

Congratulations Scramble Winners!

You have won a heifer in the Montgomery County Fair Association Calf Scramble Program and are now going into an important business - *LIVESTOCK!*

The main purpose of the Scramble Program is to teach 4-H and FFA members the fundamentals of managing a project involving the selection, caring, feeding, and training of a registered beef heifer.

As a winner, you assume certain obligations and responsibilities upon the receipt of your Purchase Certificate and those are outlined in this booklet.

Review this booklet right away to prepare yourself for the year and keep it available for easy reference. Reporting and exhibition are your responsibilities, and both are very important to the overall evaluation of your project.

KEEP THIS BOOKLET AVAILABLE FOR EASY REFERENCE!

First Things First...

The calf you caught during a rodeo performance was a substitute calf. Your success entitles you to a \$1,750 Purchase Certificate which you should use to buy a registered beef heifer. A thank you note to your sponsor(s) MUST be turned in at this time for the Fair Office to mail. Payment will also be collected at this meeting for (2) scramble pictures.

Selecting Your Breed: Your County Extension Agent (CEA) or Agricultural Science Teacher (AST) can assist you in the breed selection and the purchase of your heifer.

The Breed Categories will consist of:

- a. American - Brahman, Brangus/Red Brangus, Beefmaster, Santa Gertrudis, Simbrah, ABC, and ARB.
- b. British - Angus/Red Angus, Hereford/Polled Hereford, and Shorthorn.
NO MINIATURES WILL BE ACCEPTED
- c. Continental - Charolais, Chianina, Limousin, Maine Anjou, Simmental, and ORB.

All Heifers must be polled or dehorned.

Calving Dates: Calves must have been born between July 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026.

Purchase Deadline: Your heifer must be purchased no later than **September 1st** following the 2026 Show and must be under the daily care of the participant by the MCFA Replacement Heifer tag-in date (refer to page 14 for date).

Once You Have Selected a Heifer...

On or before September 1st you must complete the following:

1. **Purchase your heifer.** A few of you may choose to purchase a heifer that has not yet been weaned from the cow. If this is the case, you may choose to leave the heifer with the breeder after the date of purchase for a short time. When you get your heifer home, then your reports should begin.

All Heifers must be under the daily care of the participant by MCFA Replacement Heifer tag-in date.

****By November 1, 2026, you must complete the following**:**

1. Sign your name on the Purchase Certificate.
2. Have your 4-H or FFA leader sign and date the Supervisor's Certification section of the Purchase Certificate.
3. Have the Seller print their complete name, phone number and mailing address on the Purchase Certificate. Ask them to write legibly.
4. If you are combining your MCFA Scramble Purchase Certificate with a purchase certificate from another Show, your original breed registration certificate should be mailed to the first show in which you plan to exhibit. Mail a copy of your registration certificate to the MCFA office with a letter stating the location of the original.
5. The purchase certificate should be given to the seller, who is responsible for transferring the heifer registration certificate to the scramble winner's name. **The transferred original registration papers, scramble certificate, and health papers (which include bangs test or vaccination certificate by a licensed veterinarian) must be returned to the Montgomery County Fair Association Office, P.O. Box 869, Conroe, Texas 77305. All above mentioned documentation must be filed in the Montgomery County Fair Association office by November 1, 2026.**

Upon Receipt of Your Paperwork...

1. We will automatically mail you a copy of your MCFA Calf Scramble documentation stamped with a green MCFA logo. **Keep it in a safe place.** This documentation should be acceptable for your local Shows.
2. A \$1,750 check will be made payable to the seller and mailed directly to them once **ALL** required paperwork has been received in the Fair Office (see list of required paperwork on page 3).

NOTE: Payment will not be made for more than the amount of the Purchase Certificate. If a heifer is purchased for less than the amount of the Purchase Certificate, a check will be issued to the Seller for the actual cost of the heifer. If you pay more than \$1,750 for your heifer, you are responsible for making sure the Seller receives the additional amount. If payment is combined with another Show, you are responsible for ensuring the other Show has the correct documentation required to pay their portion. Personal additional payment is allowed.

3. Your original registration certificate will be mailed to you after you have exhibited your heifer in the 2027 MCFA Scramble Show.

It is our hope this will be the opportunity of a lifetime! However, to make sure the obligations and responsibilities of the Calf Scramble program have been met, the MCFA will request verification from your CEA or AST from time to time. If the obligations and responsibilities have not been met, you may be required to return the \$1,750 or sell the heifer and return the proceeds to the Montgomery County Fair Association.

Monthly Reports & Your Sponsor...

Your Sponsor cares about your progress with your heifer. As a responsible heifer owner, your success in raising your heifer will depend upon keeping accurate records of your expenses and income, and what you are learning from this project.

