



**THE FIFTY-SEVENTH
BEEF EMPIRE DAYS**

**AWARDS BANQUET
PROGRAM**

**MAY 30 - JUNE 8, 2025
GARDEN CITY, KANSAS**

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JEFF JONES LIVING WATER SERVICE AWARD

Travis Pitts



Beef Empire Days, Inc. recognizes the men and women in our feedlot and ranching community who go over and beyond every day to care for the thousands of head of livestock in Southwest Kansas. We honor individuals whose years of dedication and commitment have helped set the standard for the industry we are all involved in.

The Service Award is to honor Jeff Jones who was a 30-year employee of Finney County Feedyard and a lifetime member of the Garden City community. He cared deeply about the cattle and people he worked with. We lost Jeff suddenly in 2024. Most every successful business has one of those MVP's – dedicated and devoted to getting it “done right.” Day or night, snowstorms, flood, or blazing heat -- ensuring that every animal has been fed, watered, and taken care of before the day is done

Any feedlot or ranch can nominate an employee over the coming year (July 2025-April 2026) and we will select a new recipient and recognize them next year at Beef Empire Days. We all accept the enormous responsibility of taking care of God's land and his creatures big and small. The land and cattle sustain our lives through the meat and fiber they provide. People like Jeff are the ones that protect the land and make the animals as safe and comfortable as possible for the time they are under our care.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024 Jeff Jones nominated by Finney County Feedyard

2025 Travis Pitts nominated by Irsik & Doll Feedyard

PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

Feedlot Cowboys and Cowgirls

Southwest Kansas, and Garden City in particular, stands as a proud cornerstone of the American beef industry. With its wide-open spaces, rich agricultural resources, and strong work ethic, this region has built a lasting legacy around cattle feeding and beef production. That legacy began in 1951 when Earl Brookover established one of the first commercial feedyards in the Midwest, setting the stage for decades of innovation and growth. Today, Garden City is home to some of the most respected feedyards in the country, including Brookover Feed Yards and Irsik & Doll, where generations of experience and modern practices come together to care for cattle and feed a growing world.

But the heart of the industry isn't just in the pens or pastures it's in the people. From sunrise to sunset, feedyard employees work with skill and dedication to ensure the well-being of every animal. Pen riders carefully monitor cattle health on horseback, feed truck drivers



ensure precise nutrition, and veterinary teams respond swiftly to keep herds healthy. Managers and support staff keep the operations running smoothly, making decisions that affect everything from animal welfare to environmental stewardship. These individuals many of whom grew up in the region or have made it their home bring pride, responsibility, and a deep sense of community to their work every day.

Garden City lies within the “Golden Triangle of Meatpacking,” along with Dodge City and Liberal, an area known nationwide for its concentration of feedyards and processing plants. This network supports thousands of jobs and plays a vital role in feeding millions of people across the globe.

Beef Empire Days honors this vital industry with events that spotlight not only the cattle but also the people behind them. From the Merck Animal Health Live Show to the Cattle Working Contest, the celebration showcases the care, skill, and teamwork that make southwest Kansas a leader in the beef world. As we gather to celebrate Beef Empire Days, we recognize not just an industry, but a way of life built on hard work, resilience, and a shared passion for cattle and community.



WESTERN MOTOR BEEF EMPIRE DAYS

Parade Winners

ADULT ORGANIZATION WINNERS

1. Unique Roofing LLC
2. Garden City Municipal Band
3. Kansas Kruisers Car Club

YOUTH ORGANIZATION WINNERS

1. Red Dog Children's Museum
2. Finney County Public Library Teen Group
3. Miles of Smiles Therapeutic Horsemanship

COMMERCIAL WINNERS

1. Corteva Agrisciences
2. Tyson Foods
3. Western State Bank

OVERALL JUDGE'S CHOICE

1. Bulls, Broncs, and Rodeo

Scholarship Recipients

Jhett VanderHamm

Channing Dillinger

Kayla George

Paul Caballero

The scholarship program hopes to identify and encourage talented students who may emerge as cattle industry leaders. *Thank you to our sponsors who help fund these scholarships Cobalt Cattle Company, Security State Bank and Animal Health International.*

