



2025 Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program

The Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program is designed for youth who have demonstrated a desire to pursue a career related to the fed beef industry. This tour is designed to educate participants on feedyard operations and career opportunities in the fed beef industry. Students will participate in operation problem solving and leadership activities. Applicants must be incoming high school juniors or seniors for the 2025-2026 school year and be at least 16 years old at time of program.

Objectives

1. Introduce all aspects of the fed beef industry with an emphasis on feedyard operations and confined cattle feeding;
2. Build cognitive thinking skills through problem solving and leadership activities;
3. Allow participants the opportunity to interact with leading industry representatives; and
4. Option for participants to return to their local communities and participate in a job shadow program with a local feedyard and share new knowledge through local, county and/or regional programs.

Criteria for Acceptance



4-H or FFA membership is NOT required.



Applicants should be incoming juniors and seniors in high school and 16 to 18 years of age at the time of the program.



Applicants should have an interest in exploring career opportunities in the cattle feeding or beef industries.



Selected participants will be required to document that they will be able to participate the entire tour time. There will be no exceptions. Also, participants will be encouraged to give presentations to local residents, civic groups, potential beef consumers and classmates on the economic importance and career opportunities in the fed beef industry.



Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a job shadow with a feedyard operation close to their hometown following the conclusion of the program. This will give the participant additional real-world experience in daily feedyard operations.



Applicants must demonstrate ability to actively participate in educational seminars, work in teams to reach outlined objectives, display self-motivation to implement and carry out educational programs, and complete assignments.



Applicants must be willing to conduct themselves in a professional manner and abide by the code of conduct of the program. Applicants must be willing to accept the consequences of misbehavior.



Applicants will be reviewed for the following qualities:

Leadership Integrity

Communication Skills

Extra-Curricular Activities

Potential for Growth

Commitment to Participate

Ability to Self-Motivate

Participants





The selection committee shall select 20 participants from the qualified applicants; however, the selection committee reserves the right to determine the number of students selected. Participants will be selected without regard to gender, race, disability, religion or ethnic origin. Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will be evaluated on the information obtained from the application form and references.

Important Dates

January 2025	Program information distributed to FFA instructors, 4-H agents and leaders, and feedyard management; applications made available
April 30, 2025	Applications due via mail at Texas Cattle Feeders Association, 5501 I-40 West, Amarillo, TX 79106 or email membership@tcfa.org
May 15, 2025	Students will be notified
May 28, 2025	Registration fee due (\$125)
June 24 – June 27, 2025	Program Dates

Expectations

The program participants will be expected to actively participate in all required dates and activities with:

-  An open and inquiring mind;
-  A willingness to learn;
-  A respect for opinions of those not in agreement with their own; and
-  A commitment to communicate their activities and experiences.

Attendance Requirements

The participant will be required to attend the entire program. The only exceptions will be for a family emergency, illness, natural disaster or legal requirements. If you know you have another obligation during the proposed dates, please do not apply.

Expenses

Financial Obligation

The registration fee for this program is \$125 per student. This program is sponsored by Texas Cattle Feeders Association and its members, Allied Industry Sponsors, Texas AgriLife Extension and West Texas A&M University.

Incidentals

All incidental expenses (snacks, souvenirs, etc.) incurred by the participants will be paid by the participants.

Meals

All meals will be provided throughout the program, thanks to our sponsoring feedyards and Allied Industry sponsor companies. Participants will only be financially responsible for snacks and additional food they may desire.

Transportation

Participants will be responsible for providing transportation to/from Amarillo/Canyon, TX. We can provide transportation to and from the airport if you choose to fly.

Dress Code

As with any distinguished program, participants should always present themselves in a professional manner. There will be relaxation time; however, there will be no T-shirts that market, advertise or insinuate anything that would be deemed inappropriate (if you have to ask, then it is probably not acceptable). For activities at the WT Rec Center, casual gear and appropriate swim wear is acceptable. Most appropriate wear will be nice casual. This is defined as young men wearing nice, pressed jeans with no holes, with a collared shirt. Young ladies required casual wear is defined as pressed jeans with no holes, with a blouse that is long enough to be tucked in. Also, for safety reasons, boots or closed toe shoes will be required for all program activities. More direct information on the proper dress code will be defined once the itinerary is finalized.

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Code of Conduct

1. I am expected to attend all sessions that are part of the planned program for all activities. I will inform staff if I am not feeling well or have a personal issue arise.
2. I will dress appropriately to the occasion and adhere to any attire requirements stipulated for the program. I am expected to be courteous and clean and have good manners.
3. I will use controlled, appropriate, and professional language. I will not use language that is socially offensive.
4. Except for planned tours and outings, I will not leave an activity or facility at any time without permission of the chaperone and/or staff responsible for the event.
5. I will not smoke or use tobacco products during this program.
6. I will not use alcohol or drugs (except those directed by a doctor) or be associated with or remain in the presence of others when they are being used.
7. I will not carry a weapon or threaten another person with a weapon, bodily force, or language.
8. I will respect the rights of privacy of those attending an activity and those with whom I may be rooming.
9. I will observe the hours established by the staff and be in my room. No boys in girls' rooms, no girls in boys' rooms.
10. I will avoid unnecessary roughness to room furnishings, furniture, equipment, etc. Occupants of a room or conveyance are financially responsible for any damage or results of misconduct.



