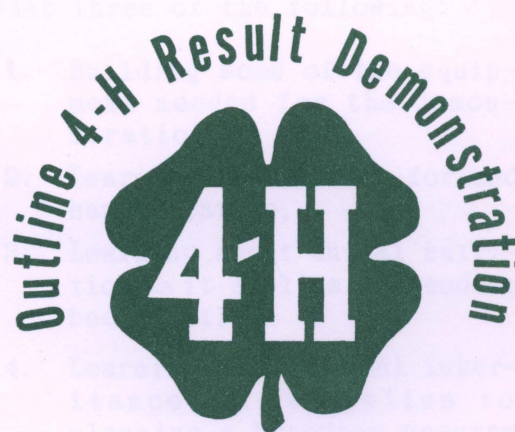
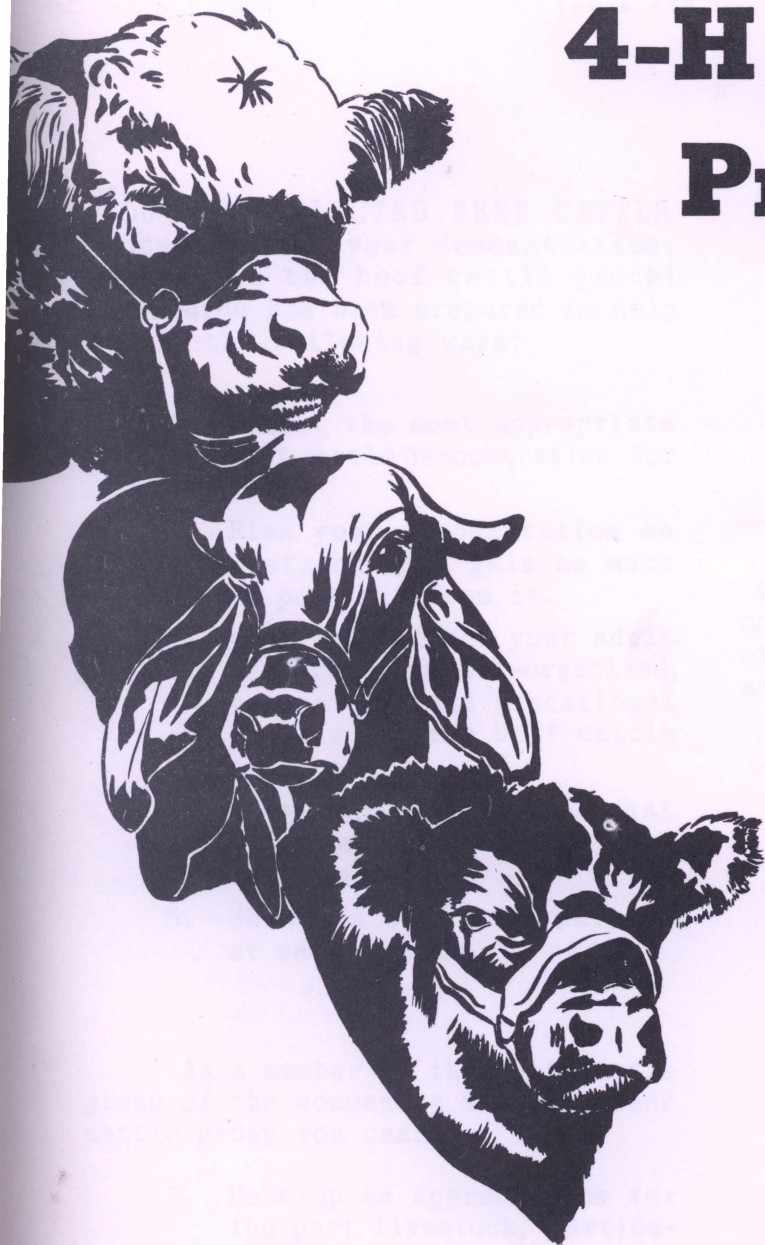


Member Guide

4-H Beef Cattle Production



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
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MEMBER GUIDE- 4-H BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION

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YOU HAVE SELECTED BEEF CATTLE production for your demonstration. Welcome to the beef cattle group! This guide has been prepared to help you in the following ways:

1. Select the most appropriate beef cattle demonstration for you.
2. Plan your demonstration so that you will gain as much as possible from it.
3. With the help of your adult leader, plan a well-organized, interesting and educational program for the beef cattle group.
4. Know when, where and what will be discussed at each meeting.
5. Show you what your part is at each meeting.

