RED ANGUS

GRID MASTER CHALLENGE

2027



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The Red Angus GridMaster Challenge was designed by the RAAA Marketing Team and approved by the RAAA Board to serve as an educational opportunity for Red Angus members and commercial producers. Participants will have firsthand opportunities to learn about the fed cattle sector of the beef industry and learn more about their herd's performance and carcass genetics.

For Further Questions, Please Contact

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Challenge Requirements

1. Enrollment Deadline: Nov. 1, 2026
2. Completion of Entry Form, Waiver of Liability and entry fee paid by enrollment deadline.
3. Cattle enrolled in Red Angus Value Added Programs or carry an RAAA registration number. Cattle must be identified with an EID. Additional form of visual ID also required.
4. Steers only.
5. Tissue samples will be collected upon first processing and will be tested on Neogen 100K Chip, Igenity Beef and parent verified.
6. Group Sizes – Per Division - Minimum
   a. Senior Members – 3 head
   b. Junior Members – 1 head
7. Birth window of Jan. 1 – April 30, 2026.
8. Cattle weaned at least 60 days.
9. Cattle followed Superior Vac 60 Protocol – Consult GMC Health Protocol.
10. Documented negative BVDPI test.
11. Weight Requirement of 650 lbs. minimum and 950 lbs. maximum.
12. Delivered to Darr Feedlot between Nov. 30 and Dec. 8, 2026.
13. Entry forms and fees will be due to the RAAA at or prior to delivery.
14. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, Brand Paperwork (as needed), and Nebraska Brand Committee Bill of Sale document (mandatory) will need to accompany the cattle as they are transported and be provided to Darr Feedlot at the time of delivery.

Participant Requirements

1. JRA or RAAA member in good standing with RAAA.

OR

2. Commercial producer enrolled in an RAAA Process-Verified Program.

Divisions

1. Purebred – Parentage verification to two RAAA registered parents – Category 1A or 1B.
2. Access – Meet Angus Access or Allied Access Program Requirements or Registry Category 2 or 3.
3. Purebred & Access divisions will be sub-divided into Senior and Junior age groups.

Entry Fee - $100

1. $100 entry fee will be assessed for all animals entered in the Challenge that are enrolled in RAAA's Value-Added programs or carry an RAAA registration number.
2. $100 entry fee will be charged for each animal up to five entries. Each entry beyond five entries will be assessed at $75 per animal.
3. Entry fees will cover genetic testing, carcass ultrasounding, feet and leg scoring, data collection, awards, educational event and other fees associated with the Challenge.

Financial & Ownership

1. Ownership of cattle will be retained by each participant throughout the contest.
2. All enrollees will be required to complete the Nebraska Brand Committee Bill of Sale document transferring "ownership" to RAAA for the duration of the contest.
3. All costs of feeding and development will be financed through Darr Feedlot.
4. Payment of cattle, less development cost, will be issued as soon as possible after harvest.
5. Cattle will be marketed at the discretion of Darr Feedlot with input from RAAA Marketing staff to capitalize on value-based grids that are most favorable and advantageous to Red Angus cattle.

Disclaimers

1. The Red Angus Association of America, Darr Feedlot, staff of all entities and other designated appointees working on behalf of the Challenge will not be responsible for sickness, injury or pre-harvest death of any animal entered into the Challenge and shall further not be liable for any damage or losses to property or injury to person caused by the acts or omissions of others.
2. All death loss will include notification as soon as possible with formal necropsy report.
3. Darr Feedlot will have "Act of God" insurance in place on all animals entered into the Challenge. This will not cover death from sickness or injury.
4. Enrollment in RAAA's Angus Access or Allied Access Process Verified Program and identified with an EID is required.
5. Animals entered into the Challenge will be genetically tested for parentage and genetic markers. This information will be accessible to producers but will be owned by the RAAA.
6. Phenotypic data gathered during the trial will include frame score, muscle score, carcass ultrasound and foot and leg scores.
7. All information compiled from this Challenge that meets data use parameters will be added to the RAAA Genetic Evaluation.
8. All expenses incurred during the Challenge are the responsibility of the participant. No profit is guaranteed.
9. All cattle that fall outside of the weight requirement windows (650-950lbs) when cattle are weighted at initial processing will be able to participate in the Challenge, but will not be eligible for inclusion in award determination.
10. Any animals entered that are treated for sickness or injury multiple times and succumb to "railer" status will be marketed or disposed of at the discretion of Darr Feedlot and RAAA.
11. Cattle will be developed and fed with the utilization of hormone implants and beta-agonists.
12. Progress reports with updated weights and other compiled data will be sent out during the duration of the test for producers to review.
13. All requirements have been approved by RAAA staff, RAAA Board of Directors, GridMaster Challenge Oversight Committee and Darr Feedlot.

