
2022-2023 Junior Herd Builder Program

Program Registration Deadline: **September 9, 2022**

Orientation: **September 12, 2022**

Module Deadline: **October 21, 2022**

Heifer Entry Form Deadline: **November 11, 2022**

Recordbook Deadline: **May 1, 2023**

Live Program Evaluation: **May 12, 2023**

Program Overview:

The Junior Herd Builder Program is open to FFA or 4-H members currently enrolled in 8th-12th grade. Participants will develop a pen of heifers for the purpose of future production or sale. Participants will be responsible for securing three (3) heifers of similar age and genetics to develop through the beef production cycle utilizing the *UGA Extension Beef Management Calendar* as a guide.

Objectives:

- Expose youth to the beef industry of Georgia
- Educate and serve the beef industry of Georgia
- Enhance leadership, decision-making and management skills of youth participants
- Promote animal and environmental stewardship

Recommended

Spring Heifers

Heifer ages: December 2021 -February 2022

Heifers Weaned: August-October 2022

Recommended Breeding Period: February-April 2023

Fall Heifers

Heifer Ages: September-November 2021

Heifers Weaned: April-June 2022

Recommended Breeding Period: December 2022 -February 2023

Rules

1. Participants must be a member of GJCA or GCA.
2. Participants must be the sole owner and provide primary daily and managerial care to the pen of heifers.
3. Participants must become BQA Certified and abide by its practices. This can be done through the Master Cattlemen's Program required of all participants.
4. Participants are required to work with their local Extension Agent and/or Agricultural Educator for assistance and guidance throughout the program.
5. Registered or commercial females are accepted.
 - a. Registered females must have copy of registration papers (original is not required)
 - b. Commercial females should know the breed type
 - c. Registered and commercial female pens will be evaluated in the same division.
6. Birthdates should be known when submitted. Heifers older than three years by the conclusion of the contest will be disqualified.
 - a. Program management reserves the right to disqualify any heifer with three-year-old teeth regardless of registration papers.
7. Heifers must have a valid and current health certificate along with vaccination records

End of Program Evaluation

Participants will be responsible for transporting their pen of heifers to the evaluation site (to be determined at a later date). Participants will give a presentation regarding their managerial decisions, goals achieved and knowledge gained during the program. Additionally, an interview portion along with live pen evaluation will be conducted.

Evaluation Criteria

- 20% Visual Appraisal
 - Weight
 - Pregnancy Status
 - Body Condition Score
 - Frame Score
 - Evaluation

- 40% Business Plan/Record book
 - Short-term and long-term goals
 - Budget/Expenses
 - Nutrition Program (hay, feed, supplements, grazing)
 - Health Protocols (vaccinations, deworming)
 - Veterinarian Visits
 - Breeding Program

- 40% Interview/Presentation
 - 10-15 min Presentation
 - 10 min interview