



# Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

September 2019  
Edition

## Major Broiler Order Due

September 11th  
to Extension Office  
by pm



Poultry Entry Night Oct 16th @ Extension Office

## Tag Order Reminder

FALL  
Heifer Tag Orders  
Due  
SEPTEMBER 11  
To Extension  
Office



Validation : October 28th @ Expo 5:30-7:00pm

## TAG ORDER REMINDER

BCYLS Steer Tag  
Orders Due

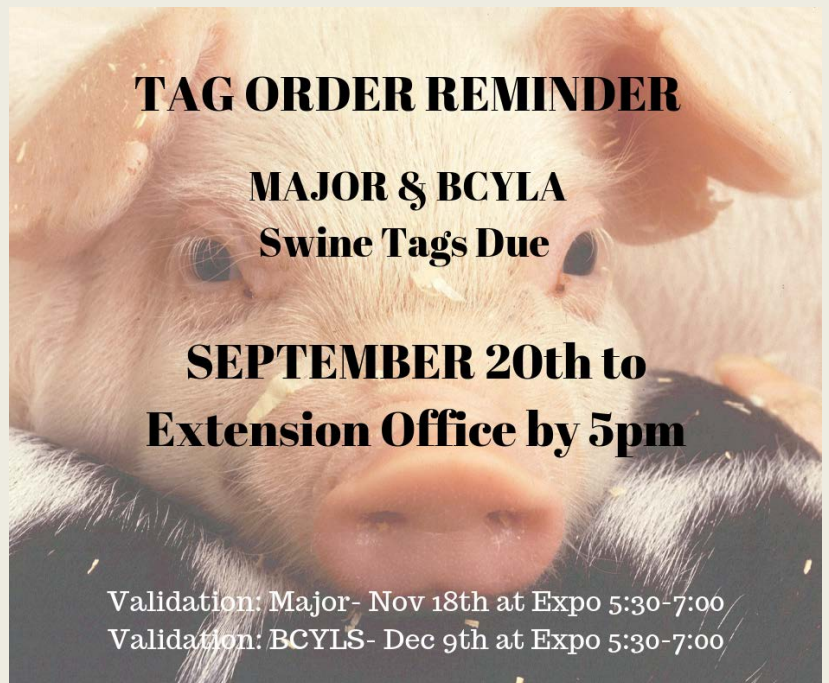
SEPTEMBER 11  
To Extension  
Office by 5pm



## TAG ORDER REMINDER

MAJOR & BCYLA  
Swine Tags Due

SEPTEMBER 20th to  
Extension Office by 5pm



Validation: Major- Nov 18th at Expo 5:30-7:00  
Validation: BCYLS- Dec 9th at Expo 5:30-7:00



**2019-2020 Brazos County 4-H/FFA Major Show Validation Schedule**

- **Steers**
  - BCYLS Only Steer tag orders due September 11 at \$5 per tag
  - BCYLS Only Steer Validation will be **TBA** (following BCYLS Commercial Steers)
- **Heifers**
  - Fall Heifer Validation tag orders due September 11 at \$20/tag
  - Fall Heifer Validation will be October 28 at the Brazos County Expo from 5:30-7pm
  - BCYLS Heifer Entries due the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in February
- **Sheep & Goat**
  - Major Show & BCYLS Validation will be Monday, October 28 at Expo from 5:30-7pm
- **Swine**
  - Major Show tag orders due September 20 at \$20/ tag
  - BCYLS only tag orders due September 20 at \$5/tag
  - Major Show Validation will be Monday, November 18 at Expo from 5:30-7pm
  - County Only Validation will be Monday, December 9 at Expo from 5:30-7pm
- **Broilers**
  - Major Show Broiler Orders due September 11
  - BCYLS Broiler Orders and entry will be Wed., October 16 at the extension office from 5:30-6:30pm
- **Turkeys**
  - BCYLS Turkey entry – Wed., October 16 at the extension office from 5:30-6:30pm

## **2019 HOT Fair Updates**

The 2019 HOT Fair has a new schedule for livestock so please take a few minutes to look over it and make note of the changes.

