



ILLINOIS BEEF QUALITY

2024-25 Showcase

What It Is:

Illinois Beef Quality Showcase is a new program developed by the Illinois Beef Association to highlight the exceptional performance of cattle produced by the state's preeminent beef operations. The IBQS program is a fed cattle competition that will showcase genetic prowess of Illinois-produced steers through an on-feed test protocol at the University of Illinois Beef Farm. Donated calves will be on-feed for approximately 190 days, and will be managed as high-risk groups, with an available drop-off/warm-up period during the 10 days leading up to processing. Donated cattle will be delivered in November of 2024, and will be fed through Mid-May of 2025. The IBQS program will coordinate harvest of cattle at a modern packing facility, where carcass and grade data will be collected to inform the competition results. Cash prizes and special awards are presented to donors of the top steers in Retail Value Per-Day-on-Feed, Average Daily Gain, Ribeye Area, Marbling Score and Chef's Choice. Winners of the Inaugural Illinois Beef Quality Showcase program will be announced in June of 2025.

How It Works:

Illinois beef producers are invited to participate by donating a feeder steer to the program. Each donated steer should be 750 pounds (+/- 10%) by November 22, 2024. Steers will be accepted at the U of I Beef Farm during a warm-up period from November 11-21. All steers must be in place for processing and kick-off of the feeding competition on November 22. IBA can help producers facilitate delivery of donated steers to the U of I Beef Farm; arrangements can be made once cattle are officially committed to the program and a commitment form has been submitted to the IBA Office.

Steer Requirements:

All donated animals must be a Spring-born 2024 steer calf, with a target weight of 750 pounds on November 22. A 10% +/- variant will be accepted at the donor's acknowledgement. No dairy breed type cattle will be accepted. No evidence of warts, ringworm, lice, or mange. All steers must have been castrated at least 30 days prior to delivery.

All steers must have been dehorned and healed from dehorning. Steers must be weaned, bunk broke and on a mixed ration prior to delivery. Any steer unable to adapt to the facility pen, encountering a health challenge or injury during the feedlot period, may be removed from the contest prior to the marketing date.





ADDITIONAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Donors must be an active member of IBA for the 2024-25 membership year. You must submit a commitment for IBQS by October 18 to the IBA. Steer delivery at the U of I Beef Farm in Urbana will be accepted November 11-21; IBA will work with donors to arrange pickup locations throughout the state, if requested. Steer delivery must include a completed delivery information sheet that includes steer description, pedigree, and all vaccinations given in the last 21 days.

Timeline of the 2024-25 IBQS Program:

Commitment forms due to IBA by October 18, 2024. Delivery window is November 11-21. All steers must be in place at U of I Beef Farm in Urbana by noon on November 22, 2024. On-test weigh and scan of steers will be December 3, 2024. Mid-test weigh and scan of steers will be February 18, 2025. An open house for IBQS participants will take place at U of I Beef Farm in March of 2025. IBQS Banquet & Award Recognition: June 2025.

Nutrition Protocol for IBQS:

We anticipate all steers weighing around 750 pounds upon arrival. We will work with the feedlot to build rations for an ending weight of 1,425 to 1,450 pounds. Steers will be on a two-week acclimation period prior to initiating the feedlot performance test with an on-test weight. The acclimation period allows each individual steer to adapt to pen conditions and normalize to diet and weight. Steers will be fed for 190 days. Once the steers are finished with their 2-week acclimation period we intend to have them spend 150 days on a finishing ration. Cost of gain will be important but not a limiting factor for this contest. Steers will be ultra sounded twice. We will utilize this scan projection data to track how steers are performing throughout the contest.

Health Protocol for IBQS:

PRE-ARRIVAL: Steers will be weaned no later than Oct. 9 with a delivery date of Nov. 20. Cattle will require vaccinations listed between the dates of Sept. 16 to Oct. 20. **Required vaccinations:** IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI-3, seven-way Clostridia, Mannheimia haemolytica, and Histophilus somni. Calf must come with a completed health sheet in order to receive information back from the challenge.

ARRIVAL: Processing will be at noon on Nov. 22. Processing on arrival will include: 5-way modified live viral, paste dewormer, lice control pour on, an intermediate steroid implant, and a preventative antibiotic dose. U of I will be conducting a blood draw, deep pharyngeal swab, and BVD PI test. Any positive test results will result in immediate removal from the competition.

TREATMENT PROTOCOLS:

Pull and treatment reports will be communicated between U of I and IBA. Animals will be treated and returned, unless a sick pen is needed. All deaths will be posted and reported to IBA, as well as the donor notified. Neither IBA, nor U of I will be held liable for any sickness or any death loss of the IBQS steers. Cattle will be monitored closely to avoid health issues. If a steer becomes chronic, IBA will be consulted on railing the steer. Steers that don't fit projections from the scan and weight data will be addressed at the halfway point for railing the steer.



2025 Commitment Form

DONOR INFORMATION

Please list ALL donors and sponsors you want listed for this steer on all materials.

Steer donated by:

Please list donor information below:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please list additional co-donor(s) or sponsor(s):

(These contacts will receive all program communication, please indicate by circling which)

Partner(s) or Sponsor(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Email: _____

Partner(s) or Sponsor(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____ Email: _____

Will you require assistance with delivery of your steer to Univ. of Illinois in November? Yes No



YES! I agree. I agree to donate & deliver a feeder steer following the given guidelines for the Illinois Beef Quality Showcase for weaning, weight, and vaccinations, to University of Illinois or designated pick-up site at the date given to me by the IBA staff coordinator. At delivery, I understand the ownership of the steer will be turned over to the IBQS program and the funds raised by the marketing of the finished steer will be used in the IBA general fund to strengthen Illinois' beef business through educational programs and leadership development.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Josh St. Peters | josh@illinoisbeef.com

Illinois Beef Association | 2501 N. 8th St. | Springfield, IL 62702 | (217) 787-4280