

2026 AJAA Junior Nationals

Norfolk, Nebraska

June 15th – June 21st



2026 AJAA Junior Nationals
TENTATIVE Schedule of Events & Contest

Sunday, June 14th: Cattle may start arriving at noon - Barn Availability TBD

Monday, June 15th:

7am – 12pm	Move into Barn Begins
2pm - 4pm	Check-in and Contest Sign Up
3pm - 5pm	Check-in/Tattoo Reading on Cattle
6pm	Ice Breakers

Tuesday, June 16th:

8am	Morning Round-up, Opening Ceremonies, & Group Photo
9am	Sullivan Supply's Stock Show U Clinic
10am	Team Fitting Contest
12pm - 1pm	Lunch Break – Concessions available
1pm	Quiz Bowl Contest
5:30	Interviews – Junior Board Candidates and Queen Interviews

Wednesday, June 17th:

8am	Morning Round-up
9am	Sullivan Supply's No Fit Showmanship Demo
10am	Sullivan Supply's No Fit Showmanship Contest – Followed by Over-The-Hill
12pm – 1pm	Lunch – Concessions available
1pm – 2pm	Annual Meeting
2pm – 2:30pm	Team Marketing Demonstration
3pm – 6pm	Team Marketing Contest

Thursday, June 18th:

8am	Morning Round-up
9am	Bred and Owned Show – Females and Bulls - Blow and Go
12pm – 1pm	Lunch – Concessions available
1pm	Livestock Judging
6:30pm	AJAA Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Friday, June 19th:

7:30am	Morning Round-up
9am	AJAA Show – Order to Be Announced

Sponsorship and Eligibility:

This show is sponsored by the American Junior Aberdeen Association. The show is open to all AJAA members. Members who turned 22 years old before January 1, 2026 are not eligible. **No alcohol or smoking will be permitted.**

- ❖ Animals must be registered in the sole ownership of the junior exhibitor by **May 15th, 2026**, to be eligible to show.
- ❖ Original registration certificates or copies for each animal must be presented at the time of check-in. Tattoos found to be missing, illegible, or in any other way incorrect with official AAA records will be disqualified.
- ❖ Entries must meet Nebraska health regulations.
- ❖ Entry fees are **\$55 per head**. Bred and Owned Heifer Entries are **\$40 per head**. Entries must be made by 11:59 on or before **May 1st, 2026**. Late entries are **\$75 per head** and will be accepted until **May 15th, 2026**.
- ❖ **All Juniors are to exhibit their own animals unless multiple entries under the same exhibitor are in a class or division. Members may have help exhibiting entries from another Junior Member in good standing.**
- ❖ **Animals that are Bred-and-Owned can also be entered in the regular show.**
- ❖ **To be considered a Bred-and-Owned animal – Dam is to be in a singular junior’s name at time of conception. No back dating on Dam’s registration papers is allowed.**
- ❖ Online entries will be done on Showman App. Please look for the link for entries on the AAA website and our social media.
- ❖ Cattle check-in will begin Monday, June 15th at 2PM.
- ❖ Stalls will be assigned to exhibitors. Stalling request accommodations are considered, but not guaranteed
- ❖ **GENERATORS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**
- ❖ **We reserve the right to pull DNA on any animal.**
- ❖ To maintain a high degree of confidence in the show, the AJAA reserves the right to disqualify any animals that have been fit or treated in an unethical manner.
 - Unethical fitting includes any injection of gas, solid or liquid under the skin to alter the normal conformation of the animal.
 - This includes any cutting or tearing of the hide, or underneath the hide, or removal of any tissue in an attempt to alter the shape of the animal.
 - Any attempts to disrupt or change normal dental development, dying or coloring of the hair coat that alters the natural coloration or artificial tail or tail head polls will disqualify the animal.
 - Any attempt to change the degree of firmness of any animal is considered unethical. Artificial means that the filling of cattle internally is prohibited.
- ❖ Initial bedding will be provided.
- ❖ Sullivan Supply will be onsite for show supply needs.
- ❖ Exhibitors must be present to exhibit their own animals entered in the show; emergencies will be decided on by the AJAA Board of Directors.
- ❖ Tie out stalls will be available on the fairgrounds.
- ❖ Any bull older than 12 months must be shown with a nose ring.

Arrival & Departure Times

Cattle begin arriving no earlier than Sunday June 14, 2026 and **must be** in place by June 15th at 4pm. Contact Curt Weyh (605)-237-3005 or Courteney Walker (575) 840-7444 for special arrangements. Cattle will be released following the show.

