



CALIFORNIA CHEESE  
COMPETITION HANDBOOK

# California Cheese

## 2016 Competition Handbook

### Show Us Your Best!

Thank you for your interest in the 2016 California State Fair Competitive Exhibits Program. As a showcase of the Best of California, the California State Fair has hosted competitions for more than 160 years. Our Competitive Exhibits Program is designed to promote achievement and inspire Californians across the Golden State.

From our beginning in 1854, the State Fair was the place to show the latest progress in technology, agriculture, home crafts, arts, education, entertainment, talent, etc. The State's rich tradition of celebrating the best will continue again this summer at your State Fair.

More than 800,000 visitors are expected to visit the State Fair over 17 days. Many of which, come primarily to see the various exhibits that will be on display. Your work is an integral part of our celebration and we look forward to showcasing your talent at the State Fair from July 8-24, 2016.

Sincerely,



**Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.**

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## Cheese Competition Coordinator

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## The State Fair

The California State Fair has always been an awe-inspiring showcase of the state's finest, and ever since the first fair in 1854 California has upheld this tradition. People come from all over to witness the competition and innovation that our exhibitors produce. In addition to canning, baking and livestock, we add new and exciting programs to continue the tradition of showcasing California's very best!



## Program Calendar

March 15	Online Entries Open
April 27	Online Entries Closed
May 2-7	Shipped or Hand Deliveries Accepted
May 11	Judging Day
June 23	Press Awards Ceremony - West Steps of State Capitol Best of California Tasting Event - Cal Expo Building D

## New for 2016

Reminder: you must submit 2 one-pound samples per entry in order for your cheese to be accepted. See Special Rules, Page 3.

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## Why Compete?

Cheese Judges are selected from respected cheese makers, cheese merchants, writers, promoters, and educators. The California State Fair recognizes the top award-winning cheeses at an annual, high profile press event on the steps of the State Capitol, honoring the Best of Show wine, beer, cheese and olive oil. Selected Cheese winners are invited to establish relationships and brand familiarity at the exclusive Best of California tasting event at Cal Expo, where producers mingle with media, buyers and the general public held June 23rd at 5:30 on the grounds of Cal Expo.

## Competition Overview

Entry in the California State Fair Cheese Competition is open to California companies only.

The California State Fair will award Best of California and Best of Show for cow milk and other milk to include goat, sheep, buffalo, etc. This competition handbook is posted in advance and will be subject to any action that may cause revision or curtailment of the sections, premiums or regulations as listed.

## Awards

### Medal Qualifications

95% or over - Gold Medal

90% - 94% - Silver Medal

84% - 89% - Bronze Medal

### Best of California Awards

A Best of California Award will be given to the Best Cheese in each Division.

### Best of Show

Two winners will be selected from the fourteen Best of California Winners, one for cow milk and one for Cheese made with goat, sheep or other type of milk.

### California Cheese Score Card

Aroma - 10%

Texture/Body - 20%

Appearance - Color/Rind/Paste - 20%

Flavor (includes Finish) - 50%

Results will be available on **CAStateFair.org**.

## How to Enter

For your convenience, the California State Fair offers a completely online, paperless and postage-free method of entry and communications.

When registering, please consider that how you input your information is a direct source for the publishing of names and titles for award recognition & publications. Pay special attention to spelling, capitalization, full names of cities/counties, no abbreviations and correct contact and mailing information.

1. Select your division and class.
2. Go to **CAStateFair.org** to enter online before the entry deadline. Pay entry fees using a VISA or MasterCard.
3. Deliver your entries to Cal Expo by the designated delivery dates listed on page 2.
4. For questions: [cheese@calexpo.com](mailto:cheese@calexpo.com) or 916/263-3159 or 916/263-3189.

## Rules & Requirements

1. Entry information and fees must be submitted online no later than April 27, 2016. Entry fee is \$35 per cheese. Pay online with VISA or Mastercard. Entry fee is non-refundable.
2. Entry is open to California companies only.
3. Enter online at **CASStateFair.org**

### Special Rules

1. **Samples shall be submitted in duplicate.** i.e. two samples of each entry. Sample size no smaller than 16oz or 1lb. **If cheese is produced in sizes smaller than 1 pound, submit a minimum of 2 pounds total.**
2. Entries are limited to original licensed manufacturers. Those wishing to enter products put up by another plant must submit a letter stating which products are involved. There will be no duplication of samples entered under different brand names.
3. All samples must meet the standards of the California State Food and Agriculture code and are subject to testing at the discretion of the Fair Management and/or Judges.
4. All exhibitors receiving Best of Show and Best of California Awards will be invited to attend and sample cheese at the Best of California Tasting Reception at the annual California State Fair Gala.
5. Exhibitor's receiving Best of Show and Best of California Awards may be invited to provide cheese for a chef challenge and other tastings during the fair (July 8 - 24).
6. Copies of official scores, awards and ribbons will be sent to exhibitors. Results will not be given by telephone.

