



4-H BEEF CATTLE PROJECT



The 4-H beef project is part of the animal science education program. The program will help you learn to select, manage, produce, market and show cattle.

- Learn basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of livestock.
- Demonstrate knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practice.
- Learn value of scientific research in its influence on animals and the

4-H Thrive!

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Identify parts of your animal and cuts of meat
- Understand the different types of feed (grain, mix, hay, supplement, pasture, silage) and quantity (pounds per day, etc..) to feed.
- Learn how to groom your animal.
- Learn about all the different beef by-products.
- Learn to show your animal.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Ramp up your judging and meat-grading skills.
- Understand the digestive system.
- Identify common external parasites and other health issues.
- Understand medication uses, storage, how to administer the medication and how it relates to food safety.
- Learn appropriate handling techniques and housing for beef cattle.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Learn about EPD's and select a sire for your animals.
- Balance a beef ration and understand feed quality.
- Learn about breeding and reproduction techniques.
- Identify and learn to treat common diseases.
- Evaluate beef carcasses and market your product.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

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Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Learn how to evaluate meat cuts, quality grade, yield grade and how these effect taste and cost.
- Read about the environmental impact of raising beef.

Healthy Living

- Ride with a local veterinarian to learn about animal health
- Visit a local meat locker or local grocery store meat case to observe preparation and packaging.

Citizenship

- Volunteer to do a beef promotion presentations during May Beef Month.
- Provide beef taste testing at a grocery store to promote local food.

Leadership

- Teach someone the importance in selecting a breeding heifer.
- Share a presentation on the importance of following drug labels.
- Arrange a tour of a farm.

Resources

- National 4-H Beef Curriculum
<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-beef/>
- Texas 4-H Beef Project
https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/project_beef
- Ohio 4-H Beef Project
www.ohio4h.org/project-books-and-resources/learning-lab-kits/beef
- Judging Connection
[www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Guide to Livestock Showmanship.pdf](http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Guide%20to%20Livestock%20Showmanship.pdf)
- Grading Beef
<http://meat.tamu.edu/beefgrading/>

The UC 4-H Youth Development



| Connections & Events | Curriculum | 4-H Record Book |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p>Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p>Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National 4-H Beef Curriculum: http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-beef/exploring-cattle-health-and-husbandry/08455.aspx | <p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p> |

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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