

**BUTTE COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**  
**4-H Beef Project Proficiency Program**  
**A Member's Guide**

**OVERVIEW**

The **4-H Beef Project Proficiency Program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H Project. Your 4-H Project Leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your 4-H 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 4-H 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 the Butte 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 4-H Beef Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

**Level 1 – Explorer** You begin to learn about many different aspects of raising animals.

**Level 2 – Producer** You practice/refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising animals.

**Level 3 – Consumer** You become an experienced animal raiser.

**Level 4 – Leader** Allows you to show your own leadership potential.

**Level 5 – Researcher** You carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of your project.

As you work through the 4-H Project Proficiency Program, your 4-H Project Leader will date and initial each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your 4-H Project Leader will notify the Community Club Leader. A 4-H Project Proficiency Program Pin and First Year Leg will be awarded for Level 1. Previous Year Leg will be returned when the next Level is awarded for Levels 2-5.

# BEEF PROFICIENCY

## Level 1 – Explorer

*Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.*

Date Completed                      4-H Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader's Initials

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_                      Project Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify 5 beef cattle breeds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Identify parts of the body.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Have a general knowledge of which retail cuts come from carcass sections.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Knowledge of hays and grains (palatability, protein count, uses).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Knowledge of animal selection (feeder, purebred, grade).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Knowledge of facilities required for a steer project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Knowledge of the following for showmanship:
  - Washing and grooming animal
  - Halter breaking and leading animal
  - Enter showmanship contest
  - Identify and discuss use of supplies and equipment needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Know meaning of beef terms such as: breed, bull, calves, castrate, cow, dam, feeder, finish, fitting, grade animal, heifer, pedigree, polled, purebred, ration, registered animal, steer, open, fresh.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Identify and give treatment and/or preventative for: pink eye, foot rot, lice, and intestinal parasites.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Know the normal animal body temperature and respiration rate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Know characteristics of healthy versus sickly animals.

**KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH PROJECT RECORD**

# BEEF PROFICIENCY

## Level 2 – Producer

*Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.*

Date Completed  
Leader's Initials

4-H Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify different rations for fattening, growing, and maintenance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Be able to make calculations to determine rate of gain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Explain calving difficulties, and methods for prevention and treatment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Illustrate knowledge of steer conformation and current trends.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Explain the advantages, disadvantages, and the method of artificial insemination in beef cattle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Explain preventative measures including sanitation, balanced feeding, vaccination, and parasite control.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Explain oral, injection, and topical methods of treatment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Identify methods of treatment and/or prevention for calf scours and pneumonia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Identify methods of treatment and/or prevention for external/internal parasites.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Illustrate the ability to give an IM and subcutaneous injection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Detail surgical and non-surgical methods of castration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Illustrate the ability to correctly clip a beef animal for show purposes.

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# BEEF PROFICIENCY

## Level 3 – Consumer

*Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.*

Date Completed  
Leader's Initials

4-H Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Demonstrate how to complete one of the management records required in your species or breed operation (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Complete Record Book to include project expenses, income and management techniques to raise a steer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Report on the history of your breed or species to your project group or club.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain inbreeding, line breeding, out breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Invite and introduce a guest speaker at one of your meetings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Describe the digestive system anatomy and physiology for your animal species and how it differs from other species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional components (fats, protein, carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins, water) and nutritional values.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Explain three diseases or health conditions, and the treatment and/or preventions not covered in Level 2.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Give a talk on a secondary aspect or by-product of your project industry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 management strategies in raising your animal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Design an advertisement or a marketing strategy for your animal or animal by-product.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Alone or with a group, plan and complete a community service activity related to your project.

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## **BEEF PROFICIENCY**

### **Level 4 – Leader**

*Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.*

Date Completed

4-H Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Initials

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 or ring master, or assist 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 progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on your accomplishment to your club.

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## **BEEF PROFICIENCY**

### **Level 5 – Researcher**

*Each proficiency will be dated and initialed by your project leader.*

Date Completed

4-H Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's Initials

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Complete all requirements for Levels 1-4.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Put on a judging contest of beef project members.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Complete either alternative 1, 2, or 3 below:
1. Have a breeding project involving at least four animals, and demonstrate knowledge of line breeding, breed characteristics, performance reports, marketing channels, artificial insemination, registration papers, breeding procedures, tagging, and tattooing.
  2. Have a feeding project of at least four animals and demonstrate knowledge of feeding steers vs. bulls, steers vs. heifers, feeding rations, rates of gain, marketing channels, general health, purebred vs. crossbred feeders, ability to figure expenses and needed selling price, knowledge of dressing percentage, grades, shrinkage, retail cut-out value, meat inspection and grading, brand inspection.
  3. Complete a research project involving some aspect of the beef industry such as breed associations and promotions, current legislative programs, current beef industry trends, commercial vs. purebred herd, career exploration, and current medical research projects.

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***REQUIREMENTS:***

For members to qualify for proficiency awards they must complete all the requirements below and give a 4-H presentation during the 4-H year.

- Have up-to-date and complete enrollment packet and enrollment fees on file at the 4-H office.
- Attend 80% of club and project meetings or meet requirements of a county-wide project.
- Members must provide 4-H Records to the club leader for project completion verification.
- Records must include **Personal Development Report** and **Annual Project Report** form for each project a member is applying for a Proficiency Award, and the completed Proficiency Form.