



STEER OF THE YEAR 2025 – 2026



HOSTED BY FIRST PLACE FLORIDA

Established in 2024, “Steer of the Year” is a unique recognition program for youth who have exhibited steer projects and earned grand champion titles throughout the season.

Similar to those put on by national livestock publications, this is designed to be an interactive and fun program that showcases the depth and competitive drive of livestock and exhibitors in Florida, and to provide an additional level of recognition for those who have risen to the top.

Entering the third year of this program, we are excited to continue recognizing exhibitors once again this season, and many updates have been made to the program. Please see below for more info.

ELIGIBILITY

Any steer that has won the grand champion title at a **terminal (sent to slaughter following the fair/show) county level or higher fair or show** between **September 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026**, is eligible for this program.

In the event that a fair/show has more than one “show” (ex. purebred and commercial, American and AOB divisions, etc.) within a show, the exhibitor with the **terminal steer who wins the title of overall supreme champion**, or similarly named award, will represent that fair/show. If there is **no supreme champion** awarded, or the supreme champion is a **non-terminal animal**, **the steer that wins grand champion of the terminal division with the largest number of steers entered**, will represent that fair/show.

A full list of this year’s eligible shows, plus the names of their grand champion winners, will be posted in the days following this announcement for review. The photo of the steer used from each show will be a **backdrop photo** from the show, **with a link to copies of these photos posted for review until the submission period** for the competition begins. In the event no backdrop photo exists, an exception can be made, preferably taken as close in date to the show as possible.

If a winner is not listed, and/or a name and/or photo is needed for your fair or show, please submit the show name and exhibitor’s name and/or photo (see examples on attached page) via the form by 11:59 p.m. EST on **Sunday, May 24**.

If your steer, or a show you represent are listed and you do not wish to be included, please submit the show or exhibitor’s name in writing, via email or direct message, by 11:59 p.m. EST on **Sunday, May 24**.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

Steers will be placed into classes of **up to six**, where members of the public will be invited place each class from top to bottom, similar to classes at a livestock judging competition, through a closed online form, similar to submitting a placing card or scantron.

One form submission will be accepted per person, per email address. For integrity purposes, **those wishing to place the classes will be required to authenticate their email address** through Google or a similar platform through the submission form, in order to maintain quality control.

In these rounds, steers will be **seeded into classes based on when their terminal show/fair took place and/or characteristics**, as best as possible for consistency, ex. March 2026 shows, Brahman influence, etc.

The preliminary rounds will take place **May 25 – 27 and May 29 – 31** in two waves.

The **top half of each class** from each class in the quarterfinals, based on user generated officials, will advance to the quarterfinals, ie. the top two steers from each class of four, the top three steers from each class of six.

(See the following page for more information over the procedure.)

QUARTERFINAL ROUNDS

Steers will be placed into classes of **up to six**, where members of the public will be invited place each class from top to bottom, similar to classes at a livestock judging competition, through a closed online form.

One form submission per person, per email address. For integrity purposes, **those wishing to place the classes will be required to authenticate their email address** through Google or a similar platform to maintain quality control.

In this round, as this is the second round, steers will be **placed in classes based on appearance**, such as color, type, American or European influence, etc.

The quarterfinal round will take place **June 3 – 5**.

The **top steer** from each of the quarterfinal classes, based on user generated officials, will advance to the semifinals.

PRELIMINARY AND QUARTERFINAL PROCEDURE

For the preliminary and quarterfinal rounds, **each steer will be identified by a number**. Exhibitor names and the fairs/shows each steer represents will not be revealed in the first two rounds.

Photos of the steers will be reduced to just the animal on a solid background with only the number included, as best as possible to maintain anonymity, see examples below.



As mentioned previously, in the preliminary and semifinal rounds, steers will be grouped into classes on online forms, links posted to our social media, where members of the public are invited to place them first through fourth, fifth or sixth. Classes will remain open for 48 hours from when each class is posted.

Classes will be tabulated by “**user generated officials**,” based on how they are placed by the public, as in which placing is submitted the most amongst the responses.

Ex. If a class average is 3-1-2-4, steer #3 and steer #1 would move to the next round in a preliminary round, and then steer #3 would move to the next round in a quarterfinal round.

Following the closing of classes, the full user-generated placing will be shared, and the **top two steers from each class in the preliminary rounds**, and the **winning steer from each of the quarterfinal rounds will advance to the final round.**

One vote will be accepted per person, per email, and those wishing to place the classes will be required to authenticate their email address through Google or a similar platform, in order to maintain quality control.

DISCLAIMER

While the program structure will stay the same, it may be necessary to have more than four or less than four steers in a class within the first two rounds based on the number of steers included.

Ex. If there are 37 steers to be included, 37 is not dividable by four, so one class of five, or three classes of three alongside classes of four, etc. may be utilized based on the “entries” available.

