



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Beef Project

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What is it All About?

The 4-H beef project allows you to learn about breeds, selection, grooming, production, management, showmanship, marketing and careers through a breeding or market animal.

Grow in Your Project

Starting Out

- Identify different beef breeds
- Learn proper feeding of cattle
- Prepare a project animal for show by leading it and setting up its feet
- Learn how to groom a beef animal
- Identify common beef cuts of meat
- Identify how a healthy calf looks and acts

Resources

- Bite Into Beef, Level 1
(08143)*

Learning More

- Learn the appropriate handling techniques and housing for beef cattle
- Explore the difference between yield grade and quality grade
- Learn the various methods of cooking different beef cuts.
- Explore a ruminant digestive system

Resources

- Here's the Beef, Level 2
(08144)*

Going Further

- Balance a beef ration
- Learn how to manage a cow and newborn calf
- Learn about Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs)
- Explore the technological impacts to beef breeding and reproduction
- Properly identify and learn to treat common cattle diseases

Resources

- Leading the Charge, Level 3
(08145)*

Resources for All Three Levels

- Beef Helper's Guide (08146)*
- Exploring Beef Health and husbandry (08455)*

Take Your Project Further!

- Tour a beef ranch or visit a livestock auction
- Interview a livestock fence supplier to find out more about animal care and safety
- Learn about different brands in Wisconsin
- Visit a local feed mill and see how feed ingredients are mixed, weighed and blended to make a complete ration
- Visit a local meat locker or local grocery meat case to observe preparation and packaging
- Job shadow with a local beef producer or veterinarian to learn about animal management and health
- Attend a cattle show to listen to a judge give oral reasons and witness the differences in judging cattle
- Participate in a livestock judging workshop or be on your county 4-H Livestock Judging Team at the Wisconsin State Fair.
- Discover different uses for beef products and by-products
- Exhibit or attend local, regional or national beef shows and conferences

*Resources available at your local Extension office or shop4-H.org.

Applying Project Skills to Life

Enhance Your Communication Skills

- Teach someone the important traits in selecting a breeding heifer
- Design a poster demonstrating how to prepare beef cuts
- Participate in a judging contest giving oral reasons
- Share a presentation on the importance of following drug labels.

Get Involved in Citizenship and Service

- Complete a beef promotion presentation during May, Beef Month
- Provide beef taste testing at a grocery store to promote local food
- Lead other 4-H members in participating in local beef producer events.
- Start a beef livestock judging team with the help of an adult volunteer.
- Prior to the county fair, lead a beef grooming and showmanship clinic.
- Volunteer to do beef promotion presentations during May Beef Month Provide beef taste testing at a grocery store to promote local food Volunteer to help at the county fair weigh-in

Learn about Leadership

- Lead other 4-H members in participating in local beef producer events
- Arrange a tour of your farm your farm in your area
- Start a livestock judging, meat judging, or livestock skillathon team with help of an adult volunteer
- Lead a beef grooming and showmanship clinic for other 4-H members

Showing What You've Learned

- Participate in the 4-H beef show at county fair or the Wisconsin State Fair
- Consider an exhibit, notebook or display on what you've learned in a beef-related topic
- Nutritive value of beef
- Beef meat cuts and proper preparation
- Feeding rations
- Preventative vaccinations
- Photos of different beef breeds
- Daily routine in caring for animals
- Grooming techniques
- Developing a foundation beef herd
- Best care techniques for newborns
- Beef by-products
- Impact of local foods on local economy
- Display of feeds or ration contents or analysis
- How to Tattoo or Research how beef check-off dollars are used
- Video on fitting a steer and/or heifer lo



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<https://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/animal-science/beef.html>.

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