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 of 4-5.

b. Steers should be born between Jan. 1 & Sept. 1 of the 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 the fair.

e. Start your fresh, young steer calves out on a finishing ration about five months prior to fair time. Steers should gain about 450 lbs during the five months prior to fair.

f. Steers underweight will not be allowed in the premium sale auction.

**Care & Management**

a. Most steers grade choice at 1250-1405 lbs. 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 calve 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hip Height, Inches</th>
<th>Ages, Months</th>
<th>Finished Weight, Pounds</th>
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**Local Fair Requirements – MED-Oskaloosa (Jefferson)**

a. Steers must be weighed, tagged and breed identified at a Spring Meadowlark District weigh in. Ear tags will be paid for at the time of weigh-in.
b. Youth are expected to help with fair set-up and clean-up.
c. All beef must be pre-entered by July 1st.
d. Youth are responsible for their own bedding and care of the animal. Only woodchips are allowed for bedding during the fair.
e. No cleaning of pens during the Livestock Premium sale Thursday night.
f. There must be at least three animals weighed in of a breed to have a class at the fair. If not at least three, they will be shown in All Other Breeds.
g. 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.
h. Youth must sign and abide by the MED Fair Code of Conduct due July 1st each year.
i. All youth must complete the YQCA annual training.
j. Steers must weigh at least 1050 lbs. to sell in the premium livestock auction.

**Local 4-H Livestock Sale Rules & Requirements**

a. The sale is held for 4-H exhibitors and all animals sold must have been exhibited in this year’s fair.
b. The youth must fill out the MED 4-H Premium Sale Requirements form. This must be on file at the Extension office by July 1st.
c. The sale order will be listed in the fair book. Grand and Reserve Grand Champions will sell first.
d. The premium sale is a terminal sale, meaning all animals sold must go to slaughter. Animals sold through the sale are not eligible to be shown at the Kansas State Fair or the Kansas Jr Livestock Show.
e. Market steers must weigh at least 1050 lbs. to sell. Ones not making weight at fair weigh-in may be floored if floor buyer is willing to take them. Otherwise, they must be taken home.
f. Only one beef animal may be sold through the sale. If two steers are shown, the other one may be floored. A deduction will be collected for sale fees.

**Important Dates & Information for Market Beef Project**

**Fitting & Showing Clinic**
Saturday, April 25-Valley Falls Fairgrounds-9:00 am-4:00 pm

**MED Spring Weigh In’s:**
- Holton – Feb 23, 2-4 pm at Holton Livestock Exchange
- Oskaloosa – March 7, 11 am-1pm at VF Fairgrounds
- Seneca – March 21, 3-5 pm at Vet Clinic in Seneca

**KS Jr Beef Producer Day** – Feb 29, 2020

**Jackson County Spring Show** – May 23

**Valley Falls Beef Show** – March 28

**Meadowlark District Web Page**
https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/

**Kansas 4-H Beef Project Page**
https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/beef.html