



**American Junior Simmental Association**

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# 2026 AJSA REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CLASSICS

## OFFICIAL RULES

### SECTION I

#### ENTRY INFORMATION AND DEADLINES

1. Each contestant must submit an entry and the associated fees online by the corresponding deadline(s) in order to participate in an AJSA Regional or National Classic. Each AJSA Classic requires a separate entry.
2. All entries must be completed online through ASA's Herdbook Services (herdbook.org). Each participant must register using his/her own account.
3. In order to compete in the Cattle Show and/or Showmanship, each contestant must compete in a minimum of three of the five educational contests. For Juniors, one of the three must be Sales Talk or Public Speaking. For Intermediates and Seniors, one of the three must be Sales Talk, Public Speaking or Judging Contest. Participants will designate the contests in which they intend to participate at the time of entry.
4. Contestants are allowed an unlimited number of Cattle Show entries but may exhibit a maximum of six unique head at each AJSA Classic.
  - a. At National Classic, an animal that qualifies for the Bred & Owned division may be entered and shown in both shows (Owned and Bred & Owned). In this instance, that animal counts as only one head. Animals being entered in both the Bred & Owned and Owned Shows will incur separate fees for each show. At Regional Classics, an animal that qualifies as Bred & Owned may be entered in either the Bred & Owned or Owned Show but not both.
  - b. A cow/calf pair counts as one head if the calf is not being shown in an individual class. If the calf is being shown individually, the pair will count as two head and will require two entry fees.
  - c. An animal entered in the Phenotype and Genotype Show (P&G) may also be entered and shown in the Progress Through Performance Show. In this instance, that animal counts as only one head but will required two entry fees. Only Regional Classics will host a P&G Show.
  - d. Every animal must be registered with ASA prior to entry and must have a valid registration number to enter. No pending DNA entries are allowed. An animal with a pseudo registration number will not be allowed to enter. A pseudo registration number is assigned to a non-registered animal and will appear in parentheses on Herdbook.
  - e. Stall space will be provided for the number of animals entered, up to six entries. No additional stall space will be available to purchase.
  - f. Entry fees must be paid for each contestant and all cattle entered at the time of entry. No refunds will be issued.
  - g. No substitutions will be allowed in the Cattle Show, except as noted in Section VII, Item 25.
5. The entry deadline for the 2026 AJSA National Classic is May 20, 2026 at 4:30 pm MDT. Late entries will be allowed until May 27, 2026 at 4:30 pm MDT. Registration and entry fees for the late entry period are doubled.
6. The entry deadline for the 2026 AJSA Regional Classics is May 4, 2026 at 4:30 pm MDT. Late entries will be allowed until May 11, 2026 at 4:30 pm MDT. Registration and entry fees for the late entry period are doubled.
7. Entries will not be accepted after the late entry period has expired. No exceptions will be made.
8. At the time of entry for National Classic, contestants will be asked to indicate whether they have competed at a past AJSA National Classic.
9. Contestants must be current junior members of the American Simmental Association and in good standing at the time of entry for entries to be accepted. Contestants must agree to a Code of Conduct and a Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement at the time of entry. A Media Release is requested, but not required, at the time of entry. Refer to Section XXII for details.

### SECTION II

#### AGE DIVISIONS

1. A contestant's age division will be determined based on his/her age as of January 1, 2026. Contestants ages 8 to 21 as of January 1, 2026 are eligible.
  2. At Regional Classics, the age divisions are:  
Junior - Ages 8 to 14      Senior - Ages 15 to 21
  3. At National Classic, the age divisions are:  
Junior - Ages 8 to 13      Intermediate - Ages 14 to 17      Senior - Ages 18 to 21
  4. At Regional Classics, a Novice Division is at the discretion of the host committee. At National Classic, a Novice Division is at the discretion of the American Simmental Association. Novice division participants must be 5 to 7 years old as of January 1, 2026.
    - a. Novice division participants are not eligible to exhibit cattle, and there will be no contest placings or awards.
    - b. Novice division registration will be done via Google Forms and will be available on the AJSA website in May and/or June. The deadline(s) will be strictly enforced.
  5. Regional Classic hosts have the option to include an Intermediate Division using the same age breaks as National Classic. This decision must be finalized and announced prior to entries opening.
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### SECTION III ELIGIBILITY

1. Each participant must hold an active junior membership with the American Simmental Association and must have paid his/her Annual Service Fee in the fiscal year(s) of participation.
  - a. Membership must be current, and the 2025-26 Annual Service Fee must be paid, before registering for 2026 AJSA Classics.
  - b. For National Classic, a new Annual Service Fee, for the 2026-27 fiscal year, must be paid at the time of registration.
2. No participant will be discriminated against as a result of physical, mental or emotional handicap. The only requirement is to specify on the entry form if any accommodations need to be made.
3. In a single year, participants may compete in as many Regional Classics as they wish. They are only eligible for awards at the first two in which they compete.

