



2019 Best of the Buckeye Exhibitor Rules

1. Host Show Exhibitor Rules

All Ohio Beef Expo and Ohio State Fair show rules apply to Best of the Buckeye exhibitors at each of the respective shows. Exhibitor and cattle age requirements will vary according to the Best of the Buckeye's host show.

2. Best of the Buckeye Nomination Eligibility

For cattle to be eligible for the Best of the Buckeye program, 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 Best of the Buckeye eligible cattle are registered in multiple owners' names, as-long-as one of the owners listed on the registration paper is from Ohio, the calf is eligible for nomination.

3. Best of the Buckeye Nomination Fee & Show Entry Fees

To participate in Best of the Buckeye, breeders must complete an online nomination (each form can be used to nominate up to ten animals from the same breeder) and sign an affidavit verifying Best of the Buckeye eligibility. The breeder or exhibitor may submit the nominations and fee for the Best of the Buckeye nominations. ***If the exhibitor is also the breeder of the animal, only the online breeder nomination form must be submitted.*** Cattle that are nominated prior to the Ohio Beef Expo by March 1, 2019 and prior to the Ohio State Fair by June 20, 2019 will incur a \$25 per head nomination fee per show. Cattle may be nominated for both shows by March 1, 2018 at a rate of \$40 per head. Breeders will have the opportunity to nominate cattle through check-in at the Ohio Beef Expo and at the Ohio State Fair at an increased late nomination fee of \$75 per head. Completed early entry nomination forms may be returned to the OCA office by March 1, 2019 for Ohio Beef Expo Best of the Buckeye entries or by June 20, 2019 for Ohio State Fair Best of the Buckeye nominations. For nomination forms contact OCA or visit www.ohiocattle.org. Animals nominated for Best of the Buckeye will also need to be entered in the Ohio Beef Expo and Ohio State Fair junior shows. Cattle that are eligible to show for more than one year must pay a new Best of the Buckeye nomination each calendar year.

4. OCA Membership

To be eligible for Best of the Buckeye, the breeder must be an OCA member at the time of nomination and the exhibitor must be an OCA member by the Ohio Beef Expo of the current show season. The OCA membership must be in the name of the Best of the Buckeye 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 operate on the calendar year. Base dues for OCA are \$75.00. If more than one junior within a family participates in the Best of the Buckeye program, only one OCA membership is required. Best of the Buckeye breeders and participants must be in good financial standing with OCA as of March 1, 2019 to participate in the program and to receive awards. The Best of the Buckeye Committee reserves the right to place breeders and participants on a cash only basis upon past violations of this rule.

5. Show Your Own Animal

To receive awards, animals must be shown by their owner. An exception is made if the Best of the Buckeye participant owns two or more animals that are in the same class. In this scenario another junior may exhibit the second animal and the participant would still be eligible for awards with both animals. When the class conflict is over and for championship drives, the participant must return to showing their own animal. It is the participant's responsibility to inform the OCA staff person or Best of the Buckeye Committee member in charge of the class conflict as it happens, not after the show. Best of the Buckeye participants that are physically unable to show their animal may ask a family member or another Ohio junior who meets the age requirements for the Best of the Buckeye program's host show to exhibit their animal. The Best of the Buckeye participant must seek prior

approval from the Best of the Buckeye Committee and the participant must have been at the show, hotel and/or left home with the cattle. Should a Best of the Buckeye participant become ill and stay home prior to the cattle leaving for a show, then their cattle will not be eligible to show in the Best of the Buckeye show. Family emergencies are at the Best of the Buckeye Committee's discretion. All decisions by the Best of the Buckeye Committee associated with showing your own animal shall be final.

6. Breed Class Qualifications

The animal's registration must be in the name of the junior exhibitor who is exhibiting the animal. For Best of the Buckeye eligibility, no family farm names will be permitted. The Best of the Buckeye committee reserves the right to evaluate all breed steers and heifers for breed standards.

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

Dual registered cattle may show only in one breed at one show.

Heifers must be shown by age and steers must be shown according to breed and weight or height (depending on the host show's class breaking guidelines).

No cattle with "registration pending" status will be eligible for nomination until it is registered in the Junior Best of the Buckeye exhibitor's name.

	Breed	Heifer	Steer
	Angus	Purebred	Purebred
	Chianina	6.25%	Breed Minimum
*OSF	Gelbvieh	3/4	1/2
	Hereford	Purebred	Purebred (must have registration papers)
*OSF	Limousin	3/4 - orange papers	
*OSF	LimFlex	1/4 - purple papers	
*OSF	Limousin Steer		Breed Minimum
	High % Maine-Anjou	3/4 - brown papers	
	MaineTainer	1/4 - green papers	
	Maine-Anjou Steer		1/4
	Shorthorn	15/16	15/16
	ShorthornPlus	1/2	1/2
	Purebred Simmental	7/8	
	% Simmental	1/2 - 3/4	
	Simmental Steer		1/2
*OBE	Miniature Breed(s)	National Jr. Show Eligible	National Jr. Show Eligible
*OBE	High % AOB	National Jr. Show Eligible	
*OBE	Low % AOB	National Jr. Show Eligible	
	AOB		National Jr. Show Eligible

**Denotes breeds offered at that particular show, providing there are enough head entered to qualify that particular breed show at the Ohio State Fair. Breeds offered at the Ohio Beef Expo are pre-determined. If there is not a division offered for a breed at either BOTB show, nominated cattle will show in the AOB division.*

All Other Breeds (animals with registration papers, but not listed above - i.e Charolais, Red Angus, Belted Galloway, etc.) Animals with registration papers that do not have a breed division listed above may show as AOB, providing they meet their breed's minimum percentage for their national junior shows. Registered cattle that do NOT meet the breed percentage requirement for their respective breed's national junior eligibility requirement will not be eligible for Best of the Buckeye. If the animal qualifies for a breed division, it must show in that division.

