

**FFA BEEF CATTLE DEPARTMENT**

**Supervisors of Breeding Beef** - Jodie Johnson, North Butler FFA; Breana Houtz, Holy Trinity FFA  
**Supervisors of Performance Beef** - Caitlin Remington, Bondurant-Farrar FFA; Jacob Smith, Indianola FFA  
**Beef Assistants** - Steve Sonntag, Southwest Valley FFA; Kyle O'Brien, Tall Corn FFA

**Tuesday, August 11**

8:00 a.m. Beef may arrive (Breeding Beef: Stalling Barn; Performance Beef: East End of Swine Barn)  
1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Health paper, registration paper and drug affidavit check in

**Wednesday, August 12**

8:00 a.m. Beef must be in  
Check in Performance Beef / Check in Breeding Beef (**immediately after Performance**)  
9:00 a.m. Breeding Beef health and registration papers must be checked in  
3:00 p.m. Exhibitor Meeting (Youth Inn)  
5:00 p.m. Performance Beef Show (Outdoor Arena)

**Thursday, August 13**

10:00 a.m. Breeding Beef Show (Outdoor Arena) - Bulls, Cow-Calf Units, Registered Heifers, Commercial Heifers, Selection of Supreme and Reserve Supreme  
After Show Beef released  
8:00 p.m. Beef must be out

If you have questions, please contact the Iowa State Fair Entry Department at 515-262-3111 ext. 246 or ffa@iowastatefair.org.

**DEPARTMENT RULES**

1. General rules and regulations and health requirements listed on the Iowa State Fair website and in the FFA section apply in this department, with special emphasis on the following sections: Member Eligibility, Supervision and Lodging, Good Conduct Policy, Medication and Drug Testing and Showing and Fitting Ethics.
2. **Nominations must be submitted online on or before May 15. (Performance Beef weigh-in sheet, DNA sample and payment must be postmarked on or before February 1.)** Nomination fee for Performance Beef is \$5 per nomination. No fee is required to nominate Breeding Beef or Cow-Calf.
3. **Entries must be submitted online on or before July 1.** Entry fee is \$30 per head for Performance or Breeding Beef animals and \$35 per pair for Cow-Calf units. Animals not entered will not be permitted to show.
4. All Commercial Heifers, Crossbred, Grade and Registered Cows and Registered Bulls and Heifers must be tattooed on or before May 15. Animals with fresh tattoos will not be permitted to show. Tattoos must be legible and can be read without question. Calfhood vaccination tattoos are not acceptable for identification. Freeze/Hot brands are not an acceptable form of identification. Animals may have ear tags but they are not required.
5. ALL breeding cattle must have official individual identification and be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that lists official identification. Examples of acceptable official identification on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection are: a USDA approved alphanumeric tag, Brucellosis (calfhood) vaccination tag with the tattoo, or purebred registry tattoo, or USDA approved RFID or 840 series tag. Identification on Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must match what was entered on the Iowa State Fair Entry System.
6. Common bedding will be used in the barns for all beef cattle. The stalls will be bedded by the Iowa State Fair Maintenance staff. No alternative bedding will be allowed on the grounds. Exhibitors will be allowed to purchase additional bedding to freshen stalls, but there will be a standard depth maintained.
7. Animals exhibited in this department must be housed Wednesday, August 12 - Thursday, August 13 in stalls designated by the FFA Beef Supervisors or forfeit all premiums earned. Beef entries from a school will be assigned adjacent stalls. **No FFA Beef at the Iowa State Fair will be permitted to be displayed or fit for show in breed association exhibits, Open Class, 4-H or other stalls for any reason before release time on August 13 or premium money will be withheld.**
8. Exhibitors must attend the exhibitor meeting at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12 in the Youth Inn.
9. All cattle must be in their stalls from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., each day of exhibition.
10. Exhibitors must keep the space in the rear of their stalls clear and clean; all litter must be thrown where indicated by the supervisors of the department. Exhibitors are requested to cooperate in the use of blocking chutes, using the minimum number of chutes per school and placing in an area designated by the cattle supervisors. Exhibitors are not to purchase extra stalls for blocking chutes. Failure to cooperate will result in withdrawal of premium money from beef classes. **No tack may be placed in the barn prior to 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11. Tack space is on a first come first serve basis. The use of butt fans is prohibited in all barns (see General Livestock Rules). Bulls may have their own set of dividers.**
11. Any artificial means of removing or remedying physical defects of conformation in animals exhibited will be considered as fraud and deception. **No unnatural means of providing an animal feed, water or other fluid (i.e. stomach pump, drench gun, IV) will be allowed.** All animals giving evidence of such treatment will be barred from exhibition at the Iowa State Fair.
12. **Painting, dyeing and use of color agents on beef animals is not condoned by Iowa State Fair Officials. Beef projects which show evidence of this will not be permitted into the show ring. If a color or coloring agent rubs off an animal rubbed with either a towel or hand, that animal will be disqualified. Exhibitors can use colored grooming aids on hooves only. Animals are subject to tueling.**
13. No artificial aides such as tail head or tail fins will be permitted.
14. **HORNS** - Exhibitors will be required to have horns disbudded or dehorned on all market animals. Breeding beef may not have a horn set longer than 36 inches measured tip to tip.
15. After a class has been placed in the show ring, officials reserve the right to re-inspect animals for color or sharp practices. If such is found, the animal will be barred from further championship competition and forfeit all premium money.
16. **Each FFA member shall take responsibility for caring for and grooming his/her own animal(s). If assistance is needed it should be intended to help the FFA member learn new skills. FFA members can be assisted by an immediate family member, fellow active Iowa FFA member and/or chapter advisor in fitting and grooming their cattle. No other assistants will be permitted. Anyone found in violation of this rule will be disqualified. Family members include and are limited to: parent/legal guardian, brother, sister or step-siblings.**
17. Exhibitors should be to the show ring in a timely manner. Ring staff reserves the right to close the class as deemed appropriate. Absolutely NO entries may enter the ring once a class has begun to be placed.
18. Only the exhibitor and one helper will be allowed into the holding area once the cattle are checked in for the show.
19. All beef animals must be on a halter at all times. Absolutely no loose beef animals will be allowed.