### SECTION IV INDIVIDUAL OVERALL COMPETITION

1. The Overall Competition will be determined by points earned in a maximum of five of the seven events: Cattlemen's Quiz, Calvin Drake Genetic Evaluation Quiz, Judging Contest, Sales Talk, Public Speaking, Showmanship and Cattle Show.
  - a. To compete in the Cattle Show and/or Showmanship, contestants are required to compete in three of the five educational competitions: Cattlemen's Quiz, Calvin Drake Genetic Evaluation Quiz, Judging Contest, Sales Talk and Public Speaking. Contestants must participate in at least one speaking event: Sales Talk and Public Speaking for Juniors; Sales Talk, Public Speaking, and Judging Contest for Intermediates and Seniors. Contestants are permitted and encouraged to compete in all five contests.
  - b. If a contestant earns points in more than five events, only his/her five highest scores will be counted towards the Overall Competition.
  - c. Contests must be completed at the scheduled times. A contestant's failure to do so may result in disqualification from that contest, and the event will not count towards the education requirement to compete in the Cattle Show and/or Showmanship. Specific scheduling rules are detailed within the contest rules.
2. At each Regional Classic, points will be awarded to the Top 10 competitors in each age division in the educational contests, with the highest placing receiving ten points and each subsequent placing receiving one less point, down to one point for 10th place.
3. At National Classic, points will be awarded to the Top 20 competitors in each age division in the educational contests, with the highest placing receiving twenty points and each subsequent placing receiving one less point, down to one point for 20th place.
4. At each Regional Classic, Cattle Show points will be issued as follows:
  - a. The Top 10 exhibitors in each qualifying division of the show will receive points based on their placing, with the Grand Champion receiving ten points and each subsequent placing receiving one less point, down to one point for 10th overall.
  - b. The number of animals checked in for each show division, either Bred & Owned or Owned must equal or exceed 15% of the largest show or the points for that division will be reduced by 50%. In the divisions in which points are reduced, a maximum of five animals will be placed in the division.
  - c. The Phenotype and Genotype Show will place only a Grand and Reserve in each breed division. In the instance that the P&G Show does not equal or exceed 15% of the largest show, points will be reduced by 50%.
  - d. In the event that a contestant has multiple entries earning Cattle Show points, only the points for the highest scoring animal will be used in the tabulation of the Overall Competition. The other animal(s) will receive recognition and awards.
5. At National Classic, Cattle Show points will be issued as follows:
  - a. The Top 20 exhibitors in each qualifying division of the show will receive points based on their placing, with the Grand Champion receiving twenty points and each subsequent placing receiving one less point, down to one point for 20th overall. In the event that a Top 20 is placed, divisions will be implemented at the discretion of ASA Staff. No points will be earned for division placings.
  - b. The number of animals checked in for each show division, either Bred & Owned or Owned, must equal or exceed 15% of the largest show or the points for that division will be reduced by 50%. In the divisions in which points are reduced, a maximum of ten animals will be placed in the division.
  - c. If a show division, either Bred & Owned or Owned, has fewer than fifteen entries checked in, the points for that division will be reduced by 50% and a maximum of five animals will be placed in the division.
  - d. In the event that a contestant has multiple entries earning Cattle Show points, only the points for the highest scoring animal will be used in the tabulation of the Overall Competition. The other animal(s) will receive recognition and awards.
6. In the event of a tie in the Overall Competition, the first tiebreaker is Cattlemen's Quiz score. The subsequent tiebreakers, in order, are Sales Talk total score, Judging Contest total score, Calvin Drake Genetic Evaluation Quiz score, and Public Speaking total score.
  - a. In order for a tiebreaker to apply, all tied contestants must have competed in that contest.
  - b. If a tie still exists, the winner will be determined by a coin toss.
7. Cell phones, smart watches and any other electronic devices are prohibited from all contests and under all conditions. If a contestant uses an electronic device during a contest, he/she will be disqualified from the contest, and the contest will not count toward the educational requirement.



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## SECTION V RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

1. To receive awards, a contestant must be present at the time the awards are given. At Regional Classics, awards are presented during the awards ceremony. At National Classic, awards may be presented throughout the week or at the awards ceremony. Exceptions to this rule may be approved by the AJSA Board of Trustees, provided an application for early release is submitted in writing no less than 24 hours prior to the award presentation.
  - a. If an early release is approved and the contestant wishes to receive his/her awards, he/she must arrange for someone to acquire them. If awards are not claimed on site, the contestant will be responsible for any shipping costs incurred.
  - b. A member of the AJSA Board of Trustees or ASA Staff will communicate the approval or denial of early release requests within four hours of the time the decision is made.
  - c. Contestants leaving an event prior to the conclusion of the awards ceremony without approval of an early release application will incur consequences at the discretion of the AJSA Board.
2. At each Regional Classic, the Top 10 contestants in each age division will be recognized for each educational contest, Showmanship and Overall. At National Classic, the Top 20 contestants in each age division will be recognized for each educational contest, Showmanship and Overall. Additional awards include ASF Merit Awards, Herdsman of the Year, and Photography and Interview Contests.

## SECTION VI HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR CATTLE

1. All cattle must meet the health requirements for the state in which the event is held. Health inspection certificates issued by a participant's local veterinarian must bear each animal ID, age, and breed description. Any and all questions regarding health requirements should be directed to your local or state veterinarian.
2. Cattle must be free of ringworm, warts, and infectious disease.
3. No artificial pumping of animals will be allowed unless under the advice of a licensed non-owner veterinarian. If such advice is given, ASA staff must be notified and will select an individual to monitor the area during the process. Anyone observed by event officials artificially filling an animal without approval of a licensed non-owner veterinarian and ASA staff will be removed from the show entirely and the affected animal will be disqualified from the show.

