

4-H Alberta Steer Carcass Competition Guidelines - 2025

Goal: The goal of the competition is to find a carcass that meets high quality standards for marketing directly to consumers.

Requirements: A 4-H member in good standing, located and registered in 4-H Alberta, please refer to 4-H Alberta Beef Standards in addition to the following:

- Carcass Steers must be weighed, tagged with 4-H (*Note: 4-H tag means Visual ID tag used to identify steer as a 4-H project*) and CCIA Tags and registered by **December 1, 2024**. **To be entered in the competition, members must complete the online Provincial Registration form including payment and register with their club.** - register at <https://www.4habregistration.ca> (including required animal information and \$85 registration fee) and 4 photos (front(ear tag must be visible), left side, right side and CCIA Tag) submitted to the Carcass Google Classroom <https://classroom.google.com/c/NzEzMjk3NTY5OTgy?cjc=cxldhp>
- DNA tail hair samples are to be taken and submitted to a designated person for your area - Please refer to this document. Please submit with the member's name & CCIA # in a sealed envelope to minimize confusion, Submit before DECEMBER 15, 2024 - samples sent later may not be accepted.

<u>Abattoir</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Delivery</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Grading</u>
Meat Chop	Penhold	May 5	May 6	May 7
Diamond 7 Meats	Lloydminster	May 7	May 7	May 8
Foothills Custom Meats	High River	May 11	May 12	May 13
The Mad Butcher	Lethbridge	May 13	May 14	May 15
Forestburg Meat Processing	Forestburg	May 14	May 15	May 16
Deerview Meats	Irvine	May 21	May 22	May 23
Bouma Meats	Provost	May 26	May 27	May 28
Lawrence Meats	Dawson Creek	May 28	May 29	May 30
McLane's	Wetaskiwin	June 3	June 3	June 4
Loves Custom Meats	Vegreville	June 3	June 4	June 5
Sangudo Meats	Sangudo	June 5	June 6	June 7

- Harvest site information is provided at the time of registration. Please indicate your preferred harvest location. These will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The organizing committee reserves the right to cancel any location if there are not at least 5 animals registered at that location. If more than 15 animals are booked at one abattoir, members may be asked to switch to an alternative location/date.

These changes will be made known by December 15, 2024.

- The animal must be “Docile” for live evaluation (refer to section #9 in the Carcass Competition point sheet). All harvest dates are scheduled within a 2-3 week window in May-mid June 2025.
- Members must agree to deliver the animal to one of the Abattoir’s, selected by the 4-H Alberta Steer Carcass Committee on the date specified, as selected at registration.
- Members must provide final pictures or a short video of member and animal(side, front and CCIA ear tag and docility of animal) within a week of delivery to the Abattoir for live evaluation (Please refer to the Carcass Competition Point Sheet - #9a)- please upload pictures or video to Google Classroom.
- Provide a PowerPoint presentation or video about their project (refer to #9c in the Carcass Competition point sheet). If applying for the CBGA Scholarship, review additional criteria for the presentation.
- For regions, districts and local Achievement Day Sale committees that allow replacement of animals, the following applies. Local level rules must be adhered to.
 - If the entry into the 4-H Alberta Steer Carcass Competition is a companion animal to a Market Steer Live Project and is used to replace that project; the entry is cancelled and fee is forfeited. If the Market Steer Live is deemed to be unruly, the member may switch with the 4-H Alberta Steer Carcass entry until February 15, 2025, provided both steers are registered as a 4-H project by December 1st, 2024. Members may only switch once and the member will be required to provide proof from their Show and Sale Committee to Tracy Dietrich Tracy.Dietrich@4HAB.com within 1 week of the approved switch.

For more information contact any of the following Committee Members:

Tracy Dietrich	Tracy.Dietrich@4HAB.com	ph: 780-781-1003 - 4-H Alberta
Rod Turner	FencelineEnt@gmail.com	ph: 780-888-1886 - East Central
Carey Kopp	Carey.J.Kopp@gmail.com	ph: 403-501-9310 - South
Terry Elliott	dldt@hotmail.ca	ph: 403-928-7981 - South
Calvin Grabler	cstranching@hotmail.com	ph: 780-305-4490 - Northwest
Paul Franz	pfranz4h@gmail.com	ph: 780-618-5983 - Peace
Kim Pohl	cowgirl_ks88@hotmail.com	ph: 403-785-6801 - West Central
Jay Good	jay@gatewaylivestock.com	ph: 403-317-4265 - South
Garrett Taylor	farmman8770@gmail.com	ph: 639-840-2704 - Northeast
Ross Lewis	rjlewis@hotmail.com	ph: 403-336-0177 - Calgary

Please send hair samples to the following volunteers in your area:

South Region

Terry Elliott - 10530, RR74, Cypress County, AB T0K 1Z0

Calgary Region

Ross Lewis - Box 62, Longview, AB T0L 1H0

Peace Region

Paul Franz - Box 994, Grimshaw, AB T0H 1W0

Northwest Region

Calvin Grabler - Site 3, Box 1, RR 1, Cherhill, AB T0E 0J0

Northeast Region

Garrett Taylor - Box 1, Chauvin, AB T0B 0V0

Central Regions

Tracy Dietrich, Box 30, Forestburg, AB T0B 1N0

Provincial Carcass Steer Competition Point Distribution:

Due to the harmonized grading system between Canada and USA, each side of the carcass will be graded for Criteria 1 and Criteria 2 and the best score used in point calculation.

