

Contest Procedure and Rules

Purpose

The Utah 4-H Junior Livestock Commercial Cattle Project is designed to give youth participants the opportunity to learn about Utah's commercial cattle industry. This project allows youth to get a first hand experience raising commercial type beef cattle, while gaining the valuable life skills applicable to and correlated with traditional market beef projects. Youth will develop skills related to record keeping and livestock evaluation, as well as presentation and marketing, while gaining confidence and learning in a safe, fun, competitive environment.

Contest Design

The Commercial Cattle Project is divided into three phases. Contest phases include 1) Average Daily Gain (ADG) and Carcass Characteristics, 2) Record Keeping and Presentation, and 3) Live Animal Evaluation. Each phase may be scored together regardless of age or divided by 4-H age division at the committee's discretion. For example, if there are not enough participants for three distinct 4-H age divisions, all divisions may be combined. Typically, Phase 3 will not be divided based on youth age division. All three phases must be completed to be eligible for overall awards and recognition. Each phase is to be completed and participants ranked separately with the points associated with each ranking being totaled together for an overall ranking. Rankings in each phase will be awarded the following points:

1 st Place – 10 points	7 th place – 4 points
2 nd Place – 9 points	8 th Place – 3 points
3 rd Place – 8 points	9 th Place – 2 points
4 th Place – 7 points	10 th Place - 1 Point
5 th Place – 6 points	11 th or higher – 0 points
6 th Place – 5 points	



Commercial Cattle Project Rules & Procedures

All blue ribbons awarded will get 10 points. All red ribbons will receive 5 points. White ribbons will not receive any points and may be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the show committee and judge.

This project follows the Danish System for ribbon assignment with the following parameters as a guide:

Blue = Above Average

Red = Average

White = Below Average

Contest Phases

Phase 1. Average Daily Gain (ADG) and Carcass Characteristics

This phase of the contest will include an average daily gain calculation and carcass characteristics resulting in an estimated yield grade (EYG) calculation. Phase 1 is considered complete as long as the calculation of EYG can be accomplished.

Calculation of Average Daily Gain (ADG)

The ADG will be calculated with the following formula:

$$ADG = \frac{\text{Current Weight} - \text{Beginning Weight}}{\text{Days}}$$

Beginning weight will be taken no later than 90 days before the first day of the show. Scales must be certified prior to use and official scale cards must be completely filled out and signed by a Utah 4-H faculty or staff, FFA advisory, county junior livestock board member, or other designated representative. Other designated representatives should be approved prior to signing. Official scale cards are found at the end of this guide. NOTE: If your scale card is misplaced prior to the contest start date, you must contact your local 4-H county faculty/staff or FFA Chapter Advisor to get a new scale card printed and signed. Best practices would be to take a picture of the scale card for your records.

Current weight will be taken at the time of weigh in with the other market animals at the designated time. Refer to event premium book for this information.

Days will be calculated using the dates both weights were taken and is the number of days between the two weights.

If official scale cards are not completed with all necessary information and signatures, or not handed in on time, participants will forfeit any possible points for this portion of Phase 1.



Commercial Cattle Project Rules & Procedures

Blue ribbons will be awarded to projects with an ADG of 4 pounds per day or better. Red ribbons will be awarded to projects with an ADG of 3 to 3.9 pounds per day. White ribbons will be awarded to projects with an ADG of 2.9 pounds per day or less.

Cattle are ranked 1 – 10 (first through tenth) on ADG, with higher ADG being preferred.

Calculation of Carcass Characteristics

Cattle will be ultra sounded over the 12th rib during the official weigh-in process of the event. 12th rib back fat (BF) and rib eye area (REA) will be measured and recorded and used to calculate a preliminary yield grade (PYG), and an Adjusted PYG. The Adjusted PYG will be used to rank, and award points, for ultrasound data places 1 – 10 (first through tenth). Cattle are given a numerical preliminary yield grade (PYG) based off BF using the following formula:

$$PYG = 2.0 + (2.5 \times BF)$$

The PYG is then adjusted using the REA and live carcass weight. Note that the industry obtains YG from carcass weight, not live weight. This has been adjusted for the purpose of the project. The PYG Adjustment is calculated by taking the Required REA which is 1.1 square inches of ribeye area per 100 pounds of live weight. For example, a 1,000 lb steer should have an 11 sq. inch ribeye. This would be the Required REA. The actual REA is calculated through ultrasound. The following formula calculates the adjustment to the PYG.

$$PYG\ ADJ = ([\text{Required REA} - \text{Actual REA}] \times .3)$$

The number is considered whole. For example, a required REA of 11 and an actual REA of 12 would result in -1, but the value is 1 when calculating the adjustment. If the animal is estimated to be above average muscling (see Phase 3: Live Animal Evaluation), the adjustment is *subtracted* from the PYG. If the animal is estimated to be below average muscling, the adjustment is *added* to the PYG to give each project an Estimated Yield Grade (EYG).

