

Cattle – Beef & Dairy

Rules

Eligibility for State Fair

Refer to the [State Fair Livestock Identification and Nomination Requirements](#) for information on exhibitor eligibility at the State Fair. It is strongly encouraged that all exhibitors read and understand the Nebraska State Fair Livestock General Rules and Regulations and Livestock Health Requirements. These documents can be found on the Nebraska State Fair website. **State Fair age divisions and classes are very different than our local classes, so please plan accordingly.**

Divisions

Beef Showmanship

Premiums – P=\$5.00 B=\$4.00 R=\$3.00 W=\$2.00

Class

GO1009 – Junior Beef Showmanship (8 – 10 years old before January 1 of the current year)

G010010 - Intermediate Showmanship (11-13 years old before January 1 of the current year)

G010011 - Senior Showmanship (14 years old and up before January 1 of the current year)

Rules

1. Showmanship Entry - All 4-H exhibitors are automatically registered but not required to show in Showmanship. Exhibitors must show their own animals and must show them in the class assigned.

Market Beef

Premiums: P=\$10.00 B=\$7.50 R=\$5.00 W=\$4.00

Class

011061L – Market Steer

011062L – Progress Beef Steer

011063L - Market Heifer

011064L – Progress Beef Heifer

Note- Different class system for showing at State Fair. The link to the website is <https://4hfairbookmanage.unl.edu/fairbookview.php/animals/6>

Rules

1. Market Beef Identification & DNA Requirements – To be eligible to show at County Fair, all market beef steers and heifers must be tagged with a 4-H or FFA market beef ear tag by **June 2, 2025**. **If competing in the State Fair, please note [special DNA regulations or deadlines](#), including an EID tag** (available at Extension Office).

2. Weights – Market steers weighing less than 1100 lbs. and Market heifers weighing less than 1050 lbs. will be eligible to show in the Progress Beef classes. Market steers weighing over 1500 lbs. and market heifers weighing over 1400 lbs. will be eligible to show in Heavyweight classes. All underweight and overweight market steers and market heifers are not eligible to sell in the Livestock Sale.

3. Progress Class – All steer calves born the previous year and weighing less than 1,100 lbs. are eligible to show in the Progress Beef Steer Class. All heifer calves born the previous year and weighing less than 1,050 lbs. are eligible to show in the Progress Beef Heifer Class. Progress steers and heifers are not eligible for the Livestock Sale.

4. Class Breakdown –Market steer and market heifer classes are broken and shown by animal weight at the discretion of the Livestock Committee. The Livestock Committee reserves the right to combine market beef classes if there are less than 3 animals entered per class by weight.

5. Awards – A Champion and Reserve Champion market steer will be selected from the top two purple ribbon winners of each market steer class meeting weight requirements. A Champion and Reserve Champion market heifer will be selected from the top two purple ribbon winners of each market heifer class meeting weight requirements. A Supreme Champion may be chosen at the discretion of the Livestock Awards Committee. Progress steers and overweight steers are not eligible for Champion or Reserve Champion Market Steer. Progress heifers and overweight heifers are not eligible for Champion or Reserve Champion Market Heifer.

Breeding Beef

Premiums: P=\$10.00 B=\$7.50 R=\$5.00 W=\$4.00

Class

01215L - British Registered

01216L - British Commercial

01217L - Crossbred Registered

01218L - Crossbred Commercial

01219L - Cow/calf Pair

Note-Different class systems if showing at the State Fair. The website can be found [here](#).

Rules

1. ID Eligibility – (commercial heifers) Any commercial breeding heifer entered into County Fair is eligible to show in the beef breed show if the commercial breeding heifer has a known birth date and is identified by an ear tattoo or ear tag (ranch tag acceptable). Exhibitors must file the Breeding Beef ID form with the Extension Office

by June 2 of the current year. Any commercial heifer tagged with a 4-H or FFA market beef ear tag will not be allowed to show in any breeding heifer class at County Fair. The website for the Beef section for the State Fair Book can be found at <https://4hfairbook.unl.edu/fairbookview.php/animals/6>.

