



PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Participant Eligibility

Noble Research Institute 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 Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Grady, Jefferson, Johnston, Love, Marshall, McClain, Murray, Pontotoc or Stephens County in Oklahoma. **Steers must be shown at the spring livestock show** in their respective county to be eligible for the contest. Noble Research Institute staff 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. 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.

Spring Delivery

The Delivery Form and Livestock Owner Affidavit and 4-H Animal Care and Management Disclosure Statement must be brought to the delivery. All steers must be halter-broke and gentle. Please remember to feed and water your steer well between the time of your show and the delivery day. Stressed cattle can shrink excessively and may become dark cutters. The spring delivery will take place at Noble Research Institute's Pasture Demonstration Facility. **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. 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 Noble Research Institute. Placing will be market driven (based on current market value of quality grade and yield grade). Noble Research Institute 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

Noble Research Institute will award prize monies as follows:

1st - \$2,000	5th - \$900	8th - \$600
2nd - \$1,500	6th - \$800	9th - \$500
3rd - \$1,250	7th - \$700	10th - \$400
4th - \$1,000		

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

Recordkeeping/Interview Contest

Participation in the recordkeeping portion of the contest is mandatory to be eligible for a Noble Research Institute top ten check. Those who submit records and also participate in the interview portion are eligible for the recordkeeping and interview contest monies. There will be three divisions: grades 4-6, grades 7-9, grades 10-12. Awards for the recordkeeping and interview contest will be distributed as cash awards of \$350, \$250 and \$150. First, second and third place winners will be in each division. Journals must be completed and turned in or emailed to Caitlin Hebbert on the posted date each year.