the contestant's name, title, description and source of the position applied for? Did the video include desired qualifications and work experience needed for the position and how the contestant is best qualified for the job? Were other relevant personal characteristics and skills addressed?
PERSONAL ZOOM INTERVIEW (100 points)	Was the applicant confident & able to relate their past experience to the position in which they are applying? Did the applicant seem knowledgeable about the position applied for & able to answer questions thoroughly?

 **12. TIES:** Ties will be broken based on the contestant's personal interview ranking. If a tie still exists, it will be broken by contest segment score in the following order: 1) Personal Interview; 2) 2-minute Video; 3) Cover Letter; 4) Resume; 5) Online Application; 6) Match. The superintendent, judges and show officials have the authority to further determine tie breakers to declare a winner.

 **13. RESULTS:** A live virtual event via State Fair social media platforms will take place following the contest to recognize winners. The contest results, as announced, will be final.

**14. AWARDS:** Awards will be mailed to CEA/AST.

Grand Champion	\$250, Buckle, Banner
Reserve Grand Champion	\$125, Banner
3rd-6th Place	Banner, Special Award

# YOUTH AGRICULTURAL PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

## SUPERINTENDENT:

Derrick Bruton, Laura Huebinger

Online Entry Deadline		August 25
Content Upload Deadline ( <i>mandatory in addition to entry</i> )		September 1
Contest Semi-Finals via Zoom	9AM	October 13
Contest Finals via Zoom, live broadcasted	1PM	October 14
Virtual Awards	2PM	October 14

## CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

- RULES/REGULATIONS:** Entries made in this department shall be subject to and each contestant agrees to abide by the General and Youth Rules and Regulations of the State Fair of Texas as published in this exhibitor handbook and the following special rules.
- ENTRY APPLICATION/FEES:** See General Rules for entry information. **Late entries will not be accepted.**
- ELIGIBILITY:** Entries in this division are limited to Texas 4-H, FFA, and FCCLA members. Any contestant violating any rule will be disqualified from the contest. Participants may enter the contest under only one youth organization (FFA, 4-H, FCCLA). Entries in multiple organizations will result in both submissions being disqualified. Speeches and submitted materials must have been created and written, in their entirety, by 4-H, FFA or FCCLA members, only under direct supervision of the AST/CEA/FCCLA Advisor. Any speech with obscene language will be disqualified. Past State Fair of Texas Grand Champion speaking contestants are ineligible to enter. Each contestant is required to return a Youth Liability and Indemnity Form.
- AGE DIVISIONS:** (*as of September 1*)
  - Junior:** at least 8 years old and in the 3rd grade, but no more than 8th grade
  - Senior:** must be in at least the 9th grade, but not older than 19 and in the 12th grade
- SPEECH DIVISIONS:** Each contestant will enter their speech in one division. The division must be declared on the entry form when submitted. There are topics which may be appropriate in more than one division. The contestant is responsible for selecting the most appropriate division.
  - Agribusiness:** Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as cooperatives, sales, service, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, futures, hedging, advertising, online marketing etc.
  - Agricultural Advocacy:** Any current or future subject that addresses the process or act of journalism, communications, social media or public relations where agricultural related information is being communicated to the public.
  - Agricultural Policy:** Any current or future subject that addresses police or legislation on the following: domestic farm issues, international trade, international competition, rural economic development, politics, legal issues, animal rights, animal welfare, law, subsidies, price supports, etc.
  - Agricultural Technology:** Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, farm safety, use of technology, research, laser, satellites or advancements made in agricultural practices through the use of technology, computer systems, or cutting-edge ideas.
  - Animal Science:** Any current or future subject that addresses any aspects of the dairy, equine, poultry, sheep, goat, swine, beef or specialty animal industries such as embryo transfer and in-vitro-fertilization.
  - Horticulture:** Any current or future subject that addresses any aspect of the horticulture and/or agronomy industries including floriculture, fruit and/or vegetable production, nursery operations, turf and landscape management, crop production or specialty crop production.
  - Livestock Show Ethics:** Any current or future subject that addresses any aspect of the ethics practiced in the livestock show industry.
  - Natural Resources:** Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as soil, water, air, rural water, water quality, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy, environmental issues, etc.
  - Western Heritage:** Any current or future subject that addresses topics such as western history, culture or heritage.
- SUBMISSION/UPLOAD GUIDELINES:** All entries in the State Fair of Texas Youth Public Speaking Contest must be submitted by 11:59pm August 25. **Contestants will have from August 26th until 11:59pm September 1st to upload a required pre-recorded video and provide an abstract using the Submittable platform. A direct link will be provided in the SFT entry portal and at [bigtex.com/livestock](http://bigtex.com/livestock). Contestants and/or CEA/ASTs will need to create a free account.** Only

one upload per contestant is permitted. Additional attachments will not be accepted. Manuscripts will not be accepted. DO NOT upload the Youth Liability and Indemnity Form and W9.

Each contestant's SFT Entry Worksheet, Youth Liability and Indemnity Form, and W9 must be mailed-in in addition to the required upload materials.

