

REFERENCE GUIDE FOR THE 4-H BUCKET CALF PROJECT



Adams County

INTRODUCTION TO THE BUCKET CALF PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What breed of calf should I get? Do I buy a male or female?

Breed and sex of the calf are of no importance in judging this project. But, you may want to consider long-term goals for each calf. Some questions you must answer are: Will I sell my calf after I show it at the county fair? Do I want to keep it and show it at future shows? Do I want to show beef (steers or heifers) or dairy (heifer)? Does my family have the resources (time and money) for a year around project?

How much does a newborn to week-old calf cost?

Prices vary depending on demand, health, breed, and location. Typically dairy breeds are more available and, therefore less expensive. Prices will vary from \$50 all the way up to \$500 in extreme situations. An average price should be \$150 unless there are other price factors. A good calf at a sale barn in April or May, could cost \$300.

Where do I get a newborn calf?

Calves may be purchased off the farm from dairy or beef producers. Quite often, dairy producers will be able to tell you when they will have calves available. Dairies usually do not like to keep male calves, so they may be less expensive. Also, livestock auctions sell newborn to week-old calves. Do not wait until the last week or day to try and find a calf. Start making contacts well in advance. Contact your Extension Educator for more ideas.

What is the most important thing to know when buying a calf?

Make sure the calf has had colostrum after being born. Colostrum is the first milk produced by cows at calving time. It is essential to the well-being of the newborn calf because colostrum contains antibodies, which are things that prevent certain diseases. Unless the calf receives 2 quarts of colostrum within the first few hours after being born, the calf will likely become sick and may die. At the time the calf is separated from its dam, an injection of vitamins A, D, and E is recommended. The recommended amounts are: 500,000 I.U. of A; 75,000 I.U. of D; and 50 I.U. of E. These vitamins will help give the newborn calf a good start in life. Read the segment in this document on "Keeping Your Calf Healthy" for more information.

How much space does a calf require?

Newborn calves can get sick real easy. Therefore, it is important to provide a clean environment for the newborn calf. Calves should be housed separately in a clean, draft-free, dry environment to help keep it healthy. Good calf housing provides conditions that are comfortable for the calf and minimizes stress. A calf hutch and a small pen should only take up an 8x8 foot space.

What do I feed and how do I feed it?

You will start your calf on milk replacer, which may be purchased at most farm supply stores. Either a nipple bottle or bucket can be used for feeding milk replacer. After 6 weeks or so you will wean your calf off of the milk and feed a calf starter ration along with good quality hay. For more information refer to the segment in this document on "Feeding a Bucket Calf."

What equipment do I need?

You will need a calf hutch and pen, calf bottle and nipple, halter, brush, water bucket, and feed bucket.

Will my calf need shots or medicine?

Newborn calves can get sick real easy. Learn the signs of a sick calf and get to know your local veterinarian. It is highly recommended that at the appropriate age your calf be vaccinated against IBR, BVD, Lepto, and Blackleg. Keep records of all medications given. Learn more about diseases and how to keep your calf healthy by reading the segment in this document on "Keeping Your Calf Healthy."

What if I have more than one calf to feed?

House the calves in separate pens. This makes it easier to feed and prevents disease transmission. Identify each calf with an ear tag or neck strap with a name or number on it.

What other activities are involved?

Record keeping and awards: bucket calf exhibitors are encouraged to fill out a "Bucket Calf Record". One easy way to do this is to write on a calendar or in a diary, what you do each day with your calf. Then when you fill out your record form all the information you need is right there. Four-H members are recognized at the annual county achievement program for record books. Contact your Extension Educator or local leader for more information on records and awards.

FEEDING A BUCKET CALF

THE BASICS

First things first

Make sure the calf has had colostrum after being born. Colostrum is the first milk produced by cows at calving time. It is essential to the well being of the newborn calf because colostrum contains antibodies, which are things that prevent certain diseases. Unless the calf receives at least 2 quarts of colostrum within the first few hours after being born, the calf will likely become sick and may die. At the time the calf is separated from its mother, injections of vitamins A, D, and E are recommended. The recommended amounts are: 500,000 I.U. of A, 75,000 I.U. of D, and 50 I.U. of E. These vitamins will help give the newborn calf a good start in life.

