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## Beef Production: A Manual for 4-H Club Members

G. A. McDonald

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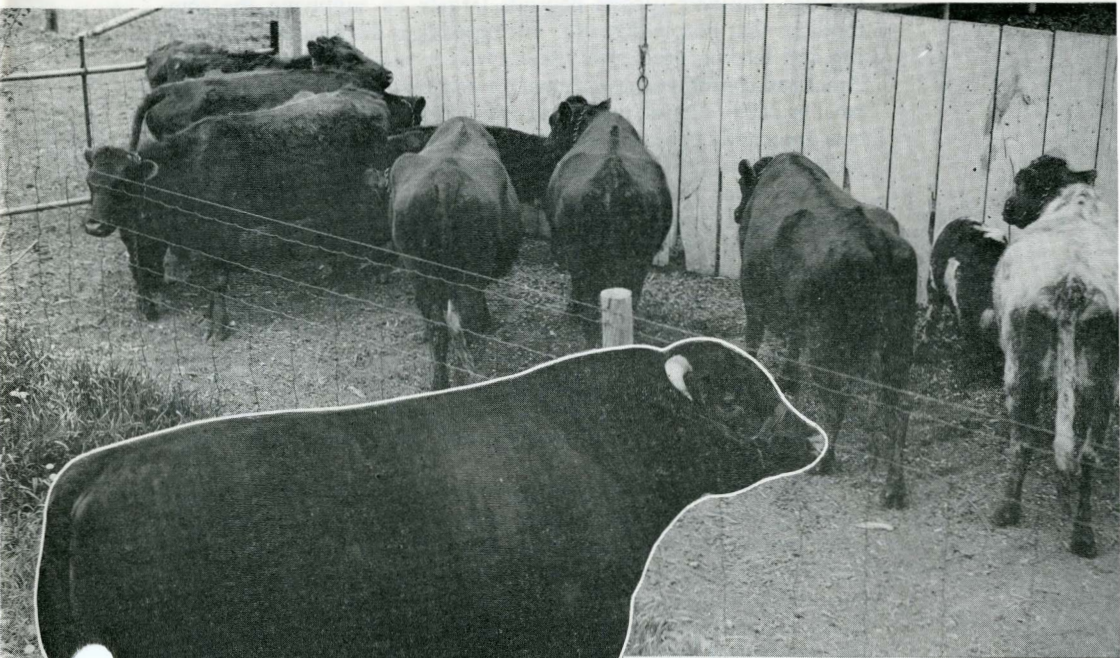
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# Beef Production

*A Manual for 4-H Club Members*



EXTENSION SERVICE  
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE

## Foreword

Beef cattle production offers one of the most satisfactory means of utilizing our western ranges, and cattle feeding affords our farmers in the corn and grain producing areas of the state the opportunity of marketing their grains and roughages in a practical and profitable manner. Business success depends largely on supplying the commodities that people demand. This applies to the business of breeding and feeding beef cattle the same as to any other business. The American consumers have shown an ever increasing demand for the smaller retail cuts of meat of good quality and not too fat. Such cuts are readily obtained from the carcasses of younger beef cattle as under ordinary feeding conditions they do not put on an excess of fat.

Twenty or twenty-five years ago the consumers' demand required larger cuts of meat and it was not uncommon to find the older, heavier cattle, weighing from 1500 to 1800 pounds, commanding the higher prices on the livestock market. Today there is only a limited demand for these heavier cattle and the market can be easily over supplied, as the outlet for them is afforded by the hotel trade, the army and navy and the limited export trade. The chief demand now is for steers weighing from 850 to 1100 pounds. These younger cattle not only enable the grower-feeder to sell more beef per cow annually, but make cheaper gains and afford a wider choice of markets.

While this circular was prepared for the use of members of the 4-H beef clubs, there are helpful suggestions to others engaged in cattle feeding. The 4-H beef clubs offer advantages and training for their members that can be obtained in no other way. The members gain ability as judges of livestock and as buyers of feeder cattle and feeds; they acquire a practical knowledge of the care, management, the economical feeding and the marketing of beef cattle. At their club meetings they secure training in parliamentary practice, in cooperative effort, and in being able to think and talk intelligently on farm problems. Their calves, too, serve as a demonstration in their beef.—I. B. Johnson, head of State College Animal Husbandry Department

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** The author acknowledges the assistance of Mr. Johnson who was the author of the first beef production circular issued by the South Dakota State College Extension Service. His publication was a valuable aid in preparing this manual.

**THE COVER:** This excellent Shorthorn bull sired the good to choice steers in the lower picture from the common cows in the upper picture at a trial of the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. At 750 pounds, these calves were worth \$7.54 more than calves from similar quality cows sired by a scrub bull. In a herd of 40 cows, this would mean an additional income of \$200 to \$300. Note how much better is the quality of the calves compared to that of their dams.

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# Beef Production

By G. A. McDONALD\*

## Selecting Beef Animals

### Select Feeder Calf for Economical Gain and High Dressing Percentage

The first and most important step in the baby beef phase is to select the type of calf that will make the most economical gains and finally dress out a highly desirable carcass. The success and profit of the enterprise will depend on the conformation, feeding ability and quality of the calf selected.

Suitable feeder calves for profitable baby beef production are generally the offspring from sires and dams of good beef type and breeding. As a rule it does not pay the cattle feeder to feed out the calves of common or nondescript breeding for baby beef, as the fattened animal does not have quality sufficient to compete with the better bred, better finished baby beef. Especially is this true in 4-H baby beef club work. Therefore, the stockman who desires to produce his own feeder calves should make careful selection of cows for his beef herd; they may or may not be purebred, but by all means use a good type purebred beef sire. If a good cow, bred to a good purebred bull, will produce a good calf; a better cow bred to a better bull will produce a better calf.

In selecting a calf for 4-H baby beef club work, choose a good beef type steer calf in good health weighing from 300 to 450 pounds. An idea of its conformation can be gained from its appearance. Look at the calf from a distance of 10 or 15 feet. He

*\*Extension Animal Husbandman*

should possess the blocky beef form with straight top and underline, carrying well down in both fore and rear flanks; he should be lowset and not leggy. When viewed from in front he should be wide between the eyes, have a short face and a large muzzle, these being the characteristics of a good feeder; the neck should be short, the ribs well sprung and the chest should be deep and wide indicating a strong constitution. When viewed from the rear, he should have good uniform width over the back, loin and rump, carrying out quite level from the hips to the tail head; the rounds should be full and the twist deep. A calf with coarse shoulders, a flat forerib, rough hooks, a narrow rump, a low back or a poor underline will not develop into a tidy baby beef as these faults usually become more pronounced as the animal fattens. Select a calf that is of quiet disposition, for the nervous calf runs off too much flesh.

In addition to purchasing good beef type calves, quality calves should be secured as well. Quality refers to the character of bone, hide, hair and flesh. The most desirable calf from the standpoint of quality is one with soft, fine hair; a pliable, elastic hide of medium thickness; a clean dense bone, and flesh that will be smooth and firm when the animal is finished. An animal of good quality will not only present a trimmer neater appearance when finished, but will generally make faster, more economical gains.

Club members should avoid getting a thin unthrifty calf. The calf should be in good condition, vigorous and preferably showing a little milk bloom.

Many a 4-H club member can recall how well formed his calf was at the start but somehow it did not develop and feed out as hoped for. This traces directly to the breeding back of the calf and emphasizes all the more the necessity of getting well bred feeder calves of strictly beef breeding.

### Selecting Foundation Stock for the Beef Herd

The purebred beef phase and the range cow-calf phase both demand the selection of desirable foundation stock. Desirable type breeding stock is as essential in producing high quality feeder steers as in growing purebred beef heifers and bulls.

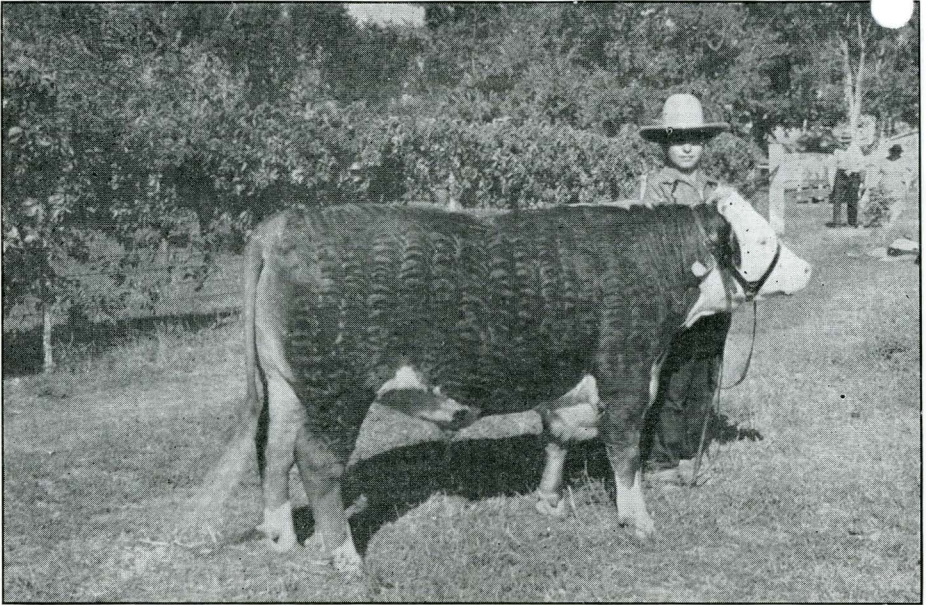
The cow-calf phase is especially well adapted to Central and Western South

Dakota. The phase is started by either purchasing a bred cow or a high quality heifer. The heifer is grown out and bred and forms the foundation of a herd. Heifer calves are generally retained and steers are sold as feeders. The project is managed much as western cattlemen handle their commercial herds and is very well adapted to the range area of the state.

The 4-H purebred beef heifer phase offers a member an opportunity of getting started in the cattle business with good beef foundation stock. Herds of purebred livestock are needed in every community to at least furnish the good purebred sires required by the farmers for grading up their herds. As a rule, purebred livestock matures earlier, fattens easier, gives more return for the feed fed, commands a better selling price, and creates a greater interest on the part of the owner in the production of better livestock. The raising of good purebred



The champion Shorthorn 4-H baby beef at the 1941 South Dakota State Fair



The champion Hereford 4-H baby beef at the 1941 South Dakota State Fair

beef cattle is a science that can be attained through work and study and the close application of the best principles of livestock breeding.

### **It Pays to Start With Good Cows and Heifers**

It pays to start with as good foundation cows as possible. Choose the breed, then select cows and heifers that show the breed characteristics. In general, the good beef cow or heifer should have the beef form, being low set, of a rectangular compact form with good depth of body and straightness of top and underline. She should be feminine in appearance showing refinement about the head and breed quality throughout. In constitution she should be rugged, carrying good depth of chest and good width on the floor of the chest.

The head should be short, slightly dished-in face, good width between the eyes with

broad muzzle and large open nostrils. The neck should be short and full, blending nicely into the head and shoulder and should not show a crest. The shoulders should be smooth and well covered; there should be a fullness in the crop and a good spring of rib giving width to the back and together with depth of body giving capacity to the middle. The loin should be wide, deep and thickly fleshed, the hips and rump level and well covered. There should be uniformity in width of top line over the back, loin and rump.

The quarters should be well fleshed, the twist deep and both fore and rear flanks should be low. The cow should show a sufficient udder development to indicate the ability to nurse the calf for at least six months. The animal should be of a quiet disposition, yet walk easily and actively and should have a good handling quality as indicated by uniform fleshing, a loose pliable skin and a glossy coat of hair.

### **Mat as Well Have a Good Bull; You Must Pay for Him Anyway**

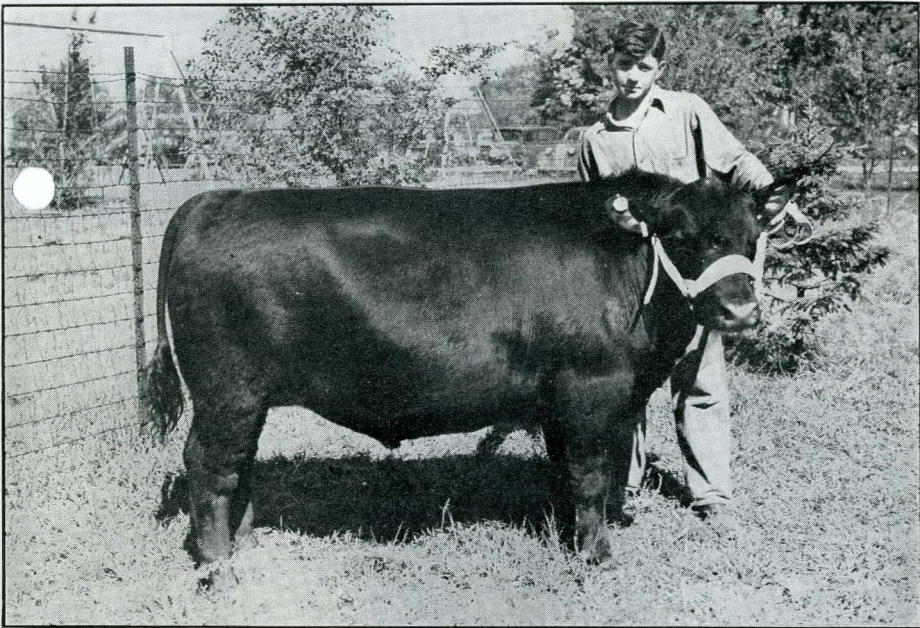
Where comparisons have been made in using a scrub bull and a good purebred bull on an ordinary cow herd, it was found that the offspring sired by the purebred bull weighed 125 pounds more per head as yearlings and sold for a higher price per hundred-weight on the market.

