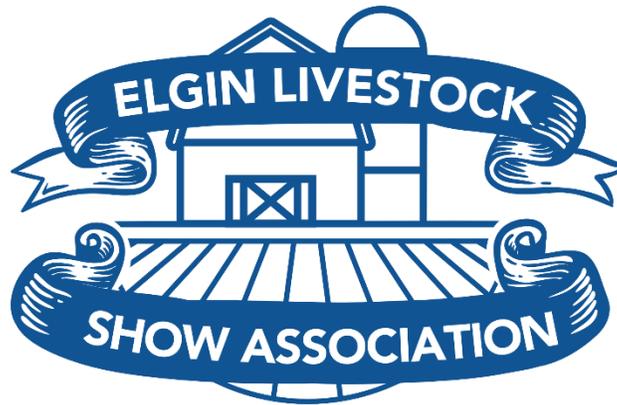


ELGIN YOUTH FAIR

2025-2026

RULES



“Learning to Work, Working to Succeed”

PO Box 1056

Elgin, Texas 78621

<https://bastrop.agrilife.org/bcjs/>

Youth Fair Chairperson: Debby Fisher

YOUTH FAIR - ENTRIES / ELIGIBILITY

1. **ENTRY PROCEDURE / DEADLINE:** All entries must be turned in on or before **November 3, 2025** or mailed to **Elgin Youth Fair, c/o ELSA, P.O. Box 1056, Elgin, TX 78621** postmarked by **November 3, 2025**. A verification email will be sent to the email address that was provided on the entry form. If you do not receive a verification email, your entry is not confirmed.
2. **ENTRY FEES:**
 - a. Little Wranglers Division - \$3/Entry
 - b. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions - \$5/Entry
3. **NUMBER OF ENTRIES:** Each exhibitor will be permitted to enter a maximum of five (5) entries, with no more than one entry per category.
4. **NO REFUNDS:** No refunds of entry fees will be made.
5. **AGE DIVISIONS:** Exhibitors will be divided into four (4) divisions determined by grade:
 - a. Little Wranglers – Grades K-2 (NOT eligible for auction)
 - b. Juniors – Grades 3-5
 - c. Intermediate – Grades 6-8
 - d. Seniors – Grades 9-12
6. **ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible to participate, exhibitors must be enrolled or eligible to be enrolled in Bastrop County ISD and be an active member of Bastrop County FFA or FCCLA; or must be enrolled in a Bastrop County 4-H club no later than Oct 31st of the current year.
 - a. Exhibitors must pass all classes during the previous grading period prior to participation in the Youth Fair in accordance with the current Texas Legislative Rulings. This will be checked by the FFA Advisor, FCCLA Advisor, or County Extension Agent/4-H group leader.
 - b. Exhibitors must be members of the Elgin Livestock Show Association by November 1, 2023. The website has membership information/form: <https://bastrop.agrilife.org/bcils/>
 - c. The membership form is also attached.
7. **PROJECT CHECK-IN:** Elgin VFW #6115, **Friday January 9, 2025, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
 - a. All entries MUST have completed Youth Fair entry forms on file. PLEASE SEE GENERAL RULES, ITEM #1 FOR ENTRY FORM INFORMATION.
 - b. Project worksheets must accompany each project at check-in. PLEASE SEE GENERAL RULES, ITEM #6 FOR PROJECT WORKSHEET INFORMATION.
8. **EXHIBIT AREA:** Exhibit area will be closed for judging beginning at 9:00 a.m. until notice is given that judging is complete. The exhibit area will open up for viewing of the projects at 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Friday.
9. **PROJECTS:** All projects must be handmade by exhibitor under adult supervision. Finished projects may not be store bought, but may be made from kits. All projects must be completely done, dry, and ready for use BEFORE check-in. Entries with damp grout, wet paint, wet stain, or strong odor will not be accepted.

YOUTH FAIR - GENERAL RULES

1. **PROJECT ENTRY FORM:** Official entry forms are included in this packet. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to make copies as needed. Entries must include exhibitors name, cell phone number, parent's name and cell phone number, home address, organization name (FFA Chapter or 4-H Club), email address (required), a category must be claimed, and an age division must be circled. If you are not sure what you will submit, that is ok, however it must be in the category you chose at time of entry.

