

DEPARTMENT: BEEF CATTLE

Superintendent: Mike Downerd

Beef Show Committee: Allie Beekman, Angie Beekman, Alex Cashman, Craig Dilley, Mike Downerd, Mark Fisher, Mark Fleming, Greg Fraker, Chris McCurdy, Kyle McIntire, Ron Ruggles, Don Stover, Casey Swendrick, Randy Thorpe

Skillathon: Saturday prior to fair

Beef Weigh-in / Check-in: Friday, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Beef Barn Exhibitor's Meeting: Saturday, to be announced

Costume Contest: Sunday, 1:00 p.m.

Showmanship, Fitting and Grooming, and Beef Breeding Show: 4:30 p.m., Sunday of fair

Market Beef Show: 5:00 p.m., Monday of fair

Premiums	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C
	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$3.00

1. Read the Fair General Rules, Livestock Rules and Junior Fair Sale Rules.

2. No class will consist of more than 10 animals.

3. Dairy feeders must be from dairy breeds to show in dairy feeder class. Beef feeders must be from beef breeds to show in the beef feeder class. Any feeders with obvious beef characteristics will be placed in the beef feeder class. Any questions will be resolved by the beef show committee at the pre-conditioning and tagging in August.

4. It is mandatory that all feeders must be pre-conditioned at the fairgrounds on the date determined by the beef show committee.

5. Dairy Feeders must be a steer, born after January 1 of current year, dehorned, and meet fair health requirements. No stags will be permitted to show.

6. Beef Feeders must be a heifer or steer born after January 1 of current year, dehorned, no stags, and must meet fair health requirements.

7. It is recommended that male feeder calves be castrated by July 15th and be completely healed by tagging in August.

8. Feeders under 350 pounds and over 700 pounds will show in underweight and overweight classes, respectively. Underweight and overweight classes cannot show for champion or trophies except in showmanship and fitting and grooming classes. The animal cannot go through the sale, but can be sold through the Sale Committee.

9. Exhibitors may show up to 2 finished market beef animals and/or 2 market dairy steers and/or 2 beef feeders and/or 2 dairy feeders but can only sell one animal. Exhibitors may identify or tag up to 4 animals in each category but can only bring 2 to the fair.

10. Market Beef animals may be a heifer or a steer born after January 1 of the previous year, dehorned, and meet fair health requirements. Steers must be properly castrated and no stags will be permitted to show.

11. Market Heifers will show with steers in the same classes.

12. Finished market beef animals will show by weight as determined by show committee. Beef and Dairy Feeders will be assigned to a show class by weight as determined by the show committee.

13. Finished market & dairy beef animals will be graded and placed by the judge.

14. All finished market beef animals must weigh 900 pounds or more to show and sell. Dairy steers must weigh at least 1,000 pounds.

15. Members must have finished market beef project animals in their possession by March 1. Switching animals after March 1 is not permitted for any reason.

16. All finished market & dairy beef animals must have been tagged in March at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. The Show Committee reserves the right to refuse to tag unruly animals or any dangerous and uncontrollable animal not broke to lead. In the interest of safety to exhibitors, any unruly animal will be ineligible to show and sell. All market beef are required to have an RFID ear tag.

17. Stall space will be assigned by barn committee. No changes may be made without the approval of the stalling chairman.

18. The ringmen have authority to dismiss dangerous and uncontrolled animals. If an animal is dismissed by the ringmen, the animal may be sold, but there will be no placing of the animal by the judge. Two ringmen and the judge will make the final decision in the case of a dispute.

19. If an exhibitor leaves the ring during the show, unless the exhibitor is injured, the animal and the exhibitor will be dismissed from the class. That animal will not be placed in the class.

20. Exhibitors must provide their own bedding. Bedding options include: mulch, straw or sawdust.

21. All exhibitors must adhere to the following dress code while in the show or sale rings; a button/snap collared shirt closed within one button from the top, long or short sleeve permitted but no sleeveless. No logos or ads on shirts other than 4-H or FFA. Long pants, no shorts, wear sturdy shoes or boots, no open toe or heel, no sandals. Clothes must be neat and clean in appearance with no rips or tears. No hats unless western style.

22. Location of grooming chutes will be determined by the beef committee.

Release of Cattle – Exhibitors are responsible for the feeding & care of their animal until the release time noted in the general rules. A rope halter will be furnished to tie each sale animal following the sale.

