How will this year’s Livestock Show look different compared to prior year’s?

The Rodeo and NRG Park are considering multiple health and safety measures for the 2021 Livestock Show, which could include things like masks, social distancing and attendance/capacity limitations. These health and safety requirements will be enforced on the NRG Park grounds.

Our efforts will be focused on providing a safe experience for our Junior Show exhibitors in 2021, which aligns with our mission of promoting agriculture and supporting Texas youth.

Our 2021 Junior Shows will include:

- Junior breeding and market shows
- Junior Commercial Steer Contest
- Ag Mechanics Contest
- Archery Contest
- Industrial Craft
- Young Guns Shooting Sports

These events will be spread out over three weeks instead of the normal two weeks, allowing the opportunity for Texas 4-H/FFA youth to exhibit their projects in compliance with health guidelines. The Archery Contest and Young Guns Shooting Sports will also be held since we can accommodate social distancing, and the Ranching & Wildlife Poster Board and Video Contests submission will remain the same.

To provide as many participation opportunities as possible, the Ag Science Fair and Public Speaking Contests will be held virtually. The Youth Meat Pen Rabbit, Youth Breeding Rabbit, Youth Cavy, and Llama & Alpaca shows will also be held. The location of these shows is currently being determined and will be released once available.

Why were these specific shows selected?

The health and safety of our guests is the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo’s number one priority, which is why our efforts will be focused on providing a safe experience for our Junior Show exhibitors in 2021, which aligns with our mission of promoting agriculture and supporting Texas youth. Every effort was made to include projects affiliated with 4-H and FFA members.

Foregoing the Open Show competitions allows additional time to spread out the Junior Show competitions and allows for the proper health and safety measures to be followed. Additionally, the confirmed shows have been selected due to their more defined biological timelines and the time-sensitive nature of those projects.

Our Open Show exhibitors are an integral part of our Show every year, and this decision was not made lightly, but with the health and safety of all our exhibitors at the forefront of our
decision. While our 2021 Livestock Show might look different amidst COVID-19, we are optimistic that we will be able to welcome back our Open Show exhibitors to the Rodeo grounds in 2022, and give them the experience that they deserve and expect at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

What about the judging contests?

With space and room limitations, it is difficult to host judging contests under the current health and safety guidelines. We will continue to monitor the contests and will add additional contests to the schedule later if we feel the contest can be held in a safe manner. Specific details are still being finalized and will be shared once they become available.

What about open shows?

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo remains committed to our mission of promoting agriculture and education. In 2021, our efforts will be focused on offering Junior Show events that we can execute safely within current health guidelines. Since we are spreading out the Junior Show events over the three-week run of the Show, this does not allow us to safely host the following shows:

- Dairy Cattle
- Open/Youth Cattle shows
- Open/Youth Boer Goat shows
- Open/Youth Dairy Goat shows
- Open Breeding Sheep show
- Open Rabbit
- Open Cavy
- Sheep Dog Trials

Will the livestock auctions and school art auction still occur?

The Rodeo plans to move forward with the Junior Market auctions, School Art auction, and the all breeds bull and commercial female sale. Our auction committees have been working diligently to raise funds for Texas youth, and we will continue working closely with local, state and national health officials to ensure that our auctions will abide by the proper health and safety guidelines.

More information regarding these auctions can be found in the Exhibitor Handbook. Please note, breed association registered cattle sales will not take place in conjunction with the Show in 2021.

When will entry information be posted?

The Exhibitor Handbook and Junior Show entry worksheets will be posted on the Livestock Exhibitor page on Nov. 5. Entries will open for Junior Shows and contests Monday, Nov. 16. The deadline to submit Junior Show entries is Tuesday, Dec.15. After this date, late fees will be assessed on all entries. Payment and paperwork must be postmarked by Friday, Dec. 18.
Entries for the Youth Rabbit/Cavy Shows and the Llama & Alpaca Show will be posted at a later date on the Livestock Exhibitor page.

**Will the price of entry fees change?**

No.

**Will I be required to purchase admission or parking credentials?**

Grounds admission is included as part of the exhibitor’s entry fee. Parking passes are complimentary with entries, and the number of passes that will be distributed to each club/chapter will be released once determined. We will share additional information in coming weeks regarding the number of attendees who may accompany the exhibitor.

**Will tie-outs be available for steers and heifer exhibitors?**

Since the stall space for cattle will be larger in 2021 vs. a normal year, tie-outs will not be available. Instead, the tie-out area will be used for additional camping space and load-in/load-out area for our exhibitors and families.

**If I exhibit multiple species, can I bring them at the same time?**

In 2021, our barn area will not have sufficient space to allow for multiple species, or animals from multiple waves of the same show being held at the same time. With health and safety of all involved as our top priority, the Rodeo will continue working closely with local, state and national health officials to ensure that we abide by the proper health and safety guidelines.

**If guest limitations are in place, will I still be able to watch the show?**

The Rodeo plans to livestream all events for viewing. More information regarding these livestreams will be posted on the Livestock Exhibitor page and via our social media channels.

Additionally, the number of guests allowed to accompany each exhibitor will be limited. The specific health and safety guidelines for the Junior Show, including event attendance/capacity, are still being finalized and will be shared once they become available.

**Will the 2020 revised livestock shows be hosted at NRG Park in Houston?**

Our intent is to host the revised livestock market and breeding shows at NRG Park as usual, unless any health orders are initiated by local, state, or federal agencies, or health and safety concerns exist that prevent us from doing so. Some shows/contests will take place offsite. More information can be found in the Exhibitor Handbook.

**Why were only select contests selected for virtual competition?**
The Ag Science Fair and Public Speaking Contests were chosen because they are individual competitions. We are focusing on these events which can be executed effectively via virtual platforms, while still maintaining the traditional level of quality our exhibitors expect from the Rodeo. We will continue to monitor the contests and will add additional contests to the schedule later if we feel the contest can be held in a safe manner.

Why were only select youth shows allowed in the revised schedule?

Under the current health and safety guidelines, the only youth shows we felt we could host effectively and safely are the Youth Rabbit/Cavy Shows and the Llama & Alpaca Show.

What about the Calf Scramble shows?

Both the Calf Scramble Heifer and Steer shows will be held this year. Calf Scramble heifers will be split according to the three waves of the Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show. The Scramble steers will be split according to the two waves of the Junior Market Steer Show.

If I show at the Houston Livestock Show, am I still eligible for a scholarship?

Yes, exhibitors who participate in the approved events will still be able to apply for a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship.