

# DEPARTMENT – L-29 – Beef Cattle

Revised 12/18/2025

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Fair entries must be completed online at [www.carrollcountyfair.com](http://www.carrollcountyfair.com) by June 10th. No late entries will be accepted.

**Due to proposed Maryland budgetary constraints that are beyond the control of the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair Board, Inc. The Board reserves the right to withhold a portion of premium monies, up to and including all an exhibitor's earned premium payment, for the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair.**

- Exhibitors must be enrolled in a beef project or veterinary science project to participate in the Beef Cattle Department at the Fair.
- Exhibitors must submit a signed Maryland Show Ring Code of Ethics with entry form.
- Youth with market livestock must submit a Livestock Feed Assurance Certificate with entry form.
- Your original approved Animal Health paper must be available for review prior to unloading your animal(s) at the Fair. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection & Self Certification sheets may be found at [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us) for your updated information website.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS – Beef Cattle Department

1. All 4-H and FFA members must abide by the General Rules and Regulations of the Carroll Co. 4-H & FFA Fair as printed in the beginning of this Fair Catalog.
2. Beef market steers and market heifers must be owned by January 1 of the current year.
3. Steers, market heifers, and commercial heifers must be identified (tagged) in accordance with the statewide uniform Market Livestock Tagging system.
4. All Projects ARE Required by the Maryland Department of Agriculture to have a readable RFID tag (Radio Frequency Identification Tag) in your Beef project ear at tagging and weigh-in. The Silver /White metal tags are no longer accepted. The MDA Website: <https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/default.aspx>
5. The Committee may visit all beef animals at the place of which the animal is being housed between the tagging date and the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair.
6. If the Committee feels there is a problem with any of the animals being exhibited in the purebred class, they will notify the exhibitor. The Committee may go to the member's residence later to review the questionable animal with a representative of the breed association. The Breed Association representative will decide if the animal should be shown as a purebred or a crossbred. The exhibitor may then:
  - a. Accept the decision of the Breed Association representative, making the decision final.
  - b. The Beef Committee may request testing, and the Fair Board will support the Committee decision.
  - c. If any protest is raised concerning an animal, the protestor will bear all expenses of testing unless the test is found to be positive in which the animal's owner will reimburse the protestor.
  - d. If scurs appear on an animal exhibited as an Angus or Red Angus at the Fair weigh-in, this animal must be shown in the Crossbred division.
7. All purebred steers must have registration papers to verify breed and be registered in the 4-H or FFA member's name.
8. All purebred steers must have a legible tattoo prior to arriving at the fair for weigh-in. Illegible tattoos or if no tattoo is found, the steer or market heifer will be moved to the crossbred division regardless. No tattooing on the fairgrounds.

