

2026 OCA BEST Ohio Beef Expo Junior Show

**** No cattle permitted on the grounds before 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2026 ****

****REMINDER FOR 2026****

ALL Ohio Beef Expo stalling will be done online.
ALL Ohio Beef Expo Jr. Showmanship participants MUST be entered online by Tuesday, March 17 to participate in showmanship.

****ALL CATTLE EXHIBITING AT THE OHIO BEEF EXPO MUST PROVIDE NEGATIVE BVD RESULTS (UNLESS ALREADY PROVIDED DURING THE BEST SEASON)****

**** Registered animals must be in the junior exhibitor's name; exhibitors must show their own animal. ****

**** All cattle must be entered online via www.best.ohiocattle.org ****

****Exhibitors' cattle that HAVE NOT had their tattoos checked at a previous 2025-2026 BEST sanctioned show must have proof of registration to verify tattoos at check-in ****

The 2026 Ohio Beef Expo will host the Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) BEST Junior Show, March 19-22, at the Ohio Expo Center.

Show Schedule:

- Thursday, March 19 - 10:00 a.m. - Judging Contest
- Friday, March 20 - 11:00 a.m. - Showmanship
- Saturday, March 21 - 8:00 a.m.- Junior Market Animal Show
- Sunday, March 22 - 8:00 a.m. - Junior Breeding Heifer Show

The 2026 Ohio Beef Expo Junior Show will feature a second BBS only ring for eligible cattle during the Expo's junior show. Steers will show Saturday March 21. As the full steer show ring is completed, eligible BBS steers will move directly into the BBS only steer ring to compete. The same will take place with the heifer show on Sunday, March 22. Top Five overall BBS steers and BBS heifers will be placed each day and awarded premiums.

Check-in Times:

- Thursday, March 19 - 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 20 - 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, March 20 - market animals only - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 21 - heifers only 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 21 - all sale heifers must be checked in by 6:00 p.m.

The OCA Expo Junior Show Committee includes Linde Sutherly, Co-Chair and Lindsey Hall, Co-Chair, Andrew Armstrong, Doug Blay, Hannah Carter, Amy Johnson, Madisen Jolliff, Riley Laber, Lori Lawrence, Jaymes Maciejewski, Patsy Miller, Si Pirogowicz, Lindsey Pugh, Becky Reed, Gary Staley and Kristen Rappold, OCA Staff, BEST Coordinator.

For additional information, contact the Ohio Cattlemen's Association at 614-873-6736 or visit the Expo website at www.ohiobeefexpo.com. The OCA Ohio Beef Expo Junior Show hotel headquarters will be the Hilton Columbus/Polaris call 614.885.1600 for reservations.

1. Entries: (All entries are made online at best.ohiocattle.org and are encouraged to be made starting on Monday, March 9, 2026)

ALL SHOW ENTRIES MUST BE MADE ONLINE. All participants must register into the system at best.ohiocattle.org and enter their cattle information even if they are not a BEST participant. This is the first step before online entries can be made. The online show entry window will open Monday, March 9. Exhibitors can pay for their show entries online with a credit card or may make online entries prior to the show and pay by cash or check upon arrival at the show.

All entry fees (stalled inside the barn or at the viaduct) are \$60 per head for BEST exhibitors and \$65 per head for non-BEST exhibitors. Entry fees are non-refundable. All exhibitors must be current OCA members. OCA family memberships are \$100. All entry fees must be paid before stalling will be assigned. The entry fee includes stalling and tan bark bedding in the barn. Tan bark is not provided for exhibitors stalling at the viaduct. The OCA membership must be in the name of the junior show exhibitors immediate family. Immediate family is defined as a membership in the parents' name or the membership has the same address of record as the junior show exhibitor.

Juniors purchasing heifers in an Expo sale are permitted to enter them immediately after the sale providing the bill of sale is in the junior's name and verification of pedigree and age. Heifers purchased at an Expo sale are eligible to be nominated for the BEST program and the Buckeye Breeders Series points division. See Buckeye Breeders Series rule #13 for eligibility. **All heifers purchased in an Expo sale must show in the breed division where they sold.**

2. BVD PI Tests Required

All cattle exhibited at the Ohio Beef Expo Junior Show will be required to be tested and negative for Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) persistent infection (PI) upon arrival on the Expo grounds.

