



## Beef Project Brief

### Learning Objectives

- Practice the life skills of decision making, communicating with others, leading self and others, planning and organizing and learning to learn.
- Understand beef industry
- Identify cattle selection characteristics
- Recognize proper management and care of beef cattle
- Complete the Show Me Quality Assurance Program
- Keep records on your livestock
- Learn proper grooming and exhibiting techniques
- Promote beef products and the beef industry

### Fair Projects (building)

- Body part identification poster
- Care and grooming equipment display
- Proper feeding, grooming or caring chart
- Traits for a normal beef calf display
- Beef meat cuts
- Quality nose print for a beef animal
- Different beef breeds poster

### Demonstration Ideas

- Criteria for selecting a calf
- Ideal breeding heifer/market steer
- How to evaluate breeding/market cattle
- Construction and care of grooming and show equipment
- How to vaccinate calves
- How to halter-break a calf
- How to fit a steer for show
- How to show a steer (including showmanship rules)
- Cooking with beef
- How to cook a steak
- Making a rope halter

### Field Trips

- Meat processor
- Leather worker
- Livestock Fence Supplier
- Livestock Auction
- Veterinarian
- Beef farm and feed store

### Ideas for Speech Topics

- Health of eating beef
- Beef Breeds
- By-Products of beef
- History of beef production
- Beef Diseases
- Bio terrorism

### Critical Thinking

- What specific characteristics were you looking for in the calf that you purchased?
- Describe the ideal finish of a market steer
- Is the proper feed available for performance cattle?
- How does your cattle's frame score affect your intended objectives?
- What is the average daily gain (ADG) of your beef animal?
- Name one cattle disease and tell what you know about it.
- What factors are used to determine USDA Beef Quality Grade?
- What vaccinations has your beef animal received?
- What are the USDA Beef Yield Grades?

### Community Service

- Volunteer work at local veterinarian
- Volunteer animals to petting zoo
- Volunteer at livestock auction
- Volunteer to help the county Cattleman's Association
- Volunteer in the beef house at the Missouri State Fair

### Science & Technology

How do you use science and technology in this project area?

Examples:

- Research the digestive system of a cow
- Analyze the bone structure of a cow
- Communicate the life cycle of a fly
- Collaborate with others about diseases and vaccinations

## Show Me Character

**Trustworthiness** - includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.

- daily feeding, watering of animals (promise keeping)
- adheres to possession deadlines (honesty)
- adheres to withdrawal times on drugs and dewormer
- only the appropriate use of approved drugs

**Respect** - includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- proper handling of animals, treat humanely
- proper care of animals
- listens to and follows advice of advisors
- recognizes that animal projects are dependent on 4-H'er and provides daily feed and water

**Responsibility** - includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.

- daily feeding and watering (even on the busy, difficult days)
- beyond providing the daily needs of the animal in giving additional time and attention to produce a winner
- adheres to deadlines for entry forms and for arrival at livestock shows
- never gives up in the show ring (perseverance)

**Fairness** - involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

- feed only approved livestock rations
- only the appropriate use of approved drugs
- accepts winning or losing with grace
- conduct in the show ring follows recommended procedure fitting and grooming of animals follows recommended procedures

**Caring** - promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

- daily feeding and watering
- provides clean barn/stall for animal
- treats animal humanely at all times

**Citizenship** - includes making the home community and county a better place to live for themselves and others.

- accepting instructions
- winning and losing with grace
- helping others at stock shows
- teaching younger members
- treating animals humanely
- ensuring that your meat animal is safe for consumption

## Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Health/Physical Education** – consumer health issues (such as the effects of mass media and technologies on safety and health)
- **Communication Arts** – participating in formal and informal presentation and discussions of issues and ideas
- **Mathematics** – data analysis, probability and statistics
- **Science** – characteristics and interactions of living organisms; impact of science, technology and human activity on resources and the environment
- **Social Studies** – economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand)

## Resources

### 121 Beef

Y620 4-H Project Record

LG783 Learning by Doing

Beef Resources Handbook

Livestock Judging Manual <http://4h.missouri.edu/events/livestock/livestockjudgingmanual.pdf> (PDF 640 KB)

Missouri Show Me Quality Assurance <http://4h.missouri.edu/events/livestock/#quality>

### To Order

Beef Resources Handbook order #117R from Ohio at 614-292-1607 or [pubs@ag.osu.edu](mailto:pubs@ag.osu.edu)

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone at 1-800-292-0969

For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or [www.4-hmall.org/](http://www.4-hmall.org/)