

SCRAMBLE HEIFER RULES (revised 8/09)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Walker County Fair Association will not be responsible for any accidents which may occur to any participant in the Calf Scramble; before, during, or after the scramble.
2. The Walker County Fair Calf Scramble will be open to Walker County 4-H and FFA members.
3. There will be two Calf Scrambles, one on Friday night and one on Saturday night. Equal number of 4-H and FFA participants will be selected at a drawing to determine which night they will scramble. The Calf Scramble Committee reserves the right to make alterations based upon the number of participants that are signed up.
4. Every participant will be required to present a completed Minor's Release. **Incomplete Minor's Release will not be accepted.** There must be two adult witnesses to the signing of the release by the parents of the boy or girl. Both parents must sign the release. If the parents are divorced, or if one parent is deceased, one signature will be sufficient, but a notation of the divorce or decease must be made.
5. Participants will be carefully selected by Walker County Vocational Agriculture teachers, County Extension Agents, and the Calf Scramble Committee. Absolutely no submissions will be made in the participants list after they are received and approved by the Walker County Calf Scramble Committee.
6. After minors' releases have been checked by the Walker County Fair Calf Scramble Committee, each contestant will be notified of acceptance as a participant and the date and time he/she is to participate in the Calf Scramble.
7. Participants who report to the Calf Scramble must be in good physical condition. Any participant appearing with broken limbs or other evidence of previous injury will be automatically disqualified, and the first alternate will be substituted.
8. Should a participant in the Calf Scramble fail to catch a calf because of unusual or extenuating circumstances and then be awarded an animal by some member of the audience, that participant must care for the animal under the Calf Scramble Rules, and the donor will become a Calf Scramble sponsor.
9. No contestant will be permitted to participate in more than one Calf Scramble in any one year in which he/she catches a calf during the Walker County Fair Calf Scramble.
10. A contestant that is successful as a 4-H affiliated participant is eligible to participate again under the auspices of FFA. However, should a participant be home schooled or attend a private institution (grades 9-12) which does not offer FFA affiliation, they ay participate a second time under 4-H affiliation. Successful participants are limited to showing a heifer twice under this program.
11. For purposes of breeding animals won in Walker County Fair Calf Scramble, selection will be made of the best registered bulls available, and artificial insemination will be encouraged.
12. Classes shall be evenly divided as practical dependent upon the final weight records at check-in time for the Walker County Fair. Classes shall be established by commencing with the lightest heifer to begin the light weight class and progressing upward to a point to commence the medium weight and ultimately the heavy weight class. **Each class shall be judged and the top two (2) animals from each class shall be judged against each other for determination of the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Awards.**

Criteria for Selection of 4-H ad FFA Contestants to Participate in the Walker County Fair Calf Scramble.

1. A participant must have reached his/her 12th birthday, but not the 19th birthday, by opening day of the fair of Scramble Participation. All 18 year olds must have no more than a junior classification in school at the time of actual Scramble Participation.
2. A participant's minimum weight should be 100 pounds.
3. A contestant must be an active, dependable 4-H or FFA member, properly enrolled.

4. A participant must be definitely interested in beef production.
5. Parents must be interested in the contestant's owning a beef heifer and agree to support him/her in the project.
6. Contestants must have adequate pen, shade, water and feeding facilities available.
7. Contestants must have sufficient pasture for a breeding animal.
8. The contestant must be able to feed and care for the calf the length of time prescribed by the Walker County Fair Scramble Committee.
9. Contestants must be able to provide sufficient feed, or be able to raise the feed needed.
10. Contestants and the parents must agree to comply with all of the rules of the Calf Scramble Committee and the Walker County Fair Association. The following questions will be taken into consideration by Vocational Agriculture Teachers and/or County Extension Agents when making the selection of contestants to participate in the Walker County Fair Calf Scramble.
 - a. Does the contestant have suitable facilities for caring for and developing a heifer, and are you relatively sure that the participant and his/her parents will remain living where they are for the duration of this project?
 - b. Does he/she have a real desire to own and show an animal?
 - c. Will the contestant still be in high school next year and be eligible to compete in the Walker County Fair Association Livestock Show?
 - d. Is the contestant the type of person who would devote attention to the calf in an effort to bring an animal to the following year's show in which the candidate, the sponsor, the supervisor, and the Calf Scramble Committee will take pride?
 - e. Are the parents willing (and will grades allow the contestant) to permit the contestant to spend time away from other activities to bring the calf to the following year's show and care for it at the County Fair?
 - f. Would he/she be conscientious in participating in the necessary progress shows?