RANCH RODEO RESULTS

1ST PLACE - 3H CATTLE



2ND PLACE - PEANUTS RANCH



3RD PLACE - GIBBS CATTLE



4TH PLACE - NEXTGEN CATTLE FEEDING



SUNFLOWER LIVESTOCK SHOWDOWN
BEEF SHOWMANSHIP RESULTS

TOP 5
SENIOR CATTLE SHOWMAN



Kassidy Kirkham, Sarah McKown, Jake Schickedange, Braylee Kraisinger, Kerbie Hill

TOP 5
INTERMEDIATE CATTLE SHOWMAN



Brek Colantonio, Lakyra Borwell, Hunter McClure, Sydney Schickedange, Matilyn Durrer

TOP 5
JUNIOR CATTLE SHOWMAN



Lainey Hardy, Tylar Morgan, Kobe Kirkham, Harper Doris, Ker Kirkham

EMPIRICAL TIMED EVENTS RESULTS

FEEDLOT TEAM ROPING

1st Place:

Layton Wright & RA Turley
HRC Feedyard

2nd Place:

Houston Hendricks & Pancho Wiebe
Rex Stanley Feedyard

SPONSOR TEAM ROPING

1st Place:

Jhett VanderHamm & Scott VanderHamm
VanderHamm Cattle

2nd Place:

Jarek Vanpetten & Cody Remington
Microtechnologies & Corteva

FEEDLOT HIGH POINT

RA Turley



SPONSOR HIGH POINT

Scott VanderHamm



CATTLE WORKING CONTEST RESULTS

1ST PLACE - FORD COUNTY FEEDERS



Willy Alfaro, Ruben Gomez, Manuel Hipoloto, Luis Garzon

2ND PLACE - BROOKOVER NORTH



Deb Kirby, James Stanford, Francisco Gonzalez, Seth Lynd

3RD PLACE - LANE COUNTY FEEDERS



Andres Rodriguez, Cristian Deciga, Omar Pacheco,
Alejandro Cordero

CARCASS & LIVE SHOW JUDGES



LIVE SHOW JUDGE

DR. RYAN RATHMANN

Ryan is an Associate Professor in Beef Cattle Biology and holder of the John W. and Doris Jones Endowed Professorship in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Ryan has a BS in Animal Science and MS in Reproductive Physiology from Texas A&M and a PhD in Ruminant Nutrition from Texas Tech.

Ryan teaches courses in cow/ calf management, animal breeding and genetics, and artificial insemination. He conducts diversified, applied research including cull cow reconditioning, confined and semi-confined cow-calf system management, and beef cow sustainability.

Ryan is the all-time winningest coach in collegiate history having coached nine National Champion Collegiate Livestock Judging Teams (3 @ Texas A&M and 6 @ TTU) and five National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Teams. Ryan operates RK Cattle a registered Red Angus seedstock operation. He judges livestock shows extensively across the United States and abroad.

To date he has sorted over 400 shows in 40+ states. Ryan is married to Kayla Kohls Rathmann and they have two daughters named Kinlee (15) and Karlee (13).



CARCASS SHOW JUDGE

DR. BLAKE FORAKER

Dr. Blake Foraker returns for the second year as our Carcass Show Judge, but this time as a Texan! Dr. Foraker, a respected meat judging coach and expert in meat science, is now an assistant professor within Texas Tech University's Department of Animal & Food Sciences.

Foraker's research and teaching specialization is in the area of meat science, and his research program primarily focuses upon innovative methods to more adequately assess composition of live cattle and beef carcasses.

Prior to joining the Texas Tech faculty, Foraker served as an assistant professor in meat science within Washington State University's Department of Animal Sciences. Earlier in his career he worked as a graduate research assistant at Texas Tech and Colorado State University.

A native of Burrton, Kansas, Foraker earned his bachelor's degree in animal science from Kansas State University and his master's degree in meat science from Colorado State. His doctorate in meat science is from Texas Tech. He is a member of the American Society of Animal Science, Intercollegiate Meat Coaches Association, and the American Meat Science Association.

Honors include serving as the coach for the Champion National Western Meat Judging Team (2023); Reserve National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team (2021, 2022); National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team (2019); Champion American Royal Meat Judging Team (2018); and Champion Australian International Meat Judging Team (2018). In addition, he was named Texas Tech's Department of Animal & Food Science Outstanding Graduate Student in 2022. Meanwhile, as an undergraduate student, Foraker was a terrific competitor. He was a member of the All-American Livestock Judging Team (2016), National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team (2016), as well as being on the All-American Meat Judging Team (2015).