“One pays for a good purebred bull whether one uses it or not” is a statement full of truth. Only good purebred beef bulls should be used on our herds of beef cattle. In addition to showing the breed characteristics, the bull should show masculinity and ruggedness by his type and bearing. The head will be short, broad and of burly appearance, the neck will be powerful, strongly crested and blending smoothly into well developed shoulders. There should be a good deep, wide chest, an ample mid-

dle with fore and rear flanks strongly filled out. Strength and straightness of top line as well as uniformity in width of top line is important. The hips should be smooth, the rump long, level and of good width. The quarters and twist should be well developed. The hind legs should not be bowed or sickle-hocked. The animal should have an easy carriage, good handling quality and be of a quiet temperament.

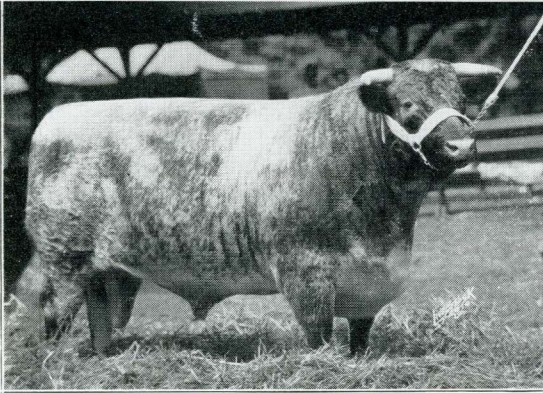
### **Ancestry of Foundation Stock Should Be Considered**

Before finally selecting as foundation stock a purebred individual or individuals of outstanding merit, the stockman should be seriously concerned with the ancestry of those individuals. The pedigree is merely a record of the animal's ancestry; such a record is kept on the books of the breed registry association. For every breed of live-



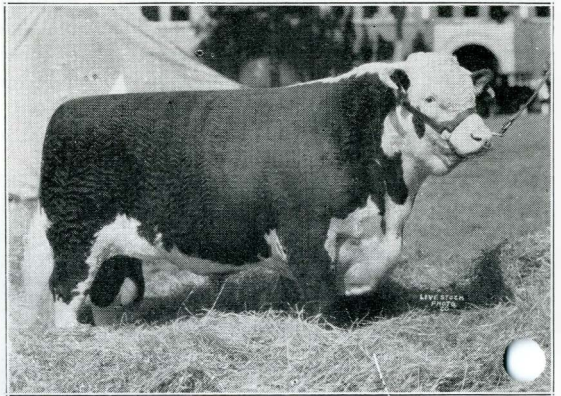
The champion Aberdeen Angus 4-H baby beef at the 1941 South Dakota State Fair





The Shorthorn—the largest of the breeds

The Hereford—rugged, hardy and a good rustler



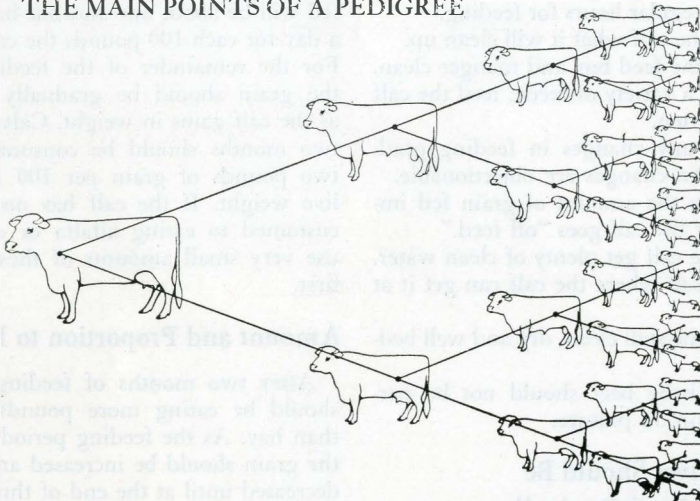
The Angus—noted for uniformity and smoothness

st there is a breed record or registry association which is an organization of its breeders to cooperate in improving the breed, preserve its purity and protect and promote its interests.

The sketch shows graphically a four-generation pedigree, bringing out the relative importance of the sire and dam, the grandsires and granddams, the great grandsires and great granddams, etc. This pedigree shows 30 ancestors, all of which may be different individuals unless there may have

been some line breeding in the development of the animal. The young stockman's success as a breeder of beef cattle will depend not only upon his ability as a judge of cattle, as a feeder and as a manager; but also upon his knowledge of pedigrees and his familiarity with the weaknesses as well as the strong points of the ancestors of his animals. Such information equips him with a practical working knowledge of pedigrees.

THE MAIN POINTS OF A PEDIGREE



A graphic representation of the relative importance of the ancestors in the first four generations. It is quite as important to know what sort of animals make up the later matings as it is to know to what family the animal belongs. Beyond the fourth generation the influence of any ancestor is so slight that for practical purposes it may be ignored. (Courtesy U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

## Feeding the Baby Beef

### Care and Feeding Methods Govern Your Success

4-H club members should recognize from the time the calf is selected that the success of their project will be governed materially by the method of care and feeding. In the final analysis the calf must be fat and must carry a high percentage of

the valuable meat cuts. The club member may have selected an excellent type feeder calf but if he is not properly fed, he will not make profitable economical gains and will not develop into a prime baby beef.

The feed and care which the baby beef calf gets during the fall and winter will have a lot to do with the final selling price, the profit made, and the place it will win in

the show ring. All young animals grow as well as fatten. While the growth gains are the cheapest gains it should be remembered that one of the main factors in successful baby beef feeding is to get the calves to put on fat or finish rather than to make excessive growth. In other words, don't make the mistake of growing out the calf before starting to fatten it as calves have a tendency to grow too much even while being fed a fattening ration. Following are a few practical suggestions for economical feeding:

1. Have regular hours for feeding.
2. Feed the calf what it will clean up.
3. Keep the feed box and manger clean.
4. Allow a variety of feeds; feed the calf so it will fatten.
5. Make any changes in feeding gradually; sudden changes are objectionable.
6. Reduce the amount of grain fed immediately if the calf goes "off feed."
7. Let the calf get plenty of clean water.
8. Keep salt where the calf can get it at all times.
9. Keep the stall clean, dry and well bedded.
10. The baby beef should not be permitted to run on pasture.

### Feeder Calves Should Be Started on Feed Gradually

If the calf has been raised on the farm, it may be fed grain before weaning and when the 4-H club member finds it possible, the calf may be allowed to nurse until it is eight months of age. Feeder calves should be started on feed gradually. Changes in feed and the amount fed should be made slowly. Otherwise, the calf may scour and go "off feed."

Oats may constitute the major portion of the starting ration. Oats are bulky and readily eaten as the first concentrate. Two-thirds oats and one-third shelled corn or barley make a good starting feed. After four or five days the ration might be grad-

ually changed to 50-50 oats and shelled corn and in three to four weeks changed to 20-25% oats and the remainder shelled corn. After five weeks the oats should be entirely eliminated from the ration.

The amount of feed at the start will depend somewhat on the size of the calf. A good rule to follow would be to give the calf not more than one-half pound of the grain mixture a day for each 100 pounds it weighs for the first four or five days. This should be increased gradually until at the end of about the third week the amount fed will be about one and one-half pounds a day for each 100 pounds the calf weighs. For the remainder of the feeding period the grain should be gradually increased as the calf gains in weight. Calves on feed two months should be consuming about two pounds of grain per 100 pounds of live weight. If the calf has not been accustomed to eating alfalfa or clover hay use very small amounts of these feeds at first.

### Amount and Proportion to Feed

After two months of feeding, the calf should be eating more pounds of grain than hay. As the feeding period advances, the grain should be increased and the hay decreased until at the end of three months the calf is eating at least one and one-half or two pounds of grain to one pound of hay. At the end of the fourth month the ratio of grain and hay should be about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 1. Near the end of the feeding period the calves should be consuming 12 to 14 pounds of grain and 4 to 6 pounds of hay.

Calves ----- **8.9 lbs.**

Yearlings ----- **6.5 lbs.**

Two Year Olds --- **5.4 lbs.**

Pounds of beef produced per bushel of corn.  
(Results of feed lot trials at Illinois Experiment Station.)

These proportions of consumption will vary according to the individuality of the calf.

### Suggested Rations for a Baby Beef

Rations for a calf might well consist of corn, oilmeal, silage and alfalfa hay. Barley or sooner milo may be substituted for corn. Prairie hay may be used as the roughage providing such is adequately balanced with protein and minerals. Feeding trials have demonstrated that rations consisting of grain, oilmeal, a succulent feed and a legume hay generally produce best results. Here are some suggested daily rations for various weight baby beefs:

Feeds	Pounds To Feed Per Day		
	500 Pound Beef	700 Pound Beef	900 Pound Beef
<b>No. 1</b>			
Corn	8	10	13
Linseed Oilmeal	1	1	1
Alfalfa Hay	3	4	4
Corn Silage	10	14	14
<b>No. 2</b>			
Corn	5	6	7
Barley	4	6	7
Cottonseed Meal	.5	.5	.7
Alfalfa Hay	4.0	5.0	5.0
<b>No. 3</b>			
Barley	4.0	5.0	7.0
Sooner Milo	5.0	6.0	7.0
Prairie Hay	5.0	7.0	6.0
Soybean Oilmeal	1.0	1.5	1.0
<b>No. 4</b>			
Corn and Cob Meal	8.0	10.0	12.0
Linseed Oilmeal	2.0	2.5	2.7
Cane Silage	8.0	10.0	8.0
Prairie Hay	3.0	4.0	4.0

### Feed Calf Twice a Day First Half of Feeding Period

The calf should be fed twice a day during the first half of the feeding period and beginning at about the fourth month it will be advisable to feed three times each day. A calf on full feed will be getting about all the grain that it will clean up at each feeding. A calf may occasionally go off feed.

If it does, let it miss a feed or two and then begin again by allowing it one-fourth to one-half full feed. After regaining its appetite the calf can be brought back into full feed again in three or four days time.

### Weights of Feeds

Feed	One Quart Weighs
Corn (shelled)	1.7 lbs.
Corn (ground)	1.5 lbs.
Corn and cob meal	1.4 lbs.
Barley (ground)	1.1 lbs.
Emmer (ground)	.9 lbs.
Oats (whole)	1.0 lbs.
Oats (ground)	.7 lbs.
Feed	One Quart Weighs
Rye (ground)	1.5 lbs.
Wheat (ground)	1.7 lbs.
Wheat bran	.5 lbs.
Cottonseed meal	1.5 lbs.
Linseed meal	1.1 lbs.
Soybeans	1.8 lbs.
Molasses	3.0 lbs.

The majority of members enrolled in baby beef will only be feeding one or two calves and will be practicing hand feeding. However, for those club members feeding four or five calves or more, consideration should be given to the possibility of self-feeding. Experienced feeders find that the self-feeder saves considerable labor and there are quicker, more economical gains.

Most experienced self-feeders start the calves directly at the feeder, but with oats, crushed corn and cob meal or a mixture of similar bulky feeds. Shelled corn, barley or sooner milo should be gradually increased in the mixture until the calves are on full-feed. Successful self-feeding requires a properly designed self-feeder, care in starting the cattle on feed, a good ration and the same care and regularity that is required in hand feeding.

### Feeding Heifer Calves

Feeding heifer calves in the breeding project differs somewhat from the feeding out of calves for baby beef; more growth and



A typical class of 4-H baby beeves shown at a county achievement day

not as high a degree of finish is required. Furthermore the feeding and management of the heifer entered in the club project would be different than growing and developing her in a herd of beef cattle, as the animal must carry a higher degree of fleshing and as she is shown in community fairs and possibly the state fair, she must be fitted properly, much the same as is the baby beef that is to be shown.

The heifer calf ought not to be weaned until she is eight months old. It is well to start her eating grain before weaning, whole oats being very good for this purpose, permitting her to have about two pounds daily. If on pasture no other roughage is necessary, but if the pasture is short or none is available allow her to have what alfalfa hay she will eat. As winter approaches gradually change the grain ration from oats to one of the following or to a ration similar.

	<b>No. 1</b>	
Corn (ground) .....	4 parts	(by weight)
Oats (ground) .....	3 parts	(by weight)
Linseed meal .....	1 part	(by weight)
	<b>No. 2</b>	
Corn (ground) .....	3 parts	(by weight)
Oats (ground) .....	2 parts	(by weight)
Wheat bran .....	1 part	(by weight)

Start with three pounds of this mixture daily and increase the amount gradually until the heifer is getting one pound of the mixture daily for each one-hundred pounds of live weight. As spring approaches the feed may be increased until the heifer is getting from  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  pounds of grain mixture for every one hundred pounds live weight. She should also have what alfalfa and silage she will clean up daily. The heifer should also have access to a good pasture during the summer but the feeding of the grain and alfalfa should be continued.

The heifer should be bred to a good purebred bull at 20 to 24 months of age.

## Keeping Records Important

Accurate feed and labor records should be maintained at all times. This is more systematically done where the club calf is fed by itself and where a batch of feed is weighed out for the calf. In making up the ration it is good business to use home grown feeds in-so-far as this is consistent with making rapid, cheap gains and putting finish on the calf. By feeding a ration composed of several feeds larger consumption and greater gains will result. In all sections of the State it will not be possible to secure a variety of concentrates but in those sections which are well adapted to baby beef production such a variety is not only possible but usually economical as well.