20. Cable halters will not be allowed in the show ring.
21. A purple, blue, red or white ribbon will be awarded to each entry. Rosettes will be awarded to the Champion and Reserve Champion in each division. **Only purple and blue ribbon winners can be named Champion of a show/division/class.**

**BREEDING BEEF  
SPECIAL RULES**

1. Breeding beef exhibitors must follow FFA Beef Department rules listed above.
2. **Nominations must be submitted online on or before May 15.** A maximum of 20 heifers and bulls may be nominated. Classes will be determined at the Fair during check in.
3. All FFA Breeding Heifers and Bulls must be owned by the nomination due date and ownership maintained through the date of exhibition at the Iowa State Fair by the exhibitor, or in a partnership, school cooperative or a corporation.
4. **Entries must be submitted online on or before July 1.** Entry fee is \$30 per head. Each exhibitor may enter a maximum of eight heifers and bulls in the Breeding Beef show.
5. Registration, transfer papers and ear tattoos will be checked; and Commercial Heifers will be weighed after Performance check in on Wednesday, August 12. Registration papers and health papers will be checked prior to check in. Papers will be checked in the morning.
6. In each registered beef class, heifers and bulls will enter the show ring in order by birth date.
7. Registered heifers born September 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 may be exhibited. There are no classes for registered heifers born after December 31, 2025. FFA registered heifers will be divided into classes as determined by the Beef Committee. There are to be no more than 12 heifers in a class.
8. Commercial heifers born from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 may be exhibited. There are no classes for commercial heifers born before January 1, 2025 or after December 31, 2025. Commercial Heifers will be divided into classes according to weight instead of age. The supervisor reserves the right to determine classes.
9. Registered bulls born January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 may be exhibited. There are no classes for bulls born before January 1, 2025 or after December 31, 2025. There are no commercial bull classes.
10. **A breed must have at least four head to have a breed show under the divisions of heifer, cow/calf and bulls.** A breed may have a separate sub-class under its class if it has four or more entries. Otherwise, they will be combined and show in the All Other Breeds (AOB) class. Herefords will show together unless there are at least four polled and four horned checked in at the show, then they will show separately.
11. Heifers and bulls will be judged on the basis of breeding condition, breed characteristics, quality and conformation. Probable usefulness as a breeding animal will be stressed. The breed association's determination of what is classified as purebred or registered in that breed will be accepted.
12. **PREMIUMS** - Monetary premiums will be paid to the top three entries in each class. Premiums paid will be \$40, 25, 15.
13. **BRED & OWNED** - Heifers and bulls must be the produce of a dam presently or formerly enrolled by the member as a FFA project. Heifers entered as such must be shown in their respective breed class. For those heifers and bulls the judge declares to be worthy of recognition at the time of placing the class and that were entered as Bred & Owned, \$5 will be added to the top three premiums awarded in the class. To be eligible for this incentive premium, "Bred & Owned" must be indicated on the nomination form.

