



— MINNESOTA —
BEEF  EXPO
—

Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program Handbook



MINNESOTA YOUTH BEEF EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

2026-2027 TIMELINE

Oct. 17, 2026.....	Heifers presented to recipients
Dec. 1, 2026.....	Progress Report No. 1 Due
Jan. 15, 2027.....	Semen Selections Due (optional)
March 1, 2027.....	Progress Report No. 2 Due
June 1, 2027.....	Progress Report No. 3 Due
Sept. 1, 2027.....	Progress Report No. 4 Due
October 2027.....	Deadline for Minnesota Beef Expo Entries
Oct. 1, 2027.....	MYBEP Reflection Report Due
Oct. 21, 2027.....	MYBEP Scrapbook Due
Oct. 21-24, 2027.....	2027 Minnesota State Fair <i>Recipients/heifers return to compete for Achievement Award & complete program</i>

MYBEP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINAL PARTICIPATION SCORING

Interview.....	25 points
Showmanship.....	25 points
Four progress reports shared with donors/mentors, breed representatives and Expo staff.....	20 points
Reflection Report.....	15 points
Scrapbook.....	15 points
	TOTAL: 100 points

The MYBEP recipient with the highest total score will be awarded the MYBEP Achievement Award and receive a **custom belt buckle** and a **\$1,000 scholarship**.



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PROGRESS REPORTS

Suggested items to include:

Progress Report No. 1 – Due Dec. 1, 2026

- a. Thank you letter to those who helped you get to this point
- b. Heifer report
 - a. How is your heifer settling in at home?
 - b. How have you been connecting with her?
- c. Feeding plan
 - a. What is your current feeding plan?
 - b. Feed summary
- d. Project plans
 - a. What do you hope to accomplish with your heifer?
- e. Showmanship efforts
 - a. How are you working to become a better showman?
- f. Report on how you've communicated with your mentor and/or donor
- g. Expense report
- h. Pictures
 - a. Of you and your heifer, events you attended, time with donors, working with your heifer, their housing, etc.

Progress Report No. 2 – Due March 1, 2027

- a. Heifer report
 - a. What progress have you made over the winter?
 - b. How are you bonding with your heifer?
- b. Update on feeding plan
 - a. Have you made any changes?
 - b. Feed summary
- c. Showmanship efforts
 - a. How are you working to become a better showman?
- d. Breeding plan
 - a. Have you selected a bull? If so, what one?
 - b. Do you plan to breed natural or artificial?
- e. Report on how you've communicated with your mentor and/or donor
- f. Expense report
- g. Pictures
 - a. Of you and your heifer, events you attended, time with donors, working with your heifer, their housing, etc.

Please note: The four progress reports are scored by the MYBEP coordinator, the reflection report is scored by the Achievement Award judges and the scrapbook is scored by MYBEP staff. These are mandatory and if turned in late, you will not receive full points towards the Achievement Award.



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Progress Report No. 3 – Due June 1, 2027

- a. Heifer report
 - a. How are you gearing up for show season?
 - b. How has your heifer changed?
- b. Yearling weight update
- c. Update on feeding plan
 - a. Have you made any changes?
 - b. Feed summary
- d. Update on breeding progress
 - a. Has she been bred?
 - b. How did it go?
 - c. What is your plan moving forward?
- e. Showmanship efforts
 - a. How are you working to become a better showman?
- f. Report on how you've communicated with your mentor and/or donor
- g. Expense report
- h. Pictures
 - a. Of you and your heifer, events you attended, time with donors, working with your heifer, their housing, etc.

Progress Report No. 4 – Due Sept. 1, 2027

- a. Heifer report
 - a. After almost a year, how are you and your heifer bonding?
 - b. How has she grown?
- b. Showmanship efforts
 - a. How are you working to become a better showman?
- c. Community service efforts
- d. Plans for Minnesota Beef Expo
- e. Report on how you've communicated with your mentor and/or donor
- f. Expense report
- g. Pictures
 - a. Of you and your heifer, events you attended, time with donors, working with your heifer, their housing, etc.

Progress reports may include more than the suggested items listed above.

