

DIVISION B – BEEF CATTLE

Superintendent: Ms. Karen Holloway
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The grooming and preparation of all animals for exhibit is the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive guidance only from immediate family members, Maryland 4-H/FFA Members and appointed UME Volunteers/FFA Advisors.

Pre-entry is required. YOU MUST USE THE INTERNET ENTRY SYSTEMS FOUND AT www.marylandstatefair.com Internet entries are due July 15th. Exhibitors without internet access should contact their County Extension Educator for assistance. All release forms are to be completed online through the entry system at time of registration. Reminder: you must have completed the Animal Husbandry & Quality Assurance program to be able to exhibit your animals. Check with your county to make sure you are up to date with this requirement.

Division Rules & Regulations:

1. Exhibitors and their exhibits must comply with the “General State Fair Rules & Regulations”, “General 4-H and FFA Rules & Regulations”, “Animal Rules & Regulations”, the “Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics”, the “Health Regulations for Livestock Exhibited in Maryland”, these “Division Rules & Regulations” and the applicable “Section Rules & Regulations”.
2. **Schedule for 2026:**
 - a. **Beef exhibits received Wednesday, August 26th, 12:00 noon – 9:00pm**
 - b. **Beef exhibits received Thursday, August 27th, 7:00am – 12:00 noon**
 - c. **Beef exhibits must be in place by 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 27th**
 - d. **Beef Heifer Check-In –Wednesday afternoon, August 26th, and Thursday, August 27th, 9:00am to 3:00pm. All heifers (except Commercial) must be checked in with beef superintendents by 3:00pm Thursday, August 27th**
 - e. **Beef Exhibitor Orientation – 3:00pm, Thursday, August 27th 21st, Cow Palace Show Ring**
 - f. **Beef Steer, Commercial Heifer and Dairy Steer Weigh-In – 3:30pm, Thursday, August 27th (scales outside north end of Cow Palace).**
 - g. **Beef Showmanship – 10:00am, Friday, August 28th**
 - h. **Beef Heifer Show – 9:00am, Saturday, August 29th**
 - i. **Beef Steer Show – 7:00pm, Saturday, August 29th. Beef Steer Selection for the Youth Livestock Sale will take place immediately following the Beef Steer Show.**
 - j. **4-H/FFA All-Star Showmanship for Market Livestock– 5:00pm, Sunday, August 30th**
 - k. **4-H/FFA Beef Released (except for Livestock Sale Steers) - 8:00pm, Sunday, August 30th**
 - l. **Youth Livestock Auction – 7:00pm, Monday, August 31st**
3. **Entries:** Entries will be received on Wednesday, August 26th from 12:00 noon to 9:00pm; and Thursday, August 27th, from 7:00am to 12:00 noon. **All beef animals must be in place no later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, August 27th.** Refer to “Schedule of Events” and “4-H/FFA Exhibit Entry Information” for additional information. **DO NOT BRING TACK/DECOR BEFORE Tuesday, August 25th or until beef superintendents have posted/communicated specific approved days and times for set-up. DO NOT BRING ANIMALS BEFORE 12:00 noon WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26th! Tie-outs will be available for 2026 and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.**
 - a. Only steers with purebred bloodlines can be shown in Angus, Hereford, and Shorthorn steer classes. **The All Other Breeds/AOB Steers** classes include all other registered/recorded breeds. **Breed Association registration papers are required at weigh-in for all Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn and AOB steers, and steers must be tattooed prior to arrival on fairgrounds.** All steers without breed association registration papers will show in the crossbred steer division.
 - b. Steers will be shown by breed and weight. **Indicate breed on entry form.** Steers must weigh a minimum of 1,100 lbs. All animals will be weighed and divided into classes at the superintendent’s discretion. The number of classes may vary among breeds. **Re-weighing will NOT be permitted. Steers must be born on or after January 1, 2025.**
 - c. **New for 2026: There is not a minimum rate of gain/average daily gain requirement for market steers to be able to show and sell at the Maryland State Fair.** Market steers must meet the 1,100-lb minimum weight. Starting weight and date must be verified by the County 4-H Extension Educator / FFA Advisor at the initial county steer tagging/weighing event. Please see Youth Livestock Sale Rules found in 4-H/FFA Division X, Section XIV for additional information pertaining to beef steer sale animals. Production awards for rate of gain (blue, red & white awards) and a Champion Rate of Gain Steer will still be awarded based on initial official weight and weight at State Fair weigh-in, but minimum rate of gain is no longer a requirement for show and sale.
 - d. For heifers, indicate breed, date of birth, registration number, sire, and dam on entry form. Commercial heifers will be shown by weight, not by age.
 - e. Exhibitors are limited to not more than 5 steers and may not win more than 2 premiums in any one class. **Exhibitors may enter up to 2 heifers per class per breed including Commercial heifers.**
 - f. **Exhibitor Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 27th at 3:00pm in the Cow Palace Show Ring. Steers and commercial heifers will be weighed at 3:30pm, Thursday, August 27th, following the Exhibitor Orientation, on the scales outside the north end of the Cow Palace.** Commercial heifer tags will be checked when heifers are weighed in.
 - g. The Grand Champion Beef Steer MUST sell in the Youth Livestock Sale on Monday, August 31st. Reserve Grand Champion Beef Steer may sell (but is NOT required to sell) in the Youth Livestock Sale. A total of **12 beef steers** (including the Grand Champion Beef Steer and the Grand Champion Dairy Steer) will be sold in the Youth Livestock Sale. **Selection of steers for the Youth Livestock Sale will take place immediately following the Beef Steer Show on Saturday evening, August 29th.** Refer to Youth Livestock Sale Rules found in 4-H/FFA Division X, Section XIV rules for additional information pertaining to beef steer sale animals. Steers and heifers must be dehorned and healed. Steers are to be castrated and healed except in class B21. For safety reasons, entries for animals not meeting these criteria will not be accepted.

