

WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Steer Program Rules

This project is intended for youth who have not shown livestock before and should be an individual project rather than a group project. Youth are encouraged to reinvest their project earnings into a beef breed project of their own in future years.

Criteria and Requirements:

1. This project is open to youth residing in Buncombe or Henderson counties.
2. Participants must be 8 to 18 years old on January 1, 2026.
3. A maximum of 15 participants will be selected to participate in the 2026 program.
4. Because this is an individual project, calves must be assigned to a specific participant for the duration of the project. The participant must be listed on the Participant Agreement and Application and will receive updates/information through the email address provided.
5. There will be a limited number of participants to be determined by the committee each year and based on availability of calves for the program. Applications will be reviewed with priority going to first time exhibitors. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the program after the applications have been reviewed.
6. Participants must understand this is a **terminal** project and they will be required to sell their calf through the WNC Dairy Steer Program sale at the conclusion of the Mountain State Fair. Calves will be sold in groups (NOT individually) to the highest bidder. Students are **not allowed** to purchase their calf back.
7. Interested youth **MUST** complete a WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Steer Program application, which is due no later than **February 6, 2026**.
8. Participants will be notified of acceptance to the program no later than February 12th, 2026. **If accepted, a \$300 deposit will be required and is due on Friday, February 13th, 2026.** If deposit is not received on the due date, you will forfeit your participation in the program. If the program is completed in full, the \$300 deposit will be returned on the final check after the sale of the calf.
9. If application is accepted, a site visit may be performed by a member of the WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Steer committee.
10. Participants and an adult must attend scheduled project workshops listed below. Attendance at all events, workdays, clinics, and zooms is completely mandatory. Fees will be deducted from the final check for each event the participant misses. We understand that plans are made and other events occur, you must let us know of any and all conflicts with the dates listed above before being selected for the program, or you will be held fully accountable for the full amount of each event listed.

Event	Date	\$ Amount Deducted due to Absence
Orientation	February 5, 2026	Forfeit participation
Application Due	February 6, 2026	Forfeit participation
Recommendation Forms Due	February 10, 2026	Forfeit participation
Deposit Due	February 13, 2026	Forfeit participation
Training & Pick Up Day	March 14, 2026	Forfeit participation
Zooms	March 17, 2026 May 5, 2026 August 4, 2026 September 8, 2026	Each zoom missed will be \$5 deducted from your check
Workday	May 9, 2026	\$40 deducted if neither the calf or participant attend, \$10 deducted if the calf is present but the participant is not.
Junior Beef RoundUp	August 7-8, 2026	\$75 will be deducted if neither the calf or the participant do not attend, \$50 will be deducted if only the participant OR the calf is present.
Henderson County Farm Bureau Meeting - Henderson Participants Only	August 11, 2026	\$50 will be deducted if participant is not present
WNC Beef Commission Auction	August 20, 2026	\$50 will be deducted if participant is not present
Buncombe County Farm Bureau Meeting - Buncombe Participants Only	August 24, 2025	\$50 will be deducted if participant is not present
Project Record Book Workshop	September 1, 2026	\$25 will be deducted if participant is not present
WNC Mountain State Fair	September 12-13, 2026	\$100 will be deducted if neither the calf or the participant do not attend, \$75 will be deducted if only the participant OR the calf is present. Calf will still have to be brought to the MSF to be sold regardless of student attendance.
Project Record Books Due	September 30, 2026	\$150 will be deducted if project record book is not turned in

11. Participants have the opportunity to earn additional money on their final check for the following:

- For bringing an item to the WNC Beef Commission Auction, participants will earn \$10 (ex- a new, unused item related to agriculture, i.e- gloves, tools, etc.). The money raised at this event helps to fund the WNC Dairy Steer Project.
- For completing a 4-H presentation, participants will earn \$50. Jordan will provide additional information on this opportunity at the orientation and training day.

12. There is a **\$200.00** enrollment fee that will help cover the cost of the calf and start up feed. This fee will be deducted from the final proceeds from the sale of the calf.
13. Participants must exhibit their calf at Junior Beef Round Up and the WNC Mountain State Fair.

