

# HARTFORD FAIR STEER POOL

Sign up today to participate in the 2020 Steer Pool!



## Why join the Steer Pool?



The 2020 Steer Pool presents a one of a kind opportunity for our youth to compete at the Hartford Fair while learning what it takes to select, raise, care for, train, show, and experience selling a finished steer to the market. The Steer pool project is open to anyone of 4-H age and serves as a great SAE project for FFA.

**Farm Credit Mid-America proudly supports the Steer Pool program.** All steer pool participants may finance the purchase price of the steer through Farm Credit. Farm Credit pays for the steer on selection day and will be repaid from the Junior Fair Livestock Sale proceeds following the Hartford Fair. So, your only out of pocket cost is for feed and supplies. Be sure to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity!



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## How does it work?

1. **Sign up and attend the Monday, Sept 23, 2019 organizational meeting** held at the New Covenant Community Church in Johnstown, Ohio. The meeting starts at **7:00 PM**.
2. **Deposit a participation insurance fee of \$75 by September 27, 2019.** This insurance reimburses you the full price of the steer if it dies. (All or the remaining portion of the fee is refunded at the end of the project if no claims are made)
3. **Select your steer on Sunday, October 27, 2019** at Claylick Run Farms in Newark, Ohio from a pre-selected group of steers. Selection order is determined by a random drawing. You will select your own steer in the order that your number is drawn. Participation is limited to 65 exhibitors. **Registration at 12:30 PM; Selection begins at 1:00 PM.**
4. **Take your steer home** and prepare your steer for competing at the Hartford Fair in August 2020. Make sure you complete your record book, attend at least three steer pool meetings and enjoy being a part of the agriculture food business!
5. **Sell your steer** on Saturday of the fair in the Junior Fair Livestock Sale. The exhibitor will receive proceeds from this premium sale and from the sale of the carcass.

To sign up, contact Rod Bemiller at 740-967-6394 or [bemiller.rodneym9@gmail.com](mailto:bemiller.rodneym9@gmail.com)

## History of the steer pool

It was the fall of 1959 when the first group of anxious, excited young people stepped into a ring to select their Steer Pool calves for the next year's Hartford Fair.

More than 50 years later, the program is still going strong and had its own 50th birthday bash at the 2009 Hartford Fair.

Founders of the steer pool include Willis Fravel, John Stimpert, Kirby Barrick, Don Heimerl and James Witham.

The idea behind it was to take a steer project from beginning to end, and especially to give everyone a level playing field.

Youth of 4-H age who live in the Hartford Fair district have their names drawn to select a calf. They have 15 minutes to examine and select a calf from a group of pre-selected steers without help from parents. Then participants record feedings, time and expenses in a project book while attending a series of meetings in preparation for the Skill-a-thon, held on move-in day of the fair, to gauge their knowledge of their project.

At the fair, Steer Pool participants compete in a live show with their steer and are awarded Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, as well as Rate of Gain, Project Books and Showmanship awards.

Following the live show, the steers are auctioned off, harvested and graded again in a carcass show, where another Champion and Reserve Champion are selected. Following all of the competitions, Outstanding Exhibitors are awarded for each age category; Junior, Intermediate and Senior. These awards are earned from the collective scores of all the competitions of the Steer Pool program.

Fourteen young men and women participated in the Steer Pool in its first year.

There are only two or three steer pools now in the entire state, with this being the oldest and most successful. Its tremendous success has based on the support of the community.

The Steer Pool show on Monday evening of the Hartford Fair is like a giant family reunion, with past participants and long-time supporters returning each year to watch. Old friends share memories and the triumphs of current participants.

## Award opportunities

### Live Show

Grand Champion  
Reserve Champion  
Top Five Overall  
Top Five in each class  
Rate of Gain

### Showmanship

Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions  
Top Five in each division  
Expert Showmanship

### Beef Skillathon

Junior, Intermediate and Senior division  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place premiums

### Record Book

Junior, Intermediate, and Senior divisions  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards

### Carcass Show

Grand Champion  
Reserve Champion  
Top Five

### Outstanding Exhibitors

Junior, Intermediate and Senior divisions

For more information visit  
the Hartford Fair website Premium Book Dept. 105 Steer Pool at  
[www.HartfordFair.com/premium-book.htm](http://www.HartfordFair.com/premium-book.htm)

or

[www.SteerPool.com](http://www.SteerPool.com)