



2025

# Calf Scramble Handbook



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CALF SCRAMBLE OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION .....	3
2025 CALF SCRAMBLE PROJECT CHECKLIST .....	4
PURCHASE CERTIFICATE RULES .....	5
INSTRUCTIONS FOR REDEEMING 2025 CALF SCRAMBLE PURCHASE CERTIFICATE .....	9
REQUIREMENTS OF THE HLSR CALF SCRAMBLE PROGRAM.....	10
IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES.....	15
CALF SCRAMBLE PROGRESS SHOW .....	16
RETURNING TO THE 2026 SHOW .....	19
SPECIAL RULES AND INFORMATION.....	20

## CALF SCRAMBLE OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

### Mailing and Physical Address:

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo  
Calf Scramble Office  
NRG Center  
3 NRG Park  
Houston, TX 77054

### Contact:

Calf Scramble Office

E-mail: [calfscramble@hlsr.com](mailto:calfscramble@hlsr.com)

Phone: 832.667.1138

Fax: 832.667.1140

### Website:

<https://www.rodeohouston.com/exhibitors-contestants/calf-scramble/>

# 2025-2026 CALF SCRAMBLE PROJECT CHECKLIST

## **MAY 2025**

- Thank-You Letter – Mail to your donor ASAP, e-mailed copy due to Calf Scramble Office May 31 (see e-mail address on page 3)
- Set up online Calf Scramble account.
- Webinar – Program Explanation and Training

## **JUNE 2025**

- May Report - due June 10 (see page 10)
- **STEERS** validated through Texas Validation Program by June 30, Enter State Validation Eartag EID in Animal Details in Scramble Reporting System

## **JULY 2025**

- June Report- due July 10

## **AUGUST 2025**

- July report - due August 10
- **STEERS**: State EID validation number (eartag) entered in Scramble Reporting System by August 1 in Animal Details section
- Business Plan Initial Assessment due August 1 (See online tutorial and page 12)

## **SEPTEMBER 2025**

- August report - due Sept. 10
- Calf Essay – Uploaded to Scramble Reporting System by September 1 (see page 11)
- **STEERS**: Purchase certificate due in Scramble Office September 1 EID validation (eartag) number entered in Scramble Reporting System by August 1 in Animal Details section.
- **HEIFERS**: Original registration papers and certificate due in Scramble office September 1

## **OCTOBER 2025**

- September report - due October 10

## **NOVEMBER 2025**

- October report - due November 10
- **HEIFERS**: Registration paper uploaded to validation site by AST/CEA by October 31
- Progress Show – November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Washington County Fair Grounds, Brenham (see page 16)

## **DECEMBER 2025**

- November report - due December 10
- All 2026 HLSR Show entries submitted by AST/CEA by December 1

## **JANUARY 2026**

- December report -due Jan. 10

## **FEBRUARY 2026**

- January report - due Feb. 10 (LAST ONE!)
- Year-End Essay – Uploaded by Feb. 1 (see page 12)
- Business Plan Monthly Assessments and Final Assessment due by Feb. 1 (see page 12)

## **MARCH 2026**

- 2026 HLSR Scramble Heifer or Steer Show
- Stall Display – set-up upon arrival to 2026 Houston Livestock Show (see page 13)
- Scramble Central Social (see page 14)