## SECTION VII CATTLE SHOW - GENERAL RULES

1. Contestants are allowed an unlimited number of Cattle Show entries but may exhibit a maximum of six unique head at each AJSA Classic.
2. Cattle must be registered with the American Simmental Association as one of the following:
  - a. Purebred Simmental (7/8 Simmental or greater)
  - b. Percentage Simmental (at minimum 1/2 Simmental but less than 7/8 Simmental)
  - c. Purebred Simbrah (5/8 Simmental 3/8 Brahman) - Simbrah Registry on the official registration
  - d. Percentage Simbrah - Simbrah Registry on the registration, not a Purebred Simbrah, and capable of producing Purebred Simbrah offspring
  - e. Fullblood Simmental
3. An animal may be shown in only one breed division per event, regardless of how many for which it is eligible.
4. At all AJSA Classics, the following divisions are available in the Owned Show: Purebred Simmental Heifers, Purebred Simmental Cow/Calf Pairs, Percentage Simmental Heifers, Percentage Simmental Cow/Calf Pairs, Purebred Simbrah Heifers, Purebred Simbrah Cow/Calf Pairs, Percentage Simbrah Heifers, Percentage Simbrah Cow/Calf Pairs, Fullblood Simmental Heifers, Fullblood Simmental Cow/Calf Pairs, and Steers.
5. The Bred & Owned Show may include all of the aforementioned divisions, plus Purebred Simmental Bulls, Percentage Simmental Bulls, Purebred Simbrah Bulls, Percentage Simbrah Bulls, and Fullblood Simmental Bulls.
  - a. At National Classic, animals being entered in both the Bred & Owned and Owned Shows will incur separate fees for each show.
  - b. At Regional Classics, an animal may be entered in only one division. Bred & Owned entries will not compete in the Owned Show. Animals that qualify as Bred & Owned may be shown in the Owned Show but cannot also be shown in the Bred & Owned Show.
  - c. To be Bred & Owned eligible, an animal must be out of a dam that is registered with a recognized breed association. An animal with a commercial or non-registered dam is not Bred & Owned eligible, regardless of ownership of the dam.
6. An animal will automatically qualify for the Bred & Owned Show if it meets all of the following conditions:
  - a. The exhibitor is both the owner and breeder on the current registration certificate.
  - b. The exhibitor is the sole and continuous owner of the entry since birth.
  - c. The exhibitor was the sole owner of the dam of the entry at the time the entry was conceived, and the dam is registered with a recognized breed association.



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## CATTLE SHOW, CONTINUED

7. Sibling Bred & Owned entries will be accepted provided they meet the following conditions:
  - a. The animal is bred and owned by the exhibitor and/or a junior sibling or siblings. In the event that the breeder has recently aged out of the junior program, any natural calves conceived when he/she was a junior member qualify as Bred & Owned for his/her younger sibling(s). ET calves bred by the older sibling must be born within one year of the end of his/her junior eligibility.
  - b. The animal has always been owned by the exhibitor and/or a junior sibling or siblings.
  - c. The dam of the entry at the time it was conceived was owned by the exhibitor and/or a junior sibling.
  - d. Siblings share at least one legal parent/guardian and their ASA memberships are listed at the same physical address.
  - e. All involved siblings - exhibitor, owner, and breeder - are paid members of ASA.
8. Entries that qualify for the Bred & Owned Show under the Sibling Rule (Section VII, Rule 7) are eligible only for junior siblings.
  - a. Once an animal has been shown as Bred & Owned by one sibling, it can never be shown as such for another sibling at an AJSA Classic.
  - b. An animal bred by one junior sibling and owned by another junior sibling qualifies as Bred & Owned for all junior siblings.
  - c. An animal bred by a farm, non-junior partnership, or other adult account will not qualify as Bred & Owned, even if the owner and breeder are the same or share the same physical address. Animals bred by an extended family member, even if a junior member, do not qualify.
  - d. All sibling Bred & Owned entries will be reviewed by ASA Staff following the entry deadlines. Pre-registration is not required. If an entry is deemed to not qualify after review, the exhibitor or a parent/guardian will be notified.
9. Refer to Section IX and Section X for additional Bred & Owned rules for Cow/Calf Pairs and Bulls.
10. A Phenotype and Genotype Show (P&G) will be piloted beginning at the 2026 AJSA Regional Classics. Refer to Section XII for details.
11. The ownership deadline for each event is the date of entry, with the final deadline serving as the latest possible ownership date. Only animals that are owned by the exhibitor or an account on which the exhibitor is an authorized representative will be allowed to enter.
  - a. Ownership must continue without interruption through the duration of the show. A transfer of ownership made after the time of entry but prior to the day of check-in will result in that animal's ineligibility to show.
  - b. Every animal must be registered with ASA prior to entry and must have a valid registration number to enter. No pending DNA entries are allowed. An animal with a pseudo registration number will not be allowed to enter. A pseudo registration number is assigned to a non-registered animal and will appear in parentheses on Herdbook.
  - c. It is important to plan ahead and complete registrations and transfers early. If purchasing an animal to show, ASA recommends that the animal be registered prior to the completion of the sale, especially if DNA is required for that animal. Registration will be delayed if DNA requirements have not been met for animals that are the result of AI or embryo transfer.
  - d. Register and transfer animals online through Herdbook Services ([herdbook.org](http://herdbook.org)). Paper registrations and transfer applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
12. Cattle check-in: During check-in, the exhibitor or a representative of the exhibitor will declare which of his/her entries are on site and should be checked in for the show. Any entry not checked in during this process will be considered a scratch.
  - a. Proof of registration must be presented on all entries being shown. Hard copies of registration papers or printed digital certificates are recommended, but online or electronic records through Herdbook will also be accepted. The registration for each entry must be issued in the name of the exhibitor or an ASA account on which the exhibitor is an authorized representative. The owner account of record may not be a suspended account.
  - b. Do not bring cattle to check-in. Steers will be weighed at a designated time.
  - c. Upon completion of cattle check-in, ASA Staff and/or AJSA Trustees will verify tattoos on a random 10% of the animals checked in. This will take place in the exhibitors' stalls. Any animal with a tattoo or brand that does not match its registration will be automatically disqualified from the show.
  - d. Any animal with a suspended registration at the time of check-in will be given 24 hours to resolve the suspension. If the suspension is not resolved after 24 hours, that animal will be disqualified from the show.
13. Each exhibitor must show his/her own animal(s) unless substitution requirements are met. In the event that an exhibitor has multiple animals in the ring at the same time, the additional animal(s) must be shown by another contestant show is competing in the same AJSA Classic.
14. An individual animal cannot be shown by multiple exhibitors at the same event. Exceptions apply when the official exhibitor of an animal has another entry in the ring at the same time (Section VII, Rule 13) and when an exhibitor who checks in only a bull has been approved to use another exhibitor's animal in Showmanship (Section XIII, Rule 3).
15. Only cattle being exhibited at the corresponding AJSA Classic or being used in the Judging Contest will be allowed on the fairgrounds.
16. Heifer and bull classes will consist of no more than 20 entries with a maximum 60-day age spread. Cow/calf class breaks are listed in Section IX. Steers will be shown by weight with no more than 20 in a class. ASA Staff reserves the right to combine classes in the event of single entries.
17. In the instance that a Top 20 is placed within a single show at National Classic, divisions will be implemented at the discretion of ASA Staff.
18. Once a class has entered the ring and the first entry is put into motion, no further entries will be allowed to enter the ring.
19. If an animal gets loose three times throughout the course of the show, that animal will be dismissed. The exhibitor must be the sole handler of his/her animal(s) while in the show ring, except in the case where an AJSA Trustee provides assistance.
20. Cattle must be on exhibit at the grounds through the completion of the last champion drive of the Cattle Show. Requests for early dismissal of cattle must be submitted, in writing, to the AJSA Board of Trustees before the start of the show. AJSA Trustee or ASA Staff will inform exhibitors if their request has been approved or declined following the decision.