**HEIFERS - DIVISION 803**

BREED	CLASS
Angus.....	1
Charolais.....	2
Charolais Percentage.....	3
Chianina.....	4
Gelbvieh.....	5
Horned Hereford/Polled Hereford.....	6
Limousin.....	7
Lim-Flex.....	8
High % Maine-Anjou.....	9
Mainetainer.....	10
Miniature Hereford.....	11
Red Angus.....	12
Red Angus Foundation.....	13
Salers.....	14
Shorthorn.....	15
Shorthorn Plus.....	16
Simmental.....	17
Foundation Simmental.....	18
All Other Breeds.....	19
Commercial.....	20

**BULLS - DIVISION 804**

BREED	CLASS
Angus.....	21
Charolais.....	22
Charolais Percentage.....	23
Chianina.....	24
Gelbvieh.....	25
Horned Hereford/Polled Hereford.....	26
Limousin.....	27
Lim-Flex.....	28
High % Maine-Anjou.....	29
Mainetainer.....	30
Miniature Hereford.....	31
Red Angus.....	32
Red Angus Foundation.....	33
Salers.....	34
Shorthorn.....	35
Shorthorn Plus.....	36
Simmental.....	37
Foundation Simmental.....	38
All Other Breeds.....	39

**COW-CALF  
SPECIAL RULES**

1. Cow-Calf exhibitors must follow FFA Beef Department rules listed on previous pages.
2. **Nominations must be submitted online on or before May 15.** A maximum of five cow-calf units may be nominated.
3. The cow which gave birth to the calf must have been owned by the FFA exhibitor at least 60 days before calving. Ownership must be maintained through the date of exhibition at the Iowa State Fair by the exhibitor, or in a partnership, school cooperative or a corporation.
4. **Cows must be tattooed; ear tags are fine but will not be required. Each calf must be ear tagged or tattooed. Cows with fresh tattoos will not be permitted to show.**
5. Calves must have been born January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 and may be either female or male. Calf must be the cow's most recent natural calf.
6. **Entries must be submitted online on or before July 1.** Entry fee is \$35 per cow-calf unit. Each exhibitor may enter a maximum of two cow-calf pairs.

7. **Classes will be based upon breed of the cow.** The breed must be designated on the nomination form and registration papers must be presented at the Fair to exhibit in those listed breed classes.
8. Exhibitors must provide registration papers on all registered cows.
9. The cow and calf must both be broke to lead and will both be tied at the Fair.
10. Each class must have at least four entries or classes will be combined. A breed may have a separate sub-class under its class if it has four or more entries.
11. Classes will be judged on breeding quality of the dam and productivity efficiency of the dam (50%). The quality and growth of the calf will also be evaluated (50%). Cow/calf classes will be split by the age of the cow.
12. **PREMIUMS** - Monetary premiums will be paid to the top three entries in each class. Premiums paid will be \$40, 25, 15. No cow-calf units will receive Bred & Owned premium money.

