THE OBJECTIVES

Iowa’s beef cattle production sectors—seedstock, cow/calf, backgrounder, and feeder, each play a key role in determiningfinal cattle performance and carcass quality. ICA’s Carcass Challenge is an ongoing effort to demonstrate continuous industry-wide improvement within Iowa. As Iowa’s only statewide fed-beef competition, the ICA Carcass Challenge was created to:

1. Showcase Iowa’s beef cattle genetics, feedyard management, and modern technology.
2. Offer Iowa’s cattle industry a fun and competitive statewide fed-beef contest to highlight Iowa’s beef production advantages.
3. Generate additional non-dues ICA revenue to grow Iowa’s beef business through advocacy, leadership and education.
4. Provide leadership and learning opportunities through the ICA Young Cattlemen’s Leadership Program (YCLP).

Each November, steer-sponsors donate 700 lb. steer calves to compete in this prestigious Iowa fed-beef contest. Steers complete 180-200 days on feed to an average 1,400 lb., market-ready end point. Cash prizes and special awards are presented to contributors of the Top 10% of individual steers based on the “Retail Value per Day on Feed.”

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES:

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

• Steers should be weaned, bunched-adjusted and consuming a weight-appropriate mixed ration prior to delivery. (10-15 lbs. of grain, silage or hay combined within a TMR.)
• A two-week steer adjustment period is used at the feedyard prior to steers being fed for the official test period. There are no advantages to purposely shrinking steers prior to delivery.
• The feedyard will utilize quality feedstuffs within a sound step-up ration to transition steers to a finishing ration with end-point targeted feeding.
• Neither ICA, nor the ICA CC Feedyard may be held liable for any sickness or any death loss of the CC steers. Every effort is made to prevent and treat all cattle.
• Steers will be marketed on one harvest date as determined by the designated feedyard or by the marketing committee.

RETAIL VALUE PER DAY ON FEED:

Retail Value per Day on Feed (RVDoF):

Retail Value per Day on Feed = 

Retail Product (RP) = [65.69 - (9.931 X back fat) + (1.2259 X days on feed) + (0.01166 X carcass wt.) - (1.29 x % KPH)]

where %KPH is the percentage of total fat found in the body cavity (carcass) and the funds raised by the marketing of the finished steer(s) will be used in the ICA general fund to strengthen ICA through education programs and leadership development.

DONOR REQUIREMENTS:

• Must be 2020 ICA members.
• Enter steer(s) on the ICA commitment form by Oct. 14, 2019.
• Deliver steer(s) to the ICA-designated feedyard or to a designated steer pick-up location on Nov. 14, 2019 and transfer ownership to ICA.
• Obtain a veterinarian-signed Iowa Certificate of Health, to accompany steer(s) at delivery.

STEER REQUIREMENTS:

• Spring-born 2019 steer calves weighing 650-750 lbs. No dairy breed.
• Received all mandatory, pre-delivery vaccinations between Sept. 16 and Oct. 16, 2019.
• Any steer unable to adapt to the feedyard pen, encounters a health challenge or injury during the feeding period may be removed from the contest, prior to the marketing date.

HEALTH & VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS:

• All mandatory vaccinations and health treatments must be certified by the original steer owner or his veterinarian on a signed ICA CC Health Form provided by ICA.
• Mandatory vaccinations include: 5-way Viral Vaccine (MLV) + Pas-teurella, Clostridium (Blackleg), Haemophilus Somnus, and BRSV.
• Weaned by Oct. 16, 2019. 30 days prior to delivery.
• Dewormed and treated for external parasites.
• No evidence of warts, ringworm, lice or mange.
• Dehorned and healed from dehorning, if applicable, for all horned cattle.
• Post-weaning implant is optional, not required.
• Steers may be DNA-sampled for carcass traits, tested for BVD-PI and Brucellosis.
• Steers will be marketed on one harvest date as determined by the designated feedyard or by the marketing committee.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION:

• A $5,000 cash prize will be paid to the steer contributor(s) whose Champion Steer produces the highest formula-calculated Retail Value per Day on Feed (RVDoF).
• A new traveling trophy with the winning steer contributor engraved will be presented to the contributor for one year. The traveling trophy contest will be returned and a replica provided.
• Cash prizes and/or additional awards will be awarded to contributors of the Top 10% of steers. Example: 80 steers contributed, ICA Carcass Challenge prizes awarded to the Top 8 Steers based on the final RVDoF rankings.

MOBILE PH:  
OFFICE PH:  
E-MAIL:  

TOTAL # STEERS:  

I AGREE.
I agree to donate and deliver a feeder steer(s) (650 pounds to 750 pounds) to the designated feedyard or designated pick-up site on Nov. 14, 2019. Furthermore, I will vaccinate & wean the steer(s) according to the guidelines for the ICA Carcass Challenge. At delivery, I understand the ownership of the steers(s) will be turned over to the ICA Carcass Challenge program and the funds raised by the marketing of the finished steer(s) will be used in the ICA general fund to strengthen ICA through education programs and leadership development.

SIGNATURE:  
DATE:  

SUPPORT ICA. DONATE TODAY!
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
(See detailed information inside.)
• 2019 Spring born steers
• Sign a commitment form and return to ICA by Oct. 14, 2019
• Steers have all mandatory vaccinations
• Steers must be weaned at least 30 days before delivery
• 2020 Iowa Cattlemen’s Association Member

KEY DATES
• Oct. 14, 2019 - Steer Registration Deadline
• Nov. 14, 2019 – Deliver Steers
• February 2020 – Open House at the feedlot
• April/May 2020 - Steers Delivered to Market, & Carcass Evaluation
• June 2020 – Banquet with results announced & prizes awarded

“It was great to put our money where our mouth was and put our cattle in a test situation. We tell our customers all the time ‘This is the goal we’re working towards,’ but unless we really test them, we really don’t know”

- JOHN WESSEL
CARCASS CHALLENGE DONOR