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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages, Months</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>Finished Weight, Pounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hip Height, Inches</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1250</td>
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<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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