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## **CATTLE SHOW, CONTINUED**

21. All cattle are required to be in the barn by 8 am and to remain there until the set tie-out time, unless otherwise announced.
22. All AJSA Classics are Progress Through Performance (PTP) Shows. PTP data will be provided for the judge(s) to use in conjunction with phenotypic evaluation. Grand and Reserve Champions from each division will have DNA collected and tested for parental validation and genomics. DNA collection will be conducted or supervised by ASA Staff.
23. Contestants are required to wear the official show shirt provided for the Cattle Show.
24. No farm or ranch signage is permitted in the barns. Additional items displaying a brand or logo will be left to the judgment of the AJSA Board and ASA Staff. Any branded promotional items are subject to removal.
25. Exhibitor and animal substitutions may be allowed, per approval by the AJSA Board of Trustees, on the following bases:
  - a. Medical notes for exhibitors, submitted no less than 60 minutes prior to the show, will be considered. Emergency cases will be handled at the discretion of the AJSA Board of Trustees. No exceptions will be made for non-medical reasons other than family emergencies.
  - b. In the event that a substitute exhibitor is needed, he/she must be an eligible contestant at the same AJSA Classic. The substitute exhibitor may not, in any case, exhibit more than the maximum number of unique animals at one event, regardless of who entered the animal(s).
  - c. In the event of an animal injury, illness, or death after the entry deadline but prior to the event, an application for substitution may be submitted to the ASA Youth and Foundation Director. A note from a licensed non-owner veterinarian must accompany the application.
  - d. In the event of animal injury or illness on the site of the event, on-site ASA Staff must approve the use of another animal for a contest. This approval must be accompanied by an evaluation of the original animal by a licensed non-owner veterinarian. Any animal previously deemed unfit for a contest must be reapproved by a non-owner veterinarian in order to be later used in the Cattle Show or Showmanship.
26. No artificial pumping of animals will be allowed unless under the advice of a licensed non-owner veterinarian. If such advice is given, ASA staff must be notified and will select an individual to monitor the area during the process. Anyone observed by event officials artificially filling an animal without approval of a licensed non-owner veterinarian and ASA staff will be removed from the show entirely and the affected animal will be disqualified from the show.
27. Unethical fitting practices intended to alter the conformation and/or natural appearance of an animal are prohibited. This includes but is not necessarily limited to: Any use of added hair or hairlike material, natural or manmade; and the application of paint, dye, or other substances to any part of an animal's body that attempts to change the natural color pattern. Any other alteration issues are at the discretion of ASA Staff. An entry found to be in violation of this rule may be disqualified, and the exhibitor may forfeit any overall competition points earned for the disqualified entry.
28. In the case of a non-ambulatory animal, show leadership will follow facility guidelines. Any expense will be the responsibility of the exhibitor. If there is no facility policy, the following rules guidelines will be used:
  - a. If an animal that becomes non-ambulatory after arriving at an AJSA Classic, the owner or exhibitor shall immediately notify ASA Staff.
  - b. ASA Staff will notify the veterinarian on call about the animal in question and circumstances evolving around how the condition occurred.
  - c. A veterinarian, ASA Staff, and the owner or a representative will collaborate to reach the best decision for the animal, with an emphasis on the welfare of the animal. Only the persons that are available need to be involved in the decision. If euthanasia is determined to be the best option, the expense will be the responsibility of the exhibitor.
  - d. An animal that becomes non-ambulatory or dies after arriving at an AJSA Classic must be removed for treatment or disposed of as soon as possible or within two hours of discovering or receiving notice of the animal's condition. Exceptions can be made only by ASA Staff.

## **SECTION VIII HEIFER SHOW**

1. All general Cattle Show rules (Section VII) apply to the Heifer Show.
2. Heifers must be born September 1, 2024 to March 15, 2026.
3. If an animal falls under these age guidelines but has a calf at side, she will be automatically moved to the appropriate cow/calf division and shown in the youngest class.



