

RICHLAND COUNTY BEEF PRODUCERS

Market Beef Mentorship Program

2023-24 Mentorship Program Guidelines

Objectives:

-4-H/FFA members will learn about the beef industry by raising and selling a market steer.

Eligibility: To participate in the Richland County Beef Producers Market Beef Mentorship Program, youth will need to meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Age requirement: Youth must be in 3rd grade through one year after high school AND under 20 years of age during the current fair year.
- Member of the Richland County Beef Producers (Dues \$7.00/individual or \$10.00/family)
- Member of a Richland County 4-H Club, FFA Chapter or Recognized Breed Organization

Timeline:

January 1 – Mentorship program application due
Prior to weigh-in – *Participants purchase a calf. (*Contact mentor before purchasing the animal.*)
**The Beef Producers can help finance the purchase of an animal—See info on next page.*
January 27 or February 3 – Beef Weigh-In at Equity.
Mentorship Contract & Release of Liability forms must be signed & turned in at weigh-in
March 1 – Enrollment deadline for the Beef Project (*4-H members only*)
March TBA – Beef Producers Annual Meeting
July 15 – Beef Producers Educational Points Report due to Extension Office by 4:30 p.m.
August 1 – Fair Entry Deadline (www.FairEntry.com)
September 4-8 – Richland County Fair (*See Fair Book for entry times, judging schedule, etc.*)
September 7 – Meat Animal Sale at the Richland County Fair
September 11 – Carcass Program at the Richland Locker
September 18 (tentative) – Meat Animal Sale Buyer Appreciation Dinner
Loan repayment due prior to receiving sale check

2024 Mentors:

- Ken Anderson, Richland Center
- Pete Mathews, Viola
- John McCarville, Richland Center
- Pearl Franke, Hillsboro
- Danielle Felton, Richland Center
- Nicky McCormick, Cazenovia

Participants identify 2-3 possible mentors they would like to work with. The Richland County Beef Producers will match mentors with participants.

Program Expectations:

Mentors, Youth and Parents will decide on the expectations for the program, including:

- Amount of time the youth will be expected to work with the animal
- Required activities
- Expenses (ie. Trucking fees, Feed costs if animal is housed at mentor's farm, etc.)

***Finances:**

- The animal is purchased by the 4-H/FFA member and parent.
- Participants must contact mentor prior to purchasing an animal.
- Optional--The Richland County Beef Producers will help finance the purchase of an animal (Maximum of \$800 from Beef Producers. The family pays the first \$200 towards the purchase of the animal)
- If the 4-H/FFA member chooses to request a no-interest loan from the Beef Producers, they must repay the loan in full prior to receiving their sale check.

Facilities:

Participants and Mentors will decide where the animal will be housed.

- At Mentor's farm
- At Participant's farm
- At another agreed upon location

Requirements:

To be eligible to exhibit and sell an animal at the Richland County Fair, Mentorship participants must:

1. Be a member in good standing of a Richland County 4-H Club, FFA Chapter or recognized breed association. *(4-H members must be enrolled in Beef Project by March 1)*
2. Animals must be identified and weighed during one of the Richland County beef weigh-ins held at Equity on the last Saturday in January and the first Saturday in February.
3. Submit the Beef Producers Educational Points Report to the Extension Office by July 15. Participants earn educational points by attending meetings/online classes/etc.—4 pts required. (i.e. Beef Producers Meetings-2 points, BQA or YQCA-2 points, Carcass Program-1 point, Other Educational events-1 point, Real Life Learning – 1 point/4 hours with a 2 point maximum.)
4. Complete online Fair entry by August 1.
5. See Richland County Fair Book for additional information

Questions? Contact Pete Mathews 608-963-4061 or

Nicky McCormick at 608-475-1425 or nicky_mccormick@yahoo.com