

4-H

Market Beef Cattle Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The **4-H Market Beef Cattle Proficiency program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project, you will learn animal care basics, good management practices and record keeping. You will also learn about the size and scope of the animal industry as it relates to your project.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- ◆ The *4-H Publications Catalog* lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- ◆ The *4-H Educational Resources Lending Library* at your county 4-H office includes other books, videos and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- ◆ Check to see if there is a breeders organization in your community that conducts educational activities and shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- **Level I – “Explorer”**, you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising animals.
- **Level II – “Producer”**, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising animals.
- **Level III – “Consumer”**, you become an experienced animal raiser.
- **Level IV – “Leader”**, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- **Level V – “Researcher”**, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of Market Beef Cattle, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement and notify your 4-H office.

Projects to be completed through this Animal Science Proficiency include: Beef Cattle

MARKET BEEF CATTLE

Level I – Explorer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Identify and describe three breeds or species for your project.
- _____ 2. Identify the parts of your animal from a diagram or live animal.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate (show & tell) how to handle your animal properly.
- _____ 4. Describe the basic housing and equipment that a beginner needs for the health, care, and safety of your animal.
- _____ 5. Explain the nutritional requirements of your animal at each development stage, (how, when, what, how much to feed).
- _____ 6. Explain how to tell when your animal is ill and when to call for assistance.
- _____ 7. State the normal range of weight for the age and breed/species of your animal.
- _____ 8. Explain or demonstrate how to tell the sex of your animal.
- _____ 9. Explain how to permanently tattoo, mark or tag your animal for identification.
- _____ 10. Submit management records for a minimum of 90 days that indicate how often you provide fresh water, clean feed, clean housing, and general care to your animal.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for your animal.
- _____ 12. Define fifteen important, basic terms used in your project area.
- _____ 13. Find out the regulations related to raising/keeping animals where you live.
- _____ 14. Describe three safety issues related to your animal project.
- _____ 15. Share one aspect of your project with other project members.

Member's Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____

Date: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.

*Approved by Lake County 4-H Council, 2004
Developed By: John Irwin, 4-H Leader*

MARKET BEEF CATTLE

Level II – Producer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Identify and describe six breeds or species for your project.
- _____ 2. Describe which breeds of your animal are used for different purposes (example: food, fiber, show, breeding, working, etc.).
- _____ 3. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of your animal.
- _____ 4. Participate in the preparation and maintenance of facilities for your animal during production, breeding, or birthing.
- _____ 5. Describe the stages and length of gestation for your animal.
- _____ 6. Describe or demonstrate how to sanitize your animal's equipment.
- _____ 7. Describe or demonstrate what you can do to protect your animal during hot and cold weather.
- _____ 8. Describe control measures for at least three diseases or problem conditions for your animal.
- _____ 9. Demonstrate competency in showmanship for your animal.
- _____ 10. Describe some textural differences between species. Identify how/why color is important in the standards of your breed.
- _____ 11. Keep an account of cash expenses for equipment and materials and at the end of your year compare your cost to the value of your project.
- _____ 12. Display your animal outside of your project group.
- _____ 13. Help someone else by sharing your knowledge or by giving away a product from your project to demonstrate positive citizenship.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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MARKET BEEF CATTLE

Level III – Producer

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Demonstrate how to complete one of the management records required in your species or breed operation (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.).
- _____ 2. Contact a local, state, or national association related to your animal breed and report to your group what the association has to offer to its members and other interested individuals.
- _____ 3. Report on the history of your breed or species to your project group or club.
- _____ 4. Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain in-breeding, line-breeding, out-breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- _____ 5. Invite a guest speaker to one of your meetings and introduce them to the group.
- _____ 6. Describe the digestive system anatomy and physiology for your animal species and how it differs from other species.
- _____ 7. Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional components (fats, carbohydrates, protein, minerals, vitamins, water) and nutritional values.
- _____ 8. Explain three diseases or health conditions and their treatment and/or preventions not covered in Level II.
- _____ 9. Give a talk on a secondary aspect or by-product of your project industry.
- _____ 10. Keep a personal reference library of literature that will be helpful in your project.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate at least three methods of administering medications.
- _____ 12. State the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc.) for your animal species.
- _____ 13. Describe five ways to save money and be economical in raising your animal.
- _____ 14. Design an advertisement or a marketing strategy for your animal or animal by-product.
- _____ 15. Alone or with your group, plan and complete a community service activity related to your project.

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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MARKET BEEF CATTLE

Level IV – Leader

Date _____

Completed _____

- _____ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- _____ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- _____ 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- _____ 4. Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for a judging activity.
- _____ 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than your 4-H group.
- _____ 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set-up, registration, etc.
- _____ 7. Teach younger members about learning a specific topic in the project.
- _____ 8. Develop your own special project related activity. Chart your own progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishments to your club.

Member's name: _____

Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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MARKET BEEF CATTLE

Level V – Researcher

Date _____
Completed _____

- _____ 1. Report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (experiment)

- _____ 2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
 - Management of animal.
 - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition.
 - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation.
 - Markets and methods of marketing.
 - Reproduction, breeding, and genetics.
 - By-product preparation for market, how marketed, and used.
 - Keeping and using records as a basis for improving your animal project.
 - Other

- _____ 3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member's name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Developed By: John Irwin, 4-H Leader

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Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the _____ Proficiency

in _____ County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

Leader's Signature

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