The club member is urged to utilize as much home-grown feed as will effectively work into a balanced adequate ration. Feed combinations should be selected that will give good results at reasonable cost.

## Use All the Home-Grown Feeds That Can Be Worked into Ration

### GRAINS

**Corn.** The greatest fattening feed for calves is corn. It is the most palatable and carries a high content of starch and oil. Corn forms the best concentrate for quickly filling the tissues of the steer's body with fat and thus rendering the lean meat tender and juicy. Since it is low in protein, it should be balanced in the ration with legume hay and a protein supplement. Generally the practice of getting the corn to the feeder cattle with the least amount of handling and preparation is the most profitable, where hogs follow the cattle. When fed to calves in the feed lot, shelled corn has produced more rapid gains than any other form in which the grain has been fed. Where hogs do not follow the cattle in the feed lot, the coarse grinding of corn is preferable.

**Sooner Milo.** Feeding trials conducted at the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station indicate that sooner milo grain makes an excellent feed for fattening steers. Two-year old steers made a gain of 2.7 pounds daily on ground sooner milo grain as compared to 3.0 pounds on shelled corn. Soybean oilmeal and alfalfa hay supplemented the concentrates in both lots. The milo fed steers required 65.2 pounds more feed per 100 pounds of gain than the shelled corn fed steers. Sooner milo grain may be satisfactorily substituted for corn as a feed for baby beef in all sorghum-grain surplus producing areas of the state. Sorghum grain should be coarsely ground for best results.

**Corn and Cob Meal.** At the Minnesota Experiment Station, a baby beef feeding experiment was conducted over a period of years, using different feeds. Quoting from these results, "Corn and cob meal did not surpass shelled corn in rate of gain when fed in combination with linseed meal, corn silage and alfalfa hay, but did excel shelled corn in economy of gain, degree of finish, selling price and profit per steer. The corn and cob meal ration proved excellent for starting the calves on feed and the calves did not at any time show indications of digestive trouble, such as bloating, scouring, or going 'off feed.'"

After the calves are on full feed, it is advisable to make the feed more concentrated by adding a bushel of shelled corn to each four bushels of ear corn when it is being crushed, and gradually increasing the amount of shelled corn in the mixture as the feeding period advances.

**Barley.** In some sections of the state it may be more advisable to feed barley rather than corn. In feeding tests conducted at the South Dakota Experiment Station barley, coarsely ground, was very satisfactory but not equal to corn for fattening feeder calves; it required 12 percent more barley than corn for the same amount of

gain. Very good results are obtained where coarsely ground barley comprises half the grain fed and coarsely ground corn the other half in the calf's ration. Barley tends to give the cattle added bloom and mellowness of flesh with less patchiness.

**Wheat.** In feeding value wheat per pound is equivalent to corn and slightly higher when ground. It is less palatable than the other grains, and if a large amount is fed, some difficulty may be experienced in keeping the cattle on feed. It is an excellent feed when used with other grains. Wheat is generally not fed unless it is low in price as compared to corn.

**Oats.** Oats is considered more of a growing feed than a fattening feed; it is valued more as a feed for beef calves before weaning or for getting calves on feed. It is generally high in price compared to other grains and on account of its high protein and fiber content its value as a fattening feed is materially reduced. Oats is excellent for growing cattle, but as the only grain in a ration for beef cattle it is worth 20 percent less than corn. On account of its bulkiness it should be used more heavily in the grain ration at the beginning of the feeding period and reduced as the feeding period advances. For best results it should be crushed or ground.

**Emmer or Spelt.** In an experiment carried on at the South Dakota Experiment Station emmer was found to be a very good fattening feed providing linseed meal was added. It takes about 125 pounds of emmer to replace 100 pounds of corn. Emmer closely resembles oats in composition and, therefore, should be especially useful in starting the calf on feed. It should be coarsely ground for feeder calves.

**Rye.** Cattle feeding trials conducted by the South Dakota Experiment Station indicate that rye as the only grain in a ration is a comparatively poor grain to fatten cattle. It is not palatable and its palatability was believed to be reduced by grinding. At

the Nebraska Experiment Station it is shown that when ground rye formed half of the grain ration fed to calves, it was entirely satisfactory and economical gains were obtained.

## ROUGHAGES

**Corn Silage.** Silage is a succulent feed that is revolutionizing beef cattle feeding. It has great value in cheapening the cost of beef production. Silage from well matured corn is the best silage for beef cattle. Such silage carries a high proportion of grain and helps to reduce the amount of concentrates needed. On a well balanced ration in which silage is the chief roughage, a steer will fatten rapidly and economically. It is not as a rule fed as the sole roughage but is fed in connection with some legume hay such as alfalfa.

**Alfalfa Hay.** This is a legume hay and is of great importance in balancing such grains as corn, barley and oats. It is rich in protein and ash, bone and muscle building elements, and it is very palatable. When fed with silage it makes an excellent roughage. However, if corn is being fed in the form of concentrates, corn silage may not be necessary when alfalfa hay is fed. Shelled corn and alfalfa hay make a satisfactory ration for cattle of all ages. If alfalfa is available it should by all means be included in the ration. Calves should be started gradually on alfalfa hay otherwise they may scour.

**Sweet Clover Hay.** Sweet clover hay is not as palatable as alfalfa hay but being a legume is relatively high in protein, mineral and vitamin. Fine stemmed leafy sweet clover hay is preferred; coarse woody hay being unpalatable and not as readily consumed. Avoid feeding moldy hay as such may result in the "Sweet Clover Disease."

**Prairie Hay.** This hay which is common in South Dakota may have a place in the fattening of steers. The feeding value is much higher than timothy hay. Prairie hay

is deficient in protein and should be supplemented with a high protein concentrate. The feeding of prairie hay with alfalfa is often practiced as a means of preventing scours.

**Corn Fodder.** This feed does not have a great deal of value as a fattening feed for feeder calves, but is more desirable in the wintering rations for breeding stock. If corn fodder is fed with legume hay, it may help to take the place of silage to a limited extent. In case of a feed shortage, corn fodder may be used in equal amounts to alfalfa, thus cheapening the ration.

**Sorghum Fodder.** Fodder cured from either the grain sorghums or the sorgos is valuable as a roughage for beef cattle where a legume hay or protein supplements are also fed. In some sections of the state where sorghum is grown it may be cured for fodder and used as a part of the roughage in the fattening ration.

**Sorghum Silage.** Although sorghum fodder is a satisfactory feed for baby beef, much more economical results are secured when used as silage. Various experiments show that in wintering mature cattle silage from grain sorghum produces nearly twice the gain per acre as compared to sorghum fodder. In feeding calves, 100 pounds of sweet sorghum silage (cane silage) was found to be equal to 87 pounds of corn silage. Sweet sorghum silage is generally worth less per ton for beef cattle than silage from grain sorghums, as it contains much less grain. However, in some parts of the state the greater yield of sweet sorghum or "cane," will more than make up this difference.

**Sudan Grass Hay.** The feeding value of sudan grass hay is about equal to that of prairie hay. It should not be used as the sole roughage in a fattening ration for cattle but gives best results when fed in connection with a legume roughage.

## PROTEIN SUPPLEMENTS

Usually 100 pounds of a protein supplement in a fattening ration for beef cattle will save from 250 to 300 pounds of corn. If 100 pounds of the supplement costs more than the grain it replaces, its value in the ration may be questioned where a legume hay and corn silage is being fed. In baby beef club work, however, it is generally profitable to include a protein supplement in the ration because of more rapid gains and a higher selling price for the steers.

**Linseed Meal.** Most experienced cattle feeders prefer linseed meal to cottonseed meal as a protein supplement, especially in a non-silage ration. It has a beneficial effect upon the digestive system of the cattle and gives them a sleeker appearance which usually results in a higher selling price. As a general practice it is not profitable to feed more than two pounds per animal daily at any time during the fattening period.

**Cottonseed Meal.** This is a rich concentrate that is widely used as a supplement to fattening rations deficient in protein. In feeding cottonseed meal care should be taken to include in the ration a green feed and an ample supply of calcium. Further, it should not be fed to calves under three or four months of age as it may produce some toxic effect in such young animals. Cottonseed meal is usually cheaper than linseed meal but is not as effective. A calf on full feed should not receive over two pounds of cottonseed meal daily as this should be sufficient to balance the ration. There is probably some advantage in feeding cottonseed cake as compared with cottonseed meal, especially when the calves refuse the meal at the start of the feeding period.

**Soybean Oil Meal.** During the past few years cattle feeders have shown increased interest in the feeding of soybean oil meal to cattle. In feeding trials in Illinois and Indiana, soybean oil meal was practically equal to cottonseed meal in value per ton.



According to feeding experiments at the Iowa Station, soybean oil meal did not produce quite as good a finish on fattening cattle as linseed oil meal, although slightly less feed was required per 100 pounds of gain. If the original cost warrants, soybean oil meal may readily replace other more common protein rich concentrates.

**Tankage.** Experiments conducted at the South Dakota Station indicate that tankage makes a satisfactory protein supplement for cattle. In feeding value it compares favorably with linseed or cottonseed oil meal. Sometimes cattle may not like tankage or meat scraps but if fed slowly at first with other grain, they will generally eat the one to two pounds necessary to balance their ration.

**Wheat Bran.** Since wheat bran is lower in protein than cottonseed or linseed meal, a larger amount is needed to balance a ration deficient in this nutrient. It is widely used by showmen.

**Flaxseed.** In certain sections of the state flaxseed is available as a protein supplement, but when used, it should by all means be ground. It is more difficult to feed than other supplements and care must be exercised in its feeding or calves will go off feed. At feeding trials at the South Dakota Experiment Station ground flaxseed proved an effective supplement in feeding baby heaves. The calves must be started on it gradually and when on full feed will consume approximately a half pound of ground flaxseed daily.

**Soybeans.** Where soybeans may be used as a protein supplement for fattening cattle, feeding them whole is preferable to feeding them coarsely ground or as a meal. Not more than two pounds per head daily should be fed. Cattle may tire of the beans after a 60 or 90 day feed and some other protein supplement should then be substituted for them.

**Protein Combination.** Feeding trials

have indicated that a variety of protein feeds will give faster gains somewhat more economically than any of the above mentioned protein feeds as the only supplement. This is especially true where alfalfa is not available. To those feeding a number of calves the following protein combination is recommended:

30 lbs. Cottonseed Oilmeal  
30 lbs. Soybean Oilmeal  
20 lbs. Tankage or meat scraps  
20 lbs. Linseed Oilmeal

### MISCELLANEOUS FEEDS

**Milk.** If the feeder calf has been weaned before being started on feed it loses its milk fat and with it some of its "bloom." This milk fat is never regained. More economical and rapid gains can be secured if the feeder calf is permitted to suckle a cow at least until it has learned to eat grain. Under practical commercial feeding conditions it is not economical to permit the baby beef to suckle after about eight months of age.

**Molasses.** Molasses has the same feeding value as corn. It is not a protein supplement. Usually it is too high in price to be fed economically under South Dakota conditions, but its price in comparison with corn or other grain should not be the deciding factor in its use. It stimulates the appetite causing the calves to eat more feed, and is therefore considered valuable by showmen and when used for this purpose ought not to be fed in amounts to exceed two pounds per head daily.

**Minerals.** In most sections of the state it will be advisable to allow baby-beef heifers or breeding animals access to a mineral mixture consisting of:

2 parts barrel salt  
4 parts ground limestone  
4 parts steamed bone meal

This mineral mixture should be placed in a feed-box in the lot, barn or pasture. Barrel salt should be available in addition to this mineral mixture.

Where fattening calves are getting a ration of corn, a protein supplement, prairie hay and silage, it is possible to fatten them without a legume hay by using finely ground limestone with a high calcium carbonate content to replace the hay. This was clearly demonstrated in a three-year feeding trial at the Kansas Experiment Station. The calves getting one-tenth of a pound of ground limestone per head daily in addition to the above feeds gained faster, cheaper, sold for slightly more money and returned a greater profit than those getting alfalfa hay.

**Salt.** Common barrel salt is the best kind of salt for a calf. This should not be mixed with the feed but should be kept in a separate box where the calf can get at the salt at any time. Common block salt is not as good as barrel salt for the reason that it is more difficult for the calf to secure the

proper amount. It should not be necessary for the calf to spend this extra time in licking at a solid block. Furthermore, block salt is more expensive than ordinary barrel salt. Too many times these blocks of salt are sold on the theory that they contain various kinds of tonics and medicines which are valuable to animals. In some cases sulphur has been added to block salt with an idea of keeping off flies, not off the salt but off the animal. Such a theory is absurd.

**Water.** It is extremely important that cattle have water at all times. A large part of the body is made up of water and cattle cannot take on flesh unless a sufficient amount of water is before them constantly. The water should be clean and fresh. In the winter time it should be warmed. The calf should not be expected to drink water out of a tank filled with ice.

## Care and Management

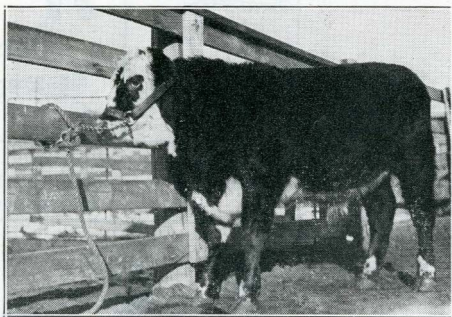
### Feeding Calf Should Be Kept in a Box Stall

The calf should be kept in a box stall. A calf that is being fattened should not be run; he will do much better if he has the run of a box stall. This need not be especially warm but needs only to be dry and the calf should be protected from rain, wind and snow. The stall should be cleaned out every day. Heavy bedding should be put in each day after the stall is cleaned. Bedding is cheap and helps to cut down the feed bill. The feed box should be low enough so that the calf can get at it easily.