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## SECTION IX COW/CALF SHOW

1. All general Cattle Show rules (Section VII) apply to the Cow/Calf Show.
2. A pair must be shown with the cow's most recent natural calf at side, born on or after November 1, 2025.
3. Breed division will be assigned based solely on the breed composition of the cow. The calf must be a minimum of 1/2 Simmental in order for the pair to be eligible, with exceptions made for Percentage Simbrah pairs in which the calf is at least the same percentage Simmental as the cow.
4. A cow/calf pair may be shown as Bred & Owned only if both the cow and the calf meet the Bred & Owned Show requirements.
5. A cow/calf pair counts as one head if the calf is not being shown in an individual class. If the calf is being shown individually, the pair will count as two head and will require two entry fees. The calf must be entered separately and must be born on or before March 15, 2026.
6. Calves must be registered with ASA by the conclusion of cattle check-in. Calves must be properly tattooed or branded.
7. Within each breed division, pairs will show in two groups. ASA Staff reserves the right to combine classes in the event of single-entry occurrences.
  - a. Cows born September 2023 and later, plus any female eligible for the Heifer Show with a calf at side
  - b. Cows born before September 2023

## SECTION X BRED & OWNED BULL SHOW

1. All general Cattle Show rules (Section VII) apply to the Bull Show.
2. There will be only a Bred & Owned Bull Show.
3. Bulls must be born September 1, 2024 to March 15, 2026. There will be no class for two-year-old bulls.
4. Bulls must be bred and owned by the junior exhibitor and/or a sibling but may be jointly owned with an adult or farm, provided the junior exhibitor or a sibling is the sole breeder, original owner of record, and is officially recorded as a current owner or co-owner of the bull.
5. All bulls twelve months of age and older must be shown with a nose lead or ring.

## SECTION XI STEER SHOW

1. All general Cattle Show rules (Section VII) apply to the Steer Show.
2. There are no breed divisions in the Steer Show. All steers must be registered with ASA as at least 1/2 Simmental.
3. Steers must be born January 1, 2025 to March 15, 2026.
4. Steer classes will be broken by weight. All steers must be weighed at the designated time.
  - a. Weights will be provided to the judge(s) for use in their evaluation.
  - b. No weigh backs will be taken.
5. There will be two divisions of steers: Prospect Steers (under 900 pounds) and Progress Steers (900 pounds and over). Classes may be further broken within these divisions, with a maximum of 20 head per class. ASA Staff reserves the right to combine classes in the event of single-entry occurrences.

## SECTION XII PHENOTYPE AND GENOTYPE SHOW (P&G SHOW)

*A Phenotype and Genotype Show is being piloted by AJSA beginning at the 2026 Regional Classics. There is no P&G Show at National Classic in 2026.*

1. Animals entered in the P&G Show will be judged using a system that considers both genotype-based placings, using select EPDs and indexes, and phenotypic placings. The final results will be determined by a composite score where genotype and phenotype are equally weighted at fifty percent each. The same judge(s) will evaluate both genotype and phenotype.
2. Animals entered in the P&G Show may also be entered and shown in the standard Progress Through Performance (PTP) show. Entering both shows will result in two entry fees.
3. The phenotype portion of the P&G Show is a no fit contest. Adhesives and paints may not be used.
4. There will be a P&G Show for only Purebred Simmental Heifers and Percentage Simmental Heifers. There will be no separate Bred & Owned divisions. All general Cattle Show and Heifer Show rules apply, except those that refer to Bred & Owned qualifications.
5. To qualify for the P&G Show, animals must be genomic tested and have a DNA sample on file with the American Simmental Association at the time of entry. GE-EPDs are required at the time of check-in.



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## **PHENOTYPE AND GENOTYPE SHOW, CONTINUED**

6. Following the completion of cattle check-in, classes will be broken based on breed classification and age. The P&G judge(s) will receive EPD and index information for each class using the approved PTP format: CE, WW, YW, MCE, Milk, MWW, Stay, Marb, BF, and REA EPDs, along with \$API and \$TI and percentile ranks for each EPD and index. Birth date ranges and entry numbers will also be included. The judge(s) will place each class based on personal preferences, and results will be submitted to ASA Staff prior to the phenotype portion of the show.
7. When evaluating phenotype, the judge(s) will not have access to any genotype information. Only birth dates will be provided for each class. After phenotype placings are recorded and compiled with the genotype placings, a composite score will determine the outcome of the class. Ties will be broken by phenotype rankings. The judge(s) will then receive the final class placing and the genotype information for each entry.
8. The need for divisions will be determined by the number of entries checked in. During champion drives, the judge(s) will have access to all genotype information for the animals in the lineup.
9. Only Grand and Reserve Champions in each breed division will be selected. In the case that the division does not equal or exceed 15% of the largest show division, points towards the overall competition will be reduced by 50%.

## **SECTION XIII SHOWMANSHIP**

1. Showmanship is a no fit contest. Adhesives and paints may not be used.
2. An exhibitor must use the same animal for all phases of the competition. Each exhibitor must use his/her own animal, with an exception applying to any exhibitor who only checks in a bull and meets the requirements in Section XIII, Rule 3.
3. Bulls may not be used in showmanship. An exhibitor who checks in only a bull may apply for approval by the AJSA Board of Trustees to use another exhibitor's animal in the contest.
  - a. Written application must be received by the ASA Youth and Foundation Director within 24 hours of the conclusion of check-in. A representative of ASA or the AJSA Board will communicate the approval or denial of the application within 24 hours of receipt.
  - b. Any exhibitor who checks in a heifer, cow/calf pair, or steer is not eligible for this exemption.
  - c. Any exhibitor who checks in no cattle is not eligible for this exemption.
  - d. An animal may not be used by multiple exhibitors in showmanship at the same AJSA Classic.
4. Either the cow or calf from a cow/calf pair may be used for showmanship. The other half of the pair must remain in the stalls during the competition.
5. Contestants are required to wear the official show shirt provided for showmanship.
6. Once a class has entered the ring and the first entry is put into motion, no further entries will be allowed to enter the ring. If an exhibitor misses his/her heat, that exhibitor will not be allowed into a later heat and is effectively disqualified from the contest.
7. If an animal gets loose three times throughout the course of the show, the exhibitor and animal will be dismissed from the contest. The exhibitor must be the sole handler of his/her animal(s) while in the show ring.
8. Heat sizes will be based on the size of the show ring(s), with no more than sixteen contestants per heat. Semifinal and final drive sizes are at the discretion of the judge(s). ASA Staff reserves the right to adjust showmanship heats after they have been posted.

