



The 4-H Beef Cattle Project: AN INTRODUCTION

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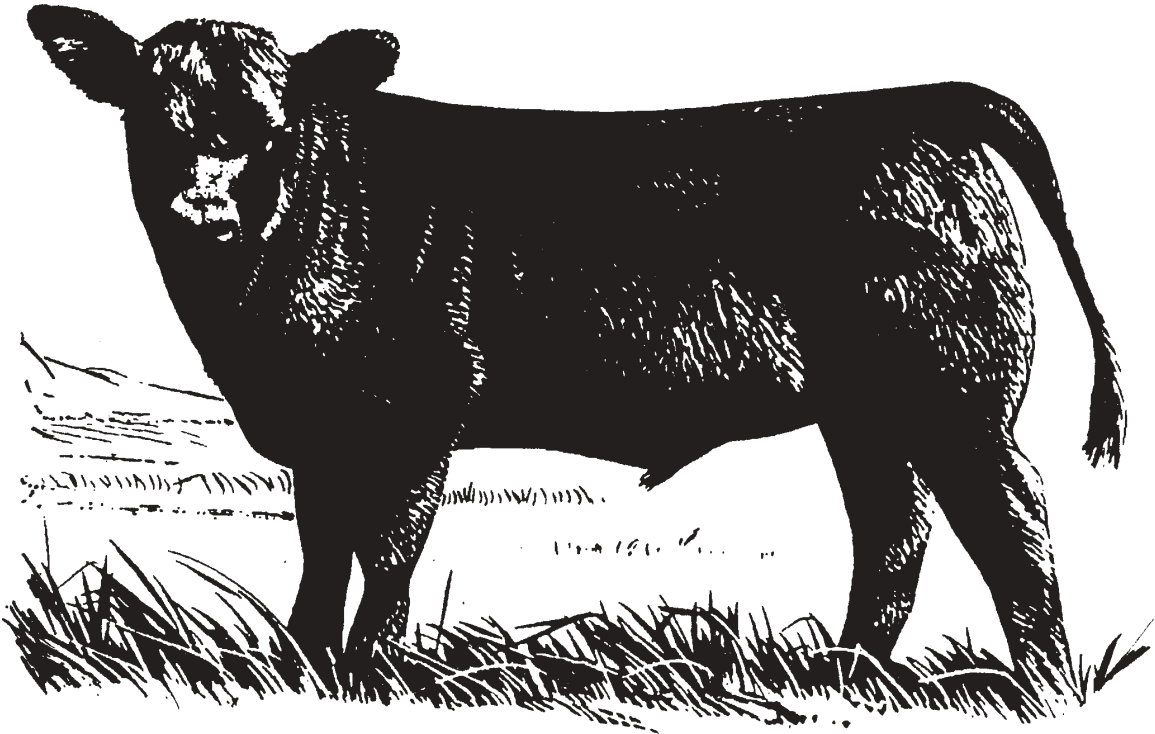
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Introduction

The 4-H beef project is an exciting and educational opportunity for 4-H members, especially in Wyoming, where the beef cattle business is such a large part of the agriculture industry in Wyoming. As a matter of fact, it is the largest and most valuable segment of all animal production in Wyoming.

Selecting a beef project

There are two main types of beef projects: (1) breeding beef and (2) market steers. The breeding beef project is designed for 4-H members with an avid interest in beef cattle, cow/calf production, and the beef industry as a whole. The market steer project is designed for club members interested in beef cattle, but to a lesser degree.

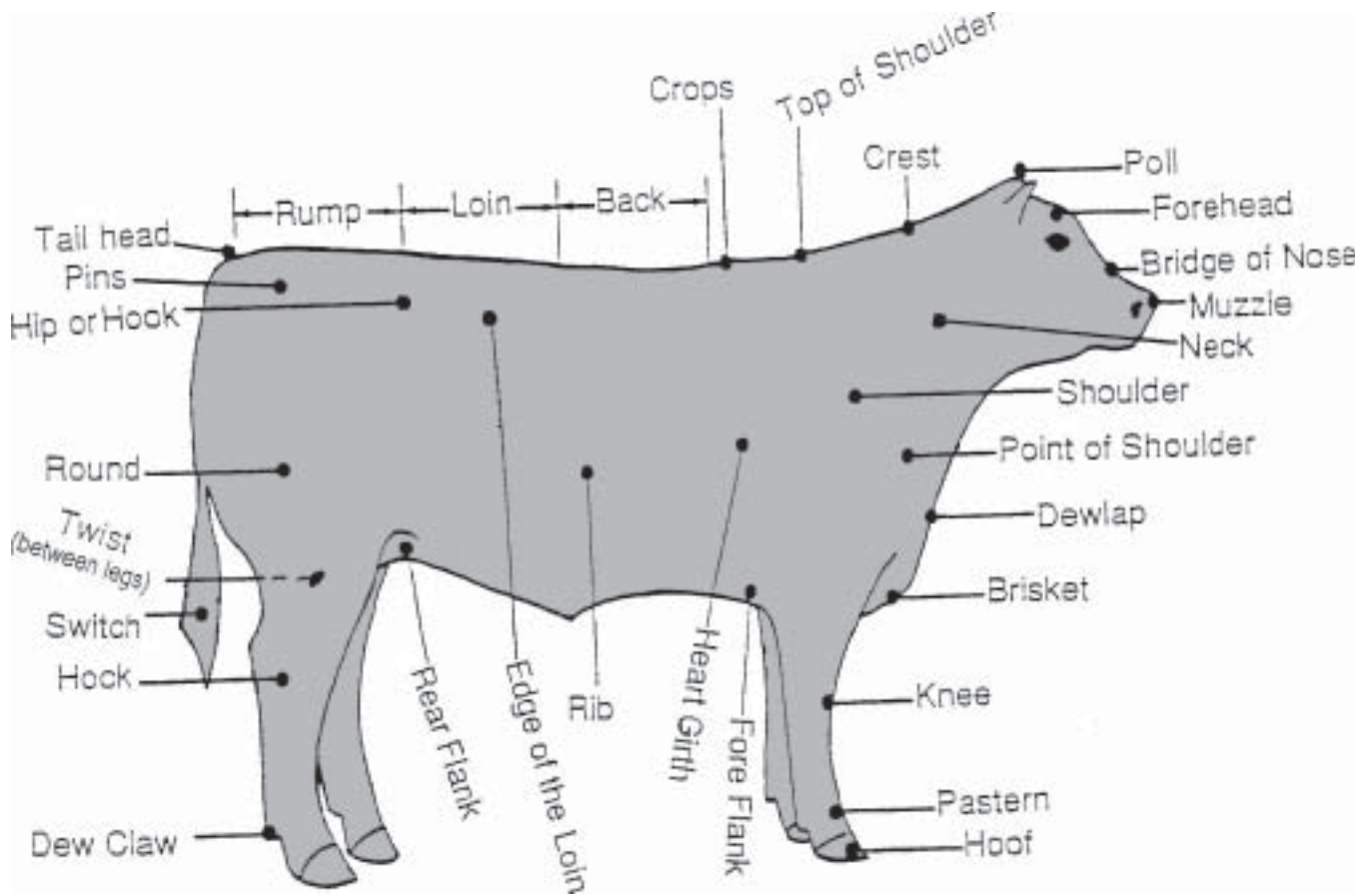
In keeping with the name of the project, the market steer project participant purchases a young calf, feeds and cares for it, fits and grooms it, shows it, and finally sells the steer.

