

Kalamazoo County 4-H

Beef and Market Dairy Steers

Project Guidelines

Project Superintendents: – Kyle Vosburg 269-719-5171

Project Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188605504879793>

Project Objectives & Life Skills*

- Learn basic principles of animal science and gain life skills, such as responsibility, by owning, caring for and keeping records on one or more heads of livestock.
- Gain knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- Start your own herd with breeding animals or raise a market animal that produces a meat product for human consumption.
- Demonstrate knowledge in the care, management and science related to the beef industry.
- **Head**
 - Record keeping
 - Wise use of resources
 - Goal setting
 - Decision making
- **Heart**
 - Nurturing relationships
 - Empathy
 - Concern for others
 - Cooperation
- **Hands**
 - Responsible citizenship
 - Marketable skills
 - Leadership
 - Teamwork
- **Health**
 - Self-responsibility
 - Character
 - Disease prevention
 - Personal safety

**note these life skills are just some examples of what 4-H members will learn in this project*

Additional Resources:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_beef_project_snapshot_4h1629

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Beef and Market Dairy Steers Guidelines

- All exhibitors are eligible to participate if they are between the 4-H age of 9 and 19 as of January 1 of the current programming year.
- 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 the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)
- In compliance with the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, all animals must have an electronic (RFID) tag (USDA approved official identification) to come to the fair. If you have questions pertaining to documentation, please call well in advance of the fair to accommodate testing if needed.
- Project animals must be in the members possession by December 1 of the programming year.
- Required project photos and RFID tag numbers are due to the superintendent no later than January 1 of the program year.
- Animals with horns are not permitted to be exhibited. Scurs are allowed up to 1 inch.
- 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.
- Take a picture of the animal purchased for the project by Dec. 31st prior to the fair and include it in your market journal/record book.
- Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) must be completed annually by exhibitors who will be selling at the 4-H livestock auction. december
 - Face to face YQCA classes will be held a minimum of 3 times per programming year.
 - Youth may complete either the face-to-face session or the web-based class.
 - Pre-registration for the face-to-face session is required.
 - YQCA certificates must be turned into the 4-H office no later than July 1 of each year.

Prior To and During Fair Week Guidelines and Requirements:

- Calves' feet should be trimmed before the fair.
- Do all clipping and trimming of calves at home before bringing them to the fairgrounds. Minimal grooming should be done at the fair.
- **Halters and neck ropes are necessary and required in the beef barn.**
- Keep your animal clean, fed and watered at all times. If this is not done you may be asked to take your animal home.
- Nozzles must be used on wash rack hoses
- On show day and sale day it is your responsibility to have your animals ready on time.
- Turn in properly written thank you notes for all buyers and trophy sponsors to the superintendent prior barn clean up.
- Remember, to have your project completed as this is a fat cattle show.
- 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 the fair arrives, 4-H'ers are expected to display the skills they have learned during the 4-H program year.
- 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.
- 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.

Section A –Beef Carcass

- Guidelines for beef carcass project are in the [Carcass Guidelines](#)

MARKET BEEF

- **To comply with MDARD, all market animals must be identified with an RFID ear tag number and the number recorded with the superintendents January 1 or the current program year.**
- Members may tag 2 beef steers/ heifers) and 2 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 program year, or 12 years of age and showed the animal as a feeder calf the previous 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 at the unloading time determined by the MSU Extension and the 4-H Livestock Association. No animals will be accepted at an alternate time unless special arrangements have been made in advance with the superintendents.
- Sale weight for the livestock auction is determined by the weigh-in at the unloading time. Steers must be finished in order to be sold during the auction. A "C" rating will make an animal ineligible to sell.

Section B–Market Beef

- Steers/heifers must be finished in order to be sold during the auction.
- Must be a minimum of 1000# or determined to be finished by the superintendent.

Section C–Market Dairy Steers

- Dairy Steers must be born after January 1st of the previous year.
- A separate record book should be completed for dairy beef and beef projects.
- Steers must be a minimum of 1000# or determined to be finished by the superintendent.
- If an animal is not finished, it may be returned home after fair or sent to resale at the option of the owner.
- Suggested weight by December is 750-900 lbs.

Section D–Market Dairy Cross

- To be eligible the animal must be 50% dairy breed and 50% beef breed (Exp Angus crossed with Holstein).
- Genetic documentation is required and must be provided to the superintendent by weigh-in unless shown the previous year as a dairy cross.
- A certified bill of sale document will be provided by the superintendent, to be filled out by one of the two approved dairy cross sellers.

BREEDING STOCK

Section E–Angus Breeding Stock

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Section F–Chianina Breeding Stock

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Section G–Commercial Female Class Breeding Stock

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Section H–Hereford Breeding Stock Section

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Section I–Polled Hereford Breeding Stock Section

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Section J–Simmental Breeding Stock

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Section K–Any Other Breed, Breeding Stock

- All exhibitors are eligible to participate in the Commercial Female Beef Project.
- The purpose is to allow those exhibitors an opportunity to show females not having registration papers.
- All animals must have RFID tags in their ears prior to coming to the fair.
- Quality females will produce quality offspring.
- All females shown must have at least 50% beef breeding and be owned by the exhibitor by May 1st of the current year.

Section L–Championship Classes

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Section M–Group Classes

Section N–Showmanship

- All beef/dairy beef animals, including breeding stock, are eligible to compete in showmanship classes.
- A heifer must be finished and of breeding age to be eligible.
- Youth must show their own project.
- The 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.

Section O–Beef and Market Dairy Steer Science and Market Journal

- Michigan 4-H Animal Market Project Book is a requirement for 4-H members.
- It will be entered and judged on Saturday as a still exhibit and is required for sale of beef/dairy beef projects through the livestock auction.
- The market journal must be presented in a 3-ring binder or portfolio. Loose pages will not be accepted.
- The “Beef and Dairy Steer Record Book Requirements” sheet (Page 5 of this document) must be included with your project.
- If your animal has received medical treatment or vaccinations you will also need to include a completed Michigan 4-H Animal Treatment Record Sheet. The document can be found at https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_animal_treatment_record_sheet

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 below as a minimum.

1. Include a picture of your animal(s) taken before Dec. 31st.
2. Include a picture of your finished cattle.
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, if you are competing in the rate of gain competition.
9. Include a written explanation of the project.
10. Include a chart showing body parts of beef animals. This could include basic body parts and then as the exhibitor ages more in depth labeling.

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.

Market Cross Dairy Certified Bill of Sale

Name of youth: _____

Name of Seller: _____

Date of Sale: _____

RFID tag Number: _____

AI Lot Number: _____