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Welcome Home



The Ohio Cattlemen's Association welcomes you to the 22nd year of the BEST Program. This year's show season features 13 sanctioned shows over 7 weekends held throughout Ohio. The program will kick-off with the AGR Holiday Classic in Columbus in December and run through the Ohio Beef Expo in Columbus in the Spring.

The BEST program welcomes this year's sponsoring partners - Ag-Pro & John Deere, Bob Evans Farms, D&E Electric, M.H. EBY Inc., Farm Credit Mid-America, Frazier Farms, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Weaver Leather Livestock, The Folks Printing, Dickson Cattle Co., Jones Show Cattle and RD Jones Excavating.

BEST provides participants with opportunities through cattle shows, stockmanship competitions, community service projects, photography competitions, leadership opportunities and scholarships. The BEST Program has grown tremendously over the years with over 500 industry youth and 650 head of cattle that participated in the 2019-20 program.

Table of Contents

• What is the BEST Program?	2
• What's New?	3
• What do I need for my 1st BEST Show?.....	4
• Online BEST Nomination & Show Entries	5
• Program Requirements	5
• Why Join OCA?.....	6
• BEST Perks	6
• BEST Rule Highlights	7
• Buckeye Breeders Series	10
• Stockmanship Division.....	11
• Education Focused.....	12
• Be a Leader	13
• Community Service	13
• Recognition & Awards	13
• BEST Show & Event Schedule	13
• Get Involved with OCA.....	15

What is the BEST Program?

Overview

BEST (Beef Exhibitor Show Total) is a youth program of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) that recognizes Ohio's junior beef exhibitors for participation and placings through a series of sanctioned cattle shows that include showmanship competitions. Juniors who participate in these sanctioned shows earn points for their placings. Points are tabulated for cattle, showmanship, registered Bred & Owned animals and first or second year BEST participants in a separate Novice division for market animals, heifers and showmanship and the new Buckeye Breeders Series Program. The program promotes consistency for exhibitors at sanctioned shows hosted by county associations or agricultural groups and clubs. These points are tabulated and posted at www.ohiocattle.org.



The BEST program is coordinated by a committee. BEST provides an environment for friendly competition and success while serving as an opportunity to create the next generation of leaders by educating juniors on beef industry issues, promoting family membership and participation in OCA and rewarding the successful accomplishments and hard work of Ohio's young cattlemen. Additional areas of opportunity are offered through BEST with Junior Representative positions, scholarships and a photography competition for participants to showcase their talent.

History of the Program

OCA is a non-profit membership organization that represents the business interests important to farm families that raise cattle. It serves as the voice and issues manager for all of Ohio's beef cattle business including cattle breeders, producers and feeders. It is the beef industry's grassroots policy development organization and is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. OCA strives to maintain profitability and growth of Ohio's beef industry, while providing consumers with safe and wholesome beef.

The BEST program was started in 1999 with three goals:

- Youth education and leadership development
- Beef industry youth recognition and awards
- Provide a series of shows that have consistent and ethical regulations

Sponsoring Partners

Ag-Pro & John Deere, Bob Evans Farms, D&E Electric, M.H. EBY Inc., Farm Credit Mid-America, Frazier Farms, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Weaver Leather Livestock, The Folks Printing, Dickson Cattle Co., Jones Show Cattle and RD Jones Excavating.

Thanks to these generous contributors, BEST participants receive a gift upon signing up for the program, top-ten placing showmanship awards at each show, year-end prizes and awards, the opportunity to win show supplies and a year's lease on a new livestock trailer, in addition to many others.



What's new?

As the BEST program enters its 22nd year, the volunteer leadership has kept their commitment to the BEST participants and their families with their priorities set on keeping the family the focus of the program. Several of the new concepts that will be debuting this year are driven directly by participant feedback. The newest changes for BEST have been outlined in this brochure and more information will be available on the OCA website, www.ohiocattle.org.



Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS)

The Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS) BEST points division, formerly known as the Best of the Buckeye program, features cattle bred in Ohio and runs throughout the BEST show season. Only registered cattle that were bred by an Ohio breeder are eligible. Crossbreds are not eligible to participate in the BBS. Beginning with the Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown and continuing at every BEST show throughout the season, cattle entered in the BBS program will have their own separate set of points that will run parallel to the BEST program, like the Novice and Bred & Owned Divisions whose points are a subset of their regular class points. The program will end at the Ohio Beef Expo and will recognize both breeders and exhibitors of the top placing BBS cattle at the OCA BEST Awards Banquet on May 1, 2021. The BBS program will not be a part of the Ohio State Fair. Read more about BBS on page 10.