The club member who chooses the breeding beef project also feeds, cares for, fits, grooms, and shows the calf. However, in contrast to market steer project participants, breeding beef project participants exhibit breeding cattle (bulls, cows, and heifers), which are not sold at the county fair youth sale. The club member is able to return home with these cattle and continues to care for them to produce calves. These calves are then kept to show, sell to market, and/or sell to other club members for their projects.

Parts of the beef calf

Selecting a calf to show is as important as the feed and care that you give the calf once you bring it home. The beef project should begin with a healthy and high quality calf.

Before you can identify and select a high quality calf, you must know what one looks like. The first step in this process is to learn the important parts of a beef calf. The drawing illustrates the most important parts of a beef calf.



Beef cattle terms

Understanding the vocabulary used by beef cattle producers, exhibitors, and judges is also a necessary step in learning about beef cattle selection and production. Knowing the terms listed below will greatly assist you when communicating with people in the beef cattle business.

breed: a group of animals with common ancestry and with similar characteristics that are passed on from generation to generation

breeder: owner of the parents of the calves when they were mated

bull: an uncastrated male calf

calf: a newborn, infant, or young beef animal

calving: the process of giving birth

castrate: to remove the testicles

cow: a female that has had at least one calf

crossbred: an animal with parents of different breeds

dam: the mother of a particular animal

heifer: a female that has not produced a calf

market steer: a calf that is raised for meat and weighs within the market weight parameters – it must also still have its baby (milk) teeth

polled: an animal that does not produce or grow horns

purebred: an animal with same-breed parents and that could be recorded in an association registry

registered: an animal whose name and assigned number have been recorded in the record books of its respective breed association; this record also includes the name and assigned numbers of the calf's sire and dam

sire: the father of a particular animal

steer: a calf that has been castrated

yearling: an animal between one and two years old

Beef cattle breeds

There are several breeds of beef cattle. Breed characteristics; such as frame size, weight, color or colors, color pattern, presence or absence of horns, ear length, and hair length vary quite widely. Breeds also have a wide variation in characteristics that are much harder to see and/or measure; such as meat quality, mothering ability, growth rate, and fertility. Taking these and many other factors into consideration, it becomes quite clear that there is no such thing as the "perfect breed."

The characteristic that makes a breed preferable in one location, is quite likely to be the same characteristic that makes it undesirable in another location. A good example is the Brahman. This breed is very resistant to heat, humidity, and items related to these environmental factors (such as huge numbers of insects); thus this breed and/or breeds derived from it (Brangus, Santa Gertrudis, Gelbray, etc.) are highly desired in the southern United States. However, these cattle do not do well in cool, cold, or wintery climates; thus they are not as desirable in Wyoming. Wyoming producers prefer cattle that are longer haired and more adapted to the

cold and snow-breeds like Hereford, Polled Hereford, Angus, Limousin, and Salers.

What does all this mean to the 4-H member? It means that the breed selected by the 4-H member is a choice based on personal preferences, because each breed has its strengths and its weaknesses. When making your choice, consider the following questions:

- Are the breeds being considered available?
- What are strengths and weaknesses of each breed being considered?
- Does this breed fit my climate and environment?
- Are feedstuffs and feed resources readily available?
- What are the availability and size requirements of housing facilities?
- Is my preference for carcass quality (meat) or for reproductive traits (milking and mothering ability)?

Over 100 breeds of cattle exist in the world, and 40 to 50 breeds are fairly popular in the United States. Of these, about 11 breeds are fairly common in Wyoming: Angus, Red Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Polled Hereford, Limousin, Maine-Anjou, Salers, Shorthorn, and Simmental. It is with these breeds that a Wyoming 4-H member would probably have the most success in locating a calf to use as a 4-H project. Each of these breeds will be discussed briefly so that a more informed decision on breed selection can be made.

Angus. The official name is Aberdeen-Angus, as the breed originated in these two counties in Scotland. Angus were first imported to the United States in 1873. They are polled and black, except for an occasional white spot near the navel. They were selected solely for production characteristics, resulting in good milking ability and high quality carcasses. They are also a smaller-framed breed.

Red Angus. This breed is essentially the same as the Angus, except for the red color.

Charolais. This breed was developed in east-central France. Charolais are white to light-cream in color and may be polled or horned. They are large framed and heavily muscled, because they were originally bred as draft (work) animals. Therefore, they produce very lean carcasses and have a superior growth rate. They are often used as the terminal (last) sire in crossbreeding programs.

Gelbvieh. With origins in Austria and West Germany, Gelbviehs are golden to light tan in color and are one of the few breeds that was actually bred as a tri-purpose animal (meat, milk, and draft). They have good maternal traits (fertility and milking ability) and a good growth rate.