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## EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

Cell phones, smart watches and any other electronic devices are prohibited from all contests and under all conditions. If a contestant uses an electronic device during a contest, he/she will be disqualified from the contest, and the contest will not count toward the educational requirement.

### SECTION XIV JUDGING CONTEST

1. The Judging Contest will consist of a minimum of four classes. A committee of official judges shall place all classes, listen to all oral reasons, and create one set of questions. Performance data will be used at the discretion of the contest officials.
2. This contest counts as a speaking event for Intermediates and Seniors, provided all sets of reasons are completed. At each Regional Classic, Seniors will give two sets of reasons. Juniors will give one set of reasons and answer one set of questions. At National Classic, Seniors will give three sets of reasons. Intermediates will give two sets of reasons. Juniors will answer one set of questions and are required to complete one oral reasons element, using one of two options:
  - a. Option 1: Take part in an oral reasons workshop. This workshop will teach contestants how to take notes, the structure of reasons, and other basics of giving reasons. This option is worth a flat 30 points, out of 50, for all contestants who participate.
  - b. Option 2: Give oral reasons. Reasons judges will be instructed that the minimum score that can be issued is 30.
3. Junior Division contestants will have the opportunity to receive assistance with properly marking cards, identifying animals, and keeping materials in order. Assistance may not come from other Judging Contest participants, regardless of age division.
4. If data is provided, it must be printed either on handouts that are distributed to each contestant or display boards that are easily visible.
5. Each class, including reasons and questions, is worth a maximum of 50 points.
6. Contestants are allowed a maximum of 12 minutes to judge and place each class. A two-minute warning will be issued for each class.
7. Cattle may be judged on halter or in pens. Close inspection is not allowed unless directed by the official committee or one of its representatives.
8. Contestants must remain with their assigned groups throughout the contest unless otherwise directed by a group leader or contest official.
9. Any apparel, including but not limited to jackets and caps, identifying a contestant's farm/ranch affiliation, FFA, 4-H or other competitive judging team is prohibited while giving reasons.
10. No parents or advisors will be allowed in the contest area prior to or during the contest.
11. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants or between parents and/or advisors and contestants. Any violation of this rule is grounds for immediate disqualification from the contest.
12. Contestants must provide their own note-taking material for use during the contest.
13. Once a contestant turns in a marked card or Scantron to a group leader or contest official, he/she is not allowed to have the card/Scantron back.
14. Any unmarked class will be scored as a zero. Any class with multiple placings marked will be scored as a zero.
15. In all age divisions, ties will be broken on reasons scores then questions scores. Should a tie still exist, the final placing will be decided by a coin toss.
16. Contestants must complete the entire contest during the scheduled time, including questions and reasons, in order for the contest to be counted towards the educational requirement to show in the Cattle Show and Showmanship.

### SECTION XV CATTLEMEN'S QUIZ AND CALVIN DRAKE GENETIC EVALUATION QUIZ

1. Each quiz will consist of thirty scored questions plus five tiebreaker questions.
2. Contestants have one hour to complete each quiz. After thirty minutes, the time remaining will be announced at ten minute intervals.
3. Once the first quiz has been turned in, no other contestants will be allowed to begin the quiz.
4. Primary resources for quiz questions will be listed in an official study guide, available at [juniorsimmental.org](http://juniorsimmental.org) on approximately May 1. The previous year's study guide is available prior to this date.
5. Contestants may not bring notes, books or reference materials to the testing area. Each contestant will be provided with a copy of the quiz, a ZipGrade answer sheet, and at least one pencil. Highlighters are permitted but will not be provided.
6. Conferring with other contestants, starting the quiz before time is in, use of notes, and any form of cheating are grounds for disqualification. In the event a contestant is disqualified, the contest will not count towards the educational requirement to show in the Cattle Show and Showmanship.
7. Once a contestant turns in his/her answer sheet, he/she will not be allowed to have it back. Each contestant may keep his/her copy of the quiz.
8. Ties will first be broken by scores on the five clearly marked tiebreaker questions. If a tie still remains, it will be broken by order of finish.



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## SECTION XVI SALES TALK

1. Sales Talk is a live setting mock sales scenario in which a contestant uses a live animal, photo, or video to present a sales pitch to potential buyers. The purpose of the contest is to evaluate the effectiveness of the presentation and the contestant's ability to merchandise cattle.
2. Each contestant is required to provide the judges with a registration certificate for the animal or genetics being sold. If a contestant is selling embryos, a planned mating must be provided. The judges will use these materials to evaluate the accuracy of the pedigree and EPD information provided by the contestant, as well as to ask questions. All materials will be returned to the contestant at the conclusion of his/her Sales Talk.
3. Requirements, allowances, and limitations will apply to the materials a contestant uses for Sales Talk.
  - a. Required: A registration paper matching the animal or genetics being used. An additional copy may be made for the second judge.
  - b. Required: Live animal entry, photo of a SimGenetics animal, or video of a SimGenetics animal. Only one of the three may be used.
    - i. If using a photo, it may not be larger than 8"x10".
    - ii. If using a video, it may not exceed one minute in length, must display footage of only the animal being sold, and may not include audio. The contestant must provide his/her own device for video presentation. No other information on the device may be displayed.
  - c. Required for embryo sales: A planned mating printout from Herdbook Services is required for contestants who wish to market embryos. A planned mating printout for an animal being sold is optional.
  - d. Optional: Updated BOLT EPDs from Herdbook services.
  - e. Restricted: A contestant's score will be reduced by 50% if additional materials are presented to the contest judges. This includes but is not limited to: Business cards, sale catalogs, additional photos or registration papers, and any items displaying a farm or ranch logo.
4. Sales Talk is a maximum of seven minutes in length. A two-minute warning will be given in each round. After seven minutes, contestants will be asked to wrap up their presentations and leave the contest area. Points will not be deducted for talking past the seven-minute mark.
5. Each contestant must use his/her own animal or genetic package, or a photo or video of an animal or genetic package he/she owns.
6. If using a cow/calf pair, only the cow or calf may be in the contest area. Further, only one registration paper may be presented to the judges. The other half of the pair must remain in the stalls.
7. If using a live animal, another contestant from the same AJSA Classic or an AJSA Trustee must handle the animal.
8. Sales Talk is a no-fit contest.
9. No animal or genetic package may be used in the same age division of the contest by multiple contestants.
10. Contestants will be evaluated on Animal Knowledge (25%), Organization and Style (25%), Poise and Delivery (25%), and Overall Effectiveness (25%). The score sheet is available at [juniorsimmental.org](http://juniorsimmental.org).
11. Ties will be broken first by Overall Effectiveness scores, then Animal Knowledge, then Organization and Style, then Poise and Delivery. If a tie still remains, a winner will be selected by coin toss.
12. There will be a holding area for cattle and contestants one round prior to their designated Sales Talk time. Only cattle being used for the contest are allowed in the holding area.
13. Judges will be rotated at regular intervals within each age division to ensure more uniform scoring. Judges are strongly encouraged to complete comment sheets, and those comments are available to participants following the conclusion of the awards ceremony. Scores will be removed.
14. If a contestant misses his/her scheduled time, he/she may be added to the end of the contest schedule and the contest will still count towards the educational requirement. A review by the AJSA Board of Trustees will determine whether the contestant is eligible to place in the contest.