Heifer Show

Junior Heifer Calf	01/01/2026 and younger
Winter Heifer Calf	10/01/2025 to 12/31/2025
Senior Heifer Calf	08/01/2025 to 9/30/2025
Summer Yearling	05/01/2025 to 07/31/2025
Spring Yearling	03/01/2026 to 04/30/2025
Junior Yearling	01/01/2025 to 02/28/2025
Senior Yearling	12/31/2024 to 08/01/2024

Fullblood Division

Fullblood heifers born on or after August 1, 2024 are eligible. The show committee will divide the following classes accordingly. Every effort will be made to have no more than 16 head per class.

Percentage Heifers

Females exhibited in the percentage heifer class must have been born on or after August 1, 2024 and be a registered percentage female from 50% to less than Fullblood American Aberdeen. The show committee will divide the following classes accordingly. Every effort will be made to have no more than 16 head per class.

Bred-and-Owned Heifers

Bred-and-owned shows will be separate for Fullblood and Percentage heifers. Exhibitors in the bred-and-owned category must be the breeder and the first continuous owner of the animal. “Breeder” is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time of service. **All heifers exhibited must show the exhibitor as owning the entry’s dam at the time of conception (no back dating will be allowed).** “First Owner” is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time the calf is born. “Continuous Owner” is defined as the recorded owner of the animal without history of transfer. **The exhibitor must be listed as the breeder and current owner on the registration papers.**

Cow/Calf Pair:

Both a Fullblood division and a Percentage division will be available. Two classes of cow/calf pairs for each division: two-year olds and cows 3 to 7 years of age. Cows must be lactating with their natural calf at side born on or after November 1, 2025. Heifer calves may enter individual heifer classes and Bred-and-Owned divisions. Bull calves may be entered in the Junior Bull Calf Division. The calf must be registered and meet the criteria for the heifer or bull calf show classes.

Aberdeen Steer Rules

- ❖ No steers over 24 months of age

- ❖ Divisions and will be divided by weights (with the exception of steers over 17 months old that will automatically go into the market division regardless of weight).
- ❖ All steers will be required to have registration papers with the AAA
- ❖ Division weight break will be as follows

	87.5% to Fullblood	87.49% to 50%
Prospect	Up to 500lbs	Up to 700lbs
Progress	501-700lbs	701-900lbs
Market	Over 700lbs or 17-20 months	Over 900lbs or 17-20 months

Market Animals:

- ❖ All steers and heifer between 49.99% to 25% Aberdeen are eligible to compete.
- ❖ If you plan to bring a market animal, **you must enter and show an Aberdeen breeding animal of half-blood or higher.** (Breeding animals must follow their respected show rules and must be present with market animals at Junior Nationals).
- ❖ Market animal division weight break will be as followed:

	87.5% to Fullblood
Prospect	Up to 800lbs
Progress	801-1,000lbs
Market	Over 1,000lbs or 17-20 months

Bred- and-Owned Bulls:

Bulls born on or after January 1, 2025 are eligible. There will be a fullblood and percentage show having a Junior and Senior division. Exhibitors in the bred-and-owned category must be the breeder and the first continuous owner of the animal. "Breeder" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time of service. **All bulls exhibited must show the exhibitor as owning the entry's dam at the time of conception (no back dating will be allowed).** "First Owner" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time the calf is born. "Continuous Owner" is defined as the recorded owner of the animal without history of transfer. **The exhibitor must be listed as the breeder and current owner on the registration papers.**

*** Bulls will no longer need to be semen tested to show per AAA's rules***

Team Fitting – Tuesday, June 16th

Sponsored by Sullivan Supply – Stock Show U

Teams will consist of at least four participants chosen at random; including at least one junior, intermediate, and senior individual.

- ❖ A **35-minute** time limit is set to allow the team to prepare or "fit" the animal with proper grooming techniques. Animals will not be shown.
- ❖ An AJAA team member participating in the contest must be willing to use their animal and chute for the contest.
- ❖ This contest is for points.