2. **PROJECT QUALIFICATIONS:**
 - a. Projects that have been released back to the exhibitor by the Committee from the Elgin Youth Fair cannot be re-entered in the Elgin Youth Fair in the following years.
 - b. All projects not sold in the country store or auction **MUST** be checked out Friday evening or Saturday after the sale. The checkout slip must be submitted to the front desk / show officials.
 - c. All projects must be individual projects. Group projects are not submissible.

3. **CATEGORIES:**
 - a. There are FOUR categories for LITTLE WRANGLERS (Kinder – 2nd grades – not eligible for auction)
 - i. BAKED AND PRESERVED FOODS
 - ii. ARTS, CRAFTS OR TEXTILES
 - iii. PHOTOGRAPHY
 - iv. WOODWORKING
 - b. There are FOUR categories for JUNIORS (3rd – 5th grades)
 - i. BAKED AND PRESERVED FOODS
 - ii. ARTS, CRAFTS OR TEXTILES
 - iii. PHOTOGRAPHY
 - iv. WOODWORKING
 - c. There are FIVE categories for INTERMEDIATES (6th – 8th grades)
 - i. BAKED AND PRESERVED FOODS
 - ii. ARTS, CRAFTS, OR TEXTILES
 - iii. PHOTOGRAPHY
 - iv. WOODWORKING
 - v. METAL FAB & WELDING
 - d. There are SIX categories for SENIORS (9TH – 12TH grades)
 - i. BAKED AND PRESERVED FOODS
 - ii. ARTS, CRAFTS, OR TEXTILES
 - iii. PHOTOGRAPHY
 - iv. SMALL WOODWORKING
 - v. LARGE WOODWORKING
 - vi. METAL FAB & WELDING
 - e. Questions arising in category of entries will be resolved by the Youth Fair Committee. Entries must be appropriate for the age division/category entered and must meet all special rules pertaining to the age division/category or it will be disqualified.

- f. At the Youth Fair Committee's discretion, Elgin Youth Fair reserves the right to combine and/or divide or change any categories of a project for more competitive judging and/or to meet the category criteria. Age groups will not be combined. Decision of Youth Fair Committee is final. You may NOT change category of an item at check-in.
4. **SAFETY:** All projects shall meet safety standards and electrical codes. Failure to comply shall result in the disqualification of the project
5. **ANIMALS:** NO LIVE ANIMALS
6. **PROJECT WORKSHEETS:** Each Junior, Intermediate and Senior exhibitor (Little Wranglers do not need to fill out any paperwork except the 1st page with the country store price) shall prepare a written project worksheet of his/her entry, which shall be submitted with the project at the time of entry. Project worksheets are worth 25% in judging each project. Project worksheets are included in this packet.
7. **PROJECT WORKSHEETS GUIDELINES –**
 - a. The project worksheets must be neatly written by the exhibitor and submitted ONLY on the Official Youth Fair project worksheet forms provided in this packet. No other pages may be attached. DO NOT TYPE YOUR PAPERWORK. DO NOT USE ANY OTHER FORMS OR FORMATS. DO NOT INCLUDE THE EXHIBITORS NAME ANYWHERE ON THE PAPERWORK OR ANY ITEMS.
 - b. **Photographs of work may be attached and included in a 3 ring binder. The child's silhouette must be in the photos. The exhibitor should not be able to be readily identified in the photo. (NEW)**
 - c. A complete recipe must be included for all entries in the Baked Goods and Preserved Foods.
 - d. The worksheets must be complete and turned in with the project at check-in.
8. **COUNTRY STORE:** Exhibitors are offered an opportunity to sell non-auction selling entries through the Elgin Youth Fair Country Store. All projects that you intend to sell must have a country store price UPON CHECK IN. Items may be purchased by the public through the Country Store beginning on Friday, January 9th, 2026 between 4 pm through 6 pm And again on Saturday January 10th at 9 am till closing (TO BE ANNOUNCED). Any project not claimed at the close of the country store will become the property of Elgin Youth Fair. NO EXCEPTIONS.
9. **RIBBONS, AWARDS AND PRIZES:** Projects will be awarded a First, Second, and Third place ribbon in each category. Rosettes will be awarded for Grand and Reserve in each age division (with the exception of Little Wranglers who will be awarded a participation ribbon).
 - a. The Grand and Reserve of the Category Winners in the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age groups will go to auction.
 - b. If an exhibitor is top ranking in more than one category, only their highest declared

Country Store value project will go to auction.

