



Project Title: Beef

Description:

The educational 4-H beef program and related activities (such as workshops and tours) provide youth with a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both beef subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications). Skills are learned under the direction of caring adults.

Exhibitor Check list:

- ☐ Enroll in 4-H, pay annual program fee, and enter project in V2.4online by January 15
- ☐ Steers, Heifers, Junior Heifers and Beef Feeder Calves must be ID'ed in V2.4online by May 15

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program. This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules or in-person trainings. For more information about in-person trainings in our county, please contact your County Extension Office. More information about YQCA is available at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Exhibit Guidelines:

1. Beef members will follow the State Fair rules except for county exceptions mentioned here. Any questions not covered by these rules shall be referred to the Beef Committee.
2. Ownership and possession of calves is to be no later than the County Weigh-In date (see General 4-H Rules). It must be shown by member listed on the enrollment. In case of sickness, owner may have calf shown by a substitute 4-H member *with prior committee approval*.

3. **Market Steers:** All market steers and market heifers you intend to show at the Allen County Fair **MUST** be brought to the February County Weigh-In. Cattle will be tagged with a county 4-H tag and RFID. You are responsible for the enrollment to be completed by the assigned date.

Commercial Heifers: All commercial heifers you intend to show at the Allen County Fair **MUST** be brought to the February County Weigh-In. Cattle will be tagged with a county 4-H tag and RFID. You are responsible for the enrollment to be completed by the assigned date.

Purebred Breeding Heifers: Purebred Breeding heifers are **not** required to come to the February County Weigh-In. All breed heifers are required to have an RFID tag and legible tattoo. You are responsible for the enrollment to be completed by the assigned date. You must have registration papers at the time of weigh-in at the Allen County Fair in July. (Suggestion: If you have any doubt, you may not have registration paperwork by fair, we recommend you sign up as a commercial heifer and come to the weigh-in in February for the tags. Other wise you will not be eligible to show without the registration paperwork.

Cow/Calf: Only heifers that have shown previously at the County Fair are eligible to show as a cow. Heifer must have shown in your family name. You will use the cows RFID and either the county 4-H tag or tattoo for identification. You will need to contact the County Extension Office to receive a county 4-H tag and RFID for the calf. A Beef Executive Committee member will come after the enrollment date to tag the calf. You are responsible for the enrollment to be completed by the assigned date.

Feeder Calf and Junior Heifers: (Born after January 1 of exhibition year) There is **no** weigh-in for the beef calves. You will need to contact the County Extension Office to receive a 4-H tag and RFID for the calf. A Beef Executive Committee member will come after the county enrollment date to tag the calf. You are responsible for the enrollment to be completed by the assigned date.

4. All Beef animals (steers and heifers) shown at the Allen County Fair must meet Indiana State Fair breed requirements. Animal registration papers will be required for all breeds as determined by the State Fair. Tattoos and registration papers will be checked by the beef committee.
5. A Completed Allen County 4-H Cattle Record sheet is due by May 30, 2025.
6. Current HEALTH RULES as specified by the Indiana Board of Animal Health must be complied with and all health papers checked by either the State Veterinarian or a representative before unloading. Health papers should be listed in the 4-Her's name, the 4-Her's and an immediate family member's name, or the 4-Her's and the family name. (Ex. John Smith & Sons, Jane Smith & Sons and Daughters, John Smith and Family). For Health rules, see previous rules. State inspectors have authority to inspect animal thoroughly, and their decisions are final.
7. Sale order at the auction will be Grand Champion Market, Reserve Grand Champion Market, Champion Rate of Gain, Breed Champions (in order of level of class competition, ties broken alphabetically), Reserve Champion Rate of Gain, Reserve Breed Champions (same order as Champs).
8. Class trophies will be decided by the beef committee and submitted to the Awards Committee prior to fall meeting.
9. A Leader's Special Award will be given at the auction.
10. In the event of the death of a steer or heifer, members must call the beef chairperson immediately to determine eligibility for show.
11. No artificial filling of any beef animals will be allowed at any time while at the Allen County Fair.
12. During the Allen County Fair, 4-H beef exhibitor may receive clipping and grooming assistance from a current Allen County 4-H Leader or another current Indiana 4-H member. In addition, you may receive assistance from members of their family who are no more than 2 generations removed from the exhibitor. No unethical fitting/grooming practices will be allowed. Refer to the State Fair Fraud & Deception rules.
13. All cattle should be double-tied while not attended to in the Barn or tie-out area.
14. Use of generators is only permitted on show day. If used, it must be at least 25 feet away from any wash rack and/or show barn.
15. All cattle must be in the cattle barn from 8:00 a.m. until at least 7:00 p.m. Cattle will be allowed to go to tie outs or their trailer after 7:00 p.m.
16. Only ONE fan per animal will be allowed while stalled in the barn.

