2026-2027 OCA BEST Show Rules

1. **Exhibitor Eligibility**
   Only Ohio residents who are eight years old as of January 1, 2027 but are not older than 21 years of age as of January 1, 2027, are eligible to accumulate OCA BEST points. Anyone who has reached 22 years of age before 1/1/27 is ineligible Out-of-state exhibitors exhibiting a BBS calf are eligible for all point divisions in BEST. This includes showmanship, cattle point standings and BBS. Each BEST sanctioned show may determine whether exhibitors below the BEST age limit are permitted to participate in the show and/or showmanship. All exhibitors, regardless of age or BEST eligibility, must be able to enter the ring and exhibit their animal unassisted. Parents, guardians, or others may not enter the ring to assist an exhibitor. 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.

2. **BEST Nomination Fee & Show Entry Fees – (*See table appendix)**
   To receive BEST points, OCA BEST participants must pay a $60 per head nomination fee.* This is a one-time nomination fee for the show season. To participate in BEST, exhibitors must complete their BEST nominations through the showman app. BEST nominations may only be paid with a credit card. OCA BEST exhibitors must nominate their animals for the OCA BEST program prior to the start of the first show from which they wish to receive points. When show entries close, all BEST nominations for that particular show close as well. Show entries are paid through the showman app. Entries open the Monday prior to each BEST sanctioned show. Show entry fees will be $5 additional per ring for non-BEST participants at each BEST sanctioned show. Show entry fees are non-refundable if the BEST committee or show disqualifies the animal or exhibitor.

3. **OCA Membership**
   To exhibit at a BEST sanctioned show, the exhibitor and/or their family must be current paid 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. A one-time annual $100 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 exhibitor within a family exhibit at a BEST sanctioned show, only one OCA membership is required.

4. **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 BEST participant 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.

5. **Sanctioned Show Requirements**
A sanctioned show must be open to all OCA BEST exhibitors but is not limited to them. A sanctioned show may be open to the world, but only OCA BEST participants will accumulate points. Show schedules regarding double rings, heifers, steers and showmanship will be up to the discretion of each BEST show. Show entry fees will be $5 additional per ring for non-BEST participants at each BEST sanctioned show.

6. **Cattle Age Requirements**
Steers & Market Heifers born on or after January 1, 2026. Heifers born on or after September 1, 2025.

7. **Breed Class 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. 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. New for the 2026-2027 season, multiple owners may be listed on the registration papers when permitted by the breed association; however, the exhibitor accumulating BEST points must be listed as a current owner. Once an exhibitor begins accumulating points with an animal, only that exhibitor may earn BEST points with that animal for the remainder of the season. Unless there is a proper transfer of ownership within the BEST program for the new exhibitor to collect points on that animal. At the exhibitors first two (2) BEST sanctioned shows 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 your first show, either a completed registration paper or electronic registration must be presented to BEST officials at the next show.) 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 (This includes the additional BBS ring at The Ohio Beef Expo). 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 breed and age and crossbred heifers by weight. Steers and Market Heifers must be shown according to breed and crossbred steers and market heifers by weight. The following breed classes will be offered (unless a breed specific show) based on breed minimum percentages as listed: **Note-all AOBs must show in their appropriate division.

Breed	Heifer	Steer
Angus	Purebred	Purebred
Charolais	Purebred	
% Charolais	50% - 15/16	
Charolais Steer		50%
Chianina	6.25%	Breed Minimum
Chi Angus	1CA, 2CA & PCA) females with 6.25% Chianina or more	
Low % Chi	<6.25%	

Hereford	Purebred	Purebred (must have registration papers)
Limousin/Lim-Flex	75% - orange papers, Purple papers	
High % Maine-Anjou	3/4 - brown papers	
Maintainer	¼-5/8 - green papers	
Maine Angus	3/8-5/8 – blue papers	
Maine-Anjou Steer		¼
Shorthorn	15/16	15/16
Shorthorn Plus	½	¼
Purebred Simmental	7/8	
% Simmental	1/2 - ¾	
Simmental Steer		½
AOB	National Jr. Show Eligible	National Jr. Show Eligible