# Purchase Certificate Rules

1. Total award for all Calf Scramble Certificate recipients is **\$2,500**, \$2,000 of which will be used to purchase the heifer or market steer and \$500 (plus Super Scramble premium balance, if applicable) of which will be received after the Scramble Heifer/Scramble Steer Shows at the 2026 Show, provided that all obligations are fulfilled. Purchase certificates in the amount of \$2,000 must be used in the purchase of a **breeding beef heifer** or a **market steer** approved by the CEA or AST. Heifers must be born between Jan. 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025.
  - All steers must be validated through the TX 4-H and FFA steer validation program by June 30, 2025 and the electronic identification number must be entered in the "Animal Details" section of the monthly reporting system on or before August 1, 2025. Steers may be any breed of beef cattle. **Exhibitors who fail to submit their scramble steers validation electronic identification number by the deadline will be subject to disqualification.**
  - All heifers must be validated through the TX 4-H and FFA Heifer Validation System. Heifer validation will include online registration paper uploading and a physical validation with a county validation committee which will include DNA hair sampling. The deadline for heifer validation is October 31, 2025, exhibitors should contact their County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher for local/county deadlines. **Exhibitors who fail to validate their scramble heifer by the deadline will be subject to disqualification.**
2. The calf must be an FFA or 4-H project. The winner **MUST** return to the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and show the calf in the Scramble Beef Heifer Show or Scramble Steer Show. Steer projects may not be entered in any show prior to the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo that requires the winning animals to be sold at auction. Scramble steer exhibitors are encouraged to enter the Junior Market Steer Show but are only allowed one entry into the Junior Market Steer Show and it must be their Scramble Steer. Scramble heifer exhibitors are encouraged to enter the Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show but are only allowed one entry into the Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show and it must be their Scramble Heifer. Appropriate entry materials must be submitted through the exhibitor's club or chapter by Dec. 1, 2025 for the exhibitor to show in the 2026 Junior Livestock Show.
3. Payment on scramble heifer certificates will be made to the seller after the completed purchase certificate and the original, transferred registration paper are received in the Scramble Office. Payment on steer certificates will be made to the seller after the completed purchase certificate is received in the Scramble Office. The original scramble certificate must be signed by the supervisor, seller, parent, and student. Payment will be delayed if documentation is incomplete.
4. All correspondence, including certificate and registration papers, should be sent to:  
**Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo**  
Attn: Calf Scramble Office  
NRGCenter  
3 NRG Park  
Houston, TX 77054
5. Winners cannot purchase animals from themselves, immediate family members (mother, father, brother, sister, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, half-brother, half-sister, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, cousin) or their ranches (family ranches or partnerships), or 4-H club/FFA chapter. Winners cannot purchase animals from their 4-H/FFA advisor or the 4-H/FFA advisor's immediate family members (spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, half-brother, half-sister, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, cousin) or their ranches (family ranches or partnerships). Winner cannot purchase animals from their Donor or their Donor's immediate family members (spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, half-brother, half-sister, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, cousin) or their ranches (family ranches or partnerships). Winners may not purchase heifers that have been previously exhibited through any Calf Scramble program. Payments will not be issued to 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapters, students, parents or supervisors.
6. Winners cannot purchase a calf that they have previously shown at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in any given year or any calf that has previously been recorded in their name or in an immediate family member's name. Winners cannot purchase a calf that was previously shown as a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scramble calf.
7. If a calf is purchased for less than the \$2,000 certificate amount, the seller will be issued a check for only the actual purchase amount.
8. Heifer Certificates may be combined with certificates awarded from other stock shows occurring between Jul. 1, 2024 and Apr.13, 2025 as long as the animal is brought back to the Houston Livestock Show in 2026. If a combination of certificates is being used, the original transferred registration papers must be sent to the Show that is earliest in the calendar year. The first Show will make copies of the original transferred registration papers and then forward the original transferred registration papers to the later Shows. The last Show of the calendar year will receive and hold the original transferred registration papers and forward the original transferred registration papers to the winner/exhibitor upon completion of the project at all of the Shows involved.
9. Scramble steer and heifer substitutions will only be allowed at the discretion of Show Management. Furthermore, scramble heifer substitutions will only be allowed if the original registration paper of the substitute heifer (solely in the name of the respective scramble exhibitor on or before Nov. 1, 2025) is received by the Scramble Office on or before the December 1st deadline. Show Management must be notified immediately of any potential substitutions.
10. Winners who fail to fulfill their obligations as stated in these rules may have their Calf Scramble Certificates revoked, will be required to repay the certificate value to the Houston Livestock Show and will be required to provide a letter of explanation to the donor and the Scramble Office. Failure to comply with these rules could also result in forfeiture of Calf Scramble entries for one year for that club/chapter. If repayment is not made within 30 days of the 2026 Show, HLSR reserves the right to repossess the scramble heifer or steer and revoke invitations to participate in future Houston Livestock Shows. Winners who are ineligible to show at the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scramble Steer or Scramble Beef Heifer Shows will be required to re-pay the certificate value to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
11. Scramble Certificate winners who initially accept and then decline their Scramble Certificate, may be barred from exhibiting/participating in future HLSR competitions/shows. This is at the discretion of Show Management.
12. Failure to submit three (3) or more monthly reports to the donor and Scramble Office during the course of the year-long project will make the exhibitor ineligible for the remaining \$500 (plus Super Scramble premium balance, if applicable) received upon completion of the 2026 Show.

## Calf Scramble Purchase Certificate Rules

13. Approved list of heifer breeds that are eligible with the calf scramble certificate are shown in the table below.

Breed Name	Association	Notes	Scramble Division	Jr. Show Breed
Angus	American Angus Association	Registered as an Angus	British	Angus
Beefmaster	Beefmaster Breeders United	Registered as a Fullblood and out of a BBU-Certified Fullblood dam, Second Cross dam or as otherwise stated in the BBU By-Laws	American	Beefmaster
Beefmaster Advancer	Beefmaster Breeders United	Animals of fifty percent (50%) or more Registered Beefmaster breeding and fifty percent (50%) or less of other Registered and DNA genotyped non-Beefmaster Beef cattle breeding	American	ARB
Braford	United Braford Breeders	Fullblood, Heifers must be classified as "Braford Cow"	American	ARB
Braford F-1	United Braford Breeders	Registered first generation cross consisting of ½ Brahman – ½ Hereford blood. No multiple generation half-blood or other near-half-blood cattle will be accepted	American	ARB
Brahmousin	American Brahmousin Council	Registered as a Fullblood	American	ARB
Brangus	International Brangus Breeders Association	Registered as a Brangus (R-prefix, may not have scurs or any indication of scurs)	American	Brangus
Brangus Built (BB)/Brangus Optimizer (BO)	International Brangus Breeders Association	Progeny of Registered Brangus or Red Brangus and any commercial animal	American	ARB
Brangus Premium Gold (BP)/Commercial (CM) (includes appendix Brangus)	International Brangus Breeders Association	Progeny of Registered Brangus or Red Brangus and any commercial animal	American	ARB
Braunvieh	Braunvieh Association of America	Fullblood, 7/8 or greater Braunvieh blood	Continental	ORB
Braunvieh Beef Builder	Braunvieh Association of America	Must meet the Braunvieh Association rules for registration as a Braunvieh Beef Builder. Eligible animals are at least a 1/8 Braunvieh blood and less than Fullblood Braunvieh	Continental	ORB
Charolais	American-International Charolais Association	Registered as a Fullblood	Continental	Charolais
Charolais – Percentage	American-International Charolais Association		Continental	ORB
Chianina	American Chianina Association	6.25% or greater Chianina	Continental	Chianina
Chianina – Percentage	American Chianina Association	Less than 6.25% Chianina	Continental	ORB
Charbray			American	ARB
Certified Beefmaster E6	Beefmaster Breeders United	Certified by BBU to be at least 50% Beefmaster and can be as much as 100%. At least one of the parents must be registered as a Fullblood Beefmaster	American	ARB
Grey Brahman	American Brahman Breeders Association	Registered as a Grey Brahman	American	Grey Brahman
Gelbvieh			Continental	ORB
Gelbvieh Balancer			Continental	ORB

