2020 Boulder County Fair -- Cavy Show

July 17, 2020

Hello, cavy members!

As you all know, this is an extraordinary year for the livestock programs at the fair.  Some livestock programs are entirely virtual, some a split of virtual and in person.  Because our show is fairly small, we are the only livestock program having an entirely in person show.  This is great news for us, but we still need to follow the Boulder County health department rules and CSU 4-H rules to keep everyone safe.

(If the Covid-19 situation changes in Boulder County, it's possible that we would need to shift our live show to virtual.  If this happens, we'll be in touch and give more instructions at that time.)

We plan to have a great show for everyone and stay safe with the following plan.

We will be in the big indoor room of Barn A.  Only 10 people will be allowed in the room at a time, including members, families, superintendents and our judge.  This means each member can only have 1 family member in the audience.  We hope to be able to livestream the event; watch for more info on that.  We will use three staging areas for you to wait for classes to be called or you can wait in your cars.

Barn A- small front room-Junior waiting area

Barn A- outdoor show arena: Senior Waiting Area and

Barn A- South side of building: Intermediate waiting area

Doors will be propped open. You will enter and exit the same door from your staging area. It is important that you social distance in the waiting areas by staying 6 feet away from other families. Also wear your masks while waiting.

Dress-A-Cavy, the poster contest and the photo contest will not be held this year.  We anticipate they'll be back in 2021.

Masks are required for everyone while at the fairgrounds.

CHECK IN

Please be prompt and ready to enter the building at your check in time, which will be assigned between 8:00-8:15.  Families will be admitted to the building at their specific check in time, to quickly bring in their cavy cages, chairs, and any personal items they need in the building, pick up thank you note cards, then they will leave the building.  Families should wait in their cars or the assigned waiting areas until their showmanship time. Waiting in your cars is the encouraged practice. Waiting time is a great time for kids to write their thank you notes!  After fair registration closes on July 27, we'll send out the check in times.  Anyone wishing to sit needs to bring their own chair.

RECORD BOOKS

Unlike every other year at the fair, superintendents will not be checking record books.  This year, members may either complete a full record book for completion or competition, OR they may choose to write a 4-H story about their project year and include pictures to show their involvement.  Either way, you DO NOT NEED to bring your record book to the cavy show, as the superintendents won't have time to review it.  Whatever version of the record book you choose to do, it will still be due in early Sept.  Check the 4-H website or ask your club leader for more information about that.

SHOWMANSHIP

Juniors will begin our showmanship competition, starting promptly at 8:15.  They will be the last to bring in their animals and personal belongings for set up, and then will stay. Juniors can each invite 1 parent spectator.  At the conclusion of junior showmanship, the juniors will return their animals to their cages, and they and family will return to their cars or staging area to wait for conformation.

Intermediates will be next for showmanship.  They will have been waiting in their cars or staging area.  When called, the 4 intermediates, each with 1 parent, will enter, get their showmanship cavy and take their places at the show table.  We will have 2 of the show tables set up so members can be spaced for safety.  At the conclusion of intermediate showmanship, the kids will return their animals to their cages, and they and family will return to their cars (or staging area) to wait for conformation.  Waiting in cars is encouraged.

Seniors will be last for showmanship, following the same procedure as Intermediates.

CONFORMATION

Due to the numbers, only the members will be allowed in the show room for conformation.  When your class is called, the member will retrieve their animal, place it in a show cage, and stand back from the table, at least 6 feet from anyone else.  When the class has been completed, the member will retrieve their animal and return it to their cage, then return to their staging area unless competing in the next class.

As mentioned above, we will use three staging areas for you to wait for classes to be called. Barn A- small front room-juniors, Barn A- outdoor show arena-seniors, and Barn A- South side of building-intermediates. Doors will be propped open. You will enter and exit the same door from your staging area.

The order will be:

American Senior Boars- Hampshire, Pebble, Jelly, Patrick

American Senior Sows-Strawberry, Brownie, Eleanor Rigby, Pipper

Peruvian Senior Boar - Cookie

Teddy Senior Sow - Annie

Abyssinian Senior Sows - Penny Lane, Poppy

Crossbreed/Other Senior Boars -Marshmellow, Dwight, Cupid, Ralph, Aslan

Crossbreed/Other Senior Sows-Chewbacca, Templeton, Harriet Hippo

(Please let me know ASAP if there are errors here, or if any of these animals won't be shown.)

AWARDS

Awards will follow conformation. We will continue to use the three staging areas for you to wait for awards to be called. Barn A- small front room-juniors, Barn A- outdoor show arena-seniors, and Barn A- South side of building-intermediates. You will enter and exit the same door from your area. We will open the doors and do our best to let everyone hear.

END OF SHOW

Following the awards, everyone will be at their waiting area. We will have a schedule for each member and 1 parent to enter to remove the animals and personal gear.

PREMIUM MONEY/THANK YOU NOTES

All premium money will be combined at the end of the entire fair, so whether you only win premiums for cavy or you win premiums for multiple livestock projects and general projects, you will pick up one envelope after the fair has ended.  Premiums will be paid out as checks from the Fair board if money is over $10. If less than $10 you can pick up cash at the fair office. This process and dates will be communicated after the fair is complete.

As in previous years, each member will be expected to complete 2 thank you notes prior to receiving premium money.  We encourage kids to complete their thank you notes while they're waiting for other showmanship groups and hand them in to the superintendents before leaving.  To save time, kids could even draft their thank you language in advance, then copy the language onto the note cards.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

This is a crazy time for everyone, and EVERYTHING is different for this fair.  That has taken a tremendous amount of work figuring out new methods by A LOT of people!  Thank you for your patience as we work out the details and try to put together a great cavy show.  Warm thanks go to Christina for organizing and hosting the virtual cavy workshops!  And we should all send our thanks to Brenda Kwang, livestock extension agent extraordinaire, and Laura Boldt and her team at the fair office.  They truly have been bending over backwards to help kids have a great fair experience, despite covid-19.

If you have questions or concerns that aren't answered here, please feel free to reach out to me (betsy@shehigian.com/773-469-7598) or Christina (christinatillery524@gmail.com/303-641-9976).

Looking forward to seeing you on August 2!

Betsy Shehigian