

# JUNIOR COMMERCIAL STEER FEEDING & MANAGEMENT CONTEST

## Department K

Cattle Operations Superintendent – Al Mahalitic – Eagle Lake, TX  
 Assistant Cattle Operations Superintendents – TBD  
 Contest Superintendent - Dr. Jason Cleere – College Station, TX

### DEADLINES

Online Intent Form Opens for Returning Contestants.....	July 17
Online Intent Form Opens for New Contestants.....	July 19
Last day to submit Online Intent Forms.....	Aug. 15
Last Day to Purchase and Weigh Steers for Beginning Weights.....	Aug. 31
DNA Samples and Weight Slips Due.....	Sept. 15
Entry Deadline.....	Dec. 1
Final Record Book Due.....	Feb. 23

Begin Arrival	Sunday	March 3	4 a.m.
*Arrive directly to Gate 5, NRG Arena			
In Place by	Sunday	March 3	9 a.m.
Exhibitor Check-In	Sunday	March 3	6 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Welcome and Introductions	Sunday	March 3	9 a.m.
Written Test & Meats Quiz	Sunday	March 3	9:15 a.m.
Weigh & Grade Steers	Sunday	March 3	10:30 a.m.
Closeout Pen of Steers/Records	Sunday	March 3	*
*Exhibitors must complete this form after their steers have been weighed and graded.			
Interview Skills & Meat ID	Monday	March 4	6:30 a.m.
Buyer's Reception	Monday	March 4	noon
Sale (Cattle Grading Choice & Above)	Monday	March 4	2 p.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Interviews (Finalist)	Tuesday	March 5	7 a.m.
Awards Luncheon	Tuesday	March 5	2 p.m.

### Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

- Rules:** This show is subject to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo General Rules and Regulations, the Junior Show Rules and Regulations and to the Special Rules listed in this section. Where Special Rules conflict with other rules, Special Rules will prevail.
- Purpose:** The Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest is to encourage more 4-H and FFA members to participate in a practical beef production program. This contest heavily emphasizes feeding and management financial costs and exhibitors should have a firm understanding of the economics associated with the beef cattle industry.
- Previous Winners:** Past 1<sup>st</sup> place overall recipients of the Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest cannot compete in any future Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contests at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
- Maximum Exhibitors:** A maximum of 165 exhibitors will be allowed to compete in the contest. The first 165 exhibitors to submit their electronic intent form will be eligible for the contest.
- Intent Form:** Electronic submission of intent forms for the 2024 Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest are available at [www.rodeohouston.com](http://www.rodeohouston.com) starting on July 17, 2023 at 9 a.m. for returning contestants and will close at 4 pm then will reopen on July 19, 2023 at 9 a.m. for anyone wishing to submit for any remaining spots and will remain open until the earlier of (i) 165 completed electronic intent forms received or (ii) August 15, 2023. Once an exhibitor receives confirmation of the electronic intent form being accepted on the website, the exhibitor may purchase steers for the 2024 Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Show. The electronic submission form must be completed to enter the contest.
- Scale Tickets:** Scale Tickets will be uploaded in the online record book system by September 11, 2023. **NOTE: All steers must be purchased and weighed on the same date; this must take place on or before August 30, 2023.** The official scale tickets must be properly completed with the animals' identification (official HLSR Tag #), weight, date weighed, seller of the animal, buyer of the animal, and signature or initials of the weighmaster. Scale tickets to include only one steer per ticket (3 scale tickets per exhibitor). Exhibitors should retain a copy of the scale tickets for their record books. **Scale ticket examples included on last page of these special rules.**

In order to be considered an official entry, the exhibitor must also be entered on-line and pay the \$105 entry fee prior to Dec. 1, 2023, through the AST/CEA.



## Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

7. **Record Books:** Exhibitors must submit their online record books by 11:59 PM Saturday, February 23, 2024 or they will be closed automatically. Any questions regarding Record Books should be directed to [jcsrecordbooks@gmail.com](mailto:jcsrecordbooks@gmail.com) no later than 11:59 p.m. Monday, February 19, 2024.
8. **Entry:** Entry will be a pen of three steers. Steers of any of the beef breeds are eligible to be entered in this Show. **Replacement steers will not be accepted.**
9. **Ear Tags and DNA Samples:** Exhibitors will receive ear tags and DNA kits upon submission of the Intent Form. Each steer will have a unique ID and will represent the animal's sale slot. Tag numbers will be assigned by Club/Chapter and the Club/Chapter order will be randomly chosen. DNA will have to be turned into HLSR for each steer to be compared to samples from the contest.
10. **DNA Verification:** DNA will be sampled and verified for the top 8 pens of steers as well as randomly selected pens. DNA Samples not matching will result in disqualification and forfeiture of premiums.
11. **Arrival:** All exhibitors must arrive directly to NRG Arena and enter through Gate 5. DO NOT STAGE AT AIRPORT BLVD. Exhibitors may begin to arrive no earlier than 4 a.m. and must be in place by 9 a.m. on Sunday, March 3. Exhibitors arriving earlier than 4 a.m. on March 3 may be turned away.
12. **Feeding for Show:** Pen-of-three is to be fed in a separate feed pen from other livestock when placed on full feed. Steers grazed prior to entering their finishing pen may be grazed with other livestock. Exhibitors must continuously own and personally feed and care for their animals under the direct supervision of a CEA or AST. Animals can be raised in a commercial feedlot as long as the steers are fed and penned separately from other feedlot cattle and the exhibitor is providing the daily care of the steers.
13. **Days on Feed:** At time of weigh-in (sale weight) at the Show, the number of days on full feed must be given to the Committee by the exhibitor.
14. **Divisions:** Students between the ages of 8 (in addition to being in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and 13 on or before Aug. 31, 2023, are eligible to compete in the Junior division of the Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest. Students between the ages of 14 & 18 on or before August 31, 2023 are eligible to compete in the Senior division of the Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest. Exhibitors in the Junior and Senior divisions will be evaluated by judges using the same scoring system. Junior Division exhibitors are eligible to win Sr./Overall awards and Special Awards. Senior Division exhibitors are not eligible to win Junior Awards.
15. **Weighing:** Cattle must be weighed individually on a certified livestock scale by a certified weigher starting on February 16, 2024 through February 23, 2024. This weight is the official weight for the feeding records (record weight) and will be used with a four percent (4%) pencil shrink in the record book. The certified weigher must sign the official scale ticket and the weights must appear on the ticket. This weighing will be followed by check-in weight (sale weight) at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Cattle will be sold on the check-in weight.
16. **Sale Weights:** Steers must weigh a minimum of 1,150 pounds or a maximum of 1,650 pounds (sale weight) at weigh-in. Steers that fall below or above these weights will not be graded. There will be no reweighs.
17. **Steer Handling:** Steers that are wild or unruly will be disqualified. If it is necessary to remove one or more unruly animals from a pen, the entire pen will be disqualified. Steers will be shown as a group in pens. Exhibitors must be present in the Sales Pavilion when their steers are being weighed and graded and on sale day.
18. **Horns:** Steers must be dehorned. If any re-growth appears it must be no more than 2" in length and must have a blunt tip that is no smaller than the size of a quarter. Scurs (defined as loosely attached) may be present but must be no more than 2" in length.
19. **Health Certification:** Health certificates are not required. Exhibitor and his or her AST/CEA or other representative must certify that the steers were withdrawn from all chemicals and drugs in accordance with USDA regulations and comply with all state and federal regulations pertaining to livestock. **THESE REGULATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME.**
20. **Death Loss:** Should an exhibitor lose a steer due to death, that exhibitor must provide immediate notification in writing stating time and cause of death to Show Management at [livestock@rodeohouston.com](mailto:livestock@rodeohouston.com). This notification must also be signed by the CEA/AST and a parent or guardian.
21. **Grading Committee:** A committee of three judges will grade the Junior Commercial Steers based on the USDA standard quality and yield grades for slaughter steers.
22. **Questions:** The Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Committee Chairman will designate a time when the exhibitor may direct questions or inquiries pertaining to any aspect of the Show, to Show Officials or designated committee persons.

## Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

**23. Scoring Systems:** The official scoring system is based on 100 points, allocated as follows:

- |                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| a. Written Test           | 25 pts. |
| b. Interview Skills       | 25 pts. |
| c. Steer Grades           | 15 pts. |
| d. Record Book            | 10 pts. |
| e. Meat ID and Quiz       | 10 pts. |
| f. Pen of Steers Closeout | 9 pts.  |
| g. Cost/lb. Gain          | 2 pts.  |
| h. Avg. Daily Gain        | 2 pts.  |
| i. Feed Conversion        | 2 pts.  |

**Note:** To determine the final placing of the Top 8 Exhibitors, the Initial Interview Score will be dropped and replaced with the Final Interview Score.

**24. Contest Completion:** Exhibitors must complete all phases of the contest and score a minimum of 25 points in order to receive premium cash awards.

**25. Ineligible Steers for Points:** For steers that have been determined to have horns or scurs (see Rule 16), weigh less than 1,150 pounds (sale weight) or weigh more than 1,650 pounds (sale weight) or foundered or bruised, the exhibitor will not receive Steer Grade points on these ineligible steers.