HEIFER LIVE SHOW

PLACING	BED TAG	WEIGHT	FEEDYARD	OWNER
1	180	1550	Sublette Feeders	Max Barkley & Scott Livingston
2	176	1580	Triangle H	Gardiner Angus Ranch
3	157	1520	Brookover Feedyard	Randy Patterson
4	182	1535	High Choice Feeders	High Choice Cattle Co
5	283	1515	HRC Feedyard	Burkdoll Bros
6	169	1480	NextGen Cattle Feeding LLC	NextGen Cattle Partners
7	156	1470	Brookover Feedyard	Brookover Land Enterprises
8	154	1590	Brookover Feedyard	Tim Ohm
9	288	1660	HRC Feedyard	Dennis Allen
10	155	1550	Brookover Feedyard	Beck Cattle Company
11	286	1405	HRC Feedyard	Schurr/Krier
12	273	1580	Turon Feed Yard	Kenny Dyck
13	177	1560	Triangle H	Tyler and Naomi Mayer
14	171	1530	NextGen Cattle Feeding LLC	NextGen Cattle Partners
15	297	1430	Midwest Feeders Inc.	JCS GP / Frank Harper
16	291	1520	HRC Feedyard	JRO Cattle Co.
17	272	1380	Turon Feed Yard	Kenny Dyck
18	175	1480	Triangle H	Triangle H
19	278	1360	Turon Feed Yard	Turon Feedyard
20	164	1520	Hy Plains Feedyard LLC	Hy-Plains Feedyard LLC
21	284	1445	HRC Feedyard	Burkdoll Bros
22	178	1220	Sublette Feeders	Max Barkley & Scott Livingston
23	285	1345	HRC Feedyard	Schurr/Krier
24	166	1474	Brookover Ranch Feedyard	Brookover Land Enterprises
25	293	1390	Ingalls Feedyard	G.O. Farms

STEER LIVE SHOW

PLACING	BED TAG	WEIGHT	FEEDYARD	OWNER
1	259	1620	Pioneer Feedyard	Foote Cattle Company
2	321	1680	Finney County Feedyard	Scott Livingston
3	270	1570	Brookover Feedyard	Beck Cattle Company
4	233	1640	Turon Feed Yard	Andrew Avery
5	258	1650	Pioneer Feedyard	Foote Cattle Company
6	239	1633	Lane Co Feeders	Foote Cattle Company
7	256	1720	Ingalls Feedyard	Arlin Meats
8	328	1570	Finney County Feedyard	Derek Sawyer
9	324	1560	Finney County Feedyard	Derek Sawyer
10	326	1750	Finney County Feedyard	Don Jones
11	262	1670	Irsik & Doll Feed Yard	Gentlebreeze
12	231	1620	Turon Feed Yard	Martie Floyd, Jayden Rios
13	269	1660	Brookover Feedyard	Beck Cattle Company
14	267	1680	Brookover Feedyard	Danny Gallagher
15	219	1500	Reeve Cattle Co.	Reeve Cattle Co.
16	222	1602	Reeve Cattle Co.	Reeve Cattle Co.
17	234	1619	Lane Co Feeders	Foote Cattle Company
18	220	1578	Reeve Cattle Co.	Reeve Cattle Co.
19	248	1620	HRC Feedyard	Darrin Reed
20	230	1640	Turon Feed Yard	Dale and Carol Voran
21	225	1580	Turon Feed Yard	Dale and Carol Voran
22	319	1590	Finney County Feedyard	Derek Sawyer
23	292	1625	Beef Belt LLC	Clapp Ranch
24	236	1567	Lane Co Feeders	Foote Cattle Company
25	299	1590	Triangle H	Kevin Milliken

