

## RITA VALADAO MEMORIAL AWARD

Western Classic Junior Dairy Show  
westernclassicdairy@hotmail.com

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## IN MEMORY OF

One week after the 2022 Western Classic, Rita, age 10, was brought to heaven on the wings of angels after an on-farm accident. Rita had exhibited at the Western Classic since she was old enough and enjoyed showing cows throughout the Central Valley. To remember and honor Rita's life, this memorial award has been established.

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## REQUIREMENTS

- Age 8-12 (as of January 1, 2026)
  - Complete application and essay
  - Must be a participant in the Western Classic Junior Dairy show. This means you can participate in the judging contest, clinics (on years we have them) or any of the cattle show classes (costume, showmanship or heifer/cow classes)
  - Have a county fair that has a Dairy Replacement Heifer program where you can sell your project calf
  - Participate in an interview via Zoom on Saturday, March 21, 2026
  - The winner of the award will be announced by March 31, 2026
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## MEMORIAL AWARD

- A project heifer donated by the Valadao Family
- Heifer is to be selected within 2 months of the Western Classic Junior Show and must be picked up no later than June 30, 2026
- Age of heifer will be determined based on what works for the recipients County Fair
- Supplies to groom and show your heifer
- A project scholarship to assist with costs of feeding and caring for your heifer

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE(as of 1/1/26): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY FAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H GROUP(not required): \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION

ESSAY: Describe your interest in having a dairy heifer project, include which County Fair you would sell your heifer at, experience with dairy cattle, and showing history (please provide in essay format, one page or less, and attach to your application).

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ESSAY BY: MARCH 14, 2026

Email: westernclassicdairy@hotmail.com

