

**2017 State Fair of Virginia
BEEF Exhibitors Letter**

Arrival/Check In Schedule and Information:

1. All cattle must be in the barns by 10:00 AM on Friday, October 6th.
2. All cattle, including registered cattle, must be checked in by show superintendents during the designated check-in times. Failure to check-in will result in disqualification from the show.
3. Exhibitors only have to attend one check-in/weigh time.
4. Weigh-in/Check-in Times (Attend only 1):
 - a. 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday, October 5th – All cattle with the exception of Market Beef
 - b. 9:00-9:30 AM, Friday, October 6th – **MARKET BEEF ONLY** (This will be the only time that market beef will be allowed to weigh-in).
 - c. 9:30-11:00 AM, Friday, October 6th – All cattle with the exception of Market Beef
5. All exhibitors must present their CVIs during one of the mandatory check-in times with the respective animal. All CVIs will be checked by a representative of the state veterinarians' office.
6. All animals will be inspected by a representative of the state veterinarians' office during check-in/weigh-in.

Exhibitor Meetings – All beef exhibitors will be required to attend at least one specie's exhibitor meetings. The Beef Exhibitor meeting will be held just prior to showmanship at 2:15 PM on Friday, October 6th.

Registered Cattle Check-in: All registered cattle will be required to check-in during the designated check-in times. Registration papers will be required to check-in. Please note the following specific items:

1. All tattoos need to match the registration papers and must be legible. Tattoos should not be fresh with wet ink.
2. Ownership of all registered cattle must be in the exhibitor's name **ONLY**.
3. Ownership or Transfer of ownership had to occur before **August 15th**.

Failure to meet one of the guidelines above could result in **disqualification** from the show.

Penning/Stall Assignments: All penning and stall assignments will be made prior to the show. Space in the barn will be limited, due to the number of cattle entered. Tack stalls will **NOT** be assigned unless space allows. Tack may be kept between the tie rows, outside in your fitting location or on the trailers. **All animals must be tied in the barn and will NOT be allowed to stall in trailers.** Stalling assignments were due by September 18th. Stalling requests received after this date may not be honored due to space. **If you do not bring all cattle entered, stalling space will be adjusted accordingly.** If you are exhibiting in the open shows and would like to stay in the same area in the barn, you must discuss your stalling assignment with Chad Joines prior to 10 AM on Thursday, October 5th. We will try our best to not require families to move once they are in the barn for the open show; however, this is not guaranteed. You will be given a limited number of stalls for cattle and tack stalls, so you might be asked to tighten up the amount of stall space you are taking. NO butt fans or blocking chutes will be allowed in the barns. Designated areas will be noted outside of the barn areas.

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Cattle Tie-Outs/Trailer Parking: Cattle tie-outs will be provided. Designated tie-out areas will be within the fenced area of the fairgrounds. Limited trailer parking will be allowed inside the fence and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Exhibitors will be given specific instructions upon check-in for entry to the cattle tie-out area.

Loading/Unloading: There will be a check-in person located inside the fenced area near the cattle barn. Please check-in with this person to receive specific stall locations.

Health Requirements:

In addition to the general requirements, the following apply to beef cattle specifically:

1. Any cattle exhibiting active cases of a contagious or infectious disease or condition, including ringworm, warts, and infectious keratoconjunctivitis (pinkeye) may be eliminated from the show and returned to the premise of origin.
2. Respiratory Disease Requirements:
 - a. All cattle shall be vaccinated in the current show year against the respiratory complex (shipping fever), including IBR, not less than 15 days prior to the show.

Premier Exhibitor Program: The Premier Exhibitor Program consists of

- A. 35% Beef Skillathon Contest – The beef Skillathon will take place at a predetermined time, and exhibitors are responsible for completing the various stations of the contest during the advertised time. Portions of the Skillathon contest may be separate for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibitors.
- B. 30% Beef Quiz – The quiz will be a component of the Skillathon.
- C. 20% Showmanship – Exhibitors must participate in showmanship.
- D. 15% Beef Placing – Highest placing on any beef animal exhibited (market steer/heifer, prospect steer, prospect heifer, commercial/crossbred heifer, or registered breeding heifer).

Awards are presented for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions. To be eligible for awards, you must participate in all areas included in the Premier Exhibitor Program. Therefore, ***exhibitors wishing to take part in the Beef Premier Exhibitor Program must participate in the Beef Skillathon Contest which takes place on Friday*** (registration starts at 8:00, and contest open 8:30 am-12:00 noon). ***The Quiz will be given as components of the Beef Skillathon Contest.*** We encourage you to participate in this activity, as scholarship awards are available this year in addition to awards in recognition for our Premier Exhibitors. The Skillathon contest will be set up for you to complete at your convenience during the allotted time frame, and those of you competing in multiple species will have time to complete others species Skillathon as well.

There is no application requirement this year for the Premier Exhibitor Program.

CATTLE SHOW SCHEDULE CHANGE: Please note that we will keep the same schedule as in 2016, starting with Showmanship on Friday, October 6th. Please review the enclosed schedule and note the show start times.