

Market Steer and Dairy Beef Steer Guidelines

Superintendents: - Greg Baker (interim) and Sara VanDyk (interim)

Beef and Dairy Beef Fair Guidelines and Project Requirements

All Exhibitors are eligible to participate if they are between the ages of 9 and 19. All animals must have proper TB test documentation. Documentation must be provided to superintendents. If you have questions pertaining to documentation, please call well in advance of the fair to accommodate testing if needed. Out of state calves must be within the guidelines established by MDA

All market animals must be identified by an RFID ear tag number or tattoo, and the number recorded with the superintendents March 30th. Members may tag any number of beef steers/heifers) and any number of dairy beef steers but only show and sell one steer/heifer in beef and one steer in dairy beef. All members 14 years of age and older of the current year are eligible to show two beef steers/heifers and two dairy beef steers, provided that space is available, and that the member participated in the project in the previous year. If the superintendents determine that space is limited, a lottery system will be used to decide which members may exhibit two animals.

All beef and dairy beef projects must be entered and weighed in on Sunday. No animals will be accepted after 1:00 pm unless special arrangements have been made in advance with the superintendents. Sale weight for the livestock auction is determined by the weigh-in on Sunday. Steers must be finished in order to be sold during the auction. A "C" rating will make an animal ineligible to sell. Animals with horns are not permitted to be exhibited.

Beef/Dairy Beef Record Book is a requirement for 4-H members and will be entered and judged on Saturday as a still exhibit. A completed book is necessary for sale of beef/dairy beef projects through the livestock auction.

Classes will be established by weight and not by breed.

Beef/Dairy Beef Showmanship: All beef/dairy beef animals, including breeding stock, are eligible to compete in showmanship classes. You must show your own project. Grooming of the showman and knowledge of the project, as well as grooming of the animal will be considered. Top Showman may compete for Master Showman.

Participation in "Rate of Gain" is encouraged. Superintendents hold project weigh-in in early December, the date and location announced in the 4-H newsletter. In addition, signed weight slips from Winter Beef at MSU are accepted by the superintendents. "Rate of Gain" awards will be announced on show day.

Additional Requirements:

1. Take a picture of the animal purchased for the project by Dec. 31st prior to the fair and include it in your record book.
2. Out of state calves must be within guidelines established by MDA
3. Calves feet should be trimmed before the fair.
4. Do all clipping and trimming of calves at home before bringing them to the fairgrounds. Minimal grooming should be done at the fair.
5. *Halters and neck ropes are necessary* and required in the beef barn.
6. Keep your animal clean, fed and watered at all times. If this is not done you may be asked to take your animal home.
7. Do not take calves out of the barn after 6:00 pm. The only exception is on Sunday evening when all calves can be taken to the show arena. Project superintendents will let everyone know when the arena is available.
8. Nozzles must be used on wash rack hoses
9. On show day and sale day it is your responsibility to have your animals ready on time.
10. Turn in properly written thank you notes for all buyers and trophy sponsors by noon on Saturday.
11. Remember, this is a fat cattle show. Have your project finished.
12. A beef project requires a lot of work and cooperation from family members. 4-H'ers, not parents, are expected to groom and care for their animals, at home and during fair week. Parents and leaders are encouraged to provide guidance and direct 4-H'ers throughout the entire year. When fair arrives, 4-H'ers are expected to display the skills they have learned during the 4-H year.
13. Do your part to keep the barn clean and tack areas free from litter and clutter. We want to project a good image to the public.
14. Barn duty will be a requirement. Project superintendents will have a sign up sheet available at the Mandatory meeting prior to fair week. All beef project members are required to sign up and complete their duties. If unable to fulfill this requirement, the 4-Her will owe the beef project \$50.00 for each incomplete barn duty sign up time.

BEEF AND DAIRY STEER RECORD BOOK REQUIREMENTS

A FINISHED RECORD BOOK ENTERED AS A STILL EXHIBIT IS NECESSARY FOR SALE OF A PROJECT

The following is a list of 10 items required to be in your project record book. It is required to use the MSU Extension 4-H Market Animal Project Record Book that can be found at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_market_animal_record_book. The judges will use the listed criteria as a *minimum*.

1. Include a picture of your animal(s) taken before Dec. 31st.
2. Include a picture of the finished calf.
3. Indicate the weight of the animal when purchased.
4. Keep monthly feed records and include them in the record book.
5. Record feed costs.
6. Record miscellaneous expenses such as veterinary, tack, etc.
7. Know your total project cost.
8. Figure rate of gain estimate and record it.
9. Include a written explanation of the project.
10. Include a chart showing parts of beef animals.

These are minimum requirements. Please use your own ideas to create an interesting and educational record book. The reason for doing it is to learn about your project and keep records over the years.

Remember: Your record book should be appropriate for your age and the number of years in the project.

Please include this sheet in your record book.