

Ohio Beef Youth Council Carcass Contest Rules

2026-2027

Timeline & Details

Eligible calves include steers or heifers born from Jan. 1 through May 31, 2026

Enrolled cattle must be on feed by November 1, 2026

Winter 2026 carcass contest participants must participate in seminar(s) to learn:
(held in conjunction with the Buckeye Cattlemen's Summit, January 23, 2027)

- Quality & Yield Grading - Determining Carcass Value
- Marketing Freezer Beef

Spring 2027 carcass contest participants must participate in:

- Oral Interviews to present plan for marketing beef carcass (Held at the Ohio Beef Expo on Thursday, March 18, 2027)

Spring 2027 harvest cattle as ready at cooperating plants around the state that have USDA grading to collect carcass quality data.

All cattle must be harvested by May 31, 2027

Summer 2026 Awards presentation

Contest Evaluation

1. Carcasses will be evaluated to determine: Carcass Value derived from USDA Quality and Yield Grades

2. First Tie Breaker – USDA Yield Grade

3. Second Tie Breaker: $\% \text{BTRC} = 51.34 - (5.78 \times \text{Adjusted Fat Thickness})$

$- (0.46 \times \% \text{KPH Fat})$

$+ (0.74 \times \text{Rib eye Area})$

$- (0.0038 \times \text{Hot Carcass Weight})$

4. Current grading (ranked highest to lowest value*):

- 1) Prime
- 2) Top choice
- 3) Low choice
- 4) Select
- 5) Yield grade 4
- 6) Standard

5. To determine USDA yield grade the following adjustments will be added to the USDA yield grade:

USDA Yield Grade = USDA Preliminary Yield grade + HCW Adj. + BF Adj. + REA adj.

* Subject to change based on cattle market at the time of harvest

6. There will be no minimum or maximum carcass weight. The carcass weight will be factored into the equation.
7. Any carcass defects are subject to being penalized including but not limited to (Dark Cutter, Bruised, Hard Bone, and Blood Splash)
8. All participants must pay \$50/head registration fee for every animal entered in the contest. Fees will be used to cover contest awards and educational seminars. Harvest and processing costs to be paid by youth participants.
9. While the data is a tool to aid the ranking of carcasses, the judge reserves the right to make official placing based on current industry practices and markets. All decisions made by the judge are final.