Shelter

Calves should be kept in separate pens that are disinfected and provide clean, dry, and draft free, shade and shelter. Pen space does not have to be that large. An 8'x 8' area is adequate for a calf hutch and pen.

Feed

You will start your calf on milk replacer, which may be purchased at most farm supply stores. Follow mixing directions for the milk replacer. Read the segment in this document on "Feeding A Bucket Calf" to make sure your calf is nursing and getting adequate nutrition. This will help your calf maintain its built in disease resistance. The next step is weaning, which is changing to dry feed, and this can be a stressful time for calves. Clean the bottle or bucket between every feeding and clean the feed trough daily when you switch to dry food.

Water

Calves should have access to clean fresh water daily. After you start providing dry feed (hay and calf starter), water should be available at all times. Clean the bucket and replace with fresh water every day.

Health Care

There are many things to know about keeping your calf healthy. Get to know your veterinarian. He/she is specialist in animal health care and should be an invaluable partner in any livestock enterprise. There are many activities that will require their expertise.

Vaccinations

Calves need help in resisting diseases. Colostrum provides resistance for a time after birth, but as the calf gets older it needs to start developing resistance to disease on its own. Vaccinations help the calf by introducing a weakened or killed virus to its system. The weakened diseases are much easier for the calf's immune system to fight and resist. Once the disease has been resisted the calf should be able to continue to fight the disease on its own. This is called immunity.

Calves — 2 months of age:

1. Clostridial bacterin (4-way)
2. IBR-PI3 nasal vaccine
3. 5-way Leptospira bacterin
4. Pasturella leukotoxoid

Calves — 4-6 months of age:

1. Booster clostridial
2. Modified live IBR-PI3-BVD
3. Booster Pasturella leukotoxoid
4. Brucella strain 19 – (heifers)

Contact your local veterinarian for help and advice with vaccinations.

Parasite Control

Flies, lice, ticks, and worms are all pests, which affect the health of your calf. Lice and ticks are small blood sucking skin irritants and may be controlled with sprays or pour-on chemicals. Worms are internal and may be treated with injectable, pour-on, or mouth application anthelmintics (worm killers). Spray for fly control on both the calf and in the pen.

Castration

This involves the neutering of male calves by removing their testicles. Castration can be done at any age; however, the younger a calf is the less stress on the animal. Bull calves are neutered because steers tend to have calmer dispositions and are easier to handle. Furthermore, consumers prefer meat from steers because of quality. Contact your veterinarian.

Dehorning

Some breeds of cattle grow horns (and some do not), which have no practical use in most commercial beef cattle herds. An exception would be the Longhorn breed, which is prized for its horns. Calves should be dehorned early in life, preferably before two months of age, to decrease stress. Horned cattle can be dehorned by means of surgery, heat, or chemicals. Contact your veterinarian.

Bottle Feeding

A calf will instinctively nurse its mother, but nursing a nipple bottle or drinking from a bucket is a new learning experience. Teaching a calf to suck from a nipple bottle is much easier than teaching one to drink from a bucket. A nipple bottle is convenient for measuring the correct amount of liquid feed. A bucket is convenient for encouraging calves to consume calf starter (a dry feed, which can be put in the bucket as a calf finishes the milk replacer). The easiest way to teach your calf to consume milk or milk replacer is to take advantage of the calf's instincts. Since calves will instinctively nurse, insert one or two fingers in its mouth (yes, they have teeth, but only on the bottom) and let the calf start sucking. Then insert the nipple of the bottle in its mouth and let it continue to suck. If bucket feeding is used, force the calf's mouth into the bucket of milk while it is sucking on your fingers.

A good milk replacer will contain at least 22 percent protein and 15 percent fat. Because of the fat level, it is easier to mix when warm water is added. Milk replacer may be fed warm, but not above 100 °F. Mixing smaller amounts allows for easier mixing. Avoid changes in amounts or temperature of milk or replacer. Follow label instructions when using milk replacer. Holding the level of liquid feed constant encourages the calf to consume calf starter as its size and appetite increase. A calf needs 8 percent of its birth weight in milk or milk replacer a day. If a calf weighs 100 pounds at birth it should be fed 8 pounds of liquid in two equal feedings each day (Table 1). Likewise, a calf weighing 80 pounds should be fed about 6.5 pounds each day in two equal feedings (Table 1).

