

LOCAL RULES

1. The Merced County Spring Fair, Los Banos, commences Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 10 a.m. and closes at midnight, Sunday, May 3, 2015.
2. The Fair Administration Building is located at the corner of 4th and F Streets, Los Banos.
3. CLOSING DATE for all entries, except Cut Flowers, Special Contests, Market Animals and Replacement Heifers is March 1. The closing date for Cut Flowers is April 28. See Livestock Department for livestock closing dates. However, the Management reserves the right to close a class entry before closing dates in the event that all available space has been allotted.
4. All entries (except floral walk-ins and special contests), for the 2015 Merced County Spring Fair must be made online by accessing our web site at www.co.merced.ca.us/springfair by March 1, 2015 11:59 p.m.
5. Entry fees are non-refundable.
6. All entries are at the exhibitor's risk. The Fair Management will in no case be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur.
7. Checks will be made payable to "Owner" listed on entry. All premium checks not cashed within 90 days of date issued will be revoked.
8. No passenger vehicles will be allowed to park in other than designated areas at any time. Vehicles parked in other areas may be towed away at the expense of the owner.
9. Exhibitors are urged to become familiar with all Local and State Rules, which will be strictly enforced.
10. NOTE TO EXHIBITORS: All rules contained in "State Rules for California Fairs" as established by the Division of Fairs & Expositions apply to the Spring Fair. A copy may be obtained from the Division of Fairs and Expositions (send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, 1010 Hurley Way, Sacramento, CA 95825) or maybe viewed from their web site at www.cdfa.ca.gov/fe.
11.
 - a. Protests will be considered only if there has been a violation of State or Local Rules. Decisions of Judges, Veterinarians, Weighmasters, Livestock Superintendent and Timers cannot be protested and are final.
 - b. All protests must be presented to the Management of the Fair in writing within 24 hours of the alleged violation, or 24 hours after the results are available to the public of exhibits judged pre-fair.
 - c. Protest must be accompanied by a \$100 deposit (cash, money order, or certified check) which will be returned only if the protest is determined valid.
 - d. Protest and appropriate action are decided by the Fair's Board of Directors or designees in a timely manner.
 - e. Violations of State Rules may be appealed to Fairs and Expositions.
12. Exhibitors in the Senior Departments will be limited to residents of Merced County. Exhibitors in the Junior Departments are open only to children who reside in

Merced County and/or attend a Merced County School. Directors, Fair Managers, and/or their spouses are not eligible to exhibit at their own county fair.

13. Complimentary entries will be welcome if space permits. No entry will be required for such exhibits.
14. Exhibitors who engage in foods or baking confections as a profession (including catering and teaching) are **not eligible** to enter in any foods or baking divisions.

JUDGING SYSTEMS

DANISH JUDGING: based upon established standards of quality for each type of product. In this system, each exhibit is judged according to how well it meets those standards, rather than how it compares with other exhibits.

<i>Placing</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Ribbon</i>
Group 1	Superior	92-100	Blue
Group 2	Good	84-91	Red
Group 3	Average	70-83	White
Group 4	Poor	69-0	No ribbon

AMERICAN JUDGING: judging process to rank exhibits against one another and award one first placing, one second, one third, etc.

COUNTY OFFICIALS

Merced County Board of Supervisors:

Hubert "Hub" Walsh, Diedre Kelsey, Daron McDaniel,
Jerry O'Banion, and John Pedrozo

MERCED COUNTY SPRING FAIR STAFF



Ron Brandt, CEO/ Fair Manager
Patti Alberti, Fair Coordinator

SMALL ANIMALS

SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION

The auction of meat pens of rabbits and avian will be held in the Carousel Arena, Friday, May 2, 2015 following Small Animal Master Showmanship. All exhibitors are required to wear the official show uniform as stated in the Local Rules. The sales order will be in reverse order to which the pens are placed, with the Champion Pen selling last for each species. **Exhibitors may sell one meat pen of rabbits, or one single fryer or one meat of avian, or one Club Swine, Lamb, Goat or Steer or one Replacement Heifer.** All applicable rules of the Junior Livestock Auction and Sale of Champions shall apply. **A maximum of one hundred twenty (120) sale lots of Small Animals judged worthy of selling and meeting the weight requirements of each specie will be auctioned.** Individuals exhibiting the first place 4-H and FFA Rabbit and Avian educational displays will have their animal(s) sold just before the Reserve Champion on that species. **All market animals must have identification listed on online entry. Meat animal entries will not be accepted without tattoo/band number.**

Entry Fee: \$8

DIVISION 441: FFA MEAT RABBITS

DIVISION 442: 4H MEAT RABBITS

Limit one (1) entry per exhibitor. Exhibitor can enter both meat pen and single fryer classes, but can only show and sell one. If a meat pen rabbit does not make weight at weigh in, the exhibitor has the option to be put into the single fryer class. List **all** tattoo numbers on online entry.

