

2026 Rockdale Fair Home Economics Division

Rules, Schedule, Division List, and Entry Form

October 13 and 14, 2026

Rockdale Fair Home Economics Division activities are conducted at the New Salem Club House in Fair Park in Rockdale, Texas. Check-in for Home Economics Division starts Tuesday, October 13, 2026, but the Rockdale Fair runs from October 10 - 17, 2026.

Pre-registration is NOT required for Rockdale Fair Home Economics Division Entries. You may print an entry form from the website to pre-fill and bring on October 13th, or there will be forms there to fill out.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Milam County - Family and Community Health Committee will coordinate the Home Economic Division. All questions can be directed to Micah Holcombe at: mlholcombe@ag.tamu.edu or calling the Extension Office at (254) 697-7045.

NEW - Please pay close attention to the General Rules and Guidelines. Divisions and categories have changed quite a bit.

ATTENTION TEACHERS WITH SCHOOL ENTRIES:

We need a **listing of your students' entries** to assist in organizing the return of your entries. A sheet has been provided on Page 11 for your convenience. If you have more than 20 students, or multiple classes, please make copies of the page as needed.

Please note that an Entry Form will still need to be filled out for each entry. The list is just to ensure the safe return of all the entries.

2026 Schedule of Events

Tuesday - October 13th	
Time	Event
8:00am until 10:00am	Check in for ALL Divisions
1:00pm until 5:00pm	Judging for all divisions
5:00pm until 6:00pm	Check-out and pick-up for all Baked Goods (All Baked Goods entries not picked up by 6:00pm will become the property of the FCH Committee)

Wednesday - October 14th	
Time	Event
8:00am until 5:00pm	Exhibits open to the public
1:00pm until 5:00pm	Check-out and pick-up for all divisions (ALL ITEMS MUST BE PICKED UP)
5:00pm SHARP	Pictures: Best of Show, Grand and Reserve Champion Winners



General Guidelines for Entries

- 1 The Fair is open to all Milam County Residents or Youth attending school in Milam County
- 2 Age Divisions (Grade level currently in as of October 13, 2026)

Beginner		Kindergarten through 2nd Grade
Junior		3rd Grade through 5th Grade
Intermediate		6th Grade through 8th Grade
Senior		9th Grade through 12th Grade
Adult		Ages 19 and above (Those not attending 12th Grade anymore)

AGE EXCEPTION _____ Quilt Categories under Textile Division will be divided into Youth and Adult:
Youth: Kindergarten through 12th Grade. **Adult:** Ages 19+ (Those not attending school)
- 3 All entries must have been completed since the last Rockdale Fair in October 2025; i.e. in the last 12 months. The only exceptions are in the Quilting Category, (Groups T15 and T16) and the Collections Category (Group CA1). Please see the rules under these two Categories for the exceptions
- 4 All entries must be NEW and not a variation or duplication from past year's entries
- 5 All entries must be made by the Participant. Teams are allowed only in the Quilting Category, Groups T15 and T16
- 6 All entries will be judged, and ribbons awarded as follows:
 - There are four Main Divisions: Textiles, Baked Goods, Creative Arts, Art
 - Each Division has between one and six Categories
 - Each Category has between one and nine Groups, and possibly more Sub-sets
 - Each Sub-Set can be entered, but entries will compete against each other*

*Note: There will only be one 1st place winner, one 2nd place winner, and one 3rd place winner among all the Sub-sets within a Group. Ribbons will only awarded at the Group level

 - Each Group in all Categories but Art are eligible for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons
 - Each Group in the Art Category is eligible for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place ribbons
 - Each Category will have one Grand Champion and one Reserve Champion selected from its 1st place Group winners
 - Best of Show Winner will be selected from the Grand Champions in each age category
- 7 Entry forms will be available on the morning of registration at the New Salem Club House or prior to October 13th from:
 - Milam County Extension Office, located at: 908 N Crockett Ave, Ste B, Cameron, Texas 76520
 - Milam County 4-H Extension website for Rockdale Fair. (See QR Code on the first page)