2. ID Eligibility – (registered heifers) Any registered breeding heifer entered into County Fair is eligible to show in the beef breed show if the registered breeding heifer has been registered by an official breed association. Exhibitors must file the Breeding Beef ID form with the Extension Office by June 2 of the current year. Tattoos may be checked by the Livestock Committee and proof of breeding may be requested by the Livestock Committee. Non-registered breeding heifers must show in a commercial breeding heifer class. The website for the Beef section for the State Fair Book can be found at <https://4hfairbook.unl.edu/fairbookview.php/animals/6>.

3. Breed Show – A minimum of six (6) registered breeding heifers per breed is required to hold a breed show. If a heifer is entered in the Registered Class and the minimum requirement of 6 breeding heifers per breed is not met, the heifer will be either entered in the Crossbred or British class. A breed show will not consist of more than two classes.

4. Class Breakdown – Breeding Heifer classes are broken and shown by animal age by the discretion of the Livestock Committee. Breeding Heifer age groups are as follows: Yearling Heifers born between January and August of the previous year, Heifer Calves born between September of the previous year and May of the current year.

5. Awards - A Champion and Reserve Champion British Breeding Heifer will be selected from the top two purple ribbon winners. A Champion and Reserve Champion Crossbred Breeding Heifer will be selected from the top two purple ribbon winners. If a breed show occurs, awards will be given accordingly. A Supreme Champion may be chosen at the discretion of the Livestock Awards Committee.

6. Breeds – British breeds include only Angus, Red Angus, Shorthorn, and Hereford. Non-British breeding heifers must be entered in the Crossbred Commercial or Registered Class.

7. The Cow/Calf Pair class – is designed for halter/show broke cows and their halter/show broke progeny. The Cow/Calf Pair class is not a pen show. Exhibitors entered in the Cow/Calf Pair are responsible for finding a substitute showman to show either the cow or the calf entered in the Cow/Calf Pair class. The substitute showman must be a 4-H or FFA member of Cherry County. A Champion and Reserve Champion Cow/Calf Pair will be selected from the top two purple ribbon winners. Calves shown in the Cow/Calf Pair class are eligible to show in the Feeder Calf OR Breeding Heifer Calf Show.

Sandhills Production Beef – Not Eligible for State Fair

Class

Includes Fall and Spring born cattle. **NEW in 2025 – Classes will also be organized based on exhibitor age, NOT age of animal(s).**

61L – Junior Sandhills Production Project

62L – Intermediate Sandhills Production Project

63 L – Senior Sandhills Production Project

Rules

1. To participate in the Sandhills Production class, 4-Hers should be enrolled in the breeding beef project and complete the Nebraska 4-H and FFA Breeding Beef Ownership Affidavit. Members must follow project enrollment, affidavit, and Quality Assurance submission deadlines. The animal(s) must be in possession of the 4-Her at the time the animal ID is due on June 2nd.

2. NEW in 2025! Sandhills Production projects will be shown in a PEN EXHIBITION. Animals do not need to be halter broke unless they plan to also show in a regular class. Animals should be tame enough that a staff member or judge could enter the pen safely to more closely inspect the livestock. Grooming is up to the discretion of the 4-H member. Please see the final approved 2025 Fair Schedule (coming soon), but the pen exhibition is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 7 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm CT, with check-in at 9:30 am CT. Awards will be announced at 12:45 pm, right before the Bucket Calf Show. Sandhills Production projects should leave the Fairgrounds before evening tie-out time the day of the contest.

3. This is a progressive project. To start, 4-Hers will exhibit either a breeding heifer calf or a yearling heifer. The following year, the heifer would either be shown as a yearling or as a cow/calf pair. 4-Hers will continue exhibiting a cow/calf pair or exhibit that cow's progeny as a yearling.
4. If showing a cow/calf pair that IS halter broke, 4-Hers have the option of also showing the pair in the Cow/Calf Breeding Beef class. In addition, halter broke steer calves could be shown in a Stocker Feeder class OR halter broke heifer calves could be shown in a Breeding Beef Heifer class.
5. 4-Hers may begin this project at any time during their 4-H career. A monetary award will be given for the cumulative participation in the Sandhills Production class and will be awarded when the member completes his or her last year of 4-H. Youth must maintain their 4-H enrollment every eligible year to receive their monetary award.
6. 4-Hers will be equally judged and rewarded on three components at County Fair:
Ranch Plan- 1/3 of total points
Live cattle evaluation by county fair judge – 1/3 of total points
Personal interview – 1/3 of total points
7. Points will be awarded as follows:
75 to 99 points – Purple
50 to 74 points – Blue
25 to 49 points – Red
0 to 24 points – White
8. Monetary awards will be given at the completion of the member's 4-H career. Each year's award and the number of years of participation based on the above point system will be given. 4-Hers will not be paid for more than three projects per year. However, more projects may be exhibited.

