

2025-2026

Frio County Youth Commercial Heifer Show and Sale

Rules and Regulations

Revised September 2025

INTRODUCTION: THIS SHOW IS SPONSORED BY THE FRIO COUNTY YOUTH COMMERCIAL HEIFER SHOW, THEREFORE 4-H AND FFA MEMBERS CAN SELL IN THIS PROGRAM AS WELL AS IN THE FRIO COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW PREMIUM AUCTION. EXHIBITORS MUST ABIDE BY THE GENERAL RULES OF THE FRIO COUNTY YOUTH COMMERCIAL HEIFER SHOW AND SALE AND THE GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE FRIO COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW.

1. **Validation/Initial Weigh-In.** Pen of open heifers must be weighed and tagged on **October 13, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.** If the exhibitor is unable to make the 7:00 p.m. deadline for an unforeseen emergency, contact must be made to the committee chairman and a quorum of committeemen will take appropriate action. Heifers will be weighed at Pearsall Livestock Auction unless otherwise noted. The weigh-in is part of the sifting process and the heifers may be sifted for lack of uniformity and quality by the sifting judge. The commercial heifer committee reserves the right to modify the validation date if unforeseen circumstances arise. A date change will require a majority vote by the committee.
2. **Fees.** All entry forms and fees are due at validation/initial weigh-in. **Entry fees are \$30.00 per pen.** An exhibitor may enter only one pen.
3. **Pen Size.** A pen shall consist of two heifers. The exhibitor may choose to validate one alternate heifer for a maximum of three heifers; however, only two heifers will be judged. All three heifers are eligible to be sold.
4. **Ownership.** The exhibitor must own all heifers. Heifers may be kept at any location where the exhibitor has access and means to maintain the heifers.
5. **Weight.** A minimum average weight of 450 pounds and a maximum average weight of 750 pounds per head will be allowed at the initial weigh in. Heifers will be weighed by the pen and must have in place 2 middle temp incisors.
6. **Feed & Daily Gain.** Animals may be grazed or fed and will be judged as replacement heifers. Each heifer must gain an average of one pound per day from validation to show date or will be sifted. The number of days in project for **2025-2026 will be 108 days.**
7. **Final Check-in/Weigh-in.** Check-in time for the Frio County Junior Livestock Show will be on Thursday, **January 29, 2026 between 12 PM and 2 PM.** Exhibitor's heifers should have a tag in right ear and legible tattoo at time of check-in in order to verify that the heifers have been vaccinated for brucellosis. A heifer who has lost its tag will not be sifted if the ear tattoo is legible and verifiable. Sifting for the show will be enforced at the final check-in/weigh in (See Frio County Jr. Livestock Show Rules for sifting info Section D).
 - a. **Holding Pens.** Holding pens will be drawn for by the committee before the final weigh-in and pen assignments will be posted on the day of the check-in. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to clean his/her pen and alley daily.
 - b. **Weight.** The heifers will be weighed as a pen (average). If the pen does not make the base weight gain of one pound per day then the smallest heifer will be

separated and the remaining two heifers will be re-weighed together. If the two re-weighed heifers do not make the average weight gain then the heifers will be weighed individually.

- c. **Palpation.** Heifers that clear the final weigh-in (including alternates) will then be palpated by a licensed veterinarian. Only virgin and open heifers may compete in the show. Palpation cost will be at exhibitor's expense and exhibitor must be present unless he/she is excused by the committee.
 - d. **Alternate heifers.** All pens to be judged must consist of two heifers. If the exhibitor validates three heifers and they each pass the weight and palpation sift then he/she must designate the alternate heifer. The alternate heifer will be penned separately during the cattle judging and will be returned to the exhibitor's assigned pen once the judging is complete. All three heifers will be eligible for the sale.
 - e. **Incomplete Pens.** If an exhibitor has only one heifer that passes the weight and palpation sift then the exhibitor may compete in the interview and record book judging but the cattle score will be a zero.
8. **Record Books.** Record books are due by **8:00 AM on Friday, January 30, 2026** and shall be turned in at the Pearsall Livestock Auction office. Record books must follow the FRIO COUNTY COMMERCIAL HEIFER RECORD BOOK format provided on the Frio County Agrilife website. The record book must be limited to only the data entry pages (pages on the Agrilife website), purchase receipts, two photographs and a one page essay. Any other items included in the record book may be removed by the committee before the record books are judged and returned to the exhibitor. The record book may be in a binder or other cover of the exhibitor's choosing. Animals may be grazed or fed and will be judged as replacement heifers. Each heifer must gain an average of one pound per day from validation to show date or will be sifted. The number of days in project for **2025-2026 will be 108 days.**
 9. **Interview.** Exhibitor interviews will take place on Friday, **January 30, 2026.** Interview start time and order will be distributed at final weigh-in. Interviews will be limited to five minutes per exhibitor and questions will be designed to test the exhibitor's knowledge of all areas of his or her exhibit.
 10. **Cattle Judging.** The judges will select a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion pen of heifers and score all cattle on a scale of 1-50.
 11. **Scoring & Final Tabulation.** Judges will be sought that have no preference to any exhibitor. Each judge will score each of the three categories as follows: Heifers will count for 50% of the total score with 50 points being the best. Record Book will count for 25% of the total score with 25 points being the best. Interviews will count for 25% of the total score with 25 points being the best. The Judge's scores will be added and the overall highest score will place first and so forth down to last place. In the event of a tie, the judges will break the tie. The exhibitors with the highest overall score and second highest score will be awarded Grand Champion Commercial Heifer Exhibitor and Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Heifer Exhibitor, respectively.
 12. **Awards.** Grand and Reserve Champion Pens of Commercial Heifers will receive a banner and a buckle. Grand and Reserve Champion Exhibitors will receive buckles. Awards will be given to best Junior Division (3rd – 5th grade), **Intermediate Division** (6th-8th grade) and Senior Division (9th – 12th grade) interview and best Junior, **Intermediate** and Senior Division record book.

