Teams are composed of 4 individuals. The contest is divided into two age divisions:

- Junior for teams whose members are 13 years of age (as of January 1, 2019) and younger
- Senior for teams whose members are 14 years of age (before January 1, 2019) and must not have graduated from high school
- Mixed teams (juniors, seniors, multi-county) must compete in the Senior division unless the team is a mixed county team whose members are under 12 years of age (as of January 1, 2019).

Rules:

1. The quiz bowl is a double elimination tournament. Teams will draw numbers and be assigned their seeding in the first round of competition before the contest. If necessary, a team or teams may be awarded a bye.

2. Questions cover the livestock industry in general, but focus on questions about beef cattle. Questions will come from the following topics: Nutrition and Disease; Reproduction and Physiology; Carcass and Feeding; Breeding and Genetics; General.

3. Team members are not permitted to confer on any answers.

4. Directed Questions – individual questions will be asked of each team member.
   a. A coin toss will determine which team will answer the first question. The second question will be answered by a member of the opposing team. Succeeding questions will be asked alternately of each team, until each team member has had an opportunity to answer a question.
   b. Only the designated team member may answer the question. The team member has ten (10) seconds to begin the answer.
   c. If the answer is correct, 10 points will be awarded the team. No points will be given for partial or incorrect answers.

5. Following the directed questions, each round consists of ten to fifteen toss-up questions, each worth 10 points. Any contestant on either team may answer a toss-up; however, the team member must first press their buzzer and be recognized.

6. The quizmaster reads a toss-up question until a) the question is completed, or b) a contestant buzzes in. The answer must be given by the contestant activating the buzzer.

7. If a contestant buzzes in during the reading of a question, the quizmaster stops reading at that point and the contestant must begin their answer within 5 seconds. (Contestants are warned that some toss-ups may have more than one part, so “buzzing in early” may hurt your team’s score.)

8. If the answer given to a toss-up question is incorrect, the quizmaster will read the entire question for the opposing team. An individual on the opposing team must sound their buzzer before answering the question.

9. If neither team answers a toss-up correctly, the quizmaster goes on to the next toss-up.

10. Team members cannot observe any matches other than their own until they have been eliminated from competition.

11. Recording (written or electronic) of questions is NOT permitted by anyone during any round of the quiz bowl.