

BEEF CATTLE

01 - Junior Beef Cattle Show

Superintendent: Cori Malone (309-533-2697)

Open Class Premiums Offered: \$12,163.00

Land of Lincoln Class Premiums Offered: \$9,403.00

**Premiums will be pro-rated according to participation and pay up to six (6) places.*

INFORMATION

Entries

Required fees include \$15.00/head (entry fee), \$10.00/head (manure), and \$9.50/exhibitor (supply chain surcharge). Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All entries must be submitted online on or before July 15, 2026. Fees will not be refunded.

Deadlines and Check-in

Stalls & Tie-outs Available	Monday, August 10, 8:00 a.m.
Animals must be stalled as follows:	
All Breeding Females	Tuesday, August 11, 12:00 p.m.
All Steers	Wednesday, August 12, 8:00 a.m.

**Note: No equipment, tack, hay, or straw may be on the fairgrounds until 12:00 p.m., Sunday, August 9.*

Animal Processing:

Breeding Females	Tuesday, August 11, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Performance Cow-Calf	Tuesday, August 11, 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Steers	Wednesday, August 12, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Showmanship Check-in	Wednesday, August 12, until 10:00 a.m.

Animals Released	Saturday, August 15 Immediately following Steer Show
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**Special Note – All Junior Beef animals must be removed from the Junior Livestock Building by 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 16. Animals still showing in the Open Beef Show may move to the south end of the Junior Barn or to available stalls in the open barns at the discretion of the Superintendent.*

Show Schedule

Shows will be held in south showing of the 30 Building/Junior Livestock Barn. Start times may vary slightly from the published schedule. Exhibitors should watch and listen to announcements.

Wednesday, August 12

1:00 p.m. – Showmanship (Livestock Center)

Thursday, August 13

7:30 a.m. – Heifer Classes: Red Angus, AOB, Maine Anjou, Mainetainer, Charolais, Hereford, Polled Hereford, Chianina, Limousin, Shorthorn and Shorthorn Plus

Friday, August 14

7:30 a.m. – Performance Cow-Calf Classes

8:00 a.m. – Heifer Classes: Angus, Simmental, and Low % Simmental
Supreme Champion Female Selection (Livestock Center)

Saturday, August 15

8:30 a.m. – Steer Classes: Composite Charolais, Maine Anjou/Mainetainer, Herford, Angus, Shorthorn, Simmental, AOB, Shorthorn Plus, Chianina and Crossbred

6:00 p.m. – Grand Champion Steer Selection (Coliseum)

Wednesday, August 19

4:30 p.m. – Governor's Sale of Champions (Coliseum)

Department Rules

1. Each exhibitor must comply with the Illinois Exhibition Health Requirements; Animal Care, Drug, Testing and Welfare Policies; and General Rules of the Junior Livestock Division.
2. Each Exhibitor must be present to show their own animals unless exempted in advance by the superintendent due to an identified, eligible conflict.
3. Each exhibitor may nominate a total of ten (10) head for the Illinois State Fair Junior Beef Show. Market animals must be born on or after January 1, 2025.
4. Steers must be permanently tattooed, ear tagged, and nominated in the name of the exhibitor by designated personnel on or before February 28, 2026, through the official Illinois 4-H and FFA Market Animal Identification Program. Nomination forms must include the tattoo and tag numbers, the beginning weight and breed or description of the animal.
5. Junior Show exhibitors are reminded they must adhere to the Junior Show check-in and processing requirements to exhibit in the Junior Show. Open Show check-in and processing do not fulfill the Junior Show requirements.
6. Exhibitors will receive an official arm card number for each entry. Land of Lincoln entries will have the arm card stamped. Exhibitors are responsible for double-checking accuracy of class and Land of Lincoln designation and must display the appropriate arm card assigned and provided by the Illinois State Fair for each entry. Purebred animals must be recorded in their respective National Breed Book as evidenced by official registration, or stamped duplicate of official registration, will be accepted.
7. Registration must show ownership of the animals in the name of the exhibitor, or ownership by immediate family members including the exhibitor, for the period required in the 4-H or FFA projects; that is, since January 1, 2026, for performance cow-calf pairs, February 1, 2026, for steers, and June 1, 2026, for breeding females. Animals may not be cared for or maintained at a professional fitter's premise or facilities.
8. Registered Steers must have a fully healed tattoo that matches the tattoo number on the certificate of registration.
9. Exhibitors are responsible for having his/her animals clean, knowing where the tattoo is and knowing it can be read by officials at time of entry processing. All ear tags, except for button EID tags and calfhood vaccination tags, will be removed from heifers and steers at check-in.

