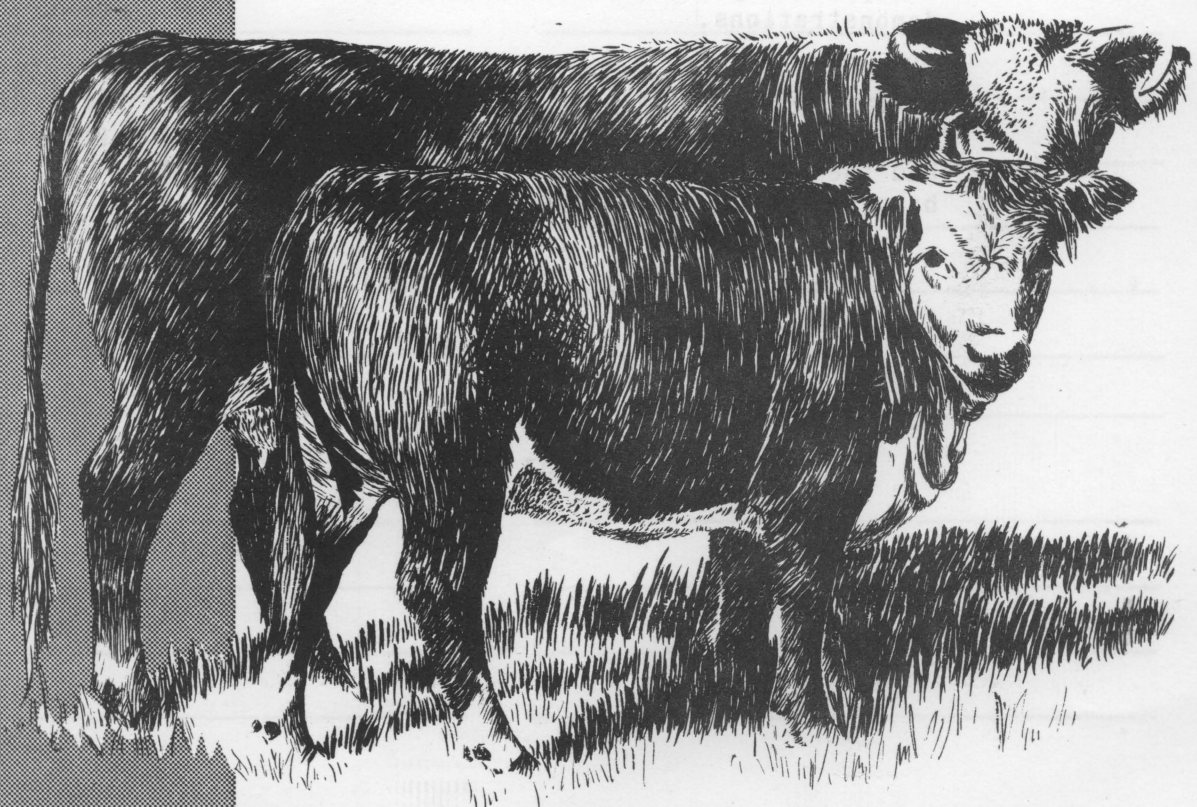


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BUILDING THE COUNTY

BEEF CATTLE PROGRAM



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas

SUGGESTED EXTENSION METHODS TO BE CONSIDERED

The use of local information and people connected with beef cattle production and marketing is usually the most effective method to establish and improve a county beef cattle program. This information when used in meetings, news letters, news stories and in radio and television programs has more appeal than information from other areas or other states. A small amount of information from other areas can be used to create the initial interest or to expand present possibilities of the beef cattle program.

Tours of farms and ranches which have done an outstanding job in beef cattle production and demonstrations conducted in local communities are effective. Many times these tours and demonstrations are more effective with a small number of producers who are genuinely interested than tours or demonstrations with large numbers of people who have just a passing interest.

The use of beef cattle specialists is limited in county programs but when available they can help create the initial interest, suggest possibilities of expanding present programs and present new information that is not in general use in the area. When possible, the specialist can provide information for publicity, assist in meetings and tours and help set up demonstrations.

Well-planned and properly conducted 4-H Club programs in beef cattle production can assist greatly in the adult educational program. The methods used, information gathered and the use of 4-H members to present the results should not be overlooked in planning the adult educational program.

BUILDING THE COUNTY BEEF CATTLE PROGRAM

L. A. MADDOX, JR.

ROY W. SNYDER

UEL D. THOMPSON*

The county extension beef cattle program should be developed by beef cattle producers to meet their needs and interests. The county program must have local support to succeed.

To increase the overall efficiency of beef production in a county, the producer must increase efficiency in many small areas of his operation. The questions concerning county beef cattle

production are designed to point out areas where producers can do a more efficient job of production and marketing.

Educational methods and programs that will help build or improve the county extension beef cattle program are suggested. You may use these suggestions or work out others that are better adapted to your problems and would be more effective in your county.