The All Other Breeds (AOB) divisions offered are for registered heifers and steers 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 AOB division, providing they meet their breed's minimum percentage to be eligible to show at their respective breed's national junior shows. 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 AOB division will combine the breeds that are eligible, for example: Gelbvieh, Miniature Herefords, etc

It will be up to the BEST Committee's discretion to determine which breeds remain on the list of breed classes for the 2027-2028 season. The Committee will consider past breed participation numbers when determining if a breed will remain on the list of breed classes. There will be a one-year probation for breeds that want to be added to the list for future years. These exhibitors will show for class money only during the probation year. At the conclusion of the year the BEST Committee will make a determination if the breed will be continued the next year. Among the BEST Committee's considerations will be the number of animals exhibited and the number of exhibitors of the breed. Breeders interested in being granted the one-year probation must contact the OCA office by May 1 of the preceding year, i.e. May 1, 2027, for the 2027-2028 show season.

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. If switching breeds or divisions, the exhibitor will forfeit all points previously acquired with that animal and will not retain them if they choose to switch back. They will begin with zero points each time they switch. *Market Heifers that are also nominated as breeding heifers are exempted from this rule and may track two sets of points throughout the season, one set for the breeding division and one set for the market division.*

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 All Other Breeds (AOB) and ending with Crossbreds. Market Heifers will be shown before crossbred steers.

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 2025, January-February 2026, March- April 2026, and May 2026 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. Each Sanctioned show has the right to require a minimum head in each class to offer a class payout.

Classes over 12 head will be broken at the discretion of the BEST show committee and will be based upon ring size, among other considerations.

8. **EID TAGS Required**
***ALL* cattle (BEST & non-BEST) entering Ohio to show in a 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 EID tag will incur a cost of $20 per tag to remain eligible to participate.** The primary method of identification for ALL cattle exhibiting at a BEST sanctioned show will be their EID tag. This will also serve as the BEST program nominated cattle's BEST number throughout the season. The secondary method of identification for registered steers and heifers will be their breed registration number and tattoo. ALL BEST show entries (crossbred and registered steers, heifers and market heifers) will be recorded by an EID ear tag at their first BEST sanctioned show. All EID tags must be official 840 RFID tags.

9. **BVD PI Tests Required**
ALL cattle, heifers and steers, (BEST & non-BEST) (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. All animals must have a negative BVD test to be exhibited at any OCA BEST sanctioned show. Proof of a Negative BVD PI test MUST be provided when the animal is exhibited at its first sanctioned show.

This does not prohibit an individual animal from being retested, should an initial screening test be determined to be a false positive. Exhibitors with a test positive animal (on initial screening) should work with a veterinarian to determine additional BVD testing options. Any animal that has a final positive BVD result (is determined to be persistently infected) is ineligible to be exhibited at any OCA BEST sanctioned show. Positive BVD PI Tests will be reported to the appropriate state and/or national youth or breed organizations and government officials. Acceptable tests include and are limited to: Immunohistochemistry (IHC) on skin, Antigen-capture ELISA (ACE) on serum (blood test) or skin, Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) on whole blood, serum or skin. Animals must be individually tested and individually identified. Pooled testing is acceptable only if documentation is provided that the animal was specifically included in the pool and that the pool contained no more than 7 animals.

Schedule the BVD PI test with enough lead time to receive the test results prior to a BEST show. A lead time of at least two weeks is recommended prior to the first show. All animals being tested, registered and crossbred, must be identified with an 840 EID tag at the time of testing. A BVD PI test is a one-time test good for the life of the animal.

10. **Ownership**
All animals nominated for the OCA BEST program must be owned at the time of nomination by the BEST exhibitor making the nomination and must remain in the ownership of the BEST exhibitor throughout the remainder of the BEST show season. Anyone found in violation of this rule will be subject to forfeiting points.

