2027 NJHA Fed Steer Shootout Guidelines

The National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) Fed Steer Shootout is an opportunity for NJHA members to gain invaluable cattle feeding industry education and experience. Participants will have the opportunity to collect feed yard performance and carcass merit data during the contest and will also be given the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of various aspects of the cattle and beef industry, while measuring performance and profitability of their steers during the contest.

Participant Requirements:

1) Current NJHA Membership
    a. Contestants participating in the educational portion of the contest will be divided into 2 age divisions (13 and under as of January 1, 2027 and 14-21 as of January 1, 2027).

Cattle Requirements:

1) Steers only
2) Pen of 3 or Individual steer divisions
    a. If a steer from a Pen of 3 entry dies prior to harvest, the participant will be given the option for the remaining two steers from the entry to compete as Individual entries
3) Purebred Hereford or Commercial steer categories
    a. Purebred Hereford
        i. All steers must be registered or recorded by the American Hereford Association (AHA) and out of a registered sire and dam
        ii. A DNA sample will be taken on all steers upon arrival and parent verification will be completed. Steers with parentage issues that are not able to be resolved will be moved to the Commercial category
    b. Commercial
        i. It is suggested that steers meet Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) Live Animal Specifications
        ii. If steer does not meet phenotypic CHB requirements, verification to a Hereford sire or dam is acceptable
4) Birth date: 1/1/26 or after
5) Weight criteria: 600# and higher (It is strongly advised that steers meet this criteria upon arrival. It will be at the discretion of AHA staff and HRC Feed Yards management if light weight steers will be allowed to compete in the contest.)
6) Weaned 45 days or more, prior to delivery
7) Vaccination Program: 2 rounds minimum (Modified Live Vaccines - specific protocol available)
8) BVD PI negative test: BVD PI negative test results for all steers entered must be submitted to AHA prior to delivery to the feed yard. Test results can be emailed to jmiller@hereford.org

Ownership and Financial Information:

1) Participant will retain full ownership of steer(s) throughout the contest
2) This contest is a terminal contest, with no exceptions
3) All feed costs will be financed by HRC Feed Yards LLC through the contest
4) Payment for steers, less expenses, will be issued as soon as possible after steers are harvested

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Results and Awards:

1) Awards will be presented at the 2027 AHA Annual Membership Meeting and Conference
2) Carcass data from purebred steers will be submitted into the AHA genetic evaluation at the conclusion
3) Award Categories
    a. Purebred Hereford
        i. Pen of 3
        ii. Individual
    b. Commercial
        i. Pen of 3
        ii. Individual
    c. Miscellaneous awards - TBD

Disclaimers:

1. The AHA and staff, HRC Feed Yards LLC and staff, and all other parties involved in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout are not responsible for injury, illness, or pre-harvest death of animals involved in contest.
2. Cattle treated multiple times for chronic conditions and deemed a “railer” will be handled and marketed at the discretion of HRC Feed Yards.
3. Participants in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout are fully responsible for all expenses incurred during the contest. All parties involved will do everything possible to minimize this risk, however, neither HRC Feed Yards nor the AHA guarantee profitability.
4. AHA reserves the right to make any judgement calls regarding steer participation.

FED STEER SHOOTOUT NJHA