The number in class will not be more than six (6) or less than three (3) for the first two rounds. We understand that this is not perfect, but is necessary for this to be open to each terminal show in the state (currently **53**) and to publish the rules beforehand, accounting for not knowing exactly how many steers will participate until the photo deadline.

SEMIFINAL + FINAL ROUNDS

Before the semifinal round begins, each of the steers advancing to the third round will be featured in a post on Facebook and Instagram, plus on the homepage of the website, posted in number order. **The full, unedited backdrop photo will be posted, and the exhibitor or their designee will have the opportunity to submit a biographical information form to provide information** such as their steer's name, breeder, awards, special characteristics, etc. within a specified character count that will also be included with the post.

Steers advancing to this round will be **randomly seeded into rounds of two, where the public will vote for which of the two steers in each pair via an interactive voting system on the First Place Florida website. One vote accepted per user, per pair, directly on the website.**

The semifinal rounds will take place **June 8 – 9**.

The top steer from each pair will advance to the final round, **conducted in the same way as noted above**, where the public will vote for which steer they want to see take home the title from each of the finalists.

The final round will take place **June 11 – 12**, with the winner recognized on **June 12**. The semifinal rounds and the final round will remain open on the website for 24 hours from when each is posted.

AWARDS

The overall winner of "Steer of the Year" will receive a **banner and additional recognition**, courtesy of First Place Florida.

Additional prizes for the winner, finalists and semifinalists may also be made available dependent upon sponsorships. Please stay tuned for more information, and watch for announcements on how to donate prizes or become a sponsor.

PLEASE NOTE

While this program is designed similar to those of national publications with "classes" to help determine the finalists, and public-facing voting to determine the winner, please remember that this is for fun, is not an actual show or judging contest, and is strictly opinion based on photos and public opinion.

No overly negative or hateful comments, abusive language, bullying or harassment will be tolerated. If any of this behavior is observed from or on behalf of an exhibitor with a steer in this program, it is grounds for immediate disqualification.

No solicitation of goods or services may be offered by an exhibitor or supporter for or against voting for steers in the contest. If this is observed from or on behalf of an exhibitor with a steer in this program, it is grounds for immediate disqualification.

No paid social media advertising ("sponsored posts") permitted by an exhibitor or supporter for or against voting for steers in the contest. If this is observed from or on behalf of an exhibitor with a steer in the program, it is grounds for immediate disqualification.

As a reminder, negative comments directed toward youth exhibitors are not tolerated on any page by First Place Florida at any time, and those who post them will be blocked from access if it becomes an issue.

We recognize that everyone may have different opinions on formats such as this, and participation is completely optional. As a reminder, this is intended to be a fun program, please keep this in mind.

First Place Florida reserves the right to disqualify any exhibitor at any time, for any reason.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
<p>✔ Sharing the posts from First Place Florida, or your own post, with information about the contest on social media.</p>	<p>✘ Sharing negative or hateful comments about ANY steer on social media which could be considered harassment.</p>
<p>✔ Having other members of the public share info about voting for any of the steers on their pages.</p>	<p>✘ Using paid social media advertising or “sponsored” posts that you pay for to encourage others to vote.</p>
<p>✔ Encouraging others such as friends, breeders, ag teachers, business owners etc. to vote for any of the steers.</p>	<p>✘ Having individuals or businesses offer bribes or rewards, etc. to others for voting for or against a steer.</p>
<p>✔ Submitting votes in the first two rounds via an authenticated email address once per wave/round.</p>	<p>✘ Using others’ or bogus email addresses to submit votes that is inconsistent with the policies listed in the rules.</p>
<p>✔ Contacting us in writing as an exhibitor, parent or fair/show designee to remove your steer if you do not wish to participate.</p>	<p>✘ Contacting us in writing to remove a steer from the contest if you are not the exhibitor, parent or fair/show designee.</p>

PLEASE NOTE

While this program is designed similar to those of national publications with “classes” to help determine the finalists, and public voting to determine the winner, please remember that this is for fun, is not an actual show or judging contest, and is strictly opinion based on photos and public opinion.

No overly negative or hateful comments, abusive language, bullying or harassment will be tolerated. If any of this behavior is observed from or on behalf of an exhibitor with a steer in this program, it is grounds for immediate disqualification.

No solicitation of goods or services may be offered by an exhibitor or supporter for or against voting for steers in the contest. If this is observed from or on behalf of an exhibitor with a steer in this program, it is grounds for immediate disqualification.

No paid social media advertising (“sponsored posts”) permitted by an exhibitor or supporter for or against voting for steers in the contest. If this is observed from or on behalf of an exhibitor with a steer in the program, it is grounds for immediate disqualification.

As a reminder, negative comments directed toward youth exhibitors are not tolerated on any page by First Place Florida at any time, and those who post them blocked from access if it becomes an issue.

We recognize that everyone may have different opinions on formats such as this, and participation is completely optional. As a reminder, this is intended to be a fun program, please keep this in mind.

First Place Florida reserves the right to disqualify any exhibitor at any time, for any reason.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.