

# TJAA CARCASS CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

The Texas Junior Angus Association (TJAA) carcass contest is designed to provide an opportunity for juniors to better understand carcass quality and profitability metrics when raising cattle for beef. Additionally, this contest helps juniors experience the cattle feeding sector of the beef industry and the impact of carcass traits on grid-based marketing.

## Eligibility of Participants & Entries:

1. Participants must be a junior, regular or life members of the Texas Angus Association.
2. Participants must be between the ages of 7-21 as of January 1 of the current contest year.
3. Registered carcass steers must be Bred & Owned by the exhibitor or purchased from a Texas Angus Association Member.
4. Multiple entries, up to 3 per exhibitor, shall be allowed in this event with only the top carcass steer counting for placing.
5. The participant will be required to register for the event prior to entry deadline of the Texas Junior Angus Show (TJAS).
6. All TJAA carcass contest steers must be registered and in the junior's name by Jan. 12, 2026 for the 2026 Contest.
7. Ownership of carcass steers for the TJAA Carcass Contest will follow the same rules as NJAA for junior-owned animals.
8. Exhibitors must submit their official starting weights by Jan. 12, 2026.
9. Official starting weights require the signature of any of the following: County Extension Agent, Ag-Science Teacher, Texas Angus Association Board Member, TJAA Advisor – OR – exhibitors can submit a photo of the scale showing weight that also shows the time/date stamp.
10. All official starting weights, along with steer registration numbers for the exhibitors must be sent to [taa@texasangus.com](mailto:taa@texasangus.com) by the Jan. 12, 2026 deadline.
11. Official ending weights must be completed no more than 7 days prior to the date of scan at the TJAS. Ending weights require the signature of any of the following: County Extension Agent, Ag-Science Teacher, Texas Angus Board Member, TJAA Advisor – OR – exhibitors can submit a photo of the scale showing weight that also shows the time/date stamp.
12. All carcass steer exhibitors must be present at the time of

scanning at the TJAS. Otherwise, the steer will be disqualified.

- 13. All carcass steer exhibitors are required to attend a designated educational session at the TJAS to learn more about how to Target the Certified Angus Beef brand and the science behind the ten specifications.
- 14. All carcass steer exhibitors are required to be Beef Quality Assurance Certified (BQA). A copy of their certification must be included with the record book. More information can be found at <https://www.bqa.org/beef-quality-assurance-certification>
- 15. Steers must be born between January 1, 2025 - July 1, 2025.
- 16. Minimum live weight of 950 pounds.
- 17. It is highly recommended that all steers be halter broke.

## Event Procedures:

### Carcass ranking

1. The carcass steers to be weighed no more than 7 days prior to the day of scan with either a County Extension Agent, Ag-Science Teacher, Texas Angus Association Board Member, a TJAA Advisor present (verified out-weight) – OR – a photo with time/date stamp.
2. The carcass steers will be scanned at the TJAS by an Ultrasound Guidelines Council certified Field Technician from the AAA list.
3. Carcass steers will be ranked based on carcass traits from the ultrasound using the NJAS Carcass Contest grid-based formula. The Grid formula rewards carcasses that meet or exceed Certified Angus Beef (CAB) brand qualifications per the USDA G1 schedule.
4. To calculate a yield grade, carcass weight will be established applying a standard 63% dressing percentage to the verified out-weight. Ribeye area and fat thickness at the 12<sup>th</sup> rib will be established from the ultrasound scan. A standard 3% Kidney, Pelvic & Heart (KPH) adjustment will be used.
5. Animals need to be clean and dry for best scan results. No pre-oiling will be allowed prior to scan. The ultrasound Technician may clip the steer at the location of scan site in order to produce the best image possible from the scan.
6. Quality grade will be determined using the intramuscular fat (IMF) from the ultrasound scan. “A” maturity will be assumed for all entries.
  - a. “Modest” or higher marbling.
  - b. Medium to fine marbling texture.
  - c. Only cattle harvested less than 30 months of age by dentition and only A-maturity lean – for superior color, texture and tenderness.
  - d. Ribeye Area (REA) of 10.0 – 16.0 in<sup>2</sup>
  - e. Hot Carcass Weight (HCW) of 1,050 lbs. or less
  - f. Less than 1-inch fat thickness
  - g. Superior muscling (restricts dairy influence)
  - h. Practically free of capillary rupture
  - i. No dark cutters
  - j. No neck hump exceeding 2 inches.

