

PRODUCTION CATTLE

Superintendents: Kathy Roberts & Darby Makloski

1. ***There will be a \$15 per head entry fee for the production cattle contest.***
2. Production Steers must meet all the requirements of the Junior Market Steer Project. Open to all steers/market heifers exhibited by Union County 4-H and FFA members that are current in Beef Quality Assurance training. To be current, training must be completed within the current year (or as determined by the board).
 - a. ***Contestants are required to be National Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certified to participate in the production cattle contest. Your certification must be renewed every three (3) years. Your BQA number will be used when entering for fair and a copy of certificate must be sent to PO Box 29, Clayton, NM 88415 or brought to the Extension Office along with the exhibitor's Youth Quality Assurance Form by July 26th as proof of certification. If participants are not certified, they will be ineligible to participate in this program. Proof of certification will be required each year that contestants choose to participate in the production cattle contest at the Union County Fair.***
3. There is a **2 head maximum** per exhibitor that may be entered at the Union County Fair. The exhibitor can validate as many head of cattle as they wish during the Production Steer weigh-in.
4. All performance cattle will be manageable. Each exhibitor will sign a disclaimer at Production Cattle tag-in that the animal will be manageable at the Union County Fair. If the animal is **NOT** manageable at the Fair, the animal will be removed immediately.
5. All performance cattle will be:
 - a. Must be halter broken and clean groomed.
 - b. Shown in the market beef show to be eligible to participate in the Junior Livestock Sale.
 - c. Required to be at the fairgrounds by 8 am on Wednesday. Cattle will be scanned @ approximately 11 am or right after the weigh-in of all livestock.
 - d. Cattle will not be required to be dry lotted for a period. Cattle will be calculated at an industry standard rate of 4% shrinkage rate.
 - e. Weighed on the same date using the same set of scales for all weight measurements (NO exceptions). Steers will be weighed twice to estimate ADG:1) at designated required weigh-in date and 2) at weigh in for the fair.
Note: Management reserves the right to refuse entry to any cattle if it does not appear thrifty or has a dishonest fill.
 - f. Scanned via real-time ultrasound to estimate carcass characteristics at fairgrounds by a qualified ultrasound technician(s). *(All cattle scanned on the non-show side of animal) parallel to and between the 12th and 13th rib and perpendicular to the 12th and 13th ribs to estimate ribeye area, back fat and intramuscular fat).*
 - g. Judged for visual appraisal by panel of 3 judges.
6. No grooming products allowed; cattle will be shown clean and dry. Cattle will be checked prior to entering the show ring.
7. Exam times will take place at a designated time. Study material will be distributed to exhibitors prior to the County Fair. Scores will be compiled by a 2–3-person board.
8. Contestants are required to participate in all parts of the contests to be eligible for awards.
9. Placing will be a combined index score including:

1. Average Daily Gain	35%	3. Test	15%
2. Grid Carcass Value	35%	4. Visual	15%
10. Placing will be highest overall index score to lowest. Scores will be computed and verified by a three-person board. Overall Champion Union County Production Cattle will be the animal with the highest overall score.

11. Ties will be broken in order on:
 - a. Grid carcass value (Total dollar value; determined by ultrasound scan).
 - b. Average Daily Gain
 - c. Test Scores
12. Premiums will be based on the number of entries and donations received.
13. Overall Champion Union County Production Cattle will receive a cash award and buckle.
14. Champion grid carcass value cattle will receive a buckle.
15. Champion average daily gain cattle will receive a buckle.
16. All general and special rules apply.

2025 Production Steer Winners

Production Steer Winner- Conlan Arnett
Grid Carcass Value Winner- Hadley Crisp
Average Daily Gain Winner- Conlan Arnett