Table 1. Milk replacer calculations.

$100\text{lbs} \times .08 = 8\text{ lbs}$	$8\text{ lbs} = 1\text{ gal}$	$1\text{ gal} = 4\text{ qts}$
So, feed 2 qts a feeding, twice a day.		
$80\text{lbs} \times .08 = 6.4\text{ lbs}$	$8\text{ lbs} = 1\text{ gal}$	
$1\text{ gal} = 4\text{ qts}$	$1\text{ qt} = 2\text{ lbs}$	
So, feed approximately 1.75 qts each feeding		

Each calf should be fed from a separate nipple bottle or bucket to avoid spreading diseases from one calf to another. Calves raised separately do best. Separate pens will reduce disease transmission and make it easier to feed. Water should be made available for the calf even though it is being fed milk or milk replacer. It is best to offer water at least 20 minutes after feeding the liquid feed because water helps maintain the clotting enzyme (rennet), which is needed in the calf's stomach.

Within a few days after the calf is born, it should be encouraged to consume dry feed, both calf starter and hay, to avoid upset stomachs and prevent nutritional scours. Dry feed consumption is necessary for the calf to develop a functional rumen. In the beginning, feed small amounts of calf starter and a grass or grass-legume hay. Hay quality is very important. Look for hay with green color, fine stems, and many leaves. It is important to keep the dry feed fresh, so do not feed more than the calf will cleanup in a day. Once the calf starts eating dry feed, clean water should be made available at all times.

Weaning Your Calf

Weaning – means changing the calf's diet from one composed mostly of milk (bottle feeding) to one that is all dry feed. It is not practical to feed milk or milk replacer after calves are consuming enough dry feed to continue growing well.

The change from a diet composed of milk and dry feed to one that is all dry feed can create some stress on your calf. This is one reason why it is important for your calf to eat calf starter and hay at an early age, so it will be somewhat adjusted to dry feed. Usually by the time calves are 6 to 8 weeks old they can be weaned from liquid feeds.

The key for determining when a calf can be weaned is the amount of calf starter it is eating. Calves can be weaned when they are consuming at least 1 1/2 pounds of calf starter per day (Table 2). Provide trace-mineralized salt at all times in a location out of the weather. The amount of nutrients consumed is important to the recently weaned calf in order for it to continue growing well. Until the calf is about 3 months old, continue feeding all of the calf starter your calf will eat, plus free choice hay. At that time, a less expensive grower mix could replace the more expensive calf starter (Table 3).

Table 2. Calf Starter Diet.

Corn, Cracked	52 pounds
Oats, Rolled	20 pounds
Soybean Meal	19.5 pounds
Molasses	7.1 pounds
Limestone, Ground	1 pound
Trace Mineral Salt	.25 pound
Vitamin Supplement	
(Should supply 1000 I.U. vitamin A, 140 I.U. vitamin E per pound of starter)	

Table 3. Calf Grower Diet.

Corn, Cracked	76 pounds
Soybean Meal	17 pounds
Molasses, Liquid	5 pounds
Limestone, Ground	1.2 pounds
Trace Mineral Salt	.3 pound
Dicalcium Phosphate	.3 pound
Salt	.2 pound
Vitamins A, D, and E	
Vitamin A	1000 IU/lb
Vitamin D	140 IU/lb
Vitamin E	20 IU/lb
Additives (Lasalocid and/or another coccidiostat may be added)	

Weaning is a stressful experience for calves. You may notice that your calf may bawl for milk for a couple of days, especially near feeding time. Because the change of diet causes stress, the only thing you should do at weaning is to discontinue feeding its liquid portion of the diet.

Doing other things such as moving it to a group pen, dehorning, vaccinating, etc., can cause additional stress. Clean water along with clean, dry housing with protection from the elements will ease any stress problems.

KEEPING YOUR CALF HEALTHY

IS YOUR CALF SICK OR WELL?

What is normal?

If you think your calf is sick, it is a good idea to make the following checks before you call the veterinarian.

