

# NJHA FED STEER SHOOTOUT CONTEST

## JUNIOR CONTESTANT OF THE YEAR

*Junior members who participate in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout program have access to a library of resources to learn about the beef cattle feeding industry and what happens to the cattle after they move on from a cow-calf operation. A final portfolio project, for those who wish to win scholarships and awards, as well as the title of junior member of the year is completed and presented on at the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting & Educational Forum.*

### RULES & GUIDELINES

#### JUNIOR DIVISION (7-13 AS OF JAN. 1)

1. Contestants must be a member of the NJHA, participant in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout Program and have submitted a current BQA certification.
2. Winners from previous years are allowed to continue competing within their age division each year until they age into the next division.
3. The contest will begin with the written submission of answers to questions in an educational portfolio by **Sept. 15, 2024**.
4. Judges will review and score the submitted portfolios, and the top three in each age division will be invited to the [AHA Annual Meeting & Educational Forum](#) to compete in person on Fri. Oct. 25 at 7:30 a.m., and be recognized on Fri., Oct. 25 during the NJHA Awards and Scholarship Ceremony.

#### RULES SPECIFIC TO THE IN-PERSON FINALIST STAGE OF THE CONTEST

1. The speech topic should be related to the beef cattle feeding industry and topics you learned from the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout educational materials and activities.
2. Length: 3-5 minutes  
\* No points will be deducted for speech lengths of 2 1/2 minutes to 5 1/2 minutes. After that, each 30-second period over or under will result in a 10-point deduction.
3. Illustrations, posters and props can be brought.
4. An additional 5-7 minutes will be allowed following the oral presentation during the in-person stage to answer questions, which may be asked by the judges.

#### SENIOR DIVISION (14-21 AS OF JAN. 1)

1. Contestants must be a member of the NJHA, participant in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout Program and have submitted a current BQA certification.
2. Winners from previous years are allowed to continue competing within their age division each year until they age into the next division.
3. The contest will begin with the written submission of answers to questions in an educational portfolio by **Sept. 15, 2024**.
4. Judges will review and score the submitted portfolios, and the top three in each age division will be invited to the AHA Annual Meeting & Educational Forum to compete in person on Fri. Oct. 25 at 7:30 a.m., and be recognized on Fri., Oct. 25 during the NJHA Awards and Scholarship Ceremony.

#### RULES SPECIFIC TO THE IN-PERSON FINALIST STAGE OF THE CONTEST

1. An interview will be conducted by a qualified panel of experts in the cattle-feeding industry, to assess the juniors knowledge gained throughout the contest and from the educational materials provided.
2. 15 minutes are allotted for each junior to spend with the judges.



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### QUESTIONS FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PORTFOLIO

#### JUNIOR DIVISION QUESTIONS (7-13 AS OF JAN. 1)

1. In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in the beef cattle industry today? Please use cattle and beef industry resources and news outlets to defend your opinion. This can include topics such as cattle market prices, beef prices, beef demand, etc. (250-500 words)
2. What are the benefits of the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout contest and what did you learn from the contest this year? Include aspects such as the cattle reports, Thinkific educational library and the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout Field Day if you were able to attend. (250-500 words)
3. Using the reports and information provided throughout the contest, as well as the knowledge gained from the different activities within the course, compare and contrast your cattle's performance to group average values, and explain why and how you would adjust your steer selection for future contest entries. (500-650 words)

#### SENIOR DIVISION QUESTIONS (14-21 AS OF JAN. 1)

1. In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in the beef cattle industry today? Please use cattle and beef industry resources and news outlets to defend your opinion. This can include topics such as cattle market prices, beef prices, beef demand, etc. (350-600 words)
2. Using industry resources (such as CattleFax.com, CMEGroup.com, or any other sources you wish to use), please provide your perspective on the current U.S. cattle market conditions and the opportunities for the Hereford breed moving forward. (350-600 words)
3. Using the reports and information provided throughout the contest, as well as the knowledge gained from the different activities within the course, compare and contrast your cattle's performance to group average values, and explain why and how you would adjust your steer selection for future contest entries. (500-650 words)

**Question responses are all submitted via [Submittable](#).**

If there are any issues, please reach out to Chloé Durian,  
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