Hay Bale Decorating

Competition rules & registration

2026 theme: "Happy Birthday America!"
Open to all youth groups: 4-H, FFA, schools, civic/community clubs, etc.

01 No fee to enter - bales are sponsored in part by **Sweet Cypress Ranch. There will be a maximum of 4 entries.** Pre-registration is required, by completing and emailing this form to franc@swflcfair.com prior to Friday, October 30, 2026.

02 Each club/organization will receive one round hay bale to decorate, approximately 4' x 5'; sizes will vary slightly.

03 Entries will be judged in 4 parts - construction, creativity, eye appeal, and use of materials - 25% each.

04 Hay bales are to be decorated with a good clean wholesome nature. No vulgar or suggestive decorations allowed.

05 Hay bales can be placed lying on their side or standing on end, with exhibit space being approximately 10' x 15'. Hay bales will be set on location, but you must stabilize to avoid tipping or rolling. Small rectangular bales for feet, props and/or decoration may be added by the club.

06 Decorations should be **weather and wind-proof**, as the bales will be staged outdoors; only solar lighting allowed. A 12" x 24" plastic corrugated sign board showing club name is allowed.

07 Paint and/or chalk may be applied to the hay bale. Chalk may be used on bale, decorations, & the ground.

08 Locations will be selected randomly and locations will be posted upon arrival for set-up.

09 Hay bales may be decorated Thursday, November 5th between the hours of 2 pm and 6 pm, and Friday, November 6th between the hours of 9 am and noon. Judging will take place on Friday, November 6th prior to the Show opening. In circumstances of inclement weather, adjustments will be determined.

10 Hay bales must be "undressed" Saturday, November 7th, between the hours of 3 pm and 5 pm. Any items left will be discarded. **Clubs undressing hay bales prior to 3 pm on Saturday, November 7th will forfeit any premiums won.**

AWARDS

1st: Blue Ribbon, $300 | **2nd:** Red Ribbon, $200
3rd: White Ribbon, $100 | **4th:** Honorable Mention, $50

ALL PREMIUMS WILL BE MAILED BY CHECK AFTER THE CLOSEOUT OF THE SHOW.

Complete and sign the registration form on page 2.

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Club registration & acknowledgment

Registration deadline: October 30, 2026
This form must be emailed to **franc@swflcfair.com** no later than October 30, 2026.

CLUB / ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Club name

Club contact

Contact phone

Email address

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I acknowledge all rules and regulations pertaining to the Hay Bale Decorating Competition:

Signature

Date

PARTICIPANT REMINDERS

Decorating: Thursday, November 5, 2-6 pm; Friday, November 6, 9 am-noon.
Judging: Friday, November 6, before the Show opens.
Removal: Saturday, November 7, 3-5 pm. Early removal forfeits premiums.