OCA Membership

To exhibit at a BEST sanctioned show, the exhibitor and/or their family must be current members of OCA. This rule pertains to all exhibitors both in-state and out-of-state residents, BEST and non-BEST participants. The OCA membership must be in the name of the exhibitor's immediate family. Immediate family is defined as a membership in the parents' name or the membership has the same address of record as the exhibitor. For new OCA BEST participants, the OCA membership must be paid at the time the BEST nomination is made. For renewing OCA members, all BEST participants will be required to have a current year OCA membership paid in full by January 1, 2021 to remain in the program and to continue earning BEST points, and to be listed in the final point standings and be eligible for awards. A one-time annual \$75 OCA family membership will be added to the first show entry fee for all show exhibitors when they enter a BEST sanctioned show through the online entry system. If more than one junior within a family exhibits at a BEST sanctioned show, only one OCA membership is required.

Quality Assurance Training

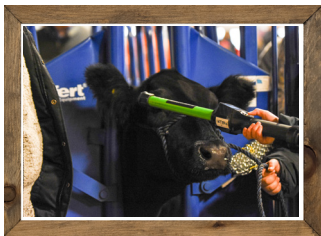
All BEST participants must have a current BQA certification when they sign-up for the program and/or complete a BQA certification to be in the BEST points standings following their first show, and to be eligible to receive BEST awards and to be listed in the BEST final points. BQA certification is available through in-person trainings at BEST shows, bqa.org or yqca.org. These trainings are good for up to three years from the date of completion. BEST participants that attended an in-person or YQCA BQA training last year are certified for three years from the date they attended training.

Stockmanship Program

The OCA BEST program's Stockmanship Division provides a pathway for youth to participate in the BEST program without showing an animal. It expands BEST participants' knowledge of cattle and provides youth with an opportunity to showcase their abilities and talents outside of the show ring. Read more about the Stockmanship Division and view the 2020-2021 competitions on page 11.

What do I need for my 1st BEST Show?

ALL cattle showing at a BEST sanctioned show in-state and out of state MUST be tagged with an electronic identification (EID) ear tag prior to arriving at their first BEST show. To obtain farm EID tags, exhibitors must first obtain a Premise ID number through the state's Department of Agriculture – Animal Division. Once the Premise ID is received, contact an animal health product distributor and purchase EID tags. Visit best.ohiocattle.org to learn more about applying for a farm's Premise ID before ordering EID tags.



Online BEST Nomination & Show Entries

www.ohiocattle.org

OCA BEST rules, show season current point standings, show information and results will be posted on the OCA website www.ohiocattle.org under the Youth tab.

best.ohiocattle.org

BEST nominations and ALL online show entries must be made at best.ohiocattle.org. Each exhibitor, BEST and non-BEST will create a unique user account and record their cattle along with that account. Exhibitors who have participated in the program in previous years are able to keep their existing username and password. Exhibitors may complete this portion of the sign-up process now, and show entries can be made starting on the Monday prior to each BEST show until the closure of check-in at each event. At the first BEST sanctioned show, the animal's EID tag number will be recorded and will be used to check that animal in at any future BEST show for the 2020-21 show season. Once the participant and animal are entered into the system, show entries must be made prior to each show. Exhibitors may then pay for show entries online with a credit card or they may choose to pay upon arrival at the BEST show. Computers will also be available at each BEST show to facilitate online check-in. Please note that all cattle MUST be entered in the show prior to bringing cattle through check-in. Participants may also use their smartphone, tablet or PC and make show entries.

Pick Up Your Ohio State Fair DNA Packet

The Ohio State Fair Beef Department will continue EID tags and DNA samples for identifying market beef animals at the 2021 Fair.

The DNA collection will be submitted to the Ohio State Fair by January 15, 2021. If you have a pre-existing EID tag from a BEST show, it will serve as your Ohio State Fair tag number and will need to be recorded on the DNA sample packet sent to the state fair. Packets to collect DNA may be picked up at AGR Holiday Classic or the Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown.

For more information regarding the Ohio State Fair, visit www.ohiostatefair.com.

Program Requirements

Complete exhibitor rules governing the BEST program can be found at www.ohiocattle.org. These include breed divisions, cattle ages and showmanship age divisions. Program requirements are that only Ohio residents who are eight years old as of January 1, 2021 but are not older than 21 years as of age as of January 1, 2021 are eligible to accumulate OCA BEST points. Anyone who has reached 22 years of age before 1/1/21 is ineligible.