- c. The next highest placing category item will move up to auction.
- d. **If there are 10 or more exhibitors in one age group, the judge will allow for a judge's choice for an additional auction placement. (NEW)**

10. **AUCTION:** Exhibitors MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE AUCTION. Extreme circumstance substitutions will only be allowed at the discretion of the Youth Fair Committee.

11. **FUNDS:** In order to receive funds, participants MUST meet the requirements below:

- a. Paid Membership by October 6, 2025 and be an active member
- b. Sell one (1) fundraising ticket OR gain a sponsorship
- c. Attend VFW Hall Set Up or Clean Up
- d. Complete Thank You Letters

12. **THANK YOU NOTES:** ALL EXHIBITORS are required to submit thank you notes to the Youth Fair Committee. HANDWRITTEN thank you notes to each of their buyers and any premium fund contributors. You will receive your buyer's information by email. It is your responsibility to make sure the email address you use is checked regularly. The thank you notes must be submitted complete with an addressed and stamped envelope. The thank you notes should be turned into an ELSA Officer, FFA Advisor, 4-H Agent/Group Leader OR mailed in a larger brown envelope to:

Elgin Youth
Fair c/o
ELSA
P.O. Box 1056
Elgin, Texas 78621

- a. In order for exhibitors to receive their funds, the thank you notes MUST be postmarked TWO WEEKS AFTER you receive the list of buyers that was emailed to you.
- b. If the thank you cards can not be delivered to one of the people listed above, then they must be mailed to the ELSA address above. DO NOT mail your thank you cards directly to the buyers.
- c. The exhibitor will also need to sign (or have a representative sign) to obtain their check. This is for tracking purposes and to secure that the exhibitor received their funds.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

BAKED AND PRESERVED FOODS

GENERAL RULES:

1. ABSOLUTELY NO ITEMS THAT REQUIRE REFRIGERATION ARE ALLOWED.

Examples: cream cheese fillings, cream cheese icing, cheesecakes, flan, custards, puddings, pies with pudding or meringues.

2. Unless it is BAKED into the entry, no entry may contain perishable foods such as meringue, eggs, custard, pudding, cream cheese, whipped cream, milk, butter, canned fruit or fresh fruit.
3. Cakes should be in a container that is translucent and easily accessible.
4. If pecans are used, they must be cleaned.
5. All canned foods must be processed in mason jars with unbroken seals (paraffin seals are not acceptable). All dried foods must be in moisture and vapor proof bags.
6. ALL BAKED OR PRESERVED FOODS MUST HAVE A SEPARATE SAMPLE PLATE OR JAR OR PACKET FOR TASTING.
7. All food items become the property of Elgin Youth Fair upon Check-in and no portion of the project or its container will be returned to the exhibitor. **No jars, containers, or plates will be returned.**
8. All entries that include a boxed cake mix, canned icing, and/or pre-made pie crusts must be listed as an ingredient on the recipe form.
9. Baked items that show obvious signs of spoilage before judging will be disqualified by the judge. It is the judge's decision whether to taste an entry or not.
10. A complete recipe must be attached to your project worksheet on an official Elgin Youth Fair Recipe Form.
11. One recipe sheet should be submitted for each part of your recipe (for example: one form for the cake recipe and another form for the frosting recipe).

CRITERIA:

Judges' criteria will include, but may not be limited to the following:

I.	Project Worksheet	25 pts
II.	Taste	30 pts
III.	Texture	15 pts
IV.	Technique	13 pts
V.	Appearance	7 pts
VI.	Quality	5 pts
VII.	Color	5 pts

Total points = 100 pts

BAKED FOODS EXAMPLES:

- *Cakes*
- *Bar Cookies/Brownies (minimum of 12 per plate PLUS extras on a sampling plate)*
- *Other Cookies (minimum of 12 per plate PLUS extras on a sampling plate)*
- *Candies (minimum of 12 per plate PLUS extras on a sampling plate)*
- *Pies*
- *Yeast Breads*
- *Fruit or Nut Quick Breads*
- *Novelties (must be made and edible - examples: lollipops, gingerbread houses, etc.)*
- *Decorated Cakes*
- *Cobblers*