Hereford. This breed originated in England but has easily adapted to the range conditions of the western United States. Herefords are horned and have a red



body with a white face, underline, and switch. They are noted for being muscular, having high quality carcasses, and for crossing well with other breeds. The Hereford-Angus cross is one of most common and highest quality crosses known. It is so well known that the calves are simply known as a “black-baldy” because the body is black and the face is white.

Polled Hereford. This breed is essentially the same as the Hereford, except that the cattle are polled.

Limousin. Developed in Southwest France, Limousins first came to the United States in 1969. Cattle from this breed have a medium to large frame and vary in color from tan to gold, red, and even black. Limousin cattle are known for producing heavily muscled and lean carcasses.



Maine-Anjou. This breed was developed in France as a dual purpose breed (milk and meat). Maine-Anjou cattle have well-marbled (fat within the meat which

gives tenderness and flavor) carcasses and are thus recognized as a meat breed. They are large framed and noted for a fast growth rate.

Salers. This is a dual-purpose (carcass and maternal traits) breed that was developed in south-central France. Salers cattle have a hair coat that is red, long, and curly. They have gained popularity because of calving ease and because they cross quite well with Herefords.

Shorthorn. This is one of the oldest breeds in the United States, arriving from England in the 1780s. It has a medium frame size and is a dual-purpose breed (milk and meat) that is red, white, or roan in color. It is best known for its fleshing ability and maternal qualities.



Simmental. This breed originated in Switzerland and first came to North America (via Canada) in 1967. Simmental cattle are a cream to light red color, with white faces. They are large framed and developed as dual purpose (meat and milk) animals. In a crossbreeding program they are usually used to add size and growth, as well as to increase milk production.

Housing, care, and feeding

Successful cattle producers have to take care of many details in order to ensure that their animals are comfortable. After all, a comfortable calf is more likely to be healthy and grow efficiently. There are five main items that influence or affect the comfort level of the beef calf: (1) high quality housing, (2) environmental control, (3) clean feed, (4) fresh water, and (5) the company of its owner because of the tender loving care (TLC) provided.

The housing for beef animals may be simple and inexpensive, or it may be as elaborate and as expensive as you want to make it. Either way, it must be functional – both for you and for the calf. The housing must provide protection from the heat and sun, as well as protection from the wind, rain, and cold. It should also be large enough to accommodate both the calf and

the people who need to enter the pen to care for it. Some key items to remember when building the shed and pen are:

- The shed should provide both ventilation in the summer and protection from the cold winds and drafts of winter. It should also be well drained. If these conditions are not met, the calf will not be as comfortable, not eat properly, and not grow as quickly or efficiently.
- Dirt floors that are well bedded and dry are preferred for cattle. Wood and other materials are also acceptable, but make sure that plenty of bedding is provided. Regardless of the floor you choose, or already have, change the bedding at least once a week.
- The shed, pen, and exercise area should be dog-proof.
- Design the feeding area so that you can easily re-arrange the feeding pens and/or divide them into larger or smaller units.
- Design the shed to allow for easy feeding and watering and to keep the area as clean and dry as possible. This helps lessen the chance of bacteria buildup, resulting in a healthier calf. Fresh air and sunshine will help kill bacteria and keep the pen fresh, so open the doors and windows on pleasant days.
- A young calf will grow, so build the shed tall enough to allow for future growth. Also, put latches and locks where you can reach them, but not where the cattle can get to them.

No matter how old or healthy the calf is, it will not do very well without a proper place to live. A calf needs a proper home as well as proper care, feeding, and watering.

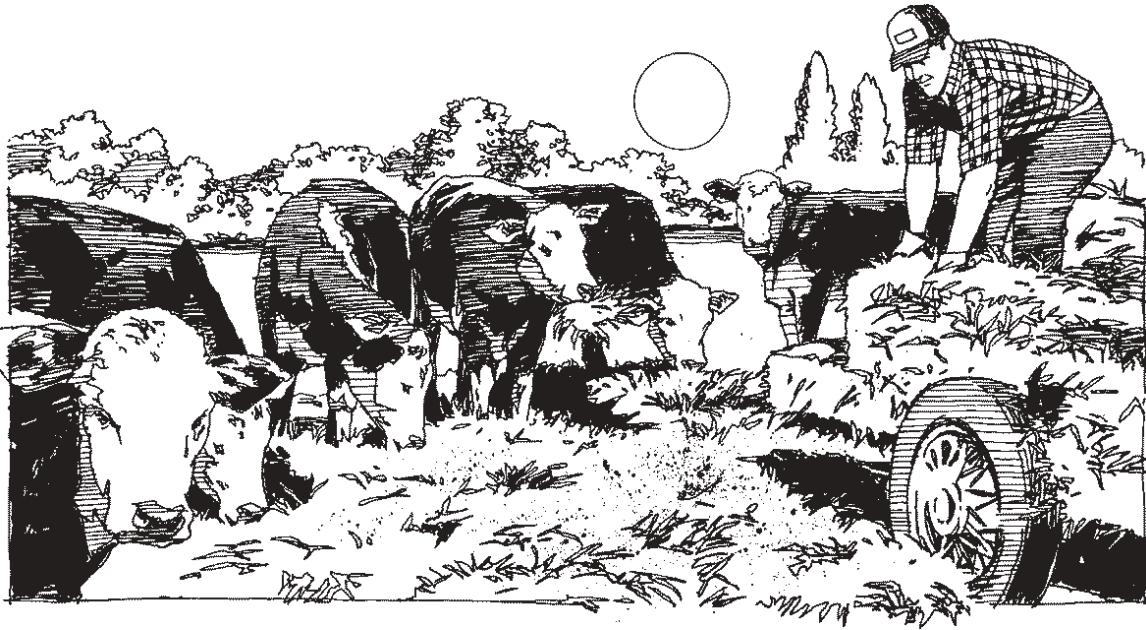
As previously discussed, environmental control tends to go along with housing. Since cattle prefer temperatures of 50 to 60 degrees, there are two areas of concern when discussing environmental comfort: (1) cold and/or wet weather and (2) hot and/or dry weather. In cold and/or wet weather, a place to get out of the weather (the shed) must be supplied. In extremely cold weather, a source of heat may also be required. Perhaps the easiest and most effective way to provide heat is with additional bedding and the use of heat lamps.