## Calf Scramble Purchase Certificate Rules

Breed Name	Association	Notes	Scramble Division	Jr. Show Breed
Golden Certified F-1	American Brahman Breeders Association	Female that is the progeny of two registered parents with one parent being registered Brahman resulting in a F1 cross (50% Brahman x 50% Bos Taurus)	American	ARB
Hereford	American Hereford Association	Indicated as horned on registration papers	British	Hereford
Limousin	North American Limousin Foundation	Registered on orange registration certificate, must be 75% or greater Limousin blood as indicated on registration certificate	Continental	Limousin
Limousin – Percentage	North American Limousin Foundation	Registered on purple papered with less than 50% Limousin blood or orange papered w/ less than 75% Limousin blood	Continental	ORB
Lim-Flex	North American Limousin Foundation	Registered on purple Lim-Flex registration certificate, must be 50% or greater Limousin blood as indicated on registration certificate	Continental	Limousin
Maine-Anjou	American Maine-Anjou Association	Must be 75 percent or more Maine-Anjou	Continental	Maine-Anjou
Maine Tainer	American Maine-Anjou Association	25% to 62.5% Maine-Anjou	Continental	ORB
Pinzguar	American Pinzguar Association	Purebred (minimum of 87.5%) or Fullblood	Continental	ORB
Polled Hereford	American Hereford Association	Indicated as polled or scurred on registration papers	British	Polled Hereford
Red Angus	Red Angus Association of America	Must be registered Red Angus, Category 1A. Must be smooth polled with no evidence of scurs or “buttons” removed. Heifers exhibiting any of the following characteristics are not eligible to show: White pigment in front of the navel or above the underline or on the legs; Black pigment on all three (3) of the following: nose, eyes and anus (an animal may have pigment on any two (2) of these areas, but not on all three (3) locations	British	Red Angus
Red Angus Category 1B	Red Angus Association of America	Must have a certificate of recordation	Continental	ORB
Red Angus Category II	Red Angus Association of America	Must have a certificate of recordation	Continental	ORB
Red Angus Category III	Red Angus Association of America	Must have a certificate of recordation	Continental	ORB
Red Brahman	American Brahman Breeders Association	Registered as a Red Brahman	American	Red Brahman
Red Brangus	American Red Brangus Association (ARBA); International Brangus Breeders Association (IBBA)	Must be registered (not certified) with the ARBA or the IBBA (RR-prefix)	American	Red Brangus
Santa Gertrudis	Santa Gertrudis Breeders International	Must be registered or recorded (50% to 75% with one parent as a registered Santa Gertrudis) in the Santa Gertrudis Breeders International Herdbook	American	Santa Gertrudis
Shorthorn	American Shorthorn Association	Must be registered as a Fullblood with a red bordered registration certificate	British	Shorthorn
Shorthorn Plus	American Shorthorn Association	Must be registered as ShorthornPlus (Appendix)	Continental	ORB
Simbrah	American Simmental Association	Must be a Purebred Simbrah (3/8 Brahman x 5/8 Simmental)	American	Simbrah

## Calf Scramble Purchase Certificate Rules

Breed Name	Association	Notes	Scramble Division	Jr. Show Breed
Simbrah – Percentage	American Simmental Association	Heifers must be less than Purebred. Heifers must have evidence of Brahman influence listed on their registration paper to be considered Percentage Simbrah	American	ARB
Simmental	American Simmental Association	must be a Purebred Simmental	Continental	Simmental
Simmental - Percentage	American Simmental Association	less than Purebred Simmental	Continental	ORB
Star 5	Santa Gertrudis Breeders International	Must be 50%-75% Santa Gertrudis blood	American	ARB
UltraBlack	International Brangus Breeders Association	progeny of Registered Brangus and an Enrolled Angus	American	ARB
UltraRed	International Brangus Breeders Association	progeny of Registered Red Brangus and an Enrolled Angus/Red Angus	American	ARB

\* ARB: American Registered Breeds

\* ORB: Other Registered Breeds





## **Instructions for Redeeming 2025 Calf Scramble Purchase Certificate**

### **Certificate Winner Instructions:**

1. You, your parent and your AST or CEA must sign the certificate once a heifer or steer is chosen. These signatures indicate that you fully understand the obligation and agree to abide by the rules of the Calf Scramble Program which are outlined in the Calf Scramble Handbook.
2. If you are purchasing a heifer and combining certificates with other shows, check the box that corresponds with the appropriate show.  
**\*Note: Steer projects may NOT be entered in any other show that requires the winning or placing animals to be sold at auction.**
3. All steers must be validated through the Texas 4-H/FFA Steer Validation Program by June 30, 2025, and the full 15-digit electronic identification number **must be remitted to the Calf Scramble Office through the online reporting system on or before August 1, 2025.**
4. Give the signed certificate to the breeder. The breeder is responsible for turning in all paperwork to the Calf Scramble Office in order to receive payment.

