

Lake County Rancher's Choice Market Beef Contest

The "Rancher's Choice" contest is open only to Lake County 4-H & FFA Beef participants exhibiting an animal born and raised by the member or the member's family in a commercial setting. This contest will take place at the annual Lake County Fair and will be judged by a panel of experienced cattlemen/women identified by 4-H, FFA and the Lake County 4-H & FFA Market Sale Committee.

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.

Purpose: To showcase cattle raised by members or their families in commercial settings and provide life-skills and education to exhibitors in learning more about the operations and economics of commercial beef production.

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, or purchased from a commercial cattle herd owned by the member or member's family will be eligible.
2. Steer must also be shown in the member's regular 4-H or FFA Market Beef Class, **and have received a blue ribbon.**
3. Steer must meet the minimum weight requirement of 1100lbs at Thursday Weigh-In.
4. This is a blow-n-go show, no fitting products (including adhesives, dyes, paints, etc.) will be permitted.
5. Animals will be exhibited with a hair length limit no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
6. Exhibitor must pass the pre-fair record book check.
7. Exhibitor must submit a completed Rancher's Choice Market Beef Affidavit, signed by member, parent, and club/project leader or advisor. **Must be turned in on time at weigh-ins on Thursday of fair. No later than 10:30 am.**

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Evaluation & Placing's: Scoring will be based as follows using the designated scoring rubric.

- **70%** of the score will be on the live animal show. There will be a judging panel of three to four qualified commercial cattle producers. Breeders that have animals in the show are eligible to judge. All eligible animals will be shown together in one class, regardless of weight but may be broken into heats to maintain a safe number of animals within the show ring. Any animals that exhibit show product use will be excused from the class by the judges. All **animals will be shown in rope halters.**
- **20%** of the score will be determined by average daily gain of the steer from spring weigh-in to fair. Weights used will be the official weights as recorded on the fair weight slips.
- **10%** of the score will be based on the exhibitor's oral response to a question asked by the judge panel. All exhibitors will be asked the same question. Question will be related to one of the following topic areas: ethics, withdrawal periods, cattle feeding practices, quality assurance practices and animal welfare.

Awards: Steers will be awarded according to the Danish awards system with the top two animals receiving special awards. The Grand Champion Rancher's Choice steer will receive a grand champion rosette and belt buckle. The Reserve Grand Champion Rancher's Choice steer will receive a reserve grand rosette and cash prize. The Grand and Reserve Grand steers will receive special designation in the Livestock Auction on Saturday of Fair.