Safety note: To avoid a possible fire hazard, an adult should set up the heat lamps.

In hot and/or dry weather, a source of shade (the shed) must be provided. Also, double-check to make sure that the drinking water is cool, clean, and fresh. If the shade and drinking water are not providing enough relief, additional cooling must be provided. Usually an electric fan is all that is needed. However, if this is insufficient, a sprinkler or mister system used in conjunction with the fan should provide enough cooling.

Safety note: Water and electricity are not a good mix. Therefore, an adult should set up the fan and sprinkler or mister system.

Cool, clean, and fresh drinking water must be available at all times. If you use an automatic watering system, check the system daily. After all, if it isn't working, it isn't automatic. As a result, the calves would not be getting the water they need. If you use a bucket, pan, or tank; make sure to change the water several times each day. The drinking water should never be allowed to get hot.



In the winter, make sure that the water does not freeze. This is important because beef cattle, like other animals, will not grow properly without sufficient water. Regardless of the season, all watering equipment should be checked and cleaned on a regular basis to ensure that it is providing plenty of cool, clean, and fresh water.

Proper nutrition and feeding of the beef calf are the primary areas of concern for most 4-H members. However, with the commercial feeds that are available today, nutrition is not as much of a concern as it used to be. The biggest issues with feeding are making sure that the feed is clean and fresh, as well as making sure that the feed pans and feeders are clean.

To evaluate rations, you must first understand a few simple concepts and terms about feeds and rations. Ration is the total combination of foods that the animal is consuming. Feed is a mixture of feedstuffs. Feedstuffs are classified as either concentrates or roughages. Roughages are forages such as clover, alfalfa, and other grasses.

Concentrates are grains such as corn, oats, wheat, and etc., and they have more energy or calories than roughages, which are higher in fiber.

The Crude Protein (CP) content of beef cattle rations is the most practical and common measurement available to evaluate and compare the quality of beef cattle feed. The amount of protein in beef rations is much more important than protein quality. Regardless of the quality of the protein fed, it is changed into useable nutrients by the bacterial action in the rumen of the beef stomach. For this reason, cattle can effectively utilize lower quality feeds and rations.

Properly harvested legume hays (clover and alfalfa) have a protein content of 12 to 20% and, when used as a complete ration, will provide adequate to surplus protein for most beef cattle. However, CP is not the only factor that must be considered when evaluating and comparing beef rations. Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) must also be considered. TDN is a measure of

energy or calories in the feed. TDN is a more accurate measurement of the concentrates or grain in the ration because these feedstuffs are relatively low in CP (8 to 11%), but high in TDN (70 to 90%).

Therefore, in order for a beef cattle ration to provide a complete diet, it must have the correct balance of crude protein and total digestible nutrients. Thus, both roughages (hay and/or pasture) and concentrates (grains) must be provided to ensure the proper nutrition for beef cattle. Most cattle producers also provide a mineral block as a safe-guard against possible nutritional deficiencies.

Table 1 shows the relationship between calf size, CP and TDN requirements, and feeding requirements. To simplify this table, consider the following example: if (for the last 60 to 70 days of the project) the calf is on full feed (about 20 to 22 pounds per day), is gaining about two pounds a day, is eating about 10 pounds of feed per 1 pound of weight gain, and appears healthy; the calf is probably in good health. However, if the steer is eating 20 to 22 pounds of feed per day, but is not gaining much weight; you may have a health problem to identify and correct.

Table 1. Show steer feeding table

*Weight of steer	Crude protein percent - CP	Total digestible nutrients - TDN	Pounds of feed fed per day	Feed fed as % of body weight
400 to 600 pounds	14 to 16 percent	75 to 80 percent	10 to 14 pounds	3.0 to 3.5 percent
600 to 800 pounds	12 to 14 percent	70 to 75 percent	14 to 18 pounds	2.5 to 3.0 percent
800 to 1000 pounds	10 to 12 percent	70 to 75 percent	18 to 22 pounds	2.3 to 2.5 percent
1000 pounds and up	10 to 12 percent	65 to 70 percent	22 to 24 pounds	2.0 to 2.3 percent

** Figures for heifers will be about the same. The biggest difference will be that the figure for feed consumed per day will be a smaller number. Thus, the amount of weight gain per day will also drop, from about two pounds per day to about one and a half pounds per day.*

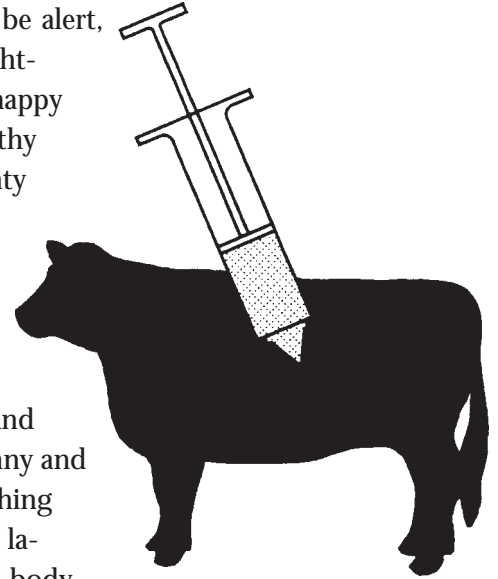
If you feed according to the guidelines and recommendations shown in Table 1 and follow the items listed below, you should have very few feeding problems and a more successful and enjoyable beef cattle project. If you have questions or concerns regarding the care or feeding of the calf, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service office for assistance and advice.