More details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.hotfair.com/events/2018/livestock-show>

## **2019 State Fair of Texas Updates**

### **Rule Changes**

- 1 market steer per exhibitor
- Show weight limitations:
  - Market Barrows, 240-290lbs
  - Crossbred Gilts, 200-350lbs
  - Wether Dams, 85lb min
- All purebred, youth gilts must be validated
  - Ownership deadline, June 30
  - Validation upload deadline, July 15
  - Family validation will be allowed for gilts
- No aged ewe classes, in any breed for Breeding Sheep shows
- An individual contestant cannot make an entry solo into a team contest; all team contest entries must be made in the name of a County/Chapter, and compete as a team (see exhibitor handbook for mins-maxs per contest)
- No outside bedding allowed!

### **Show Date Changes**

- Breeding Gilts, September 27-29
- Youth Market Lambs, September 28
- Youth Market Goats, September 29
- Youth and Pan American Rabbits, October 4-6 (combined weekend)
- Sheep Dog Trials, October 17 - BRAND NEW!
- Youth Shorthorn Heifers, October 19

### **Contest Date Changes**

- Youth Product ID, October 8
- Youth Wildlife, October 10
- Youth Archery, October 12-13
- BRAND NEW!

More details can be found at the following link:

<https://bigtex.com/get-involved/livestock-shows/livestock-exhibitors/>





# TOP 5 REASONS WHY SHOW ANIMALS GO OFF FEED and how to prevent it

Posted: July 2nd, 2019

A lot of people change their eating habits with the seasons. Nothing is more satisfying on a cold winter day than a hot bowl of soup, but for most that doesn't sound the least bit appetizing when the temperatures soar to 90-degrees and hotter, especially when you add in the humidity. We might prefer something lighter like a salad. Your show livestock are no different. Their appetites tend to decrease as the temperatures rise and you might find yourselves wondering why they go off feed so often in the summer months.

Kevin Glaubius, Director of Nutrition for BioZyme® Inc., suggests five reasons why show animals might go off feed in the hotter months and provides some tips for young feeders to make sure their animals stay on feed through summer's heat.

**1. Seasonal Changes.** One of the primary reason's animals will stop eating during the summer months is due to seasonal changes. The combination of daylight and sunshine can alter the animal's desire to eat.

**2. Temperature Rises.** As the temperature rises, the animals are typically less active, which requires less overall energy. If they are expending less energy, their appetite will decrease because they don't require the same amount of nutrients as they would if they were actively using energy.

"Think about this. When we are hot, the last thing we want to do is eat a big meal. That has a lot to do with temperature triggers," Glaubius said. "The temperature alters stress hormones in the animal and has an impact on metabolism and their overall appetite."

**3. Environmental Changes.** During the summer, we often haul our livestock to jackpots, progress shows, state previews, junior nationals, county fairs and state fairs. Sometimes these are weekly occurrences, and that hauling adds stress to the animal. Loading on the trailer and traveling 20 minutes to 20 hours takes its toll. Then, we stall or pen the livestock in unfamiliar barns with unfamiliar animals, sights, smells and sounds, and expect them to eat exactly what we put in their feed pan – sometimes more and sometimes different than what they had at home – to give them that added bloom and fill. This is stressful and will cause the animal to go off feed.

**4. Diet Changes.** Show animal diets are not a one-size-fits-all, and feeding is a science that takes precise calculation in the nutrition needed to meet a specific weight by the target endpoint. If you are making dietary changes, Glaubius reminds to transition slowly. If abrupt changes are made and the animal goes off feed, it will take just as long to get it back on feed as it would to make a gradual transition.

**5. Summer Nuisances.** Just like heat, length of days and hauling your stock causes stress, so do nuisances like flies and other pests and getting off a routine. Flies and other insects that buzz around the heads of your animals will cause a distraction away from eating.

### Keep those animals eating.

No one has time for show animals that go off feed, so take a proactive approach to keep your livestock eating all summer long. Animals are very routine-oriented, so set a feeding schedule and stick to it.

One of the best ways to make sure your livestock keep eating is to keep the digestive tract healthy, and a great way to do that is to include Amaferm® in your animals' diets. Amaferm is a research-proven precision-based prebiotic that increases intake, digestibility and absorption. Amaferm will help drive consistent, daily intake, helping ensure that your animals eat every day. All BioZyme® products including those in the Sure Champ® and Vita Charge® lines contain Amaferm, to help keep your animals eating.