## Delivery & Shipping

1. Ship or deliver entries to:  
California Cheese Competition  
California State Fair  
Ethan & Hurley, Gate 12  
Expo Center, 6  
1600 Exposition Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95815
2. Directions; Hand or Shipped deliveries enter Cal Expo fairgrounds through Gate 12, on the corner of Ethan and Hurley Way, and proceed to Expo Center, Building 6

**Deliveries (no exceptions) must be received between Monday, May 2 and Saturday, May 7, 2016 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** (Please call (916) 263-3159 or (916) 870-2560 for Saturday delivery).

## Divisions & Classes

No restriction on number of entries for Classes.  
However, entries shall not be duplicated varieties.

### Division 1300 - Cottage Cheese

- Class 1 - Small Curd Cottage Cheese
- Class 2 - Large Curd Cottage Cheese
- Class 3 - Nonfat Cottage Cheese
- Class 4 - Flavored Cottage Cheese (fruit, herb, vegetable)

### Division 1305 - Cultured Cheese

- Class 1 - Crème Fraîche
- Class 2 - Fromage Blanc
- Class 3 - Quark
- Class 4 - Kefir
- Class 5 - Mascarpone

### Division 1310 - Soft Cheese

- Class 1 - Cream Cheese
- Class 2 - Pasta Filata - fresh mozzarella
- Class 3 - Feta - all milks
- Class 4 - Feta - all milks, flavor added
- Class 5 - Ricotta
- Class 6 - Teleme (cryovac or flour)
- Class 7 - Soft Fresh Cheese - open category, goat
- Class 8 - Soft Fresh Cheese - open category, sheep, water buffalo or mixed
- Class 9 - Soft Fresh Cheese - open category, cow
- Class 10 - Soft Fresh Cheese Flavored
- Class 11 - Middle Eastern, Eastern European, Indian
- Class 12 - Other - Not described above

### Division 1315 - Semi-Soft Cheese

- Class 1 - Blue Veined Cheese
- Class 2 - Open Category Goat
- Class 3 - Open Category Sheep, Water Buffalo or mixed
- Class 4 - Open Category Cow
- Class 5 - White Surface Mold - Brie
- Class 6 - White Surface Mold - Camembert
- Class 7 - White Surface Mold - Flavor added
- Class 8 - White Surface Mold - Open
- Class 9 - Washed Rind - Schloss type
- Class 10 - Hispanic Style (state type)
- Class 11 - Pasta Filata (Mozzarella, Provolone, String)
- Class 12 - Middle Eastern, Eastern European, Indian
- Class 13 - Other - Not described above

### Division 1320 - Semi-Hard Cheese

- Class 1 - Monterey Jack
- Class 2 - Goat, Sheep, Water Buffalo, or Mixed Milk
- Class 3 - Hispanic (state type)
- Class 4 - Cheddar (aged over 30 days)
- Class 5 - Medium Cheddar (aged 3-6 months)
- Class 6 - Aged Cheddar (aged over 6 months)
- Class 7 - Flavored Cheddar
- Class 8 - Colby
- Class 9 - Swiss
- Class 10 - Italian Style
- Class 11 - Open Category - Goat, Sheep, Water Buffalo, Cow or Mixed Milk
- Class 12 - Other - Not described above

### Division 1325 - Hard Cheese

- Class 1 - Hispanic, Portuguese Style
- Class 2 - Aged Jack
- Class 3 - Flavor Added
- Class 4 - Grating or Grana Style
- Class 5 - Other - Not described above

### Division 1330 - California Originals

For cheeses that are California original recipes not following the standard of identity for any Old World Style cheese.

- Class 1 - Cow Milk
- Class 2 - Goat Milk
- Class 3 - Sheep or Mixed Milk

# 2016 General Rules

## California Exposition & State Fair

These rules are printed, mailed and posted on the fair's website in advance of the entry deadline(s). Each rule is subject to any action that may cause revision or curtailment at any time prior to each competition or judging. The most current General Rules will be found on the California State Fair website **CASStateFair.org**, under each competition. Upon signing the official entry form, either online or hardcopy, the exhibitor acknowledges that they have read and understand these rules and all others of the competition in which they enter and are further responsible for viewing, reading and understanding all revisions or curtailments on the fair's website prior to the competition. Exhibitors may request a copy of the most current rules by contacting the entry office:  
email: [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com) or  
phone: 916/263-3149.

## Exhibitors Entry Responsibilities

### Still Exhibits

1. All signatures and information necessary to determine that the exhibit is eligible must be submitted online and entry fees paid by Visa or MasterCard by the entry deadline. It shall be the responsibility of the exhibitors to correct all deficiencies in connection with entries or exhibiting which are required of them by the rules printed in the Competition Handbook. Entries will not be judged if deficiencies have not been cleared or fees paid.

