

2019 Polk County Cattlemen's Association

Sweetheart Selection Process

The Polk County Cattlemen's Association Sweetheart represents the beef industry in Polk County and at the sweetheart contest at the convention in June. Young ladies that wish to be considered for the Polk County Cattlemen's Sweetheart position must:

- Meet the requirements of eligibility for Sweetheart of the Florida Cattlemen's Association. These include but are not limited to (please refer to the "[2019/2020 Sweetheart Application](#)" for additional criteria):
 - Each contestant must be 18 by Sept. 1, 2019 and not over the age of 24 as of December 31, 2019 and must be or will be a high school graduate by June 30, 2019. **Contestants will only be allowed to compete up to 2 years in the competition.**
 - The contestant must never have been married nor have any children.
 - The contestant must be the daughter of a member (parent or "legal" guardian) in GOOD STANDING OF THE FLORIDA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.
 - The FCA member must live in the state of Florida and must be a paid member in good standing for two consecutive years in the Polk County Cattlemen's Association.
 - The FCA Sweetheart shall be selected at the annual convention in June. All contestants must be able to attend the convention and should be registered. The responsibility for the contestant's registration and lodging expenses is handled individually.
 - The FCA Sweetheart must be able to represent the Florida Cattlemen's Association, the Florida Beef Council, and the Florida CattleWomen at all approved events and activities.
 - It is highly recommended that each contestant pursue higher education while remaining in a Florida institution. Due to the fact that the FCA Sweetheart is asked to travel rather extensively to fulfill her duties, being out of state would hinder her opportunities.

- Submit their contact information (Name, birthdate, address, phone, email address and parents' names as registered with the Polk County Cattlemen's Association) and a 250 word maximum essay explaining how she will promote the beef industry in Polk County, **no later than January 28th**, to Bridget Stice at bccarlis@ufl.edu or you may fax it to (863) 534-0001 or mail it to PO Box 9005, Drawer HS03, Bartow, FL 33831.

Should more than one individual apply to serve as the Polk Cattlemen's Sweetheart, a contest will be conducted at the county level. Selection will be as follows:

- A selection committee will be formed of individuals from within the beef industry but outside Polk County.
- The sweetheart candidates will participate in a written test and an interview with the committee. In 2019, the written test will be **on Monday, February 11**, at 5pm followed by interviews.
- The committee will review the submitted essays, test results and interview performance to make a recommendation to the Polk Cattlemen's Board, or subcommittee of board members, for the sweetheart.
- Judging will be on the basis of the following criteria:
 - Knowledge of the Beef Industry
 - Communication Skills
 - Personality, Poise, and Appearance
 - Overall Impression
- The Polk Cattlemen's Board, or subcommittee of board members, will select the Polk Sweetheart. In 2019, selection will be made by the Polk Cattlemen's BOD on Monday, February 11, at their regular board meeting.
- The selected sweetheart will be asked to carry a flag at the ranch rodeo on **Saturday, February 16**.

Please refer to the "2019 Polk County Cattlemen's Association Sweetheart Roles and Responsibilities" for further information.

If you have further questions, please contact Bridget Stice at (863) 519-1048 or bccarlis@ufl.edu