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 not be eligible for the Best of the Buckeye program. The High % AOB division will combine the breeds that are eligible, for example: Charolais, Gelbvieh, Limousin, etc. The Low % AOB division will combine the breeds that are eligible, for example: CharComposite, Balancer, LimFlex, etc.

****Please note** - Low percentage Chianina and Simmental heifers will not be eligible for the Low % AOB.**

7. OCA Best of the Buckeye Committee

The OCA Best of the Buckeye program is planned and governed by the OCA Best of the Buckeye Committee, however all decisions are subject to approval by the OCA board of directors. The OCA President will appoint the committee chairman. There will also be several members solicited by OCA to serve on the governing committee. The chairman and those members solicited by OCA will constitute the Best of the Buckeye Executive Committee.

8. Complaint or Protest Procedure

Anyone who seeks to file a complaint or protest regarding a perceived infraction of a Best of the Buckeye BEST rule or show rule must submit a fee of \$150 to the Best of the Buckeye Committee. The Best of the Buckeye 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 of the Buckeye Committee. The Best of the Buckeye Committee also reserves the right to review any potential rules violation on its own without a complaint first being filed. The Best of the Buckeye 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 of the Buckeye Committee will provide the Best of the Buckeye 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 of the Buckeye Committee will share the results of its investigation. Following the meeting, the Best of the Buckeye Committee in conjunction with the OCA Board of Directors will make a determination and inform the participant of its decision in writing. In making its decision, the Best of the Buckeye Committee will consider, among other factors, the fact that the Best of the Buckeye program is sponsored by OCA for the development of youth, the desire and necessity of maintaining the integrity of the Best of the Buckeye program, the severity of the violation compared to industry standards, and how similar violations have been handled in the past. Best of the Buckeye Committee sanctions may include, but not be limited to, the following: the participant, family members (including but not limited to siblings who are BEST participants), or business partners (including but not limited to their children who are BEST participants) associated with the specific violation(s) be barred from current or future participation in the Best of the Buckeye program and other OCA events and programs. Persons found to have violated Best of the Buckeye rules by the Best of the Buckeye Committee have the right to appeal in writing within 30 days of the Best of the Buckeye Committee's decision to a committee appointed by the President of the OCA Board of Directors. The Committee's decision will be communicated in writing and will be final.

Best of the Buckeye rule violators will be responsible for reimbursing legal fees incurred by the OCA before they are considered in good standing with OCA for the purposes of future event or program eligibility.

9. Exhibitor Code of Conduct

All Best of the Buckeye exhibitors, their family members and others acting on the behalf of the exhibitor must display good sportsmanship and act in a courteous manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct will be referred to the OCA Best of the Buckeye 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 be barred from current or future participation in the Best of the Buckeye program. The decision of the Best of the Buckeye Committee regarding the unsportsmanlike conduct shall be final.

10. Top Placing Best of the Buckeye Heifers and Steers

The Ohio Beef Expo and Ohio State Fair will pick the top 3 heifers and steers in each breed division for the Best of the Buckeye program with sponsorships adding additional premiums to the top 3 Best of the Buckeye cattle in each division totaling a minimum of \$600 in additional payouts Champion - \$300, Reserve - \$200 and 3rd - \$100. Individuals may also donate additional premiums to the breed and show of their choice. Breeder donations may be made directly to the Best of the Buckeye program and donors will be recognized. Additional donated premiums will be added to the minimum Best of the Buckeye payouts. Best of the Buckeye placings will coincide with the show's class placings. The top 3 animals from each class will come back immediately following the breed's final drive to show for the Best of the Buckeye final drive.

Continued in 2019, top placing Best of the Buckeye cattle from the Ohio Beef Expo and Ohio State Fair will be placed into a People's Choice contest that will be hosted on the OCA Facebook Page. The contest will run from August 12, 2019 through August 21, 2019. The steer and heifer photo with the most "likes" on the original photo uploaded in the OCA album will be named the "People's Choice". Prizes will be presented to the breeder and exhibitor for each category. The winners will be recognized at the Breeder Reception on August 24, 2019.

11. Breeder Opportunities

Nominating breeders are recognized on the OCA website and are offered a series of prizes at the breeder reception on August 24, 2019, held in conjunction with the Cattlemen's Gala. 2019 nominating breeders must be present to win prizes during the breeder reception. Nominating breeders are encouraged to socialize and network with other breeders during the event, attend OCA's Summer Business meeting immediately following the reception and attend the Cattlemen's Gala, the Ohio Cattlemen's Foundation fundraiser for youth scholarships, in the evening.

12. Best of the Buckeye Website

OCA Best of the Buckeye nomination and exhibitor information forms along with Best of the Buckeye rules, information and results will be posted on the Ohio Cattlemen's Association website www.ohiocattle.org under the Events & Programs tab.

13. Best of the Buckeye Scholarship Opportunities

The program will also offer academic scholarships to youth pursuing a post-high school degree that will be based on academics and extracurricular activities. Eligible Best of the Buckeye participants and nominating breeders are high school juniors through 21 years of age as of January 1, 2019. Academic scholarships will be awarded to participants and nominating breeders 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. The scholarship deadline will be June 15, 2019 and scholarships will be presented at the Ohio State Fair.

14. Committee Decisions

The decisions of the Best of the Buckeye Committee, subject to approval of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association board of directors, on all issues pertaining to the Best of the Buckeye program shall be final. The Ohio Cattlemen's Association and the Best of the Buckeye program are not responsible for accidents.