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNTY BEEF CATTLE COMMITTEE

County _____

Year _____

Chairman _____

Address _____

Members

Address

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS

*Respectively, extension animal husbandman, extension meat specialist and extension animal husbandman, The Texas A. & M. College System.

COW AND CALF PRODUCTION

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Is your county best suited for production of stocker or slaughter calves?</p> | <p>Stocker calf production is considered best suited for West and Northwest Texas and slaughter calves are more profitable in South and Southeast Texas. In many counties either type of calf production can be profitably produced.</p> |
| <p>2. Does pasture improvement, range management and supplemental feeding as commonly practiced result in the most economical production of beef cattle per acre?</p> | <p>Producers should follow recommended stocking rates and use supplemental feeds to keep cattle healthy and productive at all times and plan for taking care of cattle during drouths.</p> |
| <p>3. Are diseases and parasites reducing profit on beef cattle in your county?</p> | <p>All areas of Texas have disease and parasite problems. With proper preventive control measures, these losses can be reduced to a minimum.</p> |
| <p>4. Are calf crop percentages as high as possible for your area?</p> | <p>A producer should strive for a 100 percent calf crop.</p> |
| <p>5. Do producers who use multiple bull pastures have any method to identify sterile or near-sterile bulls?</p> | <p>From 8 to 15 percent of the mature bulls are poor risks as to fertility. These bulls may lower the percent calf crop and cause your calves to be dropped over a longer period of time.</p> |
| <p>6. Do most producers identify and cull cows that do not calve regularly? Is there any generally used method to identify these cows?</p> | <p>Cows that do not calve regularly cost the producer. Replacement heifers from these cows may also be slow breeders. More efficient producers identify and cull these cows.</p> |
| <p>7. Would it be profitable to identify those cows that will not calve next year as soon as 60 days after the bulls are taken out?</p> | <p>Consider the reduction in expense if cows that will not calve could be sold when the present calf is weaned instead of 6 to 8 months later.</p> |
| <p>8. Are calves dropped over too long a period of time to make the most profitable operation?</p> | <p>In many areas early calves are the heaviest and are sold on the most favorable market, but 30 to 40 percent are late and must be sold light or on less favorable markets.</p> |
| <p>9. Are replacement heifers selected so as to keep those capable of the most production?</p> | <p>Outstanding heifers should be kept for replacement each year. These should be the heaviest calves for their age and the type or conformation the producer wants to raise.</p> |
| <p>10. Is there an effective method in use by most producers to identify cows that produce light and/or off-type calves?</p> | <p>Cows that produce light and/or off-type calves one year will usually do the same the next year. These cows should be identified and culled.</p> |
| <p>11. Are young bulls with production information available to producers in your county and do producers know the advantages of using these bulls?</p> | <p>Genetically, the bull is half the herd. A bull capable of high production can add 20-30 pounds to the weaning weight of his calves. Replacement heifers sired by bulls with high weaning weights will produce heavier calves.</p> |
| <p>12. Are you able to market your calves to the best advantage?</p> | <p>In some areas, small herds and long distances from market makes effective marketing almost impossible.</p> |

COUNTY EXTENSION
PROGRAMS

SUGGESTED EDUCATIONAL METHODS TO BUILD
OR IMPROVE A COUNTY BEEF CATTLE PROGRAM

No Program Needed	Program Is Adequate	Program Needs Revision	New Program Needed	
				<p>For a wise decision on the most profitable type of production, records of better herds should be compared. Suggest 4-H method demonstration on production of stocker versus slaughter calves as a part of the county 4-H Club program.</p>
				<p>Tour farms and ranches of outstanding producers. Have them explain pasture improvement, range management and supplemental feeding to other producers.</p>
				<p>Use information of local producers who have effective preventive control measures, if possible. If no local programs are being used, consult specialist for help in setting up demonstration.</p>
				<p>If you know a producer who gets a higher percentage calf crop than the average, find out why. Consider points number 5, 6 and 7.</p>
				<p>Conduct a demonstration on semen quality of bulls in your county working with a qualified veterinarian.</p>
				<p>Publicize any method used by local producers that gets good results. A county demonstration on breeding programs for more productive beef cattle would give methods that could be used.</p>
				<p>A demonstration of palpation of cows could be very effective. If some local producer has used this practice, publicizing information on his results would be effective.</p>
				<p>Arrive at causes - Consider points number 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.</p>
				<p>Plan a county demonstration with a commercial producer on breeding program for more productive beef cattle. Try 4-H method demonstration on the value of production records in beef cattle as a part of the county 4-H Club program.</p>
				<p>A demonstration on breeding programs for more productive beef cattle will show how this can be done. Try 4-H method demonstration on the value of production records in beef cattle as a part of the county 4-H Club program.</p>
				<p>The demonstration with a registered breeder on breeding programs for more productive beef cattle shows how to gather and use production information on young bulls. Plans for this demonstration can be furnished by beef cattle specialist.</p>
				<p>A cooperative effort between producers should bring out possible solutions to this problem.</p>

GROWING STOCKER CATTLE

1. Are producers failing to make a profit growing stocker calves because of the price, type or condition of stocker calves purchased?