Specific products that contain Amaferm that are designed to help drive your animals' appetite during heat stress situations include [Sure Champ Extreme with Climate Control](#) and [Vita Charge Climate Control Gel](#). The Amaferm helps increase intake and digestibility, driving consumption. With the increased efficiency in digestibility, the animal is using less energy to digest food, creating less internal heat. The Climate Control products also contain a plant extract specifically designed to maintain circulation, and promote water intake, therefore maintaining the body's core temperature. They also contain garlic, considered a natural insect repellent.

"Being aware of the factors that contribute to animals going off feed and including Amaferm can pay big dividends in the show ring," Glaubius said.

Though we can't control the seasons, length of day or the temperatures, we can do our best to mimic the consistency of them. Feed your animals at a consistent time each day, both morning and night. And, if that means feeding them in a darkened, cool barn with fans, then do it. Keeping your animals cool is important to maintaining their appetite throughout the summer.

The same goes for when you are traveling. Make sure to keep to their normal schedule as much as possible. Keep their feeding times consistent and keep their feed pans the same as they are at home. If they are accustomed to drinking from a tank or another water source other than a bucket, start bucket-watering them prior to going to the show, as water intake is vital to good health. Water intake is also highly correlated to feed intake.

When you do make feed changes, make them gradually. Yes, feed can change the appearance of an animal over time, but drastic changes too quickly can also lead to decreased appetites that can be detrimental to your feeding program.

**Control flies.** Be sure to use a fly spray around your barn and on your animals to keep them comfortable and to keep them eating. Management and nutrition are the keys to keeping our show animals eating during the summer, right on up to the backdrop. Keep your show animals cool, hydrated, on a routine and give them the Amaferm advantage, and you'll find them eating even on those days you're not even hungry.

# advice

## FOR SELECTING YOUR NEXT SHOW HEIFER OR STEER



Posted: September 3rd, 2019

You've decided you want to show a steer or heifer, and it is prime time to start the selection and purchase process for your new project. There are magazines nearly two inches thick promoting every show steer open house in the Midwest; and then you start looking at all the online sales. It is easy to become overwhelmed with so many options.

However, before you even start looking for that next show prospect, you need to consider three factors and have a plan in place. Jessica Judge, BioZyme® Inc., Marketing Brand Manager, grew up showing cattle across the country and earned the title of High Individual at the 2017 North American International Livestock Exposition Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest, representing Oklahoma State University. She offers these considerations:

- **Know your endpoint and end goal.** If you are showing a steer, it might be county or state fair you are targeting for. If it is a heifer, it might be a similar show scenario, or you might have different goals for her, different places to show like a breed junior national and breeding goals. Know why you are ultimately purchasing your animal and you will have a better direction on size, age, breed and other specifics to look for.
- **Know your budget.** Some people simply have more money than others. An established, realistic budget will help you decide where you can go and determine what type of animal you can buy.
- **Know the breeder/seller.** Who have you formed a good relationship with? Who will help with feeding/prep advice after the sale? Be sure you have a solid relationship built on trust with the person you would like to do business with.

Once you have established the above criteria, you can start thinking about selection criteria for your animal. Regardless if you are looking to buy a steer or a heifer, the primary evaluation tool should be skeletal correctness or structure.

"At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how heavily muscled they are or how attractive they are, if they can't walk, it's a wash. Structure is the most important characteristic to evaluate and select for," Judge said.

Structural soundness should be evaluated from the ground up. First look at the animal's foot size. Does the animal have a little, tiny foot on a small amount of bone? Or does it set down on a big, square foot and adequate bone? You want an animal that stands on a nice square foot, with a good set to its pastern and plenty of flexibility, which is why it is always important to watch them walk. Moving up the skeleton, you want to make sure that the animal has a good set to its shoulder angle and knee; there should be a 45-degree angle to its shoulder and the knee should have the proper curvature of a banana or crescent shape. Make sure the steer or heifer can get out and move with plenty of flexibility to its hip and hind leg. Finally, make sure the animal has natural, smooth joints as big joints indicate potential structural concerns which can lessen the long-term future and value of the animal.

Once you have evaluated structure, Judge offers specific traits a person should look for when selecting both steer and heifers.

### Heifer Highlights

Judge said that when selecting a show heifer prospect, that after structure, you want to make sure the heifer has a productive and maternal look. This entails having a good rib shape, curvature to her rib design, softness to her overall skeleton and power. The heifer needs to have long-tying muscle shape and dimension, and not be just one-dimensional or flat.