13. **Auction.** The FCJLS Commercial Heifer auction will take place on **Saturday, January 31, 2026** at either at the Pearsall Livestock Auction or the Frio County Junior Livestock Show Barn. The sale location and start time will be announced prior to the auction. Only pens of heifers that are judged are required to be sold in the auction. Pens will be sold times the money and may not be split by the buyer.
- a. The sale order will be as follows:
 1. Grand & Reserve Champion Pens of Commercial Heifers
 2. All remaining heifers will sell in order from highest to lowest heifer score.
 - b. If an exhibitor would like for the information about where their heifers were purchased, raised, etc., to be announced at the auction this information needs to be provided to the secretary of the committee no later than Saturday, **January 31, 2026** at 8:30 am.
 - c. If the auction is held at the FCJLS Show Barn a photo of each pen of heifers will be displayed as the pen is sold. Each exhibitor must provide a digital photo (no videos allowed) to the committee by January 11, 2026 via email at FrioCommercialHeiferShow@yahoo.com. The photos will be used during the auction and may also be used for advertisement purposes. If any heifers in the photo provided by the exhibitor are sifted during the final check-in/weigh-in process then the exhibitor must submit a revised photo.
14. **Pearsall Livestock Auction Accessibility.** Pearsall Livestock Auction will be accessible for feeding and watering heifers from 7 AM to 6 PM on Thursday and Friday, except during cattle judging. After 6 PM the gates will be locked and no exhibitors or caretakers will be allowed beyond the locked gates. Exhibitors are not permitted in the auction ring, on the catwalk, or at the chute at anytime other than during the initial and final weigh-ins.
15. **Rule Translations.** Rule translation and evaluating emergency situations will be interpreted by a quorum of the committee members.
16. **Exhibitors should read and understand the official Rules and Regulations of the Frio County Junior Livestock Show. Unless otherwise stated in these rules, the rules covered under the Rules and Regulations of the Frio County Junior Livestock Show will prevail. Each exhibitor is responsible for knowing the schedule of events. All decisions about the Frio County Commercial Heifer Show will be interpreted and made by the committee.**

2025-2026

Frio County Youth Commercial Heifer Show

Judging Guidelines

SCORING BREAKDOWN:

Heifers 50 points

Record Book 25 points

Interview 25 points

HEIFERS: Start with 50 points (perfect score)

DEDUCTIONS FOR:

Conformation (lack thereof)

Uniformity

Condition (ex: deduct for over conditioned or under conditioned)

Disposition

RECORD BOOK: Start with 25 points (perfect score)

Judge for: Complete, Neat & Accuracy

Criteria:

Two required photographs of heifers 2 points

Average Daily Gain 5 points

Cost of Gain 5 points

Breakeven 5 points

All other data 0-8 points (Awarded at judges' option)

Two neutral parties will be appointed by committee member to preview the record books for accuracy and required content **BEFORE** the books are given to the judge or judges. The judge or judges will be given a pre-filled form to score the record book after the initial deductions are made.

***All Exhibitors must follow the Commercial Heifer Record Book Format. ***

INTERVIEW: Start with 25 points (perfect score)

Judge For: 1= Poor 2=Fair 3= Good 4= Very Good 5=Excellent

Appearance of Exhibitor	1-5
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Projection of Voice	1-5
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Knowledge of Project	1-5
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Quality of Answers to Questions	1-5
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Knowledge of Cattle Industry	1-5
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Each judge will be given an Interview Evaluation Form with the Exhibitor's name and scoring criteria. The interview score will be an average of the two judge's scores.

Each interview will be limited to 5 minutes.