### Livestock & AG Mechanics

2. All signatures and information necessary to determine that the exhibit is eligible must be submitted online or on the entry form and all fees (including penalties) must be paid by the entry deadline date for Junior Livestock, Open Livestock, Best of Show and Small Animals. All Livestock, Small Animal, Best of Show and

Ag Mechanics exhibitors will be required to submit a **Detailed Receipt** with all required signatures within one week of entry deadline. It shall be the responsibility of the exhibitors to correct all deficiencies in connection with entries or exhibiting which are required of them by the rules printed in the Competition Handbook. A deficiency penalty of \$20 per entry must be paid for any deficiency or fees which have not been paid by June 15 for Livestock and Small Animals, this includes not returning the detailed receipt by due date. Entries will not be judged if deficiencies have not been cleared or fees paid. This rule shall apply to all equine shows with a requirement for their fees, forms and signatures being submitted by the entry deadline date within each equine section of any competition handbook.

### Entry Limit

3. The State Fair management shall reserve the right to limit entries displayed and/or exhibited to facilities available and may limit the number of entries made by an exhibitor. Entries may also be limited or not displayed based on size, content, subject material, or for any reason determined not in the best interest of the California State Fair. Any return of entries under this rule will be done at the sole discretion of the State Fair management.

### Ownership of Entry

4. Unless specific provisions are otherwise made in the Competition Handbook (printed or on the web), exhibitors must be the bona fide owner of their entries. The management may demand such proof of ownership as it deems necessary in each case.

### Exhibitor Liability

5. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage done to, or occasioned by, or arising from, any animal or article exhibited by him/her. Exhibitor agrees to indemnify, and hold harmless, the State of California, California Exposition & State Fair and all officers, agents, and employees there of

from all claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, or liability costs suits or actions of every name, kind and description, brought forth from or on account of, injuries to death of any person including but not limited to workers, and the public, or damage to property resulting from the performance of the exhibitor or entries. Neither party shall request apportionment of liability by a jury.

### No Guarantee

6. The State Fair cannot guarantee that all exhibition requirements of an entry can be provided (i.e. electricity, a showcase, a pedestal, special lighting, special location, total space requirements, water source, computer services, or any other special requirements).

### Division/Class Cancellation

7. The State Fair management reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

### Entry Errors

8. Fair management is not responsible for finding errors in entries. Exhibitors are responsible for any and all errors which were submitted online or on entry and summary forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his own error. The Fair management shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post audits of Fair records. However, exhibitors with cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Such exhibitors should inform the Fair management immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, complete description of the entry and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than ninety (90) days after receiving notice of disallowance.

### Substitution

9. Substitutions may be made in still exhibits only in the same division of the original entry class of the original exhibitor, and may be made only if completed by the entry delivery date. Substitutions for livestock must be in the same division of the original entry by the original exhibitor. Substitutions must be made at time of check-in to avoid penalty. Fees may apply for substitutions in excess of two per division. The State Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer to the correct class any entry which is not a true representative of the division or class in which it is entered.

### Previously Entered Entry

10. Any non-animal (still exhibit) entry that has been exhibited at a previous California State Fair is not eligible for entry in the California State Fair. Once a still exhibit has been entered and judged at the California State Fair it cannot be reentered for competition in any California State Fair Competition.

### Verification

11. Exhibitors wishing to verify that the State Fair has received submitted entry forms and fees must include a self-addressed/stamped postcard when submitting entry forms. Online submissions will receive a confirmation code once entries are submitted.

### Responsibility

12. The Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times. All Still Exhibits or display elements remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before September 1 of the same year.

### Removal of Entries

13. An exhibitor may not remove his or her entry from the California State Fair once it has been accepted. Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Handbook and shall not be removed from the fairgrounds prior to the release date printed in the

handbook, except (at the discretion of the Fair management) in cases of positive evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the Fair.

### Dishonored Checks

14. A penalty of \$25.00 per dishonored check must be paid if a check for payment of entry fees or other applicable fees is refused by the bank. Only cash, certified check or money orders are acceptable for penalty payment.

### Entry Fees

15. Entry Fees **ARE NOT REFUNDABLE.**

### Late Entries

16. Late Entries may be accepted at the sole discretion of the California State Fair under the following conditions:

- a. Late Entries will not be accepted for California Creative Arts, Fine Art, Youth Arts, Industrial and Technology Education, California Baking & Canning and Youth Baking & Canning.
- b. If the department accepts late entries, the completed entry form(s) and other completed required forms, signatures and full payment for all required fees must arrive at the California State Fair Entry Office (by Certified Mail or Hand Delivery) no later than five calendar days after the official entry deadline requirement of the competition. For example, if the Official Entry Deadline is June 7, the last day and time a late entry may be eligible is June 12 at 4:00 PM. If late entries arrive after 4:00 PM on that fifth day, they will NOT be considered.
- c. Open Livestock Late Entries will be accepted until July 1, 2016 with an additional \$100 per entry. Payment must be received no later than 5 pm on July 1, 2016.
- d. All late entries must be accompanied with the entry fee as listed within the program in addition to a late fee of \$20 per entry for all Junior, Open Livestock and Horse entries and a late fee of \$10 per entry for non livestock competitions and small

animals (Fur and Feathers and dogs). Acceptable forms of payment are Visa, Master Card, check or money order.

