

2025



BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

FRIDAY AUGUST 29

12:30 PM - HEART OF PAYNE COUNTY BUCKET CALF SHOW

1:00 PM - BUCKET CALF SHOW

Superintendents:

Summer Leister, Shelby Leonard & The Payne County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers

RULES:

The Payne County Bucket Calf Program will follow the rules and regulations set forth by the Oklahoma 4-H Program. Information about raising a bucket calf may be obtained through the OSU Extension Office

www.extension.okstate.edu/county/payne.com

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR

BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

The Payne County Young Farmers and Ranchers are proud to present the Payne County Bucket Calf Competition. The goals of the Bucket Calf Program are to:

- Provide a cattle project to fit the physical size & maturity level of young exhibitors.
- Teach proper health care and nutritional requirements of calves.
- Teach basic livestock management skills without a large investment.
- Teach basic record keeping and interview skills.
- Teach responsibility through the management and care of young cattle.

Best of all, exhibitors will be eligible for prizes. It's also a fun and rewarding experience!

Exhibitor Guidelines:

1. No younger than 5 and no older than 12 the day of the show.
2. Enrolled in Payne County Schools, Home School Groups, or a Payne County resident.
3. Exhibitors are **not** required to be 4-H members.

Project Guidelines:

1. Exhibitors must acquire a beef or dairy calf that is no more than 10 days old. The calves must be acquired between April 15 and June 15, 2025.
2. Exhibitors will care for the calf, break it to lead and maintain accurate feed, financial and health records.
3. Exhibitors may nominate up to two calves, however, only one calf may be exhibited.
4. Calves must be nominated no later than **June 17, 2025** with the Payne County Extension Office.
5. Exhibitors will be entered in one of three groups, based on their age.
6. Exhibitors will be evaluated on their individual knowledge of their project.

This program is designed to make sure you learn about livestock care and responsibility.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

Sunday, June 15, 2025	Last day a calf can be purchased
Tuesday, June 17, 2025	Project nominations due to Payne County Extension Office
Friday, August 15, 2025	Journals due to the Payne County Extension Office
Friday, August 29, 2025	Bucket Calf Competition @ Payne County Fairgrounds Interview Contest (morning) - Showmanship Contest (afternoon)

Sponsored by:



For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

NOMINATION FORM

Exhibitor Name: _____ Age: _____

Number of Calves Nominated: _____ (Limit of 2) First Year Participant? _____

Mailing Address

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Location of Calves:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Exhibitor T-Shirt Size (circle one)

Youth S M L XL | Adult S M L XL XXL

Parent or Legal Guardian

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

	Calf #1:	Calf #2: (if applicable)
Breed:		
Special Markings:		
Birthdate:		
Purchase Date:		

Please attach a photo of **each** calf you are nominating (limit of 2).

Send form and photos to Payne County Extension Office, no later than **June 17, 2025.**

OPTION 1 – Send via mail to:

Payne County Extension Office
Attn: Summer Leister
315 W. 6th Ave. Suite 103
Stillwater, OK 74074

OPTION 2 – Send via email to

Summer Leister
summer.leister@okstate.edu
Subject: Bucket Calf Nomination Form

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM PROGRAM RULES

Superintendents:

Payne County OSU 4-H Extension -- Summer Leister

Payne County Farm Bureau YF&R Chair -- Shelby Leonard

The Payne County Bucket Calf Program will follow the rules and regulations set forth by the Oklahoma 4-H Program. Information about raising a bucket calf can be obtained through the OSU Extension Office or the Payne County Extension & 4-H Facebook Page.

The Bucket Calf Program is designed to introduce youth ages 5 to 12 to the beef and dairy industries. By allowing younger children the experience of working with a smaller, less intimidating animal, they can become comfortable handling beef and dairy cattle as they grow. This is a short-term project, with calves purchased in April, May, or June and concluding with exhibition at the Payne County Free Fair.

Calf Eligibility & Requirements

- A bucket calf must be an orphan or newborn calf acquired between one and ten days old.
- Calves may be male or female and beef or dairy breeds.
- Calves should be started on a bottle (or bucket) with a nipple or left on a nurse cow.
- Calves may be weaned before show day or remain on a bottle.
- Calf purchase window: April 15 – June 15, 2025.
- Nomination deadline: June 17, 2025 (must be postmarked by this date).
- Nomination form & photos: Forms can be obtained from the Payne County Extension Office. If a nomination is not submitted by the deadline, the exhibitor will be ineligible for winnings.

Exhibition Rules

- Each child may nominate up to two calves, but only one may be shown at the Payne County Free Fair.
- Bucket calves cannot be shown in any other class at the fair.
- Health requirements for bucket calves will follow the same regulations as all other beef or dairy cattle exhibited at the Payne County Free Fair, as outlined in the county fair book.