- Begin by feeding small amounts of the ration.
- Feed only what is required.
- Feed a balanced ration.
- Feed at the same time each day, and try to feed about twelve hours apart.
- Do not skip a feeding or vary feeding times.
- Gradually increase the amount fed. Do not increase feed by more than half a pound per day.
- Gradually change from one ration to another. Mix them together (first more of the original and then more of the new one) and make the change over a 5 to 7 day time period.
- If the calf goes off feed, start over by reducing the amount fed. Then, slowly bring the calf back to full feed by gradually increasing the amount of feed given at each feeding.

Health care

In order to have a successful beef calf project, it is extremely important to start with a healthy calf and to maintain the health of the calf throughout the project. Therefore, you must be able to identify the difference between a healthy beef calf and an unhealthy beef calf.

A healthy calf will be alert, frisky, playful, bright-eyed, and appear happy to see you. A healthy calf will drink plenty of water and eat with eagerness. The stool (manure) will be about the consistency of pudding and moist, but not runny and watery. The breathing will not be loud or labored. The normal body temperature of a healthy calf is about 101 degrees.



An unhealthy calf will have a decreased appetite. It will not drink as much and will not be frisky or happy to see you. The calf will also appear listless, depressed, shrunken, and dull-eyed. It may also have a hump or arch to its back and will most likely be standing away from the rest of the herd. The stool may be very dry and hard (constipated) or just the opposite – very watery and loose (scours). The breathing may be hard, fast, and labored. The body temperature may be higher than normal (any temperature higher than 102 degrees is considered a fever).

If you think the calf is sick, there are two very important steps to follow: (1) tell your parents, and (2) separate the sick animal from the other calves. After getting advice from a veterinarian or other professional, follow that advice very carefully.

Many diseases and health problems may affect the beef calf. Most of these are fairly easy to control, once you know what the problem is and provide the proper treat-

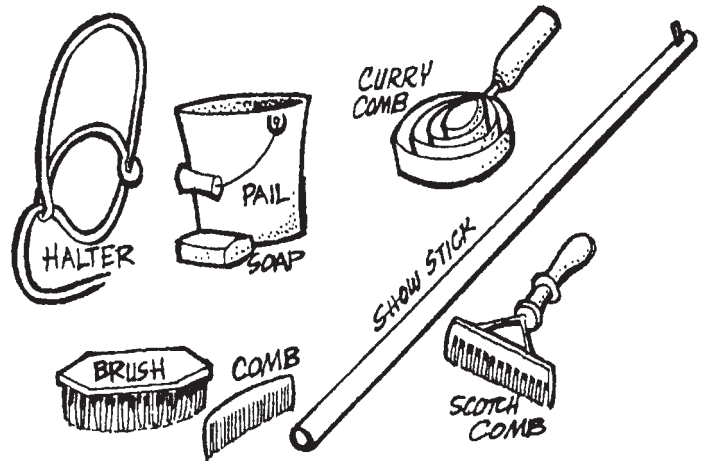
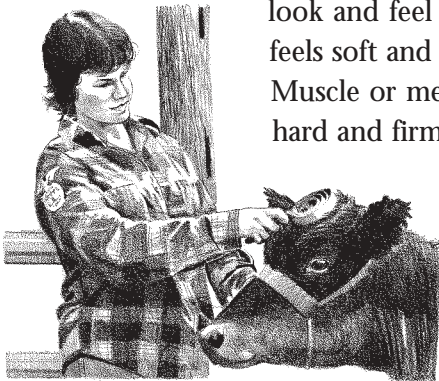
ment. Also, most health problems can be avoided or kept to a minimum by following these seven steps:

- Buy only healthy calves from healthy herds.
- Keep all vaccinations up-to-date.
- Maintain a de-worming program.
- Clean the shed and pen at least once a week.
- Clean the waters and feeders at least once a week – twice a week is much better.
- Watch the calf closely and on a daily basis for signs of sickness and ill-health.
- Inform your parents if you think that the calf is sick.

Fitting and grooming

Fitting and grooming does not start at the show or even during the week of the show; it starts the day you bring the calf home. Fitting the beef calf means feeding, watering, halter breaking, and otherwise caring for the calf so that it achieves and maintains proper condition.

Proper condition means that the calf is neither too fat nor too thin. Through experience you can learn what varying amounts of fat (or lack of fat) look and feel like. Fat feels soft and loose. Muscle or meat feels hard and firm. Bone



feels very hard and concrete. Fat, also known as cover or finish, gets deposited on beef cattle in certain areas and in a certain sequence (front to rear and top to bottom). By knowing this sequence and observing or feeling these areas, it is possible to estimate how fat the calf is or is not getting. The areas to check for fat deposit are the ribs, fore flank, rear flank, and tailhead. To ensure that proper condition is achieved and maintained, it is important that you learn this before adjustments are made to the calf's feed, feeding, or exercise routine.

Even though proper condition has the same meaning or standard for all beef calves, they do not all achieve proper condition at the same time or in the same manner. Some calves will start to get fat at a young age and others will remain lean all the way to market weight. Calves that start to get fat at a young age must be removed from full feed and put on a restricted diet (less feed per day). These calves should also be exercised at least 10 to 15 minutes each day in addition to the 15 to 20 minutes per day that they were receiving to achieve and maintain show condition. Calves that naturally stay lean can be left on full feed throughout the whole project,

but they should also receive the normal 15 to 20 minutes of exercise needed per day to achieve and maintain show condition.

Calf grooming can be divided into three categories or uses: washing, clipping, and foot care. Equipment and items needed for washing are a halter (for leading and tying the calf), hose and/or pail, scrub brush, mild soap or detergent, and some way to dry the calf—livestock blow dryers are recommended for beef cattle projects.

Items needed for foot care are foot trimmers or grinders and foot care medication for after the trimming.

Items recommended for clipping include livestock clippers and/or sheep shears (use 20 to 22 tooth combs in the sheep shears), small animal clippers (for use on the ears and face), oil for the clippers, hand shears or scissors (for the hard to reach places such as the flank, elbow, twist, brisket, etc.), a spray bottle (for wetting the hair), a grooming chute (for holding and controlling the calf while it is being clipped and groomed), and an extension cord.