Pre-registration is NOT required for Rockdale Fair Home Economics Division Entries
- 8 Maximum Entries per Division (See Divisions page for a breakdown of the Categories and Groups):
 - Textiles Division - One Entry per Group in each Category, with the exception of the following:
 - Wearable Accessories/Homegoods - One Entry in each Sub-set as follows:
 - One entry each for Sewn, Knitted, Crocheted, and Woven in Wearable Accessories (T4,a-d)
 - One entry each for Sewn, Knitted, Crocheted, and Woven in Homegoods (T4,a-d)
 - Hand Stitchery - One Entry in each Sub-set as follows:
 - One entry each for Candlewicking, Crewel, and Embroidery in Hand Stitchery (T9,a-c)
 - One entry each for Needlepoint and Cross Stitch in Hand Stitchery (T10,a-b)
 - Quilts - One Entry in each Sub-set as follows:
 - Four unique entries for Hand/Machine Quilting, Other (T14,a-d)
 - Four entries, one per size, for Hand Quilted Bed Quilts (T15,a-d)
 - Four entries, one per size, for Machine Quilted Bed Quilts (T16,a-d)
 - Baked Goods Division - One Entry in each Sub-set as follows:
 - One entry each for Sweet and for Savory in Yeast Breads (BG1,a-b)
 - One entry each for Cake, Decorated Cake, Cupcake/Muffin, and Bread in Batter Baked Goods (BG2,a-d)
 - One entry each for Cut Outs, Drop Cookies, and Bars in Cookies (BG3,a-c)
 - One entry each for No Bake/Ice Box and for Baked in Pies (BG4,a-b)
 - Creative Arts Division - One Entry per Group in each Category
 - Art Division - One Entry per Group in each Category
- 9 All entries must be checked in and checked out at the assigned times
- 10 Every precaution will be taken to protect articles entered, but in no case will Rockdale Fair Association or the FCH Committee be responsible for loss, damage, theft, breakage or other forms of loss.
- 11 Pictures will take place at 5:00pm on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. We will take pictures of Best of Show winners, Grand Champions and Reserve Champions. Awards will be given at that time.
- 12 **Home Economics Division participants are NOT required to attend the "required set-up" days given by the Rockdale Fair Association. If you are also entered in the RFA Youth Division, please see the rules for set up there.**

Rockdale Fair

Home Economics Divisions List

Participants can only enter once per Group, but may enter each Group within a Category.

For example: In the Category of Drawing, a participant can enter once in each of the eight Groups; Animals, People, Landscape, Still Life/Food, Plant/Flora, Transportation, Fantasy/Abstract, and Theme.

For Groups that contain Sub-sets, participants can enter once in each Sub-set. Please note that Sub-sets within a Group will compete against each other. Ribbons will only be awarded at the Group level.

Only the Categories, Groups, and Sub-sets listed can be used. There are NO Miscellaneous Categories. Participant's choice will be accepted within reason. Final judgment for the entry placement is up to the discretion of the Home Economics Division Coordinators. An entry may be moved to a more suitable Category/Group or disqualified.

For example: a painting of a cow in a field *could* be entered as "Animal (ART9)" or "Landscape (ART11)", but would be disqualified if entered as "People (ART10)".

All items entered must have been made by the Participant, and must have been made in the last 12 months. The only two exceptions are for Bed Quilts and Collections. See Textiles Category-Quilting for exceptions in Groups T15 and T16. See Creative Arts Category-Collections for exceptions in CA1.

Division - TEXTILES

CATEGORY - Clothing

From pattern or original design. Articles of clothing, i.e. sweaters, shirts, pants, jackets. No wearable accessories (see Category-Wearable Accessories/Homegoods for hats, socks, scarves, etc.) Items entered must be made by the Participant in the last 12 months. Participants may enter once in each of the three Groups.