As a member of the beef cattle group of the community 4-H Club beef cattle group you can:

1. Develop an appreciation for the part livestock, particularly beef cattle, plays in our daily lives.
2. Learn skills in work with beef cattle.
3. Develop some of the skills required in the production and marketing of beef cattle.

4. Obtain more knowledge of the financial side of beef production.
5. Have an opportunity, as a 4-H member or as teams of 4-H members, to participate in groups, club or county meetings.
6. Help others to learn and do these things.

Goals for members will vary according to age, experience and type of demonstration. They should include at least three of the following:

1. Building some of the equipment needed for the demonstration.
2. Learning how to care for and handle cattle.
3. Learning about animal nutrition as it applies to feeding beef cattle.
4. Learning about animal inheritance as it applies to planning a breeding program.
5. Learning about beef cattle marketing.
6. Learning about diseases of beef cattle.
7. Learning about parasites that affect beef cattle.
8. Learning how to select different weights and grades of cattle for different types of production.

SELECTING DEMONSTRATIONS

Result demonstrations in beef cattle production can be classified into Feeding and Showing Beef Cattle, Fattening Cattle for Market, Growing and Developing Stocker Cattle and Calf Production. You and your family, along with your adult leader, should study the different demonstrations and select the one best suited, considering your interest, the availability of cattle, feed and equipment, the money involved, the duration of the demonstration and the amount of time required by the demonstration.

KINDS OF DEMONSTRATIONS

1. FEEDING AND SHOWING BEEF CATTLE

This demonstration emphasizes feeding and showing cattle and may be expensive. The Club member can develop skills in working with beef cattle with emphasis on feeding, training and preparing the animal for the show, as well as actually showing the animal. One or more calves may be started on feed with or without the use of nurse cows. This demonstration should be concluded with an exhibit and sale at a fat stock show. Records should be kept of purchase price, feed costs, prize money won and selling price.

This result demonstration may include any of the following:

- a. Feeding and showing milk-fed steers.
- b. Feeding and showing drylot steers.
- c. Feeding and showing breeding cattle.

2. FATTENING CATTLE FOR MARKET

This demonstration is designed to teach the Club member how to fatten cattle, study the cost of production

and about marketing fat cattle. One calf is a minimum but five or more calves may be fed by experienced members. Helping with the work and keeping records on 10 head or more owned by the parents will make a good demonstration. You should learn how to select feeder cattle, how to balance rations, how to substitute cheaper feed to make more economical gain and how fat cattle are marketed. This demonstration could be concluded with a trip to a central market and then to a packing house.

This result demonstration may include any of the following:

- a. Long feeding periods (140 to 180 days).
- b. Medium-length feeding periods (100 to 140 days).
- c. Short feeding periods (less than 100 days).

3. GROWING AND DEVELOPING YOUNG CATTLE

This demonstration is designed to cover the calf's life from weaning until the calf is marketed as grass fat slaughter cattle, placed in a feedlot for fattening or turned out with the breeding herd. Weaned calves usually are placed on native pasture, temporary pasture, small grain pastures or cleaning up fields to make cheap gains. Calves handled in this manner usually are marketed as feeder cattle. However, with excellent pasture and/or supplemental feeding, they may be sold as slaughter cattle or fleshy feeders. Young breeding cattle may be developed in feedlots and fed a growing ration of one-third concentrates and two-thirds roughage. Two or more calves owned by a member make a good demonstration. Keeping records on 10 or more calves owned by your parents also makes a good demonstration. The member should develop a good understanding of the type and breeding necessary to make good stocker calves, how they should be fed and managed and how to market feeder cattle.

This demonstration may include any of the following:

- a. Buying light-weight calves and selling as feeders 1 year later.
- b. Buying heavy calves or light yearlings and selling as feeders 6 to 8 months later.
- c. Buying calves or yearlings, providing excellent pasture and/or supplemental feed and marketing slaughter cattle or fleshy feeders.
- d. Developing young breeding cattle in registered herds or replacement cattle for commercial herds.