Participant Responsibilities

- Each participant must complete a worksheet and journal, handwritten by the exhibitor or with adult assistance.
- Youth ages 5 – 7 are encouraged to include drawings and photos to help explain their project to the judges.
- Worksheets and journals can be obtained from the Payne County Extension Office or the Payne County Farm Bureau Office.
- Submission deadline: Friday, August 15th, by 4:00 p.m. at the Payne County Extension Office. If the journal is not submitted by the deadline, the exhibitor will be ineligible for winnings.

Classes will be set according to the age of the participants.

- Junior: 5 to 7 years old
- Intermediate: 8 to 10 years old
- Senior: 11 to 12 years old

Subject to change depending on participants signed up

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR

BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

Interview Contest Guidelines (Friday Morning)

All participants are required to compete in both the Interview Contest and the Showmanship Contest. Points will be awarded based on the following criteria:

Scoring System

- **20 Points – Worksheet**
 - Worksheets must be completed in the exhibitor's own handwriting (except for ages 5-7).
 - Exhibitors in the 5-7 age division may have an adult assist with writing but should include additional photos or drawings to illustrate their work.
 - Failure to meet these requirements will result in an automatic loss of 20 points.
- **20 Points – Journal**
 - Journals must be completed in the exhibitor's own handwriting (automatic loss of 20 points if not).
 - 20 points will be awarded for journal completion.
 - 10 additional points will be awarded for including three or more photos of the exhibitor working with their project.
 - Exhibitors in the 5-7 age division must include at least six photos.
- **100 Points – Personal Interview**
 - The interview will assess what the exhibitor has learned about caring for and raising their calf.
 - Questions may cover topics such as purchase, management, housing, health, feeding, and future plans.
 - Questions will be based on the exhibitor's completed worksheet and journal, as well as Oklahoma 4-H Bucket Calf Literature.
 - Sample interview questions are available upon request.

The top interviewees from each division (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) will be invited back for a second interview and will be eligible for the David Weckler Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Interview.

Showmanship Contest (Friday Afternoon)

The Showmanship Contest marks the completion of the Bucket Calf Project at the county fair.

Attire

- All participants will be provided with a Bucket Calf T-shirt to wear during the show.
- Exhibitors must wear long pants (jeans or slacks) and closed-toed shoes or boots.

Scoring Criteria (100 Points Total)

- **50 Points – Show Ring Presentation**
 - Participants will be judged on how well they handle and present their calf in the ring.
 - Exhibitors will also be asked to answer questions from the judge.
- **50 Points – Calf Appearance & Presentation**
 - The calf should be washed and dried and may be trimmed.
 - Show aids may be used at the discretion of an adult.
 - The calf must be presented using a rope, nylon, or leather halter.
 - Judging will be based on how well the calf responds to commands, as well as the exhibitor's care and handling.
 - The quality of the calf as a beef or dairy specimen will not be a factor.

Arena Access

Only nominated participants, judges, sponsors, and ring assistants will be allowed in the arena during the show.

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

HERDSMAN AWARD

Each contestant is responsible for keeping their stall and walkway area clean. Out of courtesy to others, exhibitors should also be willing to assist fellow participants, answer questions about their project, and contribute to decorating or preparing their show area in a way that positively represents youth in agriculture. A panel of judges will select the exhibitor who consistently demonstrates leadership, responsibility, and a positive attitude to receive the Herdsman Award.

STALL DECORATION AWARD

Each contestant will have the opportunity to decorate their area according to this year's theme, "Lights, Camera, Cattle" – (Hollywood-themed). When decorating for the Stall Decoration Award, the contestant's name and animal's name must be included. A panel of judges will evaluate decorations based on neatness, creativity, and proper display of names.

HEART OF PAYNE COUNTY BUCKET CALF SHOW

The second annual Heart of Payne County Bucket Calf Show introduces an exciting and meaningful addition to our event. This division warmly welcomes our Heart of Payne County Friends, providing an inclusive opportunity for any Payne County youth with special needs, ages 5 to 19, to exhibit a calf.

Participants in the Bucket Calf Program will serve as buddies, assisting their Heart of Payne County friends in showcasing their calf in the show ring. Each Heart of Payne County Bucket Calf exhibitor will receive a special shirt and awards to commemorate their participation. This event highlights the importance of mentorship, inclusion, and community, allowing all youth to experience the joy of exhibiting cattle in a supportive and encouraging environment.

PHOTOS

A designated area in the arena will be set up for photographing exhibitors and their calves immediately following the show.