ALL cattle, heifers and steers, (BEST & non-BEST) (in-state and out-of-state) exhibited at the Ohio Beef Expo show (an OCA BEST sanctioned show) are required to be tested and negative for Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) persistent infection (PI) status. All animals must have a negative BVD test to be exhibited at any OCA BEST sanctioned show. This does not prohibit an individual animal from being retested, should an initial screening test be determined to be a false positive. Exhibitors with a test positive animal (on initial screening) should work with a veterinarian to determine additional BVD testing options. Any animal that has a final positive BVD result (is determined to be persistently infected) is ineligible to be exhibited at any OCA BEST sanctioned show. Acceptable tests include and are limited to: Immunohistochemistry (IHC) on skin, Antigen-capture ELISA (ACE) on serum (blood test) or skin, Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) on whole blood, serum or skin. Animals must be individually tested and individually identified. Pooled testing is acceptable only if documentation is provided that the animal was specifically included in the pool and that the pool contained no more than 7 animals.

Schedule the BVD PI test with enough lead time to receive the test results prior to the Ohio Beef Expo. A lead time of at least two weeks is recommended prior to the first show. All animals being tested, registered and crossbred, must be identified with an 840 EID tag at the time of testing. A BVD PI test is a one-time test good for the life of the animal.

3. Identification

All cattle showing in the junior show, BEST and non-BEST, will be required to have a scannable EID tag. All cattle that arrive at the show without an EID tag, BEST or non-BEST will be charged \$20 per head to put an EID tag in.

No identifying tags or marks on animals or exhibitors will be permitted at a BEST sanctioned show. This means no farm tags, special show harnesses, special masks or marked show shirts are allowed. Only county fair tags, EID tags and brands will be permitted. This rule applies to all animals and exhibitors entered in a BEST sanctioned show, including animals and exhibitors not in the BEST program. If an animal enters the ring with an unacceptable tag or identifying mark it will be disqualified from the show and will earn no points if they are a BEST animal.

4. Stalling, Arrival Deadlines & Check-In information:

No cattle or equipment are permitted on the Ohio Expo Center grounds prior to 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17th.

Ohio Beef Expo is offering the following stalling options:

- Prepay for premium stalls in the online auction on Show Circuit on Wednesday, February 25, 2026
- Pre-assigned stalls via the online stalling link for what is available after the online auction in the Gilligan building **(FREE OPTION)**
- Stall when you get to the fairgrounds in the Gilligan building **(FREE OPTION)**

All pre-stalling for Junior Show cattle will take place online March 2-4th, like state fair stalling has been handled in previous years. Stalling will open the 2nd and close the 4th. If an exhibitor did not purchase stalls in the online auction, this form will be used to stall cattle ahead of time **(FREE OF CHARGE)**.

Exhibitors will use a map of the barns and remaining viaduct bays, if available, to submit their top three preferences. Stalls will be assigned based on these submissions. Links to the online stalling will be available in early March on WWW.OHIOBEEFEXPO.COM AND OHIO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE AND OCA BEST FACEBOOK PAGE.

Exhibitors may reserve stalls for other exhibitors if they have all their entry information, the other exhibitor is a paid, current member of OCA and has entered and paid for their show entries.

All cattle must remain in the barn or at designated tie-outs at all times and may not leave the grounds before or after check-in. Any violations of this rule will result in dismissal from the show.

There will only be one stall per animal available in the Gilligan building. Exhibitors in violation of the rule will be asked to move per the junior show committee's discretion.

