2026–2027 OCA Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS) Rules

What is the Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS)

The Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS) program provides the state's seedstock breeders with an enhanced marketing opportunity for Ohio bred, born and raised registered steers and heifers. The BBS program adds value and increases breeder recognition opportunities by promoting the purchase and exhibition of Ohio bred, born and raised registered cattle through the OCA BEST sanctioned show program.

BBS youth exhibitors may show their BBS eligible cattle and accumulate points in a separate division of the OCA BEST program. Only cattle that are bred, born and raised by an Ohio breeder are eligible. Crossbred cattle are not eligible. The breeder listed on the registration paper must reside in Ohio, and that breeder must be a current OCA member for the animal to accumulate BBS points.

There is an additional one-time BBS nomination fee that is paid by the breeder but can be paid by the youth exhibitor. Both Ohio and out-of-state youth who own BBS cattle are eligible for the program and for BEST points, providing they meet all the other BEST program requirements. The BBS program runs throughout the BEST show season and recognizes both breeders and exhibitors of the top placing BBS cattle at the OCA BEST Awards Banquet.

1. Eligibility of Cattle

A. Eligible cattle are registered steers and heifers bred, born, and raised by an Ohio breeder.
B. Crossbred cattle are not eligible.
C. The breeder listed on the registration paper must reside in Ohio.
D. Breeder must also be a current member of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) for the animal shown by a BEST youth exhibitor to accumulate BBS points and the breeder's membership must remain active through the BEST Awards Banquet.
E. Embryo transfer (ET) calves and calves out of purchased bred heifers or cows are eligible, provided the breeder listed on the registration is from Ohio.
F. Calves resulting from out-of-state embryos or bred females, even if born in Ohio, are not eligible.
G. Calves purchased from out-of-state traders are eligible if they were bred by an Ohio breeder.
H. If BBS-eligible cattle are co-owned, at least one of the registered owners must be from Ohio.
I. BEST rules require ALL cattle (including BBS cattle) (in-state and out-of-state) exhibited at an OCA BEST sanctioned show MUST be tagged with an EID ear tag prior to arriving at their first BEST show. Cattle arriving at the show without an 840 EID tag will incur a cost of $20 per tag to remain eligible to participate. (refer to BEST rules for more information)

J. BEST rules require ALL cattle, heifers and steers, (including BBS cattle) (in-state and out-of-state) exhibited at an OCA BEST sanctioned show are required to be tested and negative for Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) persistent infection (PI) status. Upon arrival at their first show, all BBS cattle must provide a negative BVD test to be eligible to show. (refer to BEST rules for more information)

2. Nomination Fees

A. Cattle can be nominated for the Buckeye Breeders Series by either the Ohio breeder listed on the registration paper or the youth exhibitor who will be showing the animal.
B. A $25 per head one-time BBS nomination fee is required for cattle to be eligible to accumulate BBS points in the BEST program. This BBS nomination must be paid by the time show entries are made at the youth exhibitor's first BEST show of the season (This can be paid by either the breeder or the exhibitor). If the breeder has not paid, the youth exhibitor may pay the $25 fee at the time of their BEST nomination via the showman app. In addition to the BBS nomination, every animal must also be nominated for the BEST program with a $60 per head one-time nomination fee. All nomination forms must be completed online through the showman app.
C. BBS nominations can be submitted at any time during the BEST season.
D. BBS eligible heifers sold in one of the 2026 Ohio Beef Expo breed sales may be nominated upon purchase and show in the Expo's junior heifer show on Sunday, March 21.
E. Animals with a "registration pending" status may be nominated, but the registration must be finalized and transferred into the youth exhibitor's name before their next BEST show.
F. Fall-born heifers eligible to show across two seasons must be re-nominated prior to the start of each new season.

3. OCA Membership Fees

A. Both the breeder and the youth exhibitor must be current members of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) for a nominated animal to be eligible for BBS and BEST points. OCA membership is $100 for immediate family membership paid annually.

4. Exhibitor Eligibility

A. The BBS program is open to both Ohio and out-of-state youth exhibitors who are 8 years old as of January 1, 2027 but are not older than 21 years of age as of January 1, 2027. Anyone who has reached 22 years of age before 1/1/27 is ineligible.
B. BBS youth exhibitors must follow all BEST rules for the 2026-2027 program
C. Out-of-state youth exhibitors with BBS cattle are eligible for the program, provided they meet all BEST program rules and hold a current BQA certification. These participants must pay a $100 OCA family membership, a $60 per head one-time BEST nomination fee, and the $25 per head one-time BBS nomination fee, paid by the breeder or the exhibitor.
D. Out-of-state youth are eligible to compete in BEST classes, BEST showmanship classes and BBS classes throughout the season and accumulate points. Out-of-state BBS youth exhibitors are also eligible to compete at the 2026 Ohio Beef Expo in the Junior Show, BBS

classes and showmanship. To participate in the 2026 Ohio Beef Expo, out-of-state BBS youth exhibitors must have exhibited at least once in a prior BEST-sanctioned show during the 2025–2026 season. Out-of-state youth BBS exhibitors may only show BBS animals at the Ohio Beef Expo. The BBS ring at Ohio Beef expo is NOT considered an additional show, only an additional ring to the Junior Show. You may only exhibit as one breed in both rings, as written in the BEST rules. (Please refer to rule 7 in the BEST rules for more information).

5. Shows and Points

A. The BBS points division of BEST will run throughout the 2026–2027 BEST show season, beginning with the AGR Holiday Classic and continuing at each BEST-sanctioned show. BBS cattle will be tracked in a separate points division that runs parallel to the BEST program, similar to the Bred & Owned division. BBS points are awarded based on cattle exhibited in classes and championships and will accumulate throughout the season.
B. The BBS program concludes at the Ohio Beef Expo. Final year-end awards will be presented at the OCA BEST Awards Banquet on May 1, 2027, recognizing both the breeder and the youth exhibitor of the top-placing BBS cattle.
C. Additional information and the official point structure can be found in the OCA BEST program rules or online at www.ohiocattle.org.