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## BEEF CATTLE

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**Judged Saturday, August 1, 2026, 12:00 p.m.**

**Beef Arena**

**Superintendents: Greg Pritchard & Sam Schneider**

4-H member must be the owner of the animals exhibited at the fair. Professional fitters **will not be allowed** to assist in the 4-H Show. 4-H'ers may be assisted with the fitting of the animal by an immediate family member (mother, father, siblings or legal guardian) or by another 4-H member of DeKalb County.

Appropriate attire is expected in the show ring and sale ring. Safety should be the issue for attire. Suggested attire: hard shoes, long pants and a collared shirt. (No shorts, open-toed shoes, or hats.)

All youth showing a beef project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.

Decisions made by the superintendents will be final.

It is recommended that beef animals be haltered, and neck tied while being housed at the fairgrounds for safety reasons.

**4-H'ers leaving the fairgrounds before the completion of the livestock auction will forfeit auction premiums above floor/market price. All youth and animals are expected and required to remain on the fairgrounds until the completion of the auction. Loading of trucks and trailers during the auction is also prohibited and may result in 4-H'ers losing auction premiums.**

### **Illinois Health Requirements for Cattle:**

- Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) means a legible record, made on an official form from the state of origin, containing an accurate description or identification of the animal including age, sex, breed, health status, and vaccination information. The CVI must be signed, dated, and issued by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in that state.
- Submitted CVIs must be as originally issued by the veterinarian; no CVIs with alterations, edits, or changes, will be accepted. The CVI must show that the animal meets all health requirements for the State of Illinois, CVI must show the name and address of the animal's owner or exhibitor.
- CVI must include the animal's Animal Identification Number.
- If one CVI is used for multiple animals, each animal identification must be made on a separate line.
- Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to obtain electronic CVIs whenever possible; IDOA is moving toward only accepting electronic CVIs. Exhibitors shall make CVIs available to Department of Agriculture and County Fair staff on request. If an official electronic CVI is utilized, the exhibitor should be able to log on and show County Fair staff or Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare Personnel the completed CVI.
- If animals are from tuberculosis accredited, brucellosis certified, pseudorabies qualified, or brucellosis validated herds, the identifying herd number(s) along with the date of the last herd test(s) shall appear on the CVI.
- CVIs for out-of-state livestock shall be void thirty (30) days after issuance.
- CVIs for Illinois-origin livestock shall be void ninety (90) days after issuance.

## Identification

**Individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, ("840" tag). The tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.**

## Illinois Cattle:

- Illinois is a Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State and an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. Brucellosis and Tuberculin testing are not required for Illinois cattle.
- Illinois calves under 6 months of age are not required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

## **BEEF EFFICIENCY CONTEST** **Sponsored by: DeKalb-Kane Cattlemen's Association** **LIVE JUDGING - SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026**

**Members must have enrolled in the beef efficiency project and weighed their animals at the Feb. 7 weigh-in.**

1. The youth must keep records. Records should be completed and turned in during beef check-in on Friday at the beef superintendent's table.
2. The Beef Efficiency Contest will be held at the beginning of the regular 4-H Beef Show. You may show your market steer at the county show and the Beef Efficiency Contest.
3. 4-H premiums paid will be using an X factor. Premium values will be:  
Blue: 7X, Red: 6X, and White: 5X
4. Judging of the Beef Efficiency Contest will be as follows:
5. Rate of Gain - This class will be determined by the two-official weigh-in dates. The first being at beef weigh-in and the second at the fairgrounds.
6. Records/Interview - Participants will have an informal interview before the fair. The DeKalb-Kane Cattlemen's Association will select judges.
7. Live Evaluation - Animals will be shown at the fair and evaluated by a judge. The judging will be based upon how animals would perform on the rail if slaughtered.
8. Ultrasound – Animals will be evaluated based on carcass quality as determined in an ultrasound reading at the fair.
9. Cattlemen's Association will provide the following premiums for each class:  
1<sup>st</sup>: \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$10
10. The individual who accumulates the most points from the Beef Efficiency Contest will receive the Overall Beef Efficiency Award.