BREEDING HEIFERS

1. Classes at the County Fair are determined at weigh-in and will follow Indiana State Fair Heifer Age Class guidelines.
2. Prior to the **County Fair** weigh-in, all beef females (yearling calves, cows, and market heifers) are required to have a legible tattoo **or permanent metal vet issued tag in it's ear**. Plastic tags are not considered acceptable.
3. Purebred heifers will be shown by breed and age. Crossbred heifer classes will be divided by hip height.
4. It is recommended that all heifers be calfhood vaccinated to show.

COW/CALF CLASS

1. A beef female too old to show in a heifer class and exhibited by the exhibitor in a 4-H Heifer Class previously at the Fair is eligible to be shown by the member and/or sibling in the Beef Cow/Calf Class. The cow and her calf will be judged as a pair.
2. Exhibitor may make no more than 2 cow/calf entries.
3. Additional show ring assistance must be a current Allen County 4-H member.
4. Champion Cow/Calf will show with Champion Breed Heifers for Overall Grand Champion Female.
5. Calf can only be showed as Cow/Calf. Not eligible for Junior Heifer exhibit.

STEERS

1. Steers are suggested to have been calved after January 1 of the previous year.
2. A class will be offered for steers bred, born and raised in Allen County. Class winner would show for overall Steer awards. Steers can be of any breed, including crossbred and will be shown by weight. Steers shown in this class would be ineligible to show in other steer breed classes.
3. Calves will be shown by weight and breed at the County Fair. There will be purebred classes and a crossbred class. Classes of nearly equal size will be set up at the Fair following the weighing of all animals. Calves shall be weighed one time only to establish class weight. NO practice or pre-weigh or weigh-backs will be allowed. Weight class for show will be determined by this weight.
4. Steers will be judged as market animals. Ribbons will be awarded upon placing of steers.
5. All steers must be dehorned.
6. Grand Champion Market will be selected from breed, market heifers, All Other Breeds, and crossbred steer champions.
7. Only ONE bovine (calf) can be offered for auction.
8. If a member wishes to show their steer at State Fair, it cannot be sold through auction.

MARKET HEIFERS

1. Calves will be shown by weight only at the County Fair. Classes of nearly equal size will be set up at the Fair following weighing of all animals.
2. Heifers are suggested to have been calved after January 1 of the previous year.
3. No heifer can compete in both the Market Heifer Class and the Breeding Heifer Class.
4. Calves will be judged as market animals. Ribbons will be awarded upon placing calves.
5. Only ONE bovine (calf) may be offered for auction.
6. Market Heifers are eligible to compete for the Rate-of-Gain trophy.
7. Market Heifers are not a State Fair class.

JUNIOR HEIFER

1. All Heifer Calves born after January 1 of exhibition year will be shown as Junior Heifer only.
2. All Junior Heifers will be shown by weight.
3. Calves will not be eligible to compete in Breeding Heifer Classes/awards
4. Calves must be dehorned before arrival at the fair
5. Calves must be weaned from their dam/cow
6. Showmanship participants will show in their respective age group in the regular beef show
7. All calves are expected to be lead/shown by halter.
8. Animal must be identified in V2.4honline by May 15.

FEEDER CALF

1. Calves need to be born on or after January 1 of exhibition year.
2. Class is open to beef steer calves only.
3. Champion beef feeder calf will not be eligible to compete for Overall Grand Champion Market Animal.
4. Weight will be determined at fair beef weigh-in. Classes will be shown by weight and divided as needed.
5. All calves must be dehorned before arriving at the fair.
6. Calves may not be accompanied by their nurse cow.
7. Showmanship participants will show in their respective age groups in the regular beef show. There will be no separate showmanship classes for beef feeder calf exhibitors only.
8. All calves are expected to be able to be lead/shown by halter.
9. All state and federal health regulations apply.
10. Beef feeder calves will be appraised by a qualified cattle buyer along with the market beef animals to determine market value.

11. Exhibitor may auction or consign animal. All auction rules apply - only 2 per person and one per project - cannot sell both a market steer and feeder steer.
12. The upper weight limit is 650 pounds. Calves weighing over 650 pounds are eligible for participation ribbon only.

SHOWMANSHIP will be conducted in three divisions. Member will compete in level according to school grade as of January 1 of current exhibition year.

Junior grades 3-4-5

Intermediate grades 6-7-8

Senior grades 9-10-11-12

Overall Showman for all current Junior, Intermediate, Senior, previous Senior **and previous** **Master** Showman winners. **(See Showman of Showmen).**

Once an exhibitor has won a division, they must compete in the next higher division the following year. Senior division winners may not compete for the senior division showman again. Showmanship participants must show their own animal which they exhibited in an earlier class.

Updated 10/2024