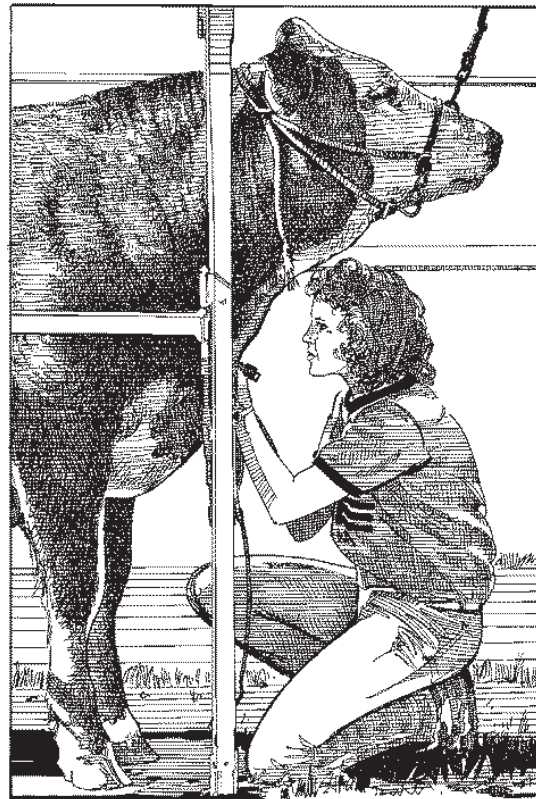
Before arriving at the show, the calf should have been washed and clipped a time or two. That way, it has some idea of what is happening and will not be as scared, nervous, or jumpy.

The feet should be trimmed a time or two before the show. The final trimming for the show should be done about 14 to 21 days before show day. This allows time for healing.

Health and safety note: It is highly recommended that a qualified and professional hoof trimmer perform the tasks of grinding the hooves and trimming the feet.

Finally, if the calf has not had its final clipping, this should be done a day or two before show day. If you have clipped the calf a time or two before the final grooming, both of you will have a much better idea of what to do and how to do it. Therefore, the final clipping and grooming will look presentable for the show ring. The first step in clipping a calf is to wash it. Washing involves wetting the animal, soaping and scrubbing (gently, but firmly), and thoroughly rinsing the calf.

Washing note: The cleaner the calf, the easier it will be to clip and the longer the clipper blades will stay sharp (because they are not getting dulled by dirt particles). Therefore, make sure that the calf is extra clean.



After washing the calf, place it in the grooming chute and dry it with a blow dryer. When blow drying or clipping the calf, use vertical strokes on the legs and horizontal strokes on the body and flank areas (see the drawing).

Safety note: Livestock clippers (not sheep shearers) are recommended for use by younger exhibitors because they are less likely to cut themselves or the calf.

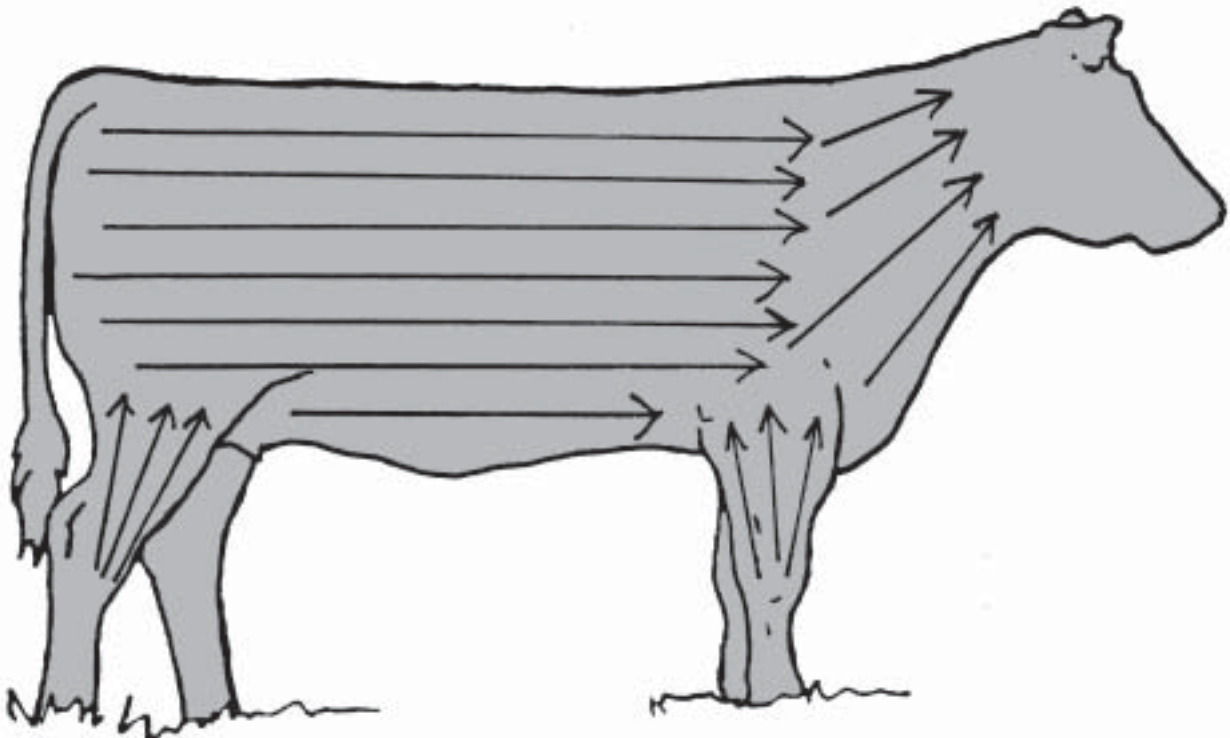
Following these guidelines will result in the calf having a more uniform appearance. Use the small clippers to remove the hair and whiskers from around the calf's ears, eyes, and face.

Grooming note: No amount of grooming can correct or make up for a poor job of feeding, care, and management of the beef calf.