**Please note, NO Partnerships or Leases of animals are allowed. Steer or heifer must be SOLELY OWNED by SCRAMBLER or animal will be DISQUALIFIED. Steer or heifer may not be purchased from the scrambler's Agriculture Science Teacher, County Extension Agent or from the 4-H club or ag chapter.**

### **Breeder Instructions:**

#### **Heifer Purchases:**

1. Complete the Animal Information and Seller Information sections of the purchase certificate.
2. **NOTE: Heifers must be born between Jan. 1, 2024 and Apr. 30, 2025.**
3. Transfer heifer registration into certificate recipient's name.
4. Have original registration papers returned to you. (Having papers sent directly to the new owner will cause a delay in payment).
5. Once the original registration paper displays the new owner's name, mail the purchase certificate along with the original registration paper to:  
**Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Calf Scramble Office  
3 NRG Park  
Houston, TX 77054**
6. If the certificate winner purchases a heifer and has checked that he/she will be combining certificates with another show, please **send the original registration certificate to the show that occurs first** with a request to forward on to the respective shows. Send the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo purchase certificate to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Calf Scramble Office. We will make payment when we receive both the original registration papers and the purchase certificate.

#### **Steer Purchases:**

1. Complete the Animal Information and Seller information sections of the purchase certificate.
  2. Mail the completed certificate to:  
**Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Calf Scramble Office  
3 NRG Park  
Houston, TX 77054**
- **ALL PAPERWORK is due in the Calf Scramble Office no later than September 1, 2025. Please note, due to the high volume of scramble certificates we award, it may take upwards of one month from receipt of paperwork to process and mail breeder payments.**
  - Payment will ONLY be made once the completed purchase certificate and original registration paper (for heifers) are received in the Calf Scramble Office.

Please contact the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Calf Scramble Office at 832.667.1138 or e-mail at [calfscramble@hlsr.com](mailto:calfscramble@hlsr.com) with any questions or concerns.

# REQUIREMENTS OF THE HLSR CALF SCRAMBLE PROGRAM

Scrambler **MUST** meet all of the following requirements of the program to receive the \$500 completion bonus (and Super Scramble premium balance, if applicable) upon returning to the 2026 Show.

## 1. Thank-you letter

- Thank-you letter is to be mailed to your donor no later than May 31.
- Submit a copy by e-mail to the Calf Scramble Office by May 31.
- You may choose to write a letter or send a thank you card. Either way, make sure that the Calf Scramble Office receives an e-mailed copy. Please keep in mind that this correspondence is to thank your donor for their generous donation of \$2,500 to the HLSR Calf Scramble Program.

## 2. Monthly Reports submitted through the Scramble Reporting System

- Your monthly report consists of correspondence, pictures and expenses that occurred the previous month. You will write a report to your donor updating them on your project.
- Must be completed through the online reporting system **ONLY**. Do not mail or e-mail a copy to the Scramble Office. Submitting through the online reporting system will automatically send your monthly report to your donor, the Calf Scramble Office, your AST/CEA, and your Greeter.
- Monthly reports are due by the 10th of every month for the previous month. Ex: May report is due no later than June 10th. Please **do not** wait until the night of the 10th to submit your report as many other scramblers will do the same and the system may experience difficulties processing your report upload. **If you do not submit a report every month, you may become ineligible for the completion bonus (and Super Scramble premium balance, if applicable).**
- It is **YOUR** responsibility to upload your reports each month to ensure that your donor, the Calf Scramble Office, and your AST/CEA receive a report.
- Reports are due even if you have not purchased your animal or if no expenses are incurred for the current month. Your donor still wants to hear from you regarding any progress made from the beginning of your project.
- If you do not have a personal computer, it is your responsibility to find one to ensure your reports are submitted every month. If you need assistance locating resources, please contact your AST/CEA or your Calf Scramble Greeter.
- **The first report is due June 10 for the month of May.**
- The last report is due Feb. 10 for the month of January.
- No reports will be accepted late. The online reporting system will only allow you to submit the current month's report between the 11th of the current month to the 10th of the following month (ex: May report will be available to submit between May 11 and June 10). The reporting system automatically moves to the next month at midnight. If you do not submit by midnight on the 10th, you have missed the window for submitting.
- You are required to make sure that your reports, expenses, and pictures are uploaded each month. Once you have submitted, log out and then log back in to make sure your report, pictures and expenses have uploaded for the month.

There are **3 parts** to your Monthly Report: **correspondence, expenses, and photos.**

### **Correspondence (Monthly Report):**

- The **most important** part of the monthly reporting is uploading the correspondence. If you do not upload an actual document, the system won't give you credit and you will have missed a report.
- First, write your donor a monthly letter in a word processing program prior to logging on to the website. When logged on, browse to the letter, and then click the **"Upload"** button to attach the file.

