

July, 2009

Dear 4-H Beef of Merit Exhibitor:

It is great to have you as a Beef of Merit Exhibitor. This letter will give you some additional information specifically for the Beef of Merit Show. However, be sure to read the Iowa State Fair Premium book for all information. The Premium Book is available ONLY online at, <http://www.iowastatefair.org/competition/4h.php>.

Remember that Tyson Fresh Meats, Denison **will not** take delivery of animals weighing 1500 pounds or more! The steer will be reloaded onto the truck for return. We have no choice but to **not allow any steer weighing 1500 pounds or more** to be exhibited in the Beef of Merit show.

Sign up for Beef of Merit may take place at check-in time. Beef exhibitors may enter a maximum of two head of market beef steers. A third steer may be entered, if exhibited ONLY in Beef of Merit. **Please encourage other** beef exhibitors to be a part of this opportunity. At check-in, exhibitors must determine which window, **A or B**, to exhibit in the live show. Exhibitors correctly entered in the live show window and meeting the grid market window specifications will receive an additional \$10 premium.

Please note and follow the times for all beef animals:

- ❖ Beef must be stalled by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Check-in and weighing will occur on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ Check-in will be located in the Cattle Barn
- ❖ Exhibitor meeting begins at 5:00 p.m. in Media Center in the cattle barn. A special educational session will conclude the meeting on how the windows are ranked and to review other specific information.
- ❖ Live show will be Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at **3:30 p.m.** in the **Pavilion Arena**, following the breeding beef heifer parade and supreme champion selection. LISTEN to the public address system for time specifics.
- ❖ Parade of Champions on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> will include Window A & B live show champions.
- ❖ Load-out will be Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> following the Parade of Champions about 3:00 p.m.

Again in 2009: All steers with a beginning weight of 400 or less will have retinal images taken. Retinal images will be taken on the first and second place winners in each class following the conclusion of the judging of that class. All steers will be randomly tested for drug residues at Tyson Fresh Meats in accordance with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service guidelines.

Taking care of your animal is a year-round project and it is especially important during fair. As a livestock producer, you have extra responsibilities. These responsibilities include the proper care and health of your animal. To assist you with this, two informational materials are enclosed: Checklist for Livestock in a Public Setting and Producing Safe Food Includes No Residue in Show Animals. It is important that all youth livestock producers know and abide by the laws, and thus withdrawal times established by the Food and Drug Administration.

A copy of the Iowa 4-H Animal Care and Management Disclosure Statement is enclosed also. **All** medications and treatments from January 15 to the present **MUST** be listed on this Disclosure Statement. The purpose of this statement is to provide a safe and fair atmosphere for you, other exhibitors, your potential livestock buyers and consumers. This statement **MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED and TURNED IN** before you receive your T-shirt and exhibitor number.

The beef industry continues to undergo changes in breeding, feeding and marketing. Since the time that those changes were implemented more changes have taken place, namely the implementation of Value-Based Marketing. This pricing of fed cattle is on their individual carcass merit. Elements that are important to this individual pricing are appropriate carcass weight, quality grade and yield grade. Currently the most prominent markets available in value-based marketing reward cattle for a higher percent of red meat yield (% retail product) and higher degrees of marbling (upper 2/3s Choice and Prime). Price premiums are associated with these better carcass attributes. The premiums vary from packer to packer

and can change during the year based on supply and demand. Final placing in each window will be based on Carcass Value per Day on Feed (CVDOF).

**Window A –High Cutability Grid Market for 600-950 pound carcasses only.**  
(Lighter or heavier carcasses are not eligible.)

**Window A: Quality and Yield Grade Grid Premiums used for contest calculations.**

|                     | Yield Grade 1                                      | Yield Grade 2                                      | Yield Grade 3.0 to 3.50                           | Yield Grade >3.5, 4, or 5 |
|---------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| Prime               | \$11/cwt   | \$8/cwt  | \$4/cwt   | Not eligible              |
| High & Ave. Choice  | \$9/cwt  | \$6/cwt  | \$2/cwt   | Not eligible              |
| Low Choice          | \$7/cwt  | \$4/cwt  | Market Base Price                                 | Not eligible              |
| High Select         | \$7/cwt plus Market Base price less CH-SE discount | \$4/cwt plus Market Base price less CH-SE discount | Market Base price less low Choice Select discount | Not eligible              |
| Low Select or lower | Not eligible                                       | Not eligible                                       | Not eligible                                      | Not eligible              |

**Window B –High Quality Grid Market for 600-900 pound carcasses only.**  
(Lighter or heavier carcasses are not eligible.)

**Window B: Quality and Yield Grade Grid Premiums used for contest calculations.**

|                         | Yield Grade 1 | Yield Grade 2 | Yield Grade 3                     | Yield Grade 4 or 5 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Prime                   | \$14/cwt      | \$12/cwt      | \$9/cwt over base                 | Not eligible       |
| High and Average Choice | \$10/cwt      | \$8/cwt       | \$5/cwt over CH-market base price | Not eligible       |
| Low Choice              | Not eligible  | Not eligible  | Not eligible                      | Not eligible       |
| Select & lower          | Not eligible  | Not eligible  | Not eligible                      | Not eligible       |

It is important to realize these premiums will be used in the calculations, but when you actually sell your cattle they will be sold at the cooperating harvest facility prices. These premiums and discounts to the placing formula calculation would shift more emphasis to carcass merit and less on average daily gain.

Dark cutter beef will not be discounted in the contest calculation price, but will be discounted in the actual price paid. There is a Dark Cutter insurance plan again this year. Each Beef of Merit entry will be assessed \$.50/cwt live weight, with money being divided and adjustment checks mailed to each 4-H'er with a dark cutter carcass in October. 4-H'ers in the Beef of Merit division will have a trucking fee, check-off fee, a carcass data collection and results mailing fee deducted from their checks also.

Remember that one of the great advantages to showing in the Beef of Merit show is that you can show in this contest as well as the regular Market Beef Show. Furthermore, this contest allows you to find out whether you are producing beef that is superior in attributes important to the beef industry. If you know another Iowa State Fair 4-H beef exhibitor who has not already entered the Beef of Merit class, please inform them that they may add that entry during the beef check-in at the Iowa State Fair. If you have any questions concerning the 4-H Beef of Merit show, please feel free to contact any of us.

Sincerely,



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Extension Beef Specialists & Coordinators of the Beef of Merit Contest