

May 11, 2020

RNA steers Ekka beef competition in new direction for 2020

Entries are now open for the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Led Steer Competition, which will run in a modified format in 2020 due to the coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic.

This year the competition will feature all Hook classes with double the prize money on offer - a total of more than \$13,000 up for grabs. It follows the cancellation of the 2020 Ekka last month, due to covid-19 social distancing measures and public gathering restrictions.

Judging will be carried out by qualified Aus-Meat chiller assessors on Wednesday 5 August, following transportation of the cattle to Nolan Meats at Gympie the day prior.

Reserve Champions and Champions will also have their carcasses auctioned to the highest bidder via a livestream.

RNA Beef Committee Chair Gary Noller said it was important the RNA found a way to continue to run the competition in some capacity.

"Our dedicated exhibitors have been preparing their cattle for the Show since before the Ekka was cancelled in April, so it's important we provide an avenue to recoup some of their investment," he said.

"The carcass information helps exhibitors to promote their bull sales from late August to October during spring bull sale season."

Mr Noller said with three school classes in the Led Steer Competition, it was also vital to continue to provide educational support to students and teachers.

"Exhibitors will receive photos of both the live animal and the carcass, combined with data, so they can be used as an educational tool for agricultural students," he said.

The cattle will be delivered to four nominated saleyards on Monday 3 August for transportation to Nolan Meats. The saleyards are Glen Innes (NSW), Murgon (QLD), Toowoomba (QLD) and Silverdale (QLD).

Entries close Friday 12 June 2020. To enter go to www.ekka.com.au/competitions

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ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

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