- h. Commercial heifers are unrecorded crossbreds. All current rules apply. These heifers will be shown by weight and divided into weight classes. **COMMERCIAL HEIFERS MUST BE TAGGED WITH AN OFFICIAL MARYLAND 4-H/FFA TAG BY JULY 1, 2026, and exhibitors must have a copy of their 4-H livestock registration form at check-in.**
- i. Substitutions: Exhibitors may substitute one animal for another.
- 4. **Ownership:**
 - a. All steers must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor by January 1 of the current year. All steers must be tagged with a MD 4-H or MD FFA livestock tag or an official GFF (Great Frederick Fair) livestock tag.
 - b. Breeding heifers must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor and must be **solely owned and registered in the name of the exhibitor only** by July 1, 2026. Cows and calves in the cow/calf class must be registered in the name of the owner, and both must be tattooed. Registration certificates and tattoos will be checked by the superintendent. Entries received with "Papers Pending" will not be accepted. Cows entered in the Cow/calf class will not compete for Champion Heifer. A Supreme Champion Cow/Calf Pair will be selected prior to selection of the Supreme Champion Heifer.
 - c. Ear tattoos must be legible and conform to the respective BREED ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE. Exhibitors must clean the animal's ears (free of wax and/or dirt) prior to check-in of registered heifers and purebred registered steers.
 - d. **Bred and Owned Classes: Exhibitors in the Bred and Owned Classes in 4-H/FFA animal divisions must be the breeder and the first and continuous owner of the animal entered. "Breeder" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time of breeding/service. "First Owner" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time the animal was born.**
- 5. Proper attire must be worn during the showmanship classes, steer show, heifer show, and the livestock sale. Refer to the 4-H AND FFA ANIMAL SHOW ATTIRE section under the GENERAL STATE FAIR RULES & REGULATIONS for show attire requirements.
- 6. **County Groups** - A county group shall consist of 4 animals (4 steers or 4 heifers) owned by four different 4-H and/or FFA members. Each county is limited to 2 entries. Exhibitors may only show in one county group.
- 7. All animals that compete in market or breed classes MUST compete in the breed and overall champion drives. Failure to compete will eliminate the exhibitor from Maryland State Fair 4-H competition the following year and will result in the forfeiture of all premiums in the current year.
- 8. Exhibitors must show their own animal. Refer to the "Animal Rules & Regulations" section of the GENERAL STATE FAIR RULES & REGULATIONS for more information and details.
- 9. **ALL 4-H BEEF DEPARTMENT SHOWS (SHOWMANSHIP, STEERS, & HEIFERS) WILL BE UNFITTED. This means animals can only be washed and blown out with NO adhesives, show foam, coloring agents, paints, oils, or other fitting aids allowed to prepare cattle for show. Exhibitors ARE allowed to use hair and skin care products and conditioners (such as Revive, Kleen Sheen) as part of the regular daily grooming and hair maintenance of their beef cattle while at State Fair. Animals may be subject to being wiped with a white towel, cloth, etc. as they report to the make-up area and show ring.**
- 10. **BEDDING:** The Maryland State Fair will provide a base-layer of tan-bark for beef cattle stalls.

