

2026 YCSA National Classic

July 23-July 27, 2026 | Annapolis Valley, NS | Windsor Fair Grounds

Entry Deadline – Monday, June 15, 2026

Payment & Photography Deadline - July 6, 2026

Substitution Deadline - July 14, 2026

Basic registration fee - \$200

Per head entry fee - \$45

Nurse Cow Pens - \$50/pen

E-transfers can be sent to ycsacoordinator@simmental.com

Participants must be active YCSA members and have paid the YCSA annual activity fee. [Link to membership form.](#)

- Additional competitions besides conformation and showmanship include - judging, cattlemen's quiz, team grooming, photography and roundtable discussion.
- It is mandatory to compete in judging and cattlemen's quiz; therefore, everyone is entered into those competitions. Judging will be one class with a placing card and oral reasons one-on-one with the judge.
- Graphic Design is for juniors, intermediates, and seniors. Please print it and bring it to registration at the show.
- Print Marketing is for novices only and will be completed at the show. Supplies will be provided.
- Photography must be submitted via email before the show; please send entries to ycsacoordinator@simmental.com with the subject line "Photography Entry." Please save files with the participant's name and age category: example - Sally Sue_Junior. Deadline is July 6th.
- A mentorship program will be offered which is designed to help new and returning youth members to learn new skills by learning one on one with some of our older senior and intermediate members. You will have the option to sign up as a mentor or mentee below. If you sign up, you will need to provide additional information.
- International participants please email ycsacoordinator@simmental.com for payment instructions.

2026 YCSA National Classic Rules & Regulations

All Rules are at the discretion of the YCSA National Board or the Provincial Board, and they have the right to decide on any point not covered by these rules. National Classics must adhere to these rules.

1. Eligibility & Age Categories

- a. Participants in the National Classic and all Provincial Classics must be active YCSA members and have paid the YCSA annual activity fee.
- b. YCSA members are eligible to compete at any of the provincial events.
- c. Contestants must compete in Judging and the Cattlemen's Quiz at the scheduled competition time unless prior arrangements have been made to be eligible for showmanship and conformation classes or to be allowed to fit, show, or assist members with cattle in any way.
- d. Participants must be 25 years and younger as of January 1st of the competition year.
- e. Age categories are:
 - Pee Wee: 6 years and under as of January 1st of the competition year.
 - Novice: 7-10 years as of January 1st of the competition year.
 - Junior: 11-14 years as of January 1st of the competition year.
 - Intermediate: 15-17 as of January 1st of the competition year.
 - Senior: 18-25 as of January 1st of the competition year.
- f. Pee Wees will only have participation prizes.

2. Conformation Classes

- a. The Classic may consist of the following conformation classes in the Purebred/Fullblood divisions: Heifer Calf, Yearling Heifer, 2-year-old Female with natural current year purebred calf(s), Mature Female with natural current year purebred calf(s), Bull Calf, and Yearling Bull.
- b. The Classic may consist of the following conformation classes in the Bred & Owned divisions: Heifer Calf, Yearling Heifer, 2-year-old Female with natural calendar year calf(s), and Mature Female with natural calendar year calf(s). If there are 10 or less entries in the bred & owned division, all age divisions will be combined for one championship class that will be placed 1st to 5th for aggregate points. Bred & owned overall champions will return to compete against purebred/fullblood champions.
- c. The Classic may consist of the following conformation classes in the Commercial division: Heifer Calf, Bull Calf, Yearling Heifer, 2-year-old Female with natural calendar year calf(s), and Mature Female with natural calendar year calf(s).
- d. **NEW for 2026.** Fall born open female division. Must be a minimum of 5 entries for each class in order to stand as its own class. If the required entries are not met, the animal will fall into the next appropriate age division.
 - i. 2025 Open Heifer Calves. Born September 1, 2025- December 31, 2025.
- e. Age of animals is based on January 1st of the competition year.
- f. All entries in the Purebred/Fullblood classes must hold a CSA registration certificate including calves at side.
- g. Registered and recorded cattle must have a legible tattoo that conforms to CSA records to be eligible. Show officials may inspect tattoos.
- h. Yearling bulls must be shown with a nose ring or humbug with a lead attached.

3. Purebred Ownership Rules

- a. All entries in the Bred & Owned division must be bred by and owned by and registered as such under the entrants' name.
- b. All entries, excluding Bred & Owned, must be registered solely to the entrant, entrant's immediate family or family farm.

