



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

4-H Beef Project



Have you ever wondered what it takes for a calf to become a Champion heifer or steer. The 4-H Beef project is an excellent way to learn about the different phases of the beef industry in Colorado and the rest of the nation. Your involvement in this project allows you the opportunity to develop and use new life skills as you learn the different aspects of the beef industry, either by caring for a market animal or building your own herd.

Starting Out

Beginner

- Learn about beef cattle
- How to identify the parts of a calf
- Identify breeds of cattle
- Different types of feeds
- Evaluating different beef animals
- Purchase, feed and care for animals
- Evaluate project with leader
- Learn about goal setting
- Learn how to keep records
- Exhibit an animal on tour, achievement day or at the fair
- Learn how to assume responsibility

Learning More

Intermediate

- Learn about nutritional requirements for beef cattle
- Learn about a cow's digestive system
- Identifying common cattle diseases
- Learn about goal setting
- Gain knowledge of sound management practices
- Exhibit an animal on tour, achievement day or at the fair
- Develop sportsmanship
- Develop public speaking skills

Exploring Depth

Advanced

- How to deal with current issues relating to raising beef
- Gain leadership skills by helping others learn about cattle
- Explore career opportunities in the beef industry
- Investigating technology's impact on beef production
- Exhibit an animal on tour, achievement day or at the fair
- Build lifelong friendship

Resources and Links

- Beef Resource Handbook
- Livestock e-Record
- Breeding Beef Record Supplement
- Livestock e-Record Guide
- Meat Quality Assurance



It takes about 2500 pounds of grain and 2000 pounds of hay to properly feed a market calf over the last 170 days.