EACH REPORT IS DUE BEFORE 5PM ON THE 10th OF EACH MONTH:

Monthly Reports: Reports should be sent to arrive in the Fair Office and to your Sponsor no later than 5 p.m. on the 10th day of each month, **beginning in October, for your September report.** Your first report is due in October, so you must start your record-keeping in September to report in October!

There should be two copies of your monthly report – your report to the Fair Office (MUST be either hand delivered or mailed; email is not an option) and your report to your sponsor (may be emailed or mailed).

If you are emailing your monthly report to your sponsor, please CC Vice Chairman Dillon Fleming dillon.fleming@gmail.com and Captain Bill Walding bill.walding@gmail.com.

It is required to send a report each month even if no expenses were incurred. Reports may be handwritten or typed and should include remarks in the remarks section of your Monthly Report form. Include on separate paper a typed or handwritten summary of that month's progress with your heifer as well as a few photos of your heifer. Photos may be in color or black and white and may be professionally printed or printed from your personal computer – whichever you prefer. Reports should be double checked for accuracy prior to submission, as they are an important part of your project's evaluation.

Monthly Report Breakdown:

- 1) Monthly report form (**only use MCFA form**). If extra space is needed for expenses, continue expenses onto an Excel spreadsheet and attach to your Monthly Report form
 - a) Charge pasture rent or hay every month (If incurred)
 - b) Include remarks in the remarks section
- 2) Handwritten or typed update (explain the progress your heifer is making as well as what you are learning from raising this heifer)
- 3) Photo updates of your heifer

Once the monthly report is completed, send out as follows:

1. Email or mail one to your Sponsor (continued next page)
2. Hand deliver or mail one to the Fair Office

Montgomery County Fair Association
P. O. Box 869, Conroe, TX 77305

3. Keep a copy for yourself to add to your Scramble Heifer Scrapbook
4. Keep your 4-H and/or FFA Leader up to date

Monthly reports are considered late if they arrive at the Fair Office after 5 p.m. on the 10th day of each month.

The Calf Scramble Committee will grade each report. The committee checks for completeness, neatness, accuracy, timeliness and comments. Only reports that have been submitted on time will be eligible for competition.

Remember, this opportunity is yours only because of your Sponsor. Treat them as you would like to be treated. We want them to know how much they are appreciated by you keeping them in the loop each month and showing gratitude.

Essays...

Essays should be **emailed** to the fair office (amber@mcfa.org) prior to or by their due date mentioned below. Essays should be sent in a Word document or PDF file. **Please do not send your essays via a Google Doc link without first allowing permission for the document to be viewed and printed.** A confirmation email will be sent acknowledging fair office receipt once your essay has been received. On your essay, include the essay title, your name, and include a word count total at the end of each essay. If you quote someone else's work, include the references in your essay.

1st essay is the breed essay: a 500-word essay entitled "Why I Selected a (Your Heifer's Breed) for My Scramble Project" is due by 5 p.m. on **November 1st**. This essay is mandatory. It will be judged. Please put your name on the top right corner of the first page and your word count on the bottom of the last page.

2nd essay is the year End essay: a 1,500-word essay entitled "My Beef Calf Scramble Project" is due by 5 p.m. on **February 1st**. This essay is also mandatory. It will be judged. Please put your name on top right corner of the first page and a word count on the bottom.

Only Essays that have been submitted on time will be eligible for competition.

Scrapbooks...

ORGANIZATIONAL HINTS FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK:

*Keep a copy of everything you send to the Fair Office

*Organize all your information by months (it is much easier to put the scrapbook together)

Scrapbook: Your scrapbook is due at the Fair Office at 10:00 am on Sunday after the Scramble Heifer Show. Scrapbooks are judged on promptness, accuracy, neatness, originality and creativity. Your scrapbook can include anything pertaining to your heifer, school activities, hobbies, etc. **Scrapbooks are not mandatory, but they do count toward your presentation score, which is 30% of your overall grade.** Special awards are given for scrapbook winners during the Calf Scramble Banquet.

A few useful Scrapbook ideas

*Have your name on the front (or on the 1st page) of your scrapbook.

*It helps to have a Table of Contents and also to have dividers/tabs between subjects or months, however you choose to do this. Be creative with this. This helps to guide us through your year.

*Bigger is not always better.

*Creativity and theme are good.

*Captions with your pictures.

Scrapbook Pickup: Please remember to pick up your scrapbook after the Banquet. They cannot be returned to you by mail but will be available immediately following the Scramble Banquet.

Supreme Award Points...

Keep track of your show points from county fairs, local shows and major shows. Included in the information packet is the Texas Supreme Award application and point system. Record your points on this form and return it to the Fair Office by **April 2, 2027**. This is not a mandatory competition, but a prize will be awarded to the winner.

