

August 26, 2011

## 2011 Iowa State Fair Beef of Merit Results

The 2011 Beef of Merit Show had 41 exhibitors showing 48 steers which is down 10 head from 2010. The 48 steers averaged 1330 pounds, 3.26 average daily gain, 2.90 yield grade and \$4.06 carcass value added per day on feed. 21% graded average choice or higher, 52% were low choice, 2% low select & 2% standards. Two of the 48 head were dark cutters. 65% were yield grade 1 & 2. This year a strong beef market (\$187/cwt for Low Choice, yield grade 3 carcasses) and relatively narrow Choice-Select spread (\$5.00/cwt) made the Beef of Merit contest very competitive within Window A.

Jonathan DeClerck, Ames, Iowa evaluated the live show. Each exhibitor had to select which Window to exhibit in the live show. If they qualified in the Grid they exhibited in they were awarded additional \$10 premium money. 19 exhibitors correctly selected Window A and only 3 selected Window B correctly. 33 steers met the Window A grid requirements and 8 head qualified for Window B.

One good way to achieve market weight and grade at the Iowa State Fair is to enter younger, lighter calves at the December weigh-in, which can reach a desirable market weight about 236 days later. The top 3 head in Window A had beginning weights less than 600 pounds and the winner of Window B had a beginning weight of 415 pounds. Younger, genetically superior steers with good management and proper nutrition tend to have a more desirable carcass weight and merit at the Iowa State Fair Beef of Merit Show.

Wyatt Orr, Des Moines County, exhibited the Champion steer in Window A. This black steer with ear tag 29-82 weighed 1295 pounds with a 4.27 average daily gain. The carcass was a yield grade 2.8, 64.2% retail product, and a High Select quality grade. The steer's carcass value per day on feed was \$5.01.

Marc Johnson, Butler County, exhibited the Champion steer in Window B. This black, white-faced steer with ear tag 12-504 weighed 1175 pounds with a 3.31 average daily gain. This Average Choice quality grade carcass was a yield grade 1.8, 68.2% retail product, with a carcass value per day on feed of \$4.59.

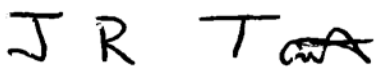
Melissa Johnson, Butler County, showed the Reserve Champion in Window A with \$4.98 carcass value per day on feed. The 1,440 pound red white-faced steer gained 3.97 pounds per day. Lane Judy, Mahaska County, showed his black steer to the Reserve Championship in Window B. The 1415 pound steer gained 3.45 pounds per day, was a Prime quality grade and a 3.7 yield grade with a \$4.13 carcass value per day on feed.

Over \$4000 in prize money is being paid in premiums. These checks will be mailed later from the Iowa State Fair. The two window champions are awarded \$500 by: the Iowa Foundation for Agricultural Advancement (IFAA) Sale of Champions; Vermeer Charitable Foundation of Pella; Al & Jeanne Conover of Baxter; and the Iowa State Fair.

You may view the results on the Internet. Access them through the Iowa State Fair webpage [www.iowastatefair.org](http://www.iowastatefair.org) or on the Iowa 4-H Livestock site, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/StateFair/livestock.htm>.

If you have any questions concerning the results, steer payment, or premium, do not hesitate to email me at [rtait@iastate.edu](mailto:rtait@iastate.edu) or call me at 515-294-4209.

Sincerely,



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