- e. No entries will be accepted beyond the capacity of the facility.
- f. All other entry requirements as well as any rules, regulations and schedules shall apply.
- g. No entry is a guarantee of acceptance and it is the exhibitor's responsibility to confirm that the fair has accepted any and all entries.
- h. The California State Fair expressly reserves the right to reject any and all entry forms for any reason whatsoever.

### Design

17. The California State Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of the exhibits. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the Fair. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed. Once an entry has been received by the Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitor shall be permitted. Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by Fair personnel. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display.

### Juniors Entering Senior Department

18. All divisions and classes within Junior Departments are intended for Juniors exclusively. Entry into the Junior Department is regulated by age and youth organization requirements as outlined within this competition handbook. In no case may a person, group or organization outside of these age requirements (younger or older) be allowed to enter and compete in the Junior department.

However, Juniors may elect to enter, exhibit and compete (animal or non-animal) in the

Senior Department when the rules of that department, division or class allow for such. Such entries shall be restricted to:

- a. A class for the exhibit that is not provided in the Junior Department.
- b. Junior Livestock Exhibitors in Breeding Beef, Breeding Sheep, Breeding Swine, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Boer Goats, and Market Barrows that officially enter and show in the Junior Livestock Show are eligible to compete in the Open Show as long as the same exhibit/animal is entered and shown in the Junior Show and the same exhibit/animal is entered and met all Open Division entry deadlines and guidelines.
- c. Open classes or divisions that allows for participation of Juniors due to the open competition being a specialty, feature, regional or national show sanctioned by the fair and/or recognized organization. In this case, the Junior exhibitor must also enter and compete (with the same exhibit) in the current year's Junior department, division, class offered for the exhibit. This provision must be printed specifically within the rules of the feature show within this handbook.

19. Anyone under the age of 18 who meets the California State Fair age requirements and is planning to exhibit in a Senior department must have their parent or legal guardian sign their detailed receipt. If the exhibitor is required to be on the fairgrounds, the Junior must be supervised by their parent or legal guardian while at the fair.

20. Exhibit animals owned in partnership between Seniors and Juniors shall not affect the Junior's eligibility when the Senior partner is the exhibitor. When violations of this rule occur, the junior exhibitor will not be eligible to compete at the current and following years California State Fair.

### Fair Employee Participation

21. No employee of the State Fair will be permitted to enter an exhibit for competition. No

person shall be an exhibitor or sign an entry form as an agent in any Division or Department in which the exhibitor is a department head, judge, or paid employee.

## Disqualification

### Disqualification

22. The State Fair management shall reserve the right to vacate, declare ineligible for competition, and/or order the removal of any entry which is not in the best interest of the Fair, is unsightly, unhealthy, injured, lame, unsound, endangers public safety, violates the Fair's Animal Welfare Policies, or has been entered in violation of these rules and regulations.

### Entry Disqualifications/Transfers

23. A complete exhibit eligible in more than one Division and/or Class shall be entered and judged only in the Division and/or Class for which it best qualifies. The State Fair or the judge may disqualify or transfer to the correct Class (at his/her discretion) any exhibit which is not a true representative of the Division or Class in which it is entered. It is not, however, the responsibility of the State Fair or judge to transfer an entry to the correct Division and/or Class.

### Disqualifications

24. In the event an entry or an exhibitor is disqualified for any rule or policy violation (including but not limited to practices or procedures that are unethical, those in violation of the Fair's Residue Avoidance Program, DNA Testing Program and those not adhering to the Fair's schedule for the program), any or all of the following actions may take place:

- a. The entry or exhibitor that is disqualified will be declared ineligible and will not receive awards, premium money and/or any sale proceeds. Further, the exhibitor shall be responsible for payment of any fees, fines due or costs incurred by the State as a result of disqualification.

- b. The owner/exhibitor and members of his/her immediate family will not be eligible to compete in subsequent California State Fair Programs. The extent and degree of future eligibility shall be determined by Fair Management.
- c. Fair Management reserves the right (but does not guarantee) to move entries up in placing after judging has taken place when an award void is created by a disqualification. This process of moving up judged entries shall only take place, however, when it is clear what the judge's placing would have been had the disqualified entry not been in competition. For example, when a Champion is disqualified, the Reserve shall move up and be named the Champion; however, no other changes shall take place below the Reserve Champion. The same shall apply in the case of a class, section or division winner when 2nd place has been clearly indicated by the judge. If it is not possible to clearly determine a new placing, no change shall take place. When a placing change does take place the entry moving up will receive all the awards, appropriate titles and all premiums of the disqualified entry but will not receive any of the original placing awards or premiums won in the second category. In other words 2nd place will now receive 1st money and "no" entry will receive 2nd money.

### Cooperation

25. Exhibitors, their immediate family, leaders, advisors and agents thereof, not cooperating with security personnel or any other Fair officials in all matters of policy, including but not limited to parking, stall/pen/space assignments and appearance, judging and/or animal care will have their entries cancelled and will be ordered to remove their exhibit from the grounds immediately and forfeit all awards, premium monies and sale proceeds. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in being banned from the State Fair.