To be eligible for OCA BEST points and awards, juniors or the junior's family must be a current member of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association. The OCA membership must be in the name of the BEST participant's immediate family. Immediate family is defined as a membership in the parents' name or the membership has the same address of record as the BEST participant. OCA memberships are family memberships and operate on the calendar year. Introductory memberships for the Ohio Cattlemen's Association are \$75.00. If more than one junior within a family participates in the program, only one membership is required. New OCA memberships paid in late 2020 will be credited to the 2021 calendar year. For all OCA BEST participants, the OCA membership must be paid at the time the BEST nomination is made.



To be eligible for the BEST program participants and their immediate family members must be in good financial standing with OCA. Good financial standing includes but is not limited to prior year's unpaid accounts with OCA or any BEST sanctioned show or unpaid accounts resulting from a BEST rule violation. All prior unpaid accounts must be paid in full prior to making BEST nominations. BEST participants must continue to be in good financial standing with OCA and each BEST sanctioned show throughout the program year to be eligible to receive BEST awards and to be listed in the BEST final points. The BEST Committee reserves the right to place BEST participants on a cash only basis at all BEST sanctioned shows based upon past violations of this rule.

A nomination fee is also required for each animal a junior enters in the BEST program. The one-time \$60.00 nomination fee allows the animal to accumulate points at any OCA BEST sanctioned show. The nomination fee must be paid before the start of the show where the exhibitor plans to accumulate points. Online nomination and entries must be completed for each participant and animal and may be submitted prior to or during check-in at a BEST sanctioned show.

Exhibitors must be BQA certified to participate in a BEST sanctioned show. Read more about BQA on page 12.

Why join the Ohio Cattlemen's Association?

OCA is member focused and issue driven to represent the business interests important to Ohio's cattle families. Over 2,300 families joined OCA last year that have backgrounds in all areas of the cattle industry.

OCA is the beef industry trade organization for the state of Ohio and is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). OCA is the state's grassroots policy development spokesperson and issues manager for all segments of the beef cattle industry including cattle breeders, cow-calf and feeders.



OCA members receive six issues of the Ohio Cattleman magazine and a bi-weekly e-newsletter. Members have access to exclusive educational opportunities such as Cattlemen's Academy. As OCA members, your family can also take advantage of several member benefits and discounts. For example, members receive discounts on farm supplies, feed purchases, insurance and registration for OCA events. Encourage your friends, family, or neighbors to join OCA! To read more about member benefits, visit www.ohiocattle.org.

BEST Perks

BEST participants receive a \$5 discount per entry at each show on their entry fees. Also, six of the seven BEST weekends for the 2020-21 season will also feature double ring opportunities. Double rings offer two sets of points with heifers or steers showing in back to back rings all on one day. Showmanship at shows that offer one showmanship competition will take place on Saturday afternoon to save many families an extra night of hotel expense. Another savings is that the program has also kept the maximum number of shows that will count toward the year-end point total at 10 shows. With a total of 13 sanctioned shows to choose from, participants can select the shows closest to them to attend.

BEST sponsor M.H. Eby Livestock Trailers will award one lucky BEST participant the free use of a new Eby livestock trailer for next year's show season at the banquet in May. Participants will be entered in the drawing for every animal



nominated in the BEST program, plus an additional entry for each animal shown at each BEST show attended.

BEST Rule Highlights

(For complete rules, visit www.ohiocattle.org)

Showmanship Divisions

Age divisions are as of January 1, 2021

- Beginner Division - 10 and under
- Junior Division - 11 to 13
- Novice Division – 11 to 16 (see below for more details)
- Intermediate Division - 14 to 16
- Senior Division - 17 to 21

BEST shows may close showmanship to BEST only participants. The Novice showmanship division is offered exclusively to first or second year BEST participants ages 11-16. In addition to being in their first or second year, they could not have previously finished in the Top Ten Overall Novice Market Animal, Heifer or Showmanship points standing. 11-16 year old Novice BEST participants may choose to compete in either their designated age division OR the Novice division; however, they must choose one or the other, not both.

Cattle Age Requirements

Steers & Market Heifers born on or after January 1, 2020. Heifers born on or after September 1, 2019.