10. Steers must be housed/stalled in the Junior Livestock Barn unless they have approval from the superintendent prior to the Junior Show entry deadline.
11. Exhibitors *must* use stalls assigned by the Superintendent. No stalls may be bedded, and no tack will be allowed on the fairgrounds prior to the identified date stalls are available.
12. Tie-out space will be assigned by the Superintendent beginning Monday morning. If bedding is placed in tie-out area prior to the Fair, the exhibitor will be required to remove it and place it in the assigned tie-out space.
13. Only one (1) hanging fan per animal will be permitted in the Junior Livestock Barn. No misters, swamp blasters, air conditioning units, freezers or similar appliances or cooling systems of any kind will be allowed. Generators and electrical fans or equipment of any kind is not allowed in the tie-outs. Any exhibitor's stalls or tie-outs found with any of the above will be immediately disqualified from exhibiting.
14. Generators will be permitted at the Illinois State Fair Junior Beef Show in and around the Junior Barn *only*. Exhibitors utilizing generators must abide by the following regulations:
 - a. Any electrical cords running from generators must be properly grounded with three-point plugs and be suspended above the stall; and
 - b. Counties planning to use generators should contact the Beef Superintendent by August 1st so stalls can be located close to the outside of the Junior Livestock Building.
 - c. Individuals not abiding by the above rules will be excused from the Illinois State Fair Junior Show.
15. The use of "sides" or awnings on tents used for grooming animals is prohibited.
16. The show will be governed by rules and specifications set forth by National Breed Associations, unless otherwise specified. The Superintendent may make decisions concerning interpretation of such rules and regulations along with the General Livestock Superintendent, in consultation with the Competitive Events Office of the Fair. The Competitive Events Office shall have full authority regarding show eligibility.
17. Substitute animals will be accepted for breeding heifers. Only steers listed on original nomination forms may show in the steer show.
18. The following grooming rules will be strictly enforced, and exhibitors found in violation of these rules, either prior to entering the ring or while in the ring, will be immediately removed from the show.
 - d. Dying or artificially changing the color of an animal is prohibited. Coloring agents may only be used up to the hock (knee). Powders are not allowed on any part of the animal. Animals will be given a white towel test as they enter the showing.
 - e. Cattle are to be shown in their natural conformation. The use of false tail heads is prohibited, as is the addition of hair, hemp, or any similar substance to any part of an animal.
 - f. Tail ties are prohibited, as are spiked show halter leads and nose rings for breeding stock or steers.
 - g. Excess adhesive on the legs beyond what is needed to groom the animal's hair is prohibited.
 - h. No aerosols will be permitted in the make-up area. Any aerosol cans in the make-up area will be confiscated by Department Staff.
19. Any animal displaying repeated unruly behavior will be dismissed from the class at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Specific Rules for Steers

20. Steers may be purebred or crossbred. However, all steers properly registered with a breed association will be eligible for Land of Lincoln awards provided the animal meets all Land of Lincoln eligibility requirements.
21. Each exhibitor may exhibit a total of six (6) steers; up to four (4) steers in the regular on-foot show and up to two (2) steers in the Premier Carcass Show. Steers in the regular on-foot show may be of different breeds and none of these four (4) steers are required to be entered in the Premier Show. Exhibitors may enter an additional two (2) head in the Premier Carcass Class. In no case is an exhibitor allowed to show more than a total of six (6) steers.

