



2026 Mississippi State Fair and 2027 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Dairy Cattle Division

Reminders and Important Dates

Reminders

The rules in the current year's Mississippi State Fair or Dixie National Junior Round-Up Premium book supersede any rules published previously in a Mississippi State Fair or Dixie National Junior Round-Up Premium book or in this publication. [New rules and regulations passed by the Mississippi Livestock Council Show directors will be in brackets throughout this publication.]

An official show veterinarian from the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU-CVM) will be on site during the junior livestock shows.

General Show and Animal Health Reminders:

- Health certificate from a veterinarian is required to get on fairgrounds
- 60-day health record forms are uploaded in the check-in app used for checking in all livestock

Important Dates

Ownership of animal – Tuesday, September 1, 2026

- Ownership for both Mississippi State Fair/Dixie National
 - Market Steers, Market Lambs, Market Goats, Market Hair Sheep
- Ownership for Mississippi State Fair
 - Beef Breeding Animals, Commercial and Dairy Breeding Females, Commercial Beef Heifers, Market Hogs, Commercial Meat Goat Does, Wether Dams, Commercial and Registered Dairy Goats, Breeding Hair Sheep, Registered Breeding Boer Does

Entries must be submitted to county Extension office by Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Exhibitors must submit their entries in the Showman app by the end of Friday, September 4, 2026. There is a \$10 per head nomination fee for new nominations.

Classification/DNA Hair Collection Week,
September 14–16, 2027

- Monday, September 14: Hattiesburg – 7 a.m.–Noon
- Tuesday, September 15: Raymond – 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 16: Greenwood – 8–10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 16: Pontotoc – 2–6 p.m.

Exhibitor entry deadline to submit livestock in the Showman app for the Mississippi State Fair (September 18, 2026). There is a \$5 per head entry fee.

Mississippi State Fair, Jackson – October 8–18, 2026

Ownership of animal – Tuesday, December 1, 2026

- Ownership for Dixie National Junior Round-Up
 - Beef Breeding Animals, Commercial and Dairy Breeding Females, Market Hogs, Mississippi Bred Barrows, Commercial and Registered Dairy Goats, Commercial Beef Heifers, Wether Dams, Commercial Gilts, Commercial Meat Goat Does, Breeding Hair Sheep, Registered Breeding Boer Does

Entries must be submitted to county Extension office by Tuesday, December 1, 2026.

Exhibitors must submit their entries in the Showman app by the end of Friday, December 4, 2026. There is a \$10 per head nomination fee for new nominations.

Classification/DNA Hair Collection Week,
December 14–17, 2026

- Monday, December 14: Hattiesburg – 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 15: Raymond – 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 16: Greenwood – 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 17: Oxford – 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Exhibitor entry deadline to submit livestock in the Showman app for the District Livestock Shows and Dixie National Junior Round-Up (January 5, 2027). There is a \$5 per head entry fee for the DNJR, and each district has their own per head entry fee.

Dixie National Junior Round-Up, February 1–11, 2027

Dairy Cattle Division

Superintendents

Ross Overstreet, MSU Extension – Lamar County

Bob Robinson, MS FFA – Retired

Nomination forms/copies of registration papers turned into Extension Agent/FFA Teacher

Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows and Purebred Dairy Cattle: September 1, 2026 for the Fair and December 1, 2026 for District and DNJR.

Nomination/Entry Dates for Exhibitors using the Showman app (\$10 per head nomination fee; \$5 per head entry fee for Fair; \$5 per head entry fee for DNJR; district fee per head varies)

Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows and Purebred Dairy Cattle: nominated in Showman app by September 4, 2026 for the Fair and by December 4, 2026 for District and DNJR; entered in Showman app by September 18, 2026 for the Fair and by January 5, 2027 for District and DNJR.

2026 State Fair Show Dates

Showmanship: Saturday, October 17, 8:30 a.m.