**26. Steer Sales:** All steers entered will be sold, by grade and weight. The regular marketing cost, including trucking expenses to the livestock market, will be borne by the exhibitor, and deducted from the sale proceeds. Steers which arrive to the Show that are determined by Show officials to be foundered, bruised, or otherwise declared non-marketable will be priced on a residual value as determined by Show Management. Steer's grading Select and below and any ungraded steers, including steers weighing less than 1,150 pounds or more than 1,650 pounds will be sold at the corresponding bid price and will not be auctioned at the Junior Commercial Steer Sale on Monday, March 6th. This is a practical, commercially fed steer show. It should be specifically understood that it is not the intent of the Show Management to seek premium bids at the sale of the entries in this division.

**27. Sale Cap:** Show Management will determine market prices using packer bids that are secured by the Commissioning Agent. Only steers grading Choice and above will be auctioned in the Junior Commercial Steer Sale. Sale price on Choice and above steers will be capped at 20 cents per pound above a predetermined fed cattle market price (bid) for Choice and above steers, with exhibitors receiving a minimum premium of \$200 per steer above market price. Amounts bid over the cap amount will be transferred to the premium cash award pool for the current show year payout.

**28. Commission:** Exhibitors will be assessed a \$35 auction commission per head sold.

**29. Ribbons will be awarded to steers grading as follows:**

LIVE GRADES	RIBBON	POINTS PER STEER
USDA PRIME		
● Yield Grade 1 or 2	Blue	5
● Yield Grade 3	Blue	4
● Yield Grade 4 or 5	None	1
USDA CHOICE		
● Yield Grade 1 or 2	Red	5
● Yield Grade 3	Red	4
● Yield Grade 4 or 5	None	1
USDA SELECT		
● Yield Grade 1, 2 or 3	White	1
● Yield Grade 4 or 5	None	0



## Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

**30. PREMIUM CASH AWARDS:** There will be premium cash awards based on Steer Points AND Record Points. Base premium moneys will be \$10,000 divided by 20 percent (\$2,000) to Steer Points and 80 percent (\$8,000) to Record Points as follows:

**a. STEER POINTS:** The value of each steer point is determined by adding the total number of points on all animals and dividing into the total monies. A hypothetical case based on 300 steers graded as follows:

Prime, yield grade 1 or 2	5 steers	X 5 pts.		= 25 pts.
Prime, yield grade 3	5 steers	X 4 pts.		= 20 pts.
Prime, yield grade 4 or 5	3 steers	X 1 pts.		= 3 pts.
Choice, yield grade 1 or 2	150 steers	X 5 pts.		= 750 pts.
Choice, yield grade 3	94 steers	X 4 pts.		= 376 pts.
Choice, yield grade 4 or 5	10 steers	X 1 pts.		= 10 pts.
Select, yield grade 1, 2 or 3	29 steers	X 1 pts.		= 29 pts.
Select, yield grade 4 or 5	<u>4 steers</u>	X 0 pts.		<u>= 0 pts.</u>
	<u>300 steers</u>			<u>1,213 pts.</u>

\$2,000 divided by 1,213 = \$1.6488 per point (Approx.)

Prime, yield grade 1 or 2	\$1.6488	X 5 pts.		= \$8.24/steer
Prime, yield grade 3	\$1.6488	X 4 pts.		= \$6.60/steer
Prime, yield grade 4 or 5	\$1.6488	X 1 pts.		= \$1.65/steer
Choice, yield grade 1 or 2	\$1.6488	X 5 pts.		= \$8.24/steer
Choice, yield grade 3	\$1.6488	X 4 pts.		= \$6.60/steer
Choice, yield grade 4 or 5	\$1.6488	X 1 pts.		= \$1.65/steer
Select, yield grade 1, 2 or 3	\$1.6488	X 1 pts.		= \$1.65/steer
Select, yield grade 4 or 5	\$1.6488	X 0 pts.		= \$0.00/steer

**b. RECORD POINTS:** The point value is determined by the written test, interview skills, record book, meat identification and quiz, closeout, cost/lb. of gain, average daily gain and feed conversion. The exhibitors total record points (85 or less and a minimum of 25 or more to qualify for any record points) divided into the award moneys, i.e. 70 contestants x an average of 50 points = 3,500 points, Therefore, \$8,000 divided by 3,500 points = \$2.2857. A score of 65 would receive \$148.57.

**31. TOP EIGHT POINT PREMIUMS:** The top eight exhibitors in terms of combined Steer and Record Points will each receive a bonus point premium of \$1,000.