**COW-CALF - DIVISION 805**

<b>BREED</b>	<b>CLASS</b>
Angus .....	40
Charolais .....	41
Charolais Percentage .....	42
Chianina .....	43
Gelbvieh .....	44
Horned Hereford/Polled Hereford.....	45
Limousin .....	46
Lim-Flex.....	47
High % Maine-Anjou.....	48
Mainetainer.....	49
Miniature Hereford.....	50
Red Angus.....	51
Red Angus Foundation.....	52
Salers .....	53
Shorthorn.....	54
Shorthorn Plus.....	55
Simmental .....	56
Foundation Simmental .....	57
All Other Breeds .....	58
Commercial .....	59

**SUPREME AND RESERVE SUPREME HEIFER**

A Supreme Champion FFA Heifer and Reserve Supreme Champion FFA Heifer will be selected from the champion of each breed shown in the breeding heifer show.

- Supreme Heifer ..... Plaque and Banner
- Reserve Supreme Heifer..... Plaque and Banner

**SUPREME AND RESERVE SUPREME BULL**

A Supreme Champion FFA Bull and Reserve Supreme Champion FFA Bull will be selected from the champion of each breed shown in the breeding bull show.

- Supreme Bull..... Plaque and Banner
- Reserve Supreme Bull .....

**SUPREME AND RESERVE SUPREME COW/CALF**

A Supreme Champion FFA Cow/Calf and Reserve Supreme Champion FFA Cow-Calf will be selected from the champion of each breed shown in the cow-calf show.

- Supreme Cow-Calf..... Plaque and Banner
- Reserve Supreme Cow-Calf..... Plaque and Banner

**BREEDING BEEF CHAPTER AWARD**

THE SUPREME BREEDING BEEF EXHIBITOR'S AWARD recognizes the cooperative efforts of a chapter. The banner/ribbons are awarded to the chapters with outstanding over-all exhibits of registered beef, commercial heifers and cow-calf units. No entry form or entry fee will be required. The awards are based on a point system. A committee will tabulate the results during the progress of the show.

Chapter Award: 1<sup>st</sup> - Banner; 2<sup>nd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> place - Ribbons

**PERFORMANCE BEEF**

**SPECIAL RULES**

1. Performance beef exhibitors must follow FFA Beef Department rules listed on previous pages.
2. **Weigh-in sheet, DNA sample and payment must be postmarked on or before February 1. Nominations must be submitted online on or before May 15.** Nomination fee is \$8 per nomination. A maximum of six steers may be nominated.
3. Entries are open to market steers - purebred, grade or crossbred. Animals must have been weighed between November 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026 inclusive. Notification will be sent to the exhibitor and FFA advisor when the Performance Beef Committee has ruled a nomination is disqualified.
4. All FFA performance steers must have been weighed and identified at an approved county weigh-in site. Steers must have been identified by all of the following methods:
  - a. An FFA issued ear tag
  - b. A tattoo in at least one ear
  - c. Hair sample taken at county weigh-in site