## SECTION XVII PUBLIC SPEAKING

1. Public Speaking is an extemporaneous speaking contest for the Senior Division at Regional Classics and the Senior and Intermediate Divisions at National Classic.
  - a. Three to five topics pertinent to the agriculture and/or beef industry will be announced no less than 24 hours before the start of the contest. Each contestant may gather information on his/her topic of choice and is allowed to bring one handwritten 3x5 notecard to the contest.
  - b. Each contestant must report to the preparation room at or before his/her scheduled time to check in. The contestant will receive a packet of information related to his/her selected topic, a pencil, and a maximum of two 3x5 note cards. The number of note cards will be determined by whether the contestant brings a note card to the contest. No additional materials are allowed in the contest area.
  - c. Contestants have thirty minutes to prepare, beginning at their scheduled time. After thirty minutes, all materials must be returned and contestants will be directed or escorted to the judges' rooms/stations to begin speaking.
2. Junior Public Speaking is a prepared speaking contest at all AJSA Classics.
  - a. Each contestant is asked to prepare a speech based on one of three topics offered by AJSA. Topics will be available on or before April 1 of the current year at [juniorsimmental.org](http://juniorsimmental.org). The same topics will be used for all Regional and National Classics.
  - b. Contestants are allowed to use two 3x5 note cards when speaking. All notes must be handwritten.
  - c. Contestants must check in with contest officials before their schedule speaking times to receive score sheets and instructions.



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## PUBLIC SPEAKING, CONTINUED

*The following rules apply to ALL Public Speaking age divisions.*

3. Speeches should be 3 to 7 minutes long. Time elapsed will be indicated by a timekeeper at the 3-minute, 5-minute, and 7-minute marks. Contestants who finish speaking before three minutes or after seven minutes have elapsed will be penalized one point per second over or under the target time. Judges will have discretion to determine whether a contestant has demonstrated sufficient effort for the contest to be counted toward the required educational requirement. For example, if a contestant does little more than announce his/her name and topic, he/she is subject to disqualification.
4. Following the speech, judges will ask questions, and the contestant's responses will be scored as part of the contest. This question-and-answer period does not count towards the length of the speech.
5. Contestants will be evaluated on Presentation, Knowledge of Subject, Response to Questions, Organization and Overall Effectiveness. The score sheet is available at [juniorsimmental.org](http://juniorsimmental.org).
6. Ties will be broken first by Overall Effectiveness scores, then Presentation scores. If further ties remain, they will be broken by scores in Subject Knowledge, then Response to Questions, then Organization.
  - a. If any non-perfect score ties still remain, the winner of the tie will be decided by a coin flip.
  - b. If a tie between two or more contestants with a perfect score exists, all tied contestants will be given the opportunity to give their speeches again, with the same set of judges hearing all speeches. If not all tied contestants agree to this, the tie will be broken by drawing names at random, with the first name drawn receiving the lowest placing of the tie.
7. Judges will be rotated at regular intervals within each age division to ensure more uniform scoring. Judges are strongly encouraged to complete comment sheets, and those comments are available to participants following the conclusion of the awards ceremony. Scores will be removed.
8. If a contestant misses his/her scheduled time, he/she may be added to the end of the contest schedule and the contest will still count towards the educational requirement. A review by the AJSA Board of Trustees will determine whether the contestant is eligible to place in the contest.

## ADDITIONAL COMPETITIONS

### NATIONAL CLASSIC ONLY

#### SECTION XVIII

### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

*This contest does not count towards the Overall competition.*

1. Only photos taken by AJSA members are eligible. Each entry must be a photo taken by the member entering the contest.
2. Photos must be taken between August 1, 2025 and the contest deadline (June 1, 2026).
3. Photos must be 8"x10" and mounted on 10"x13" black foam core board. Contestants must attach a completed entry form to the back of each entry. Forms are available at [juniorsimmental.org](http://juniorsimmental.org).
4. Each contestant is allowed a maximum of four entries.
5. For judging purposes, photos will be broken into four categories: SimGenetics Cattle, People, Landscape, and General Agriculture.
6. Winning contestants must provide the original, unaltered, digital copy of their photographs to the ASA Youth and Foundation Director.
7. Contest entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2026 to the ASA office, located at One Genetics Way, Bozeman, Montana, 59718.
8. All entries will be displayed at the 2026 AJSA National Classic. Contestants do not need to be present to win.

