

Hoof to Hook

Youth Steer Feedout & Carcass Contest



Jennifer Patterson

OSU Extension – Payne County Agriculture Educator

jennifer.k.patterson@okstate.edu

Earl H Ward

OSU Extension - Area Livestock Specialist

earl.ward@okstate.edu

Payne County Oklahoma

Program Importance & Goals

- This program addresses the growing disconnect with the general public and the cattle industry by bridging the knowledge gap that youth and families might have of other beef production phases between the cow/calf producer and end beef consumer.
- Increase knowledge of feed efficiency, nutrition, management decisions, and the end product values.
- Strengthen agricultural literacy among youth, families, and community partners.

Program Overview

This is a 150-day finishing feedlot youth program. Focused not only on calf performance but includes beef production education. Youth are required to attend several of the educational opportunities and awards are based on calf performance, carcass quality, attendance, record keeping, and interviews. Award winners were announced and honored at the Payne County Cattle Producers Banquet.

Program Impact

- We had 7 families participate in the 2025 inaugural contest.
- This program received strong community support gathering \$9600 in monetary donations, as well as facility fees waived to host educational opportunities.
- The program awarded \$4128.40 in carcass premiums and \$1875 in cash prizes, in addition to the banner and buckle awards to the youth participants.
- Evaluations indicated that 100% of participants surveyed indicated a positive impact on knowledge and skills learned.
- 100% of the youth responses indicated an interest in exploring careers in agriculture and participation in future livestock projects.
- 100% of evaluations received either agreed or strongly agreed that this program had a positive financial impact on their operations future.

Future Plans

The 2026 contest participation has more than doubled and will have at least 15 families participating. We will continue the Hoof to Hook contest annually while expanding educational programming and industry partnerships to enhance youths' understanding of beef production and educating the consumer as well.

Acknowledgements

- Bobby & Christine Clay: Clay Ranch, Perkins OK
- Joel Jackson with OSU FAPC
- Stillwater Milling Company & OSU Beef Research



“From Hoof to Hook: Learning the Beef Story”



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****Educational Workshop Highlights****



Stillwater Milling Company and OSU Willard Sparks Beef Research Center Tours - Discussion of nutrition and animal selection.



Cattle Handling Contest - Team-based event at Clay Ranch focusing on facility use, handling, medication administration, and record keeping.



Livestock Field Day - Interactive stations covering key areas of the livestock industry.



Participant Exit Interviews - Review of steer projects and record books.



Carcass Evaluation at OSU FAPC - Facility tour and evaluation of participants' steer carcasses and grading results.



Beef Quality Taste Testing - Overview of beef quality grades, meat selection, and preparation.