2026 RULES FOR THE YOUTH WORKING STEER ACTIVITY

1. **ELIGIBILITY** - This program is open to all qualified Working Steer Club members over 10 years of age as of January 1 (Please note: Age limit is 12 years of age in New Hampshire and Vermont). Quotas are a maximum of 10 teams per state. Each exhibitor participating is required to contribute $50. Sponsors will be listed in the catalog. These funds are used to buy trophies and other items not covered by Eastern States Exposition.
2. **ATTENDANCE** - Participants and animals must arrive at the Mallary Complex of Eastern States Exposition between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday, September 25 and will be released upon completion of the Awards Ceremony on Monday, September 28. All exhibitors must remain on the fairgrounds upon arrival on Friday until released on Monday and must vacate the barn as soon as possible after dismissal by the superintendent.
3. **HOUSING AND MEALS** - Eastern States Exposition will provide housing and meals for Youth Working Steer members and authorized chaperones, authorized barn personnel, and leaders at the 4-H Moses Dormitory Building. Adult chaperones must be provided for both boys and girls.
4. **CAMPER POLICY** - Please see Camper Policy page: https://www.thebige.com/p/competitions/livestock1
5. **INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CONDITION** - Members must obtain from the Eastern States YWS Website, a health form to be filled out and signed by parents or guardians. This procedure gives permission for medical personnel to administer medical treatment, if necessary to do so.
6. **SHOW RING ATTIRE** - Plain white colored shirts (no writing), green or khaki pants.
7. **PASSES** - Three personal and two auto passes will be provided to each participant for getting their exhibits and themselves on and off the grounds and will be mailed after entry. Additional passes for family members may be purchased in advance through the Agriculture Office. Please call (413) 205-5011.
8. **BEDDING AND HAY** - Eastern States Exposition will provide bedding and hay for cattle while at The Big E.
9. **ANIMAL HEALTH** - Please see the Massachusetts Dept. of Animal Health regulations page.
10. **DISPLAY** - No decorating other than kick boards, utensil holders, or educational exhibits will be allowed.
11. **REQUIREMENTS FOR HORNS AND CASTRATION** - All animals must have horns and if over 6 months of age, must be castrated and reasonably healed to be eligible.
12. **NO ADULTS ARE ALLOWED TO WORK ANIMALS WHILE ON THE FAIRGROUNDS** - After initial set-up, no adults are allowed to work on display or animals. This is to include feeding animals and cleaning out animals. Exhibitors must perform in all scheduled classes for Youth Working Steers. Exhibitors are encouraged to work together to present a nice display of the entire working steer area.
13. **ALTERNATES** - If the participant's team is stricken with death or illness such that it cannot be shown, the participant may participate on a limited basis.
14. **APPRENTICE** - Each State may bring two apprentices (age eligible) to help their state delegation where needed. Apprentices follow the same rules as it pertains to a participant whose animal is unable to come.
15. **CATTLE MUST BE HITCHED WITH FACE HALTERS** - Straps are encouraged be used but only as a second method of hitch along with the face halters
16. **DRIVING INSTRUMENTS** - Whip and lash, goad stick, or buggy whip may be used. Goad sticks, whip sticks and buggy whips may not be more than 4 feet long and ½ inch
17. **PULLING SPECIFICS** - In senior (14 years and older as of January 1 of the current year) pulling competition, the drag will be loaded with 60% of the animal's weight. In junior (10 years to 13 years old by January 1 of the current year) pulling competition, the drag will be loaded with 50% of the animal's weight. The weight of the drag will be included in the total percentage required to pull.
18. **YOKES** - Each exhibitor must use the same style yoke (neck yoke, head yoke or sliding yoke) for all three classes.
19. **SAFETY** - If the judge sees something going wrong, the judge should stop the teamster, but judge them accordingly. If the judge doesn't see it happening due to writing notes, etc. the superintendent should say something to the judge. The safety of the teamsters and cattle are paramount.
20. **TIE- BREAKERS** - In the event of a tie for any award, the following events will be used as needed: cart class; drag class; fitting and showmanship.
21. **LOSS OR DAMAGE** - All exhibits will be under the direction of ESE management, who will exercise every reasonable care in the protection of exhibits. In no case will ESE or management be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur. Each exhibitor will be solely responsible for any loss, injury or damage to any animal; or loss, injury or damage done by or arising from any animal exhibited by him/her and shall indemnify Eastern States Exposition against legal or other proceedings in regard thereto.

HERDSMANSHIP SCORING CRITERIA

The following will be taken into consideration:

1. Cleanliness of stalls and animals
2. Promptness in having stalls cleaned by 9 a.m.
3. Neat arrangement of equipment of feed and tack area
4. Personal appearance of herdsman
5. Observance of rules and regulations (fire codes, animal health)
6. Cooperating with officials (within the ring and in the barn)
7. Interaction with the Public (politely and willingly answers all questions asked by public)
8. Agricultural Education (creative and well thought-out educational exhibits

2026 YOUTH WORKING STEER SCHEDULE

Friday, September 25

12 p.m. – 4 p.m.	All Working Steer members arrive via Gate 1 to be stabled in the Mallary Complex then check into the 4-H Moses Dormitory.
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Supper – Moses Cafeteria
8 p.m.	Ice Cream Social in stall area
10:30 p.m.	All members must be in the 4-H Dormitory

Saturday, September 26

6:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Breakfast – Moses Cafeteria
8 a.m.	Weigh-In at Scales
Following Weigh-in.	Parent/Guardian/Leaders/Teamster meeting in upstairs Exhibitor Lounge
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch – Moses Cafeteria
4 p.m.	Meet with Judge – Leaders and Teamsters only
6 p.m.	Junior Fitting and Showing Contest – Mallary Arena 1
	Followed by Senior Fitting and Showing Contest – Mallary Arena 1
10:30 p.m.	All members must be in the 4-H Dormitory

Sunday, September 27

6-30 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Breakfast – Moses Cafeteria
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch – Moses Cafeteria
12 p.m.	Senior Performance on Cart – Mallary Arena 1
	Followed by Junior Performance on Cart - Mallary Arena 1
10:30 p.m.	All members must be in 4-H Dormitory

Monday, September 28

6-30 a.m. – 8 a.m.	Breakfast – Moses Cafeteria
8 a.m.	Senior and Junior Performance on Cart (continued if needed)
	Senior and Junior Pulling - Mallary Arena 1
	Awards Ceremony to follow
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch – Moses Cafeteria

Releases will be issued following completion of activities