

OKLAHOMA 4-H BEEF PROJECT



4-H GROWN

LIFE SKILLS

- Use critical thinking, problem solving and decision making skills to make good decisions about project management
- Practice resiliency through successes and challenges in your project
- Develop skills through the responsibilities and management practices involved with livestock

LEADERSHIP

- Organize an educational activity related to the beef project
- Assist an educator or volunteer in developing a livestock or meat evaluation team
- Volunteer to host a tour at your project location

COMMUNICATION

- Present a demonstration on proper beef preparation
- Interview a local producer about their practices
- Create a presentation on developing rations for proper beef nutrition

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The 4-H Beef Project allows youth to study and learn about all aspects of the beef industry. Discover more about animal science, beef production and marketing. Youth will:

- Learn basic principles of animal science by owning and/or caring for one or more head of cattle
- Identify quality and nutritional value in wholesale and retail cuts of animal products and understand their relationship to management practices of live animals
- Learn the value of scientific research and its influence upon animals in the meat industry

GROW IN YOUR BEEF PROJECT

The activities below are ideas to inspire project development. This is not a complete list.

BEGINNER

- Identify beef cattle breeds
- Know desirable qualities for project selection
- Explore parts of the animal and cuts of meat
- Learn the importance of halter breaking calves and basic grooming practices
- Understand why feeding your animal is important
- Develop basic showmanship techniques

INTERMEDIATE

- Develop live evaluation and meat grading skills
- Identify common health issues in cattle and how to properly treat them
- Practice safe cattle-handling techniques
- Use proper stalling practices
- Further your knowledge of cuts of meat and purposes of each part of the beef animal carcass

ADVANCED

- Utilize EPDs in herd management and sire selection
- Explore programs used to develop beef rations and understand the importance of various feedstuffs
- Research methods and value of using artificial insemination (AI) practices
- Evaluate how the quality of a carcass can affect its marketability

EXPAND YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Become involved with the Oklahoma Junior Cattlemen's Association or other state or national beef organizations
- Visit a feed mill to learn how feeds are weighed, mixed and packaged



RESOURCES

4-H CURRICULUM

- National 4-H curriculum: <http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/plant-animal-science-curriculum/>
- Utah 4-H Discover 4-H Club Manuals: <http://utah4h.org/html/discover4hclubs/discover-4-h-beef-clubs/>
- YBQA: http://4h.okstate.edu/literature-links/lit-online/animal-science-companion-animals/copy_of_YBQAforleaders.pdf

OPPORTUNITIES

- State 4-H Roundup
- District Leadership Conference
- Big 3 Field Days
- Showmanship clinics
- Livestock and meat judging clinics
- Speech and demonstration contests
- Cook-offs
- Beef Quality Assurance programs
- Beef Skill-a-thon
- Animal Science Quiz Bowl

RESOURCES

- Oklahoma State University Meat Judging: <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/outreach-extension/meat-science/outreach-programs-offered>
- Oklahoma State University Animal Science Breeds of Livestock: www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/cattle
- Oklahoma Beef Council: <http://www.oklabeeff.org/>

4-H GROWN

CITIZENSHIP

- Develop a presentation communicating the benefits of the beef industry
- Assist younger 4-H'ers with their beef project
- Volunteer to care for the cattle of a local producer during a time of need

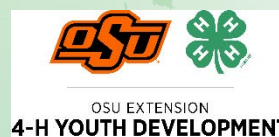
HEALTHY LIVING

- Prepare a beef-based meal for a limited-resource families and provide a recipe
- Develop a program emphasizing the pros and cons of beef consumption
- Encourage safe handling practices of live animals and food safety with beef products

SCIENCE

- Explore cattle behavior by observation under various environmental conditions
- Study scientific advancements in genetic research available
- Research how feeds and feeding influence animals' end products, quality and desirability

Learn more by:
contact your county Cooperative
Extension office.



Oklahoma 4-H is the youth development program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and Oklahoma State University

Join Our 4-H Community:



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