No access to the barn for stalling will be permitted prior to Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30 a.m. Cattle will be stalled online by show management prior to arrival at which time all entry fees and OCA memberships must be paid. **Any exhibitor stalling without the permission of show management may be asked to move.** Exhibitors stalling after operating hours of the show office must call the number posted on the door and check-in at the show office by 8:00 a.m. the following day. All market animals must be entered online and arrive by no later than 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20th to be checked-in and all heifers must be

entered online and arrive by no later than 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 21st to be checked-in. Please arrive at the fairgrounds with cattle at least one hour prior to the closure of check-in to ensure completion of stalling and check-in. Upon arrival at the show all exhibitors must check-in first, before stalling.

Check-in Times:

- Thursday, March 19 - 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 20 - 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, March 20 - market animals only - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 21 - heifers only 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 21 - all sale heifers must be checked in by 6:00 p.m.

With online entries, check-in will consist of bringing your animal through the chutes to have its EID ear tag scanned. Tattoos will be verified, and registration papers will be checked if they have not been done at previous BEST shows, and/or weighed if you are showing a steer, market heifer or crossbred heifer.

All junior show exhibitor trailers may be loaded when the exhibitor's cattle are finished showing.

Bedding is provided in the barn; and is available for purchase in the viaduct. Exhibitors may bring in their own bedding for the viaduct area if they choose.

Tents will NOT be allowed inside the Gilligan Building.

No alterations to stalls will be allowed. Damages caused by alterations will be billed to the exhibitors assigned to that designated area.

All tents must be on the west side of the viaduct with the east side of every tent completely open.

5. Show Ring:

Exhibitors must show their own animal. The only exception is if an exhibitor has two animals in one class. Only one exhibitor per animal in the show ring, no additional help will be permitted. Prior to show day medical excuses and committee ruling is also accepted.

The limit on the number of times an exhibitor's animal can get loose in the show ring is two. If it gets loose a third time, the animal will be excused from that class. The class will be considered "final" when the judge begins speaking on the microphone. If an animal gets loose during the judge's comments it will not count against the exhibitor.

Exhibitors must enter their class on time. Animals arriving late to their assigned class will be ineligible to participate in the class and will be dismissed. When the first animal in the class walks, all late animals will be ineligible to enter the ring.

The show manager reserves the right to exercise their discretion in administering this rule for the safety of all exhibitors, animals and volunteers involved.

6. Exhibitor age requirements:

It is a junior show; eligible exhibitors are anyone 8 years but not older than 21 years of age as of January 1, 2026.

7. Cattle age requirements:

Steers and market heifers born on or after January 1, 2025. Breeding heifers born on or after September 1, 2024.

8. Breed Classes:

All breed cattle that have not been previously verified at a BEST sanctioned show must provide registration at the time of check in. Registered animals MUST be in the junior exhibitor's name. No copies or faxes will be accepted. Electronic breed registration will be accepted. Cattle without a registration and legible tattoos that correspond to the registration will be considered crossbred. Tattoos will only be checked one time at a show. If the animal has illegible tattoos they will be placed in the crossbred division. The animal will not be permitted to leave the chute and come back.

Cattle may only show one time within a show. Dual registered cattle may show only in one breed at one show. The only exception to this rule is heifers that are nominated in both divisions of the BEST program. These heifers may show as a breeding heifer in the heifer show and a market heifer in the market animal show.

The following breed classes will be offered based on breed minimum percentages as listed: **Note-all high and low percentages must show in their appropriate division.**

| Breed | Heifer | Steer |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Angus | Purebred | Purebred |
| Charolais | Purebred | |
| % Charolais | 50% - 15/16 | |
| Charolais Steer | | 50% |
| Chianina | 6.25% | Breed Minimum |
| Chi Angus | 1CA, 2CA & PCA) females with 6.25% Chianina or more | |
| Low % Chi | <6.25% | |
| Hereford | Purebred | Purebred (must have registration papers) |
| Limousin/Lim-Flex | 75% - orange papers, Purple papers | |
| High % Maine-Anjou | 3/4 - brown papers | |
| Maintainer | 1/4-5/8 - green papers | |
| Maine Angus | 3/8-5/8 - blue papers | |
| Maine-Anjou Steer | | 1/4 |
| Shorthorn | 15/16 | 15/16 |
| Shorthorn Plus | 1/2 | 1/4 |
| Purebred Simmental | 7/8 | |
| % Simmental | 1/2 - 3/4 | |
| Simmental Steer | | 1/2 |
| AOB | National Jr. Show Eligible | National Jr. Show Eligible |

