

Tennessee Junior Livestock Expo May 2020 Update

Sheep Expo is scheduled for August 7-8, 2020 at Hyder-Burks Pavilion at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville. The State Goat Show is scheduled for August 15, 2020 at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon. Beef Expo is scheduled for August 28-29, 2020 at the Tennessee Livestock Center at MTSU in Murfreesboro. Every effort will be made to host these events during this time. It should be understood that there are many entities that could extend current restrictions or develop new policies that would make it necessary to cancel these events. These include, but are not limited to:

- University of Tennessee
- Tennessee Tech University (Sheep Expo)
- Middle Tennessee State University (Beef Expo)
- Wilson County Fairgrounds (State Goat Show)
- Governor's Office
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Additionally, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture has released recommendations for livestock events during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Families are encouraged to read these recommendations as they could affect how the state youth shows are managed. These recommendations are provided below.

Below are eight of the recommendations that could have the most significant impact on how these three youth livestock shows are managed.

1. Reduce the size and duration of the show to minimize time spent on site. Consider limiting the number of participants overall and in individual classes.
2. No matter if the event is indoors or outside, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in settings where it is difficult to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between people. Note that children under age two should NOT wear cloth face coverings because of the danger of suffocation.
3. Participants should not congregate. At least 6 feet of distance must be maintained between people, including in the prep areas, at the gate, and while in the show ring. Additional show staff may be needed in these areas to provide reminders and guidance to participants.
4. Parking areas, campgrounds, tie areas, and stalls should be set up and managed so that at least 6 feet of distance can be maintained between family groups.
5. Spectators should be limited and if present, appropriate distancing maintained. It is advised to restrict access to bleachers or group seating areas. Consider providing a livestream of the competition online.

6. Children who are not competing should stay home. Children who do attend must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Ensure that children comply with applicable guidelines for appropriate distancing and use of face coverings.
7. Participants should leave the event venue as soon as they have finished showing.
8. Group meals should be prohibited.

In order to maintain a 6-foot distance between family groups at tie areas and stalls, it may be necessary to limit animal entries per youth. At this point, entries are not limited other than existing limits. However, we reserve the right to limit animal entries per youth depending on the policies at the time of the shows in August and the total number of entries. Existing animal entry limits include:

- Sheep Expo: 4 market lambs, 4 commercial ewes and 2 registered ewes per age class
- State Goat Show: 8 goats
- Beef Expo: 3 market steers, 4 commercial heifers and 2 registered heifers per age class

Ownership Deadlines

- State Goat Show: tagging/ownership deadline is June 1
- Sheep Expo: tagging/ownership deadline is June 8
- Beef Expo: tagging/ownership deadline is June 15

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

Youth must be YQCA certified in order to exhibit at Sheep Expo, State Goat Show and Beef Expo. More information about YQCA is available at www.yqca.org.

Beef Expo Specific Items

- Commercial Heifers
 - The current rule is “All commercial heifers must be weaned, polled/dehorned and must have all milk teeth remaining at the time of the show”. For Beef Expo 2020, we will relax this rule to allow a commercial heifer that has just dropped a milk tooth to be eligible. Any full grown adult teeth will still constitute a disqualification. This determination will be made by a veterinarian during check-in and all decisions will be considered final.
- Registered Heifers
 - The same age divisions will be used for the registered heifer show. There will be an accommodation for senior yearlings that calve prior to the show. Any senior yearling that has calved will still be allowed to be shown in the senior yearling class. The calf does not have to be registered, but must be brought to the show ring at the time of the class.
- Market Steers
 - The current weight requirements will remain in place. Market steers weighing less than 900 pounds will be shown in the Prospect classes. Market classes will

be offered for steers at or above 900 pounds. Dairy feeder steers must weigh between 300-900 pounds.

Tentative Schedules

- Sheep Expo

Friday, August 7, 2020

9 am	Facilities open for arrival
12 pm – 3 pm	Check-in for Registered Ewes Check-in, weigh and classify Commercial Ewes and Market Lambs
1 pm – 4 pm	Skillathon
5 pm	Registered Ewe Showmanship Team Showmanship Registered Ewe Show ¹

Saturday, August 8, 2020

8 am	Market-Type Showmanship Commercial Ewe Show Market Lamb Show ² Costume Class ³ Market Lamb Grand Drive Exhibitor Awards ⁴
8 am – 2 pm	Skillathon

¹Registered ewe show will be split into 2 rings that will run simultaneously.

²Market Lamb Show will start immediately following the Commercial Ewe Show.

³Costume class will follow the last breed of market lambs. The Market Lamb Grand Drive will follow the Costume Class.

⁴Exhibitor awards will be presented as soon after the end of the market lamb show as results are available.

- State Goat Show

Saturday, August 15, 2020

8:00 am – 11:00 am	Check-in and Weigh-in ¹
11:00 am – 3:00 pm	Skillathon
12:00 pm	Show ² <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Showmanship (Senior Level 2 – Explorer)• Registered Doe Show• Market Goat Show• Commercial Doe – Kid Show• Commercial Doe – Yearling Show

- Selection of Supreme Goat
- County Group
- Exhibitor Awards³

¹No animals are permitted in the barns prior to having their health papers checked. All animals must arrive and be checked-in by 11:00 am.