T1	Sewn	Hand and/or Machine Sewn Article of Clothing. Hand woven material sewn into clothes belongs in this category. Accessories is in Cat T4
T2	Knitted	Hand and/or Machine Knitted Article of Clothing. Accessories is in Cat T4
T3	Crocheted	Hand crocheted Article of Clothing. Accessories is in Cat T4

CATEGORY - Wearable Accessories/Homegoods

Wearable accessories such as hats, socks, scarves, cowls, headbands, etc. Homegoods such as baskets, tea towels, bath towels, doilies, table runners, wall hangings, toys, etc. Afghans and Blankets should be entered in the Afghan Category, under T11, T12, or T13. Items entered must be made by the Participant in the last 12 months. Participants may enter once in each of the eight Sub-sets. Entries in each of the two Groups will be judged together. Ribbons will only be awarded at the Group level.

T4	T4a	Wearable Accessories	Sewn	Hand and/or Machine Sewn. Clothing should be entered in T1
	T4b		Knitted	Hand and/or Machine Knitted. Clothing should be entered in T2
	T4c		Crocheted	Hand Crocheted. Clothing should be entered in T3
	T4d		Woven	Hand Woven. Hand looms only. Clothing should be entered in T1
T5	T5a	Homegoods	Sewn	Hand and/or Machine Sewn.
	T5b		Knitted	Hand and/or Machine Knitted.
	T5c		Crocheted	Hand Crocheted.
	T5d		Woven	Hand woven. Hand looms only.

CATEGORY - Clothing Art

Purchased Article of Clothing that has been altered by the Participant by cutting, sewing, knitting, crocheting, or the addition of embellishments. Clothing must be on a hanger for display. Items entered must be made by the Participant in the last 12 months. Participants may enter once in each of the three Groups.

T6	Embellished Clothing	Added elements such as Applique, ribbons, buttons, etc.
T7	Designed T-Shirt Art	Drawn, painted, screen-print, iron-ons. Must be of Participant's design and printed and applied by Participant.
T8	Recycled / Repurposed Clothing	Clothing repurposed for another use; for example - pants made into a bag, t-shirts made into a rug, etc.

Division - TEXTILES (cont.)

CATEGORY - Hand Stitchery

Hand stitching only. Candlewicking must be white or Ecrú. Finished piece should be in a frame or part of a finished object, such as a pillow, tea towel, etc. Items entered must be made by the Participant in the last 12 months. Participants may enter once in each of the five Sub-sets. Entries in each Group, T9 and T10, will be judged together. Ribbons will only be awarded at the Group level.

T9	T9a	Candlewicking	May enter up to three unique items; one of each of the three sub-classes
	T9b	Crewel	
	T9c	Embroidery	
T10	T10a	Needlepoint	May enter up to two unique items; one of each of the two sub-classes
	T10b	Cross Stitch	

CATEGORY - Afghans & Blankets (non-quilted)

From pattern or original design. Hand knitted only, no machine knitting. Hand loomed only. No quilted items. See Category-Quilting for quilted items. Items entered must be made by the Participant in the last 12 months. Participants may enter once in each of the three Groups.

T11	Knitted	Hand knitted. Lap-size or larger.
T12	Crocheted	Hand crocheted. Lap-size or larger.
T13	Woven	Hand woven, hand loom only. Lap-size or larger.

CATEGORY - Quilting

From pattern or original design. There are only two age brackets in this category: Youth (K-12), and Adult (19+, out of school). Teams are allowed in Groups T15 and T16. Participants may enter once in each of the 12 Sub-sets. Entries in each Group, T14, T15, and T16, will be judged together. Ribbons will only be awarded at the Group level.

Please Note:

Items in Group T14 must be made by the Participant in the last 12 months.

