

HUGHES COUNTY PRODUCTION STEER PROGRAM

Sponsored by:

Hughes County Cattlemen's Association (HCCA)

Objective

To teach Hughes County youth about today's beef industry through "hands-on" experiences. This will be accomplished with selection, daily care and management of the steer which includes feeding the proper kind and amount of feed, preparing and showing beef projects and following the animals through the processing plant and learning how well their steer fits the current market.

RULES for 2022-2023

All entry fees (\$100) must be paid by 4:00 PM April 15th, 2022, at the Hughes Co OSU Ext. office, by check made out to HCCA. There will be no entries or money accepted after this time.

We currently have multiple locations to process for this year's contest for a total of 32 head. If we have more than 20 head nominated, we will hold a lottery on May 2nd that will determine the sale order and processor for your entry.

You will still have until the September weigh in to secure your steer for the contest.

1. All steers must be shown at either the Hughes County fall free fair, or at the feeder calf show the day of weigh in. Calves must be broken to lead and exhibited by the youth who are entering them in the county bred contest at one of these two shows.
 - a. This will be either or because the weigh in occurs at the same time as the State Fair of Oklahoma and we want everyone to be able to participate in both if they wish.
 - b. Steers that fail to be handled and exhibited in a safe and manageable show ring exhibition will be disqualified from the competition at the weigh in.
 - c. A committee made up of members from the Hughes County Cattleman's Association board of directors or members will have the final say on any steers that fail to be handled by the exhibitor in a safe and manageable show ring presence.
 - d. When being shown at the HCJLS in February the county bred steers are expected to be exhibited just like all other show cattle, clean, groomed, and set up with a show stick for evaluation. The Cattleman's association will use the three-strike rule that is in place at the HCJLS for all their exhibitions as well.
2. Entry fee is Non-refundable. Ownership and or possession is not required at time of entry. This entry fee just holds your spot for the September weigh-in. All participants will be notified by Friday April 22 if a lottery to determine processor location is needed. If we have less than 20 all animals will be processed at Kay's and the sale order will be drawn at weigh in.

3. Steers must be born into the herd of an active HCCA member. HCCA membership must be current within two weeks of weigh in. HCCA members must maintain a calving cow herd in Hughes County.
4. Participants may use a steer they have raised from their herd or their family's herd, if they are HCCA members. Only one steer may be entered per exhibitor. Entries are subject to approval of the HCCA board.
5. Students who participate must be either a current Hughes County 4-H member or the member of a Hughes County FFA chapter and meet all eligibility rules to compete at the 2022 HCJLS.
6. Participants must have possession of their steer on or before the weigh-in date and maintain possession and perform daily care throughout the program.
7. Steers will be shown at the Hughes County Spring Livestock Show. **STEERS THAT SHOW IN THE PRODUCTION STEER PROGRAM MUST GO TO THE PROCESSING PLANT. THIS IS A TERMINAL CLASS.**
8. Steers will be tagged and weighed on September 17, 2022, at the Hughes County expo center from 8:00 AM to 10:00 am. (Pictures will be taken at that time to be used in the Awards Banquet and Beef Auction). **All steers will be offered unlimited water for a set time prior to entering the scales. Do not bring your calf shrunk or he will tank himself on water prior to entering the scales.**
9. **If you did not exhibit your steer at the Hughes County Free Fair, you will be required to show in a feeder calf exhibition following weigh in on September 17, 2022. The 3 strikes rules will be in effect.**
10. The steers will be weighed out during the designated check-in time for the 2023 HCJLS. Production steers will be required to be tied inside the barn for 2 hours prior to weighing for the 2023 HCJLS. **Example – if JLS weigh in is 10-12, steers must be in the barn between 8-10 and wait 2 hours before being weighed. Steers should be clean and dry prior to entering the scales for weigh in.**
11. NO guarantee is made that transportation will be available but, HCCA will try to help arrange for transportation like in the past, if successful there will be a transportation fee for participants who choose to use the service.
12. The steers will all show in the market steer show at the Hughes County Spring Livestock Show. The sale line up selection will be used to determine the placing of HCCA steers from top to bottom. In addition, these steers will be eligible for the Premium Sale according to guidelines approved by the Hughes County Fair Board if properly nominated and entered under the HCJLS guidelines.
13. The Production Steer exhibitors must abide by the rules of the Hughes County Fair Board as printed in the Junior Livestock Rule Book.
14. The Production Steers will follow the rules for fitting of the HCJLS.
15. The minimum weight for the steer at weigh out, conducted during the 2023 HCJLS beef check in, is **1000 lbs.** on the official show scales or the animal will be disqualified.
16. Steers must be at their designated processing plant as specified and arranged by the HCCA.

17. This program has three phases and a record book. **All phases must be completed (including record book and final show) or the animal will be disqualified at the discretion of the HCCA board and any prizes will be forfeited.**
- a) **Average Daily Gain (ADG)** will be measured from weigh-in day to weigh-out day at the Spring Junior Livestock Show. This phase has **100 points possible**. Each steer will be assigned points based on how they compare to the high ADG.
 - b) **Show Ring Placing** will be determined by the Hughes County Spring Junior Livestock Show beef judge. Points will be awarded evenly from first to last place. Bottom steer will be the average of the low point ADG index and Carcass Index. For 2023, all production steers will be subject to all rules governing the 2023 HCJLS. (see 3 strikes rule) This phase has **100 points possible**.
 - c) **Carcass Placing** will be determined by using the OK Steer Feed-Out Carcass Index which uses carcass weight, fat cover, rib eye area, internal fat and quality grade to rank carcasses according to industry needs. **Points for this phase will be the actual calculated index value.**
 - d) **Record books** are due in the Hughes County Extension Office on March 3rd, 2023 by 4:00 p.m. Point deduction penalties will be assessed on late record books. Forms and guidelines for the books will be furnished. The record book has **100 points possible**.
18. An awards program will be held on March 9, 2023 as specified and arranged by the HCCA and phase winners plus the overall winner (Bell Ringer) will be announced. Photos of the steers at the start and finish of the program will be shown. A beef auction will follow.
19. Sale order will be determined during the lottery selection on May 2nd if over 20 head are entered or at weigh in if there are less than 20 head.

2022-2023 Dates to Remember:

April 15, 2022 – Entries due in the Hughes County OSU Extension Office by 4:00 PM.

May 2, 2022 – Lottery to determine the processor if more than 20 participants are entered at the Expo at 6:00 PM (If needed).

Late Aug/Early Sept – Hughes County Free Fair. Date TBD. First feeder calf show opportunity

September 17, 2022 – 8:00-10:00 am – Production Steer Weigh-in followed by a feeder calf exhibition.

February 23, 2023 – Steer weigh-out / show

Feb 28 – March 1, 2023 – steers delivered to Processing Plants. TBD

March 3, 2023 – record books due by 4:00 p.m. in the Hughes County OSU Extension Office

March 6, 2023 – view carcasses Processing Plants. Event is open to the public. (Invite a friend, neighbor, or prospective buyer) (tentative)

March 9, 2023 – 6:30 Awards Banquet and Beef Auction. (location to be determined)

Recommendations to help you have a successful experience:

1. The feed-out has a show ring component, we expect them to be exhibited just like all the other show calves at the HCJLS.
2. Excessive shrinking before weigh in is discouraged. You only hurt the steer's chances of grading choice. (See rule 8) HCCA recommends a pre-conditioning period, at which time the Production Steers will be 1) haltered, 2) broke to lead, and 3) started on feed to reduce stress on the steer.
3. HCCA recommends steers weigh 600+ pounds at the time of weigh-in.
4. Make sure your ration is balanced for Calcium and Phosphorus to avoid Urinary Calculi issues. Providing a ration with a 2:1 calcium/phosphorus ratio will reduce the incidence of calculi formation in feeder animals.
5. Maintain a continuous fresh supply of feed, water, and hay or grass to your steer to keep him healthy throughout the program. If at any time you feel your steer is not feeling well contact one of the HCCA board members, the OSU extension office, your ag teacher, or one of the local veterinarians, we want this to be a successful learning experience and Animal Husbandry and Health is a big part of that learning experience.
6. Please observe all labels on any medications or products used to keep your animal healthy.
7. Keep track of your record book from weigh in throughout the program, don't wait until the last few days.
8. Take plenty of pictures during the program for your record book at the end.
9. Familiarize yourself with all the rules of the HCJLS.
10. Begin talking with prospective beef buyers now, as the amount of money it will cost to purchase your beef is substantial and most buyers need time to plan and budget to be able to purchase your beef from you.
11. Each participant who successfully completes the program will get their membership into the Oklahoma Junior Cattlemans Association paid for one year by the HCCA.