Commercial Dairy Heifer and Cow Show: Saturday, October 17, following Showmanship

Purebred Dairy Cattle Show: Saturday, October 17, following Commercial Dairy Shows

2026 State Fair Deadlines for Entry at Show Using Check-in App

At the time of check-in at the Fair, all jointly owned animals must be changed to a single entry in the app so that the FFA or 4-H youth in that joint ownership will be declared as the individual who will show each animal in that show. The following list summarizes when Dairy Cattle are to be checked in using the web, when weights are to be declared for commercial Dairy Cattle, along with uploading the 60-day 4-H Animal Health Record Form:

- Registered Dairy Cattle: declare entry at show by 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 15
- Commercial Dairy Heifers and Cows: declare show weight by 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 15
- Dairy Cattle Showmanship: declare intent to participate in Dairy Cattle Showmanship by 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 15

2027 Dixie National Junior Round-Up Show Dates

- Showmanship: Thursday, February 4, 8 a.m.
- Commercial Dairy Heifer and Cow Show: Thursday, February 4, following FFA Dairy Handler Class
- Purebred Dairy Cattle Show: Thursday, February 4, following Commercial Dairy Shows

2027 DNJR Deadlines for Entry at Show Using Check-in App

At the time of check-in at DNJR, all jointly owned animals must be changed to a single entry in the app so that the FFA or 4-H youth in that joint ownership will be declared as the individual who will show each animal in that show. The following list summarizes when Dairy Cattle are to be checked in using the web app, when weights are to be declared for commercial Dairy Cattle, along with uploading the 60-day 4-H Animal Health Record Form:

- Registered Dairy Cattle: declare entry at show by 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3
- Commercial Dairy Heifers and Cows: declare show weight by 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3
- Dairy Cattle Showmanship: declare intent to participate in Dairy Cattle Showmanship by 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3

Dairy Cattle Showmanship

All showmanship rules listed in MSU Extension Publication 3814-1 [2026 Mississippi State Fair and 2027 DNJR: General Rules](#) apply for Dairy Cattle Showmanship in addition to the ones listed below.

Exhibitors will check in for Dairy Cattle showmanship at the Fair and DNJR on the dates and times listed above using the Showman app.

Exhibitor in showmanship classes must show their own animal.

- For Dairy Cattle Showmanship at the Fair and DNJR, the exhibitor must have a purebred dairy heifer or cow or a Commercial Dairy Heifer/Cow checked in to their respective show.

Exhibitor will be judged on their skills in displaying their animal to the best advantage while in the arena, as well as on their neatness and attitude.

Order of Show for Dairy Cattle Showmanship:

- For Dairy Cattle Showmanship at the Fair and DNJR: Ages 8–9, 10–11, 12–13, 14–15, 16–18

FFA Dairy Cattle Handlers Class (only held at DNJR)

- Through participation in the FFA Dairy Cattle Handlers Class, students learn to work with others in a way that is cooperative, courteous, and helpful while demonstrating effective dairy handling skills. Students in this activity present animals for evaluation as part of the Dairy Cattle Management and Evaluation Career Development Event. Handlers earn recognition for their ability to set up their assigned animal to its best advantage, maintain the animal in its most advantageous post, exhibit effective restraint, and move the animal as requested by the event ringmaster. Poise, calmness, and a positive attitude play a significant role in gaining success in the Dairy Cattle Handlers Class.
- Each chapter is allowed to enter multiple participants for this event. The FFA Dairy Cattle Handlers Class will be held in the Judging Arena (Barn 14) at the conclusion of Junior Dairy Cattle Showmanship to select the Mississippi FFA member to qualify for the national competition.
- Participating FFA members are required to wear an official FFA Jacket.

General Dairy Cattle Rules and Regulations

General Rules

- Review the General Rules and Regulations for all exhibitors and animals. These rules and regulations will apply in the Purebred Dairy and Commercial Dairy Heifer and Cow shows.
- All Dairy Cattle (Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows and Purebred Dairy Cattle) will be shown with a leather, nylon, or coated cable show halter in the show ring. No rope halters or rope leads will be allowed by exhibitors in the show ring. Show management or Livestock Committee Leadership/Ring Stewards reserve the right to decide what constitutes acceptable show equipment and how the equipment is being used by the exhibitor.
- Exhibitors will be required to furnish feed and hay. No bedding will be used.
- Exhibitors are encouraged to wear neat, appropriate uniforms while showing animals in the arena. White or 4-H and FFA uniforms are preferred.
- All heifers and cows must be dehorned [(with no open wounds that are not scabbed over)]. Heifers not dehorned will be disqualified.
- Blue, red, and white groups. Divisions of premium money for the various ratings will be on a 3-2-1 basis. All animals of a given rating in any class will receive identical premium money, except for the 1st place blue ribbon animals in classes of 5 or more. They will receive an additional \$5 each.

- Basis of Award:
 - At the Fair, cows two years and older will receive an additional \$10 and \$7, respectively, over younger blue and red ribbon animals.
 - At DNJR, cows two years and older will receive an additional \$5 and \$3, respectively, over younger blue and red ribbon animals.
- Only blue-ribbon animals are eligible to compete for a breed championship. Separate breed champions will be selected.