### Public Disturbances

26. Exhibitors causing public disturbances, those who are uncooperative and/or unsportsmanlike, those not following good animal welfare practices as determined by management, or those found in violation of rules or in practices unethical or inimical with the Fair program and/or policies/procedures shall be penalized by forfeiture of premiums awarded, any and all awards, payments of fines and/or damages to State Property, privileges, and/or disqualification at this or subsequent State Fairs as may be deemed appropriate by the Fair Management and/or the Board of Directors. Further, if the exhibitor and/or exhibitor's adult supervisor, parent or family member's actions are deemed to be illegal, inhumane or unethical to livestock, the proper authorities will be notified for further investigation by those agencies for possible prosecution and/or civil penalties.

### Probation

27. Any exhibitor found in violation of any rule may be placed on probation for a period of one year or longer if Fair management deems appropriate.

## Judging

### Judging

28. The judge(s) shall award first, second or third place, etc., according to merit and if without merit the judge shall make no award under any circumstances. This rule applies whether there are one or more entries in the class.

### Judge/Exhibitor Information

29. No person shall act as a judge in any Division in which he/she or a member of his/her immediate family is an exhibitor, is in charge of an exhibit or division, in charge of a group of exhibitors, or is a member of a group of exhibitors.

### Judge/Fraternization/Criticism

30. Judges should avoid unnecessary fraternization with exhibitors. No person

shall be allowed, under any circumstances, to interfere with the judge, or judges, during their adjudications, or with the Fair's staff, or to offer any criticism of any exhibit of another. Violators of this rule shall be excluded immediately from the judging area and from competition and be subject to such additional penalties, including cancellations of awards, as the State Fair management shall consider appropriate.

31. No exhibitor shall receive more than two cash awards in any one class. For the purpose of this rule only, a husband, wife, and unmarried children (including foster children) under 18 years of age shall be considered as being one exhibitor, except that brothers and/or sisters shall be considered as being separate exhibitors in Junior Department classes. This rule shall have no bearing on consideration in the placing of entries by judges. Ribbons shall be presented in the order of placing by the judges. The management shall, however, pay third money to fourth winner, etc., when the third winner is prohibited from receiving third cash award under the provisions of this rule. (Any entry or exhibit in which one or more members of the family described above has a financial interest shall be included in the limitation of not more than two cash awards per class.)

32. Management reserves the right to combine or to divide classes in a manner it deems necessary in order to assure adequate competition. In the event of a show change, as a result of this rule, or where classes are established after the close of entries, premiums and awards will be distributed, divided or eliminated in a manner as deemed necessary by Fair Management.

### Judge's Decision

33. The judge's decision is final. The judge's decision cannot be protested.

### Chief Judge Policy

34. A Chief Judge will be assigned by the Fair, for still exhibits only, to mediate in the event there

is a conflict during the judging process. All decisions of the Chief Judge shall be final and may not be protested.

### Protests

**35. For still exhibits and horse only** - Any protest must be submitted in writing and given to the Fair's executive staff member responsible for the Competitive Program in question within 24 hours of the time of the cause of the protest. Protests must be based on a violation of rules. The judge's decisions on awards cannot be protested. No protest shall be considered by the management unless accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 (Cash, money order or certified check). The deposit shall be forfeited if the protest is not upheld. Protests shall be adjudicated by Fair management. Fair management will consult with a member of the California State Fair Board of Directors who shall be designated by the Chairman of the Board. The decision of Fair Management shall be final and unappealable. See special livestock rules for protests in the Livestock Program.

### Rejudging

36. Under no circumstance will any entry which has been previously judged be "rejudged" due to the disqualification or removal of another entry.

## Awards

### Special Awards

37. Special Awards contributed by businesses or individuals are offered in some California State Fair Competitive Programs. These Special Awards are the obligation of the contributor/donor. The California State Fair is not responsible for redemption of these awards.

### Tax Laws

38. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to investigate and adhere to State and Federal tax laws/regulations regarding premiums paid and awards received. As an out-of-state payee who earns \$1500 or more, we

must withhold 7% for State taxes. You can request an exemption or a reduction of this withholding by filling out and submitting the Nonresident Withholding Waiver Request, California Form 588.

### Premium Awards

39. Awards, ribbons, tags or cards have no value as payment. Premiums are paid only from the records of the judges sheets. Premium checks will be issued as soon as auditing, drug testing, if applicable, and processing can be completed. If checks are not received by November 15, please phone or write the State Fair. Checks must be cashed within six months of the date of issue. Exhibitors have until December 31 of the same year, to claim checks returned to the State Fair. Checks will not be reissued after this date.

