

Tennessee Junior Livestock Expo July 2020 Update

Sheep Expo, State Goat Show and Beef Expo are currently still being held as planned. Please note that this could still change at any time.

- Sheep Expo – August 7-8, 2020 at Hyder-Burks Pavilion at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville
- State Goat Show – August 15, 2020 at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon
- Beef Expo – August 28-29, 2020 at the Tennessee Livestock Center at MTSU in Murfreesboro

We are currently working on ways that we can maximize the safety of youth, families and staff while also providing a quality show experience for youth.

It is important for families to maintain a 6-foot social distance between other families whenever possible. This includes all areas of the show grounds. Everyone encouraged to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.

- Youth will be required to wear a mask into the line-up area and show ring as well as while completing the skillathon. Please begin wearing a mask now while you work with your animals so that you and your animals are able to get accustomed to the mask. Please note that several counties have requirements relative to wearing masks inside buildings. Currently MTSU has such a requirement for campus buildings.
- Masks will also be required during check-in. This includes youth and/or others that might be bringing animals to be checked-in and/or weighed.
- Show staff and judges will also be wearing a mask.
- Everyone attending the shows are encouraged to wash hands multiple times daily.
- High risk individuals should refrain from attending the livestock shows. We are trying to work out a way to live-stream shows. More information to follow.

We will not hold award ceremonies after the shows. Families are strongly encouraged to leave as soon as they are finished showing. Skillathon and Premier Exhibitor winners will be recognized virtually and awards will be sent through the County Extension offices.

Additionally, we will not host county group competitions at any of the shows. There will not be a carcass ultrasound class at Beef Expo.

Families are encouraged to complete as much fitting/grooming of their animals as possible at home before traveling to the show. This will help reduce the space needed at the show and help maximize social distancing.

We are currently considering several strategies to minimize crowding in the penning/stalling area. As a result, we are making plans to allow families to show from their trailers at Sheep and Beef Expos. This is still being worked out with staff from each venue. We are unsure how many trailers we will be able to accommodate, but would like to get a feel for how many families might want to take advantage of this option. If your family is interested, please complete the trailer survey at <https://2020expotrailersurvey.questionpro.com>. This survey should be completed on a per trailer basis. You will be notified prior to each show if you are able to show from your trailer.

- Those families that will use the penning areas will need to maintain a 6-foot distance between family groups. More information will be made available about penning areas once the trailer options are finalized.

There should be no county group meals. Concessions at each facility may not be available. Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation is still planning to provide boxed lunches on Saturday of Sheep and Beef Expos.

Attendees at each show will be asked to register their attendance through an online survey. The survey link will be posted at each show.

Your patience and adherence to these policies are much appreciated. We are extremely lucky to even be able to host the shows. Without these additional policies/changes, hosting these important youth livestock shows would not be possible.

Skillathon

There will be 3 divisions of skillathon setup at far corners of the facility. Youth will go to the appropriate division and complete the skillathon stations by themselves. Only 1 youth will be permitted at a table at a time. They will use one answer sheet for all 5 stations. Youth will be required to wear a mask while completing skillathon.

Reminders

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.