11. **No Farm Tags or Identifying Marks**
No identifying tags or marks on animals or exhibitors will be permitted at a BEST sanctioned show. This means no farm tags, special show harnesses or marked show shirts are allowed. The BEST committee or sanctioned show is not responsible to remove any tags. It will be the responsibility of the exhibitor to remove tags. Only BEST tags, county fair tags, EID tags and brands will be permitted. Note that if an EID tag has a farm name included, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to make sure that the farm name is completely covered with non-transparent tape prior to entering the showring. This rule applies to all animals and exhibitors entered in a BEST sanctioned show, including animals and exhibitors not in the BEST program. If an animal enters the ring with an unacceptable tag or identifying mark it will be disqualified from the show and will earn no points if they are a BEST animal.

12. **Showmanship Requirements**
A showmanship competition will be offered at every BEST show. It will be up to the discretion of each BEST show to determine if showmanship will be open to all exhibitors or only BEST participants. Each BEST show must place the top ten in each age division for OCA BEST points. Showmanship class premiums are at the discretion of the sanctioned show. Age divisions will be: Beginner Division 8-10, Junior Division 11-13, Intermediate Division 14-16, and Senior Division 17-21. The participant must compete in the heat that is listed in the final show program. If they fail to do so they will be disqualified

from that show's showmanship competition. The participant's age on January 1, 2027 is used to determine age division. Anyone who has reached 22 years of age before 1/1/27 is ineligible to compete. The OCA BEST Committee reserves the right to request at any BEST show that showmanship participants must provide proof of age, which may include a driver's license or other records, such as county 4-H records. Participants must show their own animal and that animal must be entered in the show. The animal that a BEST exhibitor is accumulating showmanship points on must be nominated for the BEST program. Those found in violation of this rule will be subject to point removal. BEST participants may switch between animals they own for showmanship throughout the BEST season and still accumulate one points total. (Every BEST show will provide a showmanship competition and the showmanship show order will be youngest to oldest, with the Beginner division first, followed by Juniors, Intermediate and Seniors.)

In order to participate in showmanship all exhibitors must enter showmanship online by the end of the check-in on Friday evening, with the exception of the Ohio Beef Expo where showmanship closes early. Late entry to showmanship at any BEST sanctioned show will be $25 dollars.

The limit on the number of times an exhibitor's animal can get loose in showmanship is two. If it gets loose a third time, the exhibitor will be excused from competition. The class will be considered "final" when the judge begins speaking on the microphone. If an animal gets loose during the judge's comments it will not count against the exhibitor. Exhibitors must enter their class on time. Exhibitors arriving late to their assigned class will be ineligible to participate in the class and will be dismissed. When the first animal in the class walks, all late animals will be ineligible to enter the ring.

Maximum Showmanship Point Accumulation Cap
The maximum number of showmanship points that will count toward the year-end point totals will be **7** shows. As an exhibitor you may participate in more than **7** showmanship competitions, however only your top **7** sets of points will count.

13. Beef Quality Assurance

Beginning with the 2026–2027 BEST season, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification is no longer a requirement to participate in the BEST program, earn BEST points or be eligible for BEST awards. While BQA is no longer required by BEST, the program will continue to offer two in-person BQA training opportunities during the season for exhibitors who may need to complete Quality Assurance requirements for their county fair.

In-person BQA training will be offered at both the **Scarlet & Gray Showdown – Columbus and at the Ohio Beef Expo – Columbus, Ohio**. Participants wishing to receive credit for the training must attend the entire BQA session from beginning to end. Additional information regarding BQA training dates and times will be shared with BEST participants as it becomes available.

Please note that acceptance of a BEST BQA training for county-level Quality Assurance requirements is determined by each individual county. Exhibitors are responsible for checking with their county Extension educator to determine whether the BEST BQA training will satisfy their county's requirements. Participants may still be required to attend their county-level Quality Assurance program to be eligible to participate in their county fair.