22. All steers must have been weighed at the time of nomination to establish a beginning weight.
23. Steers must weigh 900 pounds or more to be eligible to show, but there is no minimum average daily gain (ADG) required to show. All steers will have ADG calculated and printed on arm cards for judging purposes.
24. Steers will be shown by weight classes within each breed. Animals will be placed into weight divisions and classes based upon declared weights made at check-in. All class breaks will be at the discretion of the Superintendent. Exhibitors must check posted class assignments and be at the showing with his/her animal when the assigned class is called.
25. Practice scales will be available in the barns for use by exhibitors. At the conclusion of judging for each weight class, the top two (2) placing animals will be re-weighed for weight verification. Any animal that varies more than 5% from the declared weight will be disqualified.
26. Steers will have tattoos checked against the steer nomination form during processing. Exhibitors should bring a copy of the steer nomination form, a fully completed and legibly written entry/check-in card, and, if applicable, Land of Lincoln certificate or registration certificate with them at the time of processing.
27. Each steer will be ear tagged. The ear tag is the official exhibitor number. Land of Lincoln eligible steers will be tagged in the right ear. Non-Land of Lincoln Junior Show entries will be tagged in the left ear.
28. Steers will be identified and tagged during entry processing.
29. Any steer properly nominated on the Premier Carcass Nomination Form is eligible for entry into the Premier Carcass Class.
30. Additional eligibility requirements to show in the various breed steer shows are listed under specific breed rules.
31. Breeds will be shown in the order posted by the Superintendent. Watch and listen to announcements.
32. In the Land of Lincoln Junior Beef Show, the Champions and Reserve Champions of Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford and Shorthorn may have DNA collected to verify breed characteristics should the Land of Lincoln Purebred Breeders Association Board of Directors so desire. Any breeder and/or exhibitor found to be in violation will not be awarded premiums and/or awards.

Specific Rules for Breeding Females

33. All Beef Females must be recorded with a recognized National Breed Association and be in compliance with breed specific show requirements.
34. Breeding Female classes will be determined at the end of heifer processing utilizing the futurity system of entry and class division.
35. Animals from breeds other than those currently identified in the show and, therefore, eligible to participate in All Other Registered Breed (AOB) classes, must provide registration paper or registration certificate from the respective National Breed Association. Pedigree requirements and/or registration requirements for some of these breeds are as follows:
 - i. Red Poll, 15/16
 - j. Simbrah, recorded.
 - k. Gelbvieh, recorded.
 - l. Less than ½ Simmental, recorded registration certificate
 - m. South Devon, Land of Lincoln Certificates for Land of Lincoln Premiums
36. Only the Champion AOB Heifer will show for Supreme Champion Heifer.
37. Age requirements for the heifer classes extend from Sept. 1, 2024, to Mar. 31, 2026. All Sr. Females must be confirmed safe in-calf with documentation from veterinarian.
38. Breeds will show in the order posted by the Superintendent. Classes within each breed will show from youngest to oldest.

39. Substitution animals will be accepted at the time of entry processing provided the animal meets all rules and regulations. Once the entry is processed, no changes will be allowed.

