

2026 Maine 4-H Working Steer Team ESE Tryout Requirements

1. 4-H members between the ages of 9 and 18 (as of January 1st) will be eligible to participate in the 4H working steer tryouts, whether they plan to attend ESE or not.
2. 4-H members between the ages of 10 and 18 (as of January 1st) will be eligible to attempt to qualify for the Maine Working Steer Team.
3. Members must attend a minimum of 2 of the 3 scheduled tryout events
 - a. See attached Exceptions
4. Members must achieve an average of 28 points from their best 2 of 3 tryouts to qualify for the team. The points will be awarded as follows:

1 st Blue: 13 pts	All Other Blue: 10 pts
2 nd Blue: 12 pts	Red: 8 pts
3 rd Blue: 11 pts	White: 6 pts
5. Members will be required to complete a knowledge exam at each tryout event. Bonus points will be awarded towards their daily total as follows:

95 – 100	5 points	80 – 84	2 points
90 – 94	4 points	75 – 79	1 point
85 – 89	3 points	0 – 74	0 point
6. At Maine Working Steer Animal Science Committee (ASC) sponsored events, 4-H members will be required to produce appropriate paperwork
 - a. Animal Approval Form: Required by May 1st of each year
 - b. \$1,000,000.00 Individual Liability Insurance preferred
 - c. Rabies Vaccination for cattle over 6 months of age strongly recommended
 - d. Importation Permit and OCVI for all cattle of teamsters who reside outside the state of Maine ***required***
7. The ASC will work with participating fairs as appropriate to ensure a safe and productive event.
 - a. The ASC will request that fair staff retain responsibility for checking appropriate paperwork
 - b. The fair will hire and pay the judge, unless otherwise arranged.
 - c. The ESE coordinator will work with fair staff to record points and help facilitate the show.

2026 Maine 4-H Working Steer Team ESE Tryout Exceptions

Historically, youth have been required to attend a minimum of 2 out of 3 tryouts and average at least 28 points from the two highest days to be eligible for ESE. As our commodity continues to evolve it is imperative that we continue to work together to foster a positive experience for all.

As such, the ASC is prepared to review case by case exceptions to the requirements for the following extenuating circumstances:

1. Death of an immediate family member
2. Natural disaster
3. Emergency or serious illness/injury of member
4. Hospitalization of member or immediate family member

The following situations do not constitute an extenuating circumstance and will not receive an exception: birthday parties, vacations, concerts, etc.

To request an exception, the member and parent must contact the ESE Coordinator directly to explain the nature of the request in writing. The ASC **will not** contact members to extend an offer of exception.

The ASC will review each situation as appropriate. It is important to note that a request does not automatically guarantee an exception will be made. The ASC may request that the member complete one or more of the following alternative qualifications:

- A written letter from the member explaining the need for an accommodation or exception, their goals for attending ESE, and how they plan to ensure their preparation for success
- A maximum of one (1) alternative qualifier date if appropriate shows remain available
- Attend ESE as a team apprentice

Members will be given a timeframe to respond to the ASC following a response to the members request. If conditions are not met, the member will be unable to attend ESE under an exception.