The All Other Breeds (AOB) divisions offered are for registered heifers that do not have their individual breed offered as a division. Registered heifers and steers that do not have their own breed division offered will show in AOB division, providing they meet their breed's minimum percentage to be eligible to show at their respective breed's national junior shows. Registered cattle that do ***NOT*** meet the breed percentage requirement for their respective breed's national junior eligibility requirement will show in the Crossbred division, not as an AOB. The AOB division will combine the breeds that are eligible, for example: Gelbvieh, Miniature Herefords, etc

9. Premiums:

a. Market Animal (Steers and Market Heifers) - Top Ten - \$1,000, \$800, \$600, \$400, \$200, \$100, \$100, \$100, \$100, \$100, and awards

b. Heifers - Top Ten - \$1,000, \$800, \$600, \$400, \$200, \$100, \$100, \$100, \$100, \$100, and awards

c. Steers & Heifers - \$100 for Champion and \$75 for Reserve Champion Breeds, AOBs, crossbred divisions, and market heifers.

d. BBS Steers - Top Five - \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, & \$100

e. BBS Heifers - Top Five - \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, & \$100

Class and division pay outs will be determined based on sponsorship.

10. Show Classifications:

- Steers will be shown by breed and weight
- Market heifers will be shown by weight
- Crossbred breeding heifers will be shown by weight
- Registered breeding heifers will be shown by breed and age from youngest to oldest
- No re-weighing after initial check-in.

11. Parking

No vehicles will be allowed to park between the Gilligan building and the viaduct throughout the entirety of the Ohio Beef Expo.

12. Exhibitors Must Follow State of Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rules

The exhibitors and their animals, (BEST or non-BEST), their family members, and others acting on the behalf of the exhibitors, will follow Ohio's Livestock Show Reform Law, Chapter 901 of the Ohio Revised Code, and all rules under Ohio Livestock Exhibitions, as set forth in Sections 901- 19-01 through 901-19-21 and Section 901-19-33 of the Ohio Administrative Code (with the exception of PEMF therapy in 901-19-13).

When exhibiting at an OCA BEST show there is zero tolerance for the use of any unapproved drug at any point in the animal's life. 'Exhibition Drug Residue Legal' means an animal, market or breeding, has not been administered a drug that is U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved for use in cattle; or if administered an approved drug, the withdrawal period has elapsed at the time the drug use notification

form is completed. The artificial filling or pumping of animals is expressly prohibited. The use of any material, gas, solid, or liquid, that conceals, transforms, or enhances the true confirmation or configuration of an animal, including by way of example but not limited to rope, false hair, graphite, hemp and powders is prohibited. The use of pigmented grooming aides, i.e. paint, on the animal or its hooves while at a show is strictly prohibited.

The use of Pulsed Electro-Magnetic Field (PEMF) therapy on an animal while at an OCA BEST show will be permitted, although the treatment should be approved by the official show veterinarian.

Unapproved Drug Use: The showing of an animal that during its life has been administered any quantity of any unapproved drug, chemical or medication is strictly prohibited. Such drugs include, but are not limited to, any diuretic, unapproved growth stimulant or other unapproved medication. Unapproved means not approved by the FDA and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) for slaughter animals of a species, including animals that may be destined for human consumption.

Approved Drug Use: If an animal has been administered a drug that is FDA approved for beef cattle, sufficient time must have passed so that the animal does not test positive for that drug upon arrival at the OCA BEST show. Animals must remain negative of all drug and chemical residues while on the grounds of the OCA BEST show. Note that elimination time (the time it takes for no drug residue to be found in the system) may be longer than the labeled withdrawal time for most approved drugs.