During the winter months allow the calf a small lot for exercising during the day. When warmer weather approaches permit the calf the use of the dry lot at night, keeping him in the stall during the day.

When the flies make their appearance, darken the stall by tacking old sacks over

the windows and doors. Another practice that meets with a great deal of favor is to tack narrow strips of burlap to the ceiling of the stall (some, however, use full size sacks) and let them hang down far enough so that the calf can brush the flies off by



Breaking the beef to halter. The calf is tied up short permitting it to stand in a natural position so that it can neither choke itself nor get its feet over the tie rope.

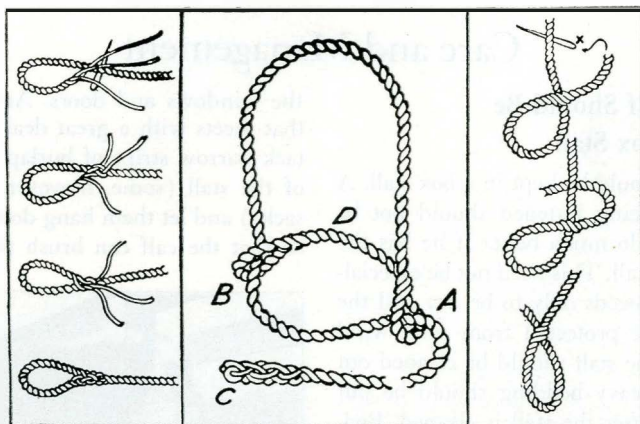
walking under them. Blanketing also helps to keep flies from bothering the calf.

**Castrating the Calf.** It is preferable to secure a calf that has been castrated but this may not always be possible. Calves used for baby beef are usually castrated when they are three to five months of age. This affords them a little better opportunity of developing than if they were castrated too young. Castration is an operation that should be performed by an experienced person. If a knife is used treat the wounds with an antiseptic solution. Too many calves have died as a result of blood poison castration. Keep the calf in a cleanly bedded stall and examine the scrotum daily for the first week after castration to make sure that the wounds are draining properly.

**Training the Calf to Lead.** A calf should

be broken to lead at a very early age ( ) not make the mistake of letting the calf go too long before this is done. He should first be taught to wear a halter and then be tied up for a while. After he is halter broke, you may start to lead him a little at a time. If he will not go forward when you attempt to lead him, turn him to one side. With a little practice and patience most calves will soon learn to be led. There are calves that are wild but they are the exceptions. Do not let the calf break away from you when leading him as he will attempt to do the thing again. After he has once been broken to lead he should be led quite frequently, every day if possible. A calf that leads well is a lot of satisfaction when taken into the show ring.

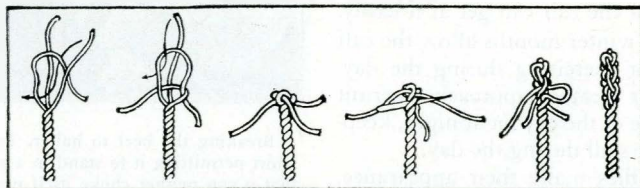
**STEPS IN MAKING A ROPE HALTER**



Steps in making eye splice B

Completed halter. A, eye splice; B, loop splice; C, crown knot; D nose piece.

Steps in making loop splice A

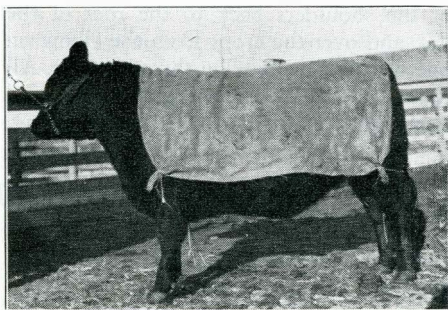


Steps in making crown knot C

**Making a Rope Halter.** A simple rope halter should be made by each club member for use in handling the calf. The calf will handle better with a rope halter than with an ordinary strap halter similar to a horse halter. Twelve feet of five-eighths inch rope will be sufficient for one halter. First make the loop splice and then the eye loop. The distance between the two should be 18 or 20 inches or long enough to serve as the nose piece; be careful not to allow too much rope for this purpose.

In making the loop splice raise two strands and pass the long end or lead rope through the opening under these strands, then raise two strands in the long part of the rope, and pass the short end of the rope through this opening. Then draw the ropes closely together. A marlin spike is merely a sharpened pin made out of a small piece of wood about six inches long and one-half inch in diameter. It makes a hole between strands through which to insert the ends of the strands.

In making the eye splice untwist a little of the short end of the rope, make a loop and place the strands in position with the two outside strands straddling the main rope and the middle strand running along the top of the rope. With the marlin spike raise any one of the strands as illustrated and pass the middle strand under it, diagonally to the right. Turn the main rope to the left and pass the left strand under the next strand of the main part of rope. Bring rope back into position as first held, raise the third strand of main part of rope and pass the right hand strand under it from the lower side so that the end comes out where the middle strand entered. Now pass each loose strand under but one strand of the main rope, completing the splice as shown. When the loop splice and eye loop are made insert the lead end of the rope through the eye loop first; that part goes over the neck back of the ears. Now insert the end of the rope through the loop splice and this part



A cheap, serviceable type of blanket for the baby beef

of the rope serves as the piece below the jaw. The eye loop and lead rope should be on the left side of the halter. An ordinary knot or crown knot should be put in this end of the rope to prevent it from raveling.

**Making a Blanket.** Flies will begin to get bad in June or July and if some other protection from them is not provided the calf will need a blanket. Blanketing the calf will also help to improve the handling quality of the skin, but calves which will show best with a heavy coat of hair should not be blanketed. Two burlap bags will produce a very serviceable blanket if cut open at the seam and sewed together along the longest edge. Two tie strings may be attached to each of the four corners of the blanket. The tie is then made by passing the strings around each leg and loosely tying them in a bow knot. Some may wish to use surcingles on the blanket, but they are not as desirable because they keep the blanket too close to the animal's body and do not permit as free circulation of air between the blanket and the body.

If desired, a more attractive blanket may be made from unbleached muslin or a light weight canvas. To determine the proper size of blanket to make, the club member should measure his calf lengthwise from a point about five inches in front

of the shoulders back to the root of the tail, and over the crops from the elbow on one side to the elbow on the other side. All the edges may then be folded back and thoroughly stitched to prevent fraying.

Some members may want to print the name of the calf, their own name or possibly the name of the club on the blanket. With the aid of some stencil letters, this can readily be done with a small brush and paint.

## Fitting and Showing

### Properly Trained Animal Has Advantage in Showing

The appearance, the condition and the behavior of the baby beef being shown at the fair or stock show effectively bring out the ability of the club member as a herdsman. The animal should present an attractive appearance because of its good conformation, its finished condition, its grooming and its training. It should become accustomed to being handled by strangers and ought not become unduly nervous from strange surroundings and noises. A properly trained animal that behaves well and

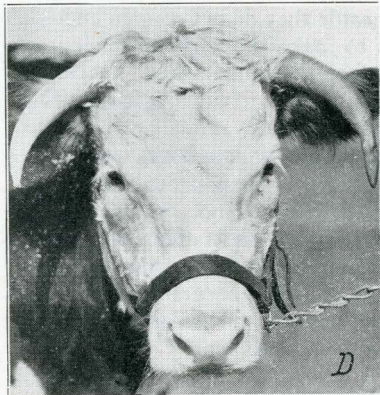
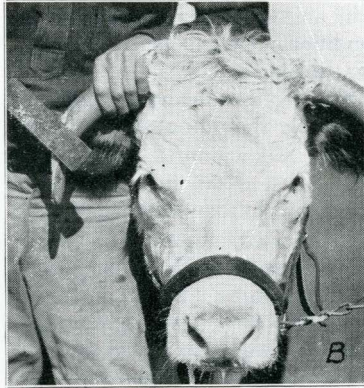
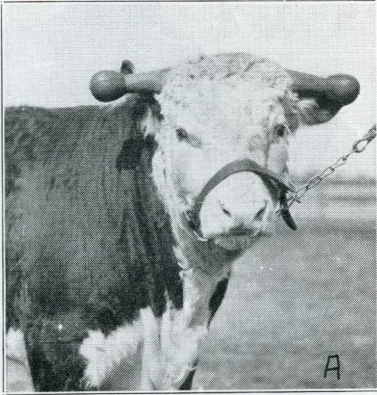
that stands correctly or poses has an advantage in the show and sale ring over one that is nervous, kicks or stands poorly.

In preparing baby beeves for the show ring many different things may be done to improve their general appearance. However, such things should be within the permissible practices and one should not resort to such a thing as "plugging" an animal. The animal should be groomed frequently; this need not necessarily be done with a curry-comb but with a brush, the idea being to clean the animal and to soften up the hide. If a curry-comb is used it is liable to cut the hair and pull some of it



A chute like this makes feet trimming and other jobs easy

## SHAPING, TRIMMING AND POLISHING THE HORNS



- (A.) Horn weights are used to improve the symmetry and curvature of the horns.  
 (B.) The rasp is used for the greater part of the trimming after the scaly portions have been removed with a knife. (C.) Sandpapering the horn to secure greater smoothness.  
 (D.) The right horn is properly trimmed and polished, the left horn is still in the rough. (Courtesy U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

out. A good bath once every two weeks is beneficial. Use plenty of water with tar soap. Rub the hair with the hand or brush so as to loosen all the dirt particles. After the water and soap are removed a solution of dip may be applied. Some animals should be shown with hair curled while others will present the best appearance if shown smooth.

### Skillful Feeding Necessary In Preparing for Show

Cattle being prepared for show must be handled and fed somewhat differently than those being fed for ordinary market. The cost of feed is not given as much consideration when cattle are being prepared for show as in connection with market animals.

Skillful feeding is necessary in preparing an animal for show. It is usually necessary to feed an animal longer to put him in show condition, than if he were going directly to the market.

While corn is one of the best of fattening feeds it probably should not be used quite as heavily for a show animal as for a market animal. Linseed oil meal produces a much better finish than cottonseed meal and should be used in place of it in the show animal's ration. Milk is the greatest of all feeds for putting a bloom and finish on animals. However, some states have ruled against feeding milk to 4-H calves after they have become 10 months of age. Roughages such as silage and hay can be used in large amounts for market cattle but for show cattle they do not contain enough nutrients to make the high finish desired and, therefore, the animal should not be fed too heavily on these two roughages. The grain rations for show animals will have to be increased and the roughages cut down. In some cases it is necessary to add an appetizer in the form of molasses to the feed of show animals. The rations previously suggested may be used with the exception that larger amounts of grain or concentrates could be used and the animal should be fed three times daily.

**Care of the Feet.** Do not neglect the feet of the animal to be shown; unless the feet are properly trimmed it may be difficult for it to stand squarely. When trimming the feet tie the animal in a stall or alongside a board fence as illustrated. A heavy rope is passed horizontally along the animal's body, the ends tied securely to the fence or stall so as to hold the animal in place. If a dehorning chute is available for this work all the better. If preferred, the animal may be thrown and tied in order to trim the feet.

In trimming the feet use a hoof knife or a heavy pocket knife and a rasp. In using the knife trim the lower edge of the outer wall



In clipping the head of the Aberdeen Angus, it is clipped in front of the line shown around the neck. (Courtesy of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

of the hoof so it is about level with the sole always cutting toward the toe. When the hoof has grown rather long it may be necessary to first use a hoof pinchers. In trimming down the toe with a pinchers place the dull or blunt side of the pinchers on the outside wall of the toe. Be careful not to cut the hoof too short so as to cause soreness and lameness, for an animal that walks lame is at a disadvantage. After trimming down the toe sufficiently, level the sole of the foot with the rasp. The hoofs may then be scraped or smoothed off with sandpaper and polish with oil such as linseed oil.

**Care of Horns.** The Shorthorn or Hereford beeves are more attractive if their horns are properly grown out, that is, symmetrical and nicely curved.

A plain headed individual or one with rough poorly shaped horns does not attract the eye of either judge or buyer. On the Shorthorn, the horns are short and they curve forward with the tips pointing slightly downward. The horns on the Here-

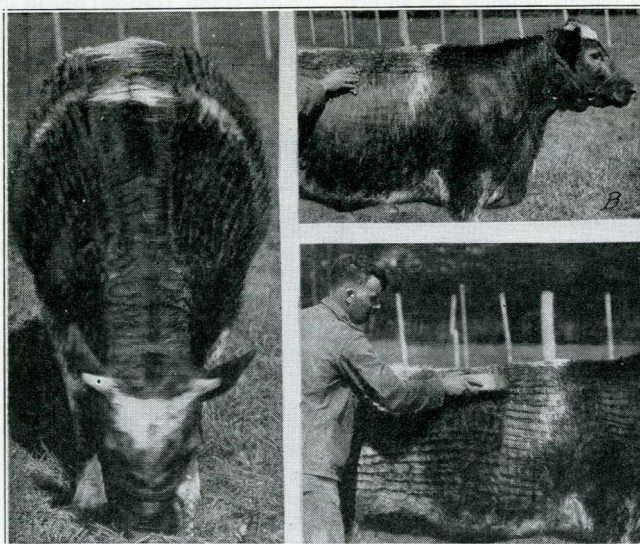
are of medium size, extend out at right angles from the head and curve downward and slightly forward. On some individuals it may be necessary to use horn weights or a horn trainer in order to secure symmetry and proper curvature to the horns. Do not use the weights while the horns are young and soft. Start with a light weight, one weighing a half pound, and if the horns yield too rapidly remove the weights for a period of two or three weeks, and then apply them again until the desired effect is obtained. Some stockmen use one-half or three-fourths pound weights keeping them on the horns for a week, removing them for four days and then repeating the process. When the horn gets below the level of the top of the head the ultimate direction of its growth is usually determined. Where necessary to weight or

train the horns, the club member should consult some stockman who has had experience in doing this, as it requires study, experience and skill to secure the desired results.

