



The Stockmanship Program provides a pathway for youth to participate in hands-on learning experiences that develop their communication, leadership, and beef industry knowledge. It expands participants' knowledge of cattle and provides youth with an opportunity to showcase their abilities and talents outside of the show ring. It is open to all Ohio youth regardless of if they show cattle during the BEST show season. The Stockmanship division is comprised of beef industry-focused educational competitions that are held throughout the year.

2025-2026 OBYC Stockmanship Program Rules

1. Participant Eligibility

Only Ohio residents who are eight years old as of January 1, 2026 but are not older than 21 years of age as of January 1, 2026 are eligible to participate and accumulate points. Anyone who has reached 22 years of age before 1/1/26 is ineligible. Age divisions will be: Beginner Division 8-10, Junior Division 11-13, Intermediate Division 14-16, and Senior Division 17-21. The participant's age on January 1, 2026 is used to determine age division.

2. Stockmanship Requirements

OBYC Stockmanship participants will pay a per contest Stockmanship participation fee. If Stockmanship youth participants have a current and good standing \$100 family OCA membership, registration for each contest will be free. Individuals may sign up for the Stockmanship program at any point throughout the year.

Registration for each contest will close 2 weeks prior to the contest start date. No late entries will be accepted. Registration for each contest will have its own link and own registration page.

2025-2026 OCA BEST STOCKMANSHIP CONTESTS

- Meats Contest - Saturday, January 24, 2026
- Prepared Speaking - Saturday, February 21, 2026
- Judging Contest - held at the Ohio Beef Expo, Columbus - Thursday March 19, 2026
- Skill-a-thon - Saturday, April 18, 2026
- Salesmanship - Saturday, April 18, 2026

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

3. Registration

Registration will be open prior to each contest but will close 2 weeks prior to the contests. **There are no late entries accepted.** The Ohio Beef Expo Judging Contest early registration will close February 27, 2026 and late registration will close March 8, 2026. There will be no onsite registration.

2025-2026 Registration Deadlines

- Meats Contest - Saturday, January 10, 2026
- Prepared Speaking - Saturday, February 7, 2026
- Judging Contest – Early registration deadline February 27, 2025 and late registration March 8, 2026.
- Skill-a-thon - Saturday, April 4, 2026
- Salesmanship - Saturday, April 4, 2026

4. OCA Membership

To receive free registration, the OBYC Stockmanship participant and/or their family must be current members of OCA. The OCA membership must be in the name of the 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 participant. OCA memberships are family memberships and must be renewed 12 months after the membership is paid. OCA dues are \$100.00. If more than one junior within a family participates in the program, only one OCA membership is required.

OCA Membership Link: <https://www.ohiocattle.org/membership/become-a-member>

5. Points

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

Overall Stockmanship Point tabulation is as follows:

Events	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	5 th Place	6 th Place	7 th Place	8 th Place	9 th Place	10 th Place	Participation
Prepared Speaking	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	1
Skill-a-thon	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	1
Salesmanship	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	1
Meats Contest	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	1
Judging Contest	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	1

Ties will be broken based on the raw score of the OCA BEST Skill-a-thon contest

6. Contest Regulations

Once a Stockmanship participant enters the judging area, they **CANNOT** leave. If they leave, they will forfeit any further participation in that respective contest. Participants are not permitted to bring study materials or electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones and smart watches) into the judging area. Participants are only allowed one attempt to answer. Once an answer is submitted or placed there will be NO second chances. **Parents are NOT permitted in the judging area for any reason.**

Participant Learning Restrictions

DOCUMENTATION IS **REQUIRED** TO RECEIVE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CONTESTS.

Accommodations (e.g. timing, reading assistance, etc.) are available upon receiving formal documentation of needs. Facilitators will do their best to accommodate a Stockmanship participant's specific needs as documented.

Learning Accommodation Form: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:6c513263-5b6e-44b8-9056-71b4a7e1a7c3>

7. Awards

Please note that individual awards for qualifying events will be presented at the contest. Overall Stockmanship awards will be presented at the new Youth Recognition Banquet in June 2026. The top five individuals in the following divisions will be recognized: Beginner, Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Senior. Age breaks will be Age divisions will be: Beginner Division 8-10, Junior Division 11-13, Intermediate Division 14-16, and Senior Division 17-21. To qualify for the end of year Stockmanship awards, the participant must have completed two contests.

For more information or questions, contact:

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