

# BEEF CATTLE DEPARTMENT

Rev. 2.26.26

## Superintendent:

Shelly Winkler Simpson: 302-242-1036

## Assistant Superintendents:

Karen Breeding (302-841-8427) & Brian Palmer (302-632-1299)

## Show Secretaries:

Holly Conley, Kathryn Simpson & Debbie Winkler

## Dates & Times:

Date	Time	Description	Location
Wednesday, July 22	8:00 AM	Beef Cattle may begin to arrive	ONLY THRU GATE 2
Friday, July 24	12:00 PM	Beef Cattle must be in place	Schabinger Pavillion
Saturday, July 25	8:00 AM	<b>Mandatory</b> Barn Meeting <b>IMPORTANT</b> followed by Weigh-Ins & Registration Paper Checks	Kent Building Schabinger Pavillion
Tuesday, July 28	9:00 AM	Beef Cattle Show - Show order for 2026 Showmanship followed by Market Steers, Feeder Calves then Jr. & Open Breed Show	Quillen Arena
	7:00 PM	Livestock Extravaganza	Quillen Arena
Thursday, July 30	6:30 PM	Junior Livestock Auction	Kent Building
Sunday, August 2	1:00 AM	Beef Cattle may be removed from the grounds	ONLY THRU GATE 2
	8:00 AM	All Beef Cattle must be removed from the grounds	ONLY THRU GATE 2

## Arrival & Departure:

1. The Beef Department will only be allowed access through Gate 2 for arrival and departure.
2. In order to bring livestock and/or tack onto the grounds, have your vehicle pass displayed in the bottom driver's side front windshield.
3. Stall assignments will be assigned by the Superintendent based on the number of actual entries. Requests must be submitted with entries and will be honored as space permits. Stall assignments will be posted prior to Wednesday, July 22. Moving stall assignments, for any reason, is not permitted.
- IMPORTANT** 4. 4-H/FFA Advisors - Provide a list of members to the Fair Premiums Department **and** Superintendent by Monday, June 1.
5. **Animals may arrive on Wednesday, July 22 starting at 8:00 AM and MUST be in place on Friday, July 24 by 12 Noon.**
- IMPORTANT** 6. Animals may not leave the grounds before 1:00 AM, August 2, or premiums will be forfeited.

## Entry Information & Fees:

1. Entries can only be made online via the Delaware State Fair's website beginning 9:00 AM April 1, 2026 thru 11:59 PM June 1, 2026.
2. \$10.00 entry fee per class (excluding groups/pairs and showmanship) is required for all Open show entries and for all Junior show entries.
3. All animals are subject to be used in the Livestock Judging Contest and Extravaganza.
4. No more than two (2) premiums may be earned by one (1) exhibitor in any class. For purposes of this rule, exhibitors to be counted shall include the adult owners of a farm or business entity in whose farm or business name an animal may be registered. For more information refer to Rule 3, General Animal Rules, Section D, Ownership.

5. Exhibitor numbers will be supplied and **must be worn** whenever the exhibitor is in the show ring for placing and premium processing.

**IMPORTANT** 6. During shows, contests and events no one is permitted in the exhibitor area or show arena except for official Fair personnel/volunteers. Photos must be taken from behind the fencing; remaining outside of the show arena.

**IMPORTANT** 7. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to read all [General Animal Exhibitor Rules on the Fair's website](#).

8. Entries are restricted to Delaware residents and active Delaware 4-H members regardless of residency.

9. All feeder calves and market steers exhibited must meet the following requirements. Those unable to meet the requirements will be ineligible to show and dismissed from the Fair immediately.

a. Display a current year Delaware State Fair ear tag.

b. Meet weight requirements - Feeders: 350 to 700 pounds. Market: 1,000 to 1,500 pounds (weight classes will be determined after weigh-ins).

c. Castrations must be completely healed.

10. Feeder calf classes are for heifers and steers only. Registered heifers shown as a feeder calf are considered terminal, therefore may not be shown in a breed class also.