Horns of medium size, properly shaped and neatly polished are attractive and an indication of quality in the animal. In polishing the horns follow the practice outlined in the illustrations. Smooth off the rough surfaces with a sharp knife, then with a rasp or horn scraper, and rub smooth with a fine emery paper. The horns may then be polished with a woolen cloth moistened with linseed oil or sweet oil, applying plenty of "elbow grease" in so doing. The horns will then present a clean waxy appearance.

**Clipping and Curling the Hair.** What clipping is necessary should be done a week

#### STEPS IN FITTING THE SHORTHORN



(A.) The hair is parted along the back before curling. (B.) Making parallel lines along the side to curl the hair. (C.) Brushing up the tips of the hair to give the fluffy, wavy appearance. (Courtesy U. S. Department of agriculture.)



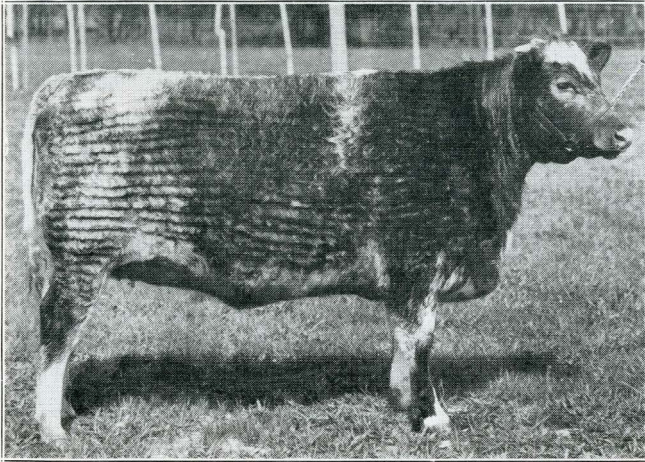
or 10 days before showing. The heads of the Aberdeen-Angus and Red Polled are clipped in front of a line around the neck about three inches back of the ears. Do not clip the hair on the inside of the ears, the eyelashes or the hair about the muzzle. The polled Hereford head is also sometimes clipped but the heads of the horned cattle are not. The tails of all beef breeds except Galloway are clipped. Care should be taken to leave a good switch. Starting a little above the switch or the lower end of the twist clip the tail up to the head, being careful to have the clipping blend smoothly at the tail head.

For two weeks prior to showing be sure to brush the animal thoroughly each day. The final brushing on short haired animals (Aberdeen-Angus and Red Polled) is made in the same direction as the hair following the brush with the bare hand each time as this draws the oil to the tip of the hair. Short haired animals are shown with the hair smooth and if it does not have the desired glossy appearance apply a little separator oil (any mineral oil) to a woolen

cloth and rub the hair down following the hand to give it the proper gloss.

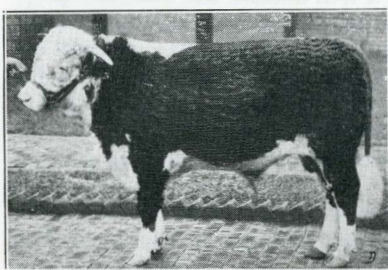
The final brushing for the long haired animals (Shorthorn, Hereford and Galloway) is made against the direction of the hair so as to make it more fluffy. Herefords are generally shown with the hair curled while Shorthorns may or may not be. It is well for the club member with a Hereford or Shorthorn animal to practice this curling beforehand so that by the time the animal is to be shown the curling can be done quickly and properly. Angus are shown with the hair curled over the thigh and round and over the shoulder and neck with a smooth side and back.

An hour before the animal is to be shown moisten the hair with a weak solution of dip, being careful not to get the hair too wet. The hair over the back from in front of the shoulder to the tail should be parted along the backbone and, with a coarse comb, combed out to the edge of the flat part of the back on each side of and at right angles to the backbone. An ordinary straight lined 8-rowed curry comb with



A properly fitted Shorthorn. Note the wavy appearance of the hair. (Courtesy U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

## FITTING THE HEREFORD



(A.) Clipping the hair from the tail. (B.) The round spring comb is used to curl the hair. (C.) Catching the tips of the hair or combing up to give the wavy appearance. (D.) A well fitted Hereford. (Courtesy U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

every other row of teeth flattened down  
 makes a good marking comb for lining the hair. Line the hair from in front of the shoulders to the back of the round, starting the first line slightly below the outer edge of the flat portion of the back; when the hair is later brushed up the end of the hair along this first line will curl up even with the level part of the back and thus give it a wider appearance. Make the lines parallel. After the hair has been lined, it may be brushed up with a stiff brush or a Scotch comb, leaving it in distinct wavy lines as desired.

Brush up the hair on the flanks or any defective places so as to make them appear fuller. Often times the hair on the Hereford is curled or marcelled. A round spring curvy comb is used, the outer two rows or

springs being bent to a point. The wavy effect is made by a zig-zagging pull on the comb starting from the level of the top line and continuing downward to the level of the underline. The tips of the hair may or may not be brushed up following this procedure.

### Train to Lead and Stand; Should Stand Squarely

Train the animal to lead and to stand; it should be properly fitted with a halter and led a little each day. Cattle are always led from the left side. Pose the animal frequently as if it were being shown and it will soon learn to stand in this pose. Teach the animal to stand squarely on all four feet; don't permit it to stand stretched out as

this makes a sagging back. Its head should not be held higher than natural for the animal. If the animal is well trained beforehand to lead and stand, this will be made easier. A long, light stick is carried in showing beef cattle and by slightly pressing an end of this stick between the toes or on the top of the hoof of the animal its feet can usually be placed correctly. The club member should always be on the alert to have his animal present the best possible appearance to the judge.

**At the Fair and in the Show Ring.** If the animal is well finished and fitted and properly trained, there is not much more for the showman to do except keep a watchful eye on his animal. In moving the animal to the fair or show be careful not to overheat it or unduly excite it. Cut down on the amount of feed at the last feeding and just prior to moving it. Upon arriving at the fair, do not feed it heavily but first of all give it plenty of water, if it is not too hot, and a little hay. After a rest of an hour or two it may be given a feed of grain, and try to follow the same regular schedule of feeding as was practiced at home.

While at the fair give the animal plenty of exercise each day; this can best be done early each morning. If the animal refuses its feed, let it miss a feed or two; the chances are its appetite will come back strong.

When your class is called for the show

ring, have your animal well fitted and ready to enter the ring when the last call is made. Regardless of how well an animal has been fitted it will seldom win in the show ring if carelessly shown. Often a good showman with a somewhat inferior individual will win over a better individual poorly shown. Stay on the left side of your animal when you lead it, hold it or show it. When in the show ring stand on the left side of the animal, face the inside of the ring, holding the animal with your left hand. Watch your animal and watch the judge.

After standing in the show ring for some time an animal will often become tired and restless. This may be overcome by leading the animal around and bringing it back into position when it is not being examined by the judge. However, when the judge is examining an animal or whenever there is a possibility that he may be about ready to do so, the animal should be in place and standing properly.

When in the show ring be a good sport. Remember you are a stockman and a gentleman. Don't criticize the judge's decision; he has had an opportunity to carefully pass on all the animals in the ring and his judgment is final. Thank the person who has given you a ribbon and demonstrate that it is the animal that won it and not you by putting the ribbon on the animal instead of on yourself.

## The Range Cow-Calf Project

The range cow-calf project is designed to fit livestock production conditions and practices in the range area of South Dakota. The 4-H club member, not favorably situated to breed out a baby-beef or to enroll in the purebred beef heifer project, may find the cow-calf project to his liking. The project is practical in much of the central and western areas of the state and gives the club member an opportunity to build a

herd of his own at a nominal cost.

The project begins with the purchase of a bred cow or a heifer. The purchase of the bred cow is preferred as by this method a return on the money invested is realized at an early date. Whether to start with a bred cow or a heifer, however, may depend on the individual member, method of financing the purchase, the beef cattle cycle, feed and equipment.

## 7 Animals With Purebred Sires Should Be Selected

Many of the factors previously discussed in selecting foundation stock for the purebred beef cattle project and in selecting a satisfactory feeder-calf for the baby-beef project are also applicable in the selection of animals for the cow-calf project. Although little emphasis can be placed on pedigree, only those animals should be selected that were sired by a purebred quality sire. The individual should be a high-grade animal in every respect, being true to breed type. In general the animal should be deep and wide of body, straight and strong of back, deep and wide of loin, smooth over the tail head with excellent depth and width of quarters, straight legs and ample bone. The animal should exhibit symmetry of body throughout with adequate quality,

smoothness and femininity. Color markings should be characteristic of the breed. The head should be short and wide. The udder should be examined to be sure it is sound with four well formed teats.

**Breeding Practices.** In western South Dakota calves are dropped from April 1 to May 15 with the majority coming the latter part of April. The club member should plan to have his calves dropped as early as possible as such calves are generally grown out better by fall and will make a better showing in the show ring. If the member must range calves, April 15 is the earliest safe date, however, if adequate shelter is available calves may be dropped the latter part of March. If calves are not desired before April 15 the bull would be turned in about July 7. The gestation period is 283 days. Fall calving should be avoided, as such is conducive to heavy winter losses.



Good Range Produces Beef Economically

Heifers should be bred so that they are at least 27 months of age before they drop their first calf. Earlier calving tends to retard the growth of the individual and it is likely that she may never reach her maximum size.

It has been previously indicated that the bull plays a most important part in the production of quality feeder steers or breeding heifers. The ideal range bull should exhibit masculinity throughout, should be deep and wide with a straight, strong, well fleshed back, deep loin and well developed hind quarters. He should have a wide spring of rib, smooth shoulders with ample width of forequarter as such indicates desirable constitution. Legs should be strong, straight and relatively short.

The number of cows per bull will be influenced by the age and condition of the bull and the class of range. Younger bulls may be placed in small pastures where there are no old bulls, with only 10-15 cows per bull. The average cattleman in western South Dakota allots one bull to twenty-five cows. Larger operators often divide the range with 100 cows and four bulls per pasture. Under extensive range condition this tends to increase the calf crop. The maintaining of the breeding cow in good natural flesh is also conducive to a high calf crop. The breeding herd should be pastured separate from the steers.

**Range Management.** The method of management will vary with the location, range, equipment, feed and water available and size of herd. In western South Dakota, however, it is the common practice to permit the beef herd to graze on range throughout the year, so far as weather conditions will permit. Good winter and summer grazing provides the cheapest gains on calves and maintenance of the breeding herd. Factors that may be considered in providing adequate pasture are as follows:

1. Avoid over-grazing. Regulate the number of cattle so that about 20 percent of the

forage cover is left as a safety factor for drought years and increased forage production every year.

2. Distribute the cattle uniformly over the range or pasture area. This can be accomplished by placing salt boxes in places least grazed by livestock, herding, draft fences and by proper distribution of water facilities as dams or wells.

3. Utilize the pasture or range area during the proper grazing season, keeping in mind when the forage is most nutritious and palatable and when reproduction will be least interfered with.

4. Do not practice continued year around grazing as continued removal of forage weakens the plant root system and the plant eventually dies.

5. Practice deferred grazing on a portion of the ranch unit each year under a plan so as to at some time have applied deferred grazing to the entire ranch unit. This allows the grass to seed and new plants will be produced.

6. Do not allow trails to become permanent.

7. Remember that any grazing system as deferred, rotational, etc., does not reduce the available forage for cattle but limits the season of the year it will be available.

8. Grasses are our most nutritious and palatable forage plants. With proper range and pasture management practices grasses will replace weeds and unpalatable range forage plants.

If sufficient range is available it is generally best to run the cows, heifers and steers in separate pastures. This is essential as the heifers may "take up" and calve too young. Further, steers are often an annoyance to breeding cows during periods of heat.

**Castration.** Bull calves should be castrated when three months old or younger. If delayed until six months or more they will in many instances annoy other cattle in the herd. If delayed too long, a crest begins to develop, the horns become larger at

base and even after castration such individuals will be "staggy" in appearance, which is an objectional characteristic. The operation may be performed by an experienced person, if common-sense rules of cleanliness are applied.

### **Brands Are Registered With State Brand Office, Pierre**

On the range, branding with a hot iron is the most common method of ownership identification. The brand used should be recorded through the State Brand Office at Pierre, South Dakota. The use of the liquid branding fluid is to be discouraged unless the individual is quite experienced. The acid is liable to run and result in a smeared brand difficult to read. Calves are branded by either roping, throwing and tying or by running into a branding-chute.

Occasionally earmarks or dewlap marks are used for identification on the range. Earmarks are made by splitting the ear, by cutting off squarely a small portion of the ear called "cropping" or by removing a V-shaped portion from the upper or lower edge of the ear. Dewlap marks are made by cutting a strip of hide on the dewlap.

Branding, however, with the registered hot iron is recommended to these methods of identification.