Dairy Steer Rules

1. Market Dairy Steers weigh at least 1,000 pounds. No top Weight limit. Market Dairy Steers will show by weight in the Market Beef classes if 3 or less are registered, if 4 or more are registered, Dairy Steers will have their own class. There will be a grand and reserve champion dairy steer only if there are 6 or more dairy steers exhibited and eligible for show.
2. Calves must be 100% dairy or cross from within the dairy breeds. These 5 dairy breeds are accepted without registration papers: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, & Jersey. If at any point the breed of the dairy steer is questioned; the Beef Committee has the right to request registration papers and disqualify the exhibitor; this will be determined at the time of tagging the first Saturday in March.
3. All Dairy Steers must be in the possession of the exhibitor by March 1.
4. Exhibitors are encouraged but is not mandatory to bring back a dairy feeder from the previous year to show as a market dairy steer the following year as a two year project.

Beef Breeding Rules

1. Beef breeding heifers will be entered as "Yearling Heifers" or Junior Heifers.
 - A. Yearling Heifers must be born between January 1st and December 31st of the previous year.
 - B. Junior Heifers must be born on or after January 1st of the current year.
 - C. No minimum or maximum weights; classes will be by age.
2. No breeds will be recognized in the Junior Fair Beef Breeding Classes. All animals will be shown as crossbreds.
3. Cattle shall be beef breeding stock, no dairy crosses.
4. Animals DO NOT need to have registration papers with their respective breed to be entered.
5. Exhibitors shall have possession of animals by July 1st, of the current year.
6. Cattle shall be dehorned, healed, and meet the fair's health requirements before coming to the Delaware County Fair.
7. Animals must have an EID tag in place when entering for the fair. If an EID tag is needed, animals must come to feeder tagging for an EID tag. This will possible have a fee for the tag.
8. Vaccinating Breeding Heifers is optional but highly encouraged.
9. Exhibitors shall have current quality assurance.
10. No class will consist of more than 10 animals.
11. Top 5 animals will be placed in each class.
12. The final drive will consist of the top two from the Yearling and Junior classes to pick a Grand and Reserve Beef Breeding Heifer.

13. Animals cannot be dual entered for Beef Breeding Heifer and Market Feeder Classes, Market Beef Classes.

14. Exhibitors may enter and bring 2 Yearling and/or 2 Junior Heifers to the fair.

15. Leased Beef Breeding Heifers may be exhibited at the fair. If an animal is leased, a copy of the lease agreement, including EID tag or breed identification tag, must be turned into the Extension Office by the July deadline.

Fitting & Grooming Contest

1. There are three age divisions 9 - 11 yrs., 12 - 14 yrs. and 15 - 18 yrs. All ages will be determined as of January 1.

2. The fitting and grooming contests will be for all beef project club members.

3. **New in 2026:** Each exhibitor participating in Fitting and Grooming contest must make a full-size grooming chute available for the committee to use for contest. Failure to make a chute available for the contest will result in the exhibitor being ineligible to participate in the contest. Committee will need to know which chute will be used 2 hours prior to the start of the show.

4. Each participant will be given a prescribed amount of time to fit and groom his/her animal. Juniors will have 12 minutes, intermediates 10 minutes, and seniors 8 minutes to work on their animals.

5. Participants must bring all their equipment just prior to the start of the contest.

6. Each participant must do his/her own work and no coaching will be permitted.

7. A junior fair member may be used to hold an animal while it is being fitted and groomed.

8. Exhibitors in showmanship and/or fitting and grooming must complete that class unaided. They cannot take advice from anyone in the observing crowd or the 4-H assistant in fitting and grooming.

9. The winner will receive an award.

Rate of Gain Market Beef and Dairy Steers

1. A Rate of Gain Contest will be conducted, based upon March and September weights.

2. Plaques will be furnished to the top three places in Market Beef and Dairy Steers.

Pee Wee Showmanship

1. Must be at least 5 years of age but under the age of showing for 4-H

2. Must be 4-H/FFA Affiliated

3. Must use a beef animal currently enrolled as a Delaware County Fair beef project.

4. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that the child is accompanied by an adult or current exhibitor.

Adult Showmanship

1. An Adult Beef Showmanship class will be held immediately following the Junior Showmanship Class.
2. Adults that have shown at the Delaware County Junior Fair or who have children showing the current year may participate.
3. Participants may use animals borrowed from Junior Fair participants.
4. Last year's winner is not eligible.
5. Plaques will be furnished to the first place.

Youth Showmanship

1. Showmanship is open to junior fair feeder calf, market beef, and beef breeding exhibitors.
2. See Rules for All Showman and Fitting & Grooming Contest under the General Livestock Rules.

Skillathon

1. The Beef Skillathon will be held on Saturday before the fair. Please see Skillathon rules under Livestock Activities for more details on location and timing.

Award for Outstanding Beef Exhibitor

Purpose:

- To place more emphasis on the educational value of livestock shows.
- To award youth for their knowledge and skills associated with their beef project.

Events:

Skillathon, Fitting and Grooming, Showmanship, and Live Show Placing.