9. The Beef Committee shall have the right to disqualify a beef animal with a health problem. If any question shall arise, the state veterinarian will be consulted.
10. Bedding in the barn will be provided and is included in the \$15 entry fee for market animals and \$5 for breeding animals. Bedding must be removed at the direction of the superintendent.
11. Stall assignments will be posted and strictly adhered to. Any requests to move must be approved by the beef committee chairman. Stall Assignments are used to find exhibitors on show and sale day, in case of an emergency for a Veterinarian, or if a Superintendent needs to find an exhibitor or an animal.
12. A Beef Committee member must be present during individual stall setup. A schedule will be announced for setup dates and times.
13. Stall dividers will be allowed. Dividers are to be no more than 4" wide and no longer than 8 feet. One stall per animal shown at the Fair.
14. All fans will be placed in accordance with directives by the Beef Committee to assure safety and adequate airflow within the beef cattle exhibit area.
15. Aisleways and stalls must be kept clean at all times.
16. Animals must be off tie-outs by 8am each day of the fair.
17. Blocking chutes are to be set up in designated areas only.
18. No outside scales will be allowed on the premises. Only the official scale.
19. No enclosed tents are allowed on the fairgrounds. Pop-up tents are allowed in designated areas outside of the barn, for shade, but the inside of the tent must be able to be viewed from all sides.
20. Exhibitors must always maintain control of his/her animal(s) or animal(s) may be disqualified. Any exhibitor with an uncontrollable animal will be given a 24-hour grace period to prove to the Beef Committee that their animal is controllable and does not pose a safety threat to any/or all exhibitors and the public visiting the Fair.
21. Any exhibitor showing a steer or market heifer may have fitting assistance from an immediate family member (Parents, brother, sister or any Beef Committee member or Carroll County 4-H Member. **NOTE: The key word is assistance.** This project is a learning experience, and we want the exhibitor to learn by doing.
22. Fitting rules for Beef Cattle. The use of ANY coloring agent or hair adhesives are PROHIBITED. This means you may NOT use them during the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair Beef Shows, unless it is stated in the rules of a specific class or contest.
23. Use of unethical practices are prohibited – fake hair, tail, etc.
24. A Breed Division is defined as Four (4) registered animals of that breed. If there is not a minimum of 4 head entered in any breed division, then the animals will be moved to the (AOB) All Other Breeds Division to be shown.
25. Livestock Exhibitors (beef cattle, sheep, meat goats, and swine) are required to wear the following uniform for all classes:
  - a. Male- Khaki or green trousers – no shorts are permitted. FFA members may wear standard FFA attire. All shirts are to be white, have a collar, and be able to be tucked in. All exhibitors must have a neckpiece (green or black)
  - b. Female-Green, khaki skirt, slacks, or culottes – no shorts are permitted. FFA members may wear standard FFA attire. All shirts are to be white, have a collar, and be able to be tucked in. Shirts may be sleeveless for girls –but no straps or spaghetti-style straps will be permitted. No shirts exposing bare midriff. Sleeveless polo style or button-down shirts are allowed. All exhibitors must have a neckpiece (green or black). NO HATS other than show hats may be worn during the show.
26. Breed Division (within the Heifer or Market Beef categories) may be separated if the Beef Committee decides it is in the show's best interest.
27. All beef exhibitors who wish to sell in the Livestock Sale must comply with the Livestock Sale Rules.
  - a. Market steers and market heifers must grade choice or better by qualified individuals at the fair. All decisions made by graders will be FINAL. Grader, upon request, will give reasons for disqualification
  - b. Market steers and market heifers must meet the Livestock Sale weight requirement for the Carroll County Fair of between 1200 – 1500 pounds.
28. (New for 2026) All Market steers and market heifers that have been administered any medication must be through the withdrawal period before the livestock sale to be eligible to sell.

29. All beef animals not in the livestock sale will be released following the conclusion of the market beef show. All animals that are leaving must be out by 8am on Friday, before the sale.
30. All beef exhibitors are encouraged to attend either the educational workshop at the Beef Field Day or the educational beef workshop presented by the Beef Committee.
31. Feeds and supplements approved for livestock use may be used by exhibitors. If an exhibitor feels their animal is in need of electrolytes due to the health concerns, they may be administered upon the recommendation of a veterinarian, by the veterinarian, and in the presence of the Department Superintendent, the Livestock Area Superintendent or one of the Livestock Area Assistant Superintendents.
32. When an animal needs veterinarian care while on the Fairgrounds the Department Superintendent must be notified. When an animal requires veterinary treatment while at the Fair, you may use the Veterinarian on the grounds at your cost, call your Veterinarian at your cost, or remove your animal from the Fair.
33. All exhibitors are expected to follow all 4-H and FFA rules, including the Exhibitor Code of Conduct, Animal Ethics and Welfare, General Fair rules, Livestock Sale Committee rules and Department rules for each specific species being exhibited by 4-H and FFA exhibitors.