Awards and Educational Event

1. Still working on being finalized by RAAA commercial marketing staff and GridMaster Challenge Oversight Committee.
2. Educational event will be hosted in Spring 2027 prior to cattle shipping to harvest. The event will focus on educating participants and RAAA stakeholders more on the fed cattle and packing sectors of the beef industry.
3. Awards will be broken into three different categories including test growth, carcass performance, and overall ranking.
4. Individual rankings for the three different categories will also be awarded, with the top five ranking animals receiving recognition.
5. In lieu of tie-breakers when determining final rankings, quality grade will be initial tie breaker, followed by average daily gain, and then hot carcass weight.
6. Animals will not receive additional benefit when determining rankings for carcass weights exceeding 1,100lbs.

2027 GRIDMASTER CHALLENGE HEALTH PROTOCOL

Requirements Prior to Delivery

1. Calves need to be weaned a minimum of 60 days prior to delivery.
2. Wean calves on high-roughage diet, while meeting mineral and protein requirements.
3. Ensure calves are enrolled in Angus Access program prior to leaving the ranch for delivery.
4. EIDs placed in calves prior to loading for delivery to yard.
5. Documented Negative BVDPI test with proof.
6. Steers castrated a minimum of 60 days prior to delivery. Knife cut preferred.
7. Calves vaccinated to Vac 60 Day Protocol

General Recommendations

1. Have a strong Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR).
2. Develop a herd health plan under the VCPR.
3. Calves follow Vac 60 day program guidelines.
4. Additional vaccinations can be administered as needed to meet operational needs.
5. Receive and maintain BQA training for all involved with operational herd health.
6. Utilize low-stress cattle handling techniques.

Superior Vac 60 Protocols

1. Calves are home-raised and weaned a minimum of 45 days prior to delivery.
2. Calves vaccinated three times.
   a. Branding/turnout, preconditioning and weaning
   b. Branding/turnout, weaning and boostered
3. Two doses of 7-way, 8-way or 9-way Clostridial
4. Three doses of modified live viral 5-way.
5. Two doses of Mannheimia Haemolytica and/or Pasturella Multocida.
6. Internal and external parasite control.

2027 GRIDMASTER CHALLENGE SCHEDULE AND REPORTING

Tentative Schedule

Nov. 30 - Dec. 7, 2026	Delivery to Darr Feedlot
December 2026	Process, Delivery Weights and Genetic Test
February 2027	Weight & Implant
April 2027	Weight Update, Implant, Data Collection and Video
July 2027(tentative)	Harvest

Initial Processing:

Cattle will be weighted, vaccinated, implanted and have tissue samples taken for genetic testing. Make sure each calf has a visual home tag, along with an EID.

February 2027

Cattle will be weighed and implanted again at this time.

April 2027

Carcass ultrasound and foot and leg scores will be gathered when weighed and reimplanted.

NOTE: These dates are subject to change based on weather and projected weight of cattle. This decision will be made at the discretion of Darr Feelot and RAAA. Reports and updates will be provided after each working session and as new information becomes available for review.