Arena Rules

1. Contestants and calves will be placed in the arena as directed by the Arena Director.
2. Contestants will take into the arena a rope halter which will be supplied by the Calf Scramble Committee. This halter cannot be used as a lariat, but must be placed upon the head of the animal in the usual way. (It is suggested that prior to participation in the Calf Scramble, the Supervisors instruct all contestants in the proper use of a rope halter and how to place it upon the head of a calf.)
3. At no time will a contestant be permitted to tie the rope halter to his body or belt.
4. Each contestant will attempt to catch and halter one of the calves released. Any contestant catching a calf will be required to lead it across the finish line without aid.
5. If a contestant has a hold on a calf, no other contestant will be allowed to touch the calf unless it breaks away.
6. If a contestant catches a calf by the tail, he/she will be given a reasonable time to work around to the head; otherwise the referee will order the contestant to free the calf.
7. If two or more contestants catch the same calf, the calf will be turned loose.
8. A contestant who secures and properly halters a calf and leads it across the finish line will be declared a winner when so indicated by a referee.
9. Undue roughness will not be tolerated by the referee. Poor sportsmanship will automatically disqualify any contestant.
10. The Walker County Fair Calf Scramble will be refereed by a group of not fewer than four (4) referees.

University Interscholastic League Ruling

The University Interscholastic League State Executive Committee, in cooperation with the State Board of Vocational Education, has formulated the following model for the Calf Scramble Rules which permits the event, but still protects the participant's amateur standing. This is done to prohibit the participants from receiving anything of cash value for winning in the athletic part of the program. A participant shall not receive rewards of any kind for participating in the calf scramble. In addition, the

Walker County Fair Association has implemented the following rules based upon recommendations of the University Interscholastic League.

1. Title to an animal received in a Calf Scramble will not pass to the contestant catching the calf until he/she has demonstrated, under competent supervision, interest in caring for the animal and ability to follow competent instructions in feeding, grooming and showing the animal. Before title is transferred to the participant, the animal must be entered for exhibit at the next year's County Fair unless circumstances making this impractical are approved by the Calf Scramble Committee, the Sponsor, and the Supervisor. (For illustration; the animal may prove to be unsuitable for the project due to deformity, disease, or other unforeseen reasons.)
2. Animals received in a Calf Scramble will not be sold, traded, or disposed of except by consent of the Calf Scramble Committee of the Walker County Fair Association, the Sponsor, and the Supervisor. Under no circumstances will a "**FOR SALE**" sign be displayed while the animal is being exhibited at the County Fair.
3. Monthly progress reports shall be submitted to the Calf Scramble Committee, the Sponsor, and the Supervisor.
4. Special awards may be given to these animals when they are exhibited in competition with other animals, and all award money derived from the sale of the animals will belong to the participant as a reward for his labor, feed, veterinary expenses, insurance, and other costs, after the year's project has been completed and the calf shown at the Walker County Fair.