Criteria #1: Grading Chart – Marbling is the amount of intramuscular fat embedded in the Ribeye. This measurement provides the grade for the carcass (Chart #1).

Chart #1: Grading Chart – Marbling	Maximum Pts. (60)
Prime 2	50-60
Prime 1	40-49
AAA (3) Moderate	35-39
AAA (2) Modest	30-34
AAA (1) Small	25-29
AA	15
A	10

****Any Carcass not grading within the “A” class or Prime will be eliminated from the Competition. ****

Criteria #2: Retail Cut Yield Percentage Score – Retail Cut Yield is an estimation of closely trimmed (0.5-inch fat or less), boneless retail cuts from the major four primal cuts (round, loin, rib and chuck) derived from a carcass.

Chart #2 will be utilized for scoring:

Chart #2: Retail Cut Yield		
Yield Grade	Range	Maximum Pts. (25)
Yield 1	53.3% or more	25
Yield 1	52.3 – 53.2%	21
Yield 2	51.2 – 52.2%	17
Yield 2	50.2 – 51.1%	15
Yield 3	48.9 – 50.1%	12
Yield 3	47.6 – 48.8%	10
Yield 4	46.3 – 47.5%	9
Yield 4	45.1 – 46.2%	7
Yield 5	45% or less	5

Criteria 3: Ribeye Size – The measurement of the “ribeye” is to meet the size requested by high end restaurants. Measurement taken between the 12th and 13th rib, points awarded as in Chart 3.

Chart #3: Rib Eye Square cm. (Square in.)	Maximum Pts. (20)
Less than 59 cm (9.3")	5
60 cm (9.3") to 69.9 cm (10.7")	10
70 cm (10.8") to 79.9 cm (12.3")	15
80 cm (12.4") to 89.9 cm (13.8")	20
90 cm (13.9") to 99.9 cm (15.4")	15
100 cm (15.5") to 109.9 cm (16.9")	10
110 cm (17") to 119.9 cm (18.5")	5
Greater than 120 cm (18.6")	3

Criteria #4: Warm Carcass Weight – Weight of Carcass after it is dressed.

Chart #4: Carcass Weight	Maximum Pts. (15)
599 lbs. and below	0
601 - 625 lbs.	3
626 – 650 lbs.	5
651 - 700 lbs.	7
701 - 725 lbs.	10
726 – 750 lbs.	15
751 - 775 lbs.	10
776 - 800 lbs.	7
801 - 850 lbs.	5
851 lbs. and above	0



Criteria #5: Fat Thickness – Maximum points will be awarded for 5-7 mm of Fat Thickness. Other Points awarded as per Chart #4. Carcasses not meeting the minimum fat requirement are removed from the competition.

Chart #5: Fat/mm	Points	Fat/mm	Maximum Pts. (10)
3 mm	6	12mm	2
4mm	9	13mm	1
5mm	10	14mm	0
6mm	10	15mm	-1
7mm	10	16mm	-2
8mm	8	17mm	-3
9mm	6	18mm	-4
10mm	4	19mm	-5
11mm	3	20mm	-6

Criteria #6: Muscling – A subjective score based on the assessment of muscling over the rump and across the loin of the carcass. Carcasses should exhibit good to excellent muscle coverage. Chart 6 shows point allocation.

Chart #6: Muscling Score	Maximum Pts. (5)
4 – Excellent	5
3 – Good – No Deficiencies	2
2 – Good – Some Deficiencies	1
1 – Deficient to Medium	0

Criteria #7: Fat Colour – Fat Colour should be white for maximum points

Chart #7: Fat Colour	Maximum Pts. (5)
WWW	5
WW	2
W	1
Yellow	0

Criteria #8: Rib Eye Colour - Bright Red Colour will obtain Maximum Points.

Chart #8: Lean Colour	Maximum Pts. (5)
Bright Red	5
Pale Red	2
Dark Red	0

Criteria #9a-c: Extra Points (30)

Criteria #9a-c will be completed by **“video only”** and submitted to the Google Classroom, for safety reasons. Videos will be uploaded to the 2024-25 Google Classroom - Assignment.