### **Showmanship – RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Exhibitors will compete for showmanship honors in their age divisions. Animals will be washed, blown dry and brushed/combed only.
2. Champions from Senior, Intermediate and Junior divisions will return for the selection of Grand Champion.
3. Once the exhibitor has entered the show ring, they are not permitted to leave for any reason. There will be no help from outside the show ring.
4. All beef exhibitors will be required to exhibit in the Showmanship Division to participate in the Market Division.
5. Exhibitors must own the animal presented in the Showmanship Division.
6. Exhibitors must always maintain control of his/her animal(s) or animal(s) may be disqualified.
7. Exhibitors must wear proper 4-H or FFA attire, please see rules and regulations number 25.
8. The showmanship animal must be a market animal, and qualify for the livestock sale unless, the only beef project the exhibitor owns did not make the sale or is a breeding heifer. In that case, the non-sale animal or breeding heifer may be shown in showmanship.
9. The Champion of Champions class will consist of previous year's winners. The current champion will not participate.
10. Premium – Showmanship Participation - \$5

### **Breeding- RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Breeding heifers must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor and must be solely owned and registered in the name of the exhibitor only by June 1st of the current year.
2. The committee will check breed registration certificates and tattoos at Fair arrival. **Entries received, at the fair, with "Papers Pending" will not be accepted.** Registration must be from the certified breed association.
3. An entry fee of \$5 per heifer is payable with the entry form.
4. Commercial Heifers must be owned by June 1st of the current year. They must be tagged and will have a Maryland State identification tag placed in their ear. Tagging may take place at the same time as market steer and market heifer tagging, prior to the Fair. Tag cost is \$2.00. Commercial Heifers will be shown by weight and not by age.
5. All heifers, including Commercial Heifers, must be born after September 1, 2024, and born before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Superintendent may break classes according to age if necessary.
6. All commercial heifers must be of beef origin.
7. Exhibitors must always maintain control of his/her animal(s) or animal(s) may be disqualified.

8. Heifers may be shown in this order: Angus, Hereford, Red Angus, Shorthorn, and Registered Purebreds of Other Breeds and Commercial. Or in an order determined by the Beef Superintendent and Committee. Heifers will enter the show ring according to age – youngest heifer first except for commercial Heifers which will be shown by weight.
9. Substitutions will be permitted and, if made, must be filed with the department superintendent no later than the time animals are checked into the Fair. Substitutions must be owned by the same exhibitor.
10. Male calves must be from the cow/calf pair shown at the current fair.
11. Premiums – Beef Heifer Division – 1st - \$15; 2nd - \$14; 3rd - \$13; all below - \$12

### **Market Steer and Market Heifer – RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Market Steers and Market Heifers must be owned by January 1, of the current fair year. Market steers and market heifers will be tagged in January, on a date set by the committee. Animals will be identified by breed, weighed, and tagged in Compliance with Maryland Market Livestock Registration system.
2. Any animal that you are planning on showing at the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair must be tagged in at the Carroll County Beef & Dairy Cattle tagging.
3. If any animal loses his tag, the Beef Superintendent and 4-H Extension Educator must be notified immediately.
4. Any market steer showing crossbred characteristics will be shown in a crossbred class. (All crossbred market beef must be of beef origin.)
5. Any animal with dairy origin will be shown in the dairy steer show.
6. Weight classes will be determined after market steers and market heifers are weighed at the Fair. Refer to the fair schedule for weigh-in date and time. The 4H/FFA Exhibitor must walk at least one market beef animal (if showing more than one) to the scales. Exceptions must be approved by the Beef Committee.
7. Market beef classes may be shown in this order: Angus, Hereford, Red Angus, Shorthorn, and ALL Other Breeds: (Registered with a Breed Association Paper), Crossbred or in an order determined by the Beef Superintendent and Committee. Each breed will be shown in the order of lightest to the heaviest and classes will be divided according to weight. The Beef Committee will determine the number of classes.
8. When one exhibitor owns two market beef animals in a weight class, another Carroll Co. 4-H or FFA member of the same approximate age and experience may show the extra animal.
9. Exhibitors are limited to exhibiting a maximum combination of two (2) market steers, market heifers and dairy steers at the Fair. An exhibitor may not win more than two (2) monies in any one class. Extra market beef and dairy may be tagged, with no limit on the number of market steers, market heifers, or dairy steers to be tagged.
10. The show weight will be the official sale weight. There will be no re-weighs. PLEASE NOTE: The Livestock Sale weight requirement for the Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair is 1200 – 1500 pounds.
11. Exhibitors must always maintain control of his/her animal(s) or animal(s) may be disqualified.
12. **The Grand Champion Market Beef MUST SELL** in the Livestock Sale. Consult Livestock Sale Rules for further information.
13. A Breed Division is defined as Four (4) registered animals of that breed. If there is not a minimum of 4 head entered in any breed division, then the animals will be moved to the (AOB) All Other Breeds Division to be shown.
14. Market Heifer Rules and Regulations
  - a. Market Heifers are only eligible to show at the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair.
  - b. Market Heifers CANNOT show in the breed show, they will be designated as a Market Heifer at Beef Weigh-In.
  - c. Market Heifers will show during the Market Steer Show.
  - d. Market Heifers will show by weight, a champion will be selected and will be eligible to compete for Grand Champion Market Beef.
  - e. Market Heifers must meet the same livestock sale requirements as the market steers.
  - f. Market Heifers must be unbred market heifers to be eligible for show.
  - g. Proof that the heifer is open must be verified by a veterinarian within 30 days of the show and submitted to the Beef Committee at the Fair weigh-in.