- **Respiration** (breathing rate) – Simply watch the animal breathe and count the number of breaths per minute. Normal breaths per minute for cattle range from 20 to 28.
- **Pulse** (heartbeat) – you can check the heartbeat by holding your ear against the lower left side of the calf's chest and listen to the beats. Or, you can feel the pulse with your fingers, by putting your finger on the artery that crosses the jawbone at the middle edge of the lower jaw. Normal heartbeats per minute for cattle range from 60 to 70.
- **Temperature** – For a small amount of money you can buy an animal rectal thermometer. Be sure and tie a string to the end of the thermometer to maintain control. Shake the mercury down below 98 degrees, and then insert it in the rectum. When the thermometer has been inside the calf for one to two minutes, pull it out and wipe it off with a paper towel or dry rag. Then read the temperature. Normal temperature is 101.5 degrees F. Be careful not to take these tests right after your calf has been excited or overheated. Also, outside temperature should be taken into consideration along with activity level.

Appearance and Behavior

How does your calf look? Is it bright eyed and bouncing around the pen? Look at the hair coat, nose, and eyes? Are they all shiny, clear, and clean? Does your calf have a good appetite? How does it act? Healthy animals act differently than sick animals. It is important that you learn to recognize the different ways a healthy and a sick calf act. And since animals are unable to talk, we must be very good observers.

How does a sick calf look?

What is not normal?

A calf that does not feel well can't tell you what is wrong, but by watching and comparing to normal activity you can notice some common signs. Things to look for include: droopy ears and head; dry, crusty, or snotty nose; will not drink or eat; rapid breathing; bloated stomach (protruding left side); diarrhea (runny stool); humped back; disoriented; watery eyes; elevated temperature.

Call your veterinarian immediately!

Once you determine that your calf is sick (if you have no previous experience with sick calves) call a veterinarian immediately. The quicker you involve someone with animal health expertise the better the chance your calf has of a quick recovery. Young calves get sick very easily and with a quick response and challenging the disease, you increase their chance of survival. Also, different diseases require different medicines for best results. Your veterinarian will be the most up to date on medication for specific infections.

Scours

One of the more devastating problems with young calves, scours may be caused by: bacteria, viruses, and nutritional or environmental factors. Diarrhea causes dehydration, a loss of water and minerals from the body. An irritation to the digestive tract caused by one of the above factors results in inefficient digestion of food.

Scouring calves are usually losing body weight because of dehydration, and are unable to digest their food well enough to maintain or gain body weight. The greatest concern for a scouring calf should be to replace the loss of minerals and avoid body weight loss. Therefore, the immediate treatment should be to replace the lost minerals by feeding an electrolyte solution in addition to milk or milk replacer. Effective electrolyte powders for mixing with water are available from your veterinarian. The electrolytes should be mixed according to instructions and fed 10 to 15 minutes after the milk or milk replacer. It is important not to feed the electrolyte solution immediately after the milk, since the solution will dilute the milk too much and will affect the digestive enzymes.

Since a scouring calf's digestive system is upset, the feeding schedule should be changed to avoid overloading the system. Milk or milk replacer should be fed at the rate of 1 percent of the calf's birth weight, but this total amount should be divided into four equal feedings. A good feeding schedule would be: morning, noon, evening, and bedtime. The same amount of electrolyte solution should be fed approximately 15 minutes after the milk. When the scouring condition begins to subside, the number of feedings can be reduced to three times per day and then two times per day. Finally, the use of the electrolyte solution can be withdrawn during a three-day period.

Records

Keep good records of all events. One good way to do this is to write on a calendar or in a diary, what you do each day with your calf. Keeping track of all medicines that your calf receives is very important. Record the date, type of treatment, amount of medicine, who gave the medicine, kind of medicine, and any withdrawal date. This information will help your veterinarian determine if a different method of treatment is necessary.

Disease Terminology

Bangs (Brucellosis) Heifers kept for replacements must be vaccinated for this disease, at six months of age, which causes abortions in cattle. Nebraska is a Brucellosis free state.

Blackleg is a bacterial disease that can be picked up from spores in the soil. Signs include: swelling in neck, hip and shoulder, along with fever, lameness, and depression.