Stocker calves should be in condition to make gain on cheap feeds and the price in line with the type and quality of feeder cattle into which they will develop.

2. Are stocker calves fed and managed so as to produce gains cheap enough to be profitable most years?

Stocker cattle usually are sold for less per pound when marketed as feeder cattle. Gains must cost less than the selling price for feeder cattle to make up for the reduced selling price of the original pounds purchased and leave a margin of profit.

3. Are marketing problems of feeder cattle some of the reasons that this type of production has not developed in your county?

When feeder cattle are available in large enough numbers to attract feeder buyers and commission men, a fairly good market can be established with little effort.

FATTENING CATTLE FOR MARKET

1. Do cattle feeders in your county know the type and condition necessary for good feeder cattle for different feeding operations?

Feeder cattle usually are purchased for a certain type of feeding program. Certain grades, weights and conditions make calves or yearlings suitable for long (180-day) feeding periods. The grades, weights and conditions that will be suitable for 60 to 100-day feeding period will be different.

2. Do local feeders develop rations using mostly feeds available locally that will produce economical gain and the desired finish?

Compare time required to fatten cattle on farms in your county to those in other counties. Make similar comparison of feed costs per 100 pounds gain. These two leads may show ways to increase efficiency in feedlot operation.

3. Are feeders aware of the weight and market grades of fat cattle that local and nearby markets need?

Feeders who buy cattle to feed because they have some feed on hand and sell them when all the feed is fed may have financial disappointments. Marketing plans should be made before the cattle are purchased so that the most desirable weight and grade will be ready to market when prices are most favorable.

FEEDING AND SHOWING BEEF CATTLE

1. Do breeders, 4-H Club members and adult leaders know how to select the size, type and quality necessary for a good show calf?

Many mistakes are made in the selection of calves. The best feeder cannot overcome off-type, inferior calves.

2. Do breeders, 4-H Club members and adult leaders know how to feed a calf for a show?

Feeding show calves is not necessarily for maximum gain but the calf is fed for the desirable weight and finish. Rations must be changed from time to time to accomplish this.

3. Do breeders, 4-H Club members and adult leaders know how to fit and train a calf for a show?

To have an outstanding exhibit of fat cattle, work must be done many weeks or months in advance. The appearance of the calf as well as how well it is trained is important.

COUNTY EXTENSION
PROGRAMS

SUGGESTED EDUCATIONAL METHODS TO BUILD
OR IMPROVE A COUNTY BEEF CATTLE PROGRAM

New Program Needed	Program Needs Revision	Program Is Adequate	No Program Needed	
				<p>Grading school that emphasizes the use of young cattle can be a good start. Along with this school, publicity of information gathered from local producers will round out an effective educational program.</p>
				<p>If outstanding producers are available in your county use information gathered from them for publicity. Visits or tours to these places will be an effective followup to the publicity. Continue to stress pasture improvement, range management and proper supplemental feeding.</p>
				<p>Consider a combined effort by producers of feeder cattle to interest order buyers and feedlot operators in coming to your county to buy these cattle.</p>
				<p>Field days and tours of a local feeding yard are effective teaching methods where large numbers of cattle are on feed. If these tours cannot be arranged, grading schools can be an excellent place to start.</p>
				<p>Study local feeding operations for ideas for improvement. Beef cattle specialist may be of considerable help in working out additional rations and different management practices.</p>
				<p>Study the grades, weights and prices of cattle in demand in the future months. Plan to market according to the information gained in the study. Work with local packing plant operators and commission men if possible.</p>
				<p>A tour or visit to a registered herd owner who shows cattle or an experienced 4-H member when he is selecting show prospects is the most effective method of training. If the tour cannot be held in your county, a visit to another county would be advisable for this and point 2 and 3.</p>
				<p>Start with information from experienced feeders of show cattle in your county if possible. Additional feeding information can be secured from beef cattle specialist and experienced feeder out of the county.</p>
				<p>Use experienced feeder of show cattle to demonstrate how to prepare and train a calf for show. Many times an experienced 4-H member can conduct demonstrations for new feeders.</p>

PROJECTS FOR THIS YEAR

After considering areas where educational work is needed, select the demonstrations, tours, field days and meetings that should be included in this year's program. Select a subcommittee that will be in charge of each project.

Project

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Subcommittee Assignments for Each Major Project

Project No. 1.

Project No. 2.

_____ Chairman

_____ Chairman

Project No. 3.

Project No. 4.

_____ Chairman

_____ Chairman