

MADISON COUNTY HEIFER FUTURITY

Purpose: To give 4-H and FFA members' an opportunity to learn about the cow/calf production part of the beef industry. The youth will learn to select a heifer calf that will mature into a productive cow. They will learn the importance of genetics in selecting a bull to mate with their heifer to produce a calf with the genetics they would like to build in their herd. In doing so also taking into consideration ease of birthing, breeding, etc. so that they are producing a good and efficient pair. They will learn that even though they may not have the prettiest cow, they can use the genetics of the bull to make the best pair. Overall, the purpose of the project is for the youth to have a rewarding experience in which they learn beef production, genetics and responsibility in a project that can last three years.

Rules: The Futurity can be a two or three year project. Two year projects begin with a bred heifer, while the three year project begins with a heifer calf. Points can be earned for every year of participation (which means you have more opportunity for overall points in the three-year project). The animals must fit the age limits listed below to qualify for heifer calf or yearling classes. If a heifer at any time fails to meet Futurity guidelines, as in being bred, calving or breeding back, she will be dropped from the competition.

The Heifer Futurity will be part of the Beef Open Show and will not affect any of the awards the county 4-H/FFA program provides. Exhibitors must be enrolled as a member of 4-H or FFA by the June 1st deadline set by the Extension Office. Exhibitors must show in the regular county show either in breeding or market and complete the record books and requirements set by 4-H and FFA, but participation in the Futurity is not mandatory. An entry form for the Futurity is required to be turned into the Extension office by the June 1st enrollment deadline of each year of the upcoming county fair in August. There will be no entry fees.

Rules will be interpreted and enforced by the Livestock Committee and Beef Superintendent. A Futurity Committee may be organized by the Superintendent and the livestock committee.

- Youth Age: 4-H and FFA youth must meet the 4-H and FFA age requirements to participate in the Heifer Futurity.
- Heifers must be owned by the exhibitors or their immediate family.
- Exhibitors must have a copy of heifer's registration papers, or if unregistered, have a verification of age and ID number paper signed by the breeder of the heifer. These must be included in the entry form, along with a Proof of Ownership.
- All heifers must be tagged the 1st year of entry with a Madison County 4-H tag, this along with their Bangs tag will be used as animal identification during the time the animal is in the Futurity.

- Heifer Calves: (three year project) Heifer calves will compete the first year as calves, the next year as yearling bred heifers, and the last year as a cow/calf pair. They accumulate points each year to compete for Futurity Champion. Heifer calves cannot be more than 9 months of age on show day. January, February and March born calves work best for the parameters.
- Yearling Heifers: (two year project) Yearling heifers in the two year program will compete in the bred yearling class the first year and following year as a cow/calf pair. They will accumulate points for two years to compete for the Futurity Champion.
- Yearling Heifer parameters are as follows: (either two or three year project) Yearling heifers may not be over 21 months of age on show day. They must have a vet certificate verifying they are at least 60 days safe with calf included in the fair check in documents.
- Cow calf pairs: The cow in a cow/calf pair must be over 21 months of age on show day. They must have competed the prior year to have qualified for the class. Cows must have calved before they were 28 months of age. Cow must have her own natural-born calf at her side. If calf is more than 3 months of age, the cow must have a vet certificate verifying she is rebred to present at county fair check in. Breeder must verify the exact age of the calf.
- Each year a new group of heifers start the next futurity and continue as stated above.
- These rules may be revised and interpreted by the Livestock Committee and superintendent to address problems that may arise.

Points: Points will be accumulated each year of the Futurity by the placing in the class and division championship placing.

- Class Points: Will be determined by the number of animals in the class. Each entry will receive one point for every animal they place above in the class, plus one point. For example, if there are 5 animals in a class, the class winner will get 5 points, second in class receives 4 points and so on down to the bottom placing which receives one point.
- Division Championship points: Top of each class shows for division championship. Division champion receives 5 points and the reserve champion receives 3 points.
- Futurity Champion: After each three year cycle a Futurity Champion will be awarded. This means that because this is a new program we will not have a Futurity Champion for three years. After that time a Futurity Champion will be awarded each year.

Awards: Futurity Champion and Reserve Champion will be awarded premiums. Premiums will be awarded to the top placement in each class as well as division champion and reserve champions. Each participant will also be awarded a prize. This program will be supported through sponsors and donors, but every effort will be made to ensure that the prizes are consistent from year to year.