4. CALF PRODUCTION

This demonstration will help you to understand problems in a cow and calf operation and emphasizes the

many points that may increase or decrease profits. Two or more cows owned by a member make a good demonstration. Another good demonstration is assisting with the work and keeping records on 10 or more cows owned by your parents. Production records as outlined in B-908, Breeding Programs for Commercial Beef Herds, or B-909, Breeding Programs for Registered Beef Herds, should be kept. With this demonstration you learn about methods of increasing your calf crop, breeding programs, diseases of cattle, supplemental feeding and marketing.

This result demonstration may include any of the following:

- a. Production of stocker calves.
- b. Production of feeder calves.
- c. Production of slaughter calves.
- d. Production of registered calves.

PLANNING THE DEMONSTRATION

You and your parents should develop a plan to carry out your demonstration. Fill in this outline according to the plan that is developed.

1. Kind of demonstration _____

2. Date demonstration will begin _____

3. Kind of cattle to be used _____

4. Where the cattle will be obtained _____

5. What you plan to do with this demonstration _____

6. How and where the feed and/or pasture will be obtained _____

7. What facilities and/or equipment are needed and how obtained _____

8. Completion date of demonstration _____

DEMONSTRATION PLANS FOR

4-H Club Member's Name

This should be a copy of page 6, "Planning the Demonstration." Give your adult leader this sheet when it is completed.

1. Kind of demonstration _____

2. Date demonstration will begin _____

3. Kind of cattle to be used _____

4. Where the cattle will be obtained _____

5. What you plan to do with this demonstration _____

6. How and where the feed and/or pasture will be obtained _____

7. What facilities and/or equipment are needed and how obtained _____

8. Completion date of demonstration _____

THINGS TO DO AND LEARN

From the list of things to do and learn, check the ones of which you have a fair knowledge from past experience and which will help to teach others. Next check the ones that you would like to learn. You may check things that apply to demonstrations other than the one you are conducting. Then working with your adult leader, check the ones that you wish to do and learn this year.

	Fair knowledge	Wish to learn	Planned this year
A. Things for members to learn who are feeding and showing			
1. Selection of calves for feeding on nurse cows	_____	_____	_____
2. Feeding and management of milk-fed calves	_____	_____	_____
3. Selection of calves for drylot feeding	_____	_____	_____
4. Feeding and management of drylot steers	_____	_____	_____
5. Selection of registered calves for feeding	_____	_____	_____
6. Feeding and management of young breeding cattle	_____	_____	_____
7. Preparing and training calves to show	_____	_____	_____
8. Making a calf pen, brush arbor and sand box	_____	_____	_____
9. Making a hay rack, feed trough and mineral box	_____	_____	_____
10. Display and demonstrate use of equipment needed at shows	_____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____	_____
B. Things for members to learn who are fattening cattle for market			
1. Selection of cattle for long feeding period	_____	_____	_____
2. Feeding and management on long feeding period	_____	_____	_____

Fair knowledge Wish to learn Planned this year

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-------|-------|-------|
| 3. | Selection of cattle for medium feeding period | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | Feeding and management for medium feeding period | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | Selection of cattle for short feeding period | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. | Feeding and management for short feeding period | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. | Using hormones to increase efficiency | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8. | Feeding antibiotics to increase efficiency | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 9. | Ways to market fat cattle | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 10. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

C. Things for members to learn who are growing and developing young cattle

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | Selection of light-weight stocker calves | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | Selection of heavy calves or light yearling stockers | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | Management and supplemental feeding of stocker cattle | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | Selection of calves or yearlings to be sold as slaughter or fleshy feeders | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | Management and supplemental feeding of cattle to be sold as slaughter or fleshy feeders | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. | Management and feeding of young replacement breeding cattle | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. | Ways to market feeder cattle | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

D. Things for members to learn who are producing beef calves

- | | | | | |
|----|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | Selection of cows for production of stocker and feeder calves | _____ | _____ | _____ |
|----|---|-------|-------|-------|