## Age Requirements

### Junior Exhibitors Membership Age and Affiliation Requirements

#### 40. Organization affiliation requirements:

If a Junior (youth) exhibitor has been a member of a junior organization for 60 days immediately prior to the opening date of the State Fair (May 9, 2016), and their project or entry was produced or conducted at anytime during the year of 2015 under the supervision of the organization, the Junior must enter the divisions or classes designated for that organization. If, however, the project or entry was not produced or conducted under the supervision of the organization, the Junior must enter as an Independent Junior for that project or entry. Example: If a 4-H member wishes to enter a Market Steer competition and a baked goods competition, in a situation where, they are only enrolled in a 4-H Beef project, the entry is as follows: Enter 4-H for the Market Steer competition and Independent Junior for the Baked Goods competition (even though the exhibitor is a 4-H member, the baked goods project was not produced or conducted under the supervision of the organization).

41. Non-designated "Junior" shows or divisions: If a show or division offered is not specified as 4-H or FFA, Junior exhibitors who are enrolled in a 4-H or FFA project relating to that show or division must still enter as members of their respective organizations and follow all applicable rules and regulations of the department.
42. All 4-H exhibitors must be 9 years old by December 31, 2014 and not be older than 19 years old as of December 31, 2014. Exhibitors must also meet age and membership requirements of their organizations when entering as a member of an organization. Exhibitors must also meet ownership and all other requirements of the competition to be eligible for entry.
43. California Grange: California Grange youth shall be considered Independent Juniors for Livestock, Dairy, Small Animal and Still Exhibits.

### Independent Junior and Grange Age Requirements

#### 44. (This rule applies to Indoor non-animal Exhibits only)

Independent Junior and Grange exhibitors may enter California State Fair classes and divisions in indoor (Still Exhibit) competitions if they are 5 years old as of January 1, 2016. Independent exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 18 years of age. Grange exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age. Exhibitors must meet ownership and all other requirements of the competition to be eligible for entry.

### FFA Age Requirements

45. The first year of eligibility will be determined by the FFA advisor; however, exhibitor must have graduated from the 8th grade as of July 1, 2016. FFA requirements allow exhibitors to enter FFA classes through the year following the year in which they graduate from high school.
46. Independent Still Exhibits Exhibitors: Persons, who are "not" 4-H, FFA or Grange members may enter the Junior competitions provided

they meet age requirements for youth exhibitors in the competition they are entering. These Juniors are considered Independent Juniors and must enter Independent Junior classes or divisions when the classes or divisions are designated as such in the Indoor (Still Exhibits) Competitions. Exhibitors who enter Independent of an organization must not be older than 18 years old as of January 1, 2016.

### Independent and Grange Animal Exhibitors:

47. Persons who are “not “ 4-H or FFA members may enter the Junior Livestock Show provided they meet age requirements for animal exhibitors at the State Fair. These Independent exhibitors shall enter 4-H or FFA classes as follows:
- Independent Junior exhibitors who are 13 years of age or under (as of show day) shall compete in the appropriate 4-H divisions only.
  - Independent Junior exhibitors who are 14 years of age (as of show day) or are incoming freshmen in high school shall be placed by Fair Management in either 4-H or FFA divisions.
  - NEW: Independent Junior exhibitors are eligible to enter 4-H or FFA Showmanship. Independent Juniors are not eligible for County or Chapter Groups or Outstanding Exhibitor.

### Member Standing and Ownership Requirements

48. Juniors who are members of 4-H, FFA or Grange must be in good standing with their organization and projects entered as such must have been conducted under the supervision of the organization and must be owned by the exhibitor (unless otherwise stated).

### Eligibility Questions

49. Any questions as to the eligibility of an entry shall be determined by the exhibitor’s advisor (for 4-H, FFA or Grange) instructor (for Industrial & Technology Education) or parent or guardian (for Independent Juniors). Not with standing the foregoing, the State Fair shall make final determination of eligibility in

all cases.

### 4-H Age Requirements:

50. The levels of membership for 4-H aged based. Each level is defined as follows:
- Primary Level: Must be 5 years old as of December 31, 2015. Primary membership ends when members qualify as junior members. Exhibitors who are under 9 years of age on or before December 31, 2015 are not eligible to compete in animal competitions at the California State Fair.
  - Junior, Intermediate & Senior: Must be 9 years old by December 31, 2015. Exhibitors are eligible to compete/exhibit through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age.
  - Home Schooled Children: Age criteria, as listed in 1 and 2, only will apply to home schooled children. Grade level will not be a consideration. (Exhibitors who are under 9 years of age as of December 31, 2015 are not eligible to compete in animal competitions at the California State Fair.)

### Independent Junior and Grange Age Requirements

- 51. (This rule applies to Animal Exhibitors)** Independent Junior and Grange animal exhibitors must be 9 years old as of January 1, 2016 and are eligible to compete through December 31 of the year in which they turn 19 years of age. Independent Juniors and Grange exhibitors shall enter 4-H or FFA animal classes.

### No Dual Affiliation in Competition

52. Under no circumstances may an exhibitor show the same species or project in more than one Division of the Junior Department.