Dairy Cattle Arrival and Departure

All Dairy Cattle must be in place according to the schedule for the Fair and DNJR. Furthermore, Dairy Cattle must remain in place until being released after the completion of the show as outlined in the Fair and DNJR schedules.

Stalling

All Dairy Cattle must be tied in assigned area in the barn from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except cattle that are being groomed, washed, exercised, or shown). No cattle are to be tied in alleyways, walkways, or the show arena. Animals taken to be exercised must remain in their assigned barn or in their respective show arena. After entering the show grounds, at no time will animals be allowed in a trailer except for loading to leave.

Commercial Dairy Heifer and Cow Shows

Nominations

Exhibitors can nominate the number of Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows they desire. At the Fair and DNJR, the number of animals that one can check in and exhibit is six Dairy Cattle (combination of registered dairy females and Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows), not to exceed three entries per class. Nomination forms are due in the MSU Extension county office by the dates listed below. Nomination forms must be submitted by the Extension agent or agricultural education teacher verifying all Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows are under their supervision.

- Fair deadline: September 1, 2026
- District and DNJR deadline: December 1, 2026

Exhibitors in the Commercial Dairy Heifer/Cow Show may enter Dairy Cattle showmanship classes using the Showman app at the Fair and DNJR when checking in their animals at the show.

Commercial dairy heifers must have no more than four permanent incisors showing to be eligible to compete in the

show. [Commercial dairy cows must have had a calf during their lifetime to be eligible to compete in the show.]

Heifers and cows shown in the Commercial Dairy Heifer and Cow Shows are not eligible to be shown in any other division at the Dixie National Junior Round-Up.

Commercial dairy heifers and cows must be identified with an 840 USDA Official (All-in-One) EID ear tag matched set through the State 4-H Livestock Office by the dates below.

- Fair deadline: September 1, 2026
- District/DNJR deadline: December 1, 2026

Weight Limits

Certified scales will be available for weighing Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows as outlined in the schedule. For the Fair and DNJR, the minimum weight of Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows is 200 pounds with no maximum weight. Heifers who have never calved are eligible for the Commercial Dairy Heifer show. Those heifers who have calved will be show in the commercial dairy cow show.

Commercial dairy heifer and cow weights for the Fair and DNJR will follow the dates/times listed in the Dairy Cattle Division Section above.

Weight Classes

Commercial Dairy Heifers will be assigned to one of four classes based on weight (Lightweight; Mediumweight; Light Heavyweight; Heavyweight) and cows will be assigned to one of three classes based on weight (Lightweight; Mediumweight; Heavyweight). Show management will divide heifers and cows into classes to distribute the weights in a practical manner.

The Senior Commercial Dairy Cow Champion at the Dixie National Junior Round-Up will receive a scholarship from the Sale of Junior Champions.

Grade Requirements

Heifers and cows must meet the following requirements to be eligible:

- Animals must be Grade (not registered) heifer offspring or cows of Purebred Dairy Cattle or dairy breed crosses.
- No heifers or cows registered by a recognized dairy breed association or crosses of dairy and beef breeds are eligible to show in the Commercial Dairy Heifer and Cow Shows.
- Heifers and cows exhibiting breed characteristics other than those of the major Dairy Cattle breeds will not be allowed to show.

Purebred Dairy Cattle Show

Nominations

Exhibitors can nominate the number of purebred dairy breeding cattle they desire. At the Fair and DNJR, the number of animals that one can check in and exhibit is six dairy breeding animals (combination of registered dairy females and Commercial Dairy Heifers/Cows), not to exceed three entries per class. Nomination forms are due in the MSU Extension county office by the dates listed below. Nomination forms must be submitted by the Extension agent or agricultural education teacher verifying all purebred dairy breeding cattle are under their supervision.

- Fair deadline: September 1, 2026
- District/DNJR deadline: December 1, 2026

Exhibitors in the Purebred Dairy Cattle show may enter Dairy Cattle showmanship classes using the Showman app at the time of check-in of their animals at the show.

Registered heifers and cows are not eligible for the Commercial Dairy Heifer and Cow Shows, respectively.

Competition is limited to registered dairy females of the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, and Red and White breeds owned by youth residing in Mississippi who are 8–18 years of age as of January 1 of the current show year. If any purebred dairy breed does not have 10 or more animals exhibited for two consecutive years, that breed will be shown in an Other Dairy Cattle Breeds category.