Quiz Bowl – Tuesday, June 16th

- ❖ Quiz Bowl is a double elimination tournament with a participant drawn at random.
- ❖ Questions cover both the beef industry in general and the American Aberdeen Breed.
- ❖ Each round consists of 15 toss of questions
- ❖ Any contestant may answer a toss-up question; however, the contestant must first press the buzzer and be recognized by the quizmaster
- ❖ The quizmaster reads a toss-up question until the question is completed of a contestant buzzes in
- ❖ If a contestant buzzes in during the reading of a question, the quizmaster stops reading immediately, the contestant must begin his/her answer within 5 seconds
 - o Contestants are warned that toss-up questions may have more than one part, so “buzzing in early” may hurt the team’s score.
- ❖ If the answer given by the first responder is correct, they will gain the points.
- ❖ If the answer given by the first contestant is incorrect, the toss-up question will be repeated for the opposing team.
 - o An individual on the opposing team must sound his/her buzzer before the individual may answer the question
 - o The team is never allowed to confer on a toss-up question
- ❖ If neither team answers the toss-up question correctly, the quizmaster goes on to the next question
- ❖ In case of a tie there will be 3 toss up questions given to the round finalists. In this “sudden death” round whoever answers 2 of 3 questions correctly will be declared the winner.

Interviews – Tuesday, June 16th

- ❖ **Junior Board of Directors:** Application form and rules are in this packet and will be posted online. Contact: Curt Weyh (605)-237-3005 or Courteney Walker (575) 840-7444
- ❖ **Queen and Princess:** Application form and rules are in this packet and will be posted online. Direct questions to Courteney Walker (575) 840-7444 or Lisa Nickell (405)-380-5792

No-Fit Showmanship – Wednesday, June 17th

Sponsored by Sullivan Supply – Stock Show U

- ❖ AJAA members who did not enter an animal in the National Junior Show are allowed to borrow an animal from another AJAA member.
- ❖ Bulls of any age are not to be shown in showmanship.
- ❖ Contestants will exhibit animals in a clean, but unfitted condition.
- ❖ Every participant will need to be able to handle the animal by themselves safely.
- ❖ Age Divisions will be broken down into as many heats as deemed necessary. The judge will choose the number of individuals asked to return from each heat.
- ❖ Show will run oldest to youngest or at the judges preference.
- ❖ Age Break: As of January 1st, 2026
 - o Senior (15-21 years of age)
 - o Intermediate (10-14 years of age)
 - o Junior (9 years of age and under)

PeeWee Showmanship – Wednesday, June 17th

- ❖ Exhibitors must be able to handle the calf adequately and safely. Helpers may help in this division. It is preferred that the helper be an AJAA member.
- ❖ This division is set up for any member who feels that it is the appropriate division for them.
- ❖ Exhibitors must be an AJAA member.
- ❖ No points will be accumulated from the division for the overall awards

Over-the-Hill Showmanship – Wednesday, June 17th:

This contest is for FUN & ENTERTAINMENT - Let's have the "professionals" show us how it's really done. The contest is for previous generations of showmen. Participants must be over 25 years old to enter and each may borrow an animal or not even use one!

Team Marketing – Wednesday, June 17th

- ❖ Two/Three people will be on a team. Teams must include members from the same age group. Teams will be picked by randomly drawing names out of a hat and announced the morning of the event.
- ❖ The team will be responsible for developing its own marketing strategy.
- ❖ Presentations will be a minimum of 5 minutes, but not to exceed 10 min including questions including questions. The presentation will be stopped at the end of 10 minutes. Each individual on the team will be expected to speak during the presentation. The objective of the team is to sell their animal.
- ❖ The following topics should be discussed:
 - o Pedigree information
 - o Performance information
 - o Visual characteristics
- ❖ The judge's questions will not necessarily be limited to the three topics listed above.
- ❖ Teams will be discounted for using notes but are encouraged to use reference materials.
- ❖ Each team will be responsible for selecting an animal to use.
 - o Two copies of registration certificates should be provided. (Printer available in AJAA Office)
 - o Points will be deducted for teams that do not supply two certificates.
 - o In addition to the registration certificates, each team may supply performance data, pictures, show records, etc. as part of the sales package to the panel of judges.
- ❖ Points will be awarded as follows:
 - o Knowledge - 25 points
 - o Ability to communicate - 25 points
 - o Team organization - 25 points
 - o Overall effect - 25 points
- ❖ Up to 10 points will be deducted for dependence on notes
- ❖ Five points will be subtracted if registration certificates are not submitted.
- ❖ Ten points will be subtracted if all three team members do not speak.
- ❖ Two points will be subtracted for each minute the team presentation goes under 3 minutes and the presentation goes over 5 minutes.

- ❖ AJAA Directors reserve the right to decrease team members to 2 to increase participation.

