



CLAY COUNTY 4-H BEEF

*Updated for 2026

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4-H Cattle Superintendent: Ross Hyatt – (812) 239-6577 (rhyatt9400@gmail.com)

BEEF ENROLLMENT:

- a) Enrolled animals must be owned by the 4-H exhibitor by said deadline of **May 15, 2026** and must be under the continuous care, responsibility and ownership through the date of the show, except where change of ownership was to 4-H member's complete ownership. Any animal listed under a family through Indiana 4HOnline may be shown by any member listed under that family profile.
- b) 4-H members must be enrolled in Clay County 4-H and the Beef Project on Indiana [4-H Online](#) by **May 15, 2026**.
- c) All 4-H cattle must be identified through 4HOnline by **May 15, 2026**.
- d) All Steers, Commercial Heifers and Market Heifers must be owned and under the care of the 4-H member prior to **February 20, 2026** and identified with a 5-Digit County ID tag and an RFID by the Annual Cattle ID Day (**February 20, 2026**). To be eligible for the Rate of Gain award, all steers and market heifers will be weighed at this time.
- e) All registered heifers & market animals must be enrolled, owned and under the care of the 4-H member no later than **May 15, 2026**. Heifers must also be identified by an RFID tag and tattoo.
- f) All feeder calves must be identified with an RFID and enrolled by **May 15, 2026** in Indiana [4HOnline](#).
- g) If you need assistance tagging your registered heifer or feeder calf, please contact a leader.
- h) Premise ID numbers are required on all 4-H Beef enrollments.
- i) All 4-H'ers who plan to exhibit Beef Cattle at the State Fair must supply a DNA Hair Sample to the Extension Office by **May 15, 2026** for each animal they plan to exhibit. Refer to animal enrollment deadlines above.

HEALTH:

- a) At the time of check-in with the Cattle Superintendent and throughout the duration of the fair, all cattle must be free of symptoms of any communicable disease. No cattle may be unloaded until inspected and, if necessary, approved by the Veterinarian on duty. Animals showing signs of communicable disease, including warts or ringworm, will not be allowed on the fairgrounds. Health rules established by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health will be followed, and in the event of a health concern, a veterinarian will be contacted. The Cattle Superintendent may require cattle to remain on the trailer until evaluated by a veterinarian. If an animal becomes ill during the fair, a veterinarian will assess its condition, and the Cattle Superintendent will determine whether the animal should be released. For more information on cattle health requirements, contact the Indiana Board of Health at (877) 747-3038.
- b) All animals at weigh-in and while on exhibit at the fair must be dehorned (**with the exception of the Highland breed**) and halter-broken to the extent that they are not deemed a safety hazard to the public, other exhibitors, or their exhibitor/owner. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- c) **Beef cattle must be dehorned and healed and have no more than 3-inch scurs, with the exception of Highlands.** Dehorning or castration of animals must be done by **June 15, 2026** to exhibit at the fair.
- d) All calves must be properly castrated by the fair. Improperly castrated calves will not be allowed to be exhibited.

GROOMING:

Clay County 4-H encourages members and their immediate families to be the primary groomers of their animals. However, exhibitors may use outside groomers for show day assistance if needed. If you plan to have grooming help at the State Fair, please review their updated rule book to ensure all requirements are met. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.

PENNING:

- a) The Cattle Superintendent will assign stall and tie out space prior to bringing cattle to the fairgrounds.
- b) All cattle during fair week are required to have BOTH halter and necktie while in assigned stalls and tie out.
- c) Cattle will not be allowed outside of the fenced area around the cattle barn during fair week (e.g., cannot be at the trailers).
- d) Exhibitors will need to furnish their own bedding materials (unless a donor is obtained).

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- e) One overhead fan per TWO head of cattle is allowed. Fans must have proper safety approved shrouds. No misters or butt fans allowed.
- f) Power washers will not be allowed in the wash racks.
- g) No stall panels, gates, or posts will be allowed in the tie out area.
- h) Muzzles and electric prodders will not be allowed.
- i) Penning assignments will be made by the superintendent.
- j) There will be a stall fee of no more than \$5 per pen/stall due at the beginning of the fair. Please see your leader for further communication on this closer to fair.

