

Show Classes Recommended by the National Brown Swiss Association

For Brown Swiss Shows in 2026

Spring Heifer Calves - Born after February 28, 2026 (and over 4 months of age by show day).

Winter Heifer Calves - Born after November 30, 2025, and before March 1, 2026.

Fall Heifer Calves - Born after August 31, 2025, and before December 1, 2025.

Summer Yearling Heifers - Born after May 31, 2025, and before September 1, 2025.

Spring Yearling Heifers - Born after February 28, 2025, and before June 1, 2025.

Winter Yearling Heifers - Born after November 30, 2024, and before March 1, 2025.

Fall Yearling Heifers - Born after August 31, 2024, and before December 1, 2024.

Junior Champion Female & Reserve Junior Champion Female - First and second place winners of the above heifer classes.

Junior Best Three Females - Group to consist of 3 animals under two years of age, none of which have freshened. All three animals must have been bred by the exhibitor, and at least one animal must be owned by the exhibitor. The breeder must be the exact same on each heifer and match the one owned (with the exception of the family unit). Each exhibitor is limited to one entry.

Yearling In Milk - Born after August 31, 2024

Summer Junior Two Year Old Cows - Born After May 31, 2024, and before September 1, 2024.

Junior Two Year Old Cows - Born after February 29, 2024, and before June 1, 2024.

Senior Two Year Old Cows - Born after August 31, 2023, and before March 1, 2024.

Junior Three Year Old Cows - Born after February 28, 2023, and before September 1, 2023.

Senior Three Year Old Cows - Born after August 31, 2022, and before March 1, 2023.

Four Year Old Cows - Born after August 31, 2021, and before September 1, 2022.

Five Year Old Cows - Born after August 31, 2020, and before September 1, 2021.

Aged Cows, Six Years Old & Over - Born before September 1, 2020.

Component Merit Cow Class - Lifetime Production of at least 8,500 lbs. combined Fat and Protein, be shown in milking form and be in her third lactation or higher. Must also be on official test and supply production information before the show.

Intermediate Champion Female & Reserve Intermediate Champion Female - First and second place winners of the Yearling in Milk, Summer Junior Two Year old, Two and Three year old cow classes.

Senior Champion and Reserve Senior Champion Female - First and second place winners of the Four, Five, Aged, and Component Merit cow classes.

Grand Champion Female & Reserve Grand Champion Female - Intermediate and Reserve Champion, Senior and Reserve Senior Champion, plus the Junior Champion and Reserve Junior Champion.

Best Three Females - Group to consist of any 3 females. At least one must have freshened, the other two any age, all bred by the exhibitor, and at least one owned by the exhibitor. The breeder must be the exact same on each animal and match the one owned (with the exception of family unit). Each exhibitor is limited to one entry.

Produce of Dam - Group to consist of 2 animals, any age, the produce of one cow, which must be named. Animals need not both be owned by one exhibitor.

Listed below is additional information regarding awards and classes at each National Show.

Definitions & Special Rules

A: **EXHIBITOR & FAMILY DEFINED:** The exhibitor must be the owner. In case a herd is registered or bred in the names of different members of a family, residing on one farm or breeding establishment, and where the herd is one unit, all entries may be considered as a single exhibitor for all group classes. However, members of one family, where cattle are not housed as one unit, will not be considered as a single exhibitor.

B: **OWNERSHIP:** To be eligible for competition, whether single or in groups, animals must be entered exactly as ownership appears on the registration certificate. The registration certificate showing the most recent date of activity will be considered official. Sale animal ownership will be that of the consignor. Registration certificates showing ownership must be available.

Animals owned in partnership may be shown in the name of the partnership only, except for "Family Unit" as defined above, under EXHIBITOR DEFINED. For example, if Exhibitor A and Exhibitor B own an animal in partnership and each owns animals individually, three (3) separate exhibitors exist.

1 – for Exhibitor A; 1 – for Exhibitor B, and 1 – For Exhibitor A & B Partnership

BREEDER & OWNER DEFINED: To qualify for Bred & Owned Awards, the breeder and owner need to be exactly the same.

- A. For an exhibitor to be eligible to show an animal, the title of ownership by the exhibitor shall show on the Certificate of Registry at the time of the exhibition.
- B. Animals eligible to be shown at a National Brown Swiss show will have one of the following registration certificates. Standard Registration Certificate, which is white with a green border, is issued for Registered Brown Swiss Females and Certified Identity Enrolled Females (CIE). Brown Swiss Step II Identity Enrollment (IE) animals, which have a green registration paper with a black border, may also be shown. Animals with other colored paper may not be shown.
- C. As outlined in the PDCA Show Ring Code of Ethics, if a National Show judge brings to the attention of the Brown Swiss Association staff possible unethical practices related to Brown Swiss cattle exhibited at a National Show, Brown Swiss Association staff will consult with Show Management as to the proper steps to be taken.
- D. Any animal sold or exhibited as registered by the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association can be blood/DNA typed at the discretion of the Executive Secretary. All expenses to be paid by the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association.

Premier Awards

Premier Breeder - An award to be made to the breeder of not more than six animals accumulating the most points in the open individual classes, including animals bred by him but exhibited by others.

Premier Exhibitor - An award to the exhibitor accumulating the most points on not more than six animals owned and exhibited by him in the open individual classes.

There is no limit on the number exhibited, but the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor Awards will be automatically figured on the top six animals accumulating the most points as outlined below:

Placings

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Senior Females:	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2
Junior Females:	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

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NATIONAL BROWN SWISS SHOW GUIDELINES

Total Performance Winner

This class will recognize a cow on her TOTAL performance - milk production and show ring placing. Her total score will be determined by:

1. Placing her in her respective class, and
2. Her highest, 305day Energy Corrected Milk (ECM) record; and
3. The total pounds of ECM produced per day over 24 months of age up through July 1, 2025. (Up-to-date production through July 1, as reported on the monthly DHI report, should be supplied by the exhibitor two weeks prior to show day.)