**Dehorning.** Calves should be dehorned when small. Calves in good condition that are to be well cared for during the winter may be dehorned late in the fall, otherwise it may be well to wait until the following spring. In the absence of a dehorning chute the calf may be thrown and held firmly. Care should be taken in removing the horn to take a strip of skin at least one-quarter of an inch wide and extending around the horn, otherwise, an odd shaped horn may grow out. Apply pine tar to the wound. For young stock the dehorning clipper may be used, but for older stock a small hand saw is best.

In small herds under close supervision, the caustic soda or potash may be used. This system is only on very small calves where "buttons" are present. The hair is clipped around the button or small undeveloped horn and petrolatum or vaseline applied to prevent the caustic from coming in contact with the skin. The end of the caustic to be held in the hand should be wrapped with paper and the other end slightly moistened. The moistened end is then rubbed on the undeveloped horn. Two or three applications are necessary, the caustic being allowed to dry after each application.

Many ranchers also use the "dehorning spoon" on small calves with undeveloped horns. The horn button is merely gauged out with this instrument and pine tar applied to the wound.

**Weaning.** Calves may be weaned at the age of from seven to nine months, by separating them from the cows and confining them in pastures or corrals that will prevent their escape. It will generally be necessary to drive the cows and calves into a corral to sort out the calves and then drive the cows back to their range and confine them out of sight and hearing of their calves. Holding pastures fence tight help materially at weaning. Castration and branding may be completed at the time of weaning.

**Winter Feeding.** Although the rancher is dependent on good winter grazing, some supplementary winter feeding is required in most areas. The extent of the supplementary feeding will be governed by the severity of the winter and the amount of snow. The kind of feed will be determined by the types produced in the particular locality.

Breeding cows should be wintered as cheaply as possible without interfering with their breeding capacity. Grazing may be continued as long as the cows remain strong or until a large amount of snow makes

grazing impossible. Supplementary roughage may well consist of prairie hay, cane-fodder or straw. Ten to twelve pounds of roughage with one pound of a protein concentrate per day should carry the breeding cow through the winter in good condition. Many cattlemen find it desirable to supplement the grass with one to two pounds of a protein supplement, as cottonseed cake, during cold winters as the cows remain stronger and have less difficulty in calving.

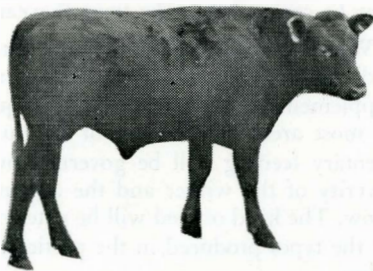
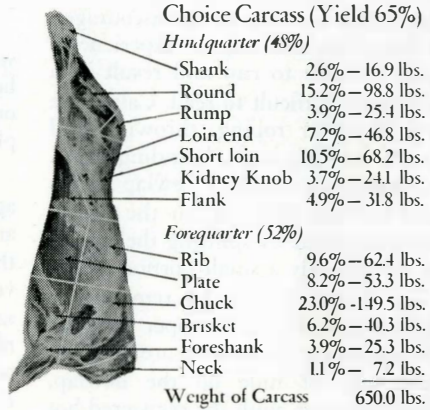
Calves that are weaned in the fall should be fed liberally during the winter as they

make better use of their feed than w... older. The feed should be of the best quality. Calves may utilize range near the ranch buildings that was not grazed during the previous summer. In a severe winter the calves may be kept at the ranch buildings in a corral with a shed and fed good quality roughage supplemented with a half to a pound of protein concentrate as cottonseed cake or 6-10 pounds of oats.

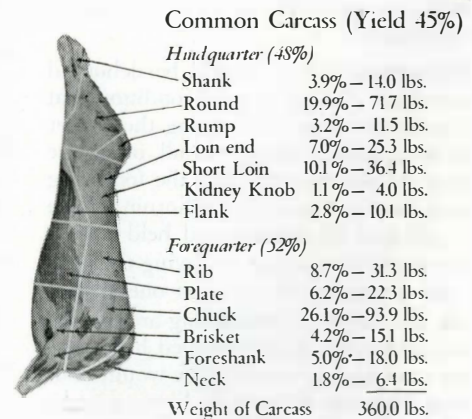
Yearling steers and heifers are not generally fed as liberally as calves. Such stock must be wintered cheaply to insure profit



Choice Butcher Steer  
1000 lbs. at \$12.00 equals \$120.00



Common Butcher Steer  
800 lbs. at \$9.00 equals \$72.00



You will get more meat from a good butcher animal

holding them. Most stock will be sold as yearlings or two year olds. Under present marketing conditions few steers on the

range area will be kept and sold as three year olds. Grass supplemented by certain roughages will constitute the major ration.

## Dressed Beef

### Pictures Live Animal As Cuts of Meat

When a baby-beef is being examined in the show ring, the judge pictures in his mind the manner in which the animal will cut out after being killed and dressed. Likewise the buyer of fat cattle on the market or auction pictures the fat animal in his mind in the form of wholesale and retail cuts. The buyer can estimate to within a fraction of one percent what the live animal will yield as a dressed carcass. The chart on Pg. 30 compares the choice butcher steer with the common butcher steer in value of steer on the hoof, the carcass yields and the

percentage of wholesale and retail cuts.

It will be noted that the choice 1,000 pound steer at \$12 per hundred is worth \$120 on the hoof as compared to \$72 for the common butcher steer weighing 800 pounds at \$9 per hundred. The choice steer yields 65 percent or 650 pounds of carcass, while the common butcher steer yields 45 percent or 360 pounds of carcass. Not considering cost of butchering or value of by-products the choice steer carcass costs the buyer 18.4 cents per pound as compared to 20 cents for the common steer carcass. The choice steer returns \$48 more to the grower than the common steer. This difference is due largely to breeding and feeding.

## Marketing

By GEORGE E. ANDERSON\*

### Continuous Study of Markets Is Important

Continuous study of livestock markets is equally as important as it is to master the problems of beef cattle breeding, feeding and management. The future of the cattle market is the first consideration to the prospective cattle feeder. 4-H club members and cattle feeders should study the market trends and cycles for both feeder and fat cattle, for the old saying still holds good that "feeder cattle well bought are half sold."

### Three Types of Movements In Price Fluctuations

A study of price fluctuations reveals three types of movements; a tendency to

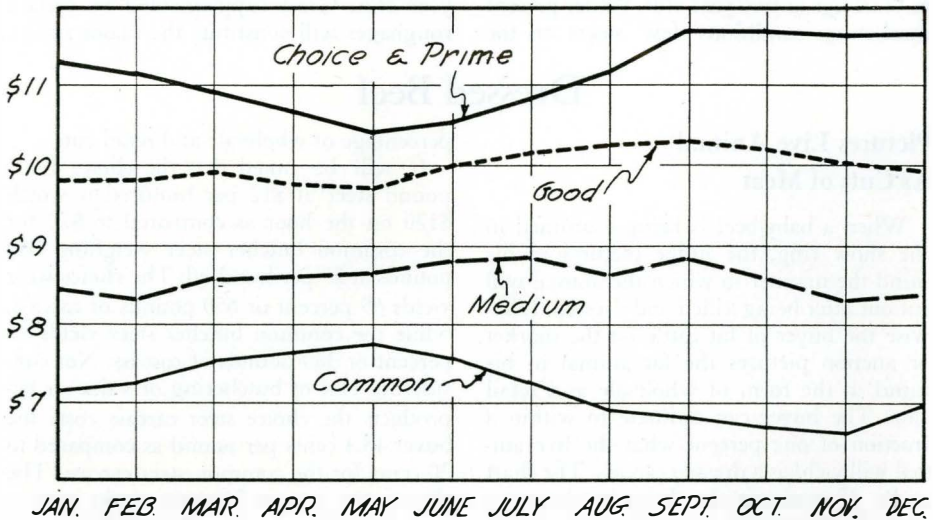
*\*Extension Economist*

change in a given direction called a "trend," a more or less regular "up and down" called a "cycle," and changes that take place within a year called "seasonal variations." The cycle movement and trend in prices can be forecast to a certain extent. Farmers usually go into cattle when they are high in price and out when they are low in price, causing cycles in production. The length of these cycles has varied greatly, the average being about fourteen years. When cattle numbers are increasing and herds are being built up, fewer cattle go to market and the trend in prices is upward. The reverse is true when farmers start to cut down their herds.

The knowledge of the cattle cycle and its effect upon price will give the grower a basis on which to plan an expansion or curtailment program. In times of war or under other abnormal conditions, these



## SEASONAL VARIATION IN PRICES OF BEEF STEERS



This chart shows the average price of slaughter steers in Chicago for the years 1922-1940. Note that the better grades of beef steers have averaged highest in price in the fall and early winter. Common steers averaged highest in price in the spring. Through courtesy of the department of agricultural economics extension service, University of Illinois.

statements may not apply. It may become necessary for the government to support prices to secure increased production or to set allotments to stabilize production and marketing.

Seasonal price variations are due to changes in numbers of cattle marketed from one month to the next. The season of greatest cattle slaughter is during the fall when grass cattle are most plentiful. This large supply of grass cattle is offset somewhat by the practice of cattle feeding, which brings about a more even distribution of beef supplies during the year. The heavy movement of range and grass cattle reaches its greatest volume in October and runs into December. The movement of fed cattle, although continuing throughout the year, increases during the fall, winter and spring months, and reaches its peak usually in May. The supply, then, shifts from fed cattle the first half of the year to

grass cattle during the second half. This shift in the supply causes seasonal fluctuations in prices.

### Most Fed Cattle Sold Late Winter and Spring

Ordinarily during the late winter and spring when the largest proportion of fed cattle come to market, prices for such cattle average the lowest of the year. Choice and prime grades usually average the highest during the late summer and fall. Prices of common and other lower grades of cattle are usually highest during the spring when market supplies of such cattle are the scarcest and tend to work to lower levels as the supply of grass cattle increases, usually reaching the lowest of the year in November. The narrowest spread in prices between all grades of cattle exists in the spring of the year. Prices of the better grades decline at this time due to heavy supplies, and

prices of the lower grades rise due to smaller supplies. The spread becomes very wide in the late summer and fall as the prices of the better grades advance and prices of the lower grades decline.

It isn't always wise to plan production so as to hit the market in the season of highest prices. In many cases such a production plan would increase costs more than enough to offset the gain from higher prices. But a careful study of seasonal variations in prices and supplies will help farmers plan production so as to hit the market which ordinarily offers the greatest opportunity for profits, considering both production costs and probable sale prices.

### Working Knowledge of Market Class, Grades Valuable

A working knowledge of market classes and grades of cattle helps the livestock producer to interpret market demands, and to sell his stock most advantageously. Knowing grades helps the producer to follow the market quotations which he receives by market letter, market papers, or radio. If there is a change in market prices it does not mean that all grades of stock will fluctuate in the same manner or to the same extent. When the stockman knows cattle grades the market fluctuations can be interpreted in the light of his own stock.

The grading of livestock has not been as fully developed as the grading of grain. Since livestock is of an entirely different character than grain, it cannot be measured by mechanical methods as is grain. Then again, the wide range in kind, quality, and conditions of livestock makes it very difficult to grade by description.

The United States Department of Agriculture has worked out standard grades for cattle and calves. These grades are not official in that the cattle industry does not have to accept them, but it is desirable that a uniform grading system be adopted all

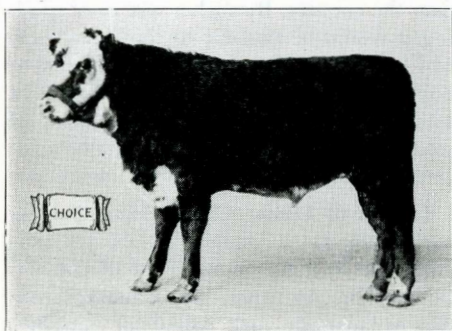
over the country. By such a system of grading it would be possible to compare prices of like grades all over the country and to buy without seeing the animals. While in some instances feeder cattle are bought and sold on description, the great majority of cattle change hands only after inspection.

**Grades of Feeder Calves:** Feeder calves and cattle, as the name implies, are purchased to feed out or finish for the fat cattle market. At times, when market conditions warrant, cattle suited for slaughter may be taken out to the feed lot and fed out as more highly finished beef. Feeder calves are graded as fancy, choice, good, medium, plain and inferior.

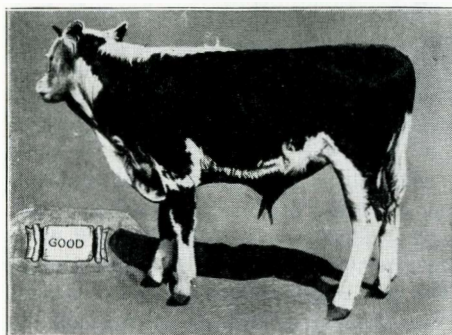
Fancy feeder calves are of strictly beef breeding, being superior in conformation, quality and covering. They are lowset, blocky, deep, thick and compact with a straight top and underline; the head is short and wide with a large muzzle. The neck is short, the crops full, the back and loin are wide and this width of topline is carried uniformly to the tailhead; the flank is low, the twist deep, and the rounds plump. The hide is soft and pliable, there is a firm, even covering of flesh or calf fat, and the individual shows quality and refinement throughout.

**Choice** feeder calves are of good beef breeding, possessing a high degree of conformation, quality, and covering. As compared to the fancy grade the descriptive term "moderate" may be used in describing or referring to the quality, the covering, and to the parts of the conformation.

