



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Gold Merit Contest

The purpose of this competition is to recognize individual members of the TLBT for outstanding achievement with respect to their project and their promotion of the Texas Longhorn Breed. This award will be presented at the annual National Youth Show.

Selection Criteria:

- A. All entrants must adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Gold Merit Packet.
- B. All entrants must have participated in at least one affiliate sponsored youth event.
- C. All entrants must participate in all portions of the contest. Standard record book forms have been prepared and will be available on the TLBAA website. Paper copies can be supplied to TLBT members upon request. All record books **must** use the approved forms and **must** be placed in a colored folder (3 holes with brads). Participants must make two photocopies of their original record book for judging purposes.
- D. An appointed committee will judge all entries.
- E. Awards will be presented in the following age categories:

Junior	up to 9 years of age as of January 1
Intermediate	10 to 12 years of age as of January 1
Teen	13 to 15 years of age as of January 1
Senior	16 to 19 years of age as of January 1

## Gold Merit Awards

**First place in each age group will be awarded a heifer calf.** Awards are subject to change depending on the number of donations received. Second and third place will also be awarded prizes. If you know of someone that can donate, please contact the TLBAA office at (817) 625-6241 with his or her name and phone number.

*The distribution of heifers to winners will be determined by a random drawing.*



## I. Public Speaking Contest

This contest is a portion of the Gold Merit Award. **Junior** participants will present a **1 to 3 minute speech** on ***What I have learned from my Longhorn project.*** **Intermediate, Teen, and Senior** participants will present a **3 to 5 minute** speech on an appropriate topic that relates to the Texas Longhorn and beef industry. Points will be deducted for speeches that do not conform to the required time allocations. **One copy of the speech will be given to a designated Gold Merit Committee person at check-in time.** The speech should be memorized, but the contestant may use note cards, for reference. Speeches may not be read. PowerPoint presentations or appropriate visual aids, such as posters or photographs, may be used to enhance the impact of the speech.

**\*\*All contestants are required to dress in show-ring attire.\*\***

The criteria for judging include:

1. Accuracy of subject matter
2. Delivery
3. Knowledge of the subject matter
4. Grammar
5. Time limits for each age category
6. Creativity

## II. Interview

At the conclusion of the participant's speech, the judging committee will interview each contestant.

The criteria for judging include:

1. Spontaneity of response
2. Sincerity of response
3. Ability to answer questions concerning the subject matter of the speech
4. Knowledge of the Texas Longhorn breed
5. Familiarity with your project

***Judges will use a rating sheet and a point system to evaluate the speech presentation and interview. Contestants may receive a copy of their ratings upon request.***

### **III. Project Book**

All contestants must submit completed record books **to a designated Gold Merit Committee person at check-in time**. The book must clearly reflect that it is the contestant's own work. Contestants who can type are encouraged to do so. Otherwise, the record book should be completed in the contestant's own handwriting. All record books must be completed on the standardized record book forms. These record book forms are available on the TLBAA website. Paper copies can be supplied to TLBT members upon request.

**The record book forms must be placed in a colored folder** (3 holes with brads). Additional pictures or drawings can be added as long as pages are kept in order. Remember, this is a record book and should be easy for the judges to read required information. Points may be deducted if the book becomes too cluttered or disorganized.

## Tips on Developing Your Gold Merit Speech

### **Choose a Subject**

Select a topic you are familiar with or is of interest to you. This can be any subject that relates to Longhorn cattle. Often, material from your daily experience with the animals will make an outstanding talk.

The selection of your subject can indicate to the judges your personal involvement with the project. Is this something you understand or did you just memorize material?

### **Research Your Material**

You may think you “know it all” but you probably don’t! Research your subject, talk to people, and be sure that all of your facts are correct. Make this a learning experience for YOU – not just something you do for the judge.

### **Develop an Outline**

- List the important points to be covered
- Arrange the points in a logical order

### **Organize the Presentation**

Introduction: This is the interest-getter. The presenter must make the audience feel that the subject is important. Be original and clever, but keep the introduction brief to save time for the main part of the presentation. Remember to introduce yourself at the beginning of your speech.