Breed Qualifications

BEST show participants may provide breed registrations electronically at the time of check in. Although electronic papers are permitted, exhibitors are encouraged to have registration papers in hand at time of check in. All registrations meeting their breed association's national junior show eligibility requirements will be accepted. No copies will be accepted. The animal's registration must be in the name of the junior exhibitor who is exhibiting the animal. For BEST points, no family farm names will be permitted. At the first two (2) BEST sanctioned shows; AGR Holiday Classic and the Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown, BEST participants, who have not received their completed registrations, may still nominate their animals as a declared breed. (i.e. – if you have a Hereford steer and declare his breed at the AGR Holiday Classic, either a completed registration paper or electronic registration must be given to BEST officials at Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown) Proof of registration MUST be provided at the BEST sanctioned show immediately following the show where the animal's breed was declared whether or not you exhibit cattle at the show. Failure to do so will result in the animal being dropped from the BEST point standings; additionally, any showmanship points garnered with the animal will be forfeited. Once proof of registration is provided on animals dropped from the program, the animal may be re-nominated for the BEST program and start collecting points; however, no points accumulated prior to providing proof of registration will transfer. The BEST committee reserves the right to evaluate all breed steers and heifers for breed standards.

Cattle without a registration and legible tattoos that correspond to the registration will be considered crossbred. Tattoos will only be checked one time at a show. If the animal has illegible tattoos they will be placed in the crossbred division. The animal will not be permitted to leave the chute and come back. Cattle may only show one time within a show. Dual registered cattle may show only in one breed at one show. The exception to this rule is heifers that are nominated in the BEST program and show in BEST sanctioned shows as both a breeding heifer and a market heifer, providing the exhibitor has paid to dual nominate and enter the heifer in both of the shows.

Breed heifers must be shown by age and crossbred heifers by shoulder height or weight. Steers and Market Heifers must be shown according to breed and shoulder height or weight.

The following breed classes will be offered (unless a breed specific show) based on breed minimum percentages as listed: **Note-all high and low percentages must show in their appropriate division.

Breed	Heifer	Steer
Angus	Purebred	Purebred
Charolais	Purebred	Purebred
% Charolais	50%-15/16	
Chianina	ACA Minimum* (6.25%)	ACA Minimum*
Hereford	Purebred	Purebred Registration paper required* No certificates will be accepted
High% Maine Heifers	¾ (Brown Papers)	
MaineTainer Heifers	¼ (Green Papers)	
Maine-Anjou Steers		¼
Shorthorn	15/16	15/16
Shorthorn Plus	½	½
Purebred Sim- mental Heifers	7/8	
Percentage Sim- mental Heifers	½-¾	
Simmental Steers		½
Miniature Breed(s)	National Jr. Show Eligible	National Jr. Show Eligible
High % AOB	National Jr. Show Eligible	
Low % AOB	National Jr. Show Eligible	
AOB Steers		National Jr. Show Eligible

The High % and Low % All Other Breeds (AOB) divisions offered are for registered heifers that do not have their individual breed offered as a division. Registered heifers and steers that do not have their own breed division offered will show in their appropriate AOB division, providing they meet their breed's minimum percentage to be eligible to show at their respective breed's national junior shows. ALL AOB steers will show in one division and will not be split into a High % and Low % AOB division. Registered cattle that do NOT meet the breed percentage requirement for their respective breed's national junior eligibility requirement will show in the Crossbred division, not as an AOB. The High % AOB division will combine the breeds that are eligible, for example: Gelbvieh, Limousin, etc. The Low % AOB division will combine the breeds that are eligible, for example: Balancer, LimFlex, etc.

****Please note**** - Low percentage Chianina and Simmental heifers will show in the Crossbred division, not the Low % AOB. Also, ChiAngus heifers and MaineAngus heifers with upgraded papers will be eligible for the High % AOB division.

BEST participants can only receive points on animals in one division, breed or crossbred. An animal cannot be shown as a crossbred one week

and a breed animal the next week and maintain two sets of points. Their points will be counted for the division listed on their nomination form. Market Heifers that are also nominated as breeding heifers are exempted from this rule.

Show schedules will be up to the discretion of each BEST show. However, the show order within the heifer show and the market animal show will be alphabetical starting with Angus and moving through all the breeds, followed by the Miniature Breeds, then All Other Breeds (AOB) and ending with Crossbreds. Market Heifers will be shown before crossbred steers. All special county shows will take place at the end of the heifers or the end of the steers, as appropriate. In addition, it is mandatory that classes be provided for breed heifers, no matter the number of heifers of that breed entered in the show, according to the following age breaks: September-December 2019, January-February 2020, March-April 2020, and May 2020 and younger. This is the minimum number of classes to be provided. At larger shows additional classes may be added. Show order for heifers will be from youngest to oldest. Classes over 12 head will be broke evenly by the BEST show committee.