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Application Agreement

The Application Agreement refers to pages 6-10 which outlines:

Participation Requirements, Expectations and Responsibility of Selected Tour Participants

I have read, understand and agree to abide by these requirements. Furthermore, I agree that this is a commitment I will not break, since I have been given an opportunity that could have gone to another deserving participant.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent / Guardian's Signature

Date

Student Leader's Signature
(CEA, AST, 4-H Leader, Non Related Feedyard Mgr.)

Date

**Application to Participate
2025 Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program**

Deadline for Application is April 30, 2025

Complete the application in type or print clearly with ink. Use only the space provided.

Personal Information

Name: Last: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____

Name preferred on name tag: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Age (as of June 24, 2025): _____ School Classification (fall of 2025): Junior Senior

Home address: _____ City: _____ State ____ Zip Code: _____

Mailing address: _____ City: _____ State ____ Zip Code: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Student's Email: _____

Student's Shirt Size (adult): _____ **(indicate men's or women's size)**

Hometown Newspaper: _____ Newspaper Email: _____

Preferred Feedyard for Job Shadow (if known): _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____ Parent's Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Will Student be driving themselves to Canyon for the program: _____ Yes _____ No

Students who drive to Canyon will be asked to turn in their keys upon arrival and check in at the dorm. Students will be asked not to leave campus on their own until the conclusion of the program.

Are you enrolled or have you taken any career & technology or vocational training classes?

Please provide at least two recommendation forms from either a personal or professional reference such as a County Extension Agent, Agricultural Science Teacher, 4-H Club Leader, feedyard manager or similar source. Recommendation forms are included with this application and should be mailed directly from the reference to the application address below.

Please list individuals who will be returning recommendations on your behalf:

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Experiences

1. **Career and Job Interests:** *What are your future career interests? What jobs would you consider after school? Use only the space provided, and do not include additional pages.*

2. **Extra-Curricular Activities:** *List all activities in which you have been involved including school, sports, church, work, etc. Use only the space provided, and do not include additional pages.*

3. Leadership Experiences: *Explain how you have taught others through your leadership. Use only the space provided, and do not include additional pages.*

4. Community Service: *What have you done to help others? Use only the space provided, and do not include additional pages.*

5. Other Activities and Awards: *List any other activities you would like the selection committee to know about and awards you have received. Use only the space provided, and do not include additional pages.*

Please read before signing:

I certify that all the statements made in this application are true, complete and correct.

I understand that the number of applicants may be greater than the number of positions. I give permission for this application, including all attachments, to be shared and/or copied for selection purposes. I understand that the final selection of participants is the sole responsibility of Texas Cattle Feeders Association and the appointed selection committee.

If selected, I give permission for photos of my child to be taken and used in promotional materials including but not limited to the TCFA, WT or Extension website, bulletin boards, brochures, videos and slide shows.

If selected, I will attend the entire program.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent / Guardian's Signature

Date

Student Leader's Signature

Date

(CEA, AST, 4-H Leader, Non Related Feedyard Mgr.)

Deadline: Application and requested materials must be received NO LATER than April 30, 2025.

Your application cannot be considered until all requested information and attachments have been received.

Please mail or email application and recommendations to:

**Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Brady Miller
5501 I-40 West
Amarillo, TX 79106**

**membership@tcfa.org
(806) 358-3681**

All applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision by May 15, 2025.

Recommendation - 2025 Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program

Name of applicant: _____

TO THE RECOMMENDER: The individual forwarding this recommendation form is applying to the 2025 Junior Fed Beef Career & Leadership Program. Your recommendation is helpful in our selection process in assessing the applicant's qualifications.

This is a ___ Personal ___ Professional ___ Personal & Professional Recommendation

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity do you know the applicant? _____

Please respond to the following:

	Exceptional	Very Good	Average	N/A
Potential to provide leadership	_____	_____	_____	_____
Communication skills, oral / written	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maturity level	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to relate to and work with others	_____	_____	_____	_____
Work Ethic	_____	_____	_____	_____
Goal Oriented	_____	_____	_____	_____
Career Minded	_____	_____	_____	_____
Self-confidence	_____	_____	_____	_____
Overall assessment of interest in the beef industry	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please provide additional information on the reverse side if necessary.

Signature of Recommender: _____ Date: _____

Recommender Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Please return by April 30, 2025 to:

**Texas Cattle Feeders Association
 Brady Miller
 5501 I-40 West
 Amarillo, TX 79106**

**membership@tcfa.org
 (806) 358-3681**

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Maturity level	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to relate to and work with others	_____	_____	_____	_____
Work Ethic	_____	_____	_____	_____
Goal Oriented	_____	_____	_____	_____
Career Minded	_____	_____	_____	_____
Self-confidence	_____	_____	_____	_____
Overall assessment of interest in the beef industry	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please provide additional information on the reverse side if necessary.

Signature of Recommender: _____ Date: _____

Recommender Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Please return by April 30, 2025 to:

**Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Brady Miller
5501 I-40 West
Amarillo, TX 79106**

**membership@tcfa.org
(806) 358-3681**