

ELLIS COUNTY YOUTH EXPO – IS IN THE BOOKS!

The 27th Annual Ellis County Youth Expo recently took place April 3rd through April 9th in Waxahachie, TX. Youth exhibitors represented a variety of FFA, 4-H and FCCLA clubs across Ellis County. Exhibitors were allowed to show up to three market animals and unlimited number of breeding animals. This year's Expo set record numbers in many show categories, and also included tough competition among the exhibitors.

2016 Ellis County Youth Expo Show Categories and the number of entries are listed below:

Market Broiler Show 17 entries
Market Lamb Show 85 entries
Market Rabbit Show 50 entries
Market Goat Show 126 entries
Market Steer Show 46 entries
Market Swine Show 224 entries
Breeding Rabbit Show 42 entries
Breeding Heifer Show 42 entries
Ag Mechanic Project Show 57 entries
Creative Arts Show 212 entries

The 2016 Ellis County Youth Expo generated a high level of competition and excitement as area Junior Ag Club members exhibited their livestock in an effort to qualify for the Sale of Champions event on Saturday, April 9th.

2016 Sale of Champion grossed over \$640,000.00

The Ellis County Youth Expo also awarded Prizes valued in excess of \$6700.00, and Breeding Show and Ag Mechanic Premiums in excess of \$3000.00.

In addition to Livestock, Creative Arts, and Ag Mechanics Show competitions, a special event, A Day in the Ring, was held on Friday, April 6th, before the Heifer Show. A Day in the Ring allowed local special-needs students to pair up with youth group exhibitors to show goats, lambs and swine. This event was hugely successful with a total of 53 participants and 159 volunteers. Each Special-Needs participant was presented with a blue ribbon for their hard work at A Day in the Ring.

Scholarships and Grants are a big objective of the Ellis County Youth Expo, and for 2016, \$10,500.00 in scholarships and \$15,000.00 in grants were awarded.

The Annual Ellis County Youth County Expo continues to grow year after year as more exhibitors are registering for the show competitions. Congratulations to all of the youth exhibitors.

AND FINALLY, a Special Thanks to all the Volunteers that make this happen year after year!

By Kaitlyn Shaw – Contributing Writer