



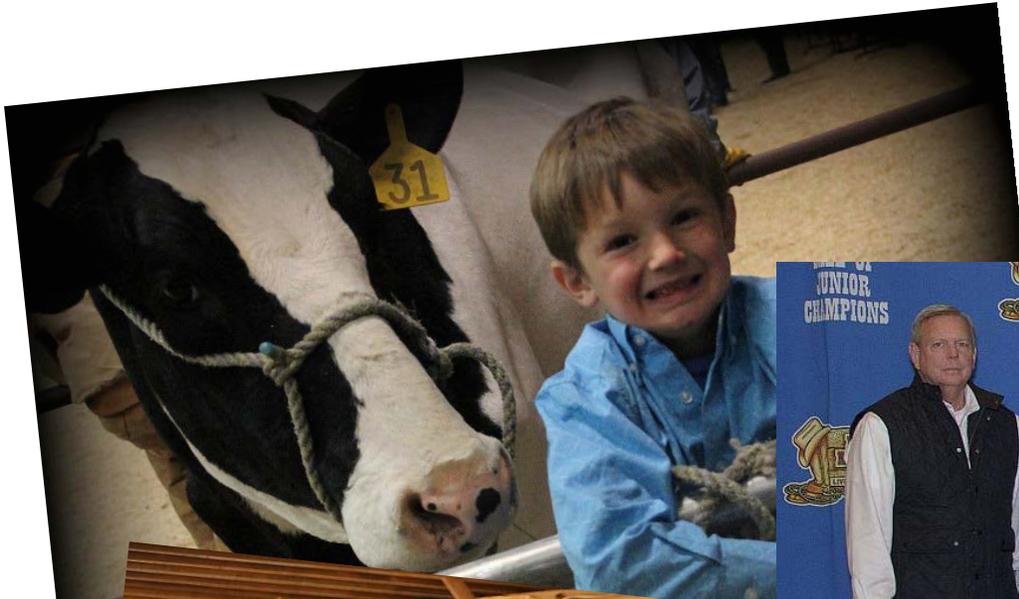
**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
**EXTENSION**

# Growing the Livestock Adventure for Youth:

A REPLACEMENT BEEF HEIFER DEVELOPMENT CONTEST

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## Replacement Beef Heifer Development Contest



2017 4-H/FFA Replacement Beef Heifer Development Contest Winners

L-R: 1st place: Amelia Buckley; 2nd place: Olivia Branum; 3rd place: Trent Howe; 4th place: Anna Vowell; 5th place: Nathan Pulliam; finalist: Rowdy Anderson; finalist: Ashleigh Hickman; finalist: Colleen Ellzey; and family of Justin Klunk (finalist). (not pictured are finalists Claire Posey and Meribeth Hales).

# Beef Heifer Development Contest

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- Entry form submitted by November 1
- 3 heifers, purebred or commercial
- Youth producer manages heifers over 10 months, maintaining detailed records
- Contest concludes in August of following year

# Contest Evaluation

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- Visual evaluation of heifers
- Management records maintained by youth producer
- Youth producer presentation and interview

# Visual Evaluation

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A committee of judges will evaluate each group of three (3) heifers managed by the contestant. Criteria that will be evaluated include weight, frame score, growth, body condition score, health, structural/skeletal soundness and reproductive ultrasound evaluation. In addition, each entrant will be judged on their salesmanship skills and overall knowledge of phenotypic characteristics of their heifers. *This component of the contest will be worth 20%.*



# Records

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Youth will be required to submit records kept throughout the entire ten (10) month project. At the start of the project, contestants will be asked to list short- and long-term goals for their heifer project. In addition, during each month of the project, the contestant should record anything that was done to his/her heifers. Examples would include recording the amount of feed, hay or other nutritional supplements purchased or fed, veterinarian expenses and other health-related costs, breeding decisions, rotational grazing of pastures, a complete budget/expense sheets and any other management issue in which the youth had to make a decision for the continued development of his/her heifers. At the conclusion of the project, youth should address whether or not they were able to achieve the goals that they set at the start of the project. These records will be judged on their completeness and exactness during the contest year. *This component of the contest will be worth 30%.*

# Interview

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A committee of judges will interview the exhibitor on their individual production practices. The exhibitor will give a presentation (PowerPoint is recommended) to summarize his/her heifer development project. This presentation can include anything relevant to the contestant's project (goals for project and if they were accomplished, pictures to illustrate the project, etc). Each exhibitor will then answer questions from the committee in regard to their project, such as the process used to select the heifers, record keeping system used, nutrition program, bull used for breeding purposes, health records and any production practices utilized by the exhibitor during this contest. *This component of the contest will be worth 50%.*



# Participants

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# Outcomes

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# Questions?

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