The BEST Committee reserves the right to test and/or ultrasound any animal at a BEST Show. The BEST Committee, at its sole discretion, may test and/or ultrasound winners, at random, or upon reasonable suspicion of possible violations of any of the Ohio Livestock Show Reform Law and its related rules or other OCA BEST Rules.

By participating in an OCA BEST show, exhibitors (BEST and non-BEST) consent to BEST committee members, OCA staff and show management entering the tents, trailers, and other areas where animals may be housed at a BEST show, prepared for the show, or transported to or from the show.

The OCA BEST Committee and Ohio Cattlemen’s Association Board of Directors may impose penalties when a violation of a rule under Ohio Livestock Exhibitions, Sections 901-19-01 through 901-19-21 of the Ohio Administrative Code has occurred.

Each case of a rule violation will be handled on an individual basis. Exhibitors found in violation are offered an opportunity to explain the details of their case in a hearing/meeting with all or a portion of the OCA BEST Committee. The OCA Board of Directors, at their discretion, may grant an additional hearing opportunity with the full OCA Board of Directors. Penalties will vary, depending on the rule violated.

When determining penalties, OCA will consider, among other factors, the fact that the BEST program is sponsored by OCA for the development of youth, the desire and necessity of maintaining the integrity of the BEST program and the severity of the violation compared to industry standards.

A. **Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rules Chapter 901-19** - drug residues

Upon arrival at an OCA BEST show and at the time of testing, any animal, market or breeding, being tested (BEST or non-BEST) must be 'Exhibition Drug Residue Legal' meaning clear of any unapproved drug residue and be clear of any withdrawal periods for approved drugs.

Animals under the care of a licensed veterinarian and/or taking ANY type of medication, including but not limited to steroids, diuretics, anti-inflammatories, tranquilizers and/or pain killers, are ineligible for competition. Exhibitors with questions regarding medications and/or eligibility should review Ohio's Livestock Show Reform Law, Chapter 901 of the Ohio Revised Code [Click here](#).

The exhibitor (and exhibitor's parent or legal guardian, if exhibitor is a minor) agrees and acknowledges that: (1) they are absolutely and solely responsible for the care and custody of their animals; (2) the OCA BEST program shall be entitled to disqualify an exhibitor whose animal(s) test positive for ANY drug, even if the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents/guardians are innocent of any wrongdoing and did not administer the drug; and (3) the drug test results of the testing laboratories are final and binding upon the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents/guardians. Even if the source of the drug is unknown, the OCA BEST program shall be entitled to disqualify the exhibitor.

Urine, blood, and other test samples shall be collected by a veterinarian licensed in the State of Ohio and in accordance with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's protocol for the collection of livestock test samples at exhibitions. All tests will be performed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Test samples may be collected before, during, or immediately after a show.

A drug use notification form shall be completed for every animal from which a test sample is collected at every show. The drug use notification form shall be signed by the exhibitor. If the person signing the form is a minor child, the form shall be cosigned by a parent or guardian of the minor child.

Drug Residue Penalties

The OCA BEST Committee and Ohio Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors may impose penalties when there is a positive test for a drug residue.

There is zero tolerance for test results that are positive for an unapproved drug and penalties will be assessed. Test results with a detectable level of residue from an approved drug, but whose test result level is less than the FDA food safety allowance for slaughter animals, as determined by the State Veterinarian with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, will be considered a negative test.

There is also zero tolerance for a positive test of an approved drug that was not used or administered in the approved manner under the rules. This is a violation regardless of the level, and a prohibited practice.

Each case of a positive drug test rule violation will be handled on an individual basis. Exhibitors with a positive drug residue test are offered an opportunity to explain the details of their case in a hearing/meeting with all or a portion of the OCA BEST Committee. The OCA

Board of Directors, at their discretion, may grant an additional hearing opportunity with the full OCA Board of Directors. Penalties may vary based on the severity of the violation.

Penalties may include, but not be limited to, the following: the exhibitors and their animals, (BEST or non-BEST), their family members, and others acting on the behalf of the exhibitors to lose points for a show, lose points for multiple shows, and/or be barred from current or future participation in the BEST program and other OCA events and programs. BEST exhibitors with a positive drug residue test and found in violation of OCA BEST rules and their animals may also be dismissed from the BEST program and lose all BEST points for showmanship and animals. The OCA Board of Directors' decision will be communicated in writing and will be final.

