

Santa Maria FFA Beef SAE

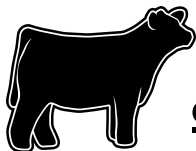


Advisor: Mrs. Powell Contact: spowell@smjuhsd.org

Welcome! I'm excited that you're interested in showing a beef animal for the Santa Barbara County Fair. This is an incredible opportunity to learn, grow, and experience the responsibility and rewards that come with raising and showing livestock. Whether this is your first year or you're a returning showman, I'm here to support you every step of the way. Get ready to work hard, have fun, and make some amazing memories!

Budget

	Steer	Bred Heifer
Livestock Animal	\$2500-\$3000	\$2500-\$3500
Feed (Hair & Grain)	\$2500-\$3000	\$1500-2000
Insurance	\$195	\$195
SBCF DNA	\$25	\$25
SBCF Entry Fees	\$30	\$30
Fair Shavings	\$140	\$140
Grooming Supplies (shampoo, sprays)	\$150	\$150
Rope Halter	\$10	\$10
Show Halter & Show Stick	\$100	\$100
Total Expenses	\$5650 to \$6650	\$4650 to \$6150
SBCF Auction	\$4.00/lb Average \$4 x 1200lbs = \$4,800	\$4000



Santa Maria FFA Beef SAE

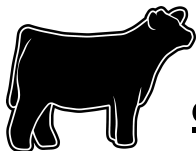


2025–2026 Livestock Project Timeline

- **September** – Interest Meeting
 - Initial meeting for all students interested in raising a livestock project.
 - Contract & Parent Meeting must be completed
- **October 3, 2025** – Payment Due
Animal and insurance payments must be submitted to the **SMHS Business Office** by this date.
- **November 2025** – Purchase Steers/Heifers
All steers and heifers should be selected and purchased during this month.
- **Early March 2026** – DNA Submission Due for SBCF
DNA samples must be submitted for animals being entered in the **SBCF**
- **June 1, 2026** – SBCF Entry Deadline
All **official entries** for the Santa Barbara County Fair must be completed and submitted.
- **July 1–13, 2026** – Fair Prep & SBCF Fair Week
Mandatory preparation period and **Santa Barbara County Fair Week**.

Livestock Project Expectations & Requirements

- **Academic Eligibility:** Students raising any type of livestock project must maintain **good academic standing** with a **2.0 GPA or higher**.
- **Mandatory Meetings & Practices:** All students are required to attend all **assigned meetings and showmanship practices** organized by **Mrs. Powell**.
- **Advisor Instructions:** Students must **follow all directions and advice** given by the FFA Advisor. These instructions must be followed for the **entire duration the project is eligible for exhibition** at the Santa Barbara County Fair
- **Fair Rules:** Each student is required to **read and understand** the rules and regulations outlined in the **Santa Barbara County Fair Exhibitor Guidebook**.
- **Project Budget & Profitability:** The budget provided for each project is an **estimate only**. **Student profit or loss may vary** depending on multiple factors, including market conditions, animal performance, and show outcomes.



Santa Maria FFA Beef SAE



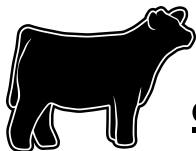
- **Project Care Responsibility:** Students are solely responsible for the **feeding, watering, exercising, and overall health** of their animal for the **entire duration of the project: Fall 2025 – July 2026**
- **CTE Farm Access:** The **SMJUHSD** provides access to the **CTE Farm**. Students with **beef projects** may house their animals at the CTE Farm and must **follow all CTE rules, contracts, and schedules** as outlined by the program
- **AET Requirement:** Students must maintain **accurate and up-to-date records** of their project using **The AET (Agricultural Experience Tracker)**. AET must be updated weekly. The completed AET must be **reviewed and approved by the FFA Advisor on the Monday that the fair ends** and before the student can receive **payment from the Fair**.

Santa Barbara County Fair & State Requirements for Livestock Exhibitors

- **YQCA Certification:** Students must complete the **Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)** certification, either online or in person, **as required by California State Fair rules**. Due to Mrs. Powell's **by May 1st**.
- **Still Exhibit Requirement:** Students taking a project to the **Santa Barbara County Fair** must also submit a **high-quality still exhibit**. All still exhibits are due to Mrs. Powell **by July 1st**. If the exhibit is deemed **poor in quality**, the student must **redo** it and **submit it to the fair independently**.
- **Barn Duties:** Each student will be assigned **barn duties** at the Santa Barbara County Fair by their project advisor. **Stalls must be cleaned by 7:30 AM daily** by the exhibitor. Animals must be **fed and watered twice daily**.
- **Show Attire:** All students are required to wear the **official FFA show uniform** while exhibiting their animals at the Fair.
- **Thank You Letters to Buyers:** Each student showing market animals must write a **thank you letter to their buyer(s)** following the JLA. This letter must be shown to the FFA Advisor in charge before being delivered to the buyer(s). Deadline: Turn in Letter the Monday after the fair.

Time Requirement:

- **Cattle projects require an extensive amount of time.** This is not a project where students can simply dump feed and leave.
- It is expected that the student feeds, cleans, and walks the animal **daily**—for a minimum of **1 hour per day**, ideally **2–3 hours per day**.



Santa Maria FFA Beef SAE



- When proper time is not spent with beef cattle projects, it can become very dangerous. Mrs. Powell reserves the right to prohibit your animal from being taken to the fair if it is not properly halter-broken. An animal that is not halter-broke is unsafe for both the exhibitor and the public during the fair.

Next Steps – Beef Cattle SAE Project

- ☐ Review the Information -Carefully read the attached information about raising and showing beef cattle
- ☐ Review the Mark Richardson Center Farm Contract (will be available next week)
- ☐ Submit Your Application to Mrs. Powell by Sep 22, 2025 (Mrs. Powell will email it to you if you are interested)
- ☐ Set up a parent meeting with Mrs. Powell, your parent and you.
- ☐ Contract & Payment Due - If selected, your signed contract and payment are due by October 1, 2025.