

2018 Jackson County “Rancher’s Choice” Market Beef Contest

The “Rancher’s Choice” contest is open only to Jackson County Beef participants exhibiting an animal born and raised in our county. It is brought to you by the Jackson County Heritage club and its volunteers. The Heritage Club provides educational opportunities, resources and community partnerships with a focus on educating and instilling the six Pillars of Character; Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Trustworthiness, Fairness, and Citizenship. The Heritage Club will coordinate with the Jackson County 4-H Beef Superintendents to hold this contest in conjunction with the annual Jackson County Fair.

Mission Statement: The “Rancher’s Choice” Market Beef Contest is an educational contest that cumulates a market beef youth project with real-world relevance to today’s commercial beef cattle industry and incorporates “Character Counts” ethics.

Purpose: To showcase cattle from Jackson County, provide life-skills and education to exhibitors in learning more about the operations and economics of commercial beef production as well as incorporate Character counts ethics life application skills.

Eligibility: This contest is open to all currently enrolled 4-H & FFA beef exhibitors that are in good standing with both 4-H & FFA and that meet the following eligibility requirements.

Requirements: To be eligible to participate, the project animals and exhibitors must meet and/or complete the following criteria:

1. Only calves born, raised and purchased from a cattle herd in Jackson County, Oregon are eligible for this contest. The breeder will have to sign a Breeder Affidavit Certificate to verify the ranch of origin, the full color description and age of the animal, and that they have been in possession of that calf since birth. This will be in addition to photocopies of the normal brand inspection and bill of sale. The Breeder Affidavit Certificate is MANDATORY and will be subject to review and verification by the appointed eligibility committee of the Heritage Club. Their decision as to eligibility will be final. The Breeder Affidavit Certificate **MUST** be turned in at beef field day **prior** to having your calf tagged. Any objection to a steer’s eligibility must be made to the Heritage Club by **June 1st**. See Standards, Expectations & Conflict Resolution page to see how objections will be handled.
2. All calves must be exhibited in the appropriate market beef class at the Jackson County Fair through either 4-H or FFA to be eligible for this contest. If an exhibitor chooses to have a local “back-up” steer they may tag that steer at beef field day, present the breeder affidavit and have the animal tagged as a Rancher’s Choice eligible steer. If this steer is not your primary market steer you will need to enter him in the specialty market steer class at fair and then you will be able to take him as your Rancher’s Choice Market Beef steer. You may only exhibit one steer in this contest.
3. Exhibitors participating in this contest must complete a Project Record Book that includes records of project management, expense, income, inventory, animal feed performance and a statement of profit or loss based on the current market value of the animal at fair time. In addition, there will be two approximately 250-500 word essays required (based on age division of the exhibitor) on a relevant beef industry topic and an ethics topic to be submitted with the record book at fair. All participants will be asked to write on the same topic with a new topic being provided by the contest

committee each year. Record Books and essays will be due at the 4-H Fair Office in a three-pronged report folder by 1:00 pm on the day of steer weigh-in at the Jackson County Fair. There is no entry form nor entry fee, simply turn in your record books and essays by the time stated to be entered.

4. Judges of record books and essay's will conduct a short interview with each contestant. Interview times will be assigned when record book and essays are turned in. These interviews are informal and very short in nature. It is not necessary to dress up. The interview portion of this contest helps the judges to clarify things they may have had a question about and allows the exhibitor a chance to further explain or expand on their answers if necessary.

Evaluation & Placing's: The Contest scoring will be based as follows:

30% of the score will be on the live animal show. There will be a judging panel of three qualified commercial cattle producers that are of no immediate relation to any of the exhibitors. Breeders that have animals in the show are eligible to judge. The judges' panel will be selected by the Heritage Club committee. All eligible animals will be shown together in one class, regardless of weight unless there are too many animals to safely show at one time. The judges will then determine the best way to handle sorting and placing the animals. The animals should be washed, brushed and blown dry, but **NO fitting products will be allowed**. Any animals that exhibit show product use will be excused from the class by the judges. All animals will be shown in rope halters.

30% of the score will be determined by average daily gain of the steer from beef field day to fair. Weights used will be the official weights as recorded on the fair weight slips.