11. No bulls or cows allowed in any junior class.

12. Adhesives may be used; however, any product used to alter the conformation and/or appearance of an animal for exhibition is prohibited. This is a no paint show. The use of dyes or other coloring agents to camouflage the natural coloring of an animal is prohibited. Use of false tail heads or switches is also prohibited.

13. All cattle in group classes must have been shown as individuals in respective classes.

14. Only one (1) person per animal is permitted in the show arena during the exhibition of individual classes, with exceptions made by the Superintendent, or designee.

15. No one under the minimum exhibitor age is permitted in the show arena, including in group classes.

**IMPORTANT** 16. Any animals ineligible to show, or not in show condition, must leave the grounds immediately at the discretion of the Superintendent, or designee.

### **Adding or Eliminating Breeds:**

1. If your breed is not listed, please enter All Other Registered Breeds (AOB). When entering AOB class, please list breed on the on-line entry form.

2. A new breed class will be created if there are six (6) or more animals by two (2) or more exhibitors.

3. If, however, a breed class does not meet the above criteria, then that breed class will be eliminated and will show in the AOB class.

### **Department Rules & Regulations:**

1. Beef Department exhibitors have the opportunity to upload registration papers to the ShoWorks portal by July 1 to verify accuracy of cattle birth dates, class entries and to expedite the check-in process. For assistance with this process, visit the [Fair's website](#) or call the Premiums Department. Uploading registration papers DOES NOT take the place of the physical registration paper/animal check-in process. Original, physical registration papers must be presented during the check-in process - electronic versions are not accepted.

2. Pending animal information MUST be updated by July 1 with the Delaware State Fair Premiums Department. If pending animal information is not updated, the animal may be ineligible to show.

3. **Mandatory Barn Meeting Saturday, July 25 at 8:00 AM - Kent Building** At the conclusion of the mandatory barn meeting, weigh-ins will take place followed by the registration paper/animal check-in process. All breed animals must be tattooed **prior to arriving** on fairgrounds.

4. Mulch bedding is the only acceptable bedding in the Schabinger Pavillion.

5. Due to fans and/or ventilation in the Schabinger Pavilion, portable fans **will not** be permitted.

6. Three (3) shared wash racks are available for cattle (two in the Schabinger Pavillion and one outside). When using wash racks, do not tie multiple animals to reserve space and be courteous of other [contests/shows](#).
7. Stalls and aisles must be kept in neat/clean condition at all times. Dirty stalls, overflowing wheelbarrows, blocked aisles and empty feed or water buckets in stalls will not be tolerated. There will be one (1) warning and if there is a second issue, the exhibitor will be dismissed from the Fair immediately, thus forfeiting any premiums.
8. Take precautions to keep tack boxes, chairs, coolers or anything that might pose a tripping hazard out of aisles. Feed and hay should be kept in tack areas in front of cattle.
- IMPORTANT** 9. Tie-outs between the horse barns will be allowed from 8:00 PM to 9:00 AM. **Tie-out areas are at your own risk.** Exhibitors who do not comply with tie-out rules will be dismissed from the Fair immediately and forfeit premiums.
  - a. Tie-out bedding will not be provided.
  - b. Clean-out is required nightly and all manure must be brought to the designated manure bins. All tie-out areas must be cleaned completely out by Saturday, August 1 at 5:00 PM.
  - c. Grooming chutes are not permitted in the tie-out area.
  - d. Animals may not run loose in the tie-out area and must be securely tied at all times with a regular rope halter and a neck halter.
10. Due to the safety of all exhibitors and Fair patrons, unmanageable animals must leave the fairgrounds immediately at the discretion of the Superintendent, or designee.
- IMPORTANT** 11. Exhibitors who do not comply with rules set forth by the Delaware State Fair and/or the Beef Cattle Department will be dismissed from the Fair immediately and forfeit premiums.