Registration Certificates

Each purebred animal must be accompanied by a registration certificate showing ownership by junior exhibitor and recorded in the junior's name no later than September 1, 2026 (for Fair) and/or December 1, 2026 (for DNJR) for animals to show. However, for the 2026 Fair and 2027 DNJR, there can be a signed affidavit by the current owner, exhibitor, exhibitor's parents or guardian, and Extension agent/agricultural education teacher that confirms the exhibitor is in possession and has ownership of the animal for the purpose of showing at any Mississippi Junior Dairy Show for the dates recorded on the affidavit. All other rules concerning possession, housing, and care of the animal still apply as per DNJR rules and regulations. A copy of the affidavit and registration certificate must be sent to ADS by the ownership deadline referenced above in the Dairy Cattle Division section.

For registered animals with a dual registry in multiple breed associations, once the animal has been nominated for exhibition in one breed through the Mississippi 4-H/FFA Livestock Program, it may not show in another breed regardless of other registration certificates. Animal registration information will be verified electronically before the Fair and DNJR with the nominated breed association only.

- Dairy cattle in the purebred show must be checked in according to the dates/times listed in the Dairy Cattle Division Section above.

Refer to original show rules regarding pending Dairy Cattle registration.

Order of Show

- Holstein
- Jersey
- Other Dairy Cattle Breeds (included purebred animals of the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn, and Red and White Dairy Cattle breeds).

Classes Offered at 2026 Mississippi State Fair

- Spring Heifer Calf – March 1–May 31, 2026
- Winter Heifer Calf – December 1, 2025–February 28, 2026
- Fall Heifer Calf – September 1–November 30, 2025
- Summer Yearling Heifer – June 1–August 31, 2025
- Spring Yearling Heifer – March 1–May 31, 2025
- Winter Yearling Heifer – December 1, 2023–February 28, 2025
- Fall Yearling Heifer – September 1–November 30, 2024
- Junior Champion – Highest rated animal from classes 1–7, Rosette.
- Reserve Junior Champion – Second highest rated animal from classes 1–7, Rosette.
- Junior, 2 Years Old – March 1–August 31, 2024
- Senior, 2 Years Old – September 1, 2023–February 29, 2024
- Cows, 3 Years Old – September 1, 2022–August 31, 2023
- Cows, 4 Years Old – September 1, 2021–August 31, 2022
- Cows, 5 Years Old and Over – born before September 1, 2021
- Senior Champion – Highest rated animal from classes 10–14, Rosette.
- Reserve Senior Champion – Second highest rated animal from classes 10–14, Rosette.
- Grand Champion – Highest rated animal from classes 8 and 15, Banner.

- Reserve Grand Champion – Second highest rated animal from classes 8 and 15, Banner.
- County Herd – six registered animals of the same breed, any age, owned by one or more Junior Show exhibitors from the same county. Herds will not receive less than \$30 for Blue and \$20 for Red. White herds will not receive premium.
- There will be separate breed classes and championships. No championship will be awarded unless there is competition between classes.

Classes Offered at 2027 Dixie National Junior Round-Up

- Fall Heifer Calf – September 1–November 30, 2026
- Summer Yearling Heifer – June 1–August 31, 2026
- Spring Yearling Heifer – March 1–May 31, 2026
- Winter Yearling Heifer – December 1, 2025–February 28, 2026
- Fall Yearling Heifer – September 1–November 30, 2025
- Summer Yearling Heifer – June 1–August 31, 2025
- Spring Yearling Heifer – March 1–May 31, 2025
- Junior Champion – Highest rated animal from classes 1–7, Rosette.
- Reserve Junior Champion – Second highest rated animal from classes 1–7, Rosette.
- Junior, 2 Years Old – September 1, 2024–February 28, 2025
- Senior, 2 Years Old – March 1–August 31, 2024
- Cows, 3 Years Old – March 1, 2023–February 29, 2024
- Cows, 4 Years Old – March 1, 2022–February 28, 2023
- Cows, 5 Years Old and Over – born before March 1, 2022
- Senior Champion – Highest rated animal from classes 10–14, Rosette.
- Reserve Senior Champion – Second highest rated animal from classes 10–14, Rosette.
- Grand Champion – Highest rated animal from classes 8 and 15, Banner.
- Reserve Grand Champion – Second highest rated animal from classes 8 and 15, Banner.
- County Herd – six registered animals of the same breed, any age, owned by one or more Junior Show exhibitors from the same county. Herds will not receive less than \$30 for Blue and \$20 for Red. White herds will not receive premium.
- There will be separate breed classes and championships. No championship will be awarded unless there is competition between classes.

Notes

Notes

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