Purple -\$75 Blue-\$50 Red - \$25 White - \$0

9. NEW in 2025 – Sandhills Production record books will be due July 15 to the Extension Office. A guide of what the Sandhills Production Ranch Plan (record book) should include is below. 4-H'ers are encouraged to include additional information that is important to their project. Older youth (ages 11 and up) will use the FFA record keeping system. An account will be set up with one of the Cherry County FFA Advisors. Contact the Extension Office to start the process. Training is provided as needed. Younger 4-Hers (ages 8-10) will use the Junior Sandhills Production record book available through the Extension Office.

- a. Genetics/Pedigree; Pedigree if registered. Breed(s) of the heifer.
- b. Breeding Plan: What is it or will it be bred to? Natural, Embryo, or A.I.
- c. Financial Statement: Cost associated with the project, money borrowed and

interest, projected income, etc.

d. Nutritional Program: What did your animal eat? Include range, hay, supplements, and protein.

e. Veterinary Practice: Vaccinations, health program, parasite control.

f. Summarize the project with what you have learned and future goals.

9. 4-Hers experiencing a hardship (i.e., death) with their animal are encouraged to complete their project. Their Ranch Plan must be submitted, and interviews take place to be awarded points for the year.

Feeder Calf & FFA Bull Calf

Premiums: P=\$10.00 B=\$7.50 R=\$5.00 W=\$4.00

Class

2361L - Crossbred Feeder Calf Steer

2362L - British Feeder Calf Steer

2363L - Crossbred Feeder Calf Heifer

2364L - British Feeder Calf Heifers

2370L - Bull Calf – FFA entries only

Note-Different class systems if showing at the State Fair. The website can be found [here](#).

1. **ID Eligibility** – Exhibitors must file the Feeder Calf ID form with the Extension Office **by June 2nd** of the current year.

Rules

1. Calves exhibited in this division must be identified **with an official 4-H ear tag by the pre-entry deadline of July 15th, 2025. Photos of tagged calves must be submitted to cherry-county@unl.edu** and have the Feeder Calf ID form on file with ranch tag numbers with the Extension Office by June 2nd of the current year. [If also exhibiting at State Fair, an EID tag is required and there are additional regulations and deadlines.](#)
2. Entries may be heifer and/or steer calves, born during the current year **before June 1** if showing County only. If showing at the State Fair, calves must be born January 1 through April of current year.
3. **Awards** – A Champion and Reserve Champion will be selected from the top two purple ribbon winners of each class. A Supreme Champion may be chosen at the discretion of the Livestock Awards Committee.
4. **Breeds** – British breeds include only Angus, Red Angus, Shorthorn, and Hereford. Non-British breed feeder calves must show in a crossbred feeder calf class.
5. **Class Breakdown** – Feeder calf steer and heifer classes are broken and shown by animal weight at the discretion of the Livestock Committee. The Livestock Committee reserves the right to combine

feeder calf steer with feeder calf heifer classes if there are less than 3 animals entered per class by weight.