- Class:
1. Meat Pen of three (3) rabbits; not under three (3) pounds and not over five (5) pounds each, or over ten (10) weeks old, judged alive. Must all be the same breed and variety.
 2. Single Fryer; not under three (3) pounds and not over five (5) pounds, or over ten (10) weeks old, judged alive.

RABBITS

Special Award:
Grand Champion Meat Pen
Reserve Grand Champion Meat Pen
4-H Champion Meat Pen

FFA Champion Meat Pen **Best In Show** **Reserve In Show**

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$6	\$5	\$4

FFA and 4-H exhibitors will show together in these divisions.

The American Rabbit Breeder's Association, Inc. sanctions this show. Rules, definitions and judging procedures as prescribed in the latest edition of the Guide Book and Standard of the A.R.B.A. Inc. shall apply to all district and county fair rabbit shows, provided they do not conflict with any of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Department of Food and Agriculture. Please consult an ARBA Standard for Perfection for answers to varieties and appropriate weight for the classes in each breed.

Do not enter division number on entry except on Fur and Showmanship. Fair management will break divisions. The three heavyweight breeds with the greater number of entries will receive their own division. The five lightweight breeds with the greatest number of entries received will each have their own division. Rabbits must be entered, shown and judged in proper division and class for breed, variety, age and sex. Be sure to note breed, variety, age and sex on your online entry. Rabbits found to be in ill health must be refused by the show committee and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. **All substitutions must be completed by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 29, 2015.** All corrections due to Fair clerical errors must be made promptly upon arrival at the show and before judging begins. Exhibitors are responsible for getting their animals to the judging table on time. Exhibitors shall not state ownership of any animal to the judge. Anyone interfering with the judges or clerks will be asked to leave the show area.

This will be a one-day carry case show. Rabbits will remain in carry case except during judging. Rabbits will be released after showmanship and must be checked out by 5:00 p.m. All exhibitors are required to wear the official show uniform (see livestock rules). All rabbits must be owned by exhibitor a minimum of thirty (30) days.

Entry Fee: \$4 per entry

Breeding entries are limited to (2) two per exhibitor per class. Maximum number of entries limited to fifteen (15) entries per exhibitor excluding showmanship and fur classes. All animals must be identified by permanent ear marking conforming

with the entry on arrival at the show. Positively no substitutions except in same breed, sex class and variety.

DIVISION 443 – 452: RABBITS

- Class:
1. Senior Buck, 6 months of age and over
 2. Intermediate Buck, 6 – 8 months of age
 3. Junior Buck, under 6 months of age
 4. Senior Doe, 6 months of age and over
 5. Intermediate Doe, 6 – 8 months of age
 6. Junior Doe, under 6 months of age

DIVISION 453: BREED FUR

Entry Fee: \$4.00. Ribbons only, no premiums paid. Animals that have been shown and qualified in regular breed classes. List breeds on entry. Enter division number only, Management will assign class.

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP

PREMIUMS OFFERED

For 4-H Senior and FFA Advanced Showmanship Divisions only.

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
\$10	\$9	\$8	\$7	\$6	\$5	\$4	\$3

NO ENTRY FEE IF ENTERED BY MARCH 1, 2015. LATE ENTRY FEES OF \$25.00 WILL BE CHARGED IF ENTERED AFTER MARCH 1 2015. LATE ENTRIES CLOSE APRIL 28, 2015.

ALL EXHIBITORS MUST SHOW THEIR OWN ANIMAL. Entries in Showmanship MUST be made using the online entry form found on the fair web site by entry deadline date, March 1, 2015. Exhibitors must be on hand and ready to exhibit at the time called for judging. All exhibitors are required to wear the official show uniforms as outlined in the Livestock Rules. Exhibitors in 4-H and FFA winning Master Showmanship at the Merced County Spring Fair in previous years are not eligible to compete in Master Showmanship again. 4-H EXHIBITORS ARE TO USE THEIR GRADE AS OF March 1, 2015 WHEN DETERMINING WHICH DIVISION TO ENTER. The winner of 4-H Senior Showmanship and of FFA Advanced Showmanship will qualify for Master Showmanship. Independent exhibitors will have showmanship for each species. Classes of less than 15 in showmanship will be combined. Any division with less than 4 species qualifying for Master Showmanship will not have a Master Showmanship. The division must have 6 entries to qualify that specie for Master Showmanship. If an exhibitor

qualifies in more than one specie, they will have to choose which they will represent in Master Showmanship.