14. OCA BEST Committee & BEST Junior Rep Process

The OCA BEST program is planned and governed by the OCA BEST Committee; however, all decisions are subject to approval by the OCA board of directors. The OCA President will assist in appointing the committee members who may serve a maximum of two three-year terms. There will also be several members solicited by OCA to serve on the governing committee. Those members solicited by OCA will constitute the BEST Advisory Committee. The additional committee members will include a to be determined number of junior BEST participants. BEST Junior Representatives will be selected through an interview process prior to the 2027 BEST Awards Banquet. Junior committee applicants must be 16 years of age as of January 1, 2027, or older to apply.

15. Complaint or Protest Procedure

Anyone who seeks to file a complaint or protest regarding a perceived infraction of a BEST rule or sanctioned show rule must submit a fee of $150 to the BEST Committee. The BEST Committee will not release the name of the individual filing the protest. The fee will be refunded only if the protest is sustained by the BEST Committee. Formal protests pertaining to the BEST program or BEST sanctioned shows must be made during the current BEST show season and prior to the last BEST sanctioned show. The BEST Committee also reserves the right to review any potential rules violation on its own without a complaint first

being filed. The BEST Committee, in its discretion, will determine the appropriate action, if any, and reserves the right to use any combination of tools and/or technology to conduct a thorough investigation pertaining to the protest.

If the results of the investigation clearly do not support the complaint or protest, the matter will be dropped. If the results of the investigation appear to support the complaint or protest, the BEST Committee will provide the BEST participant who is the subject of the complaint or protest with at least 10 days' notice of a meeting, where the participant and the participant's family and any other involved parties will have an opportunity to present evidence or argument in their defense. The party making the protest also may attend and present evidence or argument in support of the protest. The BEST Committee will share the results of its investigation. Following the meeting, the BEST Committee in conjunction with the OCA Board of Directors will make a determination and inform the participant of its decision in writing. Points challenges are not subject to the $150 fee.

16. Exhibitors Must Follow State of Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rules

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 Livestock Exhibitions, as set forth in Sections 901-19-01 through 901-19-21 and Section 901-19-33 of the Ohio Administrative Code (with the exception of PEMF therapy in 901-19-13).

When exhibiting at an OCA BEST show there is zero tolerance for the use of any unapproved drug at any point in the animal's life. 'Exhibition Drug Residue Legal' means an animal, market or breeding, has not been administered a drug that is U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved for use in cattle; or if administered an approved drug, the withdrawal period has elapsed at the time the drug use notification form is completed. The artificial filling or pumping of animals is expressly prohibited. The use of any material, gas, solid, or liquid, that conceals, transforms, or enhances the true confirmation or configuration of an animal, including by way of example but not limited to rope, false hair, graphite, hemp and powders is prohibited. The use of pigmented grooming aides, i.e. paint, on the animal or its hooves while at a show is strictly prohibited.

The use of Pulsed Electro-Magnetic Field **(**PEMF) therapy on an animal while at an OCA BEST show will be permitted, although the treatment should be approved by the official show veterinarian.

Unapproved Drug Use: The showing of an animal that during its life has been administered any quantity of any unapproved drug, chemical or medication is strictly prohibited. Such drugs include, but are not limited to, any diuretic, unapproved growth stimulant or other unapproved medication. Unapproved means not approved by the FDA and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA") for slaughter animals of a species, including animals that may be destined for human consumption.

Approved Drug Use: If an animal has been administered a drug that is FDA approved for beef cattle, sufficient time must have passed so that the animal does not test positive for that drug upon arrival at the OCA BEST show. Animals must remain negative of all drug and chemical residues while on the grounds of the OCA BEST show. Note that elimination time (the time it takes for no drug residue to be found in the system) may be longer than the labeled withdrawal time for most approved drugs.

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 an OCA BEST 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 show, prepared for the show, or transported to or from the show.

The OCA BEST Committee and Ohio Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors may impose penalties when a violation of a rule under Ohio Livestock Exhibitions, Sections 901-19-01 through 901-19-21 of the Ohio Administrative Code has occurred.

