



Meadowlark District 4-H Market Steer Project

Purpose

1. To teach basic beef management skills, to learn about the feeder cattle industry.
2. To learn about selection and management, choosing a feeder calf and feeding it to slaughter weight.
3. To teach basic record keeping skills.

Guidelines

- a. Choose a steer calf in the fall, using a frame score 4-5.
- b. Steers need to be born between Jan. 1 & Sept. 1 of previous 4-H year.
- c. Steers should weigh 800-1050 lbs at one of the Spring Meadowlark District Weigh Ins. Steers must be tagged with an official KS 4-H EID tag.
- d. Selection is important. Select a fresh steer that will be 14-18 months old by fair time.
- e. Start your fresh, young steer calves out on a finishing ration about 5 months prior to fair time. Steers should gain about 450 lbs during the 5 months prior to fair.
- f. Steers underweight will not compete for breed champion or be allowed in the premium sale auction.

Care & Management

- a. Most steers grade choice at 1250-1450lbs. This should be your target weight for the end of July fair.
- b. Steers can easily gain 2-3 lbs a day when on full feed. The average rate of gain should be 2.5-4 lbs/day.
- c. Pencil out the days until the fair and figure out what your steer will need to gain to be ready for the fair.
- d. Dairy beef usually need more time to add weight to finish choice, be sure to allow this extra time.
- e. Steer calves should be dewormed, treated for lice & vaccinated for clostridial diseases (7-way), shipping fever complex, (IBR, BVD, P13) & hemophilus somnus if not already vaccinated.

Hip Height Chart

- a. By knowing the age of the steer and the hip height in inches. It is easy to determine frame size and expected slaughter weight.

Example: An 8-month old calf measuring 46 inches at the hip will finish at about 1250 lbs. The same calf at 12 months will have a hip height of about 50 inches.

Hip Height, Inches	Ages, Months				Finished Weight, Pounds
	6	8	10	12	
	42	44	46	48	1150
	43	45	47	49	1200
	44	46	48	50	1250
	45	47	49	51	1300
	46	48	50	52	1350

Local Fair Requirements – SEE YOUR LOCAL WEBPAGE FOR SPECIFICS!!!

Jackson: <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/holton.html>

Jefferson: <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/oskaloosa.html>

Nemaha: <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/seneca.html>

- a. Animals must be owned at least 120 days prior to fair. Steers must be weighed and tagged at a Spring Meadowlark District weigh in. Ear tags will be paid for at the time of weigh in.
- b. Youth will be allowed to enter and show any animal that was tagged by Family Nomination. 4-H members may switch ownership of animals within the Family Nomination, but final ownership by 4-Her must be declared at fair pre-entry time. A Family Nomination is defined as: youth legally residing in the same household and sharing the same legal address. Youth must materially participate in the care of the project for the majority of the time.
- c. Youth must sign & abide by the **MED Code Ring of Ethics** (signed once in a 4-H career) and have it on file with the Extension Office by July 1st.
- d. Youth must sign and abide by the **MED Fair Code of Conduct** due July 1st each year.
- e. All youth must complete the **YQCA** annual training.
- f. If intending to participate in the Premium Auction, youth must fill out the **MED 4-H/FFA Sale Requirements** form. This must be on file at the Extension office by July 1st.

Important Dates & Information for Market Beef Project

MED Spring Weigh In's

Holton – March 6, 2-4 pm at Holton Livestock Exchange

Oskaloosa – March 5, 10 am-12 pm at Fairgrounds in Valley Falls

Seneca – February 25, 3:00-5:00 pm at Vet Clinic in Seneca

Kansas Junior Beef Producer Day – March of even numbered years

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/index.html>

Jefferson Co Beef Show – March 26 Jackson County Spring Show – May

Kansas State Fair & Kansas Junior Livestock Show Nominations due – May 1

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/>

Meadowlark District Web Page

<https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/>

Kansas 4-H Beef Project Page

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/beef.html>

Youth Livestock Education Resources

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/educational-materials.html>