

Section A – Youth Beef Cattle

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Entry Deadline: Friday August 7th 2026

Health Requirements

ATTENTION: A photocopy of each animal's health papers does not have to accompany the entry form. Therefore, it is IMPERATIVE that you bring the original health papers with you for inspection upon arrival on the Fairgrounds.

The following link will bring you to the Department of Agriculture and Markets Animal Health Requirements for Admission to Great New York State Fair:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2026/01/fairhealthrequirements.pdf>

NEW YORK STATE-ORIGIN CATTLE

1. A valid intrastate CVI (AI-61) is required. The CVI must be issued on or after May 1st of the current year.
2. All cattle have official identification. All cattle must be identified by an official USDA radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag, commonly referred to as an "840 RFID tag" or equivalent official RFID tag if the animal was tagged in another country.
3. Rabies vaccination is required for all species for which there is a USDA licensed vaccine available (cattle, horses, sheep, dog, cat, ferret) and that are 4 months of age or older on the date of admission to the fair. For most rabies vaccines, the earliest age allowable for primary vaccination is 3 months (12 weeks). Animals that are vaccinated prior to 84 days of age will need to be re-vaccinated according to label before entering the fairgrounds. Vaccine must have been administered within the past 12 months. The rabies vaccination requirement must be met on the day of admission even if the animal was previously admitted to a fair when too young to vaccinate. The New York State Fair requires rabies vaccination for all livestock species entering the grounds. See Section F for "Acceptable Proof of Rabies Vaccination."
4. All cattle exhibited at NY county fairs, or the New York State Fair must be negative to an approved test appropriate to detect Bovine Viral Diarrhea persistent infection (BVD-PI). Official ID must be in the animal prior to sampling. The testing veterinarian is responsible for making sure the proper test is conducted. This is a once in a lifetime test that must be reported on the required certificate of veterinary inspection. The issuing veterinarian is responsible for verifying the validity of the test, existing official identification of the animal, and recording the test date on the CVI. If a previous test or official identification is not verifiable, the test must be repeated.
5. All cattle must be vaccinated against bovine respiratory disease complex including bovine respiratory syncytial virus, bovine virus diarrhea, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and parainfluenza with an age appropriate- product administered in a manner and time frame adequate to confer protective immunity for these diseases for the duration of the fair. The date and vaccine product must be documented.

OUT-OF-STATE CATTLE

1. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) is required for out-of-state cattle. All animals entering New York State must satisfy both import requirements and fair requirements for that species and be accompanied by a valid interstate CVI. The interstate CVI is valid for 30 days from the date of CVI inspection. During the New York fair season (July 1 through Labor Day) valid CVIs can be used multiple times for entrance into a qualifying NYS Agricultural Fair (linked here) (<https://www.nyfairs.org/>) The initial entrance into a qualifying NYS Agricultural Fair must be within 30 days of the date of CVI inspection. The name of the fair must be recorded on the CVI. For the CVI to be used for a later fair, it must be dated and initialed by a NYS Agriculture and Markets official noting the location of the initial, qualifying NYS Agricultural Fair. A change in health status or eligibility of an animal necessitates the generation of a new CVI. New York does not participate in the New England Exhibition Show and Fair Circuit. Questions regarding import requirements should be directed to the Division of Animal Industry at 518-457-3971, or at the division's import/export homepage:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/animals/animal-import-export>

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General Reminders

- All medical sharps or medical waste products **MUST** be disposed of properly. Medical waste receptacles are available throughout the Dairy Cattle Barn. **DO NOT** under any circumstances throw sharps in the trash cans, feed bags or bedding. Any exhibitor failing to follow this procedure will automatically **FORFEIT** all prize money and **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHOW** at the Great New York State Fair for **THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS**. There will be **ZERO** tolerance for such an offense. (IF YOU USE THEM, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE RECEPTACLES OR TAKE THEM HOME).
- The Superintendent is authorized and empowered to cause the removal from the buildings and grounds of all animals failing to meet the health conditions herein specified.