Specific Rules for Performance Cow-Calf

40. Cows must have been owned and cared for by the junior exhibitor since January 1, 2026. Registration papers must indicate effective date of ownership.
41. There will be a Special Award presented to the Grand Champion Young Cow and Grand Champion Aged Cow. Also, the Reserve Champion of each division will be selected and awarded a rosette. The awards are administered and presented by the Cow-Calf Committee of the Illinois Beef Association and the Fred J. and Bev Killam Family.
42. Exhibitors and cows can win the award only once in a lifetime for each Young Cow and Aged Cow Division. Exhibitors and cows can win two (2) awards as long as the awards are presented in the Young Cow and Aged Cow Divisions. Exhibitors and cows cannot win the award in the same division. However, previous winners can compete for premiums regardless of previous award winnings.
43. Eligible females must be born before September 1, 2024.
44. All Beef Females must be recorded with a National Breed Association. This division will be governed by rules and specifications set forth by the National Breed Associations, unless otherwise specified. Eligibility requirements to show in the various breed and All Other Registered Breeds (AOB) Heifer Show are listed under Specific Breed Rules.
45. Previous Performance Cow-Calf exhibitors are required to have performance data/EPD's to qualify for showing. First-time exhibitors may show without performance data/EPD's but are eligible only for Without Performance Data premiums and may not compete for Grand Champion Cow.
46. Performance documents must be provided for Performance Cow-Calf pairs at the time of check-in. Performance Qualification Requirements:
- n. Two (2) Year Old Cows - Individual EPD's for birth, weaning and yearling weights along with maternal milk as verified by breed association documents.
 - o. Three (3) Year Old Cows and Aged Cows - Past progeny, EPD's for birth, weaning, yearling and maternal milk. Also, cow EPD's for birth weaning, yearling and maternal milk. The progeny and individual information must be verified by breed association documents.
47. A maximum of two (2) entries may be shown. Substitutions can be made in the Performance Cow Division.
48. Performance Cow-Calf classes will be determined at the end of processing utilizing the futurity system of entry and age division. The Grand Champion Cow-Calf entry is not eligible for Supreme Champion Heifer competition.
49. Cows must show with their most recent natural calf at side. Cows whose most recent calf is a weaned bull are not eligible to show in Performance Cow-Calf competition.
50. Calves must be born on or after the starting day of the previous Illinois State Fair to the day before the starting day of the current Illinois State Fair.
51. Heifer calves born from January 1 to March 31 of current year are also eligible to show in their breeds (or AOB) show. Registration papers are required on these heifer calves to show in the individual class. Registration papers are not needed on the 2025 born calves to show only as part of the cow-calf pair.
52. Entries should be washed, clipped and brushed down. Neither cow nor calf should be groomed, no tail balling, no glue on legs, etc.

Specific Rules for Showmanship

53. Each exhibitor is required to pre-enter Showmanship classes online by the published Junior Department entry deadline and must check in during the assigned times.
54. Exhibitors must show their own animal in the showmanship competition and animals shown must be entered in the current Illinois State Fair Junior Beef Show.
55. Showmanship participants must meet requirements outlined in the Specific Rules for Steers and Heifers.
56. Showmanship age will be the exhibitors age as of August 13, 2026.
57. There will be five (5) age divisions: Novice, ages 8-9; Intermediate, ages 10-11; Advanced, ages 12-14; Junior, ages 15-17; and Senior, ages 18-21. Each division will be divided into heats/classes. At the conclusion of each heat/class, the judge will select individuals to return to compete for Division Champion with the division championship held at the conclusion of the last heat/class in each division.
58. Showmanship Divisions will be shown from youngest to oldest. Heats/classes will be determined at the sole discretion of the Superintendent and will be posted at the Livestock Center and the General Livestock Office prior to the competition scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, at the Livestock Center. Preregistration is required and will be completed online when exhibitors pre-enter their cattle.
59. The top five (5) individuals will be recognized in each division except for the Senior Division, in which the top ten (10) individuals will be recognized. Additionally, the Division Champions will receive an award from the Illinois State Fair.
60. Showmen in all Divisions will lead a clean, un-groomed, dry and clipped animal when entering the showing. There should be no tail balling, glue on legs, etc. Judging will be based on:
 - p. Showing of the animal.
 - q. Knowledge of the project; and
 - r. Personal appearance.