5. **All Performance Beef steers must be tattooed. All steers from the same FFA member and/or FFA family must have different tattoos. Steers with fresh tattoos or no tattoos will not be permitted to show. The steer may load to truck and the member will receive carcass data. Tattoos must be legible and can be read without question. Calfhood vaccination tattoos are not acceptable for identification.**
6. **Entries must be submitted online on or before July 1.** Entry fee is \$30 per head. Each exhibitor may enter a maximum of three performance beef steers with no more than two entries shown in one specific window. The third must be entered and shown in a different window. An exhibitor may enter and show each steer in a different window.
7. All animals must be halter broken and manageable by the exhibitor. They will be clean, but no credit will be given for grooming except for showing awards competition. No glitter.
8. Exhibitors must attend the exhibitor meeting and educational presentation at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12 in the Youth Inn.
9. All exhibitors must turn in a signed affidavit for COOL and medication given to their animals. These will be kept on file for the packer. All animals will be drug tested by the packer.
10. The number of beef in each live class will be determined by the number shown and will be divided by nomination weigh-in weight in each specification window - A, B and C.
11. All FFA performance beef at the Iowa State Fair will be subject to urine, blood and tissue analysis for diuretics and anabolic compounds and feed additive or drug residues at the discretion of show management or federal inspector. Positive tests will result in forfeiture of premiums and sale price.
12. Each animal must compete in the live show to qualify for a performance placing. If an animal gets loose from the exhibitor three times during the show, it will be disqualified from the live and performance shows. The animal can be sent to the packing plant, but will not be included in show results.
13. All FFA performance beef animals will be picked up immediately after showing for delivery to a designated packing company.
14. No animals in this division may be held for Open Classes.
15. Results will be tabulated after receiving the final carcass sheet.
16. A purple, blue, red or white ribbon will be presented to each entry in both live and performance classes.
17. **Bred & Owned eligible animals should be entered by indicating Bred & Owned on the online nomination form. Bred & Owned animals will be given special recognition by designation on the program. They will show with each class. The overall placing will determine the Bred & Owned live placing.** Special awards will be given for both live and performance placings.
18. The price received by each exhibitor will be the current carcass price for the day of processing. All standard industry discounts for grade, weight, bullocks, dark cutters, trim, etc. will be applied by the packer.
19. **Exhibitors are reminded that there may be substantial price cuts on heavy carcasses; the packer will determine these cuts.**
20. Checks for the animals will be sent by the Iowa State Fair using figures supplied by the packing plant. Trucking, packer fees and other related expenses will be deducted from exhibitor checks.
21. Entries with hot dressed beef weight of less than 550 pounds will not be considered for Performance Beef premiums. Performance placing will be based on value of saleable meat per day on test. **Premiums will be paid on performance placings.**
22. The following formula is to be used -  
**Calculate % Retail Product:**  

$$[65.69 - (9.931 \times \text{Fat Thickness}) + (1.2259 \times \text{Rib Eye Area}) - (.013166 \times \text{Carcass Weight}) - (1.29 \times \% \text{Kidney, Pelvic and Heart Fat})]$$
**Calculate Carcass Value Added Per Day on Feed:**  $\text{CV/DOF} =$   

$$\frac{[\text{Hot Carcass Wt.} - (.55 \times \text{Starting Wt.})] \times \% \text{Retail Product} \times \text{Carcass Price, } \$/\text{lb.}/(.70)}{\text{Days on Feed}}$$

The Hotel-Restaurant Window (C) will have premiums added for High Choice, and Low Prime and above of \$2.50 and up to \$5.00 per cwt. above the choice base bid respectively. For Lean-Lite Beef (B), the price bid for Choice cattle will be used in the formula for Select and Choice quality grades. Prices received for the cattle will be those as bid by the packer the day of processing. Generally prices received are bids based on 550 to 1050 pound carcasses with discounts applied for Select, Standard and Bullock grading carcasses. Other discounts that can apply are for over 1050 pound carcasses, under 550 pound carcasses, and Yield Grade 4 and 5 carcasses. Cattle payments reflect subtractions for trucking, inspection, yardage, beef checkoff, data collection and dark cutter assessment.
23. At entry time, each exhibitor will choose one of the following three specification windows to exhibit each of his/her animals live and in the performance competition. Windows can be changed up until 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, day of show. No changes can be made after that time. An animal shall be exhibited in only one of the specification windows.

**PERFORMANCE BEEF - DIVISION 806**

**CLASS**

60	<b>WINDOW "A"</b>	<b>"Choice Retail Beef"</b>
	<u>Trait</u>	<u>Specifications</u>
	Hot Carcass Weight	550 - 1075 pounds
	Fat Thickness	.1" min. to .75" max.
	Rib Eye Area	11 square inches minimum
	Quality Grade	Low Choice Minimum
	Yield Grade	Equal to or less than 3.50
	Rate of Gain	2.4 lb. per day minimum
61	<b>WINDOW "B"</b>	<b>"Lean-Lite Beef"</b>
	<u>Trait</u>	<u>Specifications</u>
	Hot Carcass Weight	minimum of 550 pounds
	Fat Thickness	.1" min. to .35" max.
	Rib Eye Area	11 square inches minimum
	Quality Grade	Low Select Minimum
	Yield Grade	Equal to or less than 2.75
	Rate of Gain	2.4 lb. per day minimum