HEIFER CARCASS SHOW

PLACING	BED TAG	FEEDYARD	OWNER
1	285	HRC Feedyard	Schurr/Krier
2	175	Triangle H	Triangle H
3	179	Sublette Feeders	Mike Nightengale
4	182	High Choice Feeders	High Choice Cattle Co
5	178	Sublette Feeders	Max Barkley & Scott Livingston
6	163	Hy Plains Feedyard LLC	Hy-Plains Feedyard LLC
7	172	Beef Belt LLC	Crossland
8	282	HRC Feedyard	Cleland/Haun/Parsons/Mayo
9	287	HRC Feedyard	Cleland/Haun/Parsons/Mayo
10	176	Triangle H	Gardiner Angus Ranch
11	177	Triangle H	Tyler and Naomi Mayer
12	151	Danner Ranch	Myron Danner
13	158	Danner Ranch	Jerome Danner
14	153	Danner Ranch	Jerome Danner
15	297	Midwest Feeders Inc.	JCS GP / Frank Harper
16	173	Beef Belt LLC	W6 Cattle
17	298	Midwest Feeders Inc.	A-Team
18	152	Danner Ranch	Jerome Danner
19	289	HRC Feedyard	Dan Direzza
20	159	Poky Feeders	Poky Feeders
21	160	Poky Feeders	Poky Feeders
22	284	HRC Feedyard	Burkdoll Bros
23	273	Turon Feed Yard	Kenny Dyck
24	294	Irsik & Doll Feed Yard	Weikert's
25	162	Hy Plains Feedyard LLC	Hy-Plains Feedyard LLC

STEER CARCASS SHOW

PLACING	BED TAG	FEEDYARD	OWNER
1	222	Reeve Cattle Co.	Reeve Cattle Co.
2	256	Ingalls Feedyard	Arlin Meats
3	295	Beef Belt LLC	W6 Cattle
4	265	Danner Ranch	Myron Danner
5	292	Beef Belt LLC	Clapp Ranch
6	321	Finney County Feedyard	Scott Livingston
7	228	Turon Feed Yard	Dale and Carol Voran
8	231	Turon Feed Yard	Martie Floyd, Jayden Rios
9	223	Hy-Plains Feedyard LLC	JO Cattle Co.
10	299	Triangle H	Kevin Milliken
11	297	Beef Belt LLC	W6 Cattle
12	293	Beef Belt LLC	W6 Cattle
13	266	Danner Ranch	Jerome Danner
14	277	Hy-Plains Feedyard LLC	Hy-Plains Feedyard LLC
15	328	Finney County Feedyard	Derek Sawyer
16	298	Triangle H	Gardiner Angus Ranch
17	278	Hy-Plains Feedyard LLC	Hy-Plains Feedyard LLC
18	220	Reeve Cattle Co.	Reeve Cattle Co.
19	243	HRC Feedyard	Cooper Hereford Ranch
20	323	Finney County Feedyard	Scott Livingston
21	224	Turon Feed Yard	Dale and Carol Voran
22	268	Brookover Feedyard	Beck Cattle Company
23	225	Turon Feed Yard	Dale and Carol Voran
24	317	Finney County Feedyard	Derek Sawyer
25	261	Irsik & Doll Feed Yard	J&J

People's Choice Winners

1. Katie Mayo & John Wiese \$15,900
2. Jeremy Simon \$9,5403
3. Sam Hands \$6,360

PUBLIC PICK 5 WINNERS

MEN

1. Socorro Martinez – 739.30 - \$32.00
2. Sam Hands – 733.48 - \$19.20
3. Kris Rose – 721.63 - \$12.80

WOMEN

1. Skye Schumaker – 659.28 - \$19.20
2. Hannah Grund – 589.84 - \$12.80

YOUTH

1. Theodore Cooper – 640.06

Feedlot Special Feature

Triangle H

LALLEMAND BIGGEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Sublette Feeders Tag #307

OVERALL LIVE AND CARCASS HEIFERS

OVERALL PLACING	BED TAG	FEEDYARD	OWNER
1	182	High Choice Feeders	High Choice Cattle Co.
2	176	Triangle H	Gardiner Angus Ranch
3	175	Triangle H	Triangle H
4	285	HRC Feedyard	Schurr/Krier
5	177	Triangle H	Tyler & Naomi Mayer

OVERALL LIVE AND CARCASS STEERS

OVERALL PLACING	BED TAG	FEEDYARD	OWNER
1	321	Finney County Feedyard	Scott Livingston
2	256	Ingalls Feedyard	Arlin Meats
3	222	Reeve Cattle Co.	Reeve Cattle Co.
4	231	Turon Feedyard	Martie Floyd, Jason Rios
5	328	Finney County Feedyard	Derek Sawyer

Earl C. Brookover Award



Tag #182
High Choice Feeders
Owned by High
Choice Cattle Co

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Triangle H
Ulysses / Cactus Feeders
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2026 BEEF EMPIRE DAYS
MAY 29 - JUNE 7, 2026

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