20% of the score will be based on record book content and completion. All records are included in the Rancher's Choice Market Beef Handbook and can be obtained by contacting the Heritage Club (Nicole Leonardo 541-261-1819), your project leader, Extension Office.

10% of the score will be based on the cattle industry essay question. Essay questions will be made available at beef field day. Each division; Junior, Intermediate and Senior will have a different question relevant to the contestants age but all will be related to the same topic.

10% of the score will be based on the ethics question. Essay questions will be made available at beef field day. Each division; Junior, Intermediate and Senior will have different questions relevant to the contestants age but will be related to the same topic.

The record books and essays will be judged by a panel of at least two qualified people to be chosen by the Heritage Club. There will be a different team of judges for record book, cattle industry question and ethics question. This portion of the contest will be judged prior to the live animal class so that the scores will be ready to immediately compile with the live animal placing's.

The combined scores from the live animal judging, average daily rate of gain, record book and essay portions will determine the Champion & Reserve Champion Jackson County Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest winners.

NOTE: ANY EXHIBITOR WISHING TO ENTER THE RECORD BOOK OR ESSAY PORTIONS OF THIS CONTEST BUT DO NOT HAVE A JACKSON COUNTY BRED CALF CAN ENTER THOSE PORTIONS OF THIS CONTEST AND COMPETE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS. THEY WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHAMPION OR RESERVE CHAMPION MARKET BEEF AWARD.

AWARDS:

Champion Ranchers Choice Market Beef Contest winner (based on combined scores) will receive **\$500 Cash, and a buckle**

Reserve Champion Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest winner (based on combined scores) will receive **\$250 Cash and a buckle**

Average Daily Rate of Gain – top 5 places will receive **an award**

Live Show – top 5 places will receive **an award**

Record Book (highest point total in all ages) will receive **\$50 Cash and an award**

Essays in each age division (Jr., Int. & Sr.) (highest point score) will receive **\$25 Cash and an award**

Breeder Awards:

Champion Breeder: **Rotating Trophy and Plaque**

Reserve Champion Breeder: **Plaque**

Record Books & Entries:

The handbook which includes rules, record book forms and Breeder Affidavit are available from the Heritage Club, (Nicole Leonardo 541-261-1819), your project leader, or online and should be requested as soon as the exhibitor decides to enter so the proper records can be kept. The Breeder Affidavit will need to be signed and returned at **beef field day prior to tagging of your steer!**

Contestants will need to get the Breeder Affidavit, brand inspection and bill of sale completed when the steer is purchased. The final calculations on the financial & performance summary portions of the record book will not be completed until the contestants have their steer's official fair weight. All other portions of the record book should be completed prior to the fair. The following items are due to the 4-H Fair Office no later than 1:00 pm on the day of steer weigh in at the fair.

Completed Record Book Forms & Essay's (both beef industry and ethics questions)

Photocopy of Bill of Sale & / or Brand Inspection Certificate

Photocopy of Market Animal Code of Ethics/C.O.O.L. Form

All above items need to be submitted and secured in a **3-prong Report Folder** – Record books will be returned to exhibitors after the contest – much of the information will also be valid for completing required 4-H and FFA project records. Your Rancher's Choice record book will be accepted to enter fair but if you choose to enter the county record book contest at the end of the year you will need to transfer your information to those records.

Standards, Expectations and Conflict Resolution

Considering this contest is primarily an educational contest and one sponsored by a non-profit group dedicated to advocating for the 4-H/FFA youth of Jackson County.....we would like to think that all of those participating as Breeders and Exhibitors would be participating in an honest manner upholding the purpose of the Heritage Club as stated in the Mission Statement and Purpose. However, we want it to be clear that this organization will in no way condone unethical behavior and our intention is to hold this contest to the very highest of standards. For that reason we feel it important to give our expectations as well as outline how any conflict will be handled if any should arise.

We will focus our decision making on upholding all areas of the 6 Pillars of Character not sacrificing one to uphold another. If a claim of breach of ethics has been presented to the Heritage Club the accusation will be heard, the accused will be given an opportunity to respond to the accusation in a private meeting. If after both parties are heard and there is still no resolution, the Heritage Club will ask both parties to sit in a meeting together and the conflict resolution committee will mediate. If no solution can be found at that point the Heritage Club will reserve the right to make a decision based on the information presented and that decision will be FINAL. This decision can include but not be limited to losing the right to participate in this event by having cattle or an exhibitor disqualified for one time only or from any of these contests in the future. All conflict resolution meetings will be documented and recorded for accuracy should one of the parties feel the need to dispute the Heritage Clubs decision.