### **Pen Displays and Awards:**

1. Displays must be in place on Sunday, July 26 for judging and remain in place throughout the entire Fair.
2. Exhibitor's must enter class 1 and/or class 2 and Exhibitor's number must be attached to display for judging purposes.
3. Display size should be limited to your own assigned pen area.
4. Displays must incorporate the beef industry (breeds, products, etc.) and are highly encouraged to incorporate the 2026 Fair theme: "Celebrating America's 250th"

Premiums			
1st	2nd	3rd	4th
\$110.00	\$85.00	\$55.00	\$30.00

Class #	Class Description
1	Educational and Promotional Display Award

#### **Educational and Promotional Display Judging Criteria:**

Draws attention & incorporates Fair theme	20 pts
Use of effective caption or title	20 pts
Promotes Beef industry effectively	20 pts
Exhibits accurate, educational info	20 pts
Easy to read/appropriate size	20 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 pts</b>

Class #	Class Description
2	Herdsmen's Award

**Herdsmen Award Judging Criteria:**

Cleanliness of animals in exhibit	20 pts
Cleanliness of stalls & bedding	20 pts
Cleanliness of aisles <i>(including when walking animals to and from stalls)</i>	20 pts
Neatness of feed, tack & supplies	20 pts
Exhibitor's conduct <i>(consideration &amp; cooperation w/ all animals, fellow exhibitors, Fair patrons, Fair personnel/volunteers &amp; judges)</i>	20 pts

**Total 100 pts**

**Open Classes:**

Premium Schedule for Open Classes										
# of Exhibitors	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1	\$56.25									
2	\$57.25	\$51.75								
3	\$58.50	\$53.00	\$47.50							
4	\$59.50	\$54.00	\$48.50	\$43.00						
5	\$60.50	\$55.00	\$49.50	\$44.00	\$38.50					
6	\$61.75	\$56.25	\$50.75	\$45.25	\$39.75	\$34.25				
7	\$62.75	\$57.25	\$51.75	\$46.25	\$40.75	\$35.25	\$29.75			
8	\$64.00	\$58.50	\$53.00	\$47.50	\$42.00	\$36.50	\$31.00	\$25.50		
9	\$65.00	\$59.50	\$54.00	\$48.50	\$43.00	\$37.50	\$32.00	\$26.50	\$21.00	
10	\$66.00	\$60.50	\$55.00	\$49.50	\$44.00	\$38.50	\$33.00	\$27.50	\$22.00	\$22.00

Aberdeen – Angus	Charolais	Hereford
Limousin	Maine Anjou	Red Angus
Shorthorn	Simmental	All Other Registered Breeds

Class #	Class Description	Awards
3	Cow/Calf Class- Cows three (3) years of age and younger Calf must be the cow's most recent natural calf and be no more than 280 days of age on the day of the show. Calves must be shown in an individual breed class.	
4	Cow/Calf Class- Cows four (4) years of age and older Calf must be the cow's most recent natural calf and be no more than 280 days of age on the day of the show. Calves must be shown in an individual breed class.	
Do not enter	Grand Champion Cow/Calf	Rosette
Do not enter	Reserve Champion Cow/Calf	Ribbon
5	Late Junior Heifer Calf (born 3/1/26 - 4/30/26)	



3	\$36.50	\$31.00	\$25.50							
4	\$37.50	\$32.00	\$26.50	\$21.00						
5	\$38.50	\$33.00	\$27.50	\$22.00	\$16.50					
6	\$39.75	\$34.25	\$28.75	\$23.25	\$17.75	\$17.75				
7	\$40.75	\$35.25	\$29.75	\$24.25	\$18.75	\$18.75	\$18.75			
8	\$42.00	\$36.50	\$31.00	\$25.50	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00		
9	\$43.00	\$37.50	\$32.00	\$26.50	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	
10	\$44.00	\$38.50	\$33.00	\$27.50	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00

Class #	Class Description	Awards
30	Showmanship age 21	
31	Showmanship age 20	
32	Showmanship age 19	
33	Showmanship age 18	
34	Showmanship age 17	
35	Showmanship age 16	
36	Showmanship age 15	
37	Showmanship age 14	
38	Showmanship age 13	
Do not enter	Senior Grand Champion Showman	Rosette & Sponsored Award
Do not enter	Senior Reserve Champion Showman	Ribbon & Sponsored Award

**CAREY BELT MEMORIAL AWARD:** The Champion Senior Showman's name will be displayed on a plaque in the Main Office. The plaque honors the memory of Carey Belt, a former top Beef Showman at the Delaware State Fair.