PRESERVED FOODS EXAMPLES:

**** The judges will be the ones to pop the seal on the sample, so 2 sealed jars are required**

- *Jellies, Jams, Marmalades & Preserves (1/2 pint or 1 pint size SEALED jar)*
- *Salsa/Pepper Sauce (1/2 pint or 1 pint size SEALED jar)*
- *Pickled Vegetables (1 pint or 1 quart size SEALED jar)*
- *Fruit/Fruit Salsa (1 pint or 1 quart size SEALED jar)*
- *Dried Foods, including jerky (No Wild Game) – Each entry must have 3 pieces for judging*

ART, TEXTILE, AND CRAFT

GENERAL RULES:

Artworks on stretch canvas (canvas which is backed by a wooden frame) must be no larger than 16"x20" and have finished painted edges. No signatures may be visible.

CRITERIA:

Judges' criteria for ART will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

I. Project Worksheet	25 pts
II. Use of Color	20 pts
III. Technique	20 pts
IV. Originality	20 pts
V. Contrast/Depth	15 pts

Total points = 100 pts

CRITERIA:

Judges' criteria for TEXTILES or CRAFTS will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

I. Project Worksheet	25pts
II. Originality	15 pts
III. Workmanship	15 pts
IV. Quality	15 pts
V. Appearance	15 pts
VI. Complexity	15 pts

Total points = 100 pts

ART EXAMPLES:

- *Color drawings may use one of the following: Pencil, chalk pastels or oil pastels.*
- *Black and white drawings may use one of the following: Charcoal, ink or pencil.*
- *Mixed Media - A technique involving the use of two or more artistic media that are combined into a single composition. Acceptable media: pencil, chalk pastels, oil pastels, collage, ink, marker, crayon and paint.*
- *Original Sculpture (clay, plaster, Paper Mache, etc.)*
- *Paintings, oil or acrylic*
- *Painting, tempera- water colors or gouache*
- *Recycled Trash to Art*

TEXTILE AND CRAFT EXAMPLES:

- *Constructed Garments, with or without embellishments*
- *Accessories (belts, scarves, button covers, etc.)*

- *Quilting*
- *Stuffed Animals/Stuffed Dolls (Sewn by Exhibitor)*
- *Pillows*
- *Needle Work*
- *Artistic Arrangements (not limited to artificial flowers; no fresh flowers)*
- *Jewelry & Beads – must be mounted on display board*
- *Lamps (All lamps must be in working order and include light bulb. Lamp will be tested by the judge.)*
- *Wreaths (No Live Plants – provide a hanging loop or door hanger for display)*
- *Stained/etched glass*
- *Mosaics (All grout must be completely dry BEFORE check-in. Entries with damp grout and strong odor will not be accepted.)*

PHOTOGRAPHY

GENERAL RULES:

1. Any photography must be matted or mounted on foam board. All mats/foam board must be black and measure 11X14 inches.
2. NO project may be **framed** in any manner.
3. Nothing extra may be glued to the photo.
4. Please indicate on project worksheet 1 what type of equipment you used to capture your photo.
5. All photographs must be taken by the exhibitor within the previous calendar year and measure 8 x 10 inches.

CRITERIA:

Judge's criteria for Photography will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| I. Project Worksheet | 25 pts |
| II. Originality/Imagination | 20 pts |
| III. Appropriate use of Lighting | 15 pts |
| IV. Color | 15 pts |
| V. Focus | 15 pts |
| VI. Composition | 10 pts |

Total Points = 100 pts.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXAMPLES:

- *Landscape, Flora, or Scenic – Black & White*
- *People – Black and White*
- *Animals or Wildlife – Black & White*
- *Landscape, Flora, or Scenic – Color*
- *People – Color*
- *Animals or Wildlife – Color*

WOODWORKING

GENERAL RULES:

1. The majority of the project must be wood and constructed from raw material to qualify for these classes. If the need arises, the Youth Fair Committee will make the final decision which category the project should be in.
2. Items in this category will be judged on wood craftsmanship.
3. Only **natural finishes** will be accepted (stains or clear finish) – no glazing or painting will be accepted (to allow for the judges to see the woodworking project craftsmanship).