Bloat is a nutritional disorder that causes excess gas to be trapped in the rumen (stomach compartment). A visible swelling of the left side above the flank is the primary signal.

BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhea) is a viral disease transmitted through contact. Clinical signs include: diarrhea, sores on lips and gums, lameness, and dry cough.

Clostridium Toxoids are bacteria (including Blackleg) that destroy tissue cells. Vaccination for control of these bacteria may be given (2-way to 8-way) for immunity.

Coccidiosis is transmitted in feed or water and is characterized by diarrhea, dehydration, loss of appetite, depression, and weakness. Keep pens and feed bunks clean and dry.

Diarrhea involves many aspects including nutrition, environment, and infectious agents. Fluid loss results in: dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, loss of appetite, coma, and death.

IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis), also called Red Nose, is a viral disease of the respiratory system. Clinical symptoms are elevated temperature and crusty nose.

Lepto (Leptospirosis) is a bacterial disease of animals and humans. Transmitted by contaminated feed or water it causes fever, bloody urine, loss of appetite, and anemia.

Pinkeye is caused by any number of irritants (weeds, flies) to the eye. The eye turns reddish and fluids drip from the corner. If left untreated, a white film eventually forms causing blindness.

Pneumonia is caused by any number of viral or bacterial agents. Shallow rapid breathing, listless appearance, and high temperatures characterize pneumonia.

Scours (diarrhea) cause extensive fluid loss and sudden death. Immediate treatment with an electrolyte solution will help prevent dehydration.

Ringworm causes unsightly patches on the skin. Ringworm is caused by microscopic molds or fungi and can easily be transmitted to people.

Warts are skin tumors caused by a virus that enters the skin through an abrasion in the head, neck, or shoulder area. Minor surgery or vaccines may be used to treat warts.

Reference

Adapted from the Kansas Dairy Leaders Notebook.



Common Questions About the 4-H Bucket Calf Project

What is a bucket calf?

A bucket calf is an orphan or newborn calf purchased when they are 1 to 10 days old. The calves may be male or female, beef or dairy. The calves are started on a bottle (or bucket) and nipple.

How much does a newborn to week-old calf cost?

Prices vary depending on demand, health, breed, and location. Typically dairy breeds are more available and, therefore less expensive. Prices will vary from \$50 all the way up to \$500 in extreme situations. An average price should be \$150 unless there are other price factors. For example: A good calf at a sale barn in May could cost \$300.

Where do I get a newborn calf?

Calves may be purchased off the farm from dairy or beef producers. Also, livestock auctions sell newborn to week-old calves. Contact your Extension Educator for more ideas.

What is the most important thing to know when buying a calf?

Make sure the calf has had colostrum after being born. Colostrum is the first milk produced by cows at calving time. It is essential to the well-being of the newborn calf because colostrum contains antibodies, which are things that prevent certain diseases. Unless the calf receives colostrum within the first few hours after being born, the calf will likely become sick and may die.

What do I feed and how do I feed it?

You will start your calf on milk replacer. And you will feed it to the calf in a bottle (or bucket) with a nipple designed just for calves. Most farm supply stores will carry these supplies and will be happy to help you get started with your project.

How much space does a calf require?

Your calf will require shelter and a pen for protection from the weather and predators (dogs). A plywood hut (3 sheets of plywood) and a 16 x 8 foot pen are sufficient for 2 bucket calves.

What other activities are involved?

Record keeping and awards. Bucket calf exhibitors are encouraged to fill out a "Bucket Calf Record". Four-H members are recognized at the annual county achievement program for their achievements. Contact your local Extension Office or Club leader for more information on records and awards.

ANIMAL WELL-BEING

For Youth or the Beginner

As a 4-H/FFA member or open class showperson, you need to be aware of the things you can do with your own animal to promote good animal well-being. The image of the agricultural industry and the 4-H and FFA program are affected by the decisions you make and action you take in the care of your animal. You need to set goals and develop a plan that will positively impact your animal's well-being, be it on the farm, in your backyard, or at the county fair.