FORM INSTRUCTIONS

CVI, BRAND RELEASE AND BILL OF SALE

Please note completing the Nebraska Brand Committee Bill of Sale Form is mandatory for all animals entered into the 2027 GridMaster Challenge. This form can be found below, on the RAAA Website or contact Marketing Staff. Instructions for completing the form are listed below.

Bill of Sale

- Required for All Animals
- To Red Angus Association of America
- Form Found on RAAA Website

Health Paper

- Required for all cattle coming from out of state
- Origin: Ranch
- Cosignor: Ranch
- Destinantion: Red Angus Association c/o Darr Feedlot 42826 Road 759, Cozad, NE
- Cosignee: Red Angus Association c/o Darr Feedlot 42826 Road 759, Cozad, NE

Brand Paper

- Required if coming out of a brand inspection area
- Buyer: Red Angus Association of America
- Destination: Darr Feedlot, 42826 Road 759, Cozad, NE 69130

BILL OF SALE

The Nebraska Brand Committee, Alliance, Nebraska

This is to certify that _____ whose address is _____
has this _____ day of _____ 20___ bargained and sold to Red Angus Association of America
whose address is 2012 S. Post Rd., Midwest City, OK 73130 the following described livestock, and does hereby guarantee to title thereto, viz:

No. Head	Description (Sex, breed or color, age)	Brands and Location Thereof	Price per head	Total Purchase Price

Witness: _____

(Signed) _____

_____

Beef Check Off Fee Paid _____

To comply with the law, all blanks provided must be completed in full, except for price. There must be at least one witness to seller's signature. This Bill of Sale certifies ownership, but it does not exempt owner from a brand inspection on all cattle prior to their removal from The Nebraska Brand Inspection Area.

2027 GRIDMASTER CHALLENGE ENTRY FORM

Name:_____ RAAA Account #:_____

Address:_____ City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Phone Number(s):_____ Email:_____

Division: ❑ Senior ❑ Junior # Steers Entering:_____

CATTLE INFORMATION

Visual ID:_____
EID: _____
Birthday: _____
Wean Date:_____
Division:
❑ Purebred ❑ Angus Access
Sire Registration #: _____
Dam Registration #: _____

Visual ID:_____
EID: _____
Birthday: _____
Wean Date:_____
Division:
❑ Purebred ❑ Angus Access
Sire Registration #: _____
Dam Registration #: _____

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EID: _____
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Wean Date:_____
Division:
❑ Purebred ❑ Angus Access
Sire Registration #: _____
Dam Registration #: _____

Visual ID:_____
EID: _____
Birthday: _____
Wean Date:_____
Division:
❑ Purebred ❑ Angus Access
Sire Registration #: _____
Dam Registration #: _____

2027 GRIDMASTER CHALLENGE WAIVER OF LIABILITY

By enrolling cattle in the 2027 GridMaster Challenge, participants expressly acknowledge and agree that the Red Angus Association of America (RAAA), Darr Feedlot and any staff, contractors, representatives, or appointees acting on their behalf shall be released from and held harmless against any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, costs, liabilities, or legal actions of any kind arising out of or related to participation in the Challenge. This includes, but is not limited to, claims involving animal health, injury, death, transportation, feeding, handling, data collection, processing, harvest, or market performance.

Participants further agree that enrollment in the Challenge constitutes a waiver of any right to pursue legal action against RAAA, Darr Feedlot, or their affiliates for any direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages resulting from participation. Responsibility for insuring cattle against loss, injury, or death remains solely with the participant.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Participant Signature: _____

Received By RAAA Employee Name: _____

Employee Signature: _____

Date Received: _____

STEP 1

Confirm Angus Access Enrollment:

with Cory Peters or Elizabeth Caskey.

STEP 2

Complete form and email to:

Cory Peters, cory@redangus.org

Elizabeth Caskey, elizabeth@redangus.org

on or before Nov. 1, 2026.

STEP 3

Send enrollment fee to:

Red Angus Association of America
Attn: GridMaster Challenge
2012 S. Post Rd.
Midwest City, OK 73130