

Beef Department

Superintendents: Shawn Von Stein & Melissa Eshelman

1. Only supplied wood chips are allowed for bedding.
2. Entries and dress code - See General and Livestock Rules and Regulations for additional information.
3. Champion ribbons will be given out at judge's discretion.
4. Note weigh-in and check-in times at the front of this fair book.
5. All beef cattle must be in place by 7:00 PM, Sunday. (Only exception class 9 bucket/bottle class - see time below.)
6. All cattle must remain stalled until the release time of 5:00 pm Thursday.
7. All cattle horns must be less than 3 inches with blunt tips
8. All cattle must have a completed drug affidavit at the time of check-in at the Polk County Fair. It can be found on the Polk County Fair Website or picked up at the extension office.
9. Cable halters are NOT allowed in the show ring.
10. ALL cattle that are showing as Polk County Produced need to have a Polk County Produced Affidavit turned in to the extension office. Affidavits for Market animals are due at weigh-ins and breeding animals are due May 15. Affidavits can be found at the extension office or on the [Polk County Fair Website](http://polkcountyfairiowa.com/forms) (polkcountyfairiowa.com/forms)
 - a. Polk County Produced is defined as the animal is born in Polk County.
11. ALL CATTLE BEING SHOWN AT THE POLK COUNTY FAIR must have an official ID for cattle options include
 - 4-H/FFA USDA tags or 4-H/FFA EID USDA tags (Only option for market)
 - USDA-approved RFID (white button or bigger plastic tag that can be scanned)
 - Brucellosis tag (orange 840 tag)
12. Heifers need to be identified as market or breeding by July 1. Do not sign the same animal up for both classes.
13. All lead cattle must have neck ties when stalled.
14. No tack or equipment can be hauled out until 5pm Thursday.
15. No grooming chutes will be allowed in Jacobson Arena.
16. NO professional fitters will be allowed. It is the intent that the 4-H & FFA member take responsibility for caring for and grooming his/her own animals. If assistance is needed, it must be done by a family member and/or another Iowa 4-H/FFA member. Family members include and are limited to parent/legal guardian, grandparents, brother, sister, or step siblings. Receiving help from an outside party, such as a hired professional fitter or a person with no direct connection to the exhibitor, would result in disqualification.
17. Each exhibitor may be accompanied by one person per animal into the check-in area.
18. No cattle will be allowed in Jacobsen Arena before the time of the show.
19. No cattle are allowed to be walked outside of the Iowa State Fair Sheep Barn.
20. Showmanship Contest
 - a. In Showmanship classes, Exhibitors must use an animal that is ID'ed by the exhibitor and that they have registered to exhibit in other classes at the Polk County Fair.
 - b. Previous Showmanship Champions are not eligible for this competition in the age divisions they have previously won. With the exception of Master, may continue to compete if exhibitor has not won Supreme Showmanship.
 - c. Showmanship will be broken into three age divisions, as of September 1, previous year.
 - d. See rules for master showmanship in the supreme showmanship department.

Class Number and Description

001	Junior Showmanship Grades 4-6
002	Intermediate Showmanship Grades 7-8
003	Senior Showmanship Grades 9-12 & FFA
004	Master Showmanship (Must have won Senior Showmanship)

Market Beef

1. Market beef must be weighed in and ear-tagged at the Polk County Weigh-in or accommodations made to attend another county's weigh-in.
2. An exhibitor may enter a maximum of four head of market beef animals.
3. All breeds and crossbreeds will show together in classes by weight.
4. Market cattle will be placed on individual merit from a market standpoint, taking into consideration conformation, quality, finish and rate of gain.
5. The order of the show will be posted before the show (check with the office in the livestock building).
6. Rate of Gain of 2.2 lbs. /day or better for Market Steers and 1.8 lbs. /day or better for Market Heifers is required to receive a blue ribbon. Animals not meeting the Rate of Gain requirements are not eligible for grand or reserve grand champion.

Rate Of Gain

1. Awards will be presented to the top two entries having the highest rate of gain.
2. Rate of gain will be figured based on the official starting weight recorded at the time of ear-tagging and the weigh-in at the County fair. Excess mud must be removed before weigh-in to be considered for the rate of gain.

