

TCFA Junior Fed Beef Challenge



2012
Official
Rule Book

TCFA JUNIOR FED BEEF CHALLENGE

Objective: *To encourage young people to gain practical experience in feeding commercial beef cattle. This program will stress the importance of proper animal husbandry and financial management.*

RULE 1: Young people who are regularly enrolled in public or private elementary or secondary schools or who are being home schooled in Texas, Oklahoma or New Mexico, including high school seniors, are eligible to compete in this contest. Contestants must be certified by a County Extension Agent (CEA), Agriculture Science Teacher (AST) or non-relation feedyard manager.

RULE 2: Contestants will be split into two divisions: **Senior and Junior**. All ninth graders and above at time steers are validated will be in the Senior Division and all eighth graders and below will be in the Junior Division. Minimum age to participate is nine years by the date cattle are validated. Second year contestants in eighth grade and below may elect to enroll in the Senior Division. However, if they choose to be in the Senior Division, they cannot move back to the Junior Division for the remainder of their eligibility.

RULE 3: Only steers are eligible to be entered in this competition. **Due to processing restrictions we are unable to accept cattle of Mexican or Canadian Origin.** Contestants must own and validate their steers prior to April 1. **Steers must be fed and cared for as a separate pen from the date of validation. A contest pen of steers cannot be comingled with other cattle.**

RULE 4: Contestants can only enter one pen of steers or a partnership pen in this competition. A partnership pen will be a maximum of three people partnering on a pen of three steers. Four steers may be validated with only three to be selected for the carcass contest.

RULE 5: The contestant or partnership will decide which cattle are to be entered in the contest. Replacement steers will not be accepted after validation with disqualification resulting from violation of this rule. If a steer dies, please contact the TCFA office within 72 hours. Records will be required on each steer validated. Steers may be validated any time between March 1 and April 1. The last acceptable validation date is April 1. Official entries must be submitted with validation data and a \$35.00 per person entry fee by April 15.

RULE 6: Validation consists of all steers being identified by placing a TCFA ear tag in the **RIGHT** ear and photographed (head and tag showing and readable). All steers must be weighed at time of validation and a signed scale ticket must be provided. This weight will be the official on-feed weight for records. All validation information must be signed by the CEA, AST or non-relation feedyard manager.

RULE 7: Entry weights must be on certified livestock scales. The scale ticket must be signed by the weighmaster. Cattle must either be weighed individually or as a group, but not both ways. Individual scale tickets must be supplied if you enter individual weights in the record book.

RULE 8: Steers must be weighed individually or as a group for the closeout weight between Tuesday, July 17 and Friday, July 20. Steers weighed at harvest should have a hot carcass weight of 551 lbs. to 999 lbs., to satisfy grid requirements and avoid discounts. Heavy steers may still be used as contest steers and will be given steer points based on carcass merit.

RULE 9: Steers must be polled, dehorned or horn tipped as per standard feedyard practices.

RULE 10: Contestants must have a completed drug certificate ensuring their steers were fed and managed in accordance with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations regarding animal health products. The drug certificate should be presented when unloading steers at delivery.

RULE 11: Contestants must complete the BSQA Beef Processing Plan and submit this sheet with their record book.

RULE 12: Notify TCFA immediately if any validated steer loses a contest ear tag. All steers unloaded at Amarillo Livestock Auction must have the official ear tag in place.

RULE 13: Maximum number of pen entries will be determined by TCFA officials.

RULE 14: Contestants must complete all phases of contest in order to receive scholarships, prizes and premium monies.

RULE 15: Steers will be sold to the packer on a grade and yield basis.

RULE 16: Decisions made by the TCFA Junior Fed Beef Challenge Rules Committee will be final.

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 1: Earliest date steers can be validated.

APRIL 1: Last date steers can be purchased and validated.

APRIL 16: Entry form, validation information and entry fee must be received by TCFA.

JULY 17-20: Final steer closeout weights.

JULY 20: Steers delivered at the Amarillo Livestock Auction for check in by noon.

JULY 23: Record books due in TCFA office by 5:00 p.m.

JULY 28: Contest Day at West Texas A&M University.

Junior/Senior participants check in from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.—contest begins at 9:00 a.m.

Winners to be announced that afternoon, following the contest.

ENTRY FORMS

Entry forms can be obtained from TCFA by calling (806) 358-3681 or by emailing kaci@tcfa.org.

Entry forms are also available for printing on the TCFA web site at www.tcfa.org/jfbc/index.html.

The TCFA Junior Fed Beef Challenge is conducted by the TCFA Allied Industries Committee. All contest decisions made by the committee are final.



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