



# 4-H BUCKET CALF RECORD BOOK



MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H AGE \_\_\_\_\_

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



# 4-H BUCKET CALF PROJECT

## **PURPOSE:**

To provide greater consistency in judging while improving the educational impact of the project. New record book will help teach proper health care and nutritional requirements of young cattle, basic beef management skills without a large investment, basic record-keeping skills, and provide a better understanding of the feeder cattle industry.

## **GUIDELINES:**

1. A Bucket Calf is an orphan or newborn calf; male or female; dairy, beef, or cross; fed on bucket or bottle. No nursing permitted. Select and/or purchase a calf born between January 1 and June 15 of current project year within two weeks of birth. CalfSources - Feedlots, dairies, sale barn, neighbor, calving cull cows. No bull calves.
2. Exhibitors can be ages 8-11 (by January 1); must be enrolled in the Bucket Calf Project; and have completed the annual Livestock Quality Assurance class.
3. Exhibitors will need to complete the Bucket Calf Record Book. This should be completed and turned in to the Extension Office the morning of the show to allow the judge time to read and prepare for interviews.
4. 4-H'er should develop management and marketing plan with parent, leader or banker.
5. Identification - Bucket Calf should carry an official 4-H ear tag and be identified on a 4-H affidavit with signed form turned into the Extension Office by June 15. Member may identify more animals but will be limited to one calf for exhibit at the fair.
6. Exhibitors will be interviewed in the ring. Calves will be shown at halter. Clipping is optional.
7. Bucket Calves will be dismissed immediately following the show.
8. No Bull Calves
9. The Bucket Calf Project will be judged according to the following score card:

• Evaluation of a completed record	25%
• Evaluation of member's knowledge by interview	25%
• Quality and condition of animal	25%
• Evidence of training and showing	25%

## **INTERVIEW:**

The interview might include such questions as:

- Where and when did you obtain your calf? Was there a cost involved, and how did you finance?
- How old was the calf when you received it? How old is it now?
- What health problems did you have with the calf?
- What did you feed the calf the first day at home?
- How did you prepare the calf for moving?
- What is colostrum, and did you feed any to your calf?
- What was your milk feeding program? How long did you milk feed?
- When did you start giving the calf solid feed? How often did you change the ration?
- Did you feed any antibiotics?
- What is in a milk replacer?
- Did you warm your milk and how warm?
- What kind of housing did you have for your calf?
- What are some management practices that you conducted - i.e., castrate, vaccinate and trim feet? How did you do these?
- When did you start training your calf?
- Do you plan to make a profit on your calf?
- What are your plans for your calf after the fair?
- What have you enjoyed most in working with your calf?

### **Other Project Assistance -**

- Project Leader
- Feed Company Nutritionist
- Beef or Dairy Project Materials
- Older 4-H member
- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Science Project Manuals
- Extension Staff

## 4-H BUCKET CALF PROJECT STORY (for record keeping purposes of project)

MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

Calf Ear Tag Number	
Name of Your Calf	
Date Project Started	
Date Project Ended	
Source of Calf: Purchased (when & where) Born on our farm Other (describe)	
Description of Calf: Breed and/or Color Distinguishing Marks Gender, Etc.	
Birthdate of Calf (if known)	
Tag #, ID, and Breed of Sire (if known)	
Tag #, ID, and Breed of Dam (if known)	
Value of Calf at Start of Project	
Weight of Calf at Start of Project	
Actual or Estimated Weight of Calf on First Day of Fair	
Value of Calf on First Day of Fair	

1. Explain why you chose this project.

2. Describe how you decided where and how to get your calf or calves.

3. Describe facilities where you housed your calf or calves:

4. Describe the feeding program you followed the first 3-4 days that you got your calf.  
(Type of feeds, amount per day, etc.)

5. Describe the feed program for the next 3- to 4 weeks. (Kinds, amounts per day, etc.)

6. Describe the feeding and management after you had the calf for a month.

7. Describe the feeding program that you had for your calf by the time you brought it to the fair.

8. Did your calf have any health problems? (Describe the problem(s) and what you did to treat.)

9. What did you do to prevent health problems? What management practices did you follow to help calf be healthy and grow?

10. What was the biggest problem you had and what did you do to solve it?

11. What have you learned through this project? What would you do differently? What did you enjoy?

## 4-H BUCKET CALF PROJECT FEED AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

**REQUIRED: Complete as part of your written records.**

Calf Ear Tag Number \_\_\_\_\_ Calf's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Feed	Description	Pounds	Cost Per Pound	Total Cost
Milk Replacement				
Starter Feed				
Hay				
Other Feeds				
Other				
Total Feed	xxxx	(1) lbs.	xxxx	(2) \$
Bedding Cost: (Explain)				
Medication Cost: (Explain)				
Veterinary Cost: (Explain)				
Equipment Cost: (Explain)				
Other Supplies: (Explain)				
Total Cost of Items Other than Feed				(3) \$
				xxxx
Purchase Cost or Value of Calf at Beginning of Project				(4) \$
				xxxx
Total Investment in Calf (2 + 3 + 4 = 5)				(5) \$

**NOTE: Exhibitor should fill out the appropriate records for their particular project.**

## PROJECT PICTURES

Pictures of your bucket/bottle calf project (Use more sheets if necessary, but limit this area to 4-6 photos). Please include beginning photo, photos showing progress, and finished project photos.

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Caption:

Caption:

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Caption:

Caption:



**\*OPTIONAL FOR FIRST YEAR EXHIBITORS  
(Not a requirement-will only be used in the event of a tie-breaker).**

## BUCKET CALF PROJECT SUMMARY

### Profit and Performance Summary

A.	Purchase Cost or Value at Beginning of Project	\$ _____
B.	Total Feed Costs of Project (2 from Page 7)	\$ _____
C.	Total Other Costs of Project (3 from Page 7)	\$ _____
D.	Grand Total of Investment in Project (A + B + C)	\$ _____
E.	Estimated Calf Ending Weight at Fair	_____ lbs.
F.	Starting Weight of Calf - Estimate or Actual	_____ lbs.
G.	Total Pounds Gained (E – F)	_____ lbs.
H.	Total Days on Feed	_____ days
I.	Average Daily Gain {ADG} (G ÷ H)	_____ lbs/day
J.	Total Pounds of Feed Fed (1 from page 7)	_____ lbs.
K.	Pounds of Feed per Pound of Gain (J ÷ G)	_____ ratio
L.	Feed Cost Per Pound of Gain (B ÷ G)	\$ _____
M.	Value of Calf at Fair Time	\$ _____
N.	Value of Calf per Pound of Weight (M ÷ E)	\$ _____
O.	Breakeven Price per Pound on Project (D ÷ E)	\$ _____
P.	Monetary Loss or Gain on Project (M - D)	\$ _____

# 4-H BUCKET CALF PROJECT SIGNATURE SHEET

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_, verify that the information in this record book is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I have followed the guidelines as set for this project and the rules of the respective youth organizations, the County Fair, and those set forth in the County Fair Book as published.

4-H Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

I verify that all the information is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the 4-H Exhibitor so named has followed the guidelines set forth by the rules of the respective youth organizations, the County Fair, and set forth in the County Fair Book as published.

Parent or Guardian Signature	4-H Leader Signature
Date	Date

*Comments or Additional Information:*

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