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## Idaho Cattle Association Announces 2026 Heifer of the Year Contest

**BOISE, Idaho** — The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) is proud to announce the return of the Heifer of the Year (HOY) contest for 2026.

Aimed at encouraging youth to meaningfully engage as future producers in the beef industry, the contest is open to students in grades 7–12. This educational competition gives Idaho students an opportunity to expand their knowledge of cattle production, explore the role of agriculture in their everyday lives, and learn more about opportunities and careers within the beef industry.

Participants complete an at-home written exam consisting of true/false, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank and essay questions. The exam is designed to challenge students on their knowledge of cattle production, the beef industry and agribusiness.

The winner of the contest will receive a purebred heifer. ICA purebred producers have the opportunity to donate a heifer to the program, with the winning donor selected through a drawing at the ICA Annual Convention in November. Additional industry partners may also contribute scholarships, equipment, feed, and other prizes to support the program and its participants.

The Heifer of the Year contest not only recognizes academic achievement, but also provides students with a hands-on opportunity to connect with Idaho's cattle industry and build a foundation for their future in agriculture. Investing in the next generation contributes to the ICA's goal to preserve, promote, and protect the Idaho cattle industry.

Applications for the 2026 HOY contest are due **September 15, 2026**.

For more information about the Heifer of the Year contest, including eligibility requirements and applications, contact the Idaho Cattle Association at 208-343-1615 or visit [www.idahocattle.org](http://www.idahocattle.org).

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### *About the Idaho Cattle Association*

*The Idaho Cattle Association works on behalf of cattle producing families in the state of Idaho and has a membership of over 1,000 members. It is the only organization in the state that deals exclusively with the needs, interests and welfare of Idaho's cattle industry.*