	Fair knowledge	Wish to learn	Planned this year
2. Management and feeding of cows for the production of stocker and feeder calves	_____	_____	_____
3. Selection of cows for production of slaughter calves	_____	_____	_____
4. Management and feeding of cows for production of slaughter calves	_____	_____	_____
5. Selection of registered cows for the breeding herd	_____	_____	_____
6. Management and feeding of registered cows	_____	_____	_____
7. Selection of replacement heifers for registered herds	_____	_____	_____
8. Selection of replacement heifers for commercial herds	_____	_____	_____
9. Selection of herd bulls	_____	_____	_____
10. Culling the breeding herd	_____	_____	_____
11. Ways to market calves (stocker, feeder, slaughter or registered)	_____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____	_____
E. Things for members to learn that will apply to more than one phase of production			
1. Vaccinating, dehorning and castrating calves	_____	_____	_____
2. Control of external parasites	_____	_____	_____
3. Control of internal parasites	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

List the months in consecutive order, beginning with the month your demonstration is started. List the things you **do** and **observe** in connection with your demonstration such as rations fed, breeding dates, range and weather conditions, show competition and other important activities.

(Month)	1. No. animals fed
	2. Total final weight
	3. Total starting weight
	4. Total pounds of gain (subtract Item 3 from Item 2)
	5. Average pounds gain per animal (Item 4 ÷ Item 1)
(Month)	6. Days on feed
	7. Average pounds of feed per animal (Item 6 ÷ Item 5)
	8. Total pounds of feed fed
	9. Pounds of feed per 100 lb. gain (Item 8 ÷ Item 4 × 100)
(Month)	10. Total cost of feed (include pasture)
	11. Feed cost per 100 lb. gain (Item 10 ÷ Item 9 × 100)

BREEDING DEMONSTRATION SUMMARY

(Month)	1. No. breeding females
	2. No. offspring born
	3. No. offspring weaned
(Month)	4. Average age at weaning
	5. Average weight at weaning
	6. Total pounds wool or mohair
	7. Average pounds wool or mohair per animal
(Month)	8. Pasture rent
	9. Total feed and pasture cost (add Item 8 and Item 11)
	10. Feed and pasture cost per animal (Item 9 ÷ Item 3)

(Month)

(Month)

(Month)

(Month)

(Month)

(Month)

Total expenses and income

Labour income

(Income after expenses)

FEEDING DEMONSTRATION SUMMARY

Items 1 through 7 should be filled out by all club members. For others, see footnote.

ITEMS	RESULTS
1. No. animals fed	
2. Total final weight	
3. Total starting weight	
4. Total pounds of gain (subtract Item 3 from Item 2)	
5. Average pounds gain per animal (Item 4 ÷ Item 1)	
6. No. days on feed	
7. Average gain per day per animal (Item 5 ÷ Item 6)	
*8. Total pounds of feed fed	
*9. Pounds of feed per 100 lb. gain (Item 8 ÷ Item 4 × 100)	
*10. Total cost of feed (include pasture)	
*11. Feed cost per 100 lb. gain (Item 10 ÷ Item 4 × 100)	

BREEDING DEMONSTRATION SUMMARY

Items 1 through 7 should be filled out by all club members. For others, see footnote.

ITEMS	RESULTS
1. No. breeding females	
2. No. offspring born	
3. No. offspring weaned	
4. Average age at weaning	
5. Average weight at weaning	
6. Total pounds wool or mohair	
7. Average pounds wool or mohair per animal	
*8. Pasture rent	
*9. Feed cost	
*10. Total feed and pasture cost (add Item 8 and Item 9)	
*11. Feed and pasture cost per animal (Item 10 ÷ Item 3)	

*These items should be filled out by club members who desire to understand better the reasons for making profit or loss and to determine how their results compare with the best producers of this area.

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCES AND OBSERVATIONS

Write a simple, accurate report of your demonstration. Include activities from date of beginning to completion of demonstration that contributed to your success. Tell about sale of improved livestock, visits made to your demonstration by neighbors and effects your demonstration had on other club members and the community.

AWARDS PROGRAM

Your adult leader or county extension agent has information on awards programs available in beef cattle production. Ask them for details if you are interested.