Painting Penalties

Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rule 901-19-33 is a prohibited grooming practices rule. The following grooming practices are prohibited:

- a.) Using any substance at an OCA BEST show to enhance or change the color of the livestock, including the livestock's hide or hooves;
- b.) Adding any substance externally to build up, change or alter the shape or conformation of the livestock, including by way of example, but not limited to rope, false hair, graphite, hemp, and powders;
- c.) Pigmented grooming aides or materials.

In addition, colored or pigmented substances, i.e. paint, are prohibited from use on animals at all OCA BEST shows. Painting of the hooves is prohibited. Use of clear substances is permitted. Any exhibitor and the exhibitor's animal (BEST or non-BEST) at an OCA BEST show that violates this rule will be disqualified and all premiums and awards for that animal will be forfeited. If the disqualified exhibitor has shown the exhibitor's animal, all animals placing below them will not move up. OCA BEST members who violate Rule 901-19-33 will be disqualified as described above from that show only, and their points for that animal, their other BEST animals entered in the show and showmanship points will not count in the OCA BEST program.

B. Falsifying Breeds, Registration Papers and Ownership Rules

The exhibitor and the exhibitor's animals (BEST or non-BEST), family members (including but not limited to siblings), business partners (including but not limited to their children) or breeders selling animals exhibited in an OCA BEST show are expected to follow all national breed association rules regarding breed percentages for registration papers.

They must also follow ownership deadlines as set forth in OCA BEST rules, and any associated 4-H, FFA or breed association ownership rules. There will be penalties for violations of these rules and other related areas. The OCA BEST Committee reserves the right to investigate a potential violation of this nature at any time. The committee may also investigate if they feel a complaint filed through the OCA BEST complaint procedure rule #16 warrants investigation of a potential rule violation.

Falsifying Breeds, Registration Papers or Exhibitor Ownership Penalties

The OCA BEST Committee and Ohio Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors may impose penalties when someone has misrepresented or falsified a breed percentage or registration paper or when an exhibitor has violated an ownership rule or other related area.

Each case of a rule violation will be handled on an individual basis. Exhibitors, breeders and/or sellers found in violation are offered an opportunity to explain the details of their case in a hearing/meeting with all or a portion of the OCA BEST Committee. The OCA Board of Directors, at their discretion, may grant an additional hearing opportunity with the full OCA Board of Directors. Penalties will vary, depending on the rule violated.

Penalties may include, but not be limited to, the following: the exhibitors and their animals, (BEST or non-BEST), their family members, and others acting on the behalf of the exhibitors to lose points for a show, lose points for multiple shows, and/or be barred from current or future participation in the BEST program and other OCA events and programs. BEST exhibitors found in violation of a rule and their animals may also be dismissed from the BEST program and lose all BEST points for showmanship and animals. Breeders and/or sellers found in violation of these rules may be barred from current or future participation in the BEST program and other OCA events and programs. The OCA Board of Directors' decision will be communicated in writing and will be final.

C. Violations of Ohio's Livestock Exhibition Rules at Other Shows

Any individual and his or her immediate family or member of the individual's household who has been found by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to be in violation of mandatory Ohio Livestock Exhibition Rules 901-19-01 through 901-19-21 of the Ohio Administrative Code and has been barred by the Ohio State 4-H office for future show participation (with any species) may be barred from exhibiting cattle in any OCA BEST show and may be barred from participating in the OCA BEST program. OCA may give all decisions of sponsors and other bodies holding fairs and shows full faith and credit and may observe and enforce such decisions coextensively at shows sponsored by the Ohio Cattlemen's Association.