### Adult Supervision Requirement

53. All Junior exhibitors, required to be on the State Fairgrounds, must be accompanied and supervised by an adult while on the State Fairgrounds. Instructors, advisors, leaders and other adults in charge of Junior exhibitors shall be responsible for their conduct at all times.

## FFA Supervision Requirements

54. All FFA exhibitors entered as such must be supervised by their agricultural instructor. Any deviation from this rule must be taken up with the State Agriculture Education unit representative in charge. The CATA Curricular Activities Code shall govern the conduct and eligibility of FFA exhibitors and their projects.

## Industrial and Technology Education Students

55. Industrial and Technology Education students must meet age and enrollment requirements as established by the California Department of Education. Exhibitors must be enrolled in an Industrial and Technology Education class (grade 7 through Community College) during the current school year as defined by the Department of Education and receive approval from the instructor to enter. Age of exhibitor does not determine eligibility. Eligibility is based on course level. Eligible ROP adults may enter in the Adult (Community College) Class 4 of the Industrial and Technology Education Program.

## Uniforms

56. Uniform requirements for Independent youth shall be the same as required for 4-H and FFA members excluding insignia. The official show uniform for animal exhibitors at the California State Fair will be white pants, trousers or dress and a white blouse or shirt.
57. No exhibit owned by a chapter or club, or conducted, as a joint project by two or more individuals is eligible in the Junior Department unless the division/class specifically states. Free Speech

## Free Speech Activities Guideline

58. The California Exposition & State Fair (Cal Expo) hereby finds that these guidelines are intended to set forth in writing Cal Expo's long-standing policy governing the conduct of Cal Expo employees and exhibitors, as well as members of the public, under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I of the California Constitution, on Cal Expo's grounds. These guidelines are not intended to enlarge upon nor create any rights guaranteed by existing law nor waive any

defense or rights available to Cal Expo, nor do they represent any admission that the facilities of Cal Expo are open as a public forum. It is the policy of Cal Expo to allow within the parameters set forth herein, reasonable access to its grounds and designated free speech expression zones for demonstrations for free speech activity as allowed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I to the California Constitution.

For further information regarding Free Speech Activities at the California Exposition & State Fair please write to: Chief of Police, California Exposition & State Fair, P.O. Box 15649, Sacramento, CA 95852.

## Miscellaneous

59. Should contractors, associations, clubs or individuals desire to arrange for beverages and food services, all such arrangements must be coordinated through Ovations/FanFare, the State's Master Food & Beverage Contractor. No exceptions. Contractor shall be responsible for expenses related to these services, if any. Alcoholic beverage service areas/facilities will only be allowed in designated locations. Only persons 21 years or older will be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages. Further, no alcoholic beverages may be brought onto the grounds. These products may only be acquired at Ovations/FanFare locations of the grounds. Individuals that endanger themselves or others will be reported to authorities.

## Definitions

60. The following definitions apply to this handbook

**American System of Judging:** Each entry in a class is judged in comparison to the other entries in the class. Entries are placed first, second, third, etc. according to relative merit. There will be no more than one first, second, third, etc. per class.

**Danish System of Judging:** Each entry in a class is judged on its own merit. Entries are placed first, second, third, etc., depending on

points received based on the score card. There may be more than one first, second, third, etc. per class.

**Senior Departments:** California Fine Art, California Crafts, California Baking & Canning, Student Showcase, Photography, Commercial Wine, Commercial Craft Brew, Home Brew, California Cheese, California Olive Oil, Open Livestock by species and Open Small Animals by species.

**Junior Departments:** Youth Arts, California Youth Baking & Canning, Student Showcase, Photography Junior Livestock by species and Junior Small Animals by species.

**Senior/Open Exhibitor:** An exhibitor who is no longer eligible to be a Junior Exhibitor or enter a Junior Department.

**Junior Exhibitor:** An exhibitor who is a member of 4-H, FFA, Grange, or an Independent Youth Exhibitor who meets the requirements of Independent Junior divisions offered. See specific show and General Rules for exceptions to this definition.

**Entry Office:** The California State Fair Entry Office is located at 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento. Contact may be made by phone, mail, email or personal contact. Questions regarding competitions may also be directed to the Entry Office. (916) 263-3149 - [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com).

**Still Exhibits:** All competitive exhibits which are typically indoor and not involving animals, such as art, quilts, foods, crafts, sewing, metal work, jewelry, graphics, drafting, sciences, etc.

**Livestock & Small Animals:** All competitive exhibits which animals are the entry; such as beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, goats, llamas, cavies, rabbits, poultry, dogs, etc.

**Online Entry:** Combines the Summary Form and Entry Form for the department and allows exhibitor to pay fees and submit entries online.

**Entry Form:** An official form used in submitting an entry in the California State Fair (All Competitions).

**Summary Form:** An additional official form identifying the exhibitor used in submitting an

entry in the California State Fair Competitions (California Creative Arts, California Baking & Canning, Student Showcase, California Youth Baking & Canning, Open and Junior Livestock & Open Livestock).