Livestock Judging – Thursday, June 18th

- ❖ Participants will evaluate classes of cattle and rank the animals based on their structural correctness, balance, muscle, and overall quality. Contestants will be expected to evaluate each class and place the animals in the order they believe best represents the ideal animal based on industry standards.
- ❖ Procedure:
 - o Contestants will be given the opportunity to view multiple classes of cattle. Each class will consist of 4 animals that must be placed in order from best to least desirable.
- ❖ Junior contestants will be required to **place the animals only** and will **not be required to give oral reasons**.
- ❖ Intermediate and Senior contestants will be required to **place each class and present oral reasons on selected classes** to explain their placements.
- ❖ Oral reasons should clearly explain the contestant's evaluation of the animals and justify why one animal is placed over another using proper livestock judging terminology.
- ❖ Contestants will be scored on:
 - o Accuracy of class placements
 - o Ability to properly evaluate structural correctness and quality
 - o Clarity and organization of oral reasons (intermediate and senior division only)
- ❖ This contest will be used for point accumulation.

Overall Points System

Overall awards will be awarded to the following:

- ❖ Senior (15-21 years of age): Champion and Reserve Champion
- ❖ Intermediate (10-14 years of age): Champion and Reserve Champion
- ❖ Junior (9 years of age and under): Champion and Reserve Champion

Winners will be selected based on the following point system:

- ❖ Exhibit one or more animals – 10 points

If the contestants of any age division are in the top six of any of the listed contests, including Quiz Bowl, Team Fitting, Team Marketing, Livestock Judging and Showmanship. They will receive points for the following:

- ❖ 1st place – 10 points
- ❖ 2nd place – 9 points
- ❖ 3rd place – 8 points
- ❖ 4th place – 7 points
- ❖ 5th place – 6 points
- ❖ 6th place – 5 points
- ❖ 7th – 4 points
- ❖ 8th – 3 points
- ❖ 9th – 2 points
- ❖ 10th or lower – 1 point
- ❖ No participation – 0 points

Premier Exhibitor:

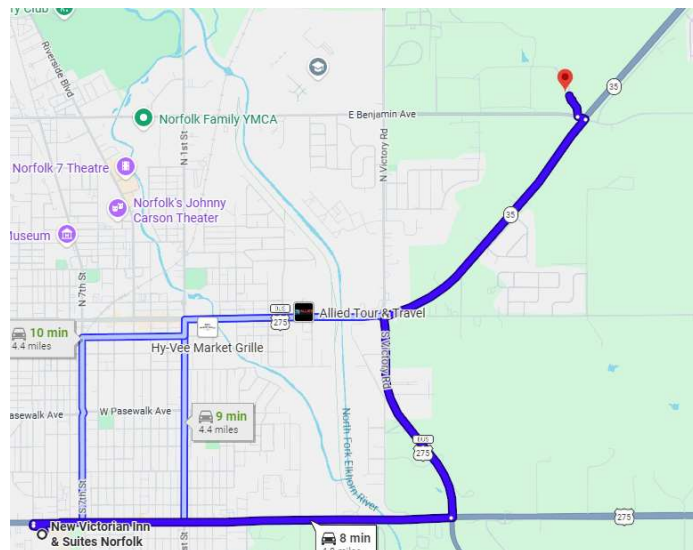
- ❖ The AJAA will present an award to the premier exhibitor of the show.
- ❖ The premier exhibitor will be determined by the exhibitor’s placement in individual steer, heifer, bull and cow/calf classes.
- ❖ Points are accumulated as follows:
 - o 1st Place- 5 pts
 - o 2nd Place-3 pts
 - o 3rd Place - 1 pt
- ❖ Maximum number of placements used to determine the winner shall be limited to three. In the case of a tie, additional placements will be used.
- ❖ **This will be announced at the end of the Show**

Fairground Info:

Chuck M Pohlman Ag Complex
2301 E. Benjamin Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701

Host Hotel:

New Victoria Inn & Suites Norfolk
1001 W Omaha Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701



FAIRGROUND/CONTRACT RULES:

- ❖ **NO DOGS ALLOWED AT THE EVENT SITE**
- ❖ **AT THIS TIME WE ARE NOT GUARANTEEING LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT IF LUNCH IS NOT PROVIDED CONCESSION WILL BE AVAILABLE.**
 - o **No grills allowed on premise**
 - o **Crockpots and coolers are okay at this time**
- ❖ **NO OUTSIDE BEDDING WILL BE ALLOWED**

AJAA Board of Directors

The new AJAA Board of Directors will be elected during the 2026 Junior National show in Norfolk, NE.