All cattle will be recorded by their EID tag number. Purebred steers and heifers will be verified by their tattoo issued on their registration papers.

Show Your Own Animal for BEST Points

To receive BEST points, animals must be shown by their owner. An exception is made if the BEST participant owns two or more animals that are in the same class, or has two different animals that are both showing simultaneously in adjacent rings. In these two scenarios another junior may exhibit the second animal and the participant would still receive BEST points for both animals. When the class conflict is over and for championship drives, the actual BEST participant must return to showing their own animal to retain the points earned. It is the BEST participant's responsibility to inform the OCA staff person or BEST Committee member in charge of the class conflict as it happens, not after the show.

BEST participants that are physically unable to show their animal may ask another BEST participant or have a family member who meets the age requirements for the BEST program to show their animal, but the unable BEST participant must be present at the show to earn OCA BEST points. If the BEST participant becomes ill after the cattle have arrived at a show and been checked-in, another BEST participant or family member who meets the age requirements for the BEST program, may show their animal(s). The BEST participant must seek prior approval from the BEST Committee and the BEST participant must have been at the show, hotel and/or left home with the cattle. Should a BEST participant become ill and stay home prior to the cattle leaving for a show, then no BEST points will be awarded to the participant's cattle. Family emergencies are at the BEST Committee's discretion, but the participant must seek prior approval for BEST points to count. The BEST Committee reserves the right to use discretion in administering this rule regarding situations not already covered. All decisions by the BEST Committee on points associated with showing your own animal shall be final.

Bred-and-Owned Animals

At the end of the 2020-21 BEST show season awards will be presented to the top 5 bred-and owned heifers and top 5 bred-and-owned steers in the final points standings. These awards will be presented at the BEST awards banquet. To be recognized the BEST junior exhibitor must be listed as the breeder on the animal's registration paper. Crossbred animals are not eligible for bred-and-owned awards.

BEST Rule #15

The exhibitors and their animals, (BEST or non-BEST), their family members, and others acting on the behalf of the exhibitors, will follow Ohio's Livestock Show Reform Law, Chapter 901 of the Ohio Revised Code, and all rules under Ohio's Livestock Tampering Exhibition Rules, as set forth in Sections 901-19-1 through 901-19-21 and Section 901-19-33 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The BEST Committee reserves the right to test and/or ultrasound any animal at a BEST Show. The BEST Committee, at its sole discretion, may test and/or ultrasound winners, at random, or upon reasonable suspicion of possible violations of any of the Ohio Livestock Show Reform Law and its related rules or other OCA BEST Rules. By participating in a BEST sanctioned show, exhibitors (BEST and non-BEST) consent to BEST committee members, OCA staff and show management entering the tents, trailers, and other areas where animals may be housed at a BEST sanctioned show, prepared for the show, or transported to or from the show.

Exhibitor Code of Conduct

All BEST and non-BEST exhibitors, their family members and others acting on the behalf of the exhibitor must display good sportsmanship and act in a courteous manner at all BEST sanctioned shows. Unsportsmanlike conduct will be referred to the OCA BEST Committee for appropriate action, if the committee deems necessary. Unsportsmanlike conduct may include but is not limited to physical actions, threats, or outbursts of profanity. Committee action is not limited to the following, but may result in the exhibitor found in violation to lose points for a show, lose multiple show points, and/or be barred from current or future participation in the BEST program and BEST sanctioned shows. The decision of the BEST Committee regarding the unsportsmanlike conduct shall be final.

Buckeye Breeders Series

The Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS) BEST points division, formerly known as the Best of the Buckeye program, features cattle bred in Ohio and runs



throughout the BEST show season. Only registered cattle that were bred by an Ohio breeder are eligible. Crossbreds are not eligible to participate in the BBS. Beginning with the Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown and continuing at every BEST show throughout the season, cattle entered in the BBS program will have their own separate set of points that will run parallel to the BEST program, like the Novice and Bred & Owned Divisions whose points are a subset of their regular class points. The program will end at the Ohio Beef Expo and will recognize both breeders and exhibitors of the top placing BBS cattle at the OCA BEST Awards Banquet on May 1, 2021. The BBS program will not be a part of the Ohio State Fair.

BEST participants will enter cattle eligible for the BBS through the BEST program's online nomination and show entry website at no additional cost beyond the \$60 per animal BEST nomination fee. Entries for the BBS may be made for eligible cattle at any point throughout the season and BBS points will accrue with their first show.

