

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL STEER FEEDING & MANAGEMENT CONTEST

Department K

Cattle Operations Superintendent – Al Mahalitc – Eagle Lake, TX
Assistant Cattle Operations Superintendents – Matt Kubala – Schulenburg, TX
Contest Superintendent - Dr. Jason Cleere – College Station, TX
Scoring Superintendent – Brooke Cranek-Barnes - ???



DEADLINES

Entry Opens for Returning Contestants.....July 29
 Entry Opens for New Contestants.....July 31
 Entry Deadline..... Aug. 15
 Last Day to Purchase and Weigh Steers
 for Beginning Weights..... Aug. 31
 DNA Samples and Weight Slips Due..... Sept. 15
 Final Record Book Due.....Feb. 28

Begin Arrival	Sunday	March 8	4 a.m.
*Arrive directly to Gate 5, NRG Arena			
In Place by	Sunday	March 8	9 a.m.
Exhibitor Check-In	Sunday	March 8	6 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Welcome and Introductions	Sunday	March 8	9 a.m.
Written Test & Meats Quiz	Sunday	March 8	9:15 a.m.
Weigh & Grade Steers	Sunday	March 8	10:00 a.m.
Closeout Pen of Steers/Records	Sunday	March 8	*
*Exhibitors must complete this form after their steers have been weighed and graded.			
Interview Skills & Meat ID	Monday	March 9	6:30 a.m.
Buyer's Reception	Monday	March 9	noon
Sale (Cattle Grading Choice & Above)	Monday	March 9	1 p.m.
2 nd Interviews (Finalist)	Tuesday	March 10	7 a.m.
Awards Luncheon	Tuesday	March 10	2 p.m.




Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **Previous Winners:** Past 1st 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.
4. **Maximum Exhibitors:** A maximum of 175 exhibitors will be allowed to compete in the contest. The first 175 exhibitors to submit their entries will be eligible for the contest.
5. **Entry:** Entries for the 2026 Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest are available at www.rodeohouston.com starting on July 29, 2025 at 10 a.m. for returning contestants and will open on July 31, 2025 at 10 a.m. for anyone wishing to submit for any remaining spots and will remain open until the earlier of (i) 175 completed entries received or (ii) August 15, 2025.
 - a. Online Entries will be completed by the AST/CEA and can be paid by a single check from the school or club or by a single credit card.
 - b. Entry fee for 2026 will remain \$105
 - c. There will not be a separate Intent Form process for 2026
 - d. Paperwork can be submitted along with other Junior Show Entries in the Fall
 - e. If an entry cancels before the entry deadline, that spot will become available online.
6. **Purchasing Cattle:** Once an exhibitor receives confirmation of their entry being accepted on the website, the exhibitor may purchase steers for the 2026 Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Show.




Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

7. **Scale Tickets:** Scale Tickets will be uploaded in the online record book system starting on September 1, 2025 and must be done by September 15, 2025. **NOTE: All steers must be purchased and weighed on the same date; this must take place on or before August 31, 2025.** 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.**
8. **Record Books:** Exhibitors must submit their online record books by 11:59 PM Friday, February 27, 2026 or they will be closed automatically. Any questions regarding Record Books should be directed to jcsrecordbooks@gmail.com no later than 11:59 p.m. Monday, February 23, 2026.
9. **Steers:** 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.**
10. **Ear Tags and DNA Samples:** Exhibitors will receive ear tags and DNA kits after submission of their Entry. 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.
11. **DNA Verification:** DNA will be sampled and verified for randomly selected pens. DNA Samples not matching will result in disqualification and forfeiture of premiums.
-  12. **Arrival:** Arrival instructions will be sent out closer to the contest.
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. **Divisions:** Students enrolled in 3rd through 8th grades, are eligible to compete in the Junior division of the Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest. Students enrolled in the 9th through 12th grades 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.
16. **Weighing:** Cattle must be weighed individually on a certified livestock scale by a certified weigher starting on February 20, 2026 through February 27, 2026. 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.
17. **Sale Weights:** Steers must weigh **a minimum of 1,200 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.
18. **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.
19. **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.
20. **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.**

Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

- 21. 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. This notification must also be signed by the CEA/AST and a parent or guardian.
- 22. 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.
- 23. 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.
- 24. 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

- 25. Contest Completion:** Exhibitors must complete all phases of the contest and score a minimum of 25 points in order to receive premium cash awards.
-  **26. Ineligible Steers for Points:** For steers that have been determined to have horns or scurs (see Rule 16), weigh less than 1,200 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.
- 27. 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 1,200 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 11th. 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.
- 28. 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. Amounts bid over the cap amount will be transferred to the premium cash award pool for the current show year payout.
- 29. Commission:** Exhibitors will be assessed a \$50 auction commission per head sold.
- 30. Best Pen of Steers:** This is determined by the total steer grade points. Ties will be broken
- 31. Ribbons will be awarded to steers grading as follows:**

LIVE GRADES	RIBBON	POINTS PER STEER
USDA PRIME		
• Yield Grade 1 or 2	Purple	5
• Yield Grade 3	Purple	5
• Yield Grade 4 or 5	Purple	3
USDA CHOICE		
• Yield Grade 1 or 2	Blue	4
• Yield Grade 3	Blue	3
• Yield Grade 4 or 5	Blue	1
USDA SELECT		
• Yield Grade 1, 2 or 3	Red	1
• Yield Grade 4 or 5	Red	0



Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

32. 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 5 pts.	=	25 pts.
Prime, yield grade 4 or 5	3 steers	X 3 pts.	=	9 pts.
Choice, yield grade 1 or 2	150 steers	X 4 pts.	=	600 pts.
Choice, yield grade 3	94 steers	X 3 pts.	=	282 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>980 pts.</u>

\$2,000 divided by 980 = \$2.0408 per point (Approx.)

Prime, yield grade 1 or 2	\$2.0408	X	5 pts.	=	\$10.20/steer
Prime, yield grade 3	\$2.0408	X	5 pts.	=	\$10.20/steer
Prime, yield grade 4 or 5	\$2.0408	X	3 pts.	=	\$6.12/steer
Choice, yield grade 1 or 2	\$2.0408	X	4 pts.	=	\$8.16/steer
Choice, yield grade 3	\$2.0408	X	3 pts.	=	\$6.12/steer
Choice, yield grade 4 or 5	\$2.0408	X	1 pts.	=	\$2.04/steer
Select, yield grade 1, 2 or 3	\$2.0408	X	1 pts.	=	\$2.04/steer
Select, yield grade 4 or 5	\$2.0408	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.

33. 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.

Special Rules for Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management Contest

2026 Awards

TOP OVERALL PLACING AWARDS:

1st Place

2026 Ford Truck – Donated by the
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
\$1,000 Cash Award
Trophy, Banner and Buckle

2nd Place

\$10,000 Cash Award
11-inch touch screen tablet PC with accessories
Trophy and Banner

3rd Place

\$5,000 Cash Award
11-inch touch screen tablet PC with accessories

4th Place

\$3,500 Cash Award

TOP EIGHT FINALIST:

Buckle

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

Senior Rookie

\$750 Cash Award

Junior Rookie

\$700 Cash Award

HIGHEST FINAL INTERVIEW SCORE:

1st Place

\$500 Cash Award

JUNIOR HIGH POINT AWARDS:

1st Place

11-inch touch screen tablet PC with accessories
\$600 Cash Award
Trophy

2nd Place

\$500 Cash Award
Trophy

3rd Place

\$250 Cash Award
Trophy

HIGHEST GRADING PEN OF STEERS:

1st Place

\$500 Cash Award

MEAT ID AND QUIZ AWARDS:

1st Place

\$500 Cash Award

2nd Place

\$250 Cash Award

WRITTEN TEST AWARD:

1st Place

\$250 Cash Award

RECORD BOOK AWARDS:

Best Record Book

\$200 Cash Award

Best Rookie Record Book

\$150 Cash Award