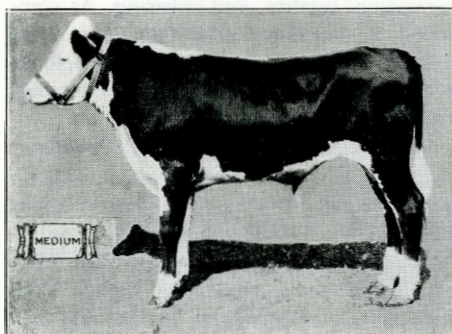
**Good** feeder calves are of beef breeding, carrying fairly good conformation, quality, and covering. They are of strictly beef type, but may be slightly too coarse or too refined, and the straightness and uniformity in width of topline may vary slightly. The hide is not as pliable as in the first two grades and they lack a little in uniformity in covering or fleshing.



Choice grade feeder calf



A good grade feeder calf



A medium grade feeder calf

**Medium** feeder calves have the markings of the beef breeds but may possess a trace of dairy breeding. They are deficient in conformation, quality and covering, being more angular, having a slightly longer head and neck, do not have as full a spring of rib and the rump may be narrow or peaked. They lack uniformity and what the feeder terms "balance." The hide is thicker and not as pliable.

**Plain** grades of feeder and stocker steers are poor in conformation, finish and quality. They are usually relatively small for their age—breed and type considered—and indicate in their appearance a rather low degree of thrift and vitality. Animals of this grade are either very coarse or very refined in their general appearance, and the bones of the legs are very coarse or much too refined. The hair is frequently dry and harsh. The fleshing over the shoulders, crops, back, loin, and rump is thin, and the outlines of the bones in these parts are usually readily perceptible. The fleshing is usually unevenly distributed over these parts. Animals of this grade are usually poor in their general appearance and frequently show the effects of poor breeding and care.

**Inferior** grade feeder and stocker steers are very deficient in conformation, finish and quality. They indicate in their general appearance that they are very small for their age—breed and type considered. The hide is frequently very tight and is not pliable. The hair is usually very coarse and dry. The shoulders are frequently coarse, and the bones of the shoulders, back, ribs, loin, and rump are very prominent indicating a very thin covering of flesh. In general appearance, animals of this grade have a poor general appearance and indicate very poor breeding and care.

## Seven Grades of Slaughter Steers

**Grades of Fat Steers:** There are seven grades of slaughter steers:

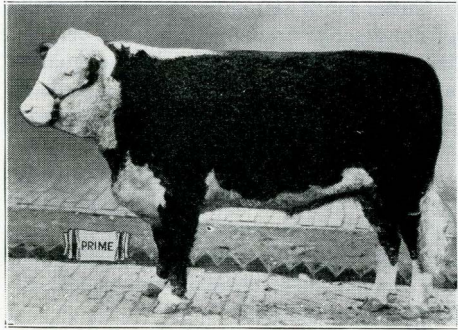
**Prime steers** are those that have reached such a degree of finish that there is little room for criticism. They are of exceptionally good beef breeding quality. A prime steer is very refined, has small bones in relation to his size, and the hide and hair are of fine quality. In conformation, the animal is blocky, compact, deep, broad with a thick covering of fat that is firm, smooth and well distributed. The head is short and broad, the neck is short and thick and the legs are short and set wide apart.

**Choice steers** are of pure beef breeding and approach the prime steers in conformation, finish, and quality, except that they are lacking somewhat in the degree of finish and quality, keeping them out of the prime grade.

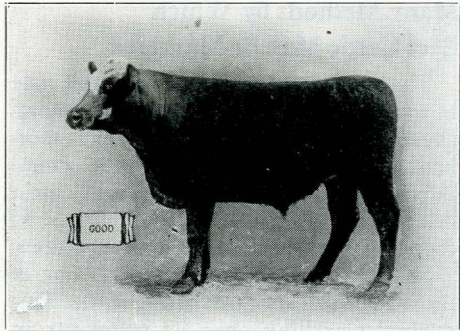
**Good slaughter steers** are not so good in conformation, finish and quality. Although they are generally good beef type breeding, they may show slight traces of the dairy type. They are blocky and compact and have a good covering of flesh. The good grade steers begin to show a slight coarseness not found in prime and choice grades.

**Medium grade slaughter steers**, while they show beef type breeding, may have considerable dairy breeding. They are usually deficient in conformation, finish and quality. They show a tendency to become rangy, coarse and angular, with a thin covering of flesh which is unevenly distributed, especially showing thinness in the region of the choicest cuts. They are quite numerous in most markets and often go as feeders instead of for slaughter when the feeder demand is strong.

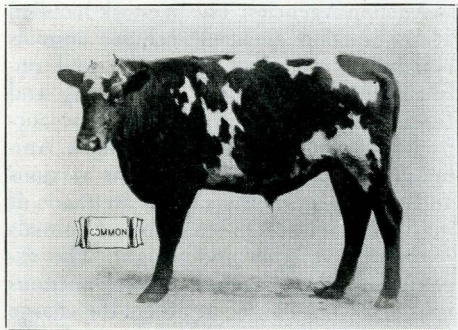
**Plain or Common grade slaughter steers** are of common or inferior breeding. They are decidedly lacking in conformation, finish, and quality. They are rangy, angular, very coarse; and while poor in flesh, they have just enough to be classed as beef.



A prime grade slaughter steer



A good grade slaughter steer



A common grade slaughter steer

**Cutter** grade slaughter steers are usually of nondescript breeding. They are very inferior in conformation, finish, and quality, and carry sufficient flesh in some parts of certain cuts which sell over the block to a cheaper trade.

**Low cutters** are usually the scrubs of the crop with no particular breeding. They are so low in quality that the carcass is boned and sold either as canned or diced beef. On the market these animals are usually referred to as "canners."

These grade names of slaughter steers apply also to slaughter heifers, cows and bulls, with the exception that in the case of bulls, prime and low cutter are not used.

### Many Methods by Which Beef Cattle May Be Marketed

There are many ways in which cattle may be marketed. The most common marketing agencies are farmers, dealers or local markets, livestock auction agencies, the central public market, packing plants, retail meat dealers doing their own slaughtering, and cooperative livestock shipping associations.

**Selling to Local Buyers:** This is one of the earliest forms of marketing cattle. This method of selling owes its popularity in part to the fact that the farmer can sell one or more of his cattle to the local buyer, receiving cash for the animals and the buyer assumes all the risk in marketing.

**Auction Agencies:** The livestock handled at the auction agencies includes animals bought for slaughter, immature and unfinished animals bought for grazing and feeding, and breeding animals. Some auctions feature certain kinds of livestock. Animals are sold by the head at some auctions and by weight at others. Sales are made of individual animals or small lots of animals of uniform quality and weight. The expense for selling livestock at some auctions is at a per head basis; at others the charge is based on a percentage of the total sale. Public regulation and supervision are pri-

marily for the purpose of controlling animal diseases. Some states require the testing of scales, licensing of auctions, licensing of weigh-masters, bonding of operators, and the filing of periodic reports.

**Shipping to Central Markets:** Livestock marketed through the central or terminal markets is handled by private or cooperative commission agencies. The stock is usually sold to packers, order buyers, yard dealers, feeders and other buyers. When the producer ships to a terminal market, he usually consigns his stock to a commission firm that sells the stock and remits to the shipper the proceeds of the sale less any expense including selling charges. There is nothing to prevent an owner from selling his livestock on the terminal market, but for greatest net returns skilled salesmanship is necessary.

**Direct Marketing:** Direct marketing of slaughter livestock refers to the sale of animals from sellers to slaughterers without making use of the services of agencies located at public markets. In some sections of the country the packer buyer calls on the producers and solicits their cattle. There are a number of packing plants in South Dakota that have their buyers out in the field. Farmers may truck or ship their cattle direct to a packing plant without being solicited.

**Slaughtering on Farms:** The slaughtering of cattle on farms and selling the dressed beef to city consumers is sometimes practiced. The community meat club might be considered a method of marketing. A group of farmers (from 16 to 32 farm families) organize and slaughter a beef animal regularly each week during the summer, each member furnishing an animal at some time during the season. The carcass is divided into cuts of beef and each member receives his share, thus having fresh beef regularly throughout the year.

**Selling on the Basis of Carcass Grade:** The proponents of this method of market-

if I believe it has many advantages over selling by the head or by livestock weight. It eliminates much of the expense incurred in "filling" livestock. It permits payment to each producer on the basis of exact grade and weight of production delivered. It makes it possible to trace losses from condemnations, bruises, and soft or oily carcasses, back to the individual or individuals responsible for them. It also facilitates sale by description and thereby reduces marketing expenses. Before this plan is accepted on a very large scale, more research and educational work will have to be done.

### **Cooperative Marketing Practiced for Many Years**

Cooperative marketing of livestock has been practiced by producers for many years and has appeared in various forms, but the two most important cooperative agencies through which livestock is now bought and sold are: Cooperative livestock shipping associations and cooperative livestock commission associations.

**Cooperative Livestock Shipping Associations:** The objects of a cooperative livestock shipping association are: (1) To market the livestock of the community in such a manner as to obtain the greatest net return to the individual members, (2) to develop better market facilities, (3) to study local, state, and national livestock marketing problems, and (4) to foster and develop the cooperative spirit in the community. The development of interior packing plants, increased use of trucks, more good roads, and increased use of auction agencies have reduced the need for old type cooperative livestock shipping associations. There is still a place for cooperative shipping associations to assemble livestock by grades and ship to markets that specialize in certain grades. The transportation problems which may develop due to the shortage of tires for trucks and trailers during war or abnormal periods may increase the need for cooperative livestock shipping associations.

**Cooperative Livestock Commission Associations:** Cooperative livestock commission associations came into existence as a result of dissatisfaction on the part of the farmers and shippers with the services rendered by privately owned commission firms, the cost of these services, and the natural desire on the part of farmers to get into business for themselves. Some of the services and benefits of a cooperative commission firm can be listed as follows: Improving market practices, lowering commission charges, in some instances reducing freight charges, reducing loss from shrinkage, keeping patrons informed concerning the market for livestock, reducing market feed costs, and creating claim, loss and traffic departments. They also maintain field men who not only solicit business but assist in organizing or strengthening local organizations.

These cooperative associations can render the same services on the market as private firms. The larger their volume the greater is their bargaining power when it comes to dealing with buyers. They charge the same commissions as are charged by all the firms on the market, but any profits that are made during the year are pro-rated back to the shippers according to the patronage furnished.

### **Purebred Cattle Breeders Have Different Marketing Problem**

The producers of purebred beef cattle have a different marketing problem than those who produce feeders or fat animals for market. A purebred breeder should be thoroughly familiar with the particular breed he is raising, must retain the proper type of breeding animals for his herd, and must select suitable animals for sale as breeding animals. Those that are culled out are usually fed out for slaughter. Selling a purebred animal of poor conformation or breed type is a bad advertisement for the livestock breeder and he cannot afford to take such chances.

There are several methods that breeders use in selling their purebred cattle. It is important to use an attractive roadside or highway sign as this helps the interested buyer to locate the breeder's farm and often-times creates an interest in the passer-by who did not know such a breeder existed in the community. It is well to show some of the best individuals in the herd at the community fair, the county fair, or the state fair, as this gives the herd desirable advertising. Winning prizes and ribbons develops public confidence in the herd. The individuals shown must have been of good breed type in order to win prizes. This attracts buyers to the herd.

Advertising in the local or county newspapers is useful to inform the public about your herd and making known what individual animals are offered for sale. Some breeders advertise in their national breed papers to attract breeders from other sections of the country. Very often it is advisable and profitable to hold an auction sale of the surplus breeding stock. The smaller breeder usually attracts the farmers of his county to the sale, while the larger more experienced breeder may not only attract stockmen from within his own county but his sale will appeal to breeders in all parts of the country.

## Diseases and Parasites

By DR. G. S. WEAVER\*

### Disease Problem a Limiting Factor in Efficient Production

One of the limiting factors in the efficient production of cattle is the disease problem. A brief discussion of the more common ailments may be of some assistance in solving this problem. However, more information than is given here must be available to the herdsman if he is to guard against diseases in his cattle. The description of diseases and the points emphasized in regard to sanitation may start the caretaker along the right line in securing further information. The services of a veterinarian always should be relied upon rather than to make the mistake of improper treatment or improper diagnosis.

#### HYGIENE

Most diseases and abnormal conditions are caused by some pathogenic organisms commonly called germs. The organisms are exceedingly small and cannot be seen without the aid of a microscope. Each different disease has its own specific germ. When an animal is affected with a disease, germs are thrown off through the excretions of that

animal. These germs are harbored in various kinds of refuse. Some types of germs will live for years in a cool, dark place. Germs may be killed by sunlight, heat and disinfectants.

While germs are the direct cause of contagious diseases other factors may help a disease get started. Any condition that helps to lower the resistance of the animal will make him more susceptible to diseases. Improper feeding is probably the largest factor in lowering the resistance of animals. Contaminated and insufficient water puts animals out of condition. A lack of sunshine, poor ventilation, poor drainage or any other unsanitary condition helps the germs get in their deadly work.

Any animal sick with a contagious disease should be isolated and given proper treatment. The separation of the sick animal from the rest of the herd is one of the first principals in the control of any disease. Treatment and recovery are more satisfactory when the sick animal is kept to himself. The kind of treatment will depend on the nature of the disease and whenever the condition is serious the services of a veterinarian should be secured.

\**Extension Veterinarian*



Anthrax takes its toll through periodical outbreaks

### TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES

**Actinomycosis (Lumpy Jaw).** This disease occurs in several different forms and in different organs, such as abscesses in the region of the throat, in the tongue, in the muscles, in the bones of the jaw and in some instances in the internal organs such as the lungs and the liver. Therefore, lumpy jaw is not a good or correct name for the disease.