SHOW:

- a) All cattle will use the rules and age grouping classification as utilized by the Indiana State Fair. Find those rules here, <https://tinyurl.com/3ymu3cvu>.
- b) Show classes will be divided into breed and/or weight classes based upon enrollment each year. The cattle superintendent will divide the classes and adjust as needed.
- c) Show order for all heifers, steer and starter calves will be posted no later than 6 pm the night before the show.
- d) AOB classes will not be offered.
- e) All animals will be weighed upon unloading at fair check-in. Registration papers and tattoos will be checked at this time as well.
- f) Members must declare a breed for their calf to be shown in at time of enrollment deadline. This applies to members wishing to show a calf entered as a purebred in the Cross class or a member that has dual entered their calf in two breeds.
- g) Market heifers cannot be shown in both market and breeding heifer classes and must be open at time of show.
- h) Slick Steers must not have body hair over 1/4" long at time of fair check in.
- i) To show a breed heifer, you must have original registration papers and legible tattoo. This registration paper must be provided upon weigh in at the fair. If you do not have registration papers, your papers and tattoo do not match, but your RFID tag matches the Indiana 4-H Online family profile entry, that heifer must be shown as a commercial heifer. If your papers, tattoo and RFID tag does not match the Indiana 4-H Online family profile entry, that heifer will be disqualified.

Age Requirements for registered Heifers:

- 1) Junior Heifer Calf – born **January 1 to March 31, 2026**
- 2) Winter Heifer Calf – born **November 1 to December 31, 2025**
- 3) Senior Heifer Calf – born **September 1 to October 31, 2025**
- 4) Late Summer Yearling Heifer-born **July 1 to August 31, 2025**
- 5) Early Summer Yearling Heifer-born **May 1 to June 30, 2025**
- 6) Spring Yearling Heifer-born **March 1 to April 30, 2025**
- 7) Junior Yearling Heifer-born **January 1 to February 28, 2025**
- 8) Senior Yearling Heifer-born **September 1 to December 31, 2024**
- j) To show a breed steer, you must have original registration papers and legible tattoo. This registration paper must be provided upon weigh in at the fair. If you do not have registration papers, your papers and tattoo do not match, but your 5-digit County ID and RFID tags do match the Indiana 4-H online family profile entry, that steer must be shown as a crossbred. If your papers, tattoo, 5-digit County ID and RFID tags do not match the Indiana 4-H Online family profile entry, that steer will be disqualified.
- k) Commercial heifers, market heifers, and steers will be shown by weight. The 5-digit County ID and RFID tags will be checked at fair weigh in. If they do not match the 4-H Online family profile entry, they will be disqualified.
- l) In addition to the grooming guidelines, no false tails and/or use of and/or addition of any type of artificial hair is prohibited. Only natural hair growing in its original location will be permitted.
- m) All 4-H Livestock will be shown by current Clay County 4-H members only.
- n) **The Mini 4-H Cattle show will include members that are enrolled in the Clay Co. Mini 4-H program and are currently in the 2nd grade.** Mini 4-H members must be entered in the cattle project by **May 18, 2026** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.

BORN & RAISED:

- a) Born and raised cattle must be raised by the Clay County 4-H member.
- b) The 4-H member that owns/registered the born and raised animal must be the one to show said animal.
- c) These animals will be exhibited during the steer and heifer show and placed. After these shows, the county born and bred animals will come back for their Champion and Reserve placings.

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- d) Exhibitor must indicate county born and bred on livestock entries through Indiana 4-H Online.
- e) **Exhibitors must enter both the Bred & Owned breed class and the regular breed class in FairEntry to qualify for the homegrown award. Superintendents are not responsible for entry errors.**

Example: A Hereford heifer you've raised since birth must be entered in both the **Homegrown Hereford Heifer** and **Hereford Heifer** classes.

RATE OF GAIN:

Rate of Gain Class is for market heifers and steers. The top award will go to the animal with the highest Average Daily Gain between the Annual Cattle ID Tag Day (**February 20, 2026**) and Weigh-in at the Fair. Rate of gain is forfeited if not brought and weighed on the annual ID Tag Day.

SHOWMANSHIP:

4-H members may only show their own animals that they will also exhibit in a regular 4-H class.

- a) **Junior Showmanship:** 3rd–5th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026. Once a 4-Her wins Overall Junior Showman, they may only compete in Intermediate Showmanship the following year.
- b) **Intermediate Showmanship:** 6th–8th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Junior winners. Once a 4-Her wins Overall Intermediate Showman, they may only compete in Senior Showmanship the following year.
- c) **Senior Showmanship:** 9th–12th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Intermediate winners. Winners may compete in the Champion of Champions class that year and in future years.
- d) **Champion of Champions Showmanship:** Open to all past Senior Division Champions, including the 2026 winner.

STATE FAIR INFORMATION:

- a) Entries required by June 1st via www.indianastatefair.com or date set by the Indiana State Fair.
- b) Beef steers and commercial heifers must be individually identified with a RFID tagged and a five-digit county ear tag.
- c) Registered heifers/cows must be registered and identified by a tattoo and a RFID tag.
- d) DNA hair samples of each entry must be turned into the Extension Office by **May 15, 2026**.