General Rules for Outstanding Beef Exhibitor:

1. Only beef skillathon scores can be used.
2. Raw scores will be used for placings in the beef skillathon.

3. Showman of Showmen contest for both Market Beef and Feeder Calf will determine top 5 placings (includes age division winners and previous year showmanship winners). All other current year participants receive 80 points.
4. All Exhibitors will be competing for Outstanding Exhibitor in Beef unless they notify the Weigh Master at the time of the weigh- in.
5. Animals must meet requirements for show.
6. General rules applying to livestock exhibitors will be followed.
7. Any exhibitor disqualified for any reason will be ineligible for this award.
8. Any event not participated in will be scored zero points.
9. An exhibitor is not eligible to win the award the following year but may continue to compete in the individual events the following year.

Points Awarded for each Event:

1st place - 100 points

2nd place - 98 points

3rd place - 95 points

4th place - 91 points

5th place - 86 points

All other participants - 80 points

Tie breaker to determine overall winner:

1st - Skillathon score

2nd - Showmanship points

3rd - Fitting and Grooming

4th - Live placing points

A monetary award (\$100) will be given to the overall winner. In the event of a tie (after tiebreakers) award money will be divided equally among the tied individuals. The overall winner will receive special recognition.

A plaque will be given to the overall winner. In the event of a tie (after tiebreakers) an additional plaque will be ordered. The overall winner will receive special recognition in the pre-sale and in post-sale coverage.

Section 230: Market Beef

Class 23001 - Market Beef (Steers and Heifers)

Class 23002 - Market Dairy Steers

Section 231: Beef Feeders

Class 23101 - Beef Feeders (Steers and Heifers)

Section 232: Dairy Feeder

Class 23201 - Dairy Feeders

Section 233: Beef Breeding

Class 23301- Yearling Heifer (born 1-1 through 12-31 of previous year)

Class 23302- Junior Heifer (born 1-1 and after of the current year)

Section 234: Market Beef Showmanship

Class 23401 - Sr. Showmanship (15-18 yrs.)

Class 23402 - Int. Showmanship (12-14 yrs.)

Class 23403 - Jr. Showmanship (8-11 yrs.)

Section 235: Beef & Dairy Feeder Showmanship

Class 23501 - Sr. Showmanship (15-18 yrs.)

Class 23502 - Int. Showmanship (12-14 yrs.)

Class 23503 - Jr. Showmanship (8-11 yrs.)

Section 236: Fitting & Grooming

Class 23601 - Sr. Fitting & Grooming (15-18 yrs.)

Class 23602 – Int. Fitting & Grooming (12-14 yrs.)

Class 23603 – Jr. Fitting & Grooming (8-11 yrs.)

Register for Skillathon under Livestock Activities

Awards

Market Beef Banners

Grand Champion Market Beef

Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef

Champion Beef Breeding Heifer

Reserve Champion Beef Breeding Heifer

Champion Beef Yearling Heifer

Champion Beef Junior Heifer

Market Beef Plaques

Each Class Winner

Outstanding Beef Exhibitor

Fitting and Grooming Awards

Fitting and Grooming Plaques

Senior Fitting and Grooming (15-18 yrs. of age)

Reserve Sr. Fitting and Grooming (15-18 yrs. of age)

Intermediate Fitting & Grooming (12-14 yrs. of age)

Res. Intermediate Fitting and Grooming (12-14 yrs. of age)

Junior Fitting and Grooming (9-11 yrs. of age)

Res. Junior Fitting and Grooming (9-11 yrs. of age)

Showmanship Plaques

Senior Showmanship (15-18 yrs. of age)

Reserve Senior Showmanship (15-18 yrs. of age)

Intermediate Showmanship (12-14 yrs. of age)

Reserve Intermediate Showmanship (12-14 yrs. of age)

Junior Showmanship (9-11 Yrs. of age)

Reserve Junior Showmanship (9-11 yrs. of age)

Beef Showman of Showmen

Beef Reserve Showman of Showmen

Adult Beef Showmanship

Rate of Gain Plaques

Champion Rate of Gain Market Beef

Champion Rate of Gain Dairy Steer

Dairy & Beef Feeder Awards

Feed Calf Banners

Champion Beef Feeder

Reserve Champion Beef Feeder

Champion Dairy Feeder

Reserve Champion Dairy Feeder

Feed Calf Plaques

Beef Feeder Class Winners

Outstanding Beef Exhibitor

Dairy Feeder Class Winners

Dairy & Beef Feeder Calf Showmanship Plaques

Senior Showmanship (15-18 yrs. of age)

Reserve Senior Showmanship (15-18 yrs. of age)

Intermediate Showmanship (12-14 yrs. of age)

Res. Intermediate Showmanship (12-14 yrs. of age)

Junior Showmanship (9-11 Yrs. of age)

Reserve Junior Showmanship (9-11 yrs. of age)

Showman of Showmen Feeders

Reserve Showmen of Showman Feeders