

CATCH-A-CALF

Co-Superintendent - Michele Erickson, Galeton, CO

Co-Superintendent - Mikayla Gabel, Eaton, CO

Showmanship Judge: Refer to the Judges section of the premium book.

Market Show Judge: Refer to the Judges section of the premium book.

Deadlines and Fees:

Entries can be made at nationalwestern.com.

Online Entries: *Only participants who received a steer in the 2025-2026 program are permitted to exhibit in the Catch-A-Calf show.*

- Online Entries Open: August 1st
- Online Entries Close: November 1st, 11:59 PM

Schedule of Events:

Begin Arrival:

Thursday, January 8th, 10:00 AM

In-Place:

Friday, January 10th, 10:00 AM

Processing:

Friday, January 9th, 12:00 PM

Exhibitor Meeting:

Friday, January 9th, 1:00 PM

Interviews:

Friday, January 9th, 2:30 PM

Record Book Judging:

Friday, January 9th, 3:00 PM

Live Placing & Showmanship:

Saturday, January 10th, 10:00 AM

Awards Breakfast:

Sunday, January 11th, 8:00 AM

Catch-A-Calves to truck:

Sunday, January 11th, 11:00 AM or earlier

General Rules:

General Rules and Regulations, Junior Livestock Show Rules and Regulations, and National Western Auction of Junior Livestock Champions Rules and Regulations found in the Livestock Premium List apply to this division as well as the following special rules. All participants must read and abide by these rules.

Show Rules & Regulations:

1. Only participants who received a steer in the 2025-2026 program are permitted to exhibit in the Catch-A-Calf show.
2. Catch-A-Calves may not enter the Junior Market Steer Show.
3. Barn Hours: For security reasons, all market steer, swine, sheep, and goat barns will lock down at 9 pm and remain locked until 5 am the following morning.
4. ALL Catch-A-Calf exhibitors will have a mandatory meeting on the Friday, January 9th, 1:00 PM.
5. Bedding: A layer of pre-bedding will be provided upon arrival. All other shavings and bedding MUST be purchased from the National Western Feed Store on-grounds. NO OUTSIDE SHAVINGS ARE ALLOWED.

Production Phase:

In this class, awards will be based on the beef production job done by the exhibitor. The steers were weighed when presented to the members in May 2025 and points will be awarded for the following:

1. Sponsor Relation Letters
2. Record Books
3. Industry Index - Weight gain, cost of gain, and feed efficiency
4. Interview

Interview Phase:

The interview portion of the project will take place at the National Western Stock Show. The purpose of the interview is for the Catch-A-Calf committee to have the opportunity to speak with each contestant individually and ask questions about the project experience. Additionally, by participating in the interviews, each participant will have the opportunity to develop their public speaking and interview skills. Interviews are 5 minutes and each contestant will be required to present a 2-minute speech on the designated topic, with the remaining 3 minutes being used to answer questions from the panel of judges. The interview is worth 25 points total (speech is worth a maximum of 10 points and the questions from the judge's panel are worth a maximum of 15).

Showmanship Phase:

The showmanship phase will consist of 3 age divisions. The showmanship classes will be held prior to the live placing classes.

Live Production Phase:

Steers will be shown "on the hoof" by weight. There will be four (4) classes. \$10.00 of the entry fee will be used for the jackpot purse. For fitting rules, please refer to the below grooming rules below.

Grooming:

1. The natural color of a steer cannot be altered using any artificial coloring.
2. Products that match the animal's natural color may be used in the fitting process from the knees and hocks down and on the switch only. For example, black products may be used on a black-legged animal, red on a red animal, and white on a white-legged animal. But under no circumstances can color be used to cover an animal's natural leg color.
3. Each Junior Market Steer exhibitor will be allowed to bring one (1) blocking chute, onto the NWSS grounds. The required blocking chute permit must be purchased at the time of entry or in the Exhibitor Staging and check in office. All blocking chutes must remain in the Catch-A-Calf Pavilion of the Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Livestock Center.
4. All fans must be suspended. No butt fans, or fans attached to a dolly/cart will be allowed.

Carcass Phase:

After the placing of the steers, all Catch-A-Calves will be shipped to a packing plant where carcass data will be collected. Each carcass will be ranked and additional premiums will be paid to winners 1st - 15th place. The carcass data, using adjusted yield, will be the basis for premiums. If tie scores develop in scoring the contest, the member having the highest score on their record book will be given the advantage.

Sale Qualifications:

Two (2) calves will qualify for the Auction of Junior Livestock Champions held on Friday, January 19th. These 2 calves, which will be designated Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Catch-A-Calves, will be selected using the following point system:

Record Book - 50 pts.

Sponsor Relations - 40 pts.

Interview - 25 pts.

Production - 10 pts.

Live Placing - 10 pts.

Showmanship - 20 pts.

Deadlines met - 5 pts.

There are 160 pts. possible. The two calves must have placed in the top 4 of live placing. In the case of a tie, it will be broken using participants' interview scores. The participant will receive the buyback price minus deductions required by state regulations, such as, but not limited to Colorado Beef Board, Colorado Brand Board, freight charges, etc. From the remaining portion of the sale price, 20% to the participant, 30% distributed to various aspects of the Catch-A-Calf Program and 50% to be divided between the rest of the participants. THESE TWO CALVES WILL ALSO BE DRUG TESTED FOR FOREIGN AND PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES.

Premiums:

The National Western Stock Show will provide ribbons to all 1st through 10th place winners in each class as well as providing premium money based on the below premium schedules.

All premiums are to be paid directly from the National Western Stock Show offices.

PRODUCTION PHASE & CARCASS PREMIUM SCHEDULE														
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th
\$250	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25

LIVE PLACING PREMIUM SCHEDULE				
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
35%	25%	20%	15%	5%

Special Awards:

Overall Grand Champion

Belt Buckle - *Donated By: Mike & Eva Pugh*

Jacket - *Donated By: The Waneka Family*

Banner - *Donated By: The Pat Shaw Family*

Plaque - *Donated By: The Pat Shaw Family*

Overall Reserve Grand Champion

Belt Buckle - *Donated By: Mike & Eva Pugh*

Jacket - *Donated By: The Waneka Family*

Banner - *Donated By: The Pat Shaw Family*

Plaque - *Donated By: The Pat Shaw Family*

First Place in Live Placing Classes

Plaques - *Donated By: The Peebles Family*

First Place in Showmanship Age Divisions

Belt Buckles - *Donated By: The Stow Witwer Family SLW Ranch*

Dr. Matsushima Overall Carcass Award

Belt Buckle - *Donated By: The Oliver/Matsushima Families*

Sponsor Relations Phase Top 3

Plaques - *Donated By: The Barden Family*

Interview Phase Top 3

Plaques - *Donated By: Ben Duke III*

Record Book Phase Top 3

Plaques - *Donated By: Alicia Downing*

Don Norgren Award

Jacket - *Donated By: The Norgren Family*

Overall Production Phase

Belt Buckle to 1st place - *Donated By: The Ed Snell Family*

Belt Buckle to 2nd place - *Jim Koester Memorial Award -*

Donated By: Kenny & Teresa Burns

Rosettes - *Donated By: The National Western Stock Show*

Top Herdsman

Belt Buckle - *Donated By: The Colorado Elks Association and
Kenny & Teresa Burns*

Plaque - *Jim Peri Memorial Award - The plaque will remain in the possession of the National Western Stock Show and be displayed in the Livestock Office. Each year the winning herdsman's name will be added to the plaque.*