CLAY COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION:

Exhibitors wishing to exhibit beef animals weighing below 850 pounds must sign a release form acknowledging that their animal is not eligible for sale at the auction. Failure to sign this waiver will disqualify the animal from the beef steer show. Animals MUST have an RFID tag in place before going through the auction. See leader if one needs to be obtained at check-in.

The livestock auction will be held at the conclusion of the fair. In order to participate, you must show an animal at the fair and designate an animal to go through the auction at fair check-in. A small auction fee percentage will be deducted from each member's check. Detailed auction information will be finalized closer to fair.

ACTION DEMONSTRATION:

An action display is a way to show off your skills and abilities. You may give the demonstration during the show. The regular beef judge will judge these.

COW / CALF CONTEST:

- a) Cow and calf must meet all Clay County 4-H and Indiana BOAH Health Requirements.
- b) Cows must be showing lactation during the show.
- c) The 4-H member or immediate family member must own animals.
- d) Cow/Calf must be halter broken.
- e) Cow/Calf pairs will be shown by breed and broken-up into classes as follows: 1-3 years; 4-6 years; 7 + years
- f) Cow/calf pairs must be entered into 4-H Online by **May 15, 2026** under the Cow/Calf Entry. If the calf information is not known by May 15th, please mark the calf information as pending.

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FEEDER CALF:

- a) Calf must meet all Clay County 4-H and Indiana BOAH Health Requirements
- b) Animals must be owned by the 4-H member no later than the Spring ID Day (**May 15, 2026**) of the current year.
- c) The animal can be beef or dairy/beef cross. This includes commercial heifers, steers and bull calves.
- d) All calves must be dehorned by 4-H Fair. No ruptured calves may be exhibited.
- e) Calf Age: **January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026**. Feeder Calves must NOT exceed 700 lbs. at the day of fair weigh in. If the RFID tag does not match the Indiana 4-H Online family profile entry, that calf will be disqualified.
- f) A Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be selected from the class winners. Calves will be shown by weight.
- g) Show classes will be determined by enrollment each year and at the discretion of the Cattle Superintendents.
- h) Calves do not have to be weaned at tagging. Must be weaned by fair time.

SHOW AWARDS

Breed Supreme & Res. Supreme Heifers	Breed Supreme Born & Raised Heifer	Grand & Res. Grand Cow-Calf Pair	Champion Starter Bull Champion Born & Raised Starter Bull
Champion Starter Heifer Calf Champion Born & Raised Starter Heifer Calf	Champion Starter Steer Calf Champion Born & Raised Starter Steer Calf	Grand & Res. Grand Starter Calf Grand & Res. Grand Born & Raised Starter Calf	Grand Supreme & Res. Supreme Born & Raised Heifers Grand Champion & Res. Grand Born & Raised Steers
Grand & Res. Grand, Champion of Champions Showmanship	Top 5 Overall Heifers Top 5 Overall Steers	Champion & Res. Champion Junior, Intermediate and Senior Showmanship	Champion Rate of Gain

INDIANA 4-H QUALITY LIVESTOCK CARE TRAINING

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training. This is an annual program that can be completed in-person by attending one of the classes on the following dates at the Fairgrounds:

- **March 18, 2026**
- **April 27, 2026**
- **May 21, 2026**
- **June 30, 2026**

An online option is available for \$12 through the YQCA program. Once you complete this [online course](#), you must email the Extension Office your final certificate emailed to you at completion showing your certification number.

REFERENCES:

- [Purdue Extension Beef Project](#)
- [Indiana State Fair Book – Beef Cattle](#)

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IMPORTANT BEEF DATES:

February 20, 2026 (4:00-8:00 PM)

Cattle ID Day at the Fairgrounds.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please contact Ross or Dee if you need help tagging your register heifer or feeder calf before May 15.

May 15, 2026

Deadline to enroll beef cattle on v2.4Honline.com—Your enrollment will not be complete if your animals are not enrolled online. Exhibitors who fail to register their animals online before the May 15th deadline will not be eligible to exhibit at the county or state fair.

May 15, 2026

DNA Samples due to the Extension Office if going to the State Fair.

May 18, 2026

Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the Mini cattle show.

July 1, 2026

Fair Entry due on fairentry.com (where you will enter your show classes for the fair)

TBD

Deadline to register beef online for the State Fair.

July 18 - 24, 2026

Clay County 4-H Fair

July 17, 2026

Beef check-in at the Clay County Fair

July 18, 2026

Beef check-in at the Clay County Fair

July 18, 2026

Mini 4-H Cattle Show

July 20, 2026

Beef show at the Clay County Fair

July 23, 2026 (9:00 PM)

Beef released

July 24, 2026

Clay County livestock auction

August 7 - 23, 2026

Indiana State Fair



2026
Clay County Terms & Conditions