

**2015 GRAND NATIONAL JUNIOR LIVESTOCK
EXPOSITION
MERIT AWARD APPLICATION
Applications Due: September 7, 2015**

PURPOSE:

The Cow Palace and the award sponsors have been awarding financial assistance to Junior Exhibitors for over **sixty** years. The Merit Award Program is intended to assist in the purchase, care and feeding of animals to be shown at the 2015 Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition. The 2015 show will be held October 15-18. This award can be used for Classic and Breeding Beef, Sheep, Swine and Goats.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must be eligible to exhibit their project at the 2015 Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition. PREVIOUS MERIT AWARD WINNERS **MAY NOT** APPLY FOR ANOTHER AWARD, EVEN IF IN A DIFFERENT SPECIE.

CRITERIA:

Award recipients will be chosen on the basis of: past record, home facilities, experience and the ability to carry his or her project through to the 2015 Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition. See attached judging sheet for specific criteria.

Upon selection, recipients will be required to complete additional agreements and forms. Among other requirements, the recipient will be required to write at least three thank you notes and/or progress reports to the award sponsor(s). These notes will be spaced out between the time of selection and the 2015 Grand National. Please see the enclosed agreements.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Only one application may be submitted. Exhibitor must choose to apply for **one** of the following: Beef, Sheep, Goat or Swine.

The application packet consists of the following:

-Merit Award Application with the attached story.

-Merit Award Requirements for the specie in which you are applying. This form must be signed by the applicant, his/her parent or guardian and his/her project leader or advisor.

-Three letters of recommendation One must be from applicant's 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor. Two additional letters must be included and may not be from an immediate family member or 4-H Leader/FFA Advisor. Each letter must be returned in a sealed envelope with the signature of the person completing the form across the seal and the applicant's name printed on the front of the application.

The above items make up the application packet. Any mailed packets must be postmarked no later than September 1. Any hand-delivered packets must be in the Cow Palace Office by 5:00 pm on September 7. **No late application packets will be accepted.**

Hand Delivered:
Cow Palace Administration Office
2600 Geneva Ave.
Daly City, CA 94014

Mailed:
Cow Palace
Vanessa Schneider, Stock Show Manager
2600 Geneva Ave.
Daly City, CA 94014

AWARD WINNERS:

Merit Award winners will receive, toward the purchase, care and feeding of their respective project:

***** Beef Merit Award - \$750**

***** Sheep Merit Award - \$300**

***** Swine Merit Award - \$300**

***** Goat Merit Award - \$150**

Award winners will receive their award money after filling out and returning the additional required paperwork and sending copies of sponsor correspondence to the Cow Palace.

AWARD DONORS:

These dynamic individuals and firms are dedicated to this special project. Winners are matched up with a donor and are responsible for keeping in contact with the sponsor during the year. This personal communication is imperative to the success of the Merit Award Program.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions, please contact:

Vanessa Adams, Stock Show Manager
(415) 404-4142
vadams@cowpalace.com

2015 Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition MERIT AWARD JUDGING CRITERIA

APPLICATION

Story	110 points
size and scope	(50 points)
4-H/FFA involvement	(30 points)
maintains interest	(30 points)
- creative	
- grammatically correct	
Outside Presentation	30 points
(list of involvement)	
Letters of Recommendation	40 points
Neatness of Application	<u>20 points</u>
	200 Points

2015 Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition MERIT AWARD APPLICATION

Select One (**Applicant may only apply for one specie**):

_____ **Beef** _____ **Sheep** _____ **Swine** _____ **Goat**

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____

Have you ever exhibited at the Junior Grand National before? _____

If so how many times have you participated? _____

List the type(s) of livestock you have shown at previous Junior Grand National Stock Shows:

Please list your activities, memberships and honors or awards in any organizations outside of 4-H or FFA (e.g., school, livestock/Agricultural organizations, etc.)

Attach a story (300-500 words) explaining why you deserve a Livestock Merit Award. Please explain the size and scope of your project (past, present and future), the knowledge and skills gained from your project as well as 4-H/FFA, and your 4-H/FFA involvement including your leadership and community service experience. Please attach your story to your application.