The uploaded video should be a recording of the contestant presenting their speech. The video must be of the contestant only. Film at the highest resolution possible and ensure audio quality. Do not add additional graphics, transitions or other effects. The video must be recorded in one continuous video. Edited videos will be disqualified. The completed video must be uploaded to the Submittable online platform. Accepted file formats will be mp4, mov, avi, mpg, 3gp, webm, wmv, mkv, m4v.

**Contestants failing to submit all materials by entry deadline are subject to disqualification.**

Tips/Recommendations for videos:

- Record in a landscape/horizontal format.
- The video may be recorded from waist up or head to toe.
- The video should be recorded using a neutral background with contestant only.
- Check audio quality and video resolution before submitting. If audio/video is of poor quality, judges reserve the ability to award zero points for any and all categories in the rubric.

**a. A COMPLETE SFT CONTEST UPLOAD INCLUDES:**

- A complete Submittable online form including an abstract
- 6-8 minute video uploaded to Submittable platform.

**b. NOTIFICATION OF ADVANCEMENT:**

- The list of contestants, along with their age division and speech division, who will compete in the semi-finals on contest day will be posted at [bigtex.com/livestock](http://bigtex.com/livestock) no later than one week prior to contest day.
- All entrants' AST, CEA or FCCLA Advisor listed will be notified by email to confirm contestants' accepted or disqualified entry.

**7. CONDUCT OF CONTESTANTS:**

- Business attire or official 4-H/FFA/FCCLA attire is recommended.
- The use of props of any kind is prohibited. Violation will result in disqualification. .

**8. CONTEST FORMAT:**

**a. SPEECHES:**

- Properly entered videos will be evaluated and scored by a panel of 2-3 judges.
- Each speech shall be a minimum of six (6) minutes and a maximum of eight (8) minutes. Deductions will be applied to overall score if time is under/over the allotted time. Time point deductions will apply as follows: Under six minutes – one point per ten seconds, over eight minutes – one point per ten seconds.
- If there are more than 15 entries in the junior age division, show management reserves the right to combine multiple divisions into judging groups. The top two entries in each judging group will advance to the junior semi-finals. The semi-finals will be conducted live via Zoom. Specific instructions will be sent to the selected contestants prior to the live event. The top two junior contestants will compete for Grand and Reserve Champion during the final round.
- If there are more than 15 entries in a speech division in the senior age division, show management reserves the right to randomly divide into sub-divisions. The top two entries in the sub-division will advance to the division quarter-finals. Division quarter-finals will be conducted using the pre-recorded video with a different panel of judges. The top two contestants in the division quarter-finals will advance to the semi-finals.
- The top two senior contestants in each division will advance to the semi-finals where they will compete for division championship. The semi-finals will be conducted live via Zoom. Specific instructions will be sent to the selected contestants prior to the live event.
- Top two senior finalists will compete for Grand and Reserve Champion during the final round.
- The final round will be conducted live via Zoom and Facebook Live for public viewing on Wednesday, October 14.

**b. QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD:**

- No questions will be asked of contestants during the first round of judging using recorded videos.
- A three-minute question/answer period will follow each speech during the semi-finals and finals rounds. At the end of three minutes, time will be called and all questioning will end. If time is called during the contestant's answer to a question, the contestant may complete his or her answer.
- Only official judges may ask questions of the contestants.

**9. SCORING:** A panel of judges will evaluate and score the presentation through the Submittable platform, and via Zoom during the semi-final and final rounds. **Judges' comments will be available to each contestant through Submittable following the contest.** Score sheets can be found at [bigtex.com/livestock](http://bigtex.com/livestock).

**10. RESULTS:** **A live virtual event via State Fair platforms will take place following the contest to recognize winners.** The contest results as announced will be final.

**11. AWARDS:** Awards will be mailed to CEA/AST.

*Senior:*

Division Champions  
Reserve Division Champions  
Grand Champion  
Reserve Grand Champion

Banner, Acrylic  
Banner  
\$5000 Scholarship, Banner, Buckle  
\$2000 Scholarship, Banner, Buckle

*Junior:*

Division Champions  
Grand Champion  
Reserve Grand Champion

Banner  
Buckle, Banner  
Buckle, Banner

# YOUTH AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE FAIR

## SUPERINTENDENT:

David Frazier

Online Entry Deadline  
Content Upload Deadline (*mandatory in addition to entry*)  
Virtual Awards

