



2026 Santa Barbara County Fair Livestock Show Ring Steward

Job posting and position description

Event	2026 Santa Barbara County Fair
Dates	July 3-12, 2026
Status	Paid internship or volunteer, depending on circumstances and experience

Job Posting

The 2026 Santa Barbara County Fair is seeking a dependable and livestock-knowledgeable Ring Steward to help manage show-ring flow during livestock shows held July 3-12, 2026. Depending on assignment, duties may begin up to two weeks prior to the Fair for preparation, training, setup, or coordination.

This position works directly with the judge, show management, Clerk / Recorder, Announcer, Barn / Ready-Ring Steward, gate staff, and exhibitors to keep classes moving safely, professionally, and on schedule.

The Ring Steward helps confirm the correct class is entering the ring, assists with safe animal and exhibitor movement, communicates factual information to the judge, organizes class winners for champion drives, and helps ensure that placings are recorded accurately before results are announced.

The ideal candidate has livestock show experience, understands proper show-ring conduct, remains calm under pressure, and can work respectfully with youth exhibitors, judges, parents, volunteers, and fair staff. This role requires neutrality, good judgment, attention to detail, and a strong commitment to safety, animal welfare, and a positive exhibitor experience.

This position may be a paid internship or volunteer assignment depending on circumstances, experience, availability, and assigned responsibilities.

Position Description

Position Title	Ring Steward
Event	2026 Santa Barbara County Fair (July 3-12, 2026)
Species	Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, or other livestock species as assigned
Reports To	Livestock Superintendent, Show Manager, Livestock Office, Fair Manager, or other designated event official.

Position Purpose

The Ring Steward serves as the judge's primary show-ring assistant and helps ensure that each livestock class enters, shows, places, and exits in a safe, orderly, and efficient manner. The Ring Steward supports the show process but does not influence judging decisions.

Works Closely With

- Judge
- Barn / Ready-Ring Steward
- Announcer
- Clerk / Recorder
- Awards Assistant
- Gate staff
- Livestock Superintendent
- Exhibitors and volunteers

Essential Duties

- Meet with the judge and show management before the show to review schedule, rules, class flow, champion drives, and judge preferences.
- Confirm that the correct class is entering the ring.
- Coordinate with the Barn / Ready-Ring Steward and gate staff to keep exhibitors lined up and ready.
- Help move classes into and out of the ring safely.
- Watch for unsafe animal behavior, loose animals, crowding, equipment hazards, or exhibitors needing assistance.
- Relay factual procedural information to the judge when needed.
- Stay out of the judge's line of sight and avoid influencing the judging process.
- Help organize class winners for division, breed, reserve, grand, supreme, or champion drives.
- Confirm placings with the judge and communicate them to the Clerk / Recorder as directed.
- Maintain a calm, professional, and respectful tone with all exhibitors, families, staff, and spectators.
- Refer disputes, protests, rule questions, or conduct issues to show management.

Qualifications

- Experience with livestock shows, fairs, jackpot shows, 4-H, FFA, breed shows, or similar events.
- Comfortable working around livestock and youth exhibitors.
- Able to follow show rules, schedules, class lists, and judge instructions.
- Strong communication skills.
- Calm and confident under pressure.
- Neutral, fair, and professional.
- Able to stand, walk, and work near livestock for extended periods.

Authority and Limitations

The Ring Steward may direct exhibitors where to enter, line up, and exit; pause ring movement for safety; communicate judge preferences; and report concerns to show management. The Ring Steward may not



overrule the judge, change placings, decide protests, change class eligibility, or announce results as final without confirmation.

Conduct Expectations

The Ring Steward must remain neutral, avoid favoritism, support good sportsmanship, protect the authority of the judge, and refer disputes to the proper official.

Work Period

The 2026 Santa Barbara County Fair runs July 3-12, 2026. Depending on the assigned responsibilities, duties may begin up to two weeks prior to the Fair and may continue through post-show cleanup, records completion, award reconciliation, animal release, or final checkout.