BARN PARTY CELEBRATION

Join us for a **fun-filled Barn Party** immediately following the show! This special gathering is open to exhibitors, parents, families, and guests, offering a chance to celebrate the hard work and dedication of all participants. Awards & Scholarships Announcement: During the event, we will recognize outstanding exhibitors as we announce scholarships and awards, honoring the efforts and achievements of our participants. Don't miss this opportunity to relax, connect, and celebrate a fantastic show day with friends and family!

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

David Weckler Memorial Scholarship

The Most Outstanding Interview Scholarship is awarded annually in memory of David Weckler, who deeply loved the opportunity to participate in the Payne County Bucket Calf Program.

David excelled in the interview segment of the competition, demonstrating exceptional communication skills as he shared his experiences raising his bucket calf.

This scholarship is presented to a Payne County Bucket Calf exhibitor who delivers the best interview performance during the contest at the annual Payne County Fair each fall. The recipient of the David Weckler Memorial Scholarship receives \$100 to support their future bucket calf project.

- The \$100 scholarship is awarded once the recipient provides a bill of sale for the next year's calf.
- The new calf must be shown in the following year's bucket calf show, unless lost due to natural causes.
- Final-year participants (those aging out of the bucket calf program) may apply the scholarship toward the purchase of any typical livestock show species by providing a bill of sale for their next show animal.

The Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee of the Payne County Farm Bureau is honored to keep David's enthusiasm alive by recognizing and rewarding individuals who share his passion for the bucket calf program. The committee also extends its gratitude to the Weckler family for their continued support of the Payne County Bucket Calf Program.



For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

WEEKLY JOURNAL

Must be Completed by Exhibitor

Journals must be delivered to the Payne County Extension Office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2025.

Owning a bucket calf comes with unique challenges and responsibilities beyond those of raising a traditional show steer or heifer. As part of this experience, take time each week to document your journey, including:

- How much feed you are providing.
- Any doctoring or health treatments required.
- Your experiences in halter-breaking and training your calf.
- Both the funny and frustrating moments along the way.
- Your personal thoughts and feelings about the responsibilities of caring for a bucket calf.

If you are unable to care for your calf during a particular week, be sure to ask the person who took care of your calf about what happened and include their name in your entry.

Journal Format:

- Use a letter-sized, lined sheet of paper for each weekly entry.
- Label each week by date in the top left-hand corner of the page.
- Write at least a 50-word description of the week's events, preferably in complete sentences.
 - For 5- to 7-year-olds: Bullet points and/or drawings are acceptable.
- When possible, attach one picture documenting a significant event from that week on a separate sheet, placed just before that week's entry.

This following page will serve as the cover page for your Journal.

Be sure to fill in your name and sign at the bottom of the page.

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

PLACE PHOTO HERE

Exhibitor Name: _____ Age: _____

Name of Animal(s): _____

By signing this document, I verify that the information contained within is not only truthful, but also completed in my own handwriting.

Exhibitor Signature: _____

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM Exhibitor Information

Exhibitor Name: _____

Age: _____

Date of Birth _____

Address: _____

School enrolled in: _____

Are you a 4-H member? _____

How did you learn about the Bucket Calf Program? _____

Calf Information

Note: If more than one calf is nominated, make duplicates of this form

Name of Calf: _____

Type of Calf: _____ Beef _____ Dairy Breed: _____

Purchase Date: _____ Weight at Purchase: _____ lbs.

Purchased From: _____

Estimated weight today: _____

FEEDING

How long did you bottle/bucket feed your calf? _____

What did you bottle/bucket feed your calf? _____

When did you wean your calf? _____

What did you calf eat after he/she was weaned? _____

What are you currently feeding your calf? _____

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR

BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

Vaccination and Medical Records

Did you give your calf wormer? _____

If so, when and what kind of wormer was used? _____

Did you give your calf any vaccines? _____

If so, when and what kind of vaccines were given? _____

Did you have to doctor your calf? _____

If you had to doctor your calf, explain what happened and what you did to doctor the animal.

When did you start breaking your calf to lead? _____

What are your future plans for your calf? _____

Is this calf the only one you own? If not, how many other calves do you own and why did you choose to bring this calf to the show?

HEART OF PAYNE COUNTY BUCKET CALF SHOW

We are excited to introduce the second annual Heart of Payne County Bucket Calf Show, a special addition to our event! This division provides an inclusive opportunity for Payne County youth with special needs, ages 5 to 19, to experience the joy of exhibiting a calf.

How It Works:

- Each Heart of Payne County exhibitor will be paired with a Bucket Calf participant who will assist them in the show ring.
- Every participant in this division will receive a special shirt and awards to celebrate their involvement.
- This event is designed to promote mentorship, encouragement, and inclusion, ensuring that all youth have the opportunity to participate in the bucket calf experience.

Interested in Helping?

We are looking for Bucket Calf exhibitors who would be excited to assist with the Heart of Payne County Bucket Calf Show. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding experience, please indicate your interest!