The requirements a cow must meet to qualify for the Total Performance class are as follows:

1. Born before September 1, 2019; and
2. Completed three lactations by July 1, 2025; and
3. Possess at least one official DHI record in 305 days, of at least 20,000 lbs. milk, or 800 lbs. butterfat, or 700 lbs. protein; and,
4. Place in the top 50% of her respective class (top five if fewer than ten in class); and
5. Diagnosed pregnant if the last calving or embryo collection is more than 12 months prior to the show date.

Official lifetime production records on all qualifying cows must be sent to and received by the National Brown Swiss office at least two weeks prior to show day so that records can be verified and production scores calculated. Records received after that will be accepted only with a \$50 late fee. The DHI sheet showing credits up through July 1 will be accepted to update lifetime records. It is the owner's responsibility to supply these records, including the July test sheet.

The Total Performance Award is presented at each National Show to the exhibitor whose cow had the highest score based on the above criteria. The winner at each show receives a banner. The overall winner is named the National Total Performance Winner and receives a trophy at the following Brown Swiss Annual Meeting.

State Herd Requirements

A State Herd shall consist of six animals from one state as follows: two females, two years old or over; two females, under two years of age; two other animals of any age.

The six animals in the State Herd must be owned by at least three exhibitors from one state, with no exhibitor furnishing more than three animals. All animals in which a breeder owns a partnership interest will be counted in the three he is allowed. All animals from a herd or farm, regardless of ownership, shall be counted in the three heads allowed one exhibitor. Any partnership or syndicate animals must be shown in the state in which they are usually housed.

The agent of the state association concerned must make the entry of the State Herd by the entry closing date. The entry must name the person or persons who will be in charge at the time of the National Brown Swiss Show. The blank containing the list of animals in the State Herd must be delivered to the Superintendent of Cattle, previous to the judging of this class. All the animals must be entered and shown in the open individual classes under their respective owner's name. Exhibitors in State Herds must follow all open class regulations.

Other National Brown Swiss Association Awards

Production Awards - Special breed production ribbons will be awarded based on the highest 305d, ECM record that meets the breed average for the age group. The current record may be included if the latest official test sheet is provided by the exhibitor. The test sheet must be sent to and received by the National Brown Swiss office at least two weeks prior to show day. Records received after that will be accepted only with a \$50 late fee. The winner must stand in the top half of the class (top five if fewer than ten in class). Production records will also need to meet breed averages based on the age of the cow.

These are awarded in the Senior Two, Junior & Senior Three-, Four-, and Five-Year Old, Aged, and Component Merit Cow classes.

Special Awards

Vid Vye Memorial Trophy - A serving tray (replica of the one kept in the National Office) presented to the owner of the Grand Champion Female at each National Brown Swiss Show.

Type and Production Award - Trophy to be awarded to the cow with the greatest Energy Corrected Milk (ECM) in the milking classes. The winning cow must place in the top 5 if 20 cows or fewer are shown or in the top 20% if more than 20 cows are shown. Exhibitors are responsible for furnishing verification of record (the official DHI record report form or a statement giving the record, signed by the official DHI supervisor) at the time the entries are checked in by the Cattle Superintendent. This award will be presented in designated National Shows and is sponsored by Lee-Anns Swiss, LLC, DeWitt, IA, and the National Brown Swiss Association.

Fred S. Idtse Recognition Trophy - The State Herd winner at each National Show will be recognized by having its name placed on a plaque located at the National Office.

Ira Inman Trophy - Awarded annually to the Premier Breeder at each National Brown Swiss Show. A replica of the original trophy, which is kept at the National Office, is given to each winner.

Junior Exhibitors

At each National Brown Swiss Show, special recognition is given to each junior exhibitor. Juniors showing in the open division classes are recognized at the conclusion of each class.

Junior Eligibility Rules

1. Junior must have been at least 8 by January 1, 2025, and not yet 22 by the same date. Thus, a person must have been born during the years 2003 through 2015.
2. For an animal to be exhibited as Junior owned, in all classes, the recorded ownership must show in the sole ownership of the exhibitor or a partnership comprised of Brown Swiss Association Junior Members. Must be a member by August 1 of the current show season. (Adult-Junior partnerships and family farm partnerships are not acceptable). All transfers and recorded ownerships must be dated by August 1st of the current show year for all classes. If joint ownership, one of the owners must be declared the exhibitor during check-in. Awards will be presented as one unit to all owners equally. Animals that are leased through the National Brown Swiss Association Lease Program are also eligible to be shown as juniors. The leased animal's recorded owner will receive open show awards.
3. The junior who owns or leases the animal is to show her.
4. In a class where a junior member owns more than one animal, the owner must show one animal; another National Brown Swiss Association Junior Member may show the second animal.
5. At National Brown Swiss Junior shows, a National Office representative will check junior eligibility.

Awards Presented as Follows

1. First place junior in each class will receive a special award.
2. First, second, and third place ribbons will be given in each of the 17 female classes.
3. A special rosette will be given to Junior Champion & Reserve, Senior Champion and Reserve, Grand Champion and Reserve.
4. Juniors also receive production awards based on the highest 305d, ECM record. Production records must be sent to and received by the National Brown Swiss office two weeks prior to show day. These awards are provided for a junior-owned animal in each of the following classes. Senior Two-Year-Old, Junior & Senior Three-Year Olds, Four-Year-Old, Five-Year Old, Aged and Component Merit Cows.
5. Shirts will be provided to each junior before the show and must be worn by the junior during the show.