You must email a copy of each progress report to:

- a. Virginia Mold at virginia.mold@mnstatefair.org
- b. Your donor/mentor
- c. Your breed representative



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REFLECTION REPORT

Due Oct. 1, 2027

Your final reflection report is very important as it is the written summation of your entire experience. This report will be scored by the Achievement Award sponsors.

The goal is to reflect on what you have learned and experienced during this year-long journey with your heifer.

You can use any format you'd like, and include any information you'd like, but you must include **at least** the information outlined below.

RECIPIENT INFORMATION

- a. Name of MYBEP recipient
- b. Birth date
- c. Age on Oct. 1, 2027
- d. Years in 4-H, FFA and/or Junior Breed Association
- e. County
- f. School
- g. Years you exhibited at Minnesota Beef Expo (including current year)

HEIFER INFORMATION

- a. Breed
- b. Registration number
- c. Name and address of breeder/donor
- d. Heifer Birth Date
- e. Heifer weight on Oct. 20, 2026
- f. Heifer Yearling Weight (weight as close to Oct. 1, 2027, as possible)

FEEDING PROGRAM

- a. Describe the feeding plan for your heifer and how you designed and changed the feeding program over the year.
- b. How did you monitor your heifer's progress toward meeting your feeding plan goals? Describe any corrections to the plan that became necessary.



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BREEDING PROGRAM

- a. Provide details on when your heifer was bred, to what bull, AI or natural, process to bring heifer into heat, expected calving date and other management practices.
- b. What problems or challenges did you face in the breeding management of your heifer, and what corrections were made?

EXPENSE REPORTS

- a. Provide clear expense reports for feed and other spending ([click here](#) and download the document to help guide this task)

TRAINING & INDUSTRY CONCEPTS

- a. Describe how your MYBEP heifer does or does not fit the model of what the beef industry is looking for today.
- b. As a 4-H, FFA, or Jr. Breed Association member, describe how you can help assure consumers about the food safety of beef and beef products.
- c. What does beef showmanship mean to you?

MENTORSHIP & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- a. Explain what you learned and how you communicated with your donor/mentor.
- b. Identify other places or people you obtained valuable information that you can use in the future.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- a. Name the event(s) you participated/helped/served/spoke at.
- b. Describe your activity and efforts.

SUMMARY

- a. Provide a one-page summary of your experience with your MYBEP heifer.



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SCRAPBOOK

Due Oct. 21, 2027

Your scrapbook is your chance to showcase your MYBEP journey in a creative and personal way. These scrapbooks will be displayed at the 2027 Minnesota Beef Expo, giving spectators and fellow exhibitors the opportunity to read about your experiences. They will also serve as a keepsake for you, a fun way to look back on your time in the program for years to come.

The Achievement Award judges will use your scrapbook as part of the scoring process.

Since this is a creative project, you can design it however you'd like! To help you get started, here are a few ideas of what you might include:

- Details about your heifer
- Information about your donor/mentor
- Excerpts (or the full versions) of your progress reports and final reflection
- A description of your community service activity
- Highlights from your breeding experience
- Information about your feeding and nutrition program
- Plenty of photos to bring your story to life



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SELECT SIRES DONATION

GUIDELINES TO ACQUIRE TWO STRAWS OF SEMEN

Select your top three choices of bulls for the Select Sires lineup that you would like to breed your heifer to. Send the following information to Expo staff **BEFORE** January 15:

- Name, phone number and e-mail address
- Delivery address (and address where heifer is housed and will be bred if different than home address)
- The breeding date you have chosen to breed the heifer
- First, second, and third choices of bulls from the Select Sires lineup that you would like to consider breeding your heifer to
- If you have a semen tank
- Who will be breeding the heifer

They will then pass this along to Select Sires and a representative will contact you directly to coordinate delivery.



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MYBEP RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the MYBEP program is to aid youth in getting a start in the beef cattle business by awarding heifer calves based on merit as established through the application and recommendations. The following are the responsibilities and expectations we trust that you, as a MYBEP recipient from Oct. 17, 2026, to Oct. 24, 2027, will faithfully follow and carry out to the best of your ability to prepare you to become a successful, strong participant and advocate in the cattle industry.

