

TEAM FITTING CONTEST RULES

1. Each team will consist of 3 or 4 members and **must include** 1 junior age member (12 years and younger as of September 30) and **no more than** 2 senior age member (16 years of age or older as of September 30). There will not be any age divisions; all teams will compete against each other.
2. The Team Fitting Contest is open to all Virginia 4-H and Virginia FFA youth, which are in good standing with their respective organizations. Youth must be at least 9 years of age by September 30 of the current year and must not have had their 19th birthday before January 1 of the current year.
3. Team members may include non-exhibitors at the Junior Beef Roundup. No more than half of the team can be non-exhibitors. If the team consists of 3 members, no more than 1 member may be a non-exhibitor. If it is a 4-person team, no more than 2 members may be non-exhibitors.
4. All teams must register using the entry forms that are provided on the youth livestock webpage (www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock). Entry forms are due via e-mail or fax on March 31.
5. Each team is responsible for providing one of their own heifers or steers (no bulls) for the contest. The animal must be entered in the Junior Beef Roundup by a team member.
6. Each team must provide their own fitting equipment. Once the contest begins, no team member may leave the area and no additional equipment may be brought into the fitting area. Teams will be required to bring their own chute to the competition area.
7. All equipment and supplies must be in place at least 15 minutes prior to the announced starting of the contest.
8. Clippers and blowers may be used at the discretion of the team members.
9. Contestants are encouraged to bring generators.
10. All cattle must report to the contest area dry, clipped and completely free of any artificial substances (no mousse, foams, etc.). Each animal will be lightly misted with water to confirm that the animal is unfitted.
11. Cattle must be pre-clipped.
12. Contestants may not use inappropriate fitting methods. Unethical fitting situations include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Any altering of the natural color of the animal by the use of dyes, paints, hair coloring conditions, colored show foam, graphite, colored powders or other substances;
 - b. The addition of any hair or hair like substances (including twine), false tailheads, and false polls, and false tail switches.
13. There will be a 45-minute time limit.
14. Once time has been called, all teams must cease working on their animal. If fitting is continued after time is called, the team will be automatically disqualified. Periodic time announcements will be made throughout the contest.
15. After fitting time, each entry will be held at the designated area by one team member. All other team members must be beside the animal, but are not allowed to continue fitting the animal after time is called.

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16. All audience members must stay out of the area designated as the contest space and are not allowed to communicate with the participants in any fashion.
17. Scoring will be based on:
 - a. Completion and final appearance of the animal
 - b. Judge's questions for team members (these will be related to their animal, products or fitting methods)
 - c. A panel of 2-3 judges will be used to evaluate the entries.