

OFFICIAL 2026 CLARK COUNTY FAIR CALF SCRAMBLE RULES

Sponsored by the Clark County Agricultural Society and Contributors

Fair Board Committee Members in Charge:

Greg Kaffenbarger, Stuart Waddle, Andy Eberhard, Justin Mattern, Brian Waddle, Levi Kimley, Emily Bumgardner, Todd Bumgardner

The Clark County Agricultural Society, Vocational Agriculture Departments, OSU Extension - Clark County and the Committees in Charge will not be responsible for any accidents connected with this event.

2026 Applicant Rules:

1. Qualifications:

- A. Must be boys between the ages of 14-18. Must have reached his 14th birthday by July 24, 2026, and not reached his 19th birthday by December 31, 2026. **Qualifications on age 18 – he must have one year of high school to complete after the fair and be age eligible to enroll as a 4-H or FFA member to participate in Junior Fair.**
- B. Be interested in cattle feeding.
- C. Be reliable and trustworthy.
- D. Must be able to feed and care for the calf from **September Scramble calf pick up until 2027 Fair Scramble animal release at the Fair.**
- E. Currently carrying a 4-H or FFA project.
- F. Must designate in which youth organization (4-H or FFA) the scramble calf project will be enrolled in the following year.
- G. Must submit an on-line application with a an 1800-2250-character essay (**300-350 words**) on “*Why I Would like to participate in the Calf Scramble*” **no later than midnight on June 1, 2026.** Application includes digital acknowledgement of rules and minor release agreement by the applicant and his parents/legal guardians. Click on the QR code or go to **<https://go.osu.edu/2026clarkcofaircalfscrambleapplication>** to complete the on-line form.
- H. Must include a Letter of Recommendation from an adult that is a non-immediate family member that shares how the applicant’s experience and support network can successfully care for a scramble steer. **Letter of recommendation may be e-mailed to Laura Sharp, laura@clarkcoag.com mailed to the Clark County Ag. Society, 4401 S. Charleston Rd., Springfield, OH 45502 and must be received by close of business on June 1, 2026.**



2. **Previous Participants:** If you caught a calf in a past scramble, you may apply again after one year of setting out. All other eligibility requirements must be met. Applicants who have not caught a calf will be given priority in the selection process.

3. Attire Requirements and Restrictions:

- A. Boys must wear a football helmet. Helmets must be provided by the contestant’s parents/legal guardians.
- B. Boys must wear sweatshirts provided by the Scramble Committee.
- C. Heavy boots or “clodhoppers” are recommended to be worn. Football shoes **CAN NOT** be worn.
- D. Body piercing jewelry **CAN NOT** be worn during the scramble contest.

4. Equipment Used by Participants in the Arena During the Calf Scramble Contest:

- A. Boys will be supplied with a rope halter to take into the arena.
- B. Halter cannot be used as a lariat. Halter must be placed on head of the animal in the proper way to lead a calf.
- C. Boys **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED** at any time during the contest to tie the rope to his own body, his belt or clothing.

5. Calf Scramble Contest Procedures:

- A. Boys and calves will be placed in the arena as directed by the Arena Director.
- B. If a boy has hold of a calf, no other boy will be allowed to touch the calf until it breaks away.
- C. If a boy catches the calf by the tail, he shall be given a reasonable amount of time (approximately 30 seconds) to work to the calf’s head, otherwise, the referee will order him to let go of the calf.
- D. If two or more boys catch the same calf, the calf will be let loose.
- E. Boys will secure and properly halter a calf and lead him into the winner’s circle without aid. He will be a winner when determined by the referee.
- F. Boys will not be permitted to hold a calf down or lead a calf by putting fingers in nose or applying pressure like a bull ring.
- G. Any time a calf or calves break out of the arena, all calves not caught must remain loose and the scramble started over. Calves in possession will not be turned loose.

6. Calf Scramble Officials:

- A. Calf scramble will be decided by a group of not less than six referees selected by the Committee in Charge.
- B. Undue roughness will not be tolerated by the referees. Poor sportsmanship automatically disqualifies any contestant.

7. Selection and Notification:

- A. After all on-line applications have been reviewed by the Scramble Selection Committee, each applicant will be notified of his acceptance as a participant.
- B. Only completed applications will be reviewed. A completed application includes: the entire on-line application with required essay and digital signatures of parents and applicants, letter of recommendation from an ADULT that is a non-immediate family member that can describe the applicant’s ability to care for a scramble calf and his support network to be successful in raising a scramble calf to exhibit at the following year’s Clark County Fair.
- C. The Scramble Committee will notify each boy of his acceptance or not as a participant in the 2026 Calf Scramble.