Qualifications:

- ❖ Applicant must be at least 15 years old as of January 1, 2026 – younger applicants can be considered.
- ❖ Must have participated in Junior Nationals for at least one year prior to applying
- ❖ Applicant must be a member of the AJAA in good standing
- ❖ Application form must be sent to americanjunioraberdeen@gmail.com by June 1st, 2026 or turned in at Junior Nationals
- ❖ Term length is 1 year, 2 year, 3 years
- ❖ Application must be accompanied by a one page, typed, single spaced essay outlining the goals of an AJAA Director.

Applicants will be asked to provide a list of their experiences, relevant projects and offices held, or club responsibilities, descriptions of any recognition or awards received and achievements through showing American Aberdeen Cattle.

Board members must be willing to travel, at their own expense to the Junior National Show, the National Western Stock Show, and one additional meeting every year during their term.

** If you are applying, it is suggested to bring a nice pair of jeans and a maroon or black dress shirt to wear if you are selected to be on the Junior board during banquet



AJAA Board of Directors Application

During Junior Nationals, AJAA will elect new AJAA members to serve on the Board of directors.

To apply you must be at least 15 years old and a member of the AJAA. Members interest in running for the AJAA Board of Directors may complete the application and return it to email address:

americanjunioraberdeen@gmail.com

Application

Name (print): _____ D.O.B. ___ / ___ / ___ AGE: ___

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____

Hometown Newspaper & Contact Info: _____

Years involved with beef cattle? _____ Member of the FFA or 4-H? _____ How many years? _____

List Relevant Projects: _____

List offices held or club responsibilities: _____

Highlight any special recognition or awards: _____

Record of American Aberdeen Activities:

Years involved with American Aberdeen projects: _____ Heifers: _____

Steers: _____

American Aberdeen Queen and Princess

American Aberdeen Queen and Princess Rules

The new AJAA Queen and Princess will be chosen during the 2026 Junior Nationals show in Boone, Nebraska. During the Junior National Event, AJAA will select a new Queen and Princess. Members interested in running for Queen or Princess position may complete the application form and email to: americanjunioraberdeen@gmail.com by May 31st, 2026.

Qualifications:

- ❖ Contestants for Queen must be between the ages of 15 to 21 and the Princess must be between the ages of 9 to 14, as of January 1, 2026.
- ❖ Must be single, never married and no children
- ❖ Must be a member, in good standing, of the American Junior Aberdeen Association
- ❖ Contestants may serve consecutive years, but will have to resubmit an application.

Rules:

- ❖ Queen, at her own expense, will provide a color or black and white photograph to the board for publicity purposes
- ❖ When the Queen and Princess are representing the American Aberdeen Breed, she shall wear her sash at all times. Her tiara will be worn most of the time. The Queen and Princess do not have to wear it when it is not conducive to the situation she is in. The Queen and Princess are to use their best judgement. Also, professional/appropriate dress is very important. Please ask what the proper attire is when scheduling an event if you are unsure.

Activities:

American Aberdeen Royalty is to attend **National Western Stock Show** and **Junior Nationals**, at their own expense. Additional shows, sales, or conferences are not required. Please be aware that this limits your ability to work your own cattle and does often require long time periods which will be limited in breaks. Duties at shows will include:

- ❖ Pass out ribbons at Open and Junior Shows
- ❖ Meet people and promote the breed
- ❖ Take pictures with the winners and exhibitors. This includes backdrop photos.
- ❖ Attend the banquet at the National Western Stock Show

Awards:

- ❖ Leather Sash – to be returned at the end of their reign
- ❖ Tiara – to be kept

Dress Code:

- ❖ Show Shirt or Nice Dress Blouse
- ❖ Jeans with no rips or tears
- ❖ Cowboy Boots or nice shoes - ABSOLUTELY NO SHORTS, FLIP-FLOPS OR SANDLES



Queen/Princess Application

Email completed application and pictures to
americanjunioraberdeen@gmail.com

Application

Name (print): _____ D.O.B. ___/___/___ AGE: ___

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____

Hometown Newspaper & Contact Info: _____

Years involved with beef cattle? _____ Member of the FFA or 4-H? _____ How many years? _____

List Relevant Projects:

List offices held or club responsibilities:

Highlight any special recognition or awards:

Record of American Aberdeen Activities:

Years involved with American Aberdeen projects: _____ Heifers: _____

Steers: _____