4. Additional Rules

- a. **Parent participation is strictly prohibited.** However, the YCSA understands that human and animal safety is a priority and parent/adult intervention maybe required, matters such as this will be dealt with on a case-by-case situation and escalated to the YCSA coordinator for final decisioning. Older YCSA members are encouraged to assist and mentor younger members during the competition or event. Any violation of this rule will be addressed according to the circumstances, and warnings may be issued where appropriate. However, serious or repeated violations may result in immediate dismissal or disqualification from the competition or event.
- b. No artificial filling and/or use of tranquillizers will be allowed. Violation will result in immediate review by the Hearing Committee.
- c. No paint products are allowed for the conformation show. Paint products are allowed for the team grooming competition. However, no products are permitted that alter the animals true and natural colour(s).

Non-Confirmation Competitions

Adjustments to these classes are at the discretion of the provincial boards. This is a list of options to select from for the National Classic at the discretion of the National board. Not every competition will be offered.

Team Grooming

- a. Teams of 3 participants are randomly selected from the same age division.
- b. Teams will be given 15 minutes to complete the competition.
- c. Power is allowed to be used for clippers and blowers.
- d. Any fitting prior to the competition's commencement will result in the team's disqualification.
- e. Paint products are allowed. However, no products that alter the animals' true and natural colour(s) are permitted.
- f. Score: Knowledge and skill 35%, Teamwork 25%, Use of Equipment 20%, Final Appearance 15%, Presentation of the Animal 5% = 100%

Showmanship

- a. Showmanship is dry brush – no glue or paint products.

- b. Each animal can only be exhibited in one age division by a single participant. Participants eligible for the supreme showman title may utilize a different animal from the one they presented in the division competition, but only if necessary.
- c. Entrants may borrow an animal from another YCSA member for the Showmanship competition.
- d. The top 2 placing entrants from each age division are eligible to compete in the Supreme Showman.
- e. Supreme showman class will be judged as a new competition, and placings from age divisions may not be considered.

Judging

- a. The judging competition will consist of one class of four animals. A placing card will be completed with one-on-one oral reasons to a judge.
- b. All components of the judging competition will score equally in the final tabulations.
- c. Placing classes will be worth 50 points per class, and oral reasons will be worth 50 points per class.
- d. While the competitions are in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants or between parents and/or advisors and contestants.
- e. Contestants must remain with their assigned groups throughout the entire contest unless otherwise directed by the YCSA Coordinator or an attending Show Official.

Team Judging

- a. Team judging will not be included in total aggregate points.
- b. Contestants can select partners prior to the National Classic; partners will be randomly selected if not chosen prior to the show.
- c. Teams will consist of one Acting Judging and one Acting Ringman.
- d. Teams will work together to complete working the ring from entry, placing the class, oral reasons to the public on a microphone and removing the class from the ring.
- e. Classes will be close but not identical for each team and will consist of approximately 4 – 5 animals per class.
- f. Judging will be on the complete show ring management and quality justification of oral reasons.

Cattlemen's Quiz

- a. The quiz will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions about the agriculture, cattle and Simmental industries.
- b. A maximum of 1 hour will be allowed.
- c. All necessary materials will be provided.
- d. Conferring with other contestants, use of notes or any other form of cheating will be grounds for disqualification of a contestant.
- e. Provincial quizzes will be different than those at the National.

Roundtable Discussion

- g. A roundtable discussion is a guided conversation to explore a specific topic or question. Each person in the group should participate equally in the discussion.
- h. Groups of 3-4 participants will randomly be selected from the same age category.

- i. Topics/questions for the discussion will be related to the agriculture and cattle industry and will be available at registration. Each group will have a different topic.
- j. Maximum of 15 minutes per group.
- k. Scoring: Clarity 30%, Knowledge 30%, Communication Skills 20%, Contribution 20%

Photography

- a. One entry per exhibitor.
- b. Photo must be taken by the member exhibiting it and depict the Simmental industry.
- c. Photograph entries are to be submitted online before the show. Check details and deadlines when registering.
- d. Score: Quality 40%, Composition 25%, Overall Impression 35% = 100%