### **BEEF EFFICIENCY CLASS**

#### **1 Beef Efficiency Class**

### **BEEF BREEDING CLASSES**

1. Entries are limited to one in each class regardless of breed (**maximum 3 entries**).
2. Beef breeding animals cannot be shown in the market beef classes. Purebred and AOB classes will require registration papers in the name of the exhibitor. Commercial breeding classes will handle unregistered animals and those without papers on show day.
3. Ownership deadline: See Livestock Show rules on pages 73-77.
4. Only female beef are eligible to exhibit in the beef breeding classes. 4-H'ers with female dairy bucket calves are eligible to exhibit in the dairy classes.
5. 4-H Premiums paid will be using an X factor. Premium values will be:  
Blue: 7X, Red: 6X, and White: 5X

#### **4-H BEEF BREEDING CLASSES**

Junior Heifer (born after January 1 of current year)

Senior Heifer (born between September 1 and December 31 past year)

Summer Yearling (born between June 1 and August 31, past year)

Spring Yearling (born between April 1 and May 31, past year)

Junior Yearling (born between January 1 and March 31, past year)

Senior Yearling (born between August 1 and December 31, two years past)

Cow (calved before January 1, past year)

Cow and Calf Pair (calved after January 1 current year)

	<b>Angus</b>	<b>Hereford</b>	<b>Shorthorn</b>	<b>AOB</b>	<b>Commercial</b>
<b>Junior Heifer</b>	Class 2	Class 10	Class 18	Class 26	Class 34
<b>Senior Heifer</b>	Class 3	Class 11	Class 19	Class 27	Class 35
<b>Summer Yearling</b>	Class 4	Class 12	Class 20	Class 28	Class 36
<b>Spring Yearling</b>	Class 5	Class 13	Class 21	Class 29	Class 37
<b>Junior Yearling</b>	Class 6	Class 14	Class 22	Class 30	Class 38
<b>Senior Yearling</b>	Class 7	Class 15	Class 23	Class 31	Class 39
<b>Cow</b>	Class 8	Class 16	Class 24	Class 32	Class 40
<b>Cow/Calf</b>	Class 9	Class 17	Class 25	Class 33	Class 41

#### **BEEF BREEDING CHAMPIONS**

Champion Angus Female

Res. Champ Angus Female

Champion Hereford Female

Res. Champ Hereford Female

Champion Shorthorn Female

Res. Champ Shorthorn Female

Champion AOB Female

Reserve Champion AOB Female

Champion Commercial Breeding Female

Res. Champ. Commercial Breeding Female

Grand Champion Beef Female

Res. Grand Champion Beef Female

#### **4-H**

Rosette

Rosette

Rosette

Rosette

Rosette

Rosette

Rosette

Rosette

Rosette

Rosette

Award + Banner

Banner

#### **BEEF AUCTION RULES**

- A. Calves with horns will not be allowed to enter the show or sale.
- B. All calves must be halter broken.
- C. All male calves must be castrated and completely healed prior to their entry on the fairgrounds.
- D. Steers should weigh a minimum of 1100 lbs.
- E. Heifers should weigh a minimum of 1000 lbs.
- F. Animals will be checked-in and weighed between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 1.
- G. For Bucket Calves - Champions in each age division will be eligible to sell calves in the 4-H Auction, providing they meet auction requirements.
- H. J. For overnight purposes, it is recommended that cattle be neck tied and halter tied to the stables.
- I. K. All youth showing a beef project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.
- J. 4-H'ers showing breeding beef only can participate in the auction if they are exhibiting in one of the following classes – 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, 38, & 39. Animals can only be auctioned one time in their 4-H experience.

**BEEF MARKET CLASSES**

1. Only three market animals may be entered regardless of breed or weight.
2. Steer may be purebred, grade or crossbred. Proof of parentage or registration papers are required for entries in classes 42-46. In cases of disagreements over breed eligibility, the superintendents will make the final class designation.
3. Ownership deadline: Beef steers and market heifers must be owned by February 1, present year.
4. Steers and market heifers must be weighed and checked-in between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2026. Classes will be divided into several weight groups; these groups will be determined after all market animals have been weighed. The beef superintendents will determine class breaks.
5. All youth showing a beef project are required to be certified in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals during the current year.
6. 4-H Premiums paid will be using an X factor. Premium values will be:  
Blue: 7X, Red: 6X, and White: 5X

**4-H BEEF MARKET CLASSES**

- 42 MARKET HEIFERS:** Class A, B, C, D, E, F
- 43 ANGUS PUREBRED STEERS:** Class A, B, C, D, E, F
- 44 HEREFORD PUREBRED STEERS:** Class A, B, C, D, E, F
- 45 SHORTHORN PUREBRED STEERS:** Class A, B, C, D, E, F
- 46 ALL OTHER PUREBRED STEERS:** Class A, B, C, D, E, F
- 47 CROSSBRED STEERS:** Class A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I

**BEEF MARKET CHAMPION**

**4-H**

Champion Market Heifer	Rosette
Res. Champ Market Heifer	Rosette
Champion Angus Steer	Rosette
Res. Champ Angus Steer	Rosette
Champion Hereford Steer	Rosette
Reserve Champion Hereford Steer	Rosette
Champion Shorthorn Steer	Rosette
Res. Champ Shorthorn Steer	Rosette
Champion All Other Breeds	Rosette
Res. Champ All Other Breeds	Rosette
Champion Crossbred	Rosette
Reserve Champion Crossbred	Rosette
Grand Champion Market Beef	Award
Res. Grand Champion Market	Rosette

