

FLORIDA STATE FAIR YOUTH STEER FUTURITY

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The Florida State Fair will sponsor a youth steer futurity in 1990. The intent of the futurity is to provide top quality Florida bred steers to 4-H Club and FFA exhibitors at commercial prices with the opportunity to have a profitable project. In addition, we hope the futurity concept will create more participation from Florida cattlemen, stress more emphasis on educational activities for the participants and provide a competitive event that will showcase Florida steers. The exhibitors will participate in educational seminars discussing such topics as selection, feeding, record keeping and showmanship.

Steers will be obtained from producers and purchased by exhibitors in a futurity sale on July 22 at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Steers must be purchased at the sale to be eligible for entry in the show.

The judging objective will be to rank steers with consideration of values to all facets of the industry. The steers should exhibit conformation suggesting half-sisters would be desirable as replacement heifers for commercial cattle production, have a high rate of gain, acceptable

muscling and sufficient, but not excessive, outside fat covering. Available records and ultrasound fat thickness and ribeye area will be used in ranking the live steers. Steers that are extreme in body type, muscle expression and unsoundness of skeletal structure will be discounted. Live evaluation for carcass traits will be made by use of a quality-cutability index based on USDA cutability estimates adjusted for marbling with added discounts for USDA Yield Grades 4 and 5.

Carcasses will be judged according to standards established by the USDA dual grading system and the value of carcass cut out.

The premier champion will be determined by forty percent on the live placing and sixty percent on the carcass merits.

More emphasis and prize money will be placed on educational activities for exhibitors such as junior and senior showmanship, record books and herdsman awards. Premium money and trophies are also available for the gain in weight and carcass contest. Awards will be presented to the breeder of the Champion and Reserve Champion steers and the Premier and Reserve Premier steers. All carcass and performance information will be returned to the breeders.

To encourage participants to continue their education beyond high school, radio station WQYK is sponsoring scholarships for two college bound students that demonstrate outstanding participation in all areas of the steer program.

Further information on the futurity can be obtained by writing the Florida State Fair Youth Steer Futurity, P.O. Box 11766, Tampa, Florida, 33680.