62	<b>WINDOW "C"</b> <u>Trait</u> Hot Carcass Weight Fat Thickness Rib Eye Area Quality Grade Yield Grade Rate of Gain	<b>"Hotel-Restaurant Beef"</b> <u>Specifications</u> 550 - 1075 pounds .2" min. to 1" max. 10-16 square inches Average Choice Minimum Equal to or less than 3.99 2.4 lb. per day minimum
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Each animal not meeting the minimum specifications within a specified window will not qualify for a purple or blue award; animals not meeting the window specifications of their class will receive a red or white ribbon.

Any animal placing 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> which does not meet all specifications within a specified window will not receive prize money.

24. Prize money will be \$125, 100, 75 paid to each of the three specification windows, for animals meeting window specifications, for the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Premiums are paid on carcass placings only. For those entered and shown as Bred & Owned, \$5 will be added to the top three premiums awarded in the class in addition to Bred & Owned ribbons. The Champion Bred & Owned Performance Beef entry will receive \$25 premium.

- Window A, B & C Live Champion ..... Plaque & Rosette
- Window A, B & C Live Reserve Champion..... Plaque & Rosette
- Window A, B & C Performance Champion..... Trophy & Rosette
- Window A, B & C Performance Reserve Champion.... Plaque & Rosette

**PERFORMANCE BEEF CHAPTER AWARD**

THE SUPREME PERFORMANCE BEEF EXHIBITOR'S AWARD recognizes the cooperative efforts of a chapter. The recognition will be based on number of animals shown and final performance placings. No entry form or entry fee will be required. The awards are based on a point system.

Chapter Award: 1<sup>st</sup> - Banner; 2<sup>nd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> place - Ribbons

**CHAMPION BEEF MEMBERS**

Offered by Iowa State Fair.....	\$750
Offered by Breed Associations .....	3,050
Total Offered .....	3,800

A cash certificate redeemable towards the purchase of a registered heifer will be awarded to the Champion Beef Member of various breeds who will be selected at a personal interview during the Fair. All 4-H, FFA and Junior Association members who exhibit a market beef or beef heifer at the 2025 Iowa State Fair are eligible to enter. Entries must be in the office of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, 2005 Ironwood Court, P.O. Box 1490, Ames, IA 50014, 515/296-2266 by **July 1**. See the 4-H Beef section for more information.

**FFA BEEF CATTLE SPECIALS**

Additional FFA Beef Specials offered by the **Iowa Foundation for Agricultural Advancement** are available online at [www.iowastatefair.org](http://www.iowastatefair.org).

The **Iowa Angus Association** provides awards for the Champion and Reserve Champion Angus Heifer.

The **Iowa Angus Association** provides awards for the Champion and Reserve Champion Angus Bull.

The **Iowa Beef Breeds Council** will award \$500 to the junior exhibitor of the highest ranking heifer purchased from each breed sale at the 2026 Iowa Beef Expo and exhibited at the 2026 Iowa State Fair. Heifers will be ranked at the discretion of each breed association under the following conditions:

1. The heifer must have been purchased in an Iowa Beef Expo sanctioned sale and exhibited by a junior at the 2026 Iowa State Fair.
2. Only one heifer per breed sale (13 total) will be awarded. Therefore, high and low percentage will be considered for one award. Furthermore, cattle with multiple registrations may only be awarded by the breed association which sold those cattle at the 2026 Iowa Beef Expo.

The **Iowa Hereford Breeders Association** will give awards for the Champion and Reserve Champion Hereford (combined horned/polled) Heifers and to other Hereford Breeding Champions as applicable.

The **Iowa Simmental Association** offers a total of \$300 to the FFA Performance Beef winners. \$100 will be awarded to the winner in each of the three windows providing the winner has a 50% or more Simmental registration paper issued by the American Simmental Association.