Rules:

1. Participants understand that this is a terminal project and the calf will be sold at the conclusion of the project. **All calves must be sold with a “lot” of calves and can NOT be purchased by the exhibitor individually.**
2. Participants must exhibit their animal in the Junior Beef RoundUp and the Mountain State Fair Beef Show. Participants are responsible for registering in the correct classes at each fair and are responsible for paying any fees associated with each fair’s registration process.
3. Applicants must submit an application for the project by the published deadline.
4. Site visits of facilities at the home, farm, or school of each applicant MAY be made by any member of the WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Steer Program. Site visits help determine if adequate housing is available for the calf of those participants who have been tentatively accepted into the program. Participation in the program depends on the approval of the applicant’s facility to keep the calf in good order.
5. Applicants who are selected for the program must then agree to attend all mandatory meetings of the group as listed above. Fees will be deducted from the final check for each event the participant misses. We understand that plans are made and other events occur, you must let us know of any and all conflicts with the dates listed above before being selected for the program, or you will be held fully accountable for the full amount of each event listed.
6. Applicants or family members must pick up the animal at the agreed time and place and attend the required training on the day of pickup. Failure to do so will disqualify applicants from the program.
7. Participants' legal guardians agree to provide or coordinate safe transportation for the calf to events. Animals will need to be transported on pick up day, to the summer work day, Junior Beef RoundUp, and the WNC Mountain State Fair.
8. Parents or legal guardians of the youth participant must sign the project agreement and be responsible for all expenses involved in the project.
9. The WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Steer Program Committee will provide information on proper care of the calf, including information on vaccinations, feeding, and other best management practices.
10. The WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Steer Program Committee will coordinate a mandatory work day where castrations, dehorning, vaccinations, and other pertinent practices will take

place with the calves. Participants are not allowed to castrate, dehorn, vaccinate or perform anything altering to the calf outside of the planned workday by the committee.

11. Second year participants AND those registered for either the beef or dairy youth/open showmanship classes at the Mountain State Fair during the current program year may be required to show in a designated Advanced Dairy Steer Program Showmanship class. The eligibility and feasibility of the advanced showmanship class will be taken on a year by year and case by case basis, to be determined by the Dairy Steer Program Committee.
12. Each participant must turn in a completed Project Record Book upon completion of the program. Participants' final check will be held until their record book is turned in. Participants may choose to either mail their record book to the Buncombe County Extension Office (49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28806), or turn it in at their County Extension Office. Failure to turn in your record book by the deadline will result in a \$150 deduction from your final check.
13. WNC Communities will act as the fiscal agent for the project.
14. WNC Beef Commission is the sponsoring organization of this event.
15. The WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Steer Program Committee, through the WNC Mountain State Fair, will coordinate the show. The committee will facilitate the sale of the calves.
16. By participating in this project, the participant and their family or guardian assumes all risk for financial loss, personal injury, and personal liability. All agencies and volunteers involved in this project are not responsible for any damages or loss to person(s) or properties during and after the duration of this project. Liability is solely the responsibility of the participating youth and families.
17. Youth are expected to take the primary role in care, feeding, and all other practices involved in the dairy steer project.
18. Committee retains ownership of the calf throughout the entirety of the project and up until sale of the calf is final. Committee retains the right to remove the calf from any situation deemed unfit for care and welfare of the animal.
19. If a youth forfeits their participation in the program before completion of the project, they will forfeit the final check as well. If they choose to quit and / or return the calf before showing at the Mountain State Fair, they will not receive their check or be reimbursed for any expenses they may have incurred.
20. Project steering committee decisions in all matters pertaining to this project not directly addressed in this document will be considered final.

Additional Rules for Returning Participants:

1. All returning participants in the WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Steer Program must have successfully fulfilled all the requirements of the program in their first year of participation.
2. Returning participants must show in a separate showmanship class from first time participants. This class will be designated the intermediate showmanship class.
3. Returning participants must agree that new participants get priority for a calf if available calves are limited.
4. Returning participants must agree to mentor new participants if asked by their project leader.
5. Returning participants must be recommended by an F.F.A. Advisor, 4-H Agent, 4-H Leader, NC Extension Agent, or NCDA Technician.
6. Youth may NOT participate in this program more than two (2) years.