

**Standards for Working Steer Shows
In the Vermont Working Steers 4-H Program
Approved October 2024**

The following standards are intended to assist the judges of Vermont Working Steer shows. The decisions of the judges are final and not subject to review.

General

There will be three classes: fitting and showmanship, cart class and stone boat pull, open only to members of the Working Steers 4-H program. Each class will have a junior division for teamsters from 8 to 13 years old and a senior division for teamsters from 14 to 18 years old. We will also have a Novice Division for those who have never shown at the state 4-H shows/qualifiers. Judges will use the Danish judging system whereby contestants are awarded blue, red or white ribbons: blue for best performance, red for average and white for lower performance. Also the top three contestants in the blue ribbon group may be awarded first, second and third blue ribbons.

In order to encourage and educate the contestants and audience, the judges are expected to explain general reasons for placement of the contestants. In the Novice division, teamsters will be given the opportunity to try each class and be instructed by the judge if they reach a point of not knowing what to do. **Novice Division competitors are not eligible to qualify for Eastern States.**

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.

Fitting and Showmanship Class

Contestants will be judged on the condition of the steers and the manner in which they are presented to the judge. Judges should consider the following:

- Condition of the steers
- Grooming of the steers
- Cleanliness and appropriate fit of the equipment
- Appearance of the teamster
- Knowledge of the teamster about working steers
- Driving of the steers

Cart Class

Contestants will be judged on their ability to maneuver a two-wheeled cart through a series of obstacles within a prescribed time limit. The judge will determine the course and time limits for hitching and completing the course.

Gates must be used in at least one of the obstacles.

The time limit for completing the course is usually about seven (7) minutes, including hitch time. Hitching time and total time will be taken. Contestants may elect to stop at any time.

Stone boat Pull Class

Contestants will be judged on their ability to pull a loaded stone boat through a course within a prescribed time limit. The judge will determine the course and set the time limits for hitching and completing the course. The course must include at least one turn to the gee and at least one turn to the haw.

The time limit for completing the course is usually about five (5) minutes. Hitching time and total time will be taken.

The prescribed weight for the stone boat will be 50% of the weight of the steers for juniors and 60% the weight of the steers for seniors. Contestants may elect to stop at any time or ask the judge to remove some or all of the weight.

4-H Member Signature _____ Parent Signature _____