BEEF SHOWMANSHIP – Section 1

Section Rules & Regulations:

1. Pre-entry is required. Internet Entry Forms are due to the State Fair by July 15, 2026. Exhibitors will compete according to their 4-H Age (age as of 1/1/26). Classes may be further divided at the sole discretion of the Superintendent. An Exhibitor is limited to showing one (1) animal (either a steer or a heifer). Animals must be owned by the exhibitor and entered in a breeding or steer class in this division. Refer to "4-H and FFA Fitting & Showmanship Regulations" for additional information.
2. Participants in Showmanship will be judged strictly on their showmanship in the ring. Judging Criteria, at the discretion of the judge, may include the following: Performance in the Show Ring (60), Knowledge (30), and Personal Appearance (10). Showmanship animals **will not be fitted** and may only be washed, clipped and blown out prior to entry in the ring. No fitting products (oil, show foams, adhesives, coloring agents, paints, etc.) are to be used on the animal. Judges may ask questions of the exhibitors during this class.
3. Showmanship Grand Champion will be eligible to participate in the 4-H/FFA All-Star Showmanship Contest for Market Livestock on Sunday, August 30, 2026 @ 5:00pm. See Division X, Section XV - 4-H/FFA All-Star Showmanship Contest for rules.

CLASSES

B1 Showmanship - Senior (4-H Age 18)	B6 Award Class (Fair Use Only) Sr. Champ - Rosette & Award
B2 Showmanship - Senior (4-H Age 17)	B7 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Reserve Sr. Champ – Rosette & Award
B3 Showmanship - Senior (4-H Age 16)	
B4 Showmanship - Senior (4-H Age 15)	
B5 Showmanship - Senior (4-H Age 14)	
B8 Showmanship - Intermediate (4-H Age 13)	B11 Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Int. Champ - Rosette & Award
B9 Showmanship - Intermediate (4-H Age 12)	B12 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Reserve Int. Champ – Rosette & Award
B10 Showmanship - Intermediate (4-H Age 11)	
B13 Showmanship - Junior (4-H Age 10)	B16 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Jr. Champ - Rosette & Award
B14 Showmanship - Junior (4-H Age 9)	B17 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Reserve Jr. Champ – Rosette & Award
B15 Showmanship - Junior (4-H Age 8)	
	B18 Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Grand Champ – Rosette/ Trophy
B20 Champion Challenge – 2026 Grand Champion Showman competing against previous years' Grand Champions	B19 Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Res Grand Champ – Rosette & Award

BREEDING HEIFERS

Breeds: Angus, All Other Registered Breeds (AOB) (includes Other Purebreds), Charolais, Commercial, Hereford, Red Angus, Shorthorn, Simmental, Recorded Crossbreds, Shorthorn Plus, etc. and all other registered/recorded cattle.