Quilts in Group T15 and T16 do NOT have to meet the 12 month requirement, but they are required to: 1. be made by the Participant(s) and 2. never have been exhibited in the Rockdale Fair

T14	T14a	Lap Quilt	May be Hand or Machine Quilted; Bed Quilts are not allowed in this Group. See Groups T15 and T16 for Bed Quilts. T14d-Pillow/Small Item must be no larger than 24"x24". Participants may enter once in each of the four Sub-sets, but it will be judged as a Group.
	T14b	Wall Hanger	
	T14c	Table Runner	
	T14d	Pillow or Small Item	
T15	T15a	Twin-Size	Hand Quilted Bed Quilts. Must be a Twin to King size Quilt. See Group T14 for anything other than "Bed". Working as a Team is allowed in this Group. Participants may enter once in each of the four Sub-sets, but entries will be judged as a Group.
	T15b	Full-Size	
	T15c	Queen-Size	
	T15d	King-Size	
T16	T16a	Twin-Size	Machine Quilted Bed Quilts. Must be a Twin to King size Quilt. See Group T14 for anything other than "Bed". Working as a Team is allowed in this Group. Participants may enter once in each of the four Sub-sets, but entries will be judged as a Group.
	T16b	Full-Size	
	T16c	Queen-Size	
	T16d	King-Size	

Division/Category - BAKED GOODS

This is NOT the Auction Baked Goods Contest.

These Baked Goods are NOT part of the Auction/Sale happening on Saturday

Recipe must be attached to each entry form. It can be typed or handwritten (hand-printed, no cursive, and legible). The recipe should include all ingredients and instructions for the entry. Any entry without a recipe included WILL be disqualified. No professional bakers allowed. Recipe can be participant's own, or from another source, but must be from scratch and baked or produced by the participant. Boxed mixes are only allowed if it is considered an ingredient in a larger recipe. Disposable containers are recommended for food entries. All entries must be picked up between 5:00pm and 6:00pm on the day of judging. Any food entries not picked up by 6:00pm become the property of the Home Economics Division Committee. Please refer to the individual Group on preparation and presentation.

Group - Yeast Breads: This Group consists of items using yeast as the rising agent. Item can be made by hand or in a bread machine, but no mixes; must be from scratch. Participants may enter once in each of the two Sub-sets, but entries will be judged as a Group. Ribbons will only be awarded at the Group level. Presentation should consist of one pan for items such as rolls, one loaf, or a six count for individual items such as donuts, placed in a sealed container. May be left whole, cutting will take place by the Judges.

BG1	BG1a	Sweet Yeast Breads	Examples: cinnamon rolls, sweet kolaches, donuts, monkey bread, etc.
	BG1b	Savory Yeast Bread	Ex: focaccia, dinner rolls, baguette, sandwich loaf, meat kolaches, etc.

Group - Batter Baked Goods: This Group consists of items using baking soda, baking powder, eggs, or any rising agents other than yeast. Participants may enter once in each of the four Sub-sets, but entries will be judged as a Group. Ribbons will only be awarded at the Group level. Presentation should consist of one cake, one loaf, or a six count of cupcakes or muffins in a sealed container. May be left whole, cutting will take place by Judges.

BG2	BG2a	Cake	One cake (sheet, layered, bundt etc.) frosted or plain.
	BG2b	Cupcake/Muffin	Six cupcakes, jumbo or regular, or 12 mini-muffins, frosted or plain.
	BG2c	Bread	One loaf, sweet or savory, batter-type, no yeast breads.
	BG2d	Decorated Cake	One cake, all parts of the cake must be edible. This will be judged on creativity, style and decorating skill as well as taste.

Group - Cookies: This Group consists of cookies under three Sub-sets. Entry can be placed under the closest cookie to the ones listed, if it isn't named in the examples. There is NO miscellaneous category. The Sub-set chosen will be accepted within reason. Participants may enter once in each of the three Sub-sets, but entries will be judged as a Group. Ribbons will only be awarded at the Group level. Presentation should consist of 6 Cookies. Bar Cookies should be pre-cut into 6 2"x3" rectangles. All should be in a sealed container.

