

## Livestock Handling Contest - Overview of Competition and Rules

The following rules will govern the 2025 Livestock Handling skills competition:

1. The competition is open to ALL OKLAHOMA students, enrolled in Agricultural Career Tech Education; FFA Members, 4-H members or members of other farm youth organizations of grade 8- 12 age group, or home-schooled students of the same grade 8- 12 age group
2. The event will consist of a qualifying test given at designated test sites in each area of the state.
3. All teams advancing to the state contest MUST complete and submit a liability waiver prior to the contest.

**All team members must complete registration forms and take qualification test at the same time.**

- A. Ten teams of three students each will advance to the final competition. Finalists will be based on the results of the written test. Four students may test for a team, but only the top 3 students by test score will advance as team members to the state contest.
  - B. The top two teams from each of the five Oklahoma FFA districts shall advance to the final competition. Teams will advance based on their home district designation, regardless of the site they choose to test at. A minimum score of 60% must be achieved on the written test to advance to the final competition.
  - C. Only one team from each school may qualify for the final competition, unless there are no other schools from the same district testing.
  - D. In order for a second team to qualify from the same school, there must be no other schools from the district achieving the minimum score of 60% and the second team's test score must be higher than any other team from a pool of all non-qualifying teams without regard to their district of origin.
  - E. Any district having less than two teams qualifying will have all vacant openings filled from the pool of all non-qualifying teams.
  - F. All team members from the same school must take the test at the same time. Students will not be allowed to leave the testing room and return to finish an incomplete test.
4. The qualifying ten teams will compete in the finals held on December 5, 2025 at the OKC West Stockyards. The average score from the qualifying test taken during qualifying testing will be carried forward into the final competition. A total of two animals will be processed by each team in the performance section of the final competition. Each team will be judged on the following criteria:
    - Sorting and moving cattle into a squeeze tub through an alley to a chute.
    - Catching the animal in the head gate of the chute
    - Ear tagging the animal
    - Injecting the animal

- Check the animal's feet
- Release the animal into a holding pen
- Complete record keeping in a herd book
- Other basic cattle handling activities (a complete list of activities will be provided to all qualifying teams no later than November 15, 2025)

Participants will be allowed to familiarize themselves with the equipment being used in the final competition prior to the competition on Friday morning.

5. The final competition will be judged by a panel consisting of educators and beef industry professionals. The decision of the judges shall be final.
6. **Substitutions will be allowed as follows:** the substitute must have taken the test or be tested prior to the final. The lower test score of the substitute or the person being replaced will be the score that is used to determine team placement in the competition and scholarship amounts awarded.
7. If any team or team member is deemed by the judges to be conducting themselves in an unsafe manner or treating the animals in an unsafe or inhumane manner the team will be disqualified and declared ineligible for awards or prizes.
8. All teams will use the same equipment which will be provided by organizers of the events. Live cattle will be provided for the events from local sources.
9. All equipment, drugs and supplies necessary for the competition will be provided.
10. Administration of injectable medications or vaccines will be supervised by representatives of the companies providing the injectable.
11. All teams in the final will receive recognition in a nationwide news release, and prizes consisting of scholarship moneys or livestock related equipment. This will be in addition to personal awards.