- Then, write a brief note as the body of the email and answer the question concerning contact with a Calf Scramble Greeter committee person.

#### **Photos:**

- You may upload up to 3 photos each month.
- Attach from 0 to 3 photos each month by following the same process as the correspondence.

#### **Expenses:**

- Enter each expense, quantity, and unit cost, then click **Add Expense**. You may add expenses throughout the month. If you have no expenses, you may enter "0".

### 3. **Calf Essay**

- Due September 1
- This essay should tell the reader why you chose your specific calf, get creative and tell the audience what made you know your calf was the right one for you and what you have planned for your calf. Breed information can be included to describe how it impacted your choice but do not focus on breed facts.
- Top essays will be recognized at the awards announcement following the Scramble Heifer/Steer Show.
- **Length** – 500 words describing the reason you chose the breed of heifer/steer you are raising.
- **Essay Title** – "Why I Selected (Calf's Name)". This should appear on the **title page** of your essay. Your essay must have a title page that includes: Name of Scrambler, Heifer or Steer and word count on its own page (not at the top of the first page of your essay)
- Essay will only be accepted through the online system. Once uploaded, a link to your essay will appear on the website. **No confirmation email will be sent.**
- It is a good idea to have a teacher or parent proofread your essay.
- Do not use all capital letters, bold or script typeface or decorative background as it makes it extremely difficult to read.
- Your essay will be evaluated on the following criteria:
  - Content
    - Reason you chose your specific calf & why you chose calf's name – be creative here!
    - Reason you chose breeder or breed of calf and how it impacted your decision on choosing your specific calf (EX: Calf production, good meat producer, heat tolerant, etc.)
    - Plans for your calf
  - Focus & Coherence
    - Remains focused on the topic of selecting the calf.
    - Clear & coherent paragraphs and sentences
  - Organization
    - Logical progression of ideas
    - Clear beginning, middle, and end
  - Voice
    - Reflects scrambler's personality.
    - Original and genuine
  - Grammar & Mechanics
    - Demonstrates standard English usage of correct spelling and grammar.
    - If information is used from the internet or other resources regarding your breed of calf, cite the source correctly. Put a works cited at the end or on separate page if sources need to be cited. Your sources will be checked – **do not copy and paste from websites as this will be checked.**
    - Directions: **Follow ALL directions here to receive as many points as possible.**

#### 4. **Year-End Essay**

- Due February 1
- Top essays will be recognized at the awards announcement following the Scramble Heifer/Steer Show.
- **Length** – 1,000 words describing your experience raising your Scramble Calf.
- **Essay Title** – “My Calf Scramble Project”. This should appear on title page of your essay. Must have Name of Scrambler, Heifer or Steer and word count on title page as well (this should be its own page and not at the top of your essay).
- **This essay should be a personal narrative based on your experiences of your entire year with your calf.** Highlight all events throughout the year, not just the night you scrambled and earned a certificate.
- Essay will only be accepted through the online system. Once uploaded, a link to your essay will appear on the website. No confirmation email will be sent.
- It is a good idea to have a teacher or parent proofread your essay before submittal.
- Do not use all capital letters, bold or script typeface or decorative background as it makes it extremely difficult to read. NO PHOTOS.
- Your essay will be evaluated on the following criteria:
  - Content
    - Describe significant events, analyzes, and reflects on the year-long process.
    - Include entire year’s experiences – expand beyond the night you scrambled.
  - Focus & Coherence
    - Remains focused on the topic of raising the calf.
    - Clear and coherent paragraphs and sentences
  - Organization
    - Presents logical progression of ideas.
    - Contains beginning, middle, and end.
  - Voice
    - Reflects scrambler’s personality.
    - Original and genuine writing style
  - Grammar & Mechanics
    - Demonstrates standard grammar and punctuation.
    - Follows directions.

#### 5. **Business Plan**

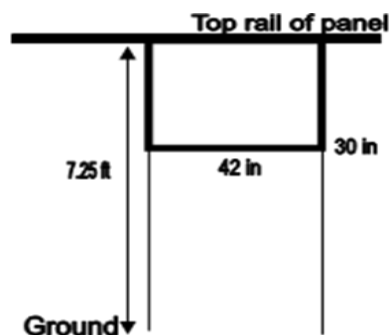
- **You are required** to submit a business plan outlining your experiences with your Calf Scramble project. The required fillable forms will be available to you in your online account.
- The Business Plan is broken down into three separate parts, 1) Initial Assessment, 2) Monthly Assessments and 3) Final Assessment. You will download these fillable forms, complete, save to your computer and then upload to the Calf Scramble reporting system when they are due. **Initial Assessment must be uploaded by August 1.** Monthly Assessments and Final Assessment must be uploaded by February 1.
- The **Initial Assessment** is an overall idea of your expectations with your project.
- **Monthly Assessments** show the details for each month. **Month 1** should be the month you take possession of your calf.
- **Final Assessment** is a summary of your project.