***4-H members are limited to receive one premium per weight class exhibited in premium eligible projects.***

***Example: If a 4 H'er has 3 crossbred steers and two of them end up in the same weight division, the 4-H'er will only receive one premium for that weight class. This rule was established by the Agriculture Premium Fund.***

**RETURNING BUCKET CALF CLASS**

This returning bucket calf class is for those 4-H members that raised and showed a bucket calf at the 2024 4-H Fair and continued to raise this calf into a mature animal for the 2025 4-H Fair. The number of classes will be determined based on the number of calves enrolled in this class. Animals will be judged on their appearances, just like the other market and breed classes.

**48 RETURNING BUCKET CALF CLASS**

**RETURNING BUCKET CALF CHAMPIONS**

Champion  
Reserve Champion

**4-H**

Award  
Rosette

**BEEF SHOWMANSHIP**

1. Showmanship Judging will be based on Appearance of Animals – 40%, Appearance of Exhibitor – 10%, and Showing Animals in Ring – 50%. The showmanship class will take place at the end of the beef show.
2. There will be three divisions – Junior Division (members 11 years and under as of Sept. 1, 2025); Intermediate Division (members 12-14 years as of Sept. 1, 2025); Senior Division (members 15 years and over as of Sept. 1, 2025).
3. Participants will always compete in their age-appropriate division, and there is no limit to the number of times they may win their age division.
4. The winner in the senior division is eligible to compete in the Showmanship Sweepstakes, which will be held on Sunday, August 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the swine arena.
5. Classes are open to all who are interested that are enrolled and exhibiting a beef project.
6. An exhibitor entering showmanship competition is required to show their own animal fitted by themselves.
7. The judge will select an award winner from each age group.

**BEEF SHOWMANSHIP**

Senior Showmanship: 15 years & over  
Reserve Senior Showmanship  
Intermediate Showmanship: 12-14 years  
Reserve Intermediate Showmanship  
Junior Showmanship: 11 years & under  
Reserve Junior Showmanship

**4-H**

Award  
Rosette  
Award  
Rosette  
Award  
Rosette

**BUCKET CALF**

**This show will be held with the breeding beef show on  
Saturday, August 1 at 12:00 p.m.  
In the Beef Arena**

1. Members must be enrolled in the beef project in order to participate.
2. The Bucket Calf Record given out by the DeKalb – Kane Cattlemen’s Association must be completed by the exhibitor.
3. Each exhibitor will comply with the Livestock Show - Special 4-H Rules on pages 73-77.
4. A health certificate is not required; however, calves should be healthy.
5. All male calves must be castrated and completely healed prior to their arrival at the 4-H Fair.
6. Calves will be haltered and tied in the barn.
7. Classes will be judged on the 4-H'ers knowledge of project; no emphasis will be placed on quality or confirmation of calf. Records will also be taken into account for the overall placings.
8. Classes will be divided into classes by age of the exhibitor in bucket calf show, as determined by the Cattlemen’s Association and 4-H.
9. Calves must have been born between Feb. 1 & April 1 of the current project year and be on the property of the exhibitor by May 1, 2026.
10. One calf per exhibitor.
11. Sponsored by the DeKalb-Kane Cattlemen's Association and 4-H.

12. 4-H premiums paid will be using X factor. Premium values will be:  
Blue: 7x, Red: 6x, and White: 5x
13. The DeKalb-Kane Cattlemen’s Association will pay premiums for record placings in each class
14. The top overall winners in the live and record judging will be named champion in each class.
15. Champions in each class will be eligible to sell calves in the 4-H Auction, providing they meet auction requirements.

**4-H BUCKET CALF CLASS**

**49 BUCKET CALF:** Classes will be determined by the age of the participants at the discretion of the members of DeKalb-Kane Cattlemen’s Association and 4-H.

**BUCKET CALF CHAMPIONS**

Based on Age Divisions

**4-H**

Rosettes

**LAND OF DEKALB CLASS**

The DeKalb-Kane Cattlemen’s Association is sponsoring a class for locally bred and raised calves. To be eligible for this class, calves must be locally raised by a member of the DeKalb-Kane Cattlemen’s Association. Calves also must be nominated by the person who raised the animal. Nomination forms are available at the Extension office. These forms must be turned in with a nomination fee of \$25 per animal by a TBD date in July, to be paid by the breeder of the animal. Premiums will be prorated according to the number of participants in each class. The Cattlemen’s Association will supervise this class and will provide the top animal with a banner.

**50 LAND OF DEKALB CLASS**

*The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premiums amounts may not be accurately reflected in this Premium Book.*