Only applications that have been submitted on time will be eligible for competition.

It's Almost Show Time - be Prepared...

Scramble Heifer Show: You caught a calf and are required to exhibit your heifer in the Scramble Heifer Show at the 2027 Montgomery County Fair. ****You are also required to submit an online entry for the Scramble Heifer Show; there is no entry fee for this show.** Online entries will begin in January.

Breeding Beef Show: A Scramble Show exhibitor is encouraged, but not required, to enter the Junior Breeding Beef Heifer Show. **An online entry with a fee of \$20.00 is required for this show.** Online entries will begin in January.

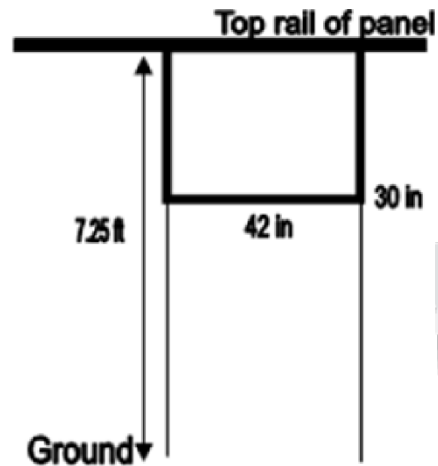
Replacement Heifer Show and Sale: A Scramble Show exhibitor may participate in the Replacement Heifer Show and Sale; however, you **must** tag in your heifer on the scheduled tag in date. If you tag your heifer in, you can decide later whether you want to show your heifer. All Replacement Heifer Show and Sale rules must be followed in order for you to participate in this division. **An online entry with a fee of \$20.00 is required for this show.** * The heifer is required to be sold if you participate in this show. Online entries will begin in January.

Stalling: There is a special section in the livestock barn for Scramble Heifers and stalls will be assigned by the Scramble Committee. Your animal **MUST** be double tied at all times while in the stall.

- a) Stall size is 8'x 8' outside dimensions
- b) All tack **MUST** be stored within the exhibitor's stall.
- c) Stall dividers are strongly encouraged
- d) No rear or standing fans will be allowed
- e) It is strongly recommended that exhibitors bring their own bedding.

Stall Display: A decorative stall display must be hung from the top rail of the panel at the head of your heifer's stall. Be creative and original. *Vinyl banners will not be judged*.

- a) Cattle will be tied on one side of the stall during the show. The side will be determined by the chairman and announced at the meeting prior to the show.
- b) Your donor(s) name(s) must be prominently displayed on your headboard along with your name and your heifer's name.
- c) Maximum board size: 42" wide and 30" tall. Please see diagram below:



- d) Any board that exceeds maximum size will not be judged.
- e) You may attach legs for support, but there MUST be a place to tie the animal between the legs.
- f) All animals should be tied directly to the cattle panel.
- g) Displays should be mounted to the metal pole at the head of the stall. Zip ties and/or bailing wire are the easiest methods to attach your display. Hooks are discouraged.
- h) All decorations should be tasteful and non-offensive. MCFA reserves the right to remove any questionable decorations.
- i) All stalls should be inspected for protruding objects that might injure you or your animal. Decorative lighting is not allowed.
- j) Stalls will not have gates, unless prior permission has been given by the chairman.

Please review all General Rules and Regulations for All JR. Livestock Shows and those specific to the Scramble Calf Division. Refer to www.mcfa.org to view the 2027 Rule Book on any livestock or non-livestock show page.

The Ultimate Goal....

The following scholarship money will be awarded:

\$3,000 for First Place overall

\$2,000 for Second Place overall

\$1,000 for Third Place overall

Exhibitors will be judged to determine overall placement as follows: **10% - Calf Placement in Show; 30% - Presentation of Heifer and Personal Interview; 60% - Essays and Monthly Reports.** The overall placement may be determined by the following weighted factors, including but not limited to: Completeness, Neatness, Accuracy, Timeliness and Comments of Monthly Progress Reports; Photographs; Sportsmanship; Presentation of Heifer; Calf Scramble Show placement; Personal Interview; Essays; and Showmanship. The scholarship money will be funded directly to the College, University, or institution of secondary education of the exhibitor's choice upon satisfactory proof of enrollment. A scholarship must be used within one year of your high school graduation.

Project Completion Incentive:

Scramble exhibitors who successfully complete all phases of their project to the satisfaction of the Calf Scramble Committee Leadership and the Fair Association, will be awarded \$250.00 at the completion of all fair activities.

Successful completion includes compliance with all requirements set forth in the MCFA Official Rule Book including Calf Scramble Division Rules, the timely submission of all required monthly reports, scrapbook, 500 and 1,500-word essays and exhibiting the heifer at next year's Fair will be confirmed as part of the Committee's decision to determine award eligibility. The decision of the Calf Scramble Committee Leadership and the Fair Association is final. This reward check will be mailed to the exhibitor after the Fair.