2015 Grand National Livestock Exposition MERIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

I hereby make application for a Grand National Junior Livestock Merit Award. I agree that I will purchase one of the following and own it at least 30 consecutive days prior to the opening day of the Junior Grand National Livestock Exposition:

- Classic Steer
- Market Heifer
- Breeding Beef Animal
- Classic Hog
- Breeding Swine Animal
- Classic Goat
- Breeding Boer Goat Animal
- Classic Lamb
- Breeding Sheep Animal

I agree that I will feed and fit my animal to the best of my ability and that I will follow a feeding and fitting program recommended or approved by my 4-H project advisor or FFA instructor. I agree that I will exhibit this animal at the 2015 Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition, Cow Palace, San Francisco. I understand that if I am selected as a winner, it is my responsibility to keep my sponsor apprised of my animal's progress. I understand that if I do not complete the requirements of the Merit Award Program or do not exhibit this animal at the 2015 Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition, I will return all merit award money advanced to me. I further understand that if all the award money is not returned I will forfeit my showing privileges at all California fairs. I understand if I am selected as a winner, I cannot apply for this award again, even with a different specie. I also understand I may not transfer an award or animal.

Signature of Applicant

Date

I hereby agree to permit my son or daughter to make application for a Livestock Merit Award. If he or she is selected as a winner, I will offer reasonable help and encouragement to see this project through to a successful conclusion.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

I consider this applicant a most worthy individual to represent his or her 4-H Club or FFA Chapter if selected as a recipient of a Livestock Merit Award by the Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition.

Signature of 4-H Leader or FFA Advisor

Date

**READ OVER CAREFULLY!
FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS RECIPIENT'S
AGREEMENT UPON RECEIPT OF AWARD**

**MERIT AWARD
RECIPIENT'S AGREEMENT
GRAND NATIONAL JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION**

I, _____, as a recipient of a Livestock Merit Award, hereby agree to the following rules:

1. To make arrangements to purchase a suitable project animal.
2. To purchase a project animal before the ownership deadline as outlined in the requirements.
3. To pay the difference between the award value and the actual purchase price of the animal.
4. To fill out and sign the attached Statement of Sale when animal is purchased.
5. **To write at least three thank you letters to my award sponsor, with the first one being sent immediately after receiving their name and address.** All thank you letters must be sent prior to the 2015 LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION. Letters should also report on the progress of your project animal. A copy of all letters sent to sponsors **MUST** also be sent to the attention of Stock Show Manager, Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave, Daly City CA 94014.
6. To exhibit my project animal at the 2015 GRAND NATIONAL JUNIOR STOCK SHOW.
7. **To make no specie substitution of the Merit Award Project animal. I understand that transfers of animals/award will not be permitted.**
8. If conditions arise which prevent the carrying out of my responsibilities BEFORE OR AFTER AN ANIMAL HAS BEEN PURCHASED, I will notify the Cow Palace immediately. I will return all monies advanced to me as a recipient of a Merit Award.

I, the undersigned, have read the above conditions carefully and fully understand the meaning of the same.

Signature of Recipient/Exhibitor

Date

Address, City, State, Zip of Recipient/Exhibitor

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Signature of Leader or Advisor

Date

2015 GRAND NATIONAL MERIT AWARD

STATEMENT OF SALE

Name of Seller(Printed): _____

Signature of Seller: _____

Address of Seller: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Date animal was purchased: _____

DESCRIPTION OF ANIMAL (CHECK ONE):

_____ Beef _____ Sheep _____ Swine _____ Goat

Breed: _____

Market _____ or Breeding _____

Weight at purchase: _____

Total price paid: \$ _____

Exhibitor's Name: _____

Name of 4-H Club or FFA Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Signature of Recipient/Exhibitor

Signature of FFA/4-H Advisor

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Complete this form upon purchase of the Animal you will show at the 2015 GRAND NATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION. Return completed form to:

Vanessa Schneider
Cow Palace
2600 Geneva Ave.
Daly City, CA 94014