Each case of a rule violation will be handled on an individual basis. Exhibitors found in violation are offered an opportunity to explain the details of their case in a hearing/meeting with all or a portion of the OCA BEST Committee. The OCA Board of Directors, at their discretion, may grant an additional hearing opportunity with the full OCA Board of Directors. Penalties will vary, depending on the rule violated.

When determining penalties, OCA will consider, among other factors, the fact that the BEST program is sponsored by OCA for the development of youth, the desire and necessity of maintaining the integrity of the BEST program and the severity of the violation compared to industry standards.

A. **Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rules Chapter 901-19 -** drug residues

Upon arrival at an OCA BEST show and at the time of testing, any animal, market or breeding, being tested (BEST or non-BEST) must be 'Exhibition Drug Residue Legal' meaning clear of any unapproved drug residue and be clear of any withdrawal periods for approved drugs.

Animals under the care of a licensed veterinarian and/or taking ANY type of medication, including but not limited to steroids, diuretics, anti-inflammatories, tranquilizers and/or pain killers, are ineligible for competition. Exhibitors with questions regarding medications and/or eligibility should review Ohio's Livestock Show Reform Law, Chapter 901 of the Ohio Revised Code **Click here.**

The exhibitor (and exhibitor's parent or legal guardian, if exhibitor is a minor) agrees and acknowledges that: (1) they are absolutely and solely responsible for the care and custody of their animals; (2) the OCA BEST program shall be entitled to disqualify an exhibitor whose animal(s) test positive for ANY drug, even if the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents/guardians are innocent of any wrongdoing and did not administer the drug; and (3) the drug test results of the testing laboratories are final and binding upon the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents/guardians. Even if the source of the drug is unknown, the OCA BEST program shall be entitled to disqualify the exhibitor.

Urine, blood, and other test samples shall be collected by a veterinarian licensed in the State of Ohio and in accordance with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's protocol for the collection of livestock test samples at exhibitions. All tests will be performed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Test samples may be collected before, during, or immediately after a show.

A drug use notification form shall be completed for every animal from which a test sample is collected at every show. The drug use notification form shall be signed by the exhibitor. If the person signing the form is a minor child, the form shall be cosigned by a parent or guardian of the minor child.

Drug Residue Penalties
The OCA BEST Committee and Ohio Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors may impose penalties when there is positive test for a drug residue.

There is zero tolerance for test results that are positive for an unapproved drug and penalties will be assessed. Test results with a detectable level of residue from an approved drug, but whose test result level is less than the FDA food safety allowance for slaughter animals, as determined by the State Veterinarian with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, will be considered a negative test.

There is also zero tolerance for a positive test of an approved drug that was not used or administered in the approved manner under the rules. This is a violation regardless of the level, and a prohibited practice.

Each case of a positive drug test rule violation will be handled on an individual basis. Exhibitors with a positive drug residue test are offered an opportunity to explain the details of their case in a hearing/meeting with all or a portion of the OCA BEST Committee. The OCA Board of Directors, at their discretion, may grant an additional hearing opportunity with the full OCA Board of Directors. Penalties may vary based on the severity of the violation.

Penalties may include, but not be limited to, the following: the exhibitors and their animals, (BEST or non-BEST), their family members, and others acting on the behalf of the exhibitors to lose points for a show, lose points for multiple shows, and/or be barred from current or future participation in the BEST program and other OCA events and programs. BEST exhibitors with a positive drug residue test and found in violation of OCA BEST rules and their animals may also be dismissed from the BEST program and lose all BEST points for showmanship and animals. The OCA Board of Directors' decision will be communicated in writing and will be final.