8. Scramble Meeting Requirements:

- A. Each selected contestant must participate in a Scramble Meeting held during the Clark County Fair.
 - B. **EACH CONTESTANT MUST PROVIDE A CURRENT DOCTOR'S PHYSICAL EXAMINATION IN WRITING BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN THE 2025 CALF SCRAMBLE DUE AT THE SCRAMBLE MEETING DURING THE FAIR.** This may be submitted prior to the required scramble meeting or at the meeting.
 - C. Each selected contestant and his parent(s)/legal guardian(s) **WILL BE REQUIRED TO READ AND SIGN a hardcopy of the Calf Scramble Minor's Release and any EMS Release provided by the Emergency Medical facility working** the event at the scramble meeting. Make sure your parents are present.
9. **Calf Scramble Winners:**
- A. Boys winning calves through the Calf Scramble **MUST** obtain insurance for the calf immediately following the scramble.
 - B. Scramble calves remain the property of the Clark Co. Fair **until completion of the show when the Scramble calf becomes the possession of the exhibitor.**
 - C. The Fair Board retains the right to view the animals at any time and the right to remove any animal when deemed the circumstances are detrimental to the welfare of the animal.
 - D. The Calf Scramble Committee will notify winners in the Fall of the pick-up date for the Scramble calves at the Clark County Fairgrounds.
 - E. Must register his Scramble Calf using the 2027 Clark County Jr. Fair Beef Exhibitor On-line Registration by Dec. 1, 2026. Go to
 - F. Must bring his Scramble Calf to the 2027 Clark County Jr. Fair Beef Weigh-In and Tag-in, Dec. 12, 2026.
 - G. Must show his scramble calf in the 2027 Clark County Spring Beef Classic on Sat., March 13, 2027, and in the 2027 Clark County Fair Scramble Beef Class(s).
10. **Scramble Cancellation:**
- A. If the Scramble is cancelled due to severe weather, then all participants who have already been awarded an animal in the center of the ring will retain the animals.
 - B. All other animals will be released and then awarded via a lottery system among remaining participants.

2025 Calf Scramble Winner Requirements for Showing in the 2026 Clark County Fair Scrambles

1. Registration Requirements:

- A. The calf caught in the 2025 Clark County Jr. Fair Calf Scramble must be enrolled as a regular project in 4-H or FFA in 2026 as designated on the application.
- B. Must register scramble calf by Dec. 1, 2025, using the 2026 Clark County Jr. Fair Beef Exhibitor On-Line Registration. Go to <https://go.osu.edu/2026clarkcojrfairmarketbeefexhibitorreg> to register your Scramble Calf.
- C. Bring the scramble calf to the 2025 Clark County Jr. Fair Beef Tag-In and Weigh-In on Sat., Dec. 13, 2025, 8 AM to 11 AM, Cattle Barn 2, Clark County Fairgrounds.

2. Show Requirements:

- A. The scramble calf must be shown in a special Scramble Only Class at the 2026 Clark County Beef Spring Show sponsored by the Clark County Cattleman's on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Clark County Fairgrounds.
- B. The scramble calf must be shown in the 2026 Clark County Jr. Fair Scramble Only Class.
- C. The scramble calf may also be shown in the Clark County Cattleman's Show, but it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to register for the Cattleman's Show as part of the Clark County Jr. Fair Market Beef Exhibitor Registration On-Line Survey.
- D. Scramble calves are not eligible for the Overall Market Beef or Overall Reserve Market Beef Champion or Top 5 Overall Market Beef Animals, because the scramble calves are not owned by the exhibitor, but by the Clark County Agricultural Society.

3. Sell Requirements:

- A. All Scramble calves become the possession of the exhibitor upon completion of the show and are an auction eligible project (live or on-line).
- B. The Champion and Reserve Champion Scramble Steer must sell in the Sale of Champions and go to harvest at Copey's Butcher Shop.

B. Awards and Prizes:

- A. The Clark County Agricultural Society will award the following prize money in lieu of a scholarship to the winners of the Scramble Steer Class at the 2026 Clark County Fair:

- 1st Place - \$100.00
- 2nd Place - \$75.00
- 3rd Place - \$50.00
- 4th Place - \$25.00

C. Scramble Steer Exhibitor Sponsor Sign:

- A. Current Scramble exhibitors must design a Donor Sponsor Sign and display above their stall by 8 AM, Saturday, July 25
- B. Signs will be judged on Saturday, and awards will be presented during the scramble class at the Market Beef Show on Wednesday, July 29.

- 1st Place - \$100.00
- 2nd Place - \$50.00
- 3rd Place - \$25.00

D. Care of Scramble Animals at Fair:

- A. Scramble steers must be kept clean and cared for during the entire Clark County Fair.
- B. Pens/stalls must be kept clean by the exhibitor during the entire Clark County Fair.
- C. Exhibitors in violation will not be allowed to sell in the Jr. Fair Livestock Auction.