## 6. 2026 Houston Livestock Show

- **You are required** to bring the heifer or steer, that was purchased with your scramble certificate, to the 2026 Houston Livestock Show. **If you are unable to show due to ineligibility, you will be required to re-pay the value of your Scramble Certificate.**
- You **must** exhibit the heifer in the Scramble Heifer Show or steer in the Scramble Steer Show. You may **not** have a substitute exhibitor show your Scramble entry because you are competing in a conflicting HLSR event.
- You have the option to show your scramble heifer in the Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show or your steer in the Junior Market Steer show for an additional entry fee. This entry is separate from your required Scramble entry. Your scramble calf is the **ONLY** calf you may show in the Junior Breeding Beef or Market Steer shows. **If for any reason you are unable to return to HLSR with your designated scramble calf, you WILL NOT be allowed to substitute a different calf in the corresponding junior show.**
- Your entry for the Scramble Heifer/Steer Show and Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show, or Junior Market Steer Show must be made through your AST/CEA prior to December 1, 2025. **You are not automatically entered in any of these shows.**
- The Calf Scramble Shows are subject to the Houston Livestock Show General Rules and Regulations, the Junior Show Rules and Regulations and to the Special Rules listed for each. Where Special Rules conflict with other rules, Special Rules will prevail.
- Calf Scramble heifer exhibitors **must have** a color copy of their heifer registration paper in their possession as they enter the show ring, or they will be disqualified. This copy should have the Calf Scramble stamp on it as provided to the exhibitor by the HLSR Scramble Office when the original paper is received with the Purchase Certificate.

## 7. Stall Display (upon return to the 2026 Show)

- A decorative stall display should be brought to be hung from the top rail of the panel at the head of your heifer or steer's stall for the 2026 Show. Be creative and original. **Vinyl banners will NOT be judged.**
- Top stall displays will be recognized at the awards announcements.



- **Maximum size** – 42 inches wide and 30 inches tall. **PLEASE SEE DIAGRAM ABOVE**
- **Note: Any displays exceeding the maximum will not be judged.**
- **The Show will provide an 11"x 17" laminated sign that must be attached to your stall display. It can be attached to the top, below or to the middle of your stall display. Do not attach on the side of display. Plan ahead to attach the sign.**

- You may attach legs for more support, but there **MUST** be a place to tie the animal between the legs.
- Decorating is allowed at the head of the stall only.
- Displays should be set up on the day of heifer/steer move-in.
- Show Management has the right to remove any questionable decoration.
- No rear or standing fans will be allowed.
- Displays should be mounted to the metal pole at head of stall. Zip ties and/or baling wire are the easiest methods to attach display. Hooks are discouraged. Displays must be between stall markings. Do not go over into another stall. Your stall display **must be removed** once your animal has been released from the Show.
- Electricity is available, yet limited, throughout stalls.
- Shavings are provided in stalls.
- Pictures of previous year displays can be found on the Calf Scramble web page.
- Using water or any other substance to clean the rubber mats in the aisles is prohibited.

#### 8. **Scramble Central Social & Awards Announcements**

- Please look for information sent via email in February along with other show information. Calf Scramble participants, donors, parents and supervisors are invited. No RSVP is required.
- This social will take place the morning of each Scramble Heifer and the afternoon of each Scramble Steer Show, near the Show ring and gives donors and their scrambler's a chance to visit and reflect on their hard work over the last year.
- Calf Scramble participants are **strongly encouraged** to attend. Contact with donors regarding attendance is encouraged as well.
- For those that successfully complete the Calf Scramble Program, a \$500 completion check (plus Super Scramble premium balance, if applicable) will be provided immediately following the conclusion of the Scramble Heifer and Scramble Steer Shows. Original heifer papers will be returned at that time as well.
- Additional awards will be announced in the Show ring after the completion of each Scramble Heifer and Scramble Steer Show.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

- Check the Calf Scramble webpage and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Exhibitor Facebook Page often for updates throughout the year.  
<https://www.rodeohouston.com/exhibitors-contestants/calf-scramble>  
<https://www.facebook.com/HoustonLivestockShowExhibitors/>
- All reports, essays and business plan documents must be uploaded through the online reporting system, with the exception of the thank you note which should be scanned and e-mailed to [Calfscramble@hlsr.com](mailto:Calfscramble@hlsr.com)
  - ✓ Calf Scramble participants having any online technical or processing errors must email the Calf Scramble Office at [Calfscramble@hlsr.com](mailto:Calfscramble@hlsr.com) before the deadline for that month, in order for the report to be accepted. Reports submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
  - ✓ Calf Scramble participants missing the deadline for a monthly report are still encouraged to send correspondence to donors for that month.
  - ✓ Calf Scramble participants needing help locating resources to be able to access the internet, should contact their AST/CEA or Calf Scramble Greeter.
- If any of the Calf Scramble participant's contact information changes, they must email the Calf Scramble Office and their Greeter with those updates within 24 hours of the change.
- Please contact your Calf Scramble Greeter first if you have any questions. They are here to assist with any questions regarding the requirements of the Calf Scramble Program and Calf Scramble participant's obligations. If Calf Scramble participants are unable to contact their greeter, please e-mail the Calf Scramble Office at [calfscramble@hlsr.com](mailto:calfscramble@hlsr.com).
- Refer to the Calf Scramble web page at:  
<https://www.rodeohouston.com/exhibitors-contestants/calf-scramble>
- All requirements listed on pages 10-14 **MUST** be completed to receive the \$500 completion check (and Super Scramble premium balance, if applicable) upon returning to the 2026 Show.
- **Calf Scramble participants must e-mail the Calf Scramble Office should any contact information change or problems are encountered throughout the project.**
- **THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. All completion bonus and/or Super Scramble premium balances, if applicable, monies will NOT be awarded if artificial intelligence has been or is suspected of being utilized.**
- As a reminder, the first report is due by **June 10<sup>th</sup>**. You are required to make sure that your reports, expenses, and pictures are uploading each month. Once you have submitted, log out and then log back in to make sure your report, pictures and expenses have uploaded for the month.