Required responsibilities:

I, _____, the 2026 recipient of the _____ heifer

donated by _____
do hereby promise to adhere to the responsibilities and expectations put forth in this contract. I agree to:

- a. Raise and care for this calf.
 - a. I will talk to my donor/mentor and locate knowledgeable people/professionals in the industry to help me learn about important areas as the year progresses. These responsibilities include:
 - i. providing proper nutrition
 - ii. establishing proper body and foot care
 - iii. developing showmanship skills
 - iv. providing safe and clean housing conditions
- b. Communicate with my donor/mentor.
 - a. I will contact donor/mentor a minimum of three (3) times monthly, either by phone, email, text, letter, or in person.
 - i. Suggestion: Always have a question to ask as this is a great way to connect and learn at the same time, or give an update on the progress the heifer is making in a specific area. Contact is essential to building relationships in the industry, as well as obtaining knowledge about the industry.
- c. Arrange for my heifer to be bred, artificially or naturally.
 - a. This decision must be made with the donor's advice.
 - b. Two straws of semen will be donated by Select Sires, and it is up to you to contact Expo staff with your choices and arrange for the semen to be delivered.



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- d. Complete three (4) progress reports.
 - a. I will send copies to Virginia Mold, my mentor/donor and breed representative by the assigned due dates.
 - b. DUE DATES: Dec. 1, 2026; March 1, 2027; June 1, 2027; Sept. 1, 2027
 - i. If a report is submitted past the due date, the best score that can be earned is 50% of total points available (Remember, these points count toward the achievement award score and are judged by the MYBEP coordinator).
 - c. I will work on improving each report according to the suggestions of the coordinator.
 - d. Refer to page 2-3 of the MYBEP handbook for suggested items to include in your reports.
- e. Complete a final reflection report.
 - a. I will sum up my experience in areas specified in the handbook given to me at the start of this journey and understand it will be evaluated for the achievement award.
 - b. DUE DATE: Oct. 1, 2027
- f. Create a scrapbook detailing my yearlong MYBEP experience.
 - a. I will hand in the scrapbook to be on display at the 2025 Minnesota State Fair and understand it will be judged for the achievement award.
 - b. DUE DATE: Oct. 21, 2027
- g. Compete in at least one (1) show outside of the Minnesota Beef Expo and Minnesota State Fair.
 - a. I will compete in shows I am able to attend and use my heifer for educational experiences if possible.
 - b. I will clearly identify my MYBEP heifer when competing or speaking anywhere by displaying the sign provided.
- h. Participate in one (1) community service project.
 - a. I will participate in a community service project to continue passing on good deeds and drawing attention to the world of agriculture.
 - i. Examples: Minnesota State Fair Moo Booth, Ag in the Classroom, Second Harvest Heartland
- i. Attend the 2027 Minnesota Beef Expo.
 - a. I will show my heifer and compete for the achievement award at the 2027 Minnesota Beef Expo to publicly share my growth for the year.



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MYBEP Code of Conduct:

1. I will show respect to others and be courteous when in public or with donor or other agricultural experts and cattlepeople.
2. Showmanship is a major part of the MYBEP experience. My showmanship skills will be evaluated for the achievement award; thus, I will work hard to acquire new insights to apply while showing. If I am unable to work with my heifer for more than a week due to an illness or behavior of the heifer, I will contact the MYBEP coordinator.
3. I understand that a zero-tolerance policy will be enforced regarding consumption of alcohol or tobacco products or illegal activities during any Minnesota Beef Expo or MYBEP related functions.
4. I will push myself to interact kindly with others in the agriculture industry to gain insights, knowledge and connections to help me successfully raise my heifer.
5. I will do my best to show my gratitude for the sacrifice others are making for my benefit, and I will maintain a positive attitude when with my heifer and in public.
6. Any difficult issues with my heifer or situation or essential questions that require answers, I will contact my mentor and /or MYBEP Coordinator as soon as possible.

I have read and agree to the responsibilities and expectations as explained above. I understand that failure to complete responsibilities or any violation of the MYBEP Code of Conduct could result in forfeit of animal ownership and/or my dismissal from the program. I will do my best to be a valuable MYBEP representative. I understand that after completion of this one-year program, the heifer and her offspring will be my property, and I have fulfilled my obligations.

Recipient Name (Printed): _____ Date: _____

Recipient Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____