There are actually some things you need to do before you ever get your animal. First, think about the size your animal will be as it grows to maturity. Are your facilities large enough for the animal to get exercise? If it is not a new facility, are there any repairs needed such as protruding nails, broken boards or exposed wire? Can the animal reach any potentially dangerous objects, for example an electrical box or a poisonous plant? Think about the type of bedding you will be using and the quantity it will take to keep your animal dry and warm. Your facilities should include a site where good quality water can be supplied to your animal at all times. There should also be a designated feeding area that is kept free of manure, urine and bedding.

Once your animal arrives and is in your care, providing it with a balanced ration is a very important first step. There are many "ready make" feeds, supplements, and mixes available. Be sure your animal is receiving the nutrition it needs in relation to its age and purpose. Your animal also needs special consideration if it is in gestation, in lactation or at stud.

Next, involve your veterinarian. Develop a veterinarian-client-patient relationship. He/she can be very helpful in developing a health care program for your animal. Your plan should include a schedule appropriate for your animal. This may include such things as castrating, dehorning, internal and external parasite control and vaccination program. Always check with your veterinarian before administering treatment. Observe proper injection techniques and sites and follow residue avoidance rules.

Your animal needs to be permanently identified, whether you have one or many animals in your care. Individual identification lets you keep good records, from which you can measure your progress. If your animal becomes lost, stolen or needs medical attention when you are not available, the only way to know the animal's identity and health history is by permanent identification. This is most commonly done by tattooing or ear tagging. Your county 4-H or FFA program may identify all 4-H and FFA animals through a county-wide tagging or tattooing. If not, you are responsible for seeing it gets done.

Training animals and just getting them use to you needs to begin at an early age or as you acquire your animal. If at all possible you should spend time with your animal daily. As you walk, stand, and post your animal you both develop trust and become accustomed to each others movements. You also become aware of what sounds or sites bother your animal and in which direction he/she will tend to jump or shy. Handling your animal daily also helps you to recognize abnormal behavior for your animal that could signal illness, stress or pain.

The longer you avoid working with your animal the more difficult it becomes to train and prepare for show and the less likely you are to recognize signs of discomfort. the two P's - Practice and Patience - usually pay off.

From the day you acquire your animal until the day it leaves your care, you should maintain feed and treatment records. This is not only important for the continual care of your animal but may be of importance to whoever might later purchase your animal. You will also want to know what kinds and amounts of expenses you have incurred with your project and this is the best way to keep track.

Finally, if you plan to exhibit your animal for show or sale, continue the same quality care program throughout the exhibition as you did at home. This starts by loading and hauling your animal safely and with concern. The exhibition facilities should be prepared and checked ahead of time, just as you prepared your facilities at home when you first acquired your animal. Continually watch your animal for signs of stress, pain or illness. Exercise your animal daily. Clean, feed and water your animal regularly.

Above all, enjoy your animal project experience and feel good about the knowledge you have gained and the quality care program you developed and utilized with your animal project.

ADAMS COUNTY 4-H BUCKET CALF EXHIBIT

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW

- 1. Where and when did you obtain your calf?**
- 2. Why was it for sale?**
- 3. What did it cost you? Who paid for it?**
- 4. How old was the calf when you got it?**
- 5. How old is your calf now?**
- 6. What did you name it? Why did you name him that?**
- 7. Does your dad or mom have a name for this calf different than yours?**
- 8. Did you have any health problems with the calf? Was it ever sick?**
- 9. What did you do to help make him better?**
- 10. How did you get him home?**
- 11. What did you feed the calf when you first got him home?**
- 12. Do you know what colostrum is? Did you feed it to your calf?**
- 13. What was your feeding program for your calf?**
- 14. What is milk replacer? Did you use any?**
- 15. How long did you feed it milk? Are you still feeding it milk?**
- 16. Did you warm up the milk? How did you do this?**
- 17. When did you start giving your calf solid feed?**
- 18. What did you feed it when you started the solid feed?**
- 19. What are you feeding it now?**
- 20. What feed does your calf like the best? How come?**
- 21. How often did you change the ration?**
- 22. Did you feed any antibiotics?**
- 23. Where did you keep your calf? Did he have a special house or pen?**
- 24. Did you have to get some special things for your calf? What were they?**
- 25. Can you name some management programs that you used? ie—castrate, vaccinate, trimming, etc. How did you do this?**
- 26. When did you start training your calf? Was it hard to do?**
- 27. Do you plan to make a profit with your calf? How much?**
- 28. What are you going to do with the money you earn?**
- 29. What are you going to do with the calf after the fair? Why?**
- 30. What did you like best about your bucket calf project?**
- 31. What did you like the least about your bucket calf project?**
- 32. What is the best thing about your calf that nobody else knows?**
- 33. Did you like doing your record book? Why or Why not?**
- 34. Do you suppose your parents like keeping records?**
- 35. Would you do this again? Why or Why not?**