Graphic Design Competition

- a. Graphic Design must be original work by the junior exhibiting it.
- b. One entry per exhibitor and is for junior, intermediate, and senior age categories.
- c. Must be created using computer technology and printed on paper.
- d. The size of the graphic design must be 8.5" X 11".
- e. The graphic design must promote the Simmental breed, the YCSA organization or a Simmental individual herd/animal.
- f. Examples of entries are flyers, posters, advertisements, newsletters, brochures, etc.
- g. Entries must be brought to the National Classic registration where they will be judged and on display.
- h. Score: Skill/Quality 35%, Originality/Creativity 30%, Clarity of what is being promoted 35%

Sales Talk Competition

A mock sales event where youth give a presentation to judges to "sell" an animal of the youth's choice using a photo (*no larger than 8X10) and "potential buyers" being the "judges." Contestants must supply their own photo for the competition.

The purpose of this contest is to evaluate the effectiveness of the contestant's ability to merchandise cattle in a real-life situation. The competition is designed to be conversation-oriented vs a formal presentation.

Judges evaluate competitors using a standard set of criteria:

- Animal Knowledge (25%): Knowing the animal's pedigree, EPDs, and strengths.
 - Organization & Style (25%): Having a logical, convincing, and enjoyable sales pitch.
 - Delivery (25%): Maintaining eye contact, displaying a confident tone, and handling questions well.
 - Effectiveness of Pitch (25%): How well you persuade the "buyer" and close the sale.
- a. Contestants are to use a photo (no larger than 8X10) of the animal as the subject of the Sales Talk.
 - b. Immediately preceding the talk, contestants selling registered animals will be required to provide the judges with a registration certificate for the animal being "sold". The judges will use the registration certificate to evaluate the accuracy of pedigree and performance information provided by the contestant and to also ask questions. If a registration paper is not presented, 5 marks will be deducted from the score. Must have physical registration paper, cannot use your phone. Commercial animals do not need a registration paper.
 - c. Two additional support photos may be used (no larger than 8X10), but are not necessary.

- d. Sales Talk will be up to 5 minutes in length. Time elapsed will be indicated during the contest so that contestants are aware of the time constraints.

Print Marketing

- a. For novice age category only
- b. Members are required to create an advertisement to promote a topic to be distributed and completed at the National Classic.
- c. All supplies will be provided at the show.
- d. Judging Criteria: 35% clarity of what is being promoted, 30% Neat and Organized, 35% Originality of Design

Spirit of Youth Award

- a. Judging occurs while the entire competition is on.
Score: 25% Friendly/Fun, 25% Team Player, 25% Enthusiastic, 25% Leadership Qualities = 100%

Grand Aggregate Competition

- a. Points will be awarded for all competitions except the Spirit of the Youth Award.
- b. The top 5 scores in each non-conformation competition will receive points. The highest score will receive 5 points, with each subsequent score receiving one less point, down to 1 point for the 5th score. 1st: 5 pts, 2nd: 4 pts, 3rd: 3 pts, 4th: 2 pts, 5th: 1 pt
- c. Conformation division winners will receive 5 and 4 points, and the remaining class placings will receive points starting at 3, with each subsequent placing receiving one less point, down to 1 point for the 3rd placing.
- d. Only an individual's highest placing in the Conformation Classes will score points. Conformation points are awarded only to the entrant's name as seen on the entry form.
- e. The grand aggregate competition will be determined by points won in all but the competitors' lowest score.

American Junior Simmental Trip Award

- a. The two highest Grand Aggregates at the YCSA National Classic will receive the travel award to the AJSA National Classic the following year.
- b. Recipients must be a minimum of 16 years of age of the AJSA event/competition year and no more than 21 by January 1st of the event/competition year.
- c. Recipients must register to compete in all AJSA National Classic competitions to which they are eligible.
- d. An eligible Grand Aggregate winner can only be awarded two trips. The trips can be back-to-back.
- e. The YCSA will reimburse the participants for reasonable travel and registration expenses for the trip. Participants are expected to travel to the event unaccompanied by a chaperone. Once at the event the YCSA Coordinator/Chaperone will be there to

assist them. If a parent/guardian is accompanying the participant, they are responsible for all their own expenses.

- f. Expense sheets and required documents must be submitted within 30 days after the trip to the YCSA Program Coordinator.

Ties

- a. Ties will be broken by comparing scores in the following events:

1st Tiebreaker = Judging 2nd Tiebreaker = Quiz 3rd Tiebreaker = Roundtable Discussion