Responsibilities and Obligations of Calf Scramble Winners

1. Winners must exhibit their animals at the following year's Walker County Fair.
2. All mail received from the Calf Scramble Committee should be read promptly and the contents shared with the supervising County Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher.
3. Calf Scramble Winners and sponsors will assemble at the Walker County Fairgrounds on the third Saturday in October at 3 PM at which time the heifers shall be weighed and awarded to the participants by a random drawing.
4. Five progress shows will be held at approximate intervals of 28-30 days, and **it is mandatory that all five be attended.** (Excused absences of the participant only may be granted due to extenuating circumstances.) The first show will be held 28-30 days after the animals are received. **CALF SCRAMBLE WINNERS MUST WEIGH THEIR ANIMAL AT ALL FIVE PROGRESS SHOWS AND THE ACTUAL SCRAMBLE SHOW AT THE WALKER COUNTY FAIR. Failure to participate may result in the return of the animal to the Donor, with no further obligation to the Donor.**
5. Each winner should strive to do such a good job with his/her calf that the people who make the Calf Scramble Program possible will want to continue in it in succeeding years. **IN ORDER TO DO A GOOD JOB, WINNERS SHOULD KEEP AN ACCURATE RECORD OF EVERYTHING THEY DO AND:**
 - a. Enter on a calendar any unusual occurrences.
 - b. Record a monthly summary in a record book.
 - c. **Write a personal letter each month to the Sponsor.** Include such ideas as your feelings about the program. How you are enjoying what you are doing, and any unusual happenings occurring during the month. Be sure and send photographs periodically to show its progress. Failure to correspond with your Donor **each month** may result in the return of the animal to the Donor, with no further obligation to the Donor.
 - d. Attach to the personal letter to the Sponsor the following:
 - i. Pictures taken during the month.
 - ii. Records on the calf.
6. All Calf Scramble winners must be available for the cleanup following the County Fair in which their heifers are shown.
7. If a recipient moves out of Walker County before completion of the Program of Progress Shows, the calf will be returned to the sponsor with no further obligation to the sponsor.
8. **CALF SCRAMBLE WINNERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CALF SCRAMBLE**

TOP HAND AWARD:

- a. The Top Hand Award will be presented to the individual with the highest total point score.
 - b. For Top Hand, judges will score showmanship, records, and management. A sum of all judges' scores will be the basis of each progress show's total points. Five Progress Shows will constitute the program for point accumulation.
 - c. All five Progress Shows are mandatory. Excused absences may be granted due to extenuating circumstances. If a participant attends all of the Progress Shows, the lowest score will be dropped to achieve the final score.
 - i. 1st Progress Show – 3rd Saturday in November
 - ii. 2nd Progress Show – 3rd Saturday in December
 - iii. 3rd Progress Show – 3rd Saturday in January
 - iv. 4th Progress Show – 3rd Saturday in February
 - v. 5th Progress Show – Date to be announced
 - d. Participants will weigh their heifers and participate in progress shows according to the format that will be explained at each show. **FAILURE TO WEIGH-IN WILL CONSTITUTE NON-PERFORMANCE IN THAT PROGRESS SHOW.**
 - e. The Top Hand Award will consist of a cash prize to be determined by the Committee, annually, to be divided as follows:
 - i. 1st Place – 50% of Total Cash
 - ii. 2nd Place – 30% of Total Cash
 - iii. 3rd Place – 20% of Total Cash
 - iv. Each of these places will receive a trophy. The winners will be announced at the conclusion of the Scramble Heifer Show.
9. A **"Most Improved Award"** award will consist of a trophy to be presented to the individual who shows the greatest degree of improvement in showmanship, records, and management over the term of the progress show.

Sponsor's Responsibilities

1. Donate a beef heifer of his choice, weighing approximately 500 pounds at a time to be designated by the Calf Scramble Committee following the Walker County Fair Calf Scramble in which they participate as a Sponsor.
2. Have a calf delivered to a designated location for pre-conditioning at a designated date no later than two weeks prior to distribution of the heifers to the Calf Scramble Winners. This will allow for weaning, dehorning, and vaccination for bangs, blackleg, malignant edema, and shipping fever before delivery to the Calf Scramble Winners, all of whom will receive their heifers at the same time.