Painting Penalties
Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rule 901-19-33 is a prohibited grooming practices rule. The following grooming practices are prohibited:
a.) Using any substance at an OCA BEST show to enhance or change the color of the livestock, including the livestock's hide or hooves;
b.) Adding any substance externally to build up, change or alter the shape or conformation of the livestock, including by way of example, but not limited to rope, false hair, graphite, hemp, and powders;
c.) Pigmented grooming aides or materials.
In addition, colored or pigmented substances, i.e. paint, are prohibited from use on animals at all OCA BEST shows. Painting of the hooves is prohibited. Use of clear substances is permitted. Any exhibitor and the exhibitor's animal (BEST or non-BEST) at an OCA BEST show that violates this rule will be disqualified and all premiums and awards for that animal will be forfeited. If the disqualified exhibitor has shown the exhibitor's animal, all animals placing below them will not move up. OCA BEST members who violate Rule 901-19-33 will be disqualified as described above from that show only, and their points for that animal, their other BEST animals entered in the show and showmanship points will not count in the OCA BEST program.

Falsifying Breeds, Registration Papers and Ownership Rules

The exhibitor and the exhibitor's animals (BEST or non-BEST), family members (including but not limited to siblings), business partners (including but not limited to their children) or breeders selling animals exhibited in an OCA BEST show are expected to follow all national breed association rules regarding breed percentages for registration papers.

They must also follow ownership deadlines as set forth in OCA BEST rules, and any associated 4-H, FFA or breed association ownership rules. There will be penalties for violations of these rules and other related areas. The OCA BEST Committee reserves the right to investigate a potential violation of this nature at any time. The committee may also investigate if they feel a complaint filed through the OCA BEST complaint procedure rule #16 warrants investigation of a potential rule violation.

Falsifying Breeds, Registration Papers or Exhibitor Ownership Penalties
The OCA BEST Committee and Ohio Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors may impose penalties when someone has misrepresented or falsified a breed percentage or registration paper or when an exhibitor has violated an ownership rule or other related area.

Each case of a rule violation will be handled on an individual basis. Exhibitors, breeders and/or sellers found in violation are offered an opportunity to explain the details of their case in a hearing/meeting with all or a portion of the OCA BEST Committee. The OCA Board of Directors, at their discretion, may grant an additional hearing opportunity with the full OCA Board of Directors. Penalties will vary, depending on the rule violated.

Penalties may include, but not be limited to, the following: the exhibitors and their animals, (BEST or non-BEST), their family members, and others acting on the behalf of the exhibitors to lose points for a show, lose points for multiple shows, and/or be barred from current or future participation in the BEST program and other OCA events and programs. BEST exhibitors found in violation of a rule and their animals may also be dismissed from the BEST program and lose all BEST points for showmanship and animals. Breeders and/or sellers found in violation of these rules may be barred from current or future participation in the BEST program and other OCA events and programs. The OCA Board of Directors' decision will be communicated in writing and will be final.

B. **Violations of Ohio's Livestock Exhibition Rules at Other Shows**

Any individual and his or her immediate family or member of the individual's household who has been found by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to be in violation of mandatory Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rules 901-19-01 through 901-19-21 of the Ohio Administrative Code and has been barred by the Ohio State 4-H office for future show participation (with any species) may be barred from exhibiting cattle in any OCA BEST show and may be barred from participating in the OCA BEST program. OCA may give all decisions of sponsors and other bodies holding fairs and shows full faith and credit and may observe and enforce such decisions coextensively at shows sponsored by the Ohio Cattlemen's Association.

17. **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.

18. **Points System for OCA BEST**
Point totals will be kept for each individual animal. Winners will be determined for both steers and heifers in each of the following categories: Angus, Charolais Heifer, Percentage Charolais Heifer, Charolais Steer, Chianina, Chi Angus Heifer, Low Percentage Chianina Heifer, Hereford, Limousin/Lim-Flex Heifer, High Percentage Maine-Anjou Heifer, MaineTainer Heifer, Maine Angus Heifer, Maine-Anjou Steer, Shorthorn and ShorthornPlus, Purebred Simmental Heifer, Percentage Simmental Heifer, AOB, Market Heifer, and Crossbred.