Class Number and Description

07	Polk County Fall Steer Prospect dropped 9/1/last year - 12/31/last year.
08	Polk County Produced Market Heifer
09	Polk County Produced Market Steer
10	Fall Steer Prospect dropped 9/1/last year - 12/31/last year.
11	Market Heifers
12	Market Steers

Breeding Beef

1. An exhibitor may enter a total of four animals in this department. A cow and calf are considered as one animal.
2. All animals will be judged based on breed characteristics, type, quality, and conformation with future usefulness as a breeding animal considered.
3. The Champion and Reserve Champion breeding heifers will compete for Supreme Champion Female and Reserve Supreme Champion Female at the end of the breeding show. Supreme Champion Female will not be awarded during Polk County Produced.
4. All breeding animals will be weighed-in at fair and classes will be broken by weight. There will no longer be registered breeding heifer classes.
5. To show the calf from a cow/calf class, that calf has to be entered in its designated class.

Class Number and Description

Polk County Produced Breeding Beef

01	Polk County, Spring Male Calf dropped 1/1/current year - 5/15/current year.
02	Polk County Cow-calf pair, cow, dropped before last year.
03	Polk County Commercial Heifer (classes broken by weight) dropped 9/1/2024- 5/15/current year

Breeding Beef

04	Spring Male Calf dropped 1/1/current year - 5/15/current year.
05	Cow-calf pair, cow, dropped before last year.
06	Commercial Heifer (classes broken by weight) dropped 9/1/2024- 5/15/current year.

Member Produced Beef

1. Animals entered into this department must be produced by the 4-H/FFA member. These animals can be raised outside of Polk County.
2. An exhibitor may enter a total of three animals in this department.
3. Rate of Gain of 2.2 lbs. /day or better for Market Steers and 1.8 lbs. /day or better for Market Heifers is required to receive a blue ribbon. Animals not meeting the Rate of Gain requirements are not eligible for grand or reserve grand champion.
4. The order of the show will be posted before the show (check with the office in the sheep building).
5. Record book will be required for each animal entered. Exhibitors who do not complete the record book will not be eligible for showing of animal. A member produced record book will be available for download. Record books will need to be submitted to the Polk County Extension Office by July 1st for participation.
6. There will be a Champion and Reserve for the breeding division and Champion and Reserve for the Market division.
7. Member Produced Beef is a show of its own and the class winners do not advance to the breeding beef and/o market beef show championships.
8. Animals shown in Member Produced beef may also be shown in the breeding beef and/or market beef shows.

Breeding Beef

13	Spring Male Calf dropped 1/1/current year - 5/15/current year.
14	Cow-calf pair, cow, dropped before last year.
15	Breeding Heifer (classes broken by weight) dropped 9/1/2024- 5/15/current year.

Market Beef

16	Fall Steer Prospect dropped 9/1/last year - 12/31/last year.
17	Market Heifers
18	Market Steers

Youth Open Class Bucket/Bottle Calf

Superintendent: Shawn Von Stein & Nicky Smith

1. Any four y/o through 3rd grader (as of July 1) may exhibit in this class.
2. Entry fees and registration is due by July 1 via FairEntry. Entries after July 1 will have a late fee. See general rules for more information.
3. Dress code – See General and Livestock Rules and Regulations for additional information.
4. Any newborn or orphan calf (bucket or bottle-fed, no nursing), dairy, or beef calved after January 1st this year may be shown.
5. Animal must have a USDA tag, 4-H EID tag, RFID tag or calthood vaccination tag with USDA shield to exhibit at the fair.
6. The animals will be exhibited according to plans developed by the Bucket/Bottle Calf Superintendent. (Exhibitor will be interviewed microphone and asked questions about their animal.)
7. Calves will be shown at halter.
8. Stalls will be available at 5:00 am Sunday stalling will be in the Beef Department Area.
9. Calves must be in pens and checked in by noon Wednesday. (Health certificates are due at this time.)
10. No premiums paid (ribbons only).
11. Parent or guardian must be present during the show.
12. Fair board is not liable for injuries.

Class Number and Description

004	Youth Open Class Bucket/Bottle Calf
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