Beef Showmanship

The first step in beef showmanship is having a well trained animal that will lead properly. Teaching the animal to lead and stand correctly is your first priority. Beginners should make a point to watch a beef show before entering the ring with their own animal

Dress Code: Refer to your county fair book or the Nebraska State Fair Book

Equipment:

Show Halter - Make sure it is the correct size for your animal. Nose band should be half way from eyes to muzzle. Halter should be clean and have a lead and chin strap about 4 ft. long.

Showstick: It needs to be long enough for you to reach the back legs of your animal while standing at its head.

Comb: Scotch or flat.

Equipment Use While Entering Ring:

Show Halter: The shank should be held in both hands while leading. Right hand about one foot from the calf's head, remainder of shank running through left hand and hanging straight down. (Never coil or loop the lead strap around your hand). Distance between hands - about 18".

Showstick: Hold in left hand while leading with point end backward. About 3/4 of the stick behind your hand.

Comb: Carry the comb in your back pocket, with the teeth pointed inwards to the showman's body.

It is important to be ready to enter the ring when your class is called. This means keeping track of earlier classes and having both your animal and yourself ready.

If you have the chance to be first into the ring, go for it. It is important for the first showman into the ring to lead the animal out at a brisk pace so all the animals will show at their best.

Showing Procedures

- Circle the ring clockwise at a brisk walk.
- While leading the calf, the showman walks to the left of the calf's head, so the judge will have a full front view of the animal.
- With the lead strap in your right hand, hold the calf's head up to display alertness. This position must be comfortable for your arm and the animal's head. (Otherwise you may both tire out before the show is over). Your left hand has the remainder of the lead and your showstick, being carried comfortably between waist and shoulder height.
- The halter shank needs to be tight at all times, so the exhibitor can feel all movements of the calf.
- You must keep one eye on the judge (and ringmaster) and the other on your animal. The judge wants to see the animal set properly and needs your attention for hand signals or other directions.

When Your Animal Is Stopped

- Try to leave several feet between yours and the next animal.
- Keep in a straight line.
- Switch the lead strap into your left hand (letting the strap hang down) and the showstick into your right hand.
- Keep their head up and all four feet set squarely under all four corners.
- You can place their feet with pressure on the halter combined with the use of the show stick. (Pushing back or pulling forward on the halter will cause the animal to move its feet with the change in weight distribution.)
- Stand 6" - 12" away from the calf, facing it at a 45° angle from the calf's head.
- Find a spot along the underside of the calf and content the animal by gently scratching with the showstick. This also helps to keep it's back from sagging. (You should not appear to be sawing the animal in half and try not to rattle the chain to content your animal.)

When The Judge Approaches

- Allow for full view of the calf from wherever they are standing.
- Keep the calf's feet positioned , and keep the calf's head pointing straight ahead.
- Be ready to answer questions about your animal
- After the judge moves on to the next animal, comb hair back in place, if it was touched and make sure the animal is reset properly.

To Line Animals Up

- Proceed promptly when the judge motions.
- Leave enough room between animals to maneuver (about 3 feet, so you can use your showstick or change place in line).
- When instructed to change place in line, lead out forward and turn the animal to the right (clockwise). Keep the calf between the judge and yourself. Lead back through the spot you just left and lead to the proper place. Avoid making very short turns as this detracts from the animal's appearance.
- Make sure you are in line with the animals that are ahead of you.
- The judge's first lineup is generally not their final placings, and so you shouldn't become discouraged or quit showing until the class is dismissed.
- Be relaxed throughout the show and enjoy the experience. The payoff is knowing that you have competed and have presented your animal and yourself in a professional manner. Winning is the extra bonus!
- A good showman will always be courteous and maintains a sportsmanlike attitude throughout the show.