If this claim is in regards to the eligibility of a particular calf that calls into question where the calf originated from, a DNA test can be performed on the calf and the dam to verify the genetics. If a person makes a claim they will be responsible to pay for the DNA test and the breeder by signing the Breeder's Affidavit agrees to provide a DNA sample from the dam of the calf in question. If upon the completion of the DNA test it is proven that the calf is from another origin or herd the breeder will be required to refund the accuser the cost of the DNA test and will forfeit the right to ever have one of their calves entered in this contest in the future.

This section to be completed by the buyer:

Buyer Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

4-H Club/FFA Chapter _____

Steers Name: _____

BREEDER AFFIDAVIT CERTIFICATE

Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest

Completion of this form is an eligibility requirement to participate in the Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest the Jackson County Fair. To be eligible, the steers must have been born and raised on a cattle operation in Jackson County, Oregon.

Name of Breeder or Ranch of Origin:

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail _____

Steer ID# _____ Steer Date of Birth _____

Brand & Location _____

Complete color description: _____

Note: ID can be an ear tag or tattoo if the animal has either. Description should include color or colors and notation of any distinguishing marks if present. Date of birth can be a date range of the ranch's normal calving season or just the month if exact date is not known, example, (1/1/13-2/28/13) or (3/13).

I hereby certify the beef steer listed above was born and raised on the premises of my cattle operation located in Jackson County, Oregon, and that I have been in possession of the described animals since birth. I am willing to supply a DNA sample of the dam of this calf if my ownership is questioned. The accuser must pay for the test unless it is determined that the DNA I supplied was not the dam of the calf, then I will pay the testing fee and I may not be able to have one of my animals resented in this contest in the future.

Breeder Signature _____ Date _____

Breeder Printed Name _____

To be completed by the Heritage Club:

Fair Tag #: _____

Field Day Weight: _____

Essay Questions Given: _____

Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest

Record Book

Exhibitor Name: _____ Grade in school: _____

Club Name or Chapter Name: _____ Yrs. in 4-H or FFA: _____

Steer Name: _____ Breed: _____

Steer's Date of Birth: _____ Age (in months) of animal: _____

Name of Breeder: _____

Date of Purchase: _____

Purchase Weight: _____

Beef Field Day Weight: _____ Date: _____

Fair Ear Tag Number: _____

Official Fair Weight: _____ Date: _____

*Live Steer Market Value: _____ (\$/cwt)

** (USDA average live steer price as of the most current report date before the fair. A sheet with this information will be provided to you after you weigh your steer at the fair to complete your calculations. It will be based on the National Daily Cattle & Beef Summary price from (www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketNews).*

Project Summary:

Average Daily Gain _____ from page 8
(Based on official fair weights)

Cost per Pound Gain _____ from page 8
(From purchase to finish weight)

Feed Conversion Ratio _____ from page 8
(From purchase to finish weight)

Net Profit (or) Loss _____ from page 7
(Circle profit or loss above)

Net Cash Income _____ from page 7

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Record Book

PROJECT EXPENSE RECORD

Record animal purchase price, equipment, rent, transportation, veterinary expenses, insurance, entry fees, hoof trimming & any other expenses or items purchased during this project year. Record equipment and any unused supplies on hand at the end of the project on page 4 Inventory Record and only show their closing value.

Date Purchased	Quantity	Item or Description	Cost
			\$
Make copies of this page as needed			TOTAL COST \$

Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest Record Book

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY RECORD

Equipment (current and from past project years) such as blowers, fitting chute, combs, show halter, show stick, etc.
*value on hand at start of project year

Date Purchased	Item	Beginning Value*	Ending Value (only enter total)
TOTALS			X.10 \$

Less : 10% Annual Depreciation on Closing Inventory Value (Total Beginning Value x .10= Ending Value)

SUPPLIES AND FEED INVENTORY RECORD

Record leftover supplies and feed here. Record the purchase price (how much you paid for it), the value of the amount used during the year (you used ½ bag subtract ½ cost) enter the value of the amount leftover for closing value