2PM

August 25  
September 1  
October 8

## CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

- RULES/REGULATIONS:** Entries made in this department shall be subject to and each contestant agrees to abide by the General and Youth Rules and Regulations of the State Fair of Texas as published in this exhibitor handbook and the following special rules.
- ENTRY APPLICATION/FEES:** See General Rules for entry information. **Late entries will not be accepted.**
- ELIGIBILITY:** Entries in this division are limited to Texas 4-H, FFA and FCCLA members. There is no limit to the number of entries a club or chapter may submit. Any contestant violating any rule will be disqualified from the contest. Participants are limited to one individual entry, team entries are not allowed. A project may be exhibited only one time at the State Fair of Texas and must have been researched and developed within one calendar year of the exhibition date. If the project is a continuation of a longitudinal (multi-year) study, the student's focus for research, display and presentation must center on the most recent year's data. Submitted materials must have been created and written, in their entirety, by 4-H or FFA members, only under direct supervision of the CEA/AST. Past State Fair of Texas Grand Champion contestants are ineligible to enter. Each contestant is required to return a Youth Liability and Indemnity Form.
- AGE DIVISIONS:** (*as of September 1*)
  - Junior:** at least 8 years old and in the 3rd grade, but no more than 8th grade
  - Senior:** must be in at least the 9th grade, but not older than 19 and in the 12th grade
- PROJECT DIVISIONS:** Each contestant will enter their project in one of six divisions. The division must be declared on the entry form. Upon receipt of research papers, the contest superintendent may suggest a category change for a project.

Animal Science:	The study of animal systems, including life processes, health, nutrition, genetics, management and processing, through the study of small animals, aquaculture, livestock, dairy, horses and/or poultry.
Environmental Services & Natural Resource Systems:	The study of systems, instruments and technology used in waste management; the study of the management of soil, water, wildlife, forests and air as natural resources and their influence on the environment.
Food Products & Processing Systems:	The study of product development, quality assurance, food safety, production, sales and service, regulation and compliance and food service within the food service industry.
Plant Systems:	The study of plant life cycles, classifications, functions, structures, reproduction, media and nutrients, as well as growth and cultural practices, through the study of crops, turf grass, trees and shrubs and/or ornamental plants.
Power, Structural & Technical Systems:	The study of agricultural equipment, power systems, alternative fuel sources and precision technology, as well as woodworking, metalworking, welding and project planning for agricultural structures.
Social Systems:	The study of human behavior and the interaction of individuals in and to society, including agricultural education, agribusiness economic, agricultural communication, agricultural leadership and other social science applications in agriculture, food and natural resources.

- SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:** All entries in the State Fair of Texas Youth Science Fair Contest must be submitted by 11:59pm August 25. **Contestants will have from August 26th until 11:59pm September 1st to upload their required research manuscript, a pre-recorded video and complete the agriscience fair project form using the Submittable platform. A direct link will be provided in the SFT entry portal and at [bigtex.com/livestock](http://bigtex.com/livestock). Contestants and/or CEA/ASTs will need to create a free account.** Only one upload per contestant is permitted. The uploaded 3 minute video will replace the interview portion of the contest for 2020. Contestants failing to submit all materials by entry deadline are subject to disqualification.

**a. A COMPLETE SFT CONTEST UPLOAD INCLUDES:**

- A complete Submittable AgriScience Fair online form
- Research manuscript uploaded to Submittable platform.
- 3 minute video uploaded to Submittable platform.

UPLOAD  
INFO

DO NOT upload the Youth Liability and Indemnity Form and W9. Each contestant's SFT Entry Application, Youth Liability and Indemnity Form, and W9 must be mailed-in in addition to the required upload.

**7. VIDEO GUIDELINES:**



A 3 minute pre-recorded video will replace the interview portion of the contest for 2020. The video presentation will be reviewed and scored by the same individuals reviewing and scoring your entry worksheets and manuscript.

- The video may not exceed 3 minutes.
- Accepted file formats will be mp4, mov, avi, mpg, 3gp, webm, wmv, mkv, m4v.
- The video must include contestant's name, chapter, age and project division.
- Specific questions will not be asked, rather a free response that should include an overview of:  
Knowledge gained (max 15pts)  
Scientific Research (max 25pts)  
Collaboration (max 10 pts)  
Thoroughness/Information (max 25pts)  
Results/Conclusion (max 25pts)
- The video should be recorded using a neutral background with contestant only. Contestant should wear business attire or official 4-H/FFA/FCCLA attire.
- Do NOT include a visual display in the video. The use of props, power points, equipment, etc. is prohibited.
- Videos will be reviewed prior to judging to ensure that each presentation opens and the video can be viewed and heard. Contestants will be notified in the event a new presentation needs to be submitted.

**8. CONTEST FORMAT:**

- Entries will be judged and scored virtually by a panel of judges through the Submittable platform .

**9. SCORING:** Judges' comments will be available to each contestant through Submittable following the contest. Score sheets can be found at [www.bigtex.com/livestock](http://www.bigtex.com/livestock)

**10. RESULTS:** A live virtual event via State Fair platforms will take place following the contest to recognize winners. The contest results, as announced, will be final.

**11. AWARDS:** Awards will be mailed to CEA/AST.

*Senior:*

Category Champion	Banner, Acrylic, \$1000 Scholarship
Reserve Category Champion	Banner
Grand Champion	Banner, Buckle, \$5000 Scholarship
Reserve Grand Champion	Banner, Buckle, \$1000 Scholarship

*Junior:*

Category Champion	Banner
Grand Champion	Acrylic
Reserve Grand Champion	Acrylic