# CALF SCRAMBLE PROGRESS SHOW

The Calf Scramble Committees will host the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Calf Scramble Progress Show on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. This show will provide educational seminars on raising cattle for scramblers and allow them to gain show experience at no cost to the scrambler. More information will be available on the Calf Scramble web page this summer. Calf Scramble participants will be given instructions via email on how to enter. Mark your calendars and plan to be there. It is not a requirement of the Calf Scramble Program, but strongly encouraged for all scramble certificate recipients.

## Progress Show Rules

(Rules are subject to change)

1. **Show Registration:**
  - a. **The Calf Scramble Progress Show is limited to Scramble certificate winners only. Winners are only allowed to bring their scramble heifer or scramble steer that is registered with the Calf Scramble Office. No substitute exhibitors are allowed.**
  - b. **Entries...instructions will be sent via email from the Scramble Office on how to enter.**
  - c. **There is no entry fee.**
2. **Animal Identification/Registration**
  - a. Heifers entered must be registered in the records of their respective breed association (in the name of the exhibitor). **Registration papers must be on file in the Calf Scramble Office and heifer exhibitors must present the HLSR stamped copy of the registration papers at check-in. Exhibitors are required to bring the STAMPED COPY OF THEIR registration paper to the show ring and to keep it in their possession while exhibiting the heifer.**
  - b. Steers entered in this show must have an official and visible Texas Validation ear tag and electronic ID in the steer's ear. **The EID number must be on file in the Calf Scramble Office.**
3. **Classes:**
  - a. Heifer classes will be broken by age within three divisions; American, British and Continental (no individual breed classes). **Note:** The number of classes per division will vary depending on the number of entries in each division.
  - b. Steer classes will be broken into 9 classes by WEIGHT ONLY (no breed or division classification will occur.)
  - c. **Show Order:**
    - i. **Heifer Show Order**
      - Class 1: American Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 2: American Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 3: American Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 4: American Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 5: American Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 6: American Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 7: American Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 8: American Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 9: Champion American Heifer**
      - Class 10: Reserve Champion American Heifer**
      - Class 11: British Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)
      - Class 12: British Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)



Class 13: British Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

Class 14: British Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

Class 15: British Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

Class 16: British Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

**Class 17: Champion British Heifer**

**Class 18: Reserve Champion British Heifer**

Class 19: Continental Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

Class 20: Continental Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

Class 21: Continental Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

Class 22: Continental Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

Class 23: Continental Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

Class 24: Continental Heifers (Birthdate range TBD after check-in)

**Class 25: Champion Continental Heifer**

**Class 26: Reserve Champion Continental Heifer**

**Class 27: Supreme Champion Heifer**

**Class 28: Reserve Supreme Champion Heifer**

**Class 29: Showmanship – showmanship will follow Supreme Drive**

## ii. Steer Show Order

Class 1: Light Weight Steers

Class 2: Light Weight Steers

Class 3: Light Weight Steers

**Class 4: Champion Light Weight Steer**

**Class 5: Reserve Champion Light Weight Steer**

Class 6: Medium Weight Steers

Class 7: Medium Weight Steers

Class 8: Medium Weight Steers

**Class 9: Champion Medium Weight Steer**

**Class 10: Reserve Champion Medium Weight Steer**

Class 11: Heavy Weight Steers

Class 12: Heavy Weight Steers

Class 13: Heavy Weight Steers

**Class 14: Champion Heavy Weight Steer**

**Class 15: Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Steer**

**Class 16: Grand Champion Steer**

**Class 17: Reserve Grand Champion Steer**

**Class 18: Showmanship – Showmanship will follow Champion Steer Drive**

## 4. Animal Health Regulations:

- a. No health certificate required.
- b. A visual inspection will take place during unload.

## 5. Grooming and Equipment:

- a. This is a Blow and Go Show for both heifers and steers. No grooming material, paint or dye is allowed on any animal.
  - b. No clippers, which must be plugged into an electrical outlet, are allowed to be used on Scramble Breeding Beef Heifers or Scramble Steers once they arrive on Show grounds. Cordless clippers are allowed.
  - c. No cattle panels allowed.
  - d. **You will be given 8 ft of stall space. All calves, tack, show boxes, etc. MUST fit inside that 8 ft space.**
  - e. No generators will be allowed in or around the barn.
  - f. No fans will be allowed in the barn.
  - g. No stall decorations are allowed. A stall sign will be provided for you.
  - h. No shavings will be allowed. Calves will be stalled on sand.
6. Animal Handling: Heifers and steers that are unruly or require handling by more than one person will be disqualified. Nose leads are permitted during showing. Only Show officials will be allowed to assist exhibitors during the judging.
7. Animal Handling Devices: Show Management or Committee Leadership/Ring Stewards reserve the right to decide what constitutes acceptable show equipment and how the equipment is being used by the exhibitor. **Cable halters are prohibited.**
8. Dogs/companion animals are not allowed on Show grounds. This rule will be strictly enforced and applies to all exhibitors and Show visitors. Exceptions are granted for dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.