Specific Breed Rules

Angus

61. Eligibility requirement to show is Purebred with an American Angus Association registration certificate. Angus registration paper will indicate effective date of ownership. Land of Lincoln certificates are not needed and will not qualify a steer to show with the Angus.
62. Steers must be free of horns or scurs. Scurs are defined as any portion of horny tissue attached to the skin of hornset of a polled animal.
63. Steers with white skin above the underline or on leg, foot or tail shall not be eligible for registration and will be barred from competition.
64. All entries are subject to DNA marker or blood typing for parentage verification at the discretion of American Angus Association.
65. For an exhibitor to be eligible for premium monies contributed by the American Angus Association, exhibitors are subject to the Association Rules as found in the breeder Reference Guide of the Association. These rules are found in Part 2: Association Rules. The rules relating directly to the exhibition of Angus Cattle are Part 2: Association Rules; Rule 800 Series; including Rule 800-810. The rules can be found at www.angus.org.

Red Angus

66. All heifers must be Category 1A or 1B registration with the Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) to be eligible to show in the purebred show. This must be printed on the original registration paper as issued from the RAAA. Animals must be solid red in color and must be polled, with no disqualifying characteristics per Section C4, Disqualifications from Category 1A and 1B found on www.redangus.org.)

Hereford and Polled Hereford

67. All steers showing at the Illinois State Fair must be registered by the American Hereford Association (AHA) and out of a registered sire and dam. No steer certificates will be accepted, only registration papers. Hereford registration papers will indicate effective date of ownership.
68. All steers must have a basic DNA test on file at the AHA. Exhibitors should contact the AHA customer service department by calling 816-842-3757 or by email at records@hereford.org to request a DNA kit for their steer. Exhibitor must be a member of the AHA or NJHA to request a basic DNA test which includes genetic profile, genetic abnormalities, and parent verification, if parent DNA is on file. At the time of check-in, exhibitors will be required to present a registration paper and letter from the AHA stating their steer's basic test DNA profile is on file. Further, all Hereford steers entered for exhibition are subject to additional DNA testing at the discretion of the Illinois Hereford Association.
69. All animals exhibited are subject to DNA profile test to verify breed purity and accuracy of the recorded parentage. Rules detailing DNA profiling of Hereford animals can be found in the AHA Rules and Regulations Handbook at www.hereford.org.

Shorthorn and Shorthorn Plus

70. Eligibility requirement to show Shorthorn is 15/16 and higher and Shorthorn Plus 50% to 7/8, as verified by an American Shorthorn Association (ASA) registration certificate. An ASA registration certificate will indicate effective date of ownership.

Simmental

71. Eligibility requirement for steers to show is 1/2 or higher as verified by a Simmental registration certificate. Commercial percent shall not be included as part of Simmental classification percentage. Simmental registration certificate will indicate effective date of ownership.
72. Eligibility requirement for heifers is 7/8 SM or higher and a registration certificate.

Low Percent Simmental

73. Eligibility requirements for heifers to show are 1/2 SM to less than 7/8 SM and a recorded registration certificate.

Limousin

74. All heifers must be 75% (NALF Percentage, not actual), or greater, as indicated on orange NALF registration certificate or purple-papered Lim-Flex Cattle as indicated by NALF registration certificate. Percentage, full-blood, Purebred and Lim-Flex shall compete in the same classes and championships.

Special Awards

Grand Champion Steer: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the exhibitors of the Grand Champion Steer and the Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Steer. Additionally, the Grand Champion Junior Show Steer and the Grand Champion Land of Lincoln Junior Show Steer will sell at the Governor's Sale of Champions.

Champion Beef Showman: An award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the winners of each of the five (5) Showmanship Divisions of the Junior Show.

