

VERMONT WORKING STEERS 4-H PROGRAM
QUALIFICATION RULES FOR SELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF EASTERN
STATES EXPOSITION WORKING STEERS TEAM - The BIG E TEAM
Approved October 26, 2024

1. There will be two qualification events: the time, place and judges to be agreed upon by the Vermont Working Steers State Committee. If needed, we will have a third event for the youth to have an opportunity to get the points needed.
 - a. Each event will have three classes: fitting and showmanship class, cart class and stone boat pull class. Each class will have a junior division for teamsters from 12 to 13 years old and a senior division for teamsters from 14 to 18 years old.
 - b. These events are open to all members of the Vermont 4-H Working Steers Program.
2. All signed approval forms, lease/loan forms, health papers and standards for working steer shows, for each Team will be checked before each event. Please do not unload your cattle until someone is there to check the paperwork (this may be a 4-H Educator, or a volunteer designated that day for that job).
3. The judges for the qualification events will be selected from the list of judges which has been agreed to by the Vermont Working Steers State Committee. The judges will be given a copy of the Standards Working Steer Shows and be expected to follow the standards.
4. The weight of the steers will be determined at each event. If scales are not available, a girth tape will be used. The prescribed weight for the stone boat pull class will be 50% of the weight of the steers for juniors and 60% the weight of the steers for seniors.
5. Scoring at the qualification events will be the same as used at the Big E: first blue - 13 points, second blue - 12 points, third blue - 11 points, all other blue - 10 points, all red - 8 points, all white - 6 points Event scores (sum of the points in three classes) will be totaled after each event.
6. To be selected as a member of the Big E Team, members must
 - a. **Complete** all three classes in at least one qualifying event.
 - b. Have a total score (sum of the event scores of two qualification events) at least 54 points. The judge at the final event will break all tied total scores of 54 or more points by asking questions of the tied members.
 - c. Be at least 12 years old as of January 1.
 - d. Have pulled their prescribed weight in the stone boat pull class in at least one qualification event.
 - e. Have a cart class hitching time of one minute or less in at least one qualification event.
 - f. Have a stone boat pull class hitching time of one minute or less in at least one qualification event.
 - g. Have cattle that meet all Massachusetts health requirements and meet the Big E Rules for the Youth Working Steers Activity.
7. The 4-6 Big E Team members with the highest total scores will be selected as Big E Attendees and compete at the Big E. This decision will be made at the close of the final qualifying event.
8. Members of the Big E Team who are not Big E Attendees will be Big E Alternates.

If one or more of the Big E Attendees is unable to attend the Big E, the highest scoring Big E Alternates will be allowed to attend the Big E in their place.

9. The State Committee may allow up to two highest scoring Big E Alternates to attend the Big E as alternates.
10. The Big E Attendees must pay a \$30 sponsorship fee. The sponsorship fee, registration forms and materials for the Big E program book will be due by a date set by the state committee.
11. All members will turn in the 4-H project record book and member record book at the beginning of the final event.
12. All contestants must wear the 4-H uniform: green or khaki pants and white shirt, while competing at the qualifying events and the Big E
13. Driving with excessive use of the whip or stick will not be tolerated at any time during any 4- H working steer program event. If the judge feels that any contestant is driving with excessive use of the whip or stick, the judge may stop the contestant and issue a warning, award a white ribbon for poor driving or disqualify the contestant from that class. Disqualified contestants will not receive a ribbon or points for that class.
14. Whip and Lash, goad sticks or buggy whips may be used. The goad stick may not be more than 4 ft. long and ½ inch in diameter on the small end.
15. If the teamsters has multiple teams, all teams must be qualified. Since we will have up to three shows, each team must be shown in fitting and show at least once as well as meeting the point requirements.