Give Yourself a Pat on The Back...

SCRAMBLE BANQUET INFORMATION

A Banquet to honor your sponsor, you and your parents will be held Thursday following the Scramble Show. You will receive an invitation via email prior to the Show.

Below is a list of awards to be presented at the Banquet for completion of the Calf Scramble Program -

<u>Place</u>	<u>Award</u>
First Place Overall Scrambler	\$3,000 Scholarship
Second Place Overall Scrambler	\$2,000 Scholarship
Third Place Overall Scrambler	\$1,000 Scholarship
Grand Champion Scramble Heifer of Show	Belt Buckle
Reserve G. C. Scramble Heifer of Show	Belt Buckle
Grand Champion Brahman	Leather Breed Champion Ribbon
Reserve Grand Champion Brahman	Leather Breed Champion Ribbon
Grand Champion English	Leather Breed Champion Ribbon
Reserve Grand Champion English	Leather Breed Champion Ribbon
Grand Champion Exotic	Leather Breed Champion Ribbon
Reserve Grand Champion Exotic	Leather Breed Champion Ribbon
All others will receive satin placing ribbons	

Additional Prize Categories

Showmanship 1st Place
Showmanship 2nd Place
Supreme Champion Award
Most Original Scrapbook
Best Overall Scrapbook
Herdsman Award
Best Overall Scrapbook Runner-Up

What Does It Take to Be a Scholarship Winner?

Being a First Place Scholarship Winner is the Montgomery County Fair Association Calf Scramble Program's highest honor. To compete for this title, you must complete the following list of mandatory tasks and optional tasks. You must also complete all these tasks **ON TIME AND CORRECTLY**.

Mandatory Tasks:

- Purchase your heifer by September 1st (refer to Page 2 for details).
- Paperwork due by November 1st (refer to Page 3 for details).
- Mail all your monthly report forms to be received in the Fair Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 10th of each month, beginning in September (refer to Page 5 for details).
- Breed Essay due November 1st (refer to page 6 for details).
- Year End Essay due February 1st (refer to page 6 for details).
- Keep track of your points for the Texas Supreme Award and return by **April 2** (Refer to page 7 for details).
- Complete and turn in your scrapbook (refer to page 7 for details)
- Complete your online entry for the Scramble Heifer Show (refer to page 8 for details).
- Return to show your heifer in the 2027 Scramble Heifer Show.

Got Questions?

If you have any questions that are not covered in this booklet:

Refer to the MCFA Official Rulebook

OR

Refer to our Website: www.mcfa.org

OR

Email the Calf Scramble Coordinator: amber@mcfa.org

OR

Call the Fair Office: Phone 936-760-3631

The Fair Office mailing address is:

Montgomery County Fair Association
PO Box 869
Conroe, Texas 77305

Reference to Rules and Regulations for All Jr Livestock including Scramble Calf Division Rules herein is for convenience only; to the extent there are any discrepancies between the language herein and the Rules, the language of the Rules controls.

SCRAMBLE HEIFER TIMELINE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
HEIFER PURCHASE DATE	BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
REPLACEMENT HEIFER TAG-IN	OCTOBER 2026 (DATE TBD)
ALL REQUIRED PAPERWORK DUE TO THE FAIR OFFICE (SEE PAGE 3)	NOVEMBER 1, 2026
BREED SELECTION 500-WORD ESSAY	NOVEMBER 1, 2026
ONLINE ENTRIES	JANUARY 2027 (DATES TBD)
YEAR END 1500-WORD ESSAY	FEBRUARY 1, 2027
SUPREME AWARD APPLICATION	APRIL 2, 2027
MANDATORY PARENT/EXHIBITOR MEETING (STALL ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN)	APRIL 7, 2027 (TIME TBD)
SCRAMBLE HEIFER CHECK-IN	APRIL 9, 2027 (7AM – 11AM)
SCRAMBLE HEIFER SHOW	APRIL 11, 2027 (8AM)
SCRAMBLE BANQUET	APRIL 15, 2027 (5PM)

MONTHLY REPORTING:

SEPTEMBER REPORT	DUE OCTOBER 10, 2026
OCTOBER REPORT	DUE NOVEMBER 10, 2026
NOVEMBER REPORT	DUE DECEMBER 10, 2026
DECEMBER REPORT	DUE JANUARY 10, 2027
JANUARY REPORT	DUE FEBRUARY 10, 2027
FEBRUARY REPORT	DUE MARCH 10, 2027

****FIRST REPORT COVERS SEPTEMBER; LAST REPORT COVERS FEBRUARY****