15. Market Beef that do not meet the livestock sale requirements will NOT be eligible to exhibit in the Market Show.
16. Market Beef that do not meet the livestock sale requirements will only be eligible for showmanship if it is the exhibitors only beef project.
17. Any market beef not meeting the sale requirements and not being used for showmanship may be asked to leave the grounds after weigh-in due to staling limitations.
18. Premiums – Market Beef Division – 1st - \$15; 2nd - \$14; 3rd - \$13; all below - \$12

#### **Bred and Owned Contest – RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The Bred and Owned contest is for registered animals only. You must have registration papers that show the exhibitor as the breeder and first owner.
2. The Bred and Owned Market Contest will be held during the Market Show.
3. You will only be allowed to take one (1) project (Steer or Heifer) into the ring during the Bred and Owned Contest.
4. The highest placed Bred and Owned animal in each class will compete for the Champion Bred and Owned of that breed immediately after the selection of the breed reserve champion.
5. The Grand Champion Bred and Owned beef animal will be selected from the breed champions immediately following the selection of the Reserve Grand Champion.
6. This class is created to provide an opportunity for 4-H and FFA members carrying a heifer or cow/calf project to compete among themselves.
  - a. The market beef animal must be designated at the weigh-in/tagging.
  - b. The breeding animal must be designated at the time of fair entries.
  - c. The animal and must be born to a cow owned solely by the exhibitor.
  - d. Ownership will be determined by breed registration papers.
  - e. General breeding and market beef animal class rules must be followed. The breeding heifer, steer or market heifer will compete in the regular market division.
7. 2 fair entries should be made for Bred and Owned animals, one in the breeding or market class, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Bred and Owned class.
8. Exhibitors must always maintain control of his/her animal(s) or animal(s) may be disqualified.
9. Premiums – Bred and Owned – 1st - \$15; all below \$12

#### **Rate of Gain – RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Rate of Gain calculations will start at your initial weigh-in at the Beef Identification/Tagging Day and end at the weigh-in at the Carroll Co. 4-H & FFA Fair.
2. To be eligible for the champion rate of gain your animal must meet all sale requirements.

#### **Herdsmanship Award - RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Each exhibitor will be observed during the Carroll Co. 4-H & FFA Fair. The animal display area will be evaluated based on:
  - a. Decorations and attractiveness of exhibit
  - b. Cleanliness and care of exhibit
  - c. Cleanliness of aisle and area adjacent to exhibits
  - d. Condition, fitting and presentation of exhibits in barns and show ring
  - e. Personal contribution to the success of the Fair
  - f. Attitude and spirit of cooperation with other exhibitors and Fair Management
  - g. Promptness in show ring

## **Record Book/Portfolio**

1. Recognition will be given to youth submitting a record book or portfolio and evaluated to be the top record book or portfolio in the Beef Cattle project area. Due dates will be announced in the Tribune.