Showing the beef calf

Showing the calf, like fitting and grooming, does not start at the show; it also starts at home. It begins with the feeding, exercising, washing, brushing, clipping, halter breaking, and other tasks that you should be doing from the very first day the calf arrives at its new home. Proper feeding gets the calf to the desired show weight. Exercising the beef calf gets it in show condition (lean, not fat) and in show ring shape (able to walk for a long period of time without tiring). Washing, brushing, clipping, and other grooming techniques make the calf neat, clean, and otherwise presentable to the judge.

Training the calf to work with you begins by earning its trust and confidence, and by making friends with it. This is accomplished by playing with it, brushing it, and



otherwise spending time with it. When the calf stops running from you when you enter the pen, it is ready to start the exercise and training routine.

The first step is to catch the calf. Since calves are shown with a halter, the second step is to get them used to wearing a halter and lead strap. This is usually accomplished by putting them on for short periods of time and then gradually increasing the time that the calf has them on.

Safety note: During these sessions, the calf should never be left unattended.

This is followed by gently talking to it, petting it, and rubbing it: rub down the back, sides, neck, and legs – this is to simply get the calf used to you and to being touched. The fourth step is walking with the calf. After the calf is accustomed to being caught, haltered, touched, and walked; the next step is to teach it to set-up. Setting-up means getting each leg to come straight down from the body. Many new exhibitors get this only half right. Remember, straight not only means straight when the calf is viewed from the side, but also when it is viewed from the front and the rear. When this is performed correctly, it is referred to as having the feet and legs squarely under the body or “standing square”. It does not matter if you set the front legs first and then the back legs, or the other way around; either method is acceptable.

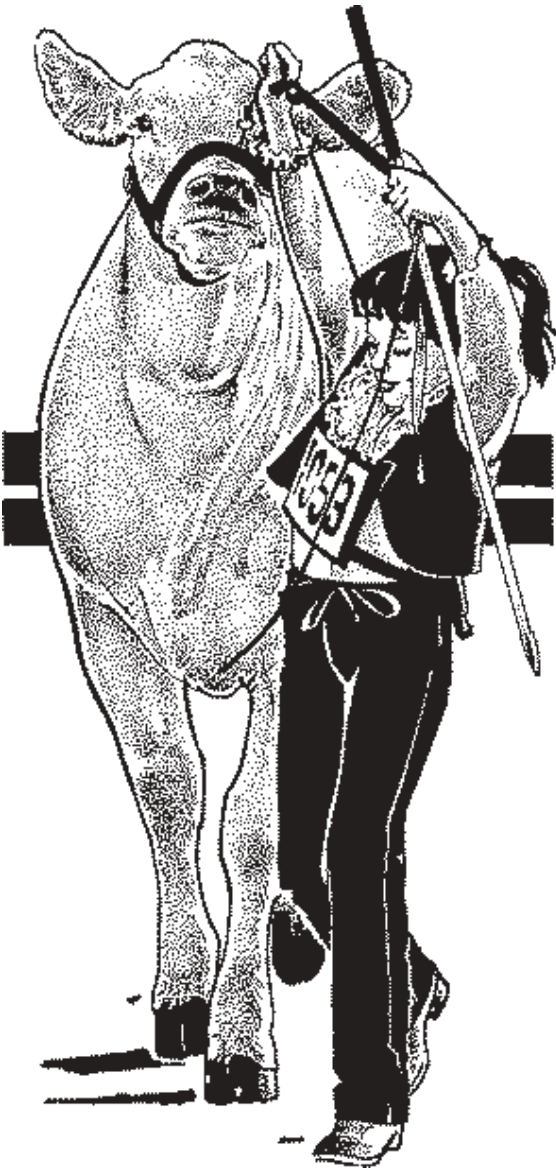
When placing or setting the front feet and legs, raise or lift the calf’s head (very slightly) by lifting on the lead strap (to cue the calf so that it knows the front feet and legs are being set). When the front feet and legs are set, return the head to its normal position. To set the rear feet and legs,

lower the calf’s head (very slightly) by pulling down on the lead strap (to cue the calf). When the back feet and legs are set, return the head to its normal position.

Now that the calf has all four feet and legs in the desired position (and this is fairly easy, if it was practiced at home), they must be kept in the proper position. This is done by standing on the left side of the calf and keeping it relaxed (but alert) by scratching or rubbing its belly with the show stick, talking to it (very softly), slightly wiggling the lead strap, or by some other subtle method.

When the feet and legs are set; the back, neck, and head must be placed and maintained in a straight line. This is accomplished by getting the head straight with the neck, which almost automatically aligns these with the back. To get the head and neck straight is fairly easy: simply push or pull on the lead strap. When everything is in the desired position, “lock it” in place by lifting up on the lead strap to make the calf hold its head up.

Now that the calf has all four feet and legs in the desired position and its body is in a straight line, it must be kept in this position. This can be accomplished by rubbing its belly with the show stick, softly speaking to it, and keeping the head held up. This will keep the calf relaxed (but alert) and thus looking its best for the judge. Also, always stand so that the judge can see the calf (not you) – keep the calf between you and the judge. The only exception to this is when the judge crosses in front of the calf. At that moment, for a split second, you will be between the judge and the calf because the exhibitor always shows from the left side of the calf. This split second is impossible to avoid.



Showing note: While you are setting up the calf, keep an eye on the judge. You must keep the calf between you and the judge. Also, it is important to listen to the judge's instructions.

As you practice each of these steps, you and your calf will become a team. When you feel confident and comfortable, ask someone to act as the judge. He or she should walk around the calf, handle it, and do anything else that you think might benefit you and/or the calf.

Showing tip: Attending showmanship clinics and workshops is a good way to learn more about recommendations and techniques. However, do not just attend – go home and practice what you have learned.

Training and practicing for showmanship involves preparing yourself as well as teaching the calf. You must know what to do and how to do it. You must also mentally prepare yourself. If you lack poise and self-confidence in the show ring, the calf will sense that something isn't right and will become confused and uncomfortable. Consequently, the calf will not respond to your cues. This will lead to further frustration on your part and the result is a cycle of confusion and frustration between you and the calf.