For cattle to be eligible for BBS points, they must be registered and bred by an Ohio cattleman. ET calves and calves out of purchased bred cows are eligible if they list an Ohio cattleman as the breeder. Please note that if BBS eligible cattle are registered in multiple owners' names, as long as one of the owners listed on the registration paper is from Ohio, the animal is eligible for nomination.

For the Clark County Cattle Battle and the Ohio Beef Expo show following each breed division champion drive there will be a BBS champion drive. The top 2 animals from each class will come back immediately following the breed's final drive to show for the BBS final drive. The judge will pick the top 2 heifers and steers. Breed associations may make additional premium donations to their breed's BBS cattle. All breed association premium donations will be recognized. BBS placings and points will coincide with the show's original class placings.

For more information see the Buckeye Breeders Series on the OCA BEST website at ohiocattle.org. Thanks to our 2020-2021 BBS Sponsors.



Stockmanship Division

The OCA BEST program's Stockmanship Division provides a pathway for youth to participate in the BEST program without showing an animal. It expands BEST participants' knowledge of cattle and provides youth with an opportunity to showcase their abilities and talents outside of the show ring.



Ohio Cattlemen's Association
STOCKMANSHIP
Competition

The Stockmanship division is comprised of beef industry-focused events and competitions that are in conjunction with BEST shows. This division of the BEST program is open to all Ohio youth regardless of whether they show cattle during the BEST show season. If an existing BEST participant would like to sign up for the Stockmanship division, they will do so under their BEST user profile at best.ohiocattle.org for no additional cost outside of existing cattle nominations. If age-eligible individuals would like to participate in the Stockmanship division but don't have cattle enrolled in the 2020-2021 BEST program, they should create their username and profile at best.ohiocattle.org (if they don't have an existing account either BEST or non-BEST) and elect to participate in the Stockmanship division. Non-cattle exhibiting BEST Stockmanship participants will need to have a current \$75 family OCA membership and will pay a one-time participation fee of \$60. Individuals may sign up for the Stockmanship program at any point throughout the season.



2020-2021 Stockmanship Contests

- Prepared Speaking - held at the Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown - Saturday, January 2, 2021
- Salesmanship - held at the Weekend Spectacular - Saturday, January 16, 2021
- Cattlemen's Challenge Competition (OCA's version of a skill-a-thon) - held at the Clark County Cattle Battle - Saturday, January 30, 2021
- Fitting Contest - held at the DTS Cupid Classic - Sunday, February 14, 2021
- Judging Contest - held at the Ohio Beef Expo - Friday, March 19, 2021

*Individual contests may prorate the number of awards based on the number of participants.

Stockmanship contests will include their own registration and rules for each event and top-placing awards will be given at each competition. Please note that individual and team awards for qualifying events will be presented at the contest. Overall Stockmanship awards will be presented at the OCA BEST Awards Banquet on May 1, 2021. The top five individuals in the following divisions will be recognized: Beginner, Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Senior. Age breaks will follow that of the BEST program's showmanship rules. To qualify for the end of year Stockmanship awards, the participant must have completed two contests, be a current OCA member by January 1, 2021 or at the time of Stockmanship sign-up and have completed their Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification. Stockmanship participants may complete their BQA at any session offered at a BEST sanctioned show, online at BQA.org or at YQCA.org.

A cumulative points scale for the Stockmanship division will be utilized for overall finishes and end of year point tabulation.

Education Focused

Beef Quality Assurance

All BEST participants must have a current BQA certification when they sign-up for the program and/or complete a BQA certification to be in the BEST points standings following their first show, and to be eligible to receive BEST awards and to be listed in the BEST final points. BQA certification is available through in-person trainings at BEST shows, bqa.org or yqca.org. These trainings are good for up to three years from the date of completion. BEST participants that attended an in-person or YQCA BQA training last year are certified for three years from the date they attended training.

In-person Training

To complete the BQA requirement in-person, BEST participants need to attend one of four planned BQA sessions that will be held at the AGR Holiday Classic, Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown, The Weekend Spectacular, and the Ohio Beef Expo. BEST participants are required to attend the entire BQA session from beginning to end to receive documentation of attendance. County Extension BQA programs do not transfer for the BEST QA requirement. Attendance at the BEST BQA program during any BEST sanctioned show meets the Ohio State Fair quality assurance requirements along with any packer requirements to complete a livestock sale at a Jr. Fair Livestock Auction. It MAY also meet the exhibitor's county QA requirement; however, exhibitors are responsible for checking with their county extension educator to see if the QA offered by the BEST program will be accepted in their respective county. BEST participants MAY still be required to attend their own county QA program to participate in their county fair.