If an OCA BEST nominated animal is sold during the show season, the points are not transferrable. Animals may be re-nominated under the new owner.

All OCA BEST shows will follow the same point system. Points will be based on the number of animals you beat in your class, except for the champion and reserve champion animals. (For example, if there are 10 animals in your class, the points for first place will be 10 points, second 9, third 8, fourth 7, fifth 6 and so on.) When an animal is named Grand Champion within their breed, they will be awarded points equivalent to the largest class within their breed, plus an additional 10 points. If the animal is named Reserve Champion within their breed, they will be awarded points equivalent to the largest class within their breed, plus an additional 5 points. Champion and Reserve Champion will not receive points for their individual class placings. (For example, if there are two Angus heifer classes, class 1 has 8 head and class 2 has 10 head. The class 1 winner is then named Grand Champion Angus Heifer, the points calculation would be as follows: 10+10= 20. If the Reserve Champion Angus Heifer was the class 1 second place the calculation would be as follows: 10+5= 15.) **All top five crossbred steers will receive points, following the points received by the champion and the reserve, third place crossbred steer will receive 1 point less than the reserve champion, fourth place will receive 1 point less than third place and fifth place will receive 1 point less than fourth place.**

The following point system will be used for showmanship: All exhibitors that are selected to return from one or more heats will receive one point less than the 10th place exhibitor. If the exhibitor makes the top 10 at the end of the show, they will not receive the points for returning, only the top 10 points. (For example, if it is a 400+ head show and if an exhibitor is selected to come back to compete again for their age division the exhibitor will receive 3 points. If the exhibitor ends up being tenth place, the exhibitor will accumulate 4 points and relinquish the qualifying points) The following point system will be used for showmanship at OCA BEST Shows under 400 head: First 30, second 27, third 24, fourth 21, fifth 18**,** sixth 15, seventh 12, eighth 9, ninth 6 and tenth 3. **For OCA BEST Shows with more than 400 head the following points system will be used for showmanship: First 40, second 36, third 32, fourth 28, fifth 24, sixth 20, seventh 16, eighth 12, ninth 8 and tenth 4.**

The number of year-end awards that will be presented at the banquet will be based on the number of cattle in each division at the end of the BEST season. The awards will be figured according to each division (i.e.- if there are 5 Angus steers there will be a Champion and Reserve awarded; if there are 20 Angus heifers, there will be a Top 5 awarded). The shows will still only choose a Champion and Reserve Crossbred heifer at each BEST show. Breeds that have percentage divisions (Maine-Anjou, Charolais, Shorthorn & Simmental) will be tabulated separately by purebred and percentage animals and awarded accordingly.

- Heifer, Steer or Market Heifer division totaling 1-19 head: Champion & Reserve
- Heifer, Steer or Market Heifer division totaling 20-49 head: Top 5
- Heifer, Steer or Market Heifer division totaling 50-99 head: Top 10
- Heifer, Steer or Market Heifer division totaling 100+ head: Top 15

New for the 2026–2027 BEST season, BEST will recognize an Overall Market Exhibitor and an Overall Breeding Exhibitor at the Ohio Beef Expo. Additional information regarding eligibility and how points will be calculated toward these awards will be shared in the Ohio Beef Expo Rules.

Maximum Cattle Point Accumulation Cap
The maximum number of shows that will count toward the year-end point totals will be **11** shows. As an exhibitor you may attend more than **11** shows, however only your top **11** sets of points will count.

One Show Minimum to Receive Awards & be in the Final Points Standings
To be eligible to receive awards, including the trailer drawing, and be listed in the final points standings, you must attend a minimum of one BEST show during the show season. This includes bred-and-owned and Buckeye Breeders Series awards.

19. **Top Five Market Animals & Heifers**
Each BEST show will also pick the top 5 market animals (includes market heifers) and heifers. (Those animals eligible to compete for the top 5 heifers will include only breed champions and reserves and the crossbred champion and reserve. Those animals eligible to compete for the top 5 market animals will include breed champions and reserves, the top 5 crossbred steers, selected from only first and second place animals and the champion and reserve market heifer.) Only champions will initially enter the ring for the overall champion competition. It is up to the individual show to decide if they will select, in no particular order, a top 5 breed steers prior to the exhibition of the market heifers and crossbred steers.