FFA NOVICE SHOWMANSHIP

Limited to FFA Exhibitors who have never shown that specie of animal. The first three winners may enter advanced showmanship division finals.

FFA FRESHMAN SHOWMANSHIP

Limited to FFA Freshman Exhibitors. The first three winners may enter advanced showmanship division finals.

4-H JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Open to exhibitors Grades 4 and 5. The first three winners may enter Senior Showmanship division finals.

4-H INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP

Open to exhibitors Grades 6, 7 and 8. The first three winners may enter Senior Showmanship division finals.

4-H SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Open to Grade 9 and above.

DIVISION 454: RABBITS

- Class:
1. FFA Novice Showmanship
 2. FFA Freshman Showmanship
 3. FFA Advanced Showmanship
 4. 4-H Junior Showmanship
 5. 4-H Intermediate Showmanship
 6. 4-H Senior Showmanship
 7. Independent Showmanship

AVIAN SCIENCE

Special Award:
Grand Champion Meat Pen
Reserve Grand Champion Meat Pen
Best In Show
Reserve In Show

PREMIUMS OFFERED PER CLASS

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
\$6	\$5	\$4

Entry Fee: \$4 per entry for breeding
\$8.00 per entry for market

Entries are limited to three (3) birds per exhibitor, per class.

All birds must have numbered leg bands (not colored bands) at time of inspection.

All birds are required to go through a poultry health inspection prior to the show. Birds found in ill health will be refused from the show and must be removed from the fairgrounds. The American System of judging is used. Exhibitor shall not state ownership of any birds to the judge. This will be a one-day carry cage show. One bird per carry cage due to limited number of cages provided by Fair Management. Birds will be released after showmanship. All exhibitors are required to wear the official show uniform (see livestock rules). Anyone interfering with the judges or clerks will be asked to leave the show area. **Exhibitors showing avian must be in uniform during judging and remain at ringside during the duration of the show.**

DIVISION 455: MEAT PEN OF AVIAN

Limit one (1) entry per exhibitor

- Class: 1. Market Broilers (specific weight groups to be determined after weigh-in) Minimum of 4lbs per bird with a maximum of 9 lbs per bird. 2 birds per pen.
 2. Game Birds (quail, dove, pigeons, pheasants, ducks) 2 birds per pen.

DIVISION 456: COMPANION BIRDS

- Class: 1. Parakeets
 2. Cockatiels
 3. All other breeds (Identify on entry)

DIVISION 457: GAME BIRDS

- Class: 1. Doves
 2. Pigeons
 3. Quail
 4. Ducks
 5. All other breeds, identify on entry

DIVISION 458: BANTAM BREEDS/OLD ENGLISH

DIVISION 459: BANTAM BREEDS/ALL OTHER BREEDS

DIVISION 460: LARGE STANDARD BREEDS

DIVISION 461: LARGE NON-STANDARD BREEDS

DIVISION 462: UTILITY, MEAT & EGG

- Class: 1. Cock (male one year & older)
 2. Hen (female one year & older)
 3. Cockerel (male under one year)
 4. Pullet (female under one year)

DIVISION 463: EGGS

- Class: 1. Bantam Eggs
 2. Standard Eggs

PREMIUMS OFFERED

For 4-H Senior and FFA Advanced Showmanship Divisions only.

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
\$10	\$9	\$8	\$7	\$6	\$5	\$4	\$3

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Open to exhibitors Grades 4 and 5. The first three winners may enter Senior Showmanship division finals.

4-H INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP

Open to exhibitors Grades 6, 7 and 8. The first three winners may enter Senior Showmanship division finals.

4-H SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Open to Grade 9 and above.

DIVISION 464: AVIAN

- Class:
1. FFA Novice Showmanship
 2. FFA Freshman Showmanship
 3. FFA Advanced Showmanship
 4. 4-H Junior Showmanship
 5. 4-H Intermediate Showmanship
 6. 4-H Senior Showmanship
 7. Independent Showmanship