Body: This is the “show and tell” part where TLBT members exhibit “know how” and skill in getting it across. A convincing presenter uses his own words and avoids memorizing the talking part of the presentation. You should talk to – not at – the audience. Practice talking in complete sentences. Avoid using slang expressions or just trailing off in the middle of a thought.

Summary: The summary reviews the important points of the presentation. A good summary is short, concise and pertinent. This is the last chance to sell the idea, give information and motivate the audience to follow the suggestions given.

### **Consider the Title**

The most effective Titles are: Short! Descriptive! Image making!

### **Making the Presentation Effective**

Practice good posture; stand tall. Do not lean on the table or twist one foot behind the other. Maintain eye contact with the audience – talk to someone. Know your material well enough that you can present it, not just recite or read it. Speak in a voice that is natural, distinct and loud enough to be heard. A friendly and confident tone of voice is recommended when speaking. Avoid mannerisms such as pushing back hair or rocking back and forth as these are distracting to the audience. Dress to go in the Show Ring. Be neat and well groomed. Refer to the dress code in the TLBT Handbook for the showing of cattle. Smile to indicate interest and enthusiasm for the subject. Avoid using such phrases as “you know” and “all that stuff”. Be sure your grammar is correct. Look and act as if you are enjoying the presentation.

***Know the time limit and keep your presentation within the limit.***

**2010  
TLBT Gold Merit  
Project Record Book**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Age as of January 1, 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

TLBT Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of TLBT Member**

I personally have prepared this report and certify that it accurately reflects my work.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TLBT Member Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# ABOUT YOUR TEXAS LONGHORN

Registered Name of  
Longhorn: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal acquired from (family raised, purchased, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you want to do in the future with your animal?

\_\_\_\_\_

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What do you like most about your animal? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you could change something about your animal, what would  
you

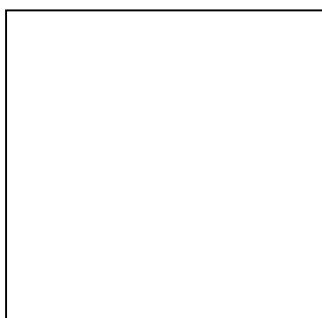
change? \_\_\_\_\_

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All registered Texas Longhorns are required to have a “holding brand.” Draw a picture of your calf’s holding brand in the box below.



Where is the brand located on your animal? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Longhorns are measured by Tip-to-Tip, Total Horn and Base. If you have measured horns, what are your animal’s horn measurements?

Date:	Tip-to-Tip:	Total Horn:
Base:		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		
_____		

Have you ever weighed your animal? If so, what did he weigh?

Date: _____	Weight: _____
Date: _____	Weight: _____
Date: _____	Weight: _____
Date: _____	Weight: _____

2

**Pictures of your animal  
(Both Sides)**

**Attach copy of TLBAA registration certificate**

## ABOUT YOU

1. How long have you been a TLBT member? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did you get involved in showing Longhorns? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Have you held any TLBT offices or served on any TLBT committees? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How have you helped to promote the TLBT program and the Longhorn industry?

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5. List your most meaningful participation in school, church or community organizations other than TLBT. Include leadership roles and honors received. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How has caring for your calf affected your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What is the most important thing you have learned from raising and showing your calf?

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**PROJECT RECORD**

Show record:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Show (with location)</u>
<u>Entry Fee</u>	

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How much hay is fed per day? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the average cost of hay? \_\_\_\_\_

Has your calf been seen by a vet? \_\_\_\_\_

What for? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you given your calf any vaccinations?

\_\_\_\_\_

What kind? \_\_\_\_\_

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Did you buy any equipment this year to care for you calf? List below:

Equipment Item

Cost

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Total equipment cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List any other expenses related to caring for your calf, but not listed elsewhere:

Item	Cost

Total other expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_

What have you learned about yourself and this project with your calf?

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What would you tell someone who asks you why are you showing a Texas Longhorn?

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