



Meadowlark District 4-H Market Beef 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. Market Heifers and Dairy steers are project options as well.
- 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. Market Heifers will typically finishes sooner.
- 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.

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 – MED-Seneca (Nemaha)

- a. 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 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 the care of the animal. *Sand bedding is provided.*
- e. 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.
- f. Youth must sign and abide by the **MED Fair Code of Conduct** due July 1st each year.
- g. All youth must complete the YQCA annual training.

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. Youth must fill out the **MED 4-H/FFA Sale Requirements** form. This must be on file at the Extension office by July 1st.
- c. Sale order will be listed in the fairbook. Grand and Reserve Grand Champions will sell first.
- d. The premium sale is a premium only sale. You are responsible for marketing your own animal. Animals sold through sale are not eligible to be shown at the Kansas State Fair or the Kansas Jr Livestock Show.
- e. All market beef (steers, heifers & dairy beef) must weigh at least 950 and no more than 1700 pounds to sell.
- f. Only one animal may be sold through the sale. A 5% selling fee will be collected.

Important Dates & Information for Market Beef Project

MED Spring Weigh In's

Holton – Feb 23 2-4pm at Holton Livestock Exchange

Oskaloosa – March 7 11am-1pm at Fairgrounds in Valley Falls

Seneca – March 21 3-5pm at Vet Clinic in Seneca

KS Jr Beef Producer Day – Feb 29, 2020

https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/2020%20Flyer_Kansas%20Junior%20Beef%20Producer%20Day%20Flyer.pdf

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>

Youth Livestock Education Resources

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