Youth Beef Cattle Schedule

2026 BEEF BARN-4-H Schedule of Events		
DATE	Time	Event
TUE AUG 25	4p-9p	Rotation 1 Arrival Tack, Campers, Cattle & Vet Check
WED AUG 26	9a	Deadline to Check in to show office with Registration Papers
	12p	Hay Bale Throwing Contest
THUR AUG 27	3p	4H Youth Breed Show & Showmanship
FRI AUG 28	6p	Exhibitor Potluck Dinner
	11:30p	Rotation 1 Release Begins
SAT AUG 29	11a	Rotation 1 Must Be Out Barn Closed for Cleaning
	11:30p	Rotation 2 Arrival Tack & Campers Only
SUN AUG 30	4a-8a	Rotation 2 Arrival Tack, Campers, Cattle & Vet Check
	11a	Deadline to Check in to show office with Registration Papers
MON AUG 31	4p	4H Youth Breed Show & Showmanship
TUE SEP 1 BEEF DAY	12:30p	Hay Bale Throwing Contest
	11:30p	Rotation 2 Release begins
WED SEP 2	11a	Rotation 2 Out Must Be Out Barn Closed for Cleaning
	11:30p	Rotation 3 Arrival Tack & Campers Only
THUR SEP 3	4a-8a	Rotation 3 Arrival Tack, Campers, Cattle & Vet Check
	11a	Deadline to Check in to show office with Registration Papers
FRI SEP 4	9:30a	4H Youth Breed Show & Showmanship
	12:30p	Hay Bale Throwing Contest
SAT SEP 5		
SUN SEP 6	6p	Exhibitor Potluck Dinner
	11:30p	Rotation 3 Release Begins
MON SEP 7	11a	Rotation 3 Out Must Be Out Barn Closed for Cleaning

- Youth activities schedule will be announced closer to The Fair dates.
- Requests for late arrivals or early departures MUST be made in writing to the superintendent by the closing date for entries to the Fair. Requests will only be accepted if the exhibitor is coming from or going to another show. NO telephone requests or last-minute arrangements will be accepted.
- Tie in times are 1st Rotation 8a, 10a Arrival Day for 2nd and 3rd Rotations. 8a for all other days for each Rotation.
- Tie In Times are 8a every day.

Participation Information & Guidelines

Participants in the Youth Beef Program shall be members of organized youth programs in New York State. This includes members of recognized Breed Organizations as well as 4-H and FFA members. Youth participants must

be at least eight years of age by January 1st of current club year and in the third grade or higher and not have reached their 19th birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.

- **Herdsmanship:** Exhibitors whose cattle are housed with Open class animals will be eligible for the Open herdsmanship awards, not the Youth beef herdsmanship award. Herdsmanship is judged based on neatness and cleanliness of the exhibit, maintenance of courteous behavior and cooperative attitude of the exhibitor.
- **Crossbred cattle may be shown during the third rotation in youth show only.** Crossbred cattle are hybrid varieties that are not eligible for registry in any purebred breed association. A Crossbred animal can only be shown in one rotation per New York State Fair year.
- Animals **are not** required to show at a county or regional fair to qualify for NYS entry.
- All Youth steers must have been under the care and supervision of the exhibitor since February 1 of the current year. All breeding animals must have been owned by and under the care and supervision of the exhibitor since June 15 of the current year. This should be verified by the Youth representative when quality endorsing entries.
- All animals must be owned individually. Joint, syndicate, family, or farm ownership is not considered individual ownership. This means that the name on the animal's registration must be the youth showing the animal.
- Any animal exhibited by a youth member may be subject to drug testing as deemed necessary by the Superintendent. If a positive result is obtained, the youth will be barred from showing animals at the State Fair, forfeit all premium money and prizes, and will be referred to their Youth Organization representative.
- Exhibitors with registered breeding cattle: All animals must have original registration papers accompanying them. No copies will be accepted. Registration must be solely in the name of the exhibitor or be accompanied by an accepted lease agreement dated and signed by a Cooperative Extension Youth Educator. If an exhibitor leases an animal, only two animals per exhibitor can be leased and the verification paperwork needs to be completed by a 4-H, FFA or Junior Association representative. **A leased cow/calf pair is one animal.** 2 projects can be: 2 individual animals, 2 cow/calf pairs, or a cow/calf and an individual animal.
- Each exhibitor may show any number of animals owned **solely** by him or her (as indicated on registration certificates), with no more than two (2) entries in any one class. Additionally, all youth **must** show their own animals unless they have more than one animal in the same class, in which event **only another youth exhibitor** may assist them.
- All Youth Exhibitors are required to show in showmanship classes. Indicate class on entry form when entering projects.
- Special Activities: **All Youth Beef exhibitors are required to participate in a series of educational activities.** Consideration will be made in certain instances involving conflicts of these events.
- Cow/calf class: Cow can be any age. Birthdate of the calf must be January 1 or later the current year. A calf must be the natural calf of the cow, not an embryo transplant. Owner of the cow must be recorded owner of the calf. **Calf may be shown in individual class.**
- Prospect calf: Eligibility for this class is limited to a bull or steer calf **currently being shown with his dam**, provided calf's birthdate is January 1 or later of the current year.
- Exhibitors showing under other Youth Organizations must contact the Youth Superintendent to obtain a permission form. Individual county rules will prevail where more restrictive.