20. **Bred-and-Owned Animals**
Awards will be presented to the top 5 bred-and owned heifers and top 5 bred-and-owned steers in the final points standings. Crossbreds and market heifers are not eligible. 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.

21. **BEST Online Resources**

www.ohiocattle.org

OCA BEST rules, show season current point standings, show information and results will be posted on the Ohio Cattlemen's Association website www.ohiocattle.org under the Events & Programs tab.

https://showman.app/#/

Beginning with the **2026–2027 BEST season, all BEST nominations and show entries will be completed through Showman.** The previous BEST online software will no longer be used for nominations or show entries.

Each exhibitor will need to create or use an existing **Showman account**. Exhibitors will use Showman to nominate their BEST cattle and enter each individual BEST sanctioned show throughout the season. When entering an animal in Showman, exhibitors will be required to enter the animal's **EID number**. The EID number must be entered **exactly as it appears on the EID tag, with no spaces, dashes or other special characters separating the numbers.** Exhibitors should carefully verify the EID number before submitting their entry. At check-in, the animal's EID tag will be **scanned and matched to the EID number entered in Showman.** It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure the EID number entered in Showman is complete and accurate.

Once an animal is nominated for BEST, exhibitors must still complete an entry for each BEST sanctioned show they plan to attend. **All cattle must be entered through Showman prior to being checked in at the show.** In addition to nominations and show entries, exhibitors and families can use Showman throughout the season to access **BEST point standings, show information, class information and show results.**

For additional information and step-by-step instructions on creating an account, entering shows and using the platform, exhibitors may visit the Showman website.

Additional BEST-specific Showman instructions will be provided prior to the start of the season.

22. **BEST 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 2026-2027 OCA BEST Ohio exhibitors 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 2, 2027. OCA BEST participants may receive only one BEST scholarship during their total BEST program eligibility.

23. **BEST Photography Contest**
    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.**

24. **Alcohol Prohibition**
    No alcohol will be permitted in the make-up area or show ring of BEST shows. The BEST Committee will strongly encourage sanctioned shows to hire local authorities to enforce legal drinking ages and open container laws.

25. **Committee Decisions**
    The decisions of the BEST Committee, subject to approval of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association board of directors, on all issues pertaining to the BEST program and events at BEST sanctioned shows shall be final. The Ohio Cattlemen's Association and the OCA BEST program are not responsible for accidents.

Fees	Ohio BEST Participant	Ohio Non-BEST	Ohio BEST BBS [1] Participant	Out-of-State BEST BBS [1] Participant	BBS Breeder	Out-of-State Exhibitor at a BEST Show
Pay Show Entry Fees	Yes	Yes + $5 per ring	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
$100 OCA Family Membership [2]	$100	$100	$100	$100	$100	$100
One-time BEST Nomination (Per Head) [3]	$60	No	$60	$60	No	No
One-time BBS [4] Nomination (Per Head)	No	No	$25 (or breeder pays)	$25	$25 (or participant pays)	No

[1] Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS) – Registered steer or heifer bred, born and raised by an Ohio breeder that has its own points division within the BEST program.

[2] One $100 OCA membership provides 12 months of member service and covers all siblings in the immediate family. BBS breeders must also be current OCA members.

[3] BEST Nomination – a $60 one-time per head nomination fee to be paid by the BEST participant. The BEST $60 nomination must be paid for each animal nominated for the BEST program.

[4] Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS) – a $25 one-time per head nomination fee to be paid by the Ohio breeder of the BBS eligible animal. (If not paid by the breeder, BEST BBS participant can pay the $25 nomination for their BBS animal.) The BBS $25 nomination must be paid for each BBS animal nominated for the BEST program.