**NOTE:

If fewer than seven (7) animals have entered in a given breed above, that breed may be shown in the AOB/Other Registered Purebreds division at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Show Order:

**Angus-Sec. 2, Charolais-Sec. 8, Hereford-Sec. 4, Red Angus-Sec. 9,
Shorthorn-Sec. 5, Simmental-Sec. 6, AOB/Other Registered Breeds-Sec. 7, Commercial-Sec. 3,**

CLASSES

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| B20 | Cow/calf - natural calf, nursing, born Jan 1, 2026 or later | B34 & B35 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Bred & Owned Champ. & Res. Champ. Heifer - Rosette (Only Bred and Owned Heifers from Classes B22-B31 are eligible to compete) |
| B21 | Bull or steer calf (calf from cow/calf pair shown in class B20). | | |
| B22 | Junior heifer calves calved Jan 1, 2026 or later | | |
| B23 | Late senior heifers calved Nov 1 - Dec 31, 2025 | B36 & B37 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Breed Champ. & Res. Champ. Heifer - Rosette (Only class winners from Classes B22 -B31 are eligible to compete) |
| B24 | Early senior heifers calved Sep 1 - Oct 31, 2025 | | |
| B25 | Late summer yearling heifers calved Jul 1 - Aug 31, 2025 | | |
| B26 | Early summer yearling heifers calved May 1 - Jun 30, 2025 | | |
| B27 | April junior yearling heifers calved Apr 1 - Apr 30, 2025 | B38 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Supreme Champion Cow/Calf Pair Rosette (Cow/Calf Pair winner from each breed eligible to compete) |
| B28 | March junior yearling heifers calved Mar 1 - Mar 31, 2025 | B39 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Supreme Champion Heifer |
| B29 | Early junior yearling heifers calved Jan 1 - Feb 28, 2025 | B40 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Reserve Supreme Champion Heifer |
| B30 | Senior yearling (not freshened) calved Nov 1 - Dec 31, 2024 | B41 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - 3 rd Overall Heifer |
| B31 | Early Senior Yearling Heifer-not freshened- calved Sep 1 - Oct 31, 2024 | B42 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - 4 th Overall Heifer |
| B32 | Bred & Owned Heifer Class (Each Breed, only 1 heifer per exhibitor) | B43 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - 5 th Overall Heifer |
| | | B44 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Supreme Champ Bred & Owned Heifer |
| B33 | Commercial Heifer Classes | | |

MARKET STEERS – Section 10

Breeds: Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, All Other Registered Breeds (AOB) & Crossbred Steers. **Show order: Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, AOB, Crossbreds.** Market steers must weigh a minimum of 1,100 pounds. **An animal that does not meet the minimum 1,100 lb. weight remains eligible to be shown in Showmanship classes only. See General Rules & Regulations-Animal section rule #10 for details.** Refer to State Fair 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale rules for weight restrictions on sale animals.

CLASSES

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| B40 | Market Steer – Angus | B41 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Market Steer Ch/Res (Angus) - Rosette |
| B42 | Market Steer – Hereford | B43 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Market Steer Ch/Res. (Hereford) - Rosette |
| B44 | Market Steer – Shorthorn | B45 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Market Steer Ch/Res. (Shorthorn) - Rosette |
| B46 | Market Steer – All Other Registered Breeds (AOB) | B47 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Market Steer Ch/Res. (AOB Reg.) – Rosette |
| B48 | Market Steer - Crossbred | B49 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Market Steer Ch/Res. (Crossbred) – Rosette |
| | | B50 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Market Steer Grand Champ – Rosette & Trophy |
| | | B51 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – Market Steer Res Grand Champion – Rosette |
| | | B52 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – 3 rd Overall Steer |
| | | B53 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – 4 th Overall Steer |
| | | B54 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – 5 th Overall Steer |
| B56 | County Group | B55 | Bred & Owned Champion & Reserve Steer (Only registered steers from Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn and AOB divisions are eligible to compete. Crossbred steers are <u>not</u> eligible). |
| | | B57 | Award Class (Fair Use Only) – County Group Champ – Rosette & Special Award |

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS – Section 11

- 4-H'ers are invited to plan an educational exhibit to be on display during the State Fair in the Cow Palace. The exhibit may be an informational poster or other educational display. Youth and adults working together is encouraged. Contact the Superintendent for more info. Each exhibitor may enter 2 exhibits.
- 4-H Members carrying a Beef project in the current year are eligible to participate. A \$5 Participation Premium will be paid.