Entry

All entries must be completed online by **Friday August 7th, 2026.**

<https://nysfys.fairwire.com/>

- Exhibitors *must* receive endorsement of a county 4-H Educator, FFA Advisor or other breed organization as permitted by the specific department. Any entry that does not receive endorsement may be scratched.
- Additionally, all exhibitors must meet all the requirements set by that organization (i.e., membership, ownership, specific class requirements, etc.) as well as any animal health and registration requirements specified by their department.
- Exhibitors are responsible for emailing their entry receipt to their County Educator and Department Superintendent. A directory of these contacts is located here.

Housing & Conduct

- All Youth Department Beef participants staying overnight on the New York State Fairgrounds are to sleep in the Youth Dormitories. No Beef Youth Department participants may sleep in the Youth Department animal exhibit areas. The only exception for these overnight rules is for parents or legal guardians to stay in area hotels or campers on the State Fairgrounds. Parents and legal guardians who choose this option must turn in the Housing Exception Form available from their local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office. This exception does not include lodging or staying in an animal barn. Parents or legal guardians will assume full responsibility for the action and well-being of each of their children for whom an exception is requested and approved.
- Alcohol consumption by Youth will not be tolerated. Any Youth found drinking will be disqualified from the show and forfeit all premiums. Purchasing alcohol for an underage person and possession by a minor are both illegal in New York.

Sections & Classes

Sections

<u>Section</u>	<u>Breed</u>
AA	Polled/Horned Hereford
AB	Red Angus
AC	Shorthorn
AE	Charolais
AF	Angus
AG	Highland
AH	Simmental
AJ	White Park
AK	All Other Breeds
AN	Crossbred – 3 rd Rotation Only
AO	Market Classes
AP	Fitting & Showmanship – 1 st Rotation
AQ	Fitting & Showmanship – 2 nd Rotation
AR	Fitting & Showmanship – 3 rd Rotation

Breeding Classes

1. **Spring Heifer:** Calves born May 1 and after of the current year.
2. **Spring Heifer:** Calves born between March 1 and April 30 of the current year.
3. **Junior Heifer:** Calves born between January 1 and February 29 of the current year.
4. **Winter Heifer:** Calves born between November 1 and December 31 of preceding year.
5. **Senior Heifer:** Calves born between August 1 and October 31 of the preceding year.
6. **Late Summer Yearling:** Heifers born between June 16 and July 31 of the preceding year.
7. **Early Summer Yearling:** Heifers born between May 1 and June 15 of the preceding year.
8. **April Yearling:** Heifers born between April 1 and April 30 of the preceding year.
9. **March Yearling:** Heifers born between March 1 and March 30 of the preceding year.
10. **February Yearling:** Heifers born between February 1 and February 29 of the preceding year.
11. **January Yearling:** Heifers born between January 1 and January 31 of the preceding year.
12. **Senior Yearling:** Heifers born between September 1 and December 31 of the second preceding year.
13. Champion Heifer
14. Reserve Champion Heifer
15. **Cow and Calf:** Cow, any age, with natural calf born after Jan. 1 of current year.
16. Champion Cow and Calf
17. Reserve Champion Cow and Calf
18. **Junior Prospect Calf:** Male calves born between Jan. 1 and June 1 of the current year, **still nursing on cow.**
19. Champion Prospect Calf
20. Reserve Champion Prospect Calf
21. Supreme Champion Overall (Includes Classes 13, 16 and 19)

Market Classes – SECTION AO

Classes 22 – 30 are held ONLY during second rotation

Steer classes will be determined based on weights at show so make all entries under Class 22 and we will make class splits after weights.

22. Feeder Calf: All steers not nursing dam, under 1000 pounds
23. Champion Feeder Calf
24. Reserve Champion Feeder Calf
25. Light Weight Market Steer
26. Medium Weight Market Steer
27. Intermediate Weight Market Steer
28. Heavy Weight Market Steer
29. Champion Steer
30. Reserve Champion Steer

Fitting and Showmanship Classes – SECTION AP – 1st Rotation; SECTION AQ – 2nd Rotation; SECTION AR – 3rd Rotation

All exhibitors are required to show in showmanship classes. Indicate on the entry form which class you will be entering.

31. **Novice Showmanship:** A novice showman is a youth who, regardless of age, is competing in their first season of showing.
32. **Junior Showmanship:** 13 years of age or younger as of Jan. 1 of the current year.
33. **Senior Showmanship:** 14 years and under 19 as of Jan. 1 of the current year.
34. **Master Showman:** The first and second place showman from the above classes will compete for Master Showman.

BEEF PROMOTION/EDUCATIONAL POSTER – SECTION AT

36. Poster may be any creative project that promotes some area of the beef industry. They will be displayed in the beef barn for each rotation.