

2025-26 RICHLAND COUNTY BEEF PRODUCERS

Beef Heifer Program Guidelines

Applications accepted September 1, 2025 – January 1, 2026

Objectives:

- 4-H/FFA members will begin their foundation in the beef industry by starting their own herd.
- This program will help build and grow the beef industry in Richland County.

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

- Age requirement: Youth must be in 5th 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 or FFA Chapter
- Eligibility is limited to two awards, in non consecutive years, except in special circumstances.

Timeline:

September 1, 2025-January 1, 2026 – Beef Heifer program applications accepted
January 31 OR February 7 – Heifer will be permanently identified at the beef weigh-in
March 1 – Enrollment deadline for the Beef Project (*4-H members only*)
March 11th – Beef Producers Annual Meeting
August 1 – Fair Entry deadline (www.FairEntry.com)
September – Richland County Fair (*See Fair Book for entry times, judging schedule, etc.*)

2025 Mentors:

- Ken Anderson, Richland Center
- Pete Mathews, Viola
- John McCarville, Richland Center

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

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Finances:

- The Beef Producers will provide up to \$2,000 towards the purchase of a bred or open heifer. (this amount will reviewed annually during the summer)
- The animal will be purchased by the 4-H/FFA member and parent.
- Participants must submit a bill of sale to be reimbursed.

-If unable to complete the program requirements, the participant will return the award amount to the Richland County Beef Producers.

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:

I understand that the program requirements include:

- 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
- I will contact the mentor to assist in selecting an animal. I will keep in touch with my mentor on a regular basis and will reach out him/her with questions and concerns as needed.
- I will show the animal at the Richland County Fair for the first two years (minimum)
- I will retain ownership of the animal for three years. I understand that if my circumstances change, I will contact a member of the Beef Producers Board.
- I will bring my heifer to one of the beef weigh-ins to be identified (tentatively scheduled for the last Saturday in January and first Saturday in February)
- I will participate in the bi-monthly education group.
- I will attend the Beef Producers Annual Meetings for the next three years to present an update and give a financial report.
- I will keep financial records and vaccination records for the next three years.
- I will work in the Beef Wagon a minimum of 8 hours per year for the first two years of the Beef Heifer program. I realize that the first 8 hours that I work in the Beef Wagon will not count towards the educational points required to sell in the Meat Animal Sale.
- If I am unable to complete the program requirements, I will return the award amount to the Richland County Beef Producers.

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

- Be a member in good standing of a Richland County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter.
(4-H members must be enrolled in Beef Project by March 1)
- Complete online Fair entry by August 1.
- See Richland County Fair Book for additional information.

Questions? Mike Huffar at 608-542-0315 or mike.huffar@gmail.com