



Beef

PROJECT PLANNING GUIDE

OBJECTIVES OF THE 4-H BEEF PROJECT

1. To develop the responsibility and discipline required by the daily care involved in producing beef cattle.
2. To provide learning experiences in basic management, feeding and selection of beef cattle.
3. To provide opportunities for demonstrating skills learned in selecting, feeding, managing, fitting and showing beef cattle.
4. To provide opportunities for demonstrating the selection, preparation, cooking and serving of beef using the outdoor grill.

EXTENSION RESOURCE MATERIALS

Extension materials available through the County Agricultural Extension Agents' Office:

- N. C. Market Steer Manual, 4H M-5-16
- N. C. Market Steer Performance Record, 4H R-5-14
- N. C. Beef Heifer Record, 4H R-5-22
- N. C. Beef Grazing Record, 4H R-5-18
- N. C. Beef Cow-Calf Handbook Fact Sheets
- N. C. 4-H Livestock Judging Handbook, 4H M-5-17
- Beef Cattle Breeds (USDA Bulletin)
- Livestock Judging Aids (Animal Husbandry Extension Mimeograph)
- Beef Char-Grill (Animal Husbandry Extension Mimeograph)
- Livestock Production Demonstration (Animal Husbandry Extension Mimeograph)

LEVEL 1
(9- to 11-year-olds)

Level 1 is for 4-H members 9- to 11-years-old or for beginners of any age. Age levels are relative since all youngsters will not progress at the same rate. These are some things that 4-H Beef Projects should teach and that participants should do. Other related activities will likely be suggested and are encouraged.

Things to Learn	Things to Do
1. The breeds of beef cattle in your area.	Decide what type of project and what breed or kind of calf you want to use.
2. Color patterns and other things that identify these breeds.	Select a calf that is the right age and weight for your project.
3. The sex of cattle and their major function--market animals or reproducing animals.	Give your calf a name that seems to fit. Break your calf as soon as possible. Talk to him; offer some tidbit he likes until he will eat out of your hand and let you brush him.
4. The weight of your calf when the project begins.	Weigh a full bucket and a half bucket of feed. Be sure to subtract the weight of the bucket from the total weight. Keep up with how much your calf eats each day.
5. The age of your calf when the project begins, if this is available.	Check feed bunks and water buckets daily. Clean out corners and remove any moldy or lumpy feed. Keep trash and feed out of water bucket.
6. The type of feed and how much feed you will need.	Lead your calf every day, if possible, and practice with a show stick early.
7. How much you should feed and how it should be fed.	Wash your calf at least twice before clipping it.
8. How to halter and break your calf.	Start clipping 3 to 4 weeks before show time.
9. How to use a show stick.	Use your show halter for 2 weeks before the show.
10. How to lead, set up and show your calf.	

LEVEL 2
(12- to 14-year-olds)

Things to Learn	Things to Do
1. Why you must feed a balanced ration.	Visit a feed mill and see how feeds are made. Look at samples of the different ingredients used.
2. Why the different ingredients are in the feed and how they help your calf grow.	Study your feed tag and talk to your County Extension Livestock Agent and the feed salesman about balanced rations and the role of the various ingredients in your feed.
3. The major parasite problems in your area and how to prevent or control them.	Treat your calf for internal and external parasites, if needed.
4. The major disease problems in your area and how to prevent or control them.	Give your calf appropriate disease prevention treatments.
5. How to make a rope halter and neck rope.	Give a Livestock Production Demonstration at your County Activity Day.
6. How to tie animals properly with a quick release slip knot.	Make a rope halter and neck rope.
7. To adjust a halter to fit properly.	Begin a Beef Cumulative Record of your beef activities.
8. The body parts of beef animals-- what it is and where it is.	Enter the Showmanship Class at your show.
9. How to judge a class of beef animals.	Join a Livestock Judging Team.
10. To clip and block your calf for the show.	Do your own clipping and fitting.

LEVEL 3
(15- to 19-year-olds)

Things to Learn	Things to Do
1. How the multiple stomach (rumen) works in cattle to allow them to efficiently use roughage.	Work with your County Extension Livestock Agent to balance a ration for your calf.
2. How growth stimulants work to help your calf grow faster on less feed.	Use a growth stimulant in your feed and an implant for maximum growth and efficiency.
3. How to balance rations.	Visit an Auction Market.
4. The different feed requirements for cattle of different ages and types.	Visit a Feeder Calf Sale.
5. How the market system works in your area.	Visit a Slaughter Plant.
6. The market classes and grades of cattle.	Visit the meat department of your grocery store and observe the different cuts of beef. Talk to the meat manager about beef if you can.
7. The retail cuts of beef produced from a steer.	Talk to your Home Economics Extension Agent, your mother or some other good cook about cooking methods for beef.
8. The characteristics of choice beef and its value as a food.	Prepare a Beef Char-Grill Demonstration for your County or District Activity Day.
9. The various methods of cooking different beef cuts.	Update your Beef Cumulative Record.
	Attend shows, field days, sales and beef educational meetings in your area.

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