Clean Stall Awards: Upon decision of the Beef Superintendent, an award will be given by the Illinois State Fair to the County with the neatest beef exhibit of the Junior Show. The top five (5) counties will be provided the opportunity to process entries in the first thirty (30) minutes of entry processing at next year's State Fair. Based upon the condition of all animals and stalls in the county exhibit with a minimum of three (3) exhibitors and six (6) beef animals, Beef Department personnel will rank the top five counties. Exhibitors from winning counties have the privilege of being first in line for entry processing in 2027. As winners of the 2025 Junior Beef Show Clean Stall Awards, exhibitors from the following counties will be offered the opportunity to come to the front of the entry processing line: **Knox County, Henry County, Stark County, Montgomery County, and Livingston County.**

CLASSES

Division 0101 – Breeding Females (Heifers)

Breed	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered *
Angus	A	*
Charolais	B	*
Chianina	C	*
Hereford	D	*
Limousin	E	*
Low Percent Simmental	F	N/A
Maine Anjou	G	*
Mainetainer	H	N/A
Polled Hereford	I	*
Red Angus	J	*
Shorthorn	K	*
Shorthorn Plus	L	N/A
Simmental	M	*
All Other Registered Breeds (AOB)	N	*

Champion and Reserve Champion Heifer will be named in each breed. Supreme Champion Female, Supreme Reserve Champion Female, and 3rd-5th Overall Female will be selected from breed champions. A Grand Champion Bred & Owned Female will also be selected.

Division 0102 – Steers

Breed	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered *
Angus	A	*
Charolais Composite	B	N/A
Chianina	C	*
Hereford/Polled Hereford	D	*
Maine Anjou/Mainetainer	E	*
Shorthorn	F	*
Shorthorn Plus	G	N/A
Simmental	H	*
All Other Registered Breeds (AOB)	I	*
Crossbred	J	N/A

Champion and Reserve Champion Steer will be named in each breed. Grand Champion Steer, Reserve Grand Champion Steer, and 3rd-5th Overall Steer will be selected from breed champions.

** Special Note: To be eligible for Land of Lincoln premiums, Simmental steers must be a minimum of 7/8 purebred as verified by a Simmental registration certificate. Although shown together, Maine Anjou steers are eligible for Land of Lincoln premiums, but Mainetainer steers are not.*

The Fred J. and Bev Killam Memorial Performance Cow-Calf Show is in Memory of Fred J. Killam of Jacksonville, Illinois. He was instrumental in starting the Cow-Calf Show at the Illinois State Fair.

Division 0103 – Performance Cow/Calf 2–3-Year-Old Cows

Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered *
Born September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025		
With Performance Data	A	*
Without Performance Data	B	*

Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Cow/Calf Pair will be named for 2–3-Year-Old Cows.

Division 0104 – Performance Cow/Calf Aged Cows

Class Description	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered *
Aged Cows Born before September 1, 2023		
With Performance Data	A	*
Without Performance Data	B	*

Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Cow/Calf Pair will be named for Aged Cows.

Division 0105 – Showmanship

Classes	Open Class
Novice (ages 8-9)	A
Intermediate (ages 10-11)	B
Advanced (ages 12-14)	C
Junior (ages 15-17)	D
Senior (ages 18-21)	E

Champion and Reserve Champion Showman will be named in each age class. The top five (5) individuals will be recognized in each division except for the Senior Division, in which the top ten (10) individuals will be recognized.

* Showmanship classes will be held beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12 at the Livestock Center and will be shown as follows:

Ring 1 _____	Ring 2 _____
Novice Division	Junior Division
Advanced Division	Intermediate Division
Senior Division Odd Class Numbers	Senior Division Even Class Numbers

Division 0106 – Premier Carcass

	Open Class	Land of Lincoln Offered *
Steer Carcass Not Showing On-Foot	A	*

There will be no On-Foot Steer Premier Carcass class. Entry into Division 0106 is for carcass evaluation only. Steers entered into Steer Premier Carcass must be delivered to Reel's Livestock Center, Congerville, Illinois between 10:00 am and 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16. This class does not require a manure fee. See Carcass Premium Book Section for complete rules.