

2023 Freestone County Youth Commercial Heifer Contest & Sale

Chairman: Todd Craig

Co-Chairman: JP Clopton

Purpose:

The Pen of 2 Commercial Heifer Contest is intended to give the student a realistic approach to raising beef cattle and greatly expand their knowledge of the beef cattle industry. The contest will consist of 4 components: Pen of 2 heifers, Interview, Exam and Record book.

Getting Started:

- Purchase 2-5 matched beef cattle type heifers between the ages of 6-18 months of age. *There will be an Award for Highest In-County Pen, for Heifers purchased/raised in Freestone County. Verification of origin must be recorded on purchase receipts.*
- Must send a letter of intent to your advisor by **June 23, 2023**
 - Included in your letter must be the number of validation tags needed. A maximum of 5 tags is allowed per student.
- Pick up tags at the extension office and tag your heifers before August 1, 2023.
- Validation Pictures of each heifer tagged will be emailed to your advisor by **August 1, 2023.** *These pictures should also be kept in your record book.*
- Entry fee is \$50 and entry is due online by **August 1, 2023.**

Important Dates:

June 23	Letter of intent Due
August 1	Entry deadline and Validation Tag Pictures due
November 10	Pen of 2 Cattle Check-In, Record book due
November 11	Interview, Exam, Cattle judging, cattle viewing, Dinner and Sale

Component Percentages:

All cattle eligible for show will sell. Sale order will be set by total points earned.

- Cattle 40%**
- Exam 25%**
- Interview 25%**
- Record Book 10%**

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Rules:

1. You will **check in** a pen of 2 heifers of a beef type breed but may **validate** up to 5 per student.
2. Heifers must be no older than **24 months old at time of show**. (*vet verified proof of age required in record book*)
3. Heifers must be vaccinated with Bangs, Lepto, Vibrio, IBR, 7 Way Black Leg. (*verification of vaccinations required in record book*)
4. Each heifer must be polled or de-horned. There will be no clipping, adhesives, oils, colorings, powders, glitter or paint allowed on the heifers. Water only.
5. Heifers must be vet verified as “open” not before October 11, 2023 and not after November 10, 2023. (*verification is required in the record book.*)
6. Any student that is a permanent resident of Freestone County OR attends a Freestone County School AND is a member of Freestone County 4-H or FFA Chapter is eligible to show in the Freestone County Youth Commercial Heifer Contest.
7. All students will need to be eligible to participate per UIL rules.

Cattle:

- a. Characteristics that the cattle will be judged on will include, but not necessarily limited to: how well the pair are matched; overall quality; structural correctness; maternal characteristics; marketability; and performance.

Exam:

- a. A study packet of materials will be provided to exhibitors at validation tag pick-up by electronic link to print or at request, a printed copy will be made available.
- b. Exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions based over the study packet of materials.

Interview:

- a. Interview will consist of management questions about the heifers and general record book questions.

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b. Characteristics that the interviews will be judged on will include, but not necessarily limited to: general knowledge; knowledge of the record book; justification of management decisions; presentation.

Record Book:

a. All record books should be submitted in a three ring binder, with each page put in a sheet protector sleeve. A suggested template for the record book will be provided to the exhibitors when picking up tags.

b. Record books **should** include but not limited to the following bulleted items:

- purchase invoice (*in the case of gift cattle a current market value must be used in the record book calculations*)
- monthly detailed expense reports (August– November);
- vet records (vaccination, age, open)
- medication records
- essay-max 2 page
- project summary including totals; included but not limited to input costs and break even costs
- Pictures-(max 10 pics)
- Any other data or materials that you feel are pertinent to the project

c. Pictures-should include a maximum of 10 pictures documenting the heifers throughout the management period. Required pictures include initial tagged heifers, clear image of tag and head.

d. Project Essay-. Maximum of two pages (double spaced, 12pt font) to explain why you chose to participate in this contest, your goals for this year, what you learned throughout your experience and lessons you learned to help you in the future.

e. **Record book final date is November 3, 2023. Please complete your record book accounting for only the 2 heifers you plan to exhibit in the contest.**