## Record book ranking

Participants are expected to complete the associated record worksheet. The carcass steers are to be weighed at the beginning of the feeding period with County Extension Agent, Ag-Science Teacher, Texas Angus Board Member, TJAA Advisor – OR – exhibitors can submit a photo of the scale showing weight that also shows the time/date stamp. Participants will calculate appropriate performance measures (ex. Average daily gain, weight per day of age, cost of gain, etc.).

## Interview ranking

Participants will be asked a series of questions related to cattle feeding and carcass traits and scored on knowledge of responses.

## Total Contest Entry Ranking:

75% Carcass  
15% Record book  
10% Interview

## Prizes and Premiums:

1. Thomas Kemp Memorial Scholarships will be awarded to overall:  
Grand Champion - \$1500  
Reserve Champion - \$1000
2. The breeder of the overall Champion and Reserve Champion TJAS Carcass Contest steers will also receive recognition and awards.
3. Awards will be provided to the Champion and Reserve Champion owned division and bred & owned division entries with a minimum entry of 7 participants per division or both divisions will be combined.
4. Premiums will be awarded for top placing carcass steers depending on number of entries.

## Texas Junior Angus Association Carcass Steer Record Book Instructions

Sections one (1), two (2), and three (3) are required. Record Books must be divided into no more than six (6) Sections. Each Section must be separated by a blank page.

1. **Section one (1)** – (Required) – an essay of introduction not to exceed two pages, can include items such as:
  - A brief personal background
  - Calf selection – size, pedigree, etc.
  - Feed selection – facts as to why you chose your feed ration
  - Short discussion of industry standards (what commercial feeders expect of cattle in feedlots.) – should include items such as:
    - i. Approximate pounds of feed a calf will eat per day
    - ii. Average daily gain
    - iii. Average cost per pound of gain
    - iv. What feeders and packers are looking for when sourcing cattle
2. **Section two (2)** – (Required) – Record book worksheet:
  - Official start weight
  - Official out weight
  - Average daily gain
  - Feeding log (Total weight of feed fed)
  - Average cost of gain
  - Veterinary expenses
  - Additional expenses
3. **Section three (3)** – (Required) – Conclusion – not to exceed one page.
  - Summary of your project/ problems encountered, opinion of commercial steer show
  - **WHAT YOU learned from the project**
  - Other items of interest
4. **Section four (4)** – (Optional) – Photo story.

**Texas Junior Angus Association Carcass Steer Contest Worksheet**

Name:

Member Num:

Age:

BQA#

Address:

City:

Phone:

Breeder of Steer(s):

Steer Reg. #	Date	Start Weight	Authorized Signature

Steer Reg. #	Date	Out Weight	Authorized Signature

**Number of Days on Feed:**

Steer Reg. #	Start Date	End Date	Total Days on Feed

**Feed Purchased:** Ration description and/or type of feed:

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Date	Amt/lbs	Cost/Unit	Total Cost

**Gross Feed lbs:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sub-Total Feed Purchases:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Veterinary Expenses:**

Date	Description	Cost/Unit	Total

**Other/Misc. Expenses:**

**TJAA Carcass Steer Summary of Expense**

1. Total Finish Weight of Steer (-3% Shrink)	
2. Start Weight of Steer	

**Total Gain of Steer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Days on Feed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Average Daily Gain of Steer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost of Feed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Average Cost of Gain:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purchase Price (for Bred & Owned estimate value):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Expenses (Feed/Vet/Misc.):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Projected Breakeven:** \_\_\_\_\_