Please circle one: YES NO

****Bucket Calf participants get to help and assist a new friend display their calf in the show ring! This show will take place right before the Bucket Calf Show on Friday, August 29th.**

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Note: For more than one calf, you can record all expenses together

Purchase Price (How much did you pay to buy your calf?)

Milk Replacer →

x

=

of bags/
buckets fed

Cost per
bag/bucket

Grain/Feed →

x

=

of bags/
buckets fed

Cost per
bag/bucket

Cost of Hay (if any)

Total cost for setting up pen (if any):

Total cost for pen/grass rental (if any):

Total cost of veterinary needs (if any):

(fly tags or spray, antibiotics, wormer, vaccinations, etc.)

Any other costs encountered:

--Miscellaneous Section: tags, fitting supplies, halters,
feed/water buckets, brushes, bottles, etc.

Explain Briefly:

Total Expenses

Please note: This worksheet will not reflect the outcome of the judging but completion and knowledge of this is REQUIRED for each participant. The interview judges will have this available to use in asking the participant questions about his/her bucket calf project.

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

Optional Media and Publicity Release

With my selection and signature below, I **DO/DO NOT** give permission to Payne County Fair through its Payne County Expo Center, Extension & Farm Bureau YF&R to take photographs and/or record video and/or audio or otherwise record images and likenesses of me and/or my property and to use these for educational, promotional, and/or marketing materials. I further consent that my name and identity may be revealed therein or by descriptive text or commentary. I expressly release Payne County Expo Center, Extension & Farm Bureau YF&R, its agents, employees, licensees and assigns from and any and all claims which I may have for invasion of privacy, right of publicity, defamation, copyright infringement, or any other causes of action arising out of the use, adaptation, reproduction, distribution, broadcast or exhibition of such recordings of my image, voice, or likeness. I understand this permission is entirely optional, and that participants who do not give permission will remain eligible for the same as those who do give permission.

_____ I **DO** give permission to Payne County Fair through its Payne County Expo Center, Extension & Farm Bureau YF&R to take photographs and/or record video and/or audio or otherwise record images and likenesses of me and/or my property and to use these for educational, promotional, and/or marketing materials.

_____ I **DO NOT** give permission to Payne County Fair through its Payne County Expo Center, Extension & Farm Bureau YF&R to take photographs and/or record video and/or audio or otherwise record images and likenesses of me and/or my property and to use these for educational, promotional, and/or marketing materials.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

CHECKLIST

	DATE DUE		Page #	DUE TO:
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 17, 2025	Nomination Form	2	Payne County OSU Extension Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 15, 2025	Exhibitor Journal	8-11	Payne County OSU Extension Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 15, 2025	Photo Release	12	Payne County OSU Extension Office

****If Deadlines are not met, exhibitor will be ineligible for prize winnings****

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320

PAYNE COUNTY FAIR

BUCKET CALF PROGRAM

Interviews Made Easy

Practical tips and helpful hints

Prepare wisely

Keep good records and make sure you are the one who writes them down. Know what you have done and what your future plans are for your calf.

Practice, practice, practice!

Have Mom, Dad, Grandma, Granddad or a friend ask you questions concerning your bucket calf project from the worksheet. Ask them to watch what you do during the interview process and tell you where you need to improve.

Appearance

Right or wrong, most interviewers are influenced by what they see, and they say first impressions make all the difference. You will be provided with a bucket calf shirt that you can wear with jeans and clean shoes. However, don't wear clothes that would make you feel uneasy in the interview. It is important that you feel relaxed and confident. Wear the same clothes for the interview as you do in the show ring.

Personal Rapport

Try to show that you want to be there. Smile and be prepared to shake hands firmly. Make good eye contact going in, during and leaving the interview. Sit comfortably and make your expression pleasant.

Communication

How you sound is just as important as how you look. Have you ever talked to someone who says "um" all the time? Ask a friend, a family member or a teacher to help you spot words that you say all the time and or shouldn't be saying in such a setting. Tune your ears to them and work at eliminating them. Also, be a good listener and concentrate on what you're being asked as well as what you say. If you do not understand an interview question, tell the judge you don't understand what he's asked and see if he can repeat the question another way.

Honesty

Always tell the truth. Your goal is to communicate what you know, not what you think you know or how you think it should have been. If you don't know an answer, tell them you don't know.

Attitude

Always emphasize the positive. Even when faced with tough questions, try to steer the information away from a possible negative picture of yourself to one that accents the positive.

The Night Before

After you have put everything together for the trip to the fair, review your worksheet and read through your journal. Determine what the most exciting thing was that happened between you and your calf. Know the figures on your worksheet, and what kind of feed and milk replacer you fed. Be sure to get a good night's sleep

For more information, please call: Summer Leister 405.747.8320