CLASS

- B100 Beef Educational Exhibit

<u>PREMIUM SCHEDULE</u>	<u>Classes</u>	<u>1st Place</u>	<u>2nd – 20th Place</u>
	Fitting & Showmanship Classes	\$20	\$15
	Breeding Heifer, Bred & Owned Heifer, and Market Steer Classes	\$40	\$30
	County Groups: Premiums will be paid to the county 4-H program	\$35	\$25, \$15, \$10

Rate of Gain Production Awards & Premiums – Section 11

B55 Rate of Gain for each steer will receive one of the following ribbons: Excellent-Blue, Very Good-Red or Good-White according to the following schedule: Excellent (2.61+), Very Good (2.21-2.60), Good (2.00-2.20). Premiums will be as follows: Excellent (\$10), Very Good (\$8), Good (\$6). **B56** Award Class (Fair Use Only) - Rate of Gain Champion – Rosette & Bill Curry Memorial Award

SPECIAL AWARDS

- An award will be presented to the Exhibitor of the Grand Champion Steer.
- An award will be presented to the Exhibitor of the Reserve Grand Champion Steer.
- Banners will be presented to the Exhibitors of the 3rd through 5th Overall Market Steers
- An award will be presented to the Exhibitor of the Supreme Champion Heifer.
- Banners will be presented to the Exhibitors of the Reserve Supreme Champion and 3rd through 5th Overall Heifers
- An award will be presented to the Exhibitor of the Supreme Champion Bred and Owned Heifer - *\$500 Trans Ova Genetics Certificate*.
- The Bill Curry Memorial Award will be presented to the Exhibitor of the Champion Rate of Gain Steer, *sponsored by the Charles Co. 4-H Livestock Committee*.
- An award will be presented to the Junior Showmanship Champion.
- An award will be presented to the Intermediate Showmanship Champion.
- An award will be presented to the Senior Showmanship Champion.
- An award will be presented to the Grand Champion Showman, *sponsored by Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland*.

BREED AWARDS

ANGUS

- Awards will be presented to the exhibitors of the Champion and Reserve Champion Angus Steer, sponsored by The Maryland Angus Association
- Awards will be presented to the exhibitors of the Champion and the Reserve Champion Angus Heifer, *sponsored by The Maryland Angus Women's Club*.
- Award will be presented to the exhibitor of the Champion Bred & Owned Angus Heifer, *sponsored by the MD Junior Angus Association*

HEREFORD

- Awards will be presented to the exhibitor of the Champion Hereford Steer, Reserve Champion Hereford Steer, Champion Hereford Heifer, and Reserve Champion Hereford Heifer, sponsored by The Maryland Hereford Association.

SHORTHORN

- Awards will be presented to the exhibitor of the Champion Purebred Shorthorn Steer, Reserve Champion Purebred Shorthorn Steer, Champion Purebred Shorthorn Heifer, and Reserve Champion Purebred Shorthorn Heifer, sponsored by the Maryland Shorthorn Association.

PREVIOUS SHOWMANSHIP WINNERS

2016 - Wyatt Debnam, Carroll County
 2017 - Gunner Crawford, Frederick County
 2018 - Avery Dull, Carroll County
 2019 - April Troyer, Harford County
 2020 - Audrey Robertson, Carroll County

2021 - Hunter Rhodes, Queen Anne's County
 2022 - Kaylie Shelton, Montgomery County
 2023 - Shane Doody, Frederick County
 2024 - Cassidy Sill, Frederick County
 2025 - Ella Deford, Harford County