Showing hint: Remember, showing involves the appearance and attitude of the exhibitor, the appearance of the calf, and the showing or showmanship of the calf. Also, be on time for your class and be courteous – not only to the judge and ringmaster, but also to your fellow exhibitors.

Preparing for the show ring includes:

- Wear clean, neat, and appropriate clothing.
- Wear boots or hard shoes, not soft shoes.
- Carry a curry comb or rag in your pocket.
- Arrive on time for your class.
- Know the calf's tag number, weight, breed, and date of birth (calving date).
- Know other relevant information such as the average daily gain, ideal body temperature, protein percentage of the feed, etc.

- Know what the judge looks like and/or is wearing.
- Know what the ringmaster looks like and/or is wearing.

Preparing the calf for the show ring includes:

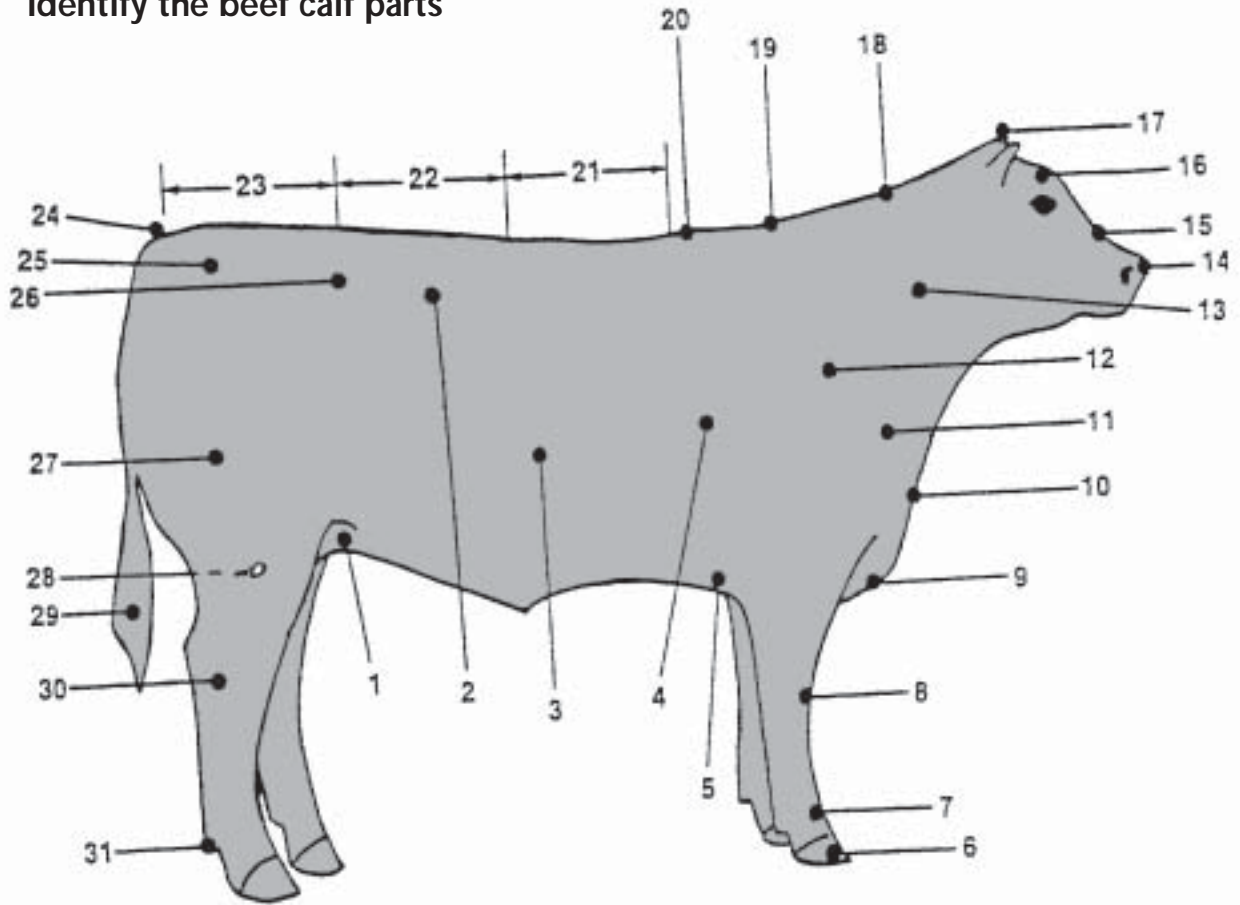
- Wash the calf, either the night before the show or the morning of the show.
- On show day, feed the calf at least two hours before show time, but only feed approximately half of the usual amount. This keeps the calf attentive and alert.
- On show day, give about half the amount of water usually provided. This prevents the calf from having a large girth and helps keep it active and alert.
- Groom and brush the calf at least twice before show time. This brings out the natural oils and removes the dust and dirt, resulting in a cleaner hair coat.
- Before leaving for the show ring, give the calf a drink of water and a final brushing.
- Be calm and gentle with the calf while on the way to the show ring and while in the show ring.

Working as a team in the show ring includes:

- Be aware of the location of both the judge and the ringmaster, as well as any instructions they may give.
- Be courteous to the judge, ringmaster, and other exhibitors. Be sure to say “yes sir” or “no sir,” “excuse me,” and “thank you.”
- Know the calf’s location at all times, especially in relation to yourself and to the judge.

- Keep the calf between you and the judge.
- Keep the proper distance (about a calf length) between your calf and the other calves.
- When walking the calf, walk slowly.
- Walk by the left side of the calf’s head and keep your shoulder even with the calf’s head.
- When setting up the calf, do it quickly, confidently, and smoothly.
- If the judge touches your calf or if your calf rubs against another calf, use the comb to re-smooth the hair and/or the rag to wipe off any dirt.
- Maintain eye contact with the judge.
- Smile, relax, and enjoy what you are doing.
- Keep yourself cool, calm, and collected; this helps to keep the calf under control.
- Be humble when you win and gracious when you lose.
- Remember to thank the judge and congratulate the winners after the final placing.

Identify the beef calf parts



- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ | 30. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ | 31. _____ |
| | 21. _____ | |

Notes

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