The next selection criteria for a show heifer is balance and eye appeal – you want her to look like a lady.

"She should have a feminine shape to her head and neck and be clean through her throat. When selecting a female as a calf be sure to pay attention to her freshness and condition. She doesn't need to be the bloomiest in terms of condition as a calf. You should look for a female who is genuine in her condition, but still shows potential for dimension and fleshing ability as she grows," Judge said.

Other factors to consider on heifers include breed and age. Breed is truly a personal preference, as is age. Some ages will only be able to show at a national show or state fair once in a show season or calendar year, depending on the rules.

### Steer Strategies

When evaluating potential show steer prospects, after structure, you will want to look at muscle shape. You don't need to pick out the heaviest muscled, stoutest calf, but you do need to select one with indicators for future muscle development.

"Look for width of chest, some clearance or width at the ground, added body and rib shape, and a genuine shape or turn at the top side of his skeleton. These are good indicators that as he grows and develops, he will continue to have some muscle as he reaches his desired endpoint," she said.

In addition to structure and muscle shape, you want a steer that is balanced and eye appealing. He doesn't need to be the "coolest or freakiest fronted," according to Judge, but he does need to have parts that are put together in a proportional package that give him a balanced, fat steer look.

### Study the Past, Eyes on the Present

Judge recommends asking about the past performance of siblings and half siblings of the calves you are looking at buying, which goes back to having a good relationship with the seller. Find out how other calves from specific sires and cows have performed. Did they eat well and grow efficiently? Or were they hard keepers? If they took a while to gain, they might not be the right calf for your earlier endpoint. On the flip side, if they grow quickly and are earlier maturing, you may have to pump the breaks on your feeding strategy.

And although many people post photos and videos of their sales online, Judge recommends always studying the cattle in person. If you can't get to a specific location in person, be sure that someone you trust looks at the cattle in person before you make a big investment in your project animal.

"If you see a calf you like, find someone you trust go see the animal in person. A lot of small details can be missed on videos, like foot size and joint shape. When you have steers that need to get to heavy weight or you are looking for a breeding female to bring value to your herd, those details can make all the difference," Judge said.

You've established a budget; an endpoint and you've created relationships with reputable breeders. Now it is time to go select your next show heifer or steer project. With simple selection criteria, you can evaluate the groups of calves available for sale this fall and find your next champion.

# 2019-2020 Major Livestock Show Judges

## State Fair of Texas

- Gilts-
- Mkt Swine- Kane Causemaker, Atkinson, IL
- Mkt Goat -Chase McPhaul, Big Lake, TX
- Mkt Sheep-Brad Dale, Brooklyn, IOWA
- Mkt Steers-Blake Nelson Platte City, MO
- Boilers-Dale Hyatt, College Station, TX
- Heifers

## Heart of Texas Fair

- Gilts- Blake Goss
- Mkt Swine- Chris Fischbacher
- Jackpot Market Swine- Jacob Edmond
- Mkt Goat -Spencer Scotten
- Jackpot Mkt Goat- Miles Gibbs
- Mkt Lamb-Dan Willoughby
- Jackpot Mkt Lamb- Spencer Scotten
- Mkt Steers-Matt Leo
- Jackpot Mkt Steers- Brad Bennett
- Boilers-
- Heifers-Junior American Beef Heifers-Mitch Thomas
- Junior British/Continental Beef Heifers - Joe Rathmann

## Sandhills

- Gilts-
- Mkt Swine-
- Mkt Goat -
- Mkt Sheep-
- Mkt Steers-
- Boilers-
- Heifers-Colby and Shellie Collins of Chattanooga, OK

## Ft. Worth

- Gilts-
- Mkt Swine-
- Mkt Goat -
- Mkt Sheep-
- Mkt Steers-
- Boilers-
- Heifers

## San Antonio

- Gilts-
- Mkt Swine-
- Mkt Goat -Slayton Strube, San Angelo, TX
- Mkt Sheep-Clay Weber, Shedd, OR
- Mkt Steers-Dr. Mark Hoge, Macomb, IL and Jared Boyert, Pleasantville, IA
- Boilers-
- Heifers