It is caused by a fungus and not a germ. This fungus lives on plants such as wild barley. When an animal is affected with the disease and distributes pus which contains the fungus, on plants, this fungus lives over the year and when cattle eat these plants, the following year they become exposed to the disease. The disease does not go directly from one animal to another.

The most common form that a beef animal would have is the cold abscess that occurs in the region of the throat. The abscess varies in size up to the size of a man's fist. At first the abscess is a hard swelling, later becoming soft and generally breaking and discharging pus. The abscess is loose in the skin and not fast on the bone. When the abscess form develops and the swelling is small and soft, it may be opened with a sharp knife and tincture of iodine injected. Other cases are

surgical and require the services of a veterinarian.

**Anthrax.** A contagious disease affecting sheep, cattle, horses, hogs, people, dogs, cats and chickens in the order named.

It is caused by the anthrax germ. This germ has the power of forming a spore or in other words, putting a shell or protective covering around itself. The spore form of the germ may live in the soil for twenty years. The germs are easily killed by sunlight and disinfectants, but after they develop into spores they are very resistant.

Anthrax is a very quick acting disease. In cattle the large animals seem the most susceptible. The bull and the heavy cows are usually the first to die. Most of the sick animals die quickly. Some cattle may live several days and once in a while an animal will get well. The lingering cases may develop swellings over the body and a bloody serum will ooze out of the skin. Many of the sick animals will pass blood from the nose and rectum.

The best method of diagnosing anthrax is to have a blood sample taken from the dead animal and have it sent to a laboratory for microscopic examination.

Treatment consists largely of preventive measures. All dead animals should be burned. The infected herd should be quarantined. The cattle should be vaccinated.



Cleaning and disinfecting the premises are important. Report all suspicious cases to state authorities.

**Blackleg.** An infectious disease common in young fat cattle characterized by swellings in the heavy muscles and death within 36 hours.

The disease is most common in calves between the ages of 6 and 18 months. Generally the fattest calves are the most susceptible. The first symptom is lameness, a high fever develops, the animal is restless and gives evidence of pain. Swellings develop in the round, shoulder or rump. The animal gets down, goes into a coma and dies. On post-mortem, large swellings in the heavy muscles are found. The swellings are filled with gas. The muscle tissue is black.

Blackleg vaccination is the most perfect of any vaccination in veterinary medicine. Whenever the infection is known to exist on the farm no chances should be taken. The calves should be vaccinated at about six months of age. This will usually protect them until they are 18 months of age.

**Hemorrhagic Septicemia.** A disease of a semi-contagious nature affecting cattle after their resistance has been lowered by some other condition. It is common in calves during the winter months. The disease is caused by a germ that is common in all barn lots—in fact it may be found in many normal animals. When an animal's resistance is lowered by shipping, by lack of feed, by improper housing or running in stalk fields in bad weather; he becomes a fit subject for hemorrhagic septicemia. A most important predisposing cause is damp quarters. If the bedding is not changed frequently it will become foul and damp. If the barn is drafty and the wind blows over the cattle they will lose their resistance.

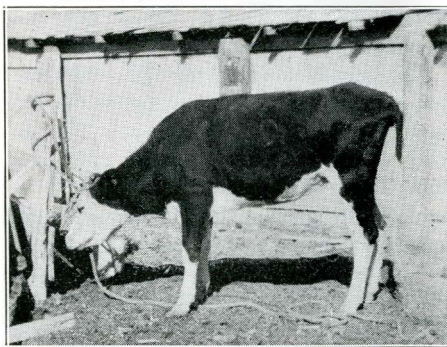
An animal affected with hemorrhagic septicemia may develop a fever. Usually there is a loss of appetite. An inflammation of the lungs or pneumonia may develop

and this will produce a cough and difficulty breathing. The digestion is upset and this may produce diarrhea. Frequently blood is passed in connection with the diarrhea. The sick animal may die quickly or linger along for some time, possibly getting well.

Treatment is largely a preventive problem. If the resistance can be kept up by proper feeding, housing, care and management, there will be little cause for hemorrhagic septicemia. A cow or calf affected with the disease should be blanketed. A light diet such as a mash made of low grade flour and bran should be fed. All feeding utensils should be sterilized by scalding. The sick animal should be placed by itself. All the well cattle should be vaccinated with hemorrhagic septicemia bacterin. The services of a veterinarian are advised in the treatment of the sick cattle.

**Infectious Abortion.** A contagious disease caused by the bacillus of Bang characterized by the premature birth of the calf. The germ that causes abortion disease is very resistant to weather conditions and will live a year or more if kept away from sunlight. It is readily killed by sunlight and disinfectants. The germs are thrown off by the affected cow through the dead calf, afterbirth, all discharges and secretions including the milk.

Most abortions occur in the young ani-



A heifer affected with hemorrhagic septicemia

just before they are to freshen the first time. Most cows abort only once and then build up an immunity against the disease. A retained afterbirth in connection with abortion is a symptom of contagious or infectious abortion. Some of the cows will be hard to get with calf after aborting. The course of the disease in a herd is usually three or four years.

Abortion disease is spread very largely through contaminated feed, just the same as other diseases, such as hog cholera and tuberculosis. While the possibilities of the spread of the disease through breeding operations should not be disregarded, this method of spread is much less important than that through contaminated feed and water.

All cows affected with this disease should be isolated if it is possible to do so. When a cow shows symptoms of abortion she should be put by herself and kept there until all symptoms disappear. The stall or pen should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. All dead calves and afterbirth should be burned. Cows which abort should not be bred for 60 days after aborting.

When abortion disease is suspected in a herd it is advisable to have the herd tested in order to diagnose definitely the disease and to pick out the animals which are infected. Of course this test should be done by a veterinarian. In fact, his advice should be relied upon whenever this disease breaks out in a herd. Heifer calves between the ages of six and eight months may be vaccinated.

**Infectious Ophthalmia (Pink Eye).** A distinctly contagious disease affecting the eyes. It is brought into the herd by new infected animals. It affects old and young alike. It is seldom seen during the winter months, but may persist during summer months for several years. This disease is characterized by a discharge from the eyes and a swelling of the eyelids. In many cases the animals temporarily go blind, a

fever develops and this is accompanied by a loss of appetite, partial loss of milk and separation from the herd. It is evident from the character of the disease that prevention means the isolation of sick animals and avoiding introducing sick animals into the herd. The sick animal should be put in a dark, cool stable, with plenty of fresh water supplied and only a light diet provided. The eyes may be washed out with a weak solution of boric acid. Vaccination will prevent about 50 percent of the cases and may keep some of the cattle from having it as hard as they would without vaccination.

### PARASITIC DISEASES

**Flies.** Many different species of flies infest cattle. Some are bloodsuckers and carry diseases such as anthrax from one animal to another. Flies are injurious to cattle on account of annoyance, pain and loss of blood due to their bites.

As soon as the fly season starts during the summer the beef calves should be kept in the barn in a dark place during daylight hours. Some difficulty may be experienced in keeping a calf blanketed, but if it is possible to do so the calf should be blanketed.

A very cheap fly repellent may be made by using 10 gallons of crank-case oil (refuse from tractor or automobile) and one pint of oil of tar. In case a smaller quantity is desired the proportions may be cut down, such as one gallon of crank-case oil and one and one-sixth ounces of oil of tar. This repellent should be applied with the ordinary cow sprayer.

**Lice.** These parasites obtain their food from the skin of the animal and cause considerable irritation. The infested animal spends most of his time scratching and rubbing. A general unthrifty condition results if the animal is badly infested.

A dusting powder consisting of equal parts of flowers of sulphur and ground sabbilla seed may be used during the winter months, when it is not advisable to use a liquid. However, this treatment is not as

effective as spraying the animal with a solution of coal tar dip. Any of the common coal tar dips, such as kresol dip made into a 3 percent solution will kill cattle lice. The spraying should take place at intervals of ten days until the lice are all destroyed. The common bucket spray pump may be used for this purpose. Send for Farmers' Bulletin 909, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

**Ring Worm.** An affection of the skin caused by a vegetable parasite. It is highly contagious and spread by contact. It is most common in calves during the winter. It forms circular patches on the skin, especially on the head, which soon become bare of hair and is attended with more or less itching. It is communicable to man. To control ring worm remove all crusts by washing with soap and water. Apply sulphur ointment or tincture of iodine once a day. Clean the stable and whitewash it to destroy the spores scattered by the crusts.

**Warbles or Grubs.** Swellings about one inch in diameter develop on the backs of cattle caused by the warble. The adult of this warble is the heel fly. The heel fly lays eggs on the hairs of the legs of cattle. When

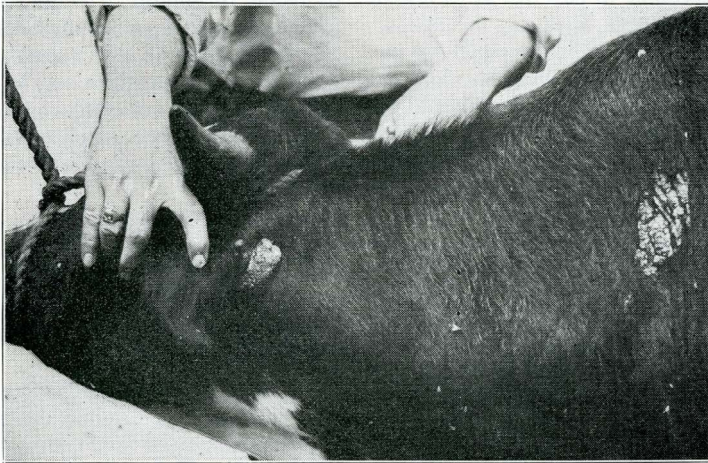
the eggs hatch into small grubs they grow into the skin and finally lodge in the back. A hole is cut in the skin by the grub for breathing purposes. After the grub is fully developed it crawls out through this hole falling to the ground where it hatches into the heel fly. These warbles or grubs are common in the backs of cattle during early spring. The grubs should be squeezed out of the cattle during the early spring and destroyed. An ointment made of one part of iodoform and five parts vaseline will destroy grubs if a small portion is rubbed into the holes of the skin where the grubs have developed.

#### OTHER ABNORMAL CONDITIONS

**Footrot.** An inflammation of the foot between the toes caused by the irritation of filth. Lameness is a symptom as well as swellings above the hoof, foul odor, and pus accumulation beneath the horn.

Keep the feet clean and provide exercise. Soak the feet in a 2 percent solution of coal tar disinfectant.

**Bloat.** An excessive amount of gas in the paunch brought about by some digestive disorder. The immediate cause is often the



Warts on cattle

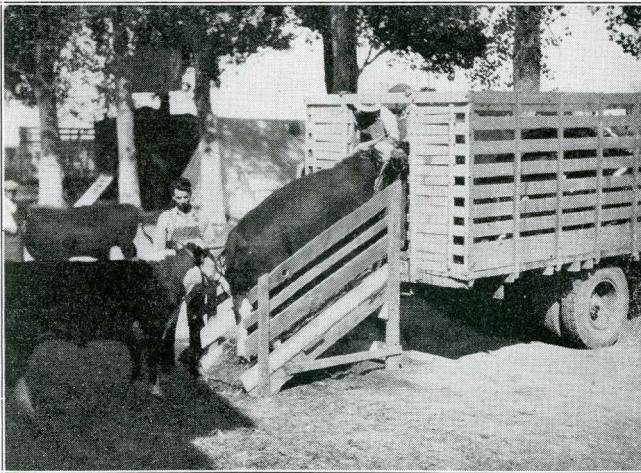
ing of a large quantity of easily fermentable feed such as fresh clover or alfalfa pasture, green corn or even alfalfa hay or clover hay. If cattle are pastured on wet clover or alfalfa, bloating is likely to take place. Alfalfa pasture is not safe for cattle at any time. Bloat is easily recognized by a pronounced swelling on the left side. The animal usually recovers without treatment, but should be watched closely. If the animal becomes distressed or breathes hard then some emergency treatment must be given or death may result. Two ounces of aromatic spirits of ammonia in a pint of cold water may be given as a drench. If this is not available, turpentine may be used in the same proportion. Exercising the animal may help. The placing of a bit in the mouth may start the animal belching. In extreme cases it is necessary to tap the animal on the left side. This is done by inserting a trocar in the center of the triangle formed by the last rib, backbone and hip bone.

**Diarrhea.** In the simple form is caused by irritation of the intestines from improper feeding or chilling. If the condition is allowed to continue the animal becomes thin and dull. The cause should be removed. Calves may be given one to two ounces of cod liver oil in one-half pint of milk. Cut

down the quantity of feed and provide comfortable surroundings.

**Pneumonia.** A common condition affecting young cattle during the winter months. It is especially prevalent during cold, damp weather and among calves which are subjected to considerable exposure because of poor housing. The characteristic symptoms are a fever, difficult breathing and a pounding pulse. One or both lungs may be affected. The animal shows little disposition to lie down. Frequently there is a running at the nose. Treatment should be prescribed by a veterinarian. Keep the animal quiet, covered with heavy blankets and absolutely free from drafts. If it is possible to put the animal in a heated building, it should be done.

**Warts.** The presence of a few warts does not usually interfere with the health of the animal, but may be classed as a nuisance. They may appear most anywhere on the body. The slender warts may be cut off with a pair of scissors observing sanitary precautions. Others will usually disappear if tincture of iodine, glycerine or glacial acetic acid is applied to their surfaces daily. Another remedy is seven parts of collodion and one part of salicylic acid.



On to the Market—But the 4-H Club Member Carries on

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