13. Buckeye Breeders Series - Ohio's Premier Bred, Born & Raised Registered Steer and Heifer Program

The Buckeye Breeder Series (BBS) is a points division of the BEST program. **The 2026 Ohio Beef Expo Junior Show will feature a second BBS only ring for eligible cattle during the Expo's junior show. Steers will show Saturday March 21. As the full steer show ring is completed, eligible BBS steers will move directly into the BBS only steer ring to compete. The same will take place with the heifer show on Sunday, March 22. Top Five overall BBS steers and BBS heifers will be placed each day and awarded premiums.**

To be eligible for the Buckeye Breeders Series program, cattle must be nominated for the BEST program and entered in the Ohio Beef Expo Junior Show. **BBS Only Ring Entry fee is \$20 and must be paid at the Junior Show Office during check-in.**

Juniors who purchase heifers in OBE sales may show them on Sunday in the junior heifer show. Junior buyers wishing to show as BBS will need to become BEST participants at \$60 per head. Buyers must have them checked in by Saturday evening to exhibit Sunday.

For 2025-2026 there is an additional \$25.00 one-time per head nomination fee for BBS animals to be eligible to participate in BEST and accumulate BEST points. The BBS \$25.00 nomination must be paid at the participant's first show. The Ohio breeder of the BBS animal has the first responsibility to pay the \$25.00 BBS nomination fee for any animals they have sold to juniors at the online form available by [clicking here](#) or the BEST exhibitor may pay the \$25.00 BBS nomination, if it has not already been paid by the breeder, in addition to the \$60.00 per head one-time BEST nomination fee, when they complete their online BEST nomination. **Note – to exhibit BBS cattle in the Ohio Beef Expo junior show, all nominations for BBS animals must be paid prior to the BBS show.**

Out-of-state youth are eligible to compete in BBS classes and BEST showmanship classes throughout the season and accumulate points in both. Out-of-state BBS youth exhibitors are also eligible to compete at the 2026 Ohio Beef Expo in both BBS classes and showmanship. To participate in the 2026 Ohio Beef Expo, out-of-state BBS youth exhibitors must have exhibited at least once in a prior BEST-sanctioned show during the 2025–2026 season. Out-of-state youth BBS exhibitors may only show BBS animals at the Ohio Beef Expo.

14. Showmanship

Showmanship sign-up is completed through the online show entry and must be completed Tuesday, March 17, 2026 to show. The showmanship competition will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026. Two different age divisions will be evaluated simultaneously. Beginner will start in one ring, followed by Intermediate. Junior will start in the second ring, followed by Senior.

Showmanship will be ungroomed. The participant's age on January 1, 2026 is used to determine age division. Anyone who has reached 22 years of age before 1/1/2026 is ineligible to compete. Age divisions will be: Beginner Division 8-10, Junior Division 11-13, Intermediate Division 14-16, Senior Division 17- 21.

Participants must show their own animal and that animal must be entered in the show. Participants who make the final cut(s) must show the same animal that they showed in their heat. The show committee may randomly break showmanship age divisions into multiple heats as needed. Exhibitors must show in their assigned heat as posted.

Exhibitors will be required to wear a back number for showmanship.

The limit on the number of times an exhibitor's animal can get loose in showmanship is two. If it gets loose a third time, the exhibitor will be excused from competition. The class will be considered "final" when the judge begins speaking on the microphone. If an animal gets loose during the judge's comments it will not count against the exhibitor.

Exhibitors must enter their class on time. Exhibitors arriving late to their assigned class will be ineligible to participate in the class and will be dismissed. When the first animal in the class walks, all late animals will be ineligible to enter the ring.

The show manager reserves the right to exercise their discretion in administering this rule for the safety of all exhibitors, animals and volunteers involved.

15. Animal Health

No health certificates will be required for steers or heifers in the 2026 junior show. The Expo show committee reserves the right to excuse cattle showing visible signs of communicable disease.

16. Committee Decisions:

The OCA Ohio Beef Expo Junior Show Committee has the final decision on all issues pertaining to the show. Issues will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and the committee reserves the right to dismiss individuals from the show. The OCA Junior Show is not responsible for accidents.

Visit www.ohiobeefexpo.com for more information. Online entries can be made by visiting best.ohiocattle.org