



2025-26 BEST SEASON UPDATES

NOVICE & STOCKMANSHIP PROGRAM REMOVED FOR THE 25-26 BEST SEASON

After careful consideration, OCA has decided to remove the Novice division from the BEST program to better align with the skill levels of the existing age divisions. While the Novice program provided great benefit, we believe this change creates a more fair and consistent opportunity for all BEST exhibitors. Moving forward, participants will compete in the appropriate age division and earn OCA cattle points as normal.

Additionally, the Stockmanship division has been transitioned from the BEST program to the Ohio Beef Youth Council (OBYC). The Youth Council's mission better aligns with the goals of the Stockmanship program, and this move allows OCA to broaden participation by inviting beef industry youth from across all spectrums.

ADDITIONAL \$5 ENTRY FEE FOR NON BEST PARTICIPANTS

Participants who choose not to enroll in the BEST program will be required to pay an additional \$5 per show ring entry fee. This policy helps cover the administrative costs of tracking and managing non-BEST exhibitors, which are otherwise included as part of BEST program participation. By enrolling in BEST, exhibitors not only avoid this additional fee but also gain access to year-end recognition, points tracking, and program benefits that support youth development.

NORTHERN LIGHTS SHOWCASE SATURDAY ONLY

This year, Northern Lights Showcase will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31 only to help streamline the schedule and make participation more convenient for both exhibitors and their families. Consolidating the event into one day reduces travel and lodging costs, minimizes time away from work and school. By focusing the schedule, the committee can still provide a high-quality experience for all participants while making the event more accessible.

NEGATIVE BVD REQUIRED AT YOUR FIRST BEST SHOW

To protect the health of all cattle exhibited through the BEST program, a negative Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) test is required prior to an exhibitor's first show of the season. Requiring this documentation at the start of the season ensures that every animal is tested and confirmed negative before entering the show environment.

This proactive step helps safeguard the well-being of all cattle, maintain a consistent standard across participants, and support the long-term health of Ohio's beef industry.

Veterinarians will be performing the BVD PI tests and submitting them following each show to the laboratory at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Test results will be returned to the veterinarian and OCA will assist in forwarding them to each individual exhibitor.

There will be a \$30 per head charge that will cover the BVD test, lab submission and 840 EID tag. All animals being tested, registered and crossbred, will receive an EID tag at testing, unless the animal already has a scannable EID tag.

Additionally, OCA staff and volunteers will be checking registration papers, verifying tattoos, scanning EID tags, and verifying memberships to expedite the check-in process at the first BEST show.

The OCA BEST committee has partnered with the following shows and county associations to provide pre-season testing options to reduce the fees associated with an on-farm BVD test and to expedite the check-in process at the first BEST show.

OCA BVD Testing dates and locations:

Black Swamp Preview
Oct. 19 | 7 - 9 a.m. | Wood County Fairgrounds, Bowling Green

Croton Nationals
Oct. 26 | 7 - 9 a.m. | Hartford Independent Fairgrounds, Croton

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES ON THE 2025-26 BEST SEASON CHECK WWW.OHIOGATTLG.ORG AND THE OCA BEST PROGRAM FACEBOOK PAGE.