Online Training

To complete the BQA requirement online, BEST participants may complete the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) course (modules and test) for their appropriate age or the modules at BQA.org. The online options can be found under <https://www.ohiocattle.org/best/online-bqa>

YQCA.org

If the participant chooses to use YQCA.org, there is a cost of \$12 per online test and that payment can be made through YQCA upon registering for the online course. **Please note – 4-H participants that have a current LearnGrow.com account may use that log-in information to register for the online YQCA course.** Online YQCA test results will be provided to OCA via YQCA administrators to credit BEST participants with fulfilling their BQA requirement.

Please note that several national exhibitions and multi-specie shows are requiring QA to participate in their shows. Visit <http://yqca.org/fairs-shows/> for a complete list of shows and exhibitions that accept the YQCA program for their QA requirement.

BQA.org

If the exhibitor chooses to complete the online training at BQA.org, they will create a username / password if they haven't already done so.

Scholarships

The BEST program offers a scholarship program based on academics and extracurricular activities for high school juniors and seniors or older pursuing a post-high school degree. Only 2020-2021 OCA BEST and Stockmanship participants are eligible to apply for BEST scholarships. Scholarships will be awarded to participants pursuing an Ag related degree and may be awarded to applicants who are entering a non-Ag related field of study (based on the number of applications). All scholarship applicants will also be required to submit an essay along with their scholarship application. The scholarship essay topic will be predetermined and posted on the OCA website. BEST scholarships are due on April 1 and will be awarded at the BEST Awards Banquet on May 1, 2021.

Photography Competition

The BEST program will also sponsor a photography contest with four categories including: BEST Shows & Activities, Landscapes, People, and Around the Farm. There will be four divisions of awards for the photography contest based on the showmanship age divisions plus

an adult division. Adults are eligible to enter the photography contest for a fee of \$10 per person which must be submitted by the April 1 entry deadline by contacting the OCA office. ALL Photography Contest entries MUST be submitted electronically by April 1 of the current BEST year. Digital submissions must be high resolution (2 MB or greater) and submitted through the OCA website. BEST photography contest awards will be presented at the end of the year BEST Program Awards Banquet.

Be a Leader

BEST Jr. Reps

The BEST program promotes the development of leadership skills for industry youth. 2020-21 youth BEST committee leaders are Owen Brinker of Wood County, Grace England of Portage County, Courtney Hamilton of Clark County, Ellie Kidwell of Knox County, and McKenzie Riley of Fayette County. BEST Jr. Reps serve on the BEST committee and help coordinate events at BEST shows and events. There will be two open seats for the BEST Jr. Rep positions to be applied for in the 2020-21 BEST season that will serve in 2021-22. Applications can be found at www.ohiocattle.org and are due on April 1, 2021.

Community Service Projects

BEST participants take pride in being active in their communities. Since 2011 the program's pop tab drive has collected over one ton of pop tabs that provided over \$1,000 to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio.

This year BEST participants will continue their community service projects with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio. Participants can collect pop tabs all through the year and bring them to the BEST banquet on May 1. The BEST participant that collects the most pop tabs will receive a \$500 show supply shopping spree!



Recognition and Awards

Annual BEST Banquet - May 1, 2021

Each year, over 600 BEST participants, their families and the BEST program's sponsoring partners gather in Columbus for a year-end dinner and awards banquet. This gives youth participants and their families a unique opportunity to interact with the BEST program's sponsoring partners. Nearly 200 awards are presented throughout the evening in different categories for points accumulated throughout the BEST season. Over \$75,000 in cash and prizes are awarded throughout a night of celebration for everyone in the program. Each BEST participant completing the season will receive a gift at the banquet.

BEST Show & Event Schedule

Dec. 12-13 • Ohio AGR Holiday Classic - OPEN SHOW

Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, Ohio (subject to change)
Hosted by OSU Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity

Schedule:

Saturday, December 12

Steers & Market Heifers Ring A & B, Showmanship

Sunday, December 13

BQA Session at 7 a.m.

