



Rising Stars 2026 National Hard Antler and Velvet Competition

COMPETITION RULES

1. Individual entry fees are **\$50.00** per entry.
2. Velvet and Hard Antler can only be submitted from the 2025 growing season; grown spring 2025 – March 2026. All registered entries from the previous season accepted for the Competition.
3. All Velvet judging will be to the “Recommended Deer Industry New Zealand Velvet Grading Guidelines and Standards” and the judge’s decision is final.
4. All Hard Antler heads must be fully hard, stripped and **cleaned**.
5. All Classes are open to all Deer Farmers.
6. All entries are at owner’s risk. Please protect your Velvet and Hard Antler Heads for transport.
7. All entries, including Hard Antler **MUST** HAVE **NVSB IDENTIFICATION TAGS** ON BOTH STICKS of Velvet and Hard Antler, and match the information on the entry form that has been submitted.
Copy of the Entry Form plus Return Form (in sealed plastic bag) to be sent with the Head.
8. Class 6 - Sire of Three is open to Hard Antler classes, 1,2,3,4 and 5. Must be heads from the same sire and can include more than one head of the same age, but only one head per individual animal.
9. Only Hard Antler animals of the age at date of competition can be entered, ie:
 - a. 1 year - Born 2024
 - b. 2 year - Born 2023
 - c. 3 year - Born 2022
 - d. 4 year - Born 2021
10. Class 8 – Velvet Heads 10kg + Traditional and Non Traditional (must have a brow tyne and not overgrown) Class 8 only is judged on Commercial Value.
11. Any head eligible for entry for this year’s competition that is not ready by entry date must be registered to be entered in next year’s competition (2027) by 4th March 2026.
12. Hard Antler will be judged on the current IOA (Inches of Antler) Competition Inches scoring system. No spread and burr measurements included. All heads (Hard Antler) must be clean and stripped. The judge’s decision is final. (Note: Heads not presented correctly may be rejected).
13. The Stags nominated on the entry form must be available for inspection at the discretion of the Judges.
14. Velvet heads will be graded on the current DINZ guidelines also paying attention to hygiene and handling criteria.
15. The Judges reserve the right to penalise any malformed heads.
16. The Judge’s decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
17. All transported entries will be returned to Collection Point. Full contact information required.
18. All entries will be displayed and result sheet available (Velvet 5.30pm). The Trophy presentation will take place following Dinner on the day of the Competition.
19. All trophies to be returned prior to the 2026 competition. Winner to get the cups engraved at their cost if required.
20. ALL **ENTRY FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED** BY Saturday 1st March 2026.
21. All Velvet and Hard Antler is to be received for Judging by Wednesday 4th March 2026 1.00pm at Waipa Racecourse, Te Awamutu.

Return Form

(to be sent with each entry)



Rising Stars 2026 National Hard Antler and Velvet Competition

Competitor

Name

Address

.....

Email

Phone No

Class Stag ID

NVSB Tag No/.....

Collection on night Hard Antler / Velvet

To be collected by

Transporter Provelco/PGG Wrightson/CK Import Export

Hard Antler / Velvet

Collection Point on return



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ENTRY FORM

Competitor:

Address:

.....

Phone Number:

Class No Stag Name Stag ID Age

Sire..... Dam's Sire Bred By

NVSB Tag Numbers /

Class No Stag Name Stag ID Age

Sire..... Dam's Sire Bred By

NVSB Tag Numbers /

Class No Stag Name Stag ID Age

Sire..... Dam's Sire Bred By

NVSB Tag Numbers /

Total Number of Entries@\$50.00 each

Number for Dinner.....@\$80.00pp

Total Payment \$.....

Bank Account: NZDF Assn 02 0506 0268055 01 Reference Competitor name

Disclaimer: Shipping companies can't be held responsible for damage during freight. I am aware that damage will affect the score result and I have sufficiently protected the hard antler ie bubble wrap .

Signature.....

I declare these details on the Entry Form to be true and I accept, and will abide by the competition Rules.

Signature.....

Email entry to: campbell.clarke@xtra.co.nz

Entry Form and Return Form to be sent with head in SEALED plastic bag.