Each member will receive ten (10) points for meeting **each** of the following criteria:

a) Animal Docility – 10 points

- Animals must be tie broke. This means the animals need to stand quietly while tied to a fence in order to read their CCIA & Visual ID tag. Animals must be quiet and manageable in the video to receive full points as outlined below. The receiver has the right to reject any animal that is deemed unruly and removed from the competition.
- Steer that can be tied, led, touched all over and tag read by hand – **10 points**
- Steer that is quiet when tied, but needs to be restrained to read the tag (ie: in a chute) – **5 points**
- Steer that is wild and cannot read – **0 points** ***Note*** The steer could be disqualified from the video or at delivery.

b) Animal Free of Tag – 10 points

- Animals need to be free of tag. Tag is defined as matted hair with manure on legs and belly. Fresh manure from transport is not considered to be tag. Animal that is clean of “tag” and tidy – **10 points**
- Animal that is clean but has “tag” on belly or not easily seen – **5 points**
- Animal that has noticeable “tag” over all of its body – **0 points**
This will be judged from the submitted Docility video.

Criteria #9a-c: Extra Points (30)

c) Final Carcass Presentation of Animal & Record Book – 10 points

• **DEADLINE FOR PRESENTATION - July 5, 2025** Tell us about your Carcass Competition Project!

• A total of eight (8) points will be awarded for each area covered:

- **Pictures** relating to your project throughout the year. Must include carcass ribeye (2 points).
- **Outline ration(s)** feed- may be done through picture, text or other graphic. Must include feed conversion rate, regardless of member age. (1 points)
- **DNA Test Results**- show DNA test results & highlight one aspect you learned about (1 points)
- **How do you plan to market your carcass animal?** - (2 points)
- **What did you learn through participation in the 4-H Alberta Steer Carcass Competition?** (2 points)

- Points will be deducted for handing presentation in late - 1-7 days late **-5** points, over 7 days late presentation will not be marked.
- Completed Record BookMarket Beef / Carcass Insert 2 points)
 - Please complete your carcass project record book.
 - A complete record book will be verified with your leader(please ask leader to send an email) to Tracy Dietrich - tracy.dietrich@4hab.com by July 5th, 2025

The Canadian Beef Grading Agency (CBGA) has agreed to provide bursaries to 3 senior members that have participated in the 4-H Alberta Steer Carcass Competition. They must meet the following criteria:

1. Members have competed in the competition for a minimum of two (2) years (1 must be 2024-25)
2. Senior member that will be attending post secondary education in the fall of 2025 will need to provide provide proof of enrollment to the chosen institution, **OR**
3. Senior member that will be working in the beef industry (eg. farm, feedmill or feedlot) will require a proof of employment letter from employer, indicating job responsibilities
4. Complete a presentation to be judged by CBGA

Members will need to complete the competition “Final Presentation” with the following additions to qualify:

1. What have you learned about beef grading from your years of competition?
2. What post secondary institution will you be attending or where will you be working?
3. How has 4-H and the Carcass Competition prepared you for further education or your current employment?

Members meeting the conditions above will be considered for the following awards:

1. Fred Taylor Memorial Award - TBA
2. CBGA Bursary Award - TBA
3. CBGA Bursary Award - TBA

Award selection will be completed by a panel of CBGA Board of Directors. A member can only receive any of the 3 awards once.

Other Competition Notes

- a. All Carcasses must be “Youthful” for Maturity
- b. Both sides of the carcass will be graded for Criteria #1 (Marbling) and Criteria #2 (Yield). Only the left side will be used for grading Criteria #5 (Fat).
- c. Tie breaking
 - i. Carcass Ties will be broken using the following criteria until the tie is broken. The carcass with the closest to optimum will be declared the winner.
 - 1) Criteria #1: Grade – Marbling ... Tied Carcasses are compared if there is still a tie then move to (2)
 - 2) Criteria #2: Yield ... Tied Carcasses are compared if there is still a tie then move to (3)
 - 3) Criteria #3: Ribeye Size ... Tied Carcasses are compared if there is still a tie then move to (4)
 - 4) Criteria #5: Warm Carcass Weight... Tied Carcasses are compared if there is still a tie then move to (5)
 - 5) Criteria #4: Fat Thickness



Perfect Animal Score

Scoring Criteria	Maximum Score (175)
<u>Criteria #1:</u> Grading - Marbling	6
<u>Criteria #2:</u> Lean Yield Score	25
<u>Criteria #3:</u> Ribeye Size	20
<u>Criteria #4:</u> Warm Carcass Weight	15
<u>Criteria #5:</u> Fat Thickness	10
<u>Criteria #6:</u> Muscling	5
<u>Criteria #7:</u> Fat Colour	5
<u>Criteria #8:</u> Rib Eye Colour	5
<u>Criteria #9a:</u> Animal Tie Broke	10
<u>Criteria #9b:</u> Free of Tag	10
<u>Criteria #9c:</u> Final Presentation	10
<u>Total</u>	175

Carcass Project Timeline		
Registration Deadline	December 1	4habregistration.ca
Carcass Project Webinar - Zoom link will be emailed out	December 12	any members registered will get the link
DNA - Hair Sample Deadline	December 15	to a committee member listed
Pictures - Beginning of Project	December 15	assignment in Google Classroom
Pictures - End of Project	within 1 week of delivery to Abbitor	assignment in Google Classroom
Final Presentation Submission	June 30	assignment in Google Classroom
Verify Record Book Completion	July 5	Leader can email - Tracy Dietrich