Blue ribbons will be awarded to projects with an EYG of 1 – 2.9. Red ribbons will be awarded to cattle with 3 – 4.9. White ribbons will be awarded to projects with a EYG of 5 or higher. Note that in the industry, YG is a whole number with the decimal being dropped. For example a 2.6 would simply be considered a 2.

Projects are ranked according to EYG, 1 – 10 (first through tenth) with the lower EYG being preferred.

<https://www.sdstate.edu/agriculture-food-environmental-sciences/animal-science/beef-grading>

Points for ribbons and top ten ranking for ADG and EYG are combined to assign an overall ranking 1-10 for this phase. Ties are broken with final ranking during Phase 3: Live Animal Evaluation, with projects ranking higher during Phase 3 winning the tie.

Phase 2. Record Keeping and Presentation

This phase includes the submission of the Utah 4-H Commercial Cattle Record Book and a 3-4 minute verbal presentation by the participant. Participation in both parts of this phase are required in order for the phase to be considered complete.

The Commercial Cattle Record Book (75 points)

The record book should be a 1-inch binder with the following documents in page protectors: entry page, brand inspection, and the Commercial Cattle Performance Records. Additional documents may include receipts, bill of sale, or travel documentation. Participants should consider keeping all their past records organized and presented at the end of the record book.

Entry Page (10 points): Cover page with participant name, project tag number, club or FFA chapter, county, and the signature of the local FFA advisor or 4-H Faculty/Staff as appropriate. The entry page may be slipped into the front cover of the binder or placed in a page protector as the first page inside.

Brand Inspection (10 points): Participants must contact their local or regional brand inspector to obtain a brand inspection.

Commercial Cattle Performance Records (50 points): This portion of the portfolio should include the following:

- **Entry Overview:** 150 words or less describing the selection of the project animal. The criteria, if any, used in initial project animal selection should be included. Examples of selection criteria may include such things as weaning weight, conformation, genetics, breed type, etc.
- **Size and Scope:** 1 – 2 full pages with tables and charts detailing the following records
 - Tag #
 - Beginning Weight
 - Production and Processing Information (records such as breeding, date of birth, weaning weight, all costs associated with project such as purchase price if applicable, feed costs, health costs, etc. as well as processing dates and descriptions such as castration, dehorning, branding, etc.)
 - Health documentation including vaccination records, processing information, and any health documents obtained from a veterinarian office if applicable. Documents may be copies or originals.
 - Performance records should be organized and kept together throughout the entirety of the youth's participation in this project. Most recent documents should be kept at the front of the book.

Commercial Cattle Project Rules & Procedures

Additional Documents (5 points): Youth should track other important information in their book. This includes anything they deem important when marketing their cattle such as receipts, registration papers, bills of sale, or similar documents. These documents are supporting their Size and Scope documentation.

Youth participants should organize and present their Commercial Cattle Record Book in such a way that showcases their aptitude, record keeping skills, and understanding of raising and selling commercial cattle. A template is included at the end of this form but it does not have to be used if the youth feel they can display the information more suitably for their project.

Presentation (25 points)

Participants will be assigned a time to give a 3 - 4 minute presentation on their project. Participants should introduce themselves, their club/chapter, and what county they are from. Presentation content should include an overview of their project (see Entry Overview in Commercial Cattle Performance Records), what skills and knowledge they have gained, and a brief sales pitch for their project animal. Judges will ask follow up questions based on the presentation and information found within the Commercial Cattle Record Book to assess the participant's level of project knowledge and understanding of the industry.

Some questions may include, but are not limited to:

If you were talking to someone that was not involved in agriculture and they asked you about your project, how would you describe it?

What is one of the biggest concerns for cattle producers in Utah currently?

What are some additional things you learned about raising commercial beef in Utah?

What is a challenge you personally faced with your project?

Participants earning 80 to 100 points will receive a blue ribbon. Participants receiving 50 – 79 points will receive a red ribbon. Participants receiving 49 points or less will receive a white ribbon.

Tiebreaker questions should be asked to participants directly following this phase as needed by the official judges. Judges will break additional ties if needed.