	Item	Cost or Beginning Value	Value of Amount Used	Value on Hand at Close
Ex	50 lb. bag Purina finishing touch	\$19.99	\$9.99	\$10.00
Add each section; beginning, used & ending: TOTAL				
Total Value of Supplies and Feed Inventory				\$

Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest Record Book

FINANCIAL SUMMARY SHEET STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

EXPENSES				
1	BEGINNING EQUIPMENT INVENTORY	(from page 5)	\$	
2	BEGINNING SUPPLIES AND FEED INVENTORY*	(from page 5)	\$	
3	YOUR LABOR COST	(from page 6)	\$	
4	TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES –animal, feed, supplies, veterinary, etc.	(from page 2&3)	\$	
5	TOTAL EXPENSE FOR PROJECT	Add lines 1-4	\$	

**Include the value of any supplies and feed on hand at beginning of this project year (leftover from last year) that was used or fed (amount used) during this project year.*

INCOME				
6	CLOSING EQUIPMENT INVENTORY TOTAL	(from page 4)	\$	
7	CLOSING SUPPLIES AND FEED INVENTORY	(from page 4)		
8	INCOME FROM PROJECT	(from page 7)	\$	
9	TOTAL INCOME FOR PROJECT	Add lines 6-8	\$	

PROFIT OR LOSS				
10	TOTAL INCOME FOR PROJECT	(line 9 above)	\$	
11	TOTAL EXPENSE FOR PROJECT	(line 5 above)	\$	
12	NET PROFIT OR LOSS			
	<i>**Based on today's market value</i>	(Subtract line 11 from 10)	\$	
13	YOUR NET CASH INCOME OR LOSS:			
	This is the net amount you earned or lost after you "add back in" the value of your labor cost (since you don't actually pay yourself wages) from Net Profit or Loss			
	If line 12 is a Profit (positive number), then calculate Line 3 plus line 12			
	OR If line 12 is a Loss (negative number), then calculate *** Line 12 plus line 3			
	<i>***Example: Line 12 is -\$500 + \$300 from line 3 = negative \$200 Net Cash Loss</i>			\$

**** The net profit or loss shown above is based on the current Live Steer Market Price as reported by USDA. Therefore, if your steer was sold to a packing plant right now - that is the value he would have been worth in the actual marketplace. This summary is designed to give you an idea of how much money you would have really made or lost in a real market situation.**

You will want to go back and recalculate the above income and profit and loss information, after you know what price you received from the Jr. Livestock Auction, and that will provide the correct information for your actual 4-H or FFA project books this year.

Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest Record Book

OFFICIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY REPORT

1	FINISH WEIGHT	(Official Fair Weight)		Lbs.
2		(Date of Fair Weigh -In)		
3	BEGINNING WEIGHT	(Official Beef Field Day Weight)		Lbs.
4		(Date of Beef Field Day Weigh-In)		
5	TOTAL POUNDS GAINED -	(Subtract line 3 from line 1)		Lbs.
6	TOTAL DAYS ON FEED -	Calculate total days between above dates line 2 & 4		Days
7	AVERAGE DAILY GAIN - (lbs./day)	(Divide line 5 by line 6)		

PROJECT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

8	CALF WEIGHT* WHEN PURCHASED OR STARTED ON FEED -			Lbs.
9	FINISHED WEIGHT = OFFICIAL FAIR WEIGHT			Lbs.
10	POUNDS GAINED FROM TOTAL TIME ON FEED			
	<i>*Weight needs to be accurate</i>	(Subtract line 8 from line 9)		
11	TOTAL FEED COST - Feed only expenses from page 3, plus any feed included in line 2, page 8		\$	
12	FEED COST PER POUND OF GAIN	(Divide line 11 by line 10)	\$	
13	TOTAL POUNDS OF FEED FED - hay & grain	(from page 4)		Lbs.
14	FEED CONVERSION RATIO	(Divide line 13 by line 10)	:	

The feed conversion data tells you how efficient your animal is utilizing feed to produce gain, and it is expressed as a ratio (Example: line 10 = 500 lbs. gain & line 13 = 3600 lbs. total feed; so 3600/500 = 7.2 Therefore the ratio would be 7.2:1, which means it took 7.2 lbs. of feed to produce 1 lb. of gain.)