**SENIOR GRAND CHAMPION BELT BUCKLE:** A Belt Buckle sponsored by Mogle Cattle Co. will be presented to the Senior Grand Showman.

**SENIOR RESERVE CHAMPION BELT BUCKLE:** A Belt Buckle sponsored by Black Eyed Susan Cattle Co. will be presented to the Senior Reserve Showman.

Class #	Class Description	Awards
39	Showmanship age 12	
40	Showmanship age 11	
41	Showmanship age 10	
42	Showmanship ages 5-9	
Do not enter	Junior Grand Champion Showman	Rosette & Sponsored Award
Do not enter	Junior Reserve Champion Showman	Ribbon & Sponsored Award

**JUNIOR GRAND CHAMPION BELT BUCKLE:** A Belt Buckle sponsored by Inside & Out Property Management. LLC will be presented to the Junior Grand Showman.

**JUNIOR RESERVE CHAMPION BELT BUCKLE:** A Belt Buckle sponsored by Walton Farms will be presented to the Junior Reserve Showman.

**Thank you to all of our Showmanship Sponsors!**

### **Junior Classes:**

1. [Health regulations](#) are the same as Open Beef Cattle Class requirements. All rules of Open classes apply.

2. Entries are restricted to Delaware residents and active Delaware 4-H members regardless of residency.
3. All animals entered in breed classes must be accompanied by original, hard copy registration papers in the name of the junior exhibitor only.
4. Only one (1) entry per class in the Junior Show. These animals will also be eligible to enter Open show classes upon payment of \$10.00 entry fee per animal.
5. Junior show breed classes will show simultaneously with the Open show breed classes.

Premium Schedule for Junior Classes										
# of Exhibitors	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1	\$34.25									
2	\$35.25	\$29.75								
3	\$36.50	\$31.00	\$25.50							
4	\$37.50	\$32.00	\$26.50	\$21.00						
5	\$38.50	\$33.00	\$27.50	\$22.00	\$16.50					
6	\$39.75	\$34.25	\$28.75	\$23.25	\$17.75	\$17.75				
7	\$40.75	\$35.25	\$29.75	\$24.25	\$18.75	\$18.75	\$18.75			
8	\$42.00	\$36.50	\$31.00	\$25.50	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00		
9	\$43.00	\$37.50	\$32.00	\$26.50	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	
10	\$44.00	\$38.50	\$33.00	\$27.50	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00

Aberdeen – Angus	Charolais	Hereford
Limousin	Maine Anjou	Red Angus
Shorthorn	Simmental	All Other Registered Breeds

Class #	Class Description	Awards
43	Late Junior Heifer Calf (born 3/1/26 - 4/30/26)	
44	Early Junior Heifer Calf (born 1/1/26 - 2/29/26)	
45	Late Senior Heifer Calf (born 11/1/25 - 12/31/25)	
46	Early Senior Heifer Calf (born 9/1/25 - 10/31/25)	
47	Late Summer Yearling Heifer (born 7/1/25 - 8/31/25)	
48	Early Summer Yearling Heifer (born 5/1/25 – 6/30/25)	
49	Late Junior Yearling Heifer (born 3/1/25 – 4/30/25)	
50	Early Junior Yearling Heifer (born 1/1/25 – 2/28/25)	
51	Late Senior Yearling Heifer (born 11/1/24 – 12/31/24)	
52	Early Senior Yearling Heifer (born 9/1/24 - 10/31/24)	
Do not enter	Grand Champion Heifer	Rosette
Do not enter	Reserve Champion Heifer	Ribbon
53	DE Bred & Owned Champion Heifer (Juniors only) Registration must be 100% in Junior's name Exhibitors must be a DE resident regardless of 4-H/FFA membership	Sponsored Award

**DELAWARE BRED & OWNED CHAMPION HEIFER:** An Award sponsored by Tomahawk Cattle Company will be presented to the DE Bred & Owned Champion Heifer.