### **Divisions:**

- 291 Showmanship
- 292 Breeding
- 293 Market Steers and Heifers
- 294 Rate of Gain

### **Classes:**

#### **Section 291- Showmanship**

1. Senior Showmanship (18yrs old)
2. Senior Showmanship (17yrs old)
3. Senior Showmanship (16yrs old)
4. Senior Showmanship (15yrs old)
5. Senior Showmanship (14yrs old)
6. Champion Senior Showmanship
7. Reserve Champion Senior Showmanship
8. Int. Showmanship (13yrs old)
9. Int. Showmanship (12yrs old)
10. Int. Showmanship (11yrs old)
11. Champion Intermediate Showmanship
12. Reserve Champion Intermediate Showmanship
13. Junior Showmanship (10yrs old)
14. Junior Showmanship (9yrs old)
15. Junior Showmanship (8yrs old)
16. Champion Junior Showmanship
17. Reserve Champion Junior Showmanship
18. Grand Champion Showmanship
19. Reserve Grand Champion Showmanship
20. Champion of Champions Showmanship

## Section 292 – Breeding

1. Angus Cow/Calf
2. Angus Male Calf
3. Angus Heifer
4. Angus Champion Heifer
5. Angus Reserve Champion Heifer
6. Angus Champion Bred & Owned Heifer
7. Hereford Cow/Calf
8. Hereford Male Calf
9. Hereford Heifer
10. Hereford Champion Heifer
11. Hereford Reserve Champion Heifer
12. Hereford Champion Bred & Owned Heifer
13. Red Angus Cow/Calf
14. Red Angus Male Calf
15. Red Angus Heifer
16. Red Angus Champion Heifer
17. Red Angus Reserve Champion Heifer
18. Red Angus Champion Bred & Owned Heifer
19. Shorthorn Cow/Calf
20. Shorthorn Male Calf
21. Shorthorn Heifer
22. Shorthorn Champion Heifer
23. Shorthorn Reserve Champion Heifer
24. Shorthorn Champion Bred & Owned Heifer
25. AOB Cow/Calf
26. AOB Male Calf
27. AOB Heifer
28. AOB Champion Heifer
29. AOB Reserve Champion Heifer
30. AOB Champion Bred & Owned Heifer
31. Commercial Cow/Calf
32. Commercial Male Calf
33. Commercial Heifer
34. Commercial Champion Heifer
35. Commercial Reserve Champion Heifer
36. Commercial Champion Bred & Owned Heifer
37. Grand Champion Cow/Calf
38. Grand Champion Heifer
39. Reserve Grand Champion Heifer
40. Grand Champion Bred & Owned Heifer

### **Section 293 - Market Steers & Heifers**

1. Angus
2. Champion Angus
3. Reserve Champion Angus
4. Bred & Owned Angus
5. Hereford
6. Champion Hereford
7. Reserve Champion Hereford
8. Bred & Owned Hereford
9. Red Angus
10. Champion Red Angus
11. Reserve Champion Red Angus
12. Bred & Owned Red Angus
13. Shorthorn
14. Champion Shorthorn
15. Reserve Champion Shorthorn
16. Bred & Owned Shorthorn
17. Market Heifer
18. Champion Market Heifer
19. Reserve Champion Market Heifer
20. AOB
21. Champion AOB
22. Reserve Champion AOB
23. Bred & Owned AOB
24. Crossbred
25. Champion Crossbred
26. Reserve Champion Crossbred
27. Grand Champion
28. Reserve Grand Champion
29. Champion Bred & Owned

### **Section 294 - Rate of Gain**

1. Champion Rate of Gain