CRITERIA:

Judges' criteria will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

I.	Project Worksheet	25 pts
II.	Craftsmanship	25 pts
III.	Originality	15 pts
IV.	Technique	15 pts
V.	Complexity	10 pts
VI.	Design	10 pts

Total points = 100 pts

WOODWORKING EXAMPLES:

- **Small** *Tabletop Accessories/Decorative Items (Examples: Cutting board, writing pen, jewelry box, candle holder, clock, lamp, lazy Susan, shelf hat rack, mailbox, bird house/feeder, display case, etc.)*
- **Large** *Accessories (Examples: Wooden Furniture: Picnic table, swing, play house, patio set, chair armoire, gun cabinet, bed, etc. or chest, tack box, plant stand, bookcase, stool, bench, hall tree, etc.)*

METAL FAB AND WELDING

GENERAL RULES:

1. The majority of the project must be metal and constructed from raw material to qualify for these classes. If the need arises, the Youth Fair Committee will make the final decision which category the project should be in.
2. Bill of materials must include a description of material, including quantity, size and cost. Job log of hours spent working on project must be included.
3. Each exhibitor must submit a Skills Form explaining what skills they learned or mastered while creating this project.

CRITERIA:

Judges' criteria will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

I.	Project Worksheet	25 pts
II.	Craftsmanship	25 pts
III.	Originality	15 pts
IV.	Technique	15 pts
V.	Complexity	10 pts
VI.	Design	10 pts

Total points = 100 pts

METAL FAB AND WELDING EXAMPLES:

- *Agricultural Machinery and Equipment (hay hauling equipment, spraying equipment, hydraulic equipment, shop equipment, mounted or pull-type tractor equipment, electrical shop equipment)*
- *Pick-up and ATV Equipment (bumpers, headache racks, grill guards, pick-up or truck flat beds)*
- *Metal furniture (picnic table, patio furniture, beds, plant stands)*
- *Livestock Handling (gate and livestock panels, squeeze chutes and restraining equipment, trim chutes, blocking stands, livestock crates and head gates, creep and self-feeders, electrical livestock or wildlife equipment, bits or spurs) Trailers*
- *Wildlife Equipment (feeders and stands)*
- *Barbeque Pits (trailer mounted or stationary)*

LITTLE WRANGLER EXAMPLES

**NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AUCTION*

- *Cupcakes and Muffins (minimum of 12 per plate PLUS extras on a sampling plate)*
- *Drop Cookies (minimum of 12 per plate PLUS extras on a sampling plate)*
- *Plaster Craft/Paper Mache*
- *Paintings (finger painting, tempera, etc.)*
- *Drawings (crayons, pencils, markers, etc.)*
- *Decorated T-Shirts*
- *Toys/Structures (Lego's, Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs, Bird house, signs, etc.)*
- *Loom Weaving (Potholders, etc.)*
- *Clay/Dough Sculptures*

ELGIN YOUTH FAIR - 2025-2026 ENTRY FORM
(One Entry Form per Category entered)

ENTRY COST: Little Wrangler - \$3.00 per entry
Junior, Intermediate, Senior - \$5.00 per entry

ENTRIES DUE: Must be postmarked on or before **November 3, 2025. NO LATE ENTRIES.**

EXHIBITOR NAME: _____

CELL PHONE #: _____ **HOME PHONE #:** _____

PARENT'S NAME: _____

PARENT'S CELL PHONE #: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

**REQUIRED – For entry verification*

T-SHIRT SIZE (Exhibitors Only): YOUTH - XS S M L XL ADULT: S M L XL

CATEGORY OF ITEM: _____

**REQUIRED – May NOT change category at time of check-in*

ORGANIZATION (CIRCLE): 4H FFA FCCLA **ORGANIZATION CITY:** _____

ADVISOR/LEADER: _____

AGE DIVISION

(circle)

LITTLE WRANGLER

JUNIOR

INTERMEDIATE

SENIOR

K - 2ND

3RD - 5TH

6TH - 8TH

9TH - 12TH

(Committee Use Only)

Entry # _____