

Kalamazoo County 4-H

Feeder Calf Project Guidelines

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Project Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/264639983534>

Project Objectives & Life Skills*

- Learn basic principles of animal science and gain life skills, such as responsibility, by owning, caring for and keeping records on one or more heads of livestock.
- Gain knowledge of sound breeding, feeding and management practices.
- Start your own herd with breeding animals or raise a market animal that produces a meat product for human consumption.
- Demonstrate knowledge in the care, management and science related to the beef industry.
- **Head**
 - Record keeping
 - Wise use of resources
 - Goal setting
 - Decision making
- **Heart**
 - Nurturing relationships
 - Empathy
 - Concern for others
 - Cooperation
- **Hands**
 - Responsible citizenship
 - Marketable skills
 - Leadership
 - Teamwork
- **Health**
 - Self-responsibility
 - Character
 - Disease prevention
 - Personal safety

**note these life skills are just some examples of what 4-H members will learn in this project*

Additional Resources:

Project Snapshots - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/manistee/uploads/files/MI-4-HDairySnapshot.pdf>
https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_beef_project_snapshot_4h1629

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Feeder Calf Project

- This project is open to all exhibitors 5-19 years old.
- 5–7-year-olds will participate in non- competitive classes and will NOT sell in the auction.
- Pictures of each calf (must include one side & front view of the calf as well as a picture of the calf's RFID tag) must be posted to the Kalamazoo County 4-H Feeder Calf Facebook page by dates listed below.
- Mandatory: The calf must be vaccinated, dehorned, castrated, and have an electronic (RFID) ear tag in the calf's ear. An educational exhibit is required (see Educational Exhibit section below)- it can be combined with the beef project.
- In compliance with the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD), all animals must have an electronic (RFID) tag (USDA approved official identification) to come to the fair.
- A total of 6 feeder calves may be brought to the fair: (2) Dairy Feeder, (2) Beef Feeder, (2) Beef/Dairy Cross Feeder.

Fair

Calves must stay on the fairgrounds in a designated area for the duration of the fair. The calf/pen/tack area must be clean, and chores done daily before 9am and between 4pm-6pm. Exhibitors will participate in barn duty/public education/submit