



BEST Updates for 2020-2021

This season marks the 22nd year of the OCA BEST program and each year the BEST Committee works to raise the program to greater heights - with a focus on family, education and leadership. Last year BEST introduced the Stockmanship Division that provided an opportunity for BEST participants to showcase their abilities and talent outside of the show ring. This unique division, that does not involve showing an animal, but rather showcasing the individual's knowledge of cattle and the industry will continue for the coming season.

New for this year's BEST program:

- The Best of the Buckeye registered steer and heifer program has been renamed the **Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS)**. This series will feature cattle bred in Ohio and will run during the BEST show season. Beginning with the Scarlet & Gray Midwest Showdown and continuing at every BEST show throughout the season, cattle entered in the additional BBS program will have their own separate set of points that will run parallel to the BEST program, much like the Novice and Bred & Owned Divisions whose points are a subset of their regular class points. The program will end at the Ohio Beef Expo and will recognize both breeders and exhibitors of the top placing BBS cattle at the OCA BEST Awards Banquet in May. The BBS program will not be a part of the Ohio State Fair.

Exhibitors will make a one-time entry of cattle eligible for the Buckeye Breeders Series through the BEST program's online nomination and show entry website and can be made when making BEST nominations. Only registered cattle that were bred by an Ohio breeder are eligible. Crossbreds are not eligible to participate in the BBS. Entries for the BBS may be made for eligible cattle at any point throughout the season and BBS points will accrue with their first show.

- The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) rule has changed. All BEST participants must have a current BQA certification when they sign-up for the program and/or complete a BQA certification to be in the BEST points standings following their first show. BQA certification is available through in-person trainings at BEST shows, bqa.org or yqca.org. These trainings are good for up to three years from the date of completion. BEST participants that attended an in-person or YQCA BQA training last year are certified for three years from the date they attended training. A BQA in-person training will be held at the AGR Holiday Classic to fulfill this requirement for participants who are not already BQA certified.
- A one-time \$75 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.

EID tags are required for ALL cattle participating in an OCA BEST sanctioned show. Tags are available for purchase at \$20 per tag at each show. Exhibitors are encouraged to have EID tags in their calves prior to arriving at the show.

To create or update your online user and cattle profiles and to make show entries prior to each show, visit best.ohiocattle.org.