**Detailed Receipt** (formerly known as Signature Acquisition Form (SAF): An official form used in submitting an entry/exhibit in the California State Fair when entry/exhibit was entered online. The Detailed Receipt is only required for Open and Junior Livestock, Fur & Feathers, Best of Show and Ag Mechanic exhibitors.

**Entry Fees:** A fee charged to enter a competition. All entry fees must be paid online when entries are submitted. If entries are mailed or hand delivered, there may be a processing fee added to your entry fees.

**Entry/Exhibit:** Terms used to define the item entered in the competition or contest.

**Entrant/Exhibitor:** Terms used to define the person entering the competition.

**Premium:** A cash award given to winners of a competition.

**Department:** Competition you wish to enter, ie, California Crafts, Fine Art, Youth Arts, etc. which is comprised of similar shows.

**Shows:** Generalized sections of a competition.

**Division:** Categories within a show.

**Class:** Specific categories within a division.

**Competition Handbook:** a printed or electronic (web) book, prospectus, or flyer which contains information for entry into the California State Fair competitions. Competition Handbooks can be a printed document or as an electronic document found on the California Exposition & State Fair website **CASStateFair.org**.

**Bonafide Ownership of Exhibit** - ownership is the state or fact of exclusive rights and control over property considered an entry or exhibit. This definition includes livestock, small animals and horses although not limited to that type of property. Objects/products created or produced are also included as well as intellectual property. Proof of such ownership may be required by management.

## California State Fair Competitive Programs

Send request for information to:  
California State Fair, Competitive Programs  
Attn.: (choose appropriate name from above)  
PO Box 15649, Sacramento, CA 95852  
Phone: 916/263-3146  
Fax 916/263-7914  
**CAStateFair.org**  
Email: [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)

### California Crafts

Attn.: Carol Mundy  
[cbuchanan@calexpo.com](mailto:cbuchanan@calexpo.com)  
Adult Creative Arts including clothing, crafts, collections,  
textiles, etc.

### California Fine Art

Attn.: Carol Mundy  
[cmundy@calexpo.com](mailto:cmundy@calexpo.com)  
Adult Fine Arts including all media.

### California Youth Baking & Canning

Attn.: Michelle Johnson  
[mjohnson@calexpo.com](mailto:mjohnson@calexpo.com)  
Youth food and preserved foods.

### California Baking & Canning

Attn.: Michelle Johnson  
[mjohnson@calexpo.com](mailto:mjohnson@calexpo.com)  
Adult Cooking including food, preserved foods, etc.

### California Cheese

Attn.: Entry Office  
[entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)  
Produced at commercial facilities intended for retail sale.

### California Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Attn.: Michelle Johnson  
[mjohnson@calexpo.com](mailto:mjohnson@calexpo.com)  
Produced and intended for retail sale.

### Commercial Craft Brew

Attn.: Darrell Amerine  
Produced at commercial facilities intended for retail sale.

### Commercial Wine

Attn.: Entry Office  
[wine@calexpo.com](mailto:wine@calexpo.com)  
Produced from bonded wineries intended for retail sale.

### Counties Exhibits

Attn.: Natalie Minas  
[nminas@calexpo.com](mailto:nminas@calexpo.com)

### County Fair Best of Show

Attn.: Entry Office - [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)  
Livestock Showmanship, Sheep Lead Class, Horse Show  
and Poultry Show.  
Participants must have qualified at the local Fair.

### Equestrian

Attn.: Michelle Solorzano  
[entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)  
Open and Junior: Western and English.

### FFA Ag Mechanics

Attn.: Entry Office  
[entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)  
Mechanical science projects.

### Fur & Feathers

Attn.: Eunita Boatman  
[eboatman@calexpo.com](mailto:eboatman@calexpo.com)  
Open and Junior includes Poultry, Rabbits, Cavies, Exotics  
and Junior Dog Show.

### Home Brew

Attn.: Darrell Amerine  
[entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)  
Produced for non-commercial use.

### Home Wine

Attn: Thomas and Rebecca Ramme  
[homewine@calexpo.com](mailto:homewine@calexpo.com)  
Wines produced for non-commercial use.

### Student Showcase

Attn.: Alison Wells  
[awells@calexpo.com](mailto:awells@calexpo.com)  
The Student Showcase recognizes outstanding California  
Youth in Art, Science, Crafts, Industrial Education  
and Technology

### Livestock

[entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)  
Open and Junior includes Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy  
Cattle, Dairy Goats, Llamas, Boer Goats, Nigerian Dwarf  
Goats, Angora Goats, etc.

### Photography

Attn.: Sabrina Araujo  
[saraujo@calexpo.com](mailto:saraujo@calexpo.com)  
Accessible to youth & adult amateur photographers.

### Friends of the Fair Scholarship

Attn.: Natalie Minas  
[nminas@calexpo.com](mailto:nminas@calexpo.com)  
\$34,000 available in 2016 to California residents enrolled in  
community college, state college, university and graduate  
programs. Application deadline is March 3, 2016.

