Beef Cattle

What a judge might look for in the beef animal:

- Muscling, which is one of the major factors influencing the retail value of a market steer. The highest priced cuts of meat come from the thickest muscled areas (shoulder, loin, rump and round).

- Adequate finish (fat covering under the skin) and no signs of excess fat.

- Structural correctness, which includes balance from front to rear, smooth shoulders, levelness of topline and square feet and leg placement and movement.

- Good capacity in the rib area and depth in the chest floor for feed intake.

- For breeding animals, special attention is given to the best combination of size, conformation, structural correctness, volume, breed and sex character (example: females must exhibit correct udder development and attachment for their age).

What a judge might look for in the show ring:

- Showmanship includes general appearance, especially cleanliness of the animal and the exhibitor's ability to lead and pose the animal in the ring.

- Show sticks do not hurt the animals, but are used to direct the placement of the animal's feet. Desired placement of the legs is squarely under the animal on all four sides. This stick is also used to stroke the animal and keep it content.

- The tails are teased into balls and tied up to create an illusion of height and balance.

- The top knots are made at the point of the head to create an illusion of height and to add symmetry, or balance.

- A good showman is polite and courteous to other exhibitors and pays attention to both the animal and to the judge at all times.

You give it a try and see how your placings compare to the judge's (fill in the exhibitor's number):

**Your Choice:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Choice:</th>
<th>Judge's Decision:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>1st Place ______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>2nd Place ______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>3rd Place ______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Place</td>
<td>4th Place ______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Place</td>
<td>5th Place ______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Look for similar "Judge Along" sheets near the other livestock show rings, or at www.mostatefair.com
Did you know... 

Beef cattle provide meat for consumers and many products: some necessary for human life support (example: adrenal glands provide epinephrine to arrest hemorrhage and stimulate heart action), glue, gelatin, hair brushes, buttons, oils, fats, waxes, soaps, margarine, shoes, garments and many other products.

Beef cattle play an important role in our environment by utilizing grass and forage crops and converting them into a more suitable and concentrated food for humans, as well as materials for pharmaceuticals, clothing and many other valuable by-products.

**Parts of a Beef Animal**

**TERMS:**
- **Cow:** a female that has had a calf
- **Calf:** male or female, less than six months old
- **Heifer:** a female that has not yet had a calf (4 months - 2 years in the show ring)
- **Bull:** a male, any age
- **Steer:** a castrated bull

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

Match the facts about beef cattle from the column on the right with the correct terms on the left.

1. polled a. grazing area for cattle
2. heifers b. to mark or identify with a symbol
3. ruminant c. a castrated bull
4. computer d. animal with more than one compartment in its stomach
5. pasture e. a group of cattle
6. USDA f. absence of horns due to genetics
7. herd g. bovine under 1 yr of age
8. steer h. used to keep cattle records
9. calf i. federal agency handling inspection program for meat quality and safety
10. brand j. female cattle that have not mothered calves