²Each show will begin immediately following completion of the previous show.

³Exhibitor awards will be presented as soon as possible following the conclusion of the County Group Class.

- Beef Expo

Thursday, August 27, 2020

3 pm – 7 pm Facilities open for cattle to arrive

Friday, August 28, 2020

8 am Facilities open for cattle to arrive

10 am – 4 pm Check-in and weigh-in

12 pm – 4 pm Skillathon

5:30 pm Showmanship

Saturday, August 29

8:00 am Steer Show¹
 Dairy Feeder Steers
 Prospect Steers
 Market Steers

 Commercial Heifer Show¹
 Registered Heifer Show²
 Exhibitor Awards³

8 am – 1 pm Skillathon

¹The steer show and commercial heifer show will run in separate rings both beginning at 8 am.

²Registered heifer show will be split into 2 rings that will run simultaneously and will start 30 minutes after the end of the market steer show and/or commercial heifer show, whichever is latest.

³Exhibitor awards will be presented as soon after the end of the registered heifer show as results are available.

Slowing the Spread of COVID-19: Guidance for Livestock Competitions and Events *May 8, 2020*

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture knows that the COVID-19 pandemic is making it difficult to plan for livestock events. Show managers must make the best decision for each event with local, state, and federal regulations and health guidelines in mind. **If a livestock show or competition is to take place, event organizers must do their part to protect the health of participants.**

In accordance with Gov. Bill Lee's [Executive Order 30](#), social and recreational gatherings of 10 people or more are prohibited, including but not limited to festivals, fairs, parades, youth and adult sporting events, and overnight summer youth camps through May 29.

The Tennessee State Veterinarian's office consulted with University of Tennessee Extension officials and considered Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidelines for community events](#) to minimize risk of COVID-19 infection. Based on those discussions, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture makes the following recommendations for all livestock competitions and events scheduled after Executive Order 30 expires, provided there is no extension to the order or additional statewide restrictions enacted. Policy enforcement is the responsibility of show management.

Before the event

- Be aware of the COVID-19 situation in the community where the venue is located. It is not advisable to hold an event in an area with significant community transmission.
- Familiarize yourself with local, state, and federal guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19. The community where the venue is located may have additional restrictions in place.
- Speak with the venue manager. Discuss expectations, including any new procedures for the facility and sanitization practices.
- Require pre-registration to eliminate in-person interaction on site.
- Develop flexible refund policies. Allow participants to stay home without penalty if they are sick, need to care for someone who is sick, or are at high risk for complications from COVID-19.
- Reduce the size and duration of the show to minimize time spent on site. Consider limiting the number of participants overall and in individual classes.
- If appropriate, consider hosting all or parts of the competition virtually via livestream or through submitted photos or video.
- Determine what you will do if you must postpone or cancel the event. Make clear to participants how they will be notified if last-minute changes occur.

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During the event

- Any person showing any signs of illness should stay home. Consider the use of [COVID-19 symptom](#) screening questions and/or signage.
- Implement cleaning and disinfection practices according to [CDC guidelines](#), with regular sanitization of high-touch surfaces at least every two hours.
- No matter if the event is indoors or outside, [CDC recommends](#) wearing cloth face coverings in settings where it is difficult to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between people. Note that children under age two should NOT wear cloth face coverings because of the danger of suffocation.
- Participants should not congregate. At least 6 feet of distance must be maintained between people, including in the prep areas, at the gate, and while in the show ring. Additional show staff may be needed in these areas to provide reminders and guidance to participants.
- Parking areas, campgrounds, tie areas, and stalls should be set up and managed so that at least 6 feet of distance can be maintained between family groups.
- Provide handwashing or sanitizing stations for participants throughout the venue.
- Require all attendees—including exhibitors, family members, and spectators—to sign in at arrival. Consider electronic or mobile sign-in options, disinfect shared pens, and maintain at least 6 feet of distance between those waiting to sign in.
- Spectators should be limited and if present, appropriate distancing maintained. It is advised to restrict access to bleachers or group seating areas. Consider providing a livestream of the competition online.
- Children who are not competing should stay home. Children who do attend must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Ensure that children comply with applicable guidelines for appropriate distancing and use of face coverings.
- Participants should leave the event venue as soon as they have finished showing.
- Group meals should be prohibited.
- Concession sales should follow the [Tennessee Pledge guidelines for restaurants](#) as applicable. Eliminate self-serve stations including beverage and/or condiment dispensers and restrict access to tables and group eating areas.
- **Communicate and enforce new policies with exhibitors and the public.** Make expectations clear to participants before the event and consider using signs and staff to provide reminders and guidance during the event.

These recommendations do not replace or supersede any requirements applicable to your operations pursuant to law or regulation. These guidelines are intended as a supplement to assist with safe operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and are subject to change.

Access the latest information on Tennessee's response to COVID-19 [online](#) and follow @TNAgriculture on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates.

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