### Additional Information

1. Preprinted stall cards with your name and your donor's name will be distributed upon arrival.
2. You will be pre-stalled by club/chapter. If you are hauling calves together, the Scramble office needs to know by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. Family is invited to attend.
4. Your donor will be invited to attend.
5. The Calf Scramble Greeters Judging Team will be available to give tips on the year-end essay and stall display projects.

## RETURNING TO THE 2026 SHOW

- The Calf Scramble participant's AST/CEA is responsible for submitting the Scramble, Junior Breeding Beef or Junior Market Steer show entries online prior to the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Calf Scramble participants are required to be entered in the Scramble Heifer or Scramble Steer Show. It is optional, but strongly encouraged, that Calf Scramble participants enter the Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show or Junior Market Steer Show with their scramble animal. CEA/AST must submit this entry online through the Junior Show Online Entry System by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- Calf Scramble participants are only allowed to bring their scramble heifer/steer to the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. If they enter the Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show, Calf Scramble participants **must** show their scramble heifer in that show. If they enter the Junior Market Steer Show, Calf Scramble participants **must** show their scramble steer in that show. **If you do not return with your designated Scramble heifer or steer for any reason, you may not enter a different steer or heifer in the subsequent Junior Show.**
- **Please review the rules in the HLSR Exhibitor Handbook at [www.hlsr.com](http://www.hlsr.com) for exhibiting the Scramble heifer or Scramble steer at the Houston Livestock Show™. These rules will be strictly adhered to.**
- There is not a fee for the Scramble Heifer or Steer Show. The Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show and Junior Market Steer Show have an entry fee. Calf Scramble participant's CEA/AST must enter the animal in these shows if Calf Scramble participant wishes to participate. Please refer to the HLSR Exhibitor Handbook for fees, dates, and questions regarding the 2026 Scramble Heifer and Steer Show or the Junior Breeding Beef or Junior Market Steer Show.
- Stalling: To stall together at Houston, groups **MUST** arrive and remain in line together at Airport Blvd. NO assignments will be made for heifers/steers that are coming later. Heifers/steers will be counted on the trailers. The first three rows of cattle stalls on the north side of the barn (rows nearest to the dock and wash racks) will be assigned to those exhibitors arriving first. Once these three rows are assigned, assignments will be given starting on the far end of the stalls (closest to commercial exhibits) and will work back towards the dock.
- Eligibility: 4-H and FFA members are considered to be eligible by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for participation in the Junior Livestock Show at the time entry applications are received from the AST/CEA. Any AST/CEA who has a member who becomes ineligible to participate, for any reason, must provide written and signed notification to the Calf Scramble Office at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of any Junior Show activity in which the ineligible exhibitor was to participate. **If an exhibitor is determined ineligible, then the entry is ineligible resulting in repayment of certificate amount (maximum of \$2,000).**
- All Scramble Heifers or Steers **must** be exhibited by the certificate recipient. Substitute exhibitors will only be allowed at the discretion of Show management. Official written notification must be provided to the Calf Scramble Office at least 24 hours prior to heifer/steer arrival. If a substitute exhibitor is allowed by Show management, the substitute showman must be from the same county as the original exhibitor. The substitute exhibitor also must meet all requirements of a Junior Livestock Show exhibitor and an official substitute exhibitor form must be filled out and turned into the Livestock/Superintendent's Office before the closing of Scramble Heifer and Scramble Steer Show check-in.

## SPECIAL RULES AND INFORMATION

- In the event that a scramble calf is lost, injured, becomes ill or dies, the Calf Scramble Office must be contacted **immediately** (by phone or e-mail) by either the scrambler, scramble parent or supervising CEA/AST. Depending on the situation, the following may be required:
  - Official letter from a veterinarian/health records.
  - Photos of the animal showing injury/death.
  - Detailed letter/email from scrambler, scramble parent and/or CEA/AST.
  - Inspection of the animal by Show Management.

If the Calf Scramble Office is not contacted **immediately** following the death of a scramble calf, the scrambler may be required to repay the \$2,000 value of the purchase certificate regardless of the circumstances surrounding the death of the animal.

In the event that false information is presented in regard to the health/status of a scramble calf, the scrambler, scrambler's family, CEA/AST and/or club/chapter may face sanctions for future participation in HLSR competitions and events.

- Calf Scramble steers are required to return to the 2026 Houston Livestock Show. Steer projects may NOT be entered in any show prior to the 2026 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo that requires the winning animals to be sold at auction. In the event that the designated Calf Scramble steer is sold at another show prior to the 2026 Houston Livestock Show, the scrambler, scrambler's family, CEA/AST and/or club/chapter may face sanctions for future participation in HLSR competitions and events.
- Winners who fail to fulfill their obligations as stated in these rules may have their Calf Scramble Certificates revoked, will be required to repay the certificate value to the Houston Livestock Show, will be required to provide a letter of explanation to the donor and the Scramble Office and could be disqualified from any junior show competition.