BG3	BG3a	Cut Out Cookies	Must use cookie cutter, cookie press (spritz-style) or mold to shape. Must be frosted or decorated.
	BG3b	Drop Cookies	Spoon or scoop dropped, or rolled in a ball, but not shaped by cutters, presses, or molds. May be iced, frosted, or colored, but it is not required.
	BG3c	Bar Cookies	Must be made in a pan, as a whole, not individually. May consist of layers and/or frosted, but it is not required. Must be cut in 2"x3" rectangles.

Group - Pie: This Group consists of pies under two Sub-sets. Crust can consist of crushed cookies/crackers style, pressed, or traditional rolled style. No store-bought crusts are allowed. May be topped with whipped cream, meringue, fruit, nuts, chocolate, etc., but it is not a requirement. There is NO miscellaneous category. The Sub-set chosen should be based on whether the pie is baked in the oven or not. Refrigeration will be available, if the pie should be kept cold. Participants may enter once in each of the two Sub-sets, but entries will be judged as a Group. Ribbons will only be awarded at the Group level. Presentation should consist of 1 pie, in a sealed container. May be left whole, cutting will take place by Judges.

BG4	BG4a	No Bake or Ice Box Pie	Filling may be cooked on stove top, but not in the oven. No boxed mixes. Pie Crust without filling may be baked in the oven.
	BG4b	Baked Pie	Must be oven baked. May consist of one or two crusts (full, lattice, or cut out style). May be in a pie plate or a flat/free style pie, but must have a traditional rolled crust if it is flat/free style.

Division - CREATIVE ARTS

CATEGORY - Collections

Entries:

1. One entry only in the Group
2. Must consist of ten or more items
3. Must be limited to 36 inches of table space
4. Does not have to meet the 12 month requirement. Can be an ongoing, active collection
5. Collections may consist of any like items, but must have a theme, and cannot be random objects

CA1	Collections - Ideas include but are not limited to: dolls, insects, buttons, flowers, shells, sports cards, stamps, rocks, license plates, figurines, etc.
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CATEGORY - Craftsman

Entries:

1. Participants may enter once in each of the nine Groups
2. Must be limited to 36 inches of table space
3. Must have been made in the last 12 months
4. Must be made by participant

CA2	Ceramics and Pottery
CA3	Porcelain, Painted or Decorated
CA4	3D Printed Objects, Created and Decorated
CA5	Natural Objects - Painted, Decorated or used in a Craft. Ex: Bark, Shells, Leaves, Flowers, etc. Must be all natural except for paint/coloring, and mounting, e.g., canvas, glass pane, wood block, glue, etc.
CA6	Leatherwork
CA7	Woodwork
CA8	Scrapbook
CA9	Jewelry
CA10	Models or Kits

CATEGORY - Floral/Plant

Entries:

1. Participants may enter once in each of the five Groups
2. All flower arrangements must be fresh cut flowers, arranged in a jar, vase, wireform or other artistic method
3. All potted plants, succulents, and vegetable plants must have been cared for by the participant for at least six months
4. All single specimens must be cut from plants cared for by the participant for at least six months
5. All single specimen flowers and plants must be displayed in a bottle; vegetables should be displayed in a basket

CA11	Table Top / Centerpiece / Spray
CA12	Wreath - General wreaths. Seasonal/Holiday Wreaths should be entered in the Seasonal Crafts category, in the appropriate Group (CA16, CA17, CA18, or CA19)
CA13	Bouquet / Corsage / Lapel
CA14	Potted Plants / Succulents / Single Specimens-Flower/Plant
CA15	Vegetable Plants / Single Specimens-Vegetable

CATEGORY - Seasonal Crafts

Entries:

1. Participants may enter once in each of the four Groups
2. All items must be made by the Participant in the last 12 months
3. May pertain to the season in general, or a specific holiday occurring in that season, but must clearly be a seasonal or holiday theme

CA16	Spring - Months of March, April, and/or May
CA17	Summer - Months of June, July, and/or August
CA18	Fall - Months of September, October, and/or November
CA19	Winter - Months of December, January, and/or February

CATEGORY - Recycled Arts & Crafts

Entries:

1. Participants may enter once in each of the three Groups
2. All items must be made by the Participant in the last 12 months

CA20	Recycled into Art-Ex. Mosaic made from broken glass or tile, license plates made into a map of the US, etc
CA21	Recycled into Jewelry-Ex: Earrings from bottle caps, bracelet from recycled paper beads, etc.
CA22	Recycled into Other Use- Ex: A tin can into a lantern, windchimes made of cutlery, etc. Clothing should not be entered here. Recycled Clothing should be entered in the Textiles Division, Clothing Art T8

Annual Theme for 2026 - United States of America: From 1776 to 2026

NEW We have a new group in each of the three categories in Art (Drawing, Painting, and Photography), that will be a different theme each year. To kick off these new Groups, this year we are celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our country: "United States of America: From 1776 to 2026". We can't wait to see your interpretation of this wonderful celebration.

CATEGORY - Drawing

Entries:

- 1. Must be mounted, matted, or framed
2. Must use pen, pencil, ink, charcoal, chalk, or crayon
3. Must have been drawn in the last 12 months
4. Participants may enter once in each of the eight Groups
5. Must be drawn only. NO painting, NO other materials, NO 3D effects, except in ART7-Fantasy/Abstract/Mixed Media
6. Cannot be a 3D object. In ART7, it is acceptable to have raised areas, but must be part of a drawn picture. 3D printed items should be entered in Creative Arts - 3D Printed Objects (CA4). Other dimensional art should be placed in the correct medium in the Creative Arts Division

Table with 2 columns: ART ID and Category Name. Rows include ART1 Animals, ART2 People, ART3 Landscape/Building, ART4 Still Life/Food.

Table with 2 columns: ART ID and Category Name. Rows include ART5 Plant/Flora, ART6 Transportation, ART7 Fantasy/Abstract/Mixed Media, ART8 Annual Art Theme.

CATEGORY - Painting

Entries:

- 1. Must be mounted, matted, or framed
2. Must use oil, water colors, or acrylics
3. Must have been painted in the last 12 months
4. Participants may enter once in each of the eight Groups
5. Must be painting only. NO drawing, NO other materials, NO 3D effects, except in ART15-Fantasy/Abstract/Mixed Media
6. Cannot be a 3D object. In ART15, it is acceptable to have raised areas, but must be part of a painted picture. 3D printed items should be entered in Creative Arts - 3D Printed Objects (CA4). Other dimensional art should be placed in the correct medium in the Creative Arts Division

Table with 2 columns: ART ID and Category Name. Rows include ART9 Animals, ART10 People, ART11 Landscape/Building, ART12 Still Life/Food.

Table with 2 columns: ART ID and Category Name. Rows include ART13 Plant/Flora, ART14 Transportation, ART15 Fantasy/Abstract/Mixed Media, ART16 Annual Art Theme.

CATEGORY - Photography

Entries:

- 1. Must be in a clear photo protector*
2. Must be 5x7 or 8x10
3. Must have been taken in the last 12 months
4. May be black & white, or color
5. Must not be manipulated or colorized in any way: exceptions are Group ART23-Enhanced/Modified Group and a photo may be changed from color to black and white, with NO other manipulation
6. Participants may enter once in each of the eight Groups

*You may provide your own clear (not matte) photo protector, or, photo protectors will be available for purchase on the day of registration; 25¢ each for a 5x7 or 8x10 protector while supplies last.

Each photo can only be entered in one Group; i.e. every entry must be a unique photo, with the exception of ART23 - Enhanced/Modified Group. An original photo may be entered in another Photography Group, and the same photo, manipulated enhanced or modified, may also be entered in ART23 Group.

Table with 2 columns: ART ID and Category Name. Rows include ART17 Animals, ART18 People, ART19 Landscape/Building, ART20 Food.

Table with 2 columns: ART ID and Category Name. Rows include ART21 Plant/Flora, ART22 Transportation, ART23 Enhanced/Modified, ART24 Annual Art Theme.