### **Market Classes:**

1. All junior market animal exhibitors MUST complete a Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training certification class (online or in-person), unless they have an existing Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA) certification that is valid through August 1, 2026. The YQCA training certification course can be done either in person or online, **but must be completed to enter a market animal in the 2026 Delaware State Fair. Exhibitors will be asked upon entry to provide their YQCA certification before moving forward with their entries.**
  - a. This mandatory training requirement shall apply to all those exhibiting market animals. The training certification is not limited to only market animal exhibitors and all exhibitors are encouraged to consider completing this course.
  - b. If you are a junior market animal exhibitor and have not attended or completed the online YQCA course nor currently have an existing YPQA valid certification by the deadline (June 1, 2026), you will not be permitted to show your market animal(s).
  - c. For more detailed information about the YQCA requirement and how to fulfill the requirements please click here to visit the Fair's website.
2. The exhibitor of the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Steer is strongly encouraged to place their animals in the Junior Livestock Auction. Please refer to additional information in the Junior Livestock Auction section of our website.
3. Steers will be judged as finished and ready for slaughter. Dairy Breeds are accepted.
4. Please refer to the General Livestock Rules in the section under General Information on the website for weigh-in information. FEEDER CALVES NOT ELIGIBLE.
5. If two market animals entered by the same exhibitor are determined to be in the same weight class, the heavier animal shall be moved up to the next higher weight class, thereby allowing the exhibitor the opportunity to show both animals. If two market animals entered by the same exhibitor are determined to be in the heaviest weight class, the exhibitor shall choose which animal will be struck from the competition.
6. As a convenience to exhibitors who have determined that they consider the Fair as a terminal event for their market animal(s), the Fair has solicited one or more private/independent buyers to contact Exhibitors about purchasing their animal(s). The Fair exercises best efforts to identify reliable and dependable buyers, however the Fair will not under any circumstances be responsible for any issue(s) that may develop between the exhibitors and the buyers. None of these requirements are meant to preclude an exhibitor from entering into a private sale with whomever they decide. None of these Buyers have any affiliation with the Fair. Exhibitors who decide to sell their animals to any Buyer are reminded of the following: (1) all terms and conditions of each sale such as price, animal weight, total consideration to be paid, when payment is to be made, the time and date the animal(s) will be transferred to the Buyer, etc. are matters strictly between the Exhibitor and the Buyer. The Fair is not in any way responsible for any aspect of the transaction including payment and transfer of ownership and possession of the animal; and (2) the Exhibitor is responsible for caring for the animal until the Buyer takes possession; and (3) selling an animal to a Buyer does not relieve the Exhibitor from the obligation to have the animal(s) removed from the fairgrounds by the scheduled release time(s).

Premium Schedule for Market Classes

# of Exhibitors	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1	\$45.25									
2	\$46.25	\$24.25								
3	\$47.50	\$25.50	\$25.50							
4	\$48.50	\$26.50	\$26.50	\$26.50						
5	\$49.50	\$27.50	\$27.50	\$27.50	\$27.50					
6	\$50.75	\$28.75	\$28.75	\$28.75	\$28.75	\$28.75				
7	\$51.75	\$29.75	\$29.75	\$29.75	\$29.75	\$29.75	\$29.75			
8	\$53.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00		
9	\$54.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	
10	\$55.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00

Class #	Class Description	Awards
54	Market Steer	
55	Beef Finishing Project Entries must have prior year Feeder Calf tag and current year Market Steer tag, must meet weight requirements both years and be shown/exhibited by the same exhibitor both years.	
Do not enter	Grand Champion Steer	Banner & Sponsored Award
Do not enter	Reserve Champion Steer	Banner

**GRAND CHAMPION MARKET STEER AWARD:** An award sponsored by The Palmer Family will be presented to the Grand Champion Market Steer Exhibitor.

Class #	Class Description	Awards
56	Feeder Calf	
Do not enter	Grand Champion Feeder Calf	Rosette & Sponsored Award
Do not enter	Reserve Champion Feeder Calf	Ribbon

**GRAND CHAMPION FEEDER CALF AWARD:** An award sponsored by Ebert Family Simmentals will be presented to the Grand Champion Feeder Calf Exhibitor.

**Thank you to our Delaware Bred and Owned, Market Steer and Feeder Calf Sponsors!**