

Georgia 4-H and FFA State Steer Breed Classification Guidelines

Updated for 2024- 2025

These guidelines are set forth to assist in the classification of steers exhibited at the Georgia 4-H and FFA State Steer Show. These are all visual factors. Therefore, eligibility for a breed is determined only by visual appraisal, as evaluated by classifiers appointed by the show management. Registration papers, breeder affidavits, or other paperwork is not considered. Decisions of classifiers are final; and not subject to appeal.

British Breeds:

Hereford

Ideal Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Hereford
- Red body with white face, white underline, and white-marked legs
- Feather neck
- Horned Herefords must be dehorned

Acceptable Breed Characteristics: (but not necessarily desirable; in combination may be discriminating)

- Dark red color
- Red neck
- Solid red or solid white ear
- Excess white on legs
- Excess white above the underline
- Freckling on face and nose
- Eye pigment
- Black hair in tail, ear or on rear end of animal
- Black spotting/smut or freckling on the nose
- Line back
- White above switch in tail
- White across rump above the twist

Absolute Disqualifications

- Diluter color pattern
- Brindles
- Double muscling
- Any color pattern other than red or white (birthmarks excluded)

Angus

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Angus
- Solid black
- Polled

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Continental breed type structure or head
- Bumps where horns would be on a horned animal
- Birthmarks or white hair on the switch should be reviewed for the skin color (black skin color is acceptable; white or pink skin is a disqualification)

Absolute Disqualifications

- White skin resulting in white hair above the underline or in the front of the navel (white on the navel is acceptable)
- White skin resulting in white hair on the leg, foot, or tail
- Horns or scurs
- Brindle
- Diluter color pattern
- Dehorning scars
- Double muscling

Red Angus

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Red Angus
- English/British characteristics
- Polled
- Black pigmentation (animals may have two of three areas of black pigmentation on the nose, around the eyes, and on the anus, but not all three)
- A blond, light red, or mixed switch
- Black hair on the tail, muzzle, face, neck, and shoulder

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Course joints or head (big feet, big dewclaws)
- Bumps where horns would be on a horned animal
- Solid white switch

Absolute Disqualifications

- Horns or scurs
- White above the underline or in the front of the navel
- White on the leg
- Black pigmentation (having all three areas of black pigmentation: on the nose, around the eyes, and on the anus)
- Diluter color pattern
- Dehorning scars or evidence of dehorning
- Double muscling

Shorthorn

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a purebred Shorthorn
- Solid red; solid white with red hair or red pigment on ear, muzzle, or tail; or any combination of red and white, with the red and white color pattern bleeding together

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Motley or brockle face
- Orange or light red color
- Black nose pigment
- Straight-line white markings across leg
- Coarse head
- Double muscling

Absolute Disqualifications

- Diluter color pattern, such as yellow or yellow roan
- Blacks, blue roans, or grays
- Brindle

Continental Breeds:

Charolais

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a 50% purebred Charolais
- White, yellow, gray, or silver (moderate dappling allowed)
- Expression of diluter gene
- Painting or spotting less than 20%
- Skunk tail, line back, baldy

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Excessive painting or spotting (over 20%)
- Double muscling
- Brindles
- Frail bone work and frail general appearance
- Light red color
- Short stubby head
- Overly refined, narrow head
- Excessive dark pigmentation (eyes, nose, ears, and anus)
- Excessive dappling

Absolute Disqualifications

- Black, red, dark smuts
- Showing no diluter gene, unless solid white
- Excessive Painting or spotting (over 25%)

Chi Influence

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must exhibit Chi Influence in head (ear, eye, and nose) and skeleton
- Any shade of black, red, gray, or yellow
- Brindles, baldies, blaze faces, and motleys

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Coarse joints and skeleton
- Excessive spotting above the underline

Absolute Disqualification

- Appears to be a purebred of any other breed

Limousin

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a 50% purebred Limousin
- Solid black, red, light red, charcoal black, yellow, blonde
- Bald face

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Coarse joints, skeleton, and head
- Brindle
- Pointed Poll
- White Switch

Absolute Disqualification

- Stocking legs
- Spotting above the underline
- Roans

Maine Anjou

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a 50% purebred Maine Anjou
- Spotted, solid black, or red
- White stocking legs, white underline, and spotting above the underline and on the face
- Heavy skeletal structure

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- None

Absolute Disqualification

- Brindle
- Roan
- Diluter color pattern
- Appears to be more than 50% any other breed

Simmental

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a 50% purebred Simmental
- Larger, longer head
- Larger ear, lower set
- Solid black, red, light red, gray, smut, red and white, yellow and white, black and white
- Painting or spotting above the underline
- Stocking legs
- Bald, blaze, or streak face
- Diluter color pattern

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- 40% or more white above the underline
- Diluter color pattern around the eyes and muzzle

Absolute Disqualification

- Brindle
- Roans
- Skunk tail

Gelbvieh / Balancer

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a 50% purebred Gelbvieh
- Solid black, grey, yellow to gold, red
- Light skin pigmentation around the eyes and nose
- Diluter color pattern

Discriminatory Breed Characteristics

- Roans
- Double Muscling
- Brindle
- White skin resulting in white hair above the underline or in front of the navel (white on the navel is acceptable)
- White skin resulting in white hair on the leg, foot, or tail

American Breed Steers (Brahman Influence)

Acceptable Breed Characteristics

- Must physically exhibit breed characteristics of a 50 percent Bos indicus.
- Progression of importance to include Bos indicus influenced head, eye, and ear (of moderate length, slightly pointed, drooping and opening down and forward); showing Bos indicus influenced sheath
- Any color (or color pattern).

Absolute Disqualification:

- Inadequate Bos indicus head, eye, and/or ear

Glossary:

Baldface – white covers a majority of the face

Blaze or Streak Face – a wide strip of white down the face to the muzzle

Bos indicus – (zebu) subspecies of cattle, originating in Asia; have a prominent hump in front of the shoulder

Bos Taurus – subspecies of cattle, originating in west Asia but usually called “European”

Brindle – a streaking of black or brown on the body (tiger stripe)

British / English – originating in the British Isles; Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn are most numerous in the U.S.

Brockle or Motley Face – white spotting on the face

Continental - breeds originating in Continental Europe; sometimes called “Exotic”

Dappling – mottled or spotted markings

Diluter Gene – cattle that carry both copies of the gene will appear white. Non-diluter cattle will appear black or dark-red, white those that carry a single diluter gene will appear grey or yellow.

Discriminatory – characteristics that are not reason for absolute disqualification, but in combination with other visual characteristics could lead to disqualifications

Horned – horns are solidly attached to the skull or there is evidence of dehorning

Painting – large white markings covering a major portion of the body

Pigmentation – dark skin coloring on the point of the animal (eyes, nose, ears, anus, tail)

Polled – naturally hornless

Purebred – animal of known ancestry eligible for registry in a breed association

Scurs – horny tissue of rudimentary horn attached to skin and not the skull

Sheath Score – scoring system from 1-5 based on the length of the sheath (1 = little sheath and 5 = excess sheath)

Smut – grey color pattern

Spotting – white spots on the animal