Phase 3. Live Animal Evaluation

Project animals will be haltered and exhibited in the show ring during this phase. Projects must be exhibited by the registered participant. Junior aged participants (grades 3 – 5) may have a helper (parent, adult volunteer, or registered 4-H youth participant) enter the ring and assist if needed. The objective is to exhibit the animal in a

Commercial Cattle Project Rules & Procedures

safe manner for judging, but is not a traditional showmanship contest. Animals that pose a danger to participants and other individuals in the ring may be excused at the discretion of the official judge and/or the show committee.

Judges will evaluate the projects based on the priorities of commercial cattle including muscling, finish, and functionality.

Projects with above average muscling and finish will receive a blue ribbon. Projects with average muscling and adequate finish will receive a red ribbon. Projects with below average muscling and below adequate finish will receive a white ribbon. *Note that projects receiving a blue ribbon will have their adjusted YG *subtracted* from their PYG. Projects receiving a red or white ribbon will have their adjusted YG *added* to their PYG. See Phase 1: Average Daily Gain (ADG) and Carcass Characteristics.

All projects will be ranked according to the judge's preference with the top 10 receiving additional points for the phase. Official judge will break all ties.

General Rules for Entry

1. Participants must be registered 4-H members following Utah 4-H policy for participation in large livestock projects or a member of their local FFA chapter. Members must be in good standing within their respective organizations.
2. Participants must complete all three contest phases to be eligible for overall awards. Participants unable to complete one or more phases are still invited to participate in the contest and may receive awards and recognition for phases completed.
3. Participants should carefully read the requirements of each contest phase. It is the sole responsibility of the participant to understand and complete the requirements.
4. This project is subject to rules and regulations of the host show. Any discrepancies in rules or concerns should be addressed with the host show committee prior to entry.

Rules and Regulations for Project Animals

1. Any breed of cattle may be exhibited.
2. Steers and heifers may be shown and will be exhibited together.
3. Cattle should be naturally polled or dehorned. Small scurs are acceptable.
4. The use of adhesives, dyes, paints, or any substance used to alter the natural appearance of the animal is prohibited and will result in excusal from Phase 3. Keep in mind that this contest is intended to replicate the commercial industry as closely as possible.
5. Project animals may be entered as a Stocker Project or a Finished Project.
 - a. Stocker Projects are cattle less than 1,100 pounds and will have a minimum weight of 800 pounds. These projects will not be eligible to go



Commercial Cattle Project Rules & Procedures

through the junior livestock commercial cattle sale. Some host shows may have a pre-arranged buyer for stocker cattle. Check with the show committee to see if this is the case for your show.

- b. Finished Projects are cattle ready for harvest. They will have a minimum weight of 1,100 pounds. Finished projects receiving a red or blue ribbon will be eligible to go through the junior livestock commercial cattle sale.
 - c. Participants should estimate whether they are exhibiting a stocker or a finished project but they will be sorted into the appropriate project division based on weigh-in of the show.
6. Project animals should be halter broke. Steers/heifers deemed unsafe for handling will be excused from Phase 3 and will not be eligible for overall awards.
- a. Youth who are unable to complete Phase 3 may still receive recognition/awards for Phases 1 and 2.

Prizes and Recognition

Tie breaking:

Phase 1 ties are broken by ranking in phase 3. Phase 2 ties are broken with tie breaker questions as needed at the end of the phase by the assigned judges. There are no ties for phase 3.

Individual awards and recognition are set up by event organizers.

Sale

Finished projects receiving a red or blue ribbon will be eligible to go through the junior livestock commercial cattle sale.

- Please note that the junior livestock commercial cattle sale will differ for each event. It is the responsibility of the participant to know the terms and conditions of the sale and should reach out to the event organizer with any questions.

Event organizers and sale committees should determine how the sale order will go in advance of the event.

Recommended sale order:

- The grand champion participant (the participant with the highest accumulative total points) sells first. If the contest is divided into age divisions, the grand champion for each division should be recognized and sold in order from oldest to youngest. Reserve grand champion participants could then be placed into the sale order next. Top three participants in each age group sell and then the rest of the sale order is determined by the judge's placing of the commercial beef project animal if phase 3 was not divided into separate age divisions.



APPENDIX

Printable Scale Cards

Scale cards are used to determine ADG for Phase 1 of the Commercial Cattle Project. Scales should be certified prior to use. All parts of the scale card must be filled out with an appropriate signature in order to be accepted.

NOTE: If your scale card is misplaced prior to the contest start date, you must contact your local 4-H county faculty/staff or FFA Chapter Advisor to get a new scale card printed and signed. Best practices would be to take a picture of the scale card for your records.

Template for Commercial Cattle Performance Records


Performance records are used during Phase 2. This template is for reference only and is NOT required for full points. Participants should adjust the tables to best fit their operation with the information they have access to. Performance records should be organized and kept together throughout the entirety of the youth's participation in this project. Most recent documents should be kept at the front of the book.

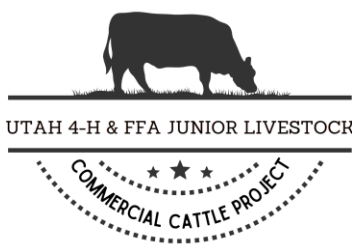
Rubric for Presentation


A brief presentation is required in order to complete Phase 2. Participants will be assigned a time to give a 3 minute presentation on their project. Participants should introduce themselves, their club/chapter, and what county they are from. Presentation content should include an overview of their project (see Entry Overview in Commercial Cattle Performance Records), what they have learned, what skills or knowledge they have gained, and a brief sales pitch for their project animal.



Commercial Cattle Project Rules & Procedures

SCALE CARD – Utah 4-H & FFA Junior Livestock Commercial Cattle Project	
Project Animal	Exhibitor
Tag #:	Name:
Color/Breed:	Age Division:
Sex:	County:
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FOR SCALE MASTER ONLY</u> <i>Only designated 4-H, FFA, or Junior Livestock Board Representatives are allowed to sign Scale Cards</i></p> <p>Weight: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Contact Info: _____ <i>Printed name, phone number, and/or email for verification.</i></p>	

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COMMERCIAL CATTLE PROJECT PERFORMANCE RECORDS

Participant Name: _____ Report Year: _____

County _____ Years in this Project/Category: _____

ENTRY OVERVIEW

SKILLS I’VE GAINED

THINGS I’VE LEARNED

SIZE AND SCOPE

Hours Spent		Income	
Description	Hours		Amount
Attending Club Meetings/Activities		Sale Price	
Feeding		Ribbon Premium Money	
Grooming		Boosts	
Training to Lead		Other Income	
Other		Total Income	
Total Hours Spent			
Production Summary		Expenses	
Description		Description	Total Cost
A. Beginning Weight		Animal Purchase Expenses	
B. Beginning Date		Feed Expenses 1	
C. Ending Weight		Feed Expenses 2	
D. Ending Date		Feed Expenses 3	
E. Total Weight Gained = C – A		Equipment Expenses	
F. Number of days on feed = D - B		Health Expenses	
Average Daily Gain = E / F		Other Expenses	
G. Total pounds of feed		Total Expenses	
Pounds gained per pound of feed =		Profit/Loss	
		= Total Income – Total	

Commercial Cattle Project Rules & Procedures

Name _____
 County/State _____ Age Division _____

Commercial Cattle Project Presentation Scoresheet		
	SCORE	COMMENTS
Introduction 3 pts. 1. Did the participant introduce themselves, their club/chapter, and county?		
Content and Accuracy 10 pts. 1. Did the participant give a detailed overview and include the following points? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project overview • Skills obtained • Knowledge gained 2. Did the participant provide an adequate sales pitch that would make you want to buy their animal? 3. Was there enough information concerning the project? 4. Was content appropriately related to the commercial cattle industry? 5. Was the content organized and easy to follow?		
Stage Presence and Delivery 7 pts. 1. Was the participant neat and appropriately dressed? 2. Was the participant comfortable and erect in posture but not stiff? 3. Did participant speak directly to the audience/judge? 5. Did participant seem relaxed and at ease? 6. Did participant have appropriate voice control? 7. Did participant pronounce words correctly? 8. Did participant seem to choose words at the time they were spoken (avoiding memorized or robotic-type delivery)?		
Conclusion and Questions 5 pts. 1. Was the conclusion short and interesting? 2. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the presentation? 3. Could the speaker handle questions easily?		
Time penalties: -3 points for every minute over the 4 minute allotment.	TOTAL _____ TIME _____ PLACING _____	

Additional Comments

Commercial Cattle Project Rules & Procedures

Additional Resources

<https://4h.unl.edu/fed-steer-challenge>

<https://www.rodeohouston.com/Portals/0/Content/GetInvolved/Exhibitors-Participants/Livestock%20Show/Junior%20Commercial%20Steer/JCS-Rules.pdf>

https://hereford.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-NJHA-Fed-Steer-Shootout-Performance-Portfolio_Final_2.pdf



EXTENSION 
UtahStateUniversity.