#### SECTION XIX

### STATE DISPLAYS

1. State junior associations are encouraged to use trade show booths or live cattle displays to promote their state activities.
2. The display area is to be focused on the promotion of Simmental/Simbrah cattle, state association activities, and/or upcoming SimGenetics events. Promotion of individual farms, ranches, or sales is not allowed. No private advertising of any enterprise may be used in the display.
3. Location of the display area is dependent upon the availability of space.
4. Displays are to be in place by 5 pm on Sunday, July 5 and must remain in place until at least the conclusion of Showmanship.
5. Recognition will be given to the state with the best combination of a promotional booth and cattle display. Only states with a promotional booth are eligible. An individual or committee will be assigned to select a winner.



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## SECTION XX INTERVIEW CONTEST

*This contest does not count towards the Overall competition.*

1. Interview Competition offers participants the opportunity to prepare an effective résumé and cover letter and to enhance their interview skills in a live setting mock interview.
2. Contestants must be ages 15 to 21 as of January 1, 2026 and must be entered at the 2026 AJSA National Classic in order to compete.
3. Each contestant is allowed to apply for the job of his/her choice, provided that job is within the agriculture industry. A position description of the job that is being applied for must be included with the contestant's application. These position descriptions must be realistic and may be pulled from actual job postings, taken from similar contests, or created by the contestant or an advisor/teacher/coach.
4. Résumés, cover letters, and position descriptions are due June 20, 2026 via email to [ajsa@simmgene.com](mailto:ajsa@simmgene.com).
5. Interviews will take place during scheduled times as part of National Classic. A full schedule of interviews will be available on the day of contestant check-in. Interviewees must be present to compete.
6. Depending upon the number of applicants, contest judges may limit the number of interviews conducted after reviewing applications. Contestants will be notified no later than the day of contestant check-in whether or not they have a scheduled interview time.
7. Only the contestant, judge(s), and ASA staff members are allowed in the interview setting.
8. Contestants will be scored on Interview (50%), Résumé (25%), and Cover Letter (25%). Comment sheets from the judges will be available for contestants following the awards banquet.
9. Scholarships will be awarded to the contest winner and runner-up during the National Classic awards ceremony.

## SECTION XXI HERDSMAN OF THE YEAR

1. The AJSA Herdsman of the Year award is an honor bestowed upon one AJSA member at the annual National Classic. This award is intended for an individual who commands the respect of both juniors and adults in the Simmental industry and upholds the honor and dignity of a present and future cattleman or cattlemaster. The nominee's pride in their cattle, both in the show ring and at home, should be evident to fellow members across the Simmental industry. A positive attitude, willingness to help wherever needed, and diligent work ethic are of the utmost necessity in candidates for this prestigious honor.
2. ASA and AJSA members are encouraged to nominate junior members they deem qualified for and deserving of this award. Nominees must be active AJSA members, ages 16 to 21 as of January 1 of the current year, and in attendance at National Classic.
3. Nomination forms are available on the AJSA website and Facebook page and will be available on site at National Classic. Completed nominations must be submitted to the ASA Youth and Foundation Director no more than 24 hours after the completion of contestant check-in.
4. ASA Staff will appoint a panel of at least two individuals to review nominations. This panel may nominate any individual(s) that it believes are deserving of consideration for AJSA Herdsman of the Year without completing the nomination form.
5. The AJSA Herdsman of the Year selection committee is comprised of a minimum of three individuals selected by ASA Staff, chosen primarily from past and present ASA Trustees, past AJSA Trustees, and previous AJSA Herdsman of the Year winners. Individuals on the selection committee must have no family ties with those nominated for the award.
6. The AJSA Herdsman of the Year will be recognized during or immediately prior to the Owned Show Purebred Heifer Champion Drive.



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SECTION XXII

**CODE OF CONDUCT / WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT / MEDIA RELEASE**

1. **Code of Conduct:** The Code of Conduct is a separate document, available on the AJSA website and included as part of the entry process. All junior members of the American Association in attendance at a 2026 AJSA Regional Classic and/or the 2026 AJSA National Classic are expected to read, understand, and agree to the AJSA Code of Conduct at the time of entry.
  - a. Violations of the Code of Conduct include but are not limited to: misrepresentation of animals, vandalism, theft, fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, failure to comply with directives of officials, being in possession of or under the influence of intoxicating beverages or other prohibited substances on or about the grounds, and willful violation of rules.
  - b. Persons with unnecessary, unruly, or overly aggressive behavior will be banned from AJSA events for one year.
  - c. Witnessing of any violation or misconduct must be submitted in writing, with proof, to the ASA Executive Vice President for review and action to be taken. If, as a result of the Executive Vice President's investigation, with written concurrence of any two members of the ASA Executive Committee, he shall file with the ASA Executive Committee charges in writing against the member based upon the information and investigation, following ASA's Rule and Bylaws Section 2.F: Charges Against Members.
  - d. Hearing: If an investigation deems a hearing is necessary, the process will follow ASA's Rules and Bylaws Section 2.g: Hearings.
2. **Liability Provision:** All contestants are expected to read, understand, and agree to the AJSA Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement form upon entry. This is a separate document, available on the AJSA website and as part of the entry process.
3. **Media Release:** All contestants are expected to read, understand, and either agree or disagree to the Youth Programs Media, Photo, and Video Release form provided upon entry. This is a separate document, available on the AJSA website and as part of the entry process.
  - a. ASA reserves the rights to all backdrop photos taken by the official event photographer for the purposes of promotion and results publication. The act of being photographed at the backdrop by the official photographer authorizes ASA to use those photos.
  - b. Any contestant that does not agree to the Media Release at the time of entry may be subsequently contacted to verify that decision.