Heifers Ring A & B

Information:

Corey Andrews 419.217.8617

Micah Smock 937.638.6339

Jan. 2-3 • Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown - OPEN SHOW

Clark County Fairgrounds, Springfield, Ohio
Hosted by OSU Saddle & Sirloin Club & Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity

Schedule:

Friday, January 1
BQA Session at 6 p.m.
Saturday, January 2
Heifers Ring A & B, Showmanship
Sunday, January 3
Steers & Market Heifers Ring A & B

Information:

Skylar Plank 937.207.1239
Alex Wasserman 567.208.5258

Jan 16-17 • The Weekend Spectacular - OPEN SHOW

Marion County Fairgrounds, Marion, Ohio
Hosted by Marion County Fairgrounds and Cattlemen's Association

Schedule:

Saturday, January 16
BQA Session at 7 a.m.
Steers & Market Heifers Ring A & B, Showmanship
Sunday, January 17
Heifers Ring A & B

Information:

Keith Seckel 740.225.1454
Tom Crawford 740.225.2594

Jan. 30-31 • Celebrity Showdown & Clark County Cattle Battle

OHIO ONLY

Clark County Fairgrounds,
Springfield, Ohio
Hosted by Clark Co. Cattlemen's Association

Schedule:

Friday, January 29
Celebrity Showdown Charity Event
Saturday, January 30
Heifers Ring A & B, Double Showmanship
BBS Division Championships
Sunday, January 31
Steers & Market Heifers Ring A & B
BBS Division Championships

Information:

Sasha Rittenhouse 937.215.1415
Linde Sutherly 937.875.0670



Feb. 13-14 • DTS Cupid Classic - OPEN SHOW

Clark County Fairgrounds, Springfield, Ohio
Hosted by Delta Theta Sigma Fraternity – Wilmington College

Schedule:

Saturday, February 13
Steers, Market Heifers & Heifers Ring A & B
Sunday, February 14
Double Showmanship
Fitting Contest

Information:

Chase Gostomsky 937.467.1308
Mac Davis 937.825.2716

March 6-7 • Holmes County Preview Show OPEN SHOW

Holmes County Fairgrounds, Millersburg, Ohio
Hosted by Holmes County Beef Committee

Schedule:

Saturday, March 6
Heifers Ring A & B, Showmanship
Sunday, March 7
Steers & Market Heifers Ring A & B
Information:
Phil Schlabach 330-231-6030
Brian Giauque 330-201-8800

March 19-21 • Ohio Beef Expo

BQA Session

Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, Ohio
Hosted by the Ohio Cattlemen's Association

Schedule:

Friday, March 19
Judging Contest, BQA Session
Saturday, March 20
Showmanship
Sunday, March 21
Steer & Market Heifer and Heifer Shows

Information:

614-873-6736, cattle@ohiocattle.org, www.ohiobeefexpo.com

May 1 • BEST Awards Banquet

Ohio State Fairgrounds - Rhodes Center, Columbus, OH

Information:

614-873-6736, cattle@ohiocattle.org, www.ohiocattle.org

Get involved with the Ohio Cattlemen's Association!

Scholarships

Several college scholarships are available to beef industry youth through the Ohio Cattlemen's Foundation. Applications are available at ohiocattle.org.

Internships

The Ohio Cattlemen's Association offers many internships for college students throughout the year. A scholarship will be awarded to each intern and the intern can earn credit while completing the internship. For more information regarding specific internships go to ohiocattle.org.

Tagged for Greatness

Support the Cattlemen's Foundation with a Personalized Beef Plate, now available through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles! Purchase your Ohio Cattlemen's Beef license plate today and show your support for Ohio's youth.

The Beef plate will cost \$25 annually in addition to regular registration fees. With each Ohio Beef license plate sold, \$15 of the total cost will go directly to the Ohio Cattlemen's Foundation to be used for youth scholarships and educational programs. Apply for these scholarships by October 31 of the current calendar year. Scholarships are awarded at the OCA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in the following January. The Tagged for Greatness Scholarship has awarded over \$50,000 to applicants since the program started in 2005.



For information on how to purchase an Ohio Beef license plate, visit your local branch of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or call the BMV at 1-866-OPLATES or visit www.OPLATES.com.



AGR Holiday Classic
DECEMBER 12-13 COLUMBUS

Scarlet and Gray Midwest Showdown
JANUARY 2-3 SPRINGFIELD

The Weekend Spectacular
JANUARY 16-17 MARION

Clark County Cattle Battle
JANUARY 30-31 SPRINGFIELD

DTS Cupid Classic
FEBRUARY 13-14 SPRINGFIELD

Holmes County Preview
MARCH 6-7 MILLERSBURG

Ohio Beef Expo
MARCH 19-21 COLUMBUS



Ohio Cattlemen's Association

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