## San Angelo

- Gilts- Junior Stars Gilt Show: Jim & Mike McCoy, Bloomingburg, OH
- Junior Breeding Gilts: Kyle Knauth, Milford, IL
- Mkt Swine- Dr. Mark Hoge, Good Hope, IL
- Mkt Goat -Brent Jennings, Kenly, NC
- Mkt lambs -Jason Simpson, Ault, CO
- Mkt Steers-Brady Jensen, Brookings, SD
- Heifers-Parker Henley, Urbana, IL & Carl Muntean, Iola, TX

## Rodeo Austin

- Gilts-
- Mkt Swine- Ben Bobell, Lincoln, IL
- Mkt Goat -Brandon Morgan, Blanchard, OK
- Mkt Sheep-Jeff Ellerbrock, Atkinson, IL
- Mkt Steers-Nick Fitzsimmons, Perry, OK
- Boilers-
- Heifers-(American) - Teri Barber, Corrales, NM
- (British/Continental) - Taylor Frank, Eldorado, KS

## Houston

- Gilts-
- Mkt Swine- Justin Rodibaugh – Rensselaer, IN Seth Swenson – Newark, IL
- Mkt Goat -Dr. Scott Greiner – Blacksburg, VA
- Mkt Sheep-Dr. Mark Hoge – Good Hope, IL
- Mkt Steers-Shane Bedwell – Holt, MO
- Boilers-
- Heifers



# Brazos Valley Fair & Rodeo

**2019 Important Dates & Deadlines**

## **BRAZOS VALLEY FAIR & RODEO**

### **OCTOBER 12-13 & 18-20**

<b>LIVESTOCK</b> ENTRIES OPEN - AUGUST 1 ONLINE ENTRY DEADLINE - SEPT 27 JUNIOR SHOW ENTRIES ACCEPTED DAY OF SHOW	<b>CPRA RODEO</b> BOOKS OPEN WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 9:00AM to 5:00PM
<b>ART &amp; PHOTOGRAPHY</b> ENTRIES OPEN - JUNE 1 ENTRY DEADLINE - OCT 4	<b>STEAK COOKOFF</b> ENTRIES OPEN JUNE 1 ENTRY DEADLINE OCTOBER 12
<b>BAKED &amp; CANNED GOODS</b> ENTRY DEADLINE - OCT 17	<b>WELD-OFF</b> REGISTRATION DEADLINE - SEPT 13
<b>AGROBOTICS</b> INTENT TO COMPETE DEADLINE - SEPT 20 REGISTRATION DEADLINE - OCT 4	<b>QUILTS</b> ENTRY DEADLINE - OCT 7

 **MUTTON BUSTIN**  
ONE DAY ENTRY - SEPT 21

**FULL DETAILS**  
[BRAZOSVALLEYFAIR.COM](http://BRAZOSVALLEYFAIR.COM)  
(979) 821-1450

**NEW WEEKEND ADDED FOR 2019**  
**OCTOBER 12 & 13 KICK-OFF WEEKEND!**  
**TRACTOR PULL - STEAK COOKOFF - WELD-OFF**

<https://www.brazosvalleyfair.com/events/livestock-events/junior-livestock-shows>

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<http://brazos.agrilife.org/>

# 2020 Show Dates

## State Fair of Texas

- Gilts- 9/26-9/29
- Mkt Swine- 9/30-10/3
- Mkt Goat -9/27-9/29
- Mkt Sheep-9/27-9/29
- Mkt Steers-10/1-10/4
- Boilers-10/1
- Heifers

## Heart of Texas Fair

- Heifers – 10/4-10/7
- Steers- 10/11-10/13
- Sheep 10/11-10/13
- Goats 10/11-10/13
- Swine 10/9-10/10

## Brazos Valley Fair

October 18-20

## Sandhills

January 3-11,2020

## Ft. Worth

January 17-February 8<sup>th</sup>

## San Antonio

February 6-23

## San Angelo

January 31- February 16,2020

## Rodeo Austin

March 14-28,2020

## Houston

March 3-22

## BCYLS

March

## Contacts

Avery Martin 4-H & YD Agent	Dusty Tittle AG/NR Agent	Hendrix Brouard 4-H & Youth Development CEP Agent	Flora Williams Family & Consumer Science Agent	Ashley Skinner 4-H Program Assistant
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