Bucket Calf – Not eligible for State Fair

Premium: P = \$5.00 B = \$4.00 R = \$3.00 W = \$2.00

Class

661L - Bucket Calf

662L - Clover Kid Entry

Rules

1. Exhibitor must be 4-H age **8-12 years old** to show in the 4-H class.
2. Exhibitors are not eligible to show in other beef classes, including showmanship, if entered in Bucket Calf. The Bucket Calf project is a beginner-level class. The Bucket Calf project may be repeated during the years of exhibitor age eligibility if the exhibitor does not exhibit other beef animals.
3. Judging criteria will include calf health and cleanliness, exhibitor project knowledge, courtesy, and animal handling ability, as well as completion of the Bucket Calf Project Records.
4. Bucket Calf Project Records must be completed and submitted to the Extension Office **by July 15, 2025**.
5. Bucket calves may be orphan or newborn calves selected within 2 weeks of birth. Bucket Calves may be male or female and or dairy, beef, or crossbred breeds. Bucket calves are to be bucket or bottle-fed. Bucket calves must be born between January 1 and June 1 of the current year. Exhibitors must turn in the Bucket Calf ID form to the Extension Office by June 1 of the current year. Ranch tags are suitable for identification.
6. Bucket Calves are not eligible to be sold in the Livestock Sale.

Beef Team Fitting Contest – Not Eligible for State Fair

To provide an opportunity for 4-H exhibitors in a team setting to demonstrate present fitting and showing techniques of beef animals. 4-H exhibitors and families may observe the techniques and skills used to prepare a beef animal for the exhibition. 4-Hers will have an opportunity to learn new skills as well as apply existing knowledge while competing in a friendly and sportsmanlike atmosphere.

Class

9061L – Beef Team Fitting

Rules

1. Any 4-H member may participate in the fitting contest.

2. Teams will consist of 3 people. Each team must include a member 13 or under.
3. Each team will be responsible for bringing or finding a clean, dry animal, free of any grooming products to be used in the team fitting contest.
4. Team members will provide their own blocking stand and all equipment needed to groom the animal.
5. Each team will be allowed 20 minutes to groom their animal. Team members will be judged through the 20 minutes. Each team is expected to use the full allotted time. No points will be added or subtracted for faster or slower ability.
6. After the 20 minutes have passed, teams will draw for the order of oral presentations. Presentations will be from 3 to 6 minutes long. Each individual on the team is expected to speak during the time period. The objective of each team will be to convince the judge(s) that they should purchase the team's entry. You will be "selling" your animal to the judge. Your presentation should include the performance or expected performance of your animal's intended use. (This is what the animal will do for you and why.) Other information you feel is important may be given. Judges' questions may not be limited to your presentation.

Scoring:

<p><u>Knowledge</u> – 25 points</p> <p><u>Ability to communicate</u> – 25 points</p> <p><u>Team Organization</u> – 25 points</p> <p><u>Overall effect</u> – 25 points</p>

1. Awards will be given to the Champion and Reserve Champion teams. Participation will be awarded to all exhibitors.
2. All team members will be responsible for removing the grooming products from the animal once the contest has commenced.

Resources

Breeding Beef

Learn about beef cattle breeds; Learn how to care for beef animals; Learn to make buying decisions based on performance and visual evaluation. URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/3

Bucket Calf

Learn how to care for young beef or dairy animals; Learn what kind of records should be kept for animal projects. URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/1

Feeder Calf

Learn about beef cattle parts; Find out how to feed beef animals to achieve a reasonable amount of gain URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/2

Market Beef

Learn about beef cattle parts; Calculate the cost to raise a market beef animal; Learn how to select project animals. URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/4

Dairy Cattle

Premium: P = \$5.00 B = \$4.00 R = \$3.00 W = \$2.00

Class

4861L - Dairy

4862L - Clover Kid Entry

Rules

- 1. Guidelines** – General Animal Rules apply to this section.
- 2. ID Eligibility** – Exhibitors must file the Dairy ID form with the Extension Office by **June 2nd** of the current year.
- 3. Registered and commercial breeds will show together.** Class breakdown is at the discretion of the Livestock Committee.
- 4. Showmanship** – Will be broken into 4-H age classes at the discretion of the Livestock Committee.

Dairy Showmanship

Class

4061L – Jr. Dairy Showmanship (ages 8-10)

4062L – Intermediate Dairy Showmanship (ages 11-13)

4063L – Senior Dairy Showmanship (ages 14-18)

Resources

Dairy Cattle

For State Fair guidelines and rules please visit

URL: <https://4hfairbookmanage.unl.edu/fairbookview.php/animals/6>

Explore dairy cattle breeds, select calves, and identify parts; Focus on housing, hay quality, milking, and health; Select cattle through records, promote dairy products, and explore careers

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/7