2014-2015 Noble Foundation Junior Beef Excellence Program Guidelines

Participant Eligibility
The 2014-2015 Noble Foundation Junior Beef Excellence Program is open to 4-H and FFA steer exhibitors who show their steers and abide by the rules and regulations of their county show in Carter, Garvin, Jefferson, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray or Stephens County in Oklahoma. **Steers must be shown at the spring livestock show** in their respective county to be eligible for the contest. The Noble Foundation will make final decisions related to eligibility of participants.

Fall Entry and Weigh-In
All steers must be entered, weighed and permanently identified with an EID tag on November 8, 2014. DNA samples will be collected. There is no weight requirement in the fall; however, steers weighing less than 700 pounds in the fall may have difficulty making the minimum spring weight. Participants should make certain their steers are eligible to show in their respective county show.

Spring Delivery
All steers must be halter-broke and gentle. The **Spring Delivery is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2015 and Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at the Noble Foundation’s Pasture Demonstration Farm.** Confirmation will be given at a later date.

Steers must weigh between 1,000 and 1,500 pounds at the Spring Delivery.

Proper Feed and Drug Use
Use of any unauthorized drug, compound or feed ingredient on any steer is strictly prohibited. **Individual treatment records must be kept in accordance with the 4-H Animal Care and Management Disclosure Statement which is provided.** These steers are drug tested prior to slaughter. Any drug residue can jeopardize an individual steer’s payment as well as the future of this program. Participants and parent/guardian must verify proper drug use at delivery.

Use of Beta-Agonists
In 2013, zilpaterol (Zilmax, Showmaxx, etc.) was removed from the market by Merck Animal Health due to concerns about its potential adverse effects on animal welfare. Products containing zilpaterol will NOT be allowed in the 2014-2015 contest. The use of ractopamine (Optaflexx, Showflexx, Supermix, etc.) is still permitted. At spring delivery, participants will be required to sign an affidavit stating that zilpaterol has not been fed to their steer.

Official Carcass Placing will be determined by the Noble Foundation. Placing will be market driven (based on current market value of quality grade and yield grade). The Noble Foundation does not purchase participant’s steers but negotiates with the packer for the best possible price. Participants will be paid based on the value of their steer as determined by the packer. There is no price guarantee; however, past pricing has been equitable.

Carcass Contest Prize Monies
The Noble Foundation will award prize monies as follows:

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In addition, the exhibitor of the winning steer will receive a champion jacket.

Recordkeeping/Interview Contest
Participation is voluntary. There will be two divisions: grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Participants in grades 4-6 are welcome to participate but will not be eligible for prize money. Those who wish to participate in this part of the contest should download the recordkeeping app which can be found at [http://www.noble.org/ag/jrbeef/](http://www.noble.org/ag/jrbeef/). Records must be completed within 2 days of spring delivery. Interviews will be conducted on the same day of the awards presentation, which is tentatively scheduled for April 11, 2015. The time of the interview contest and awards presentation will be determined based on the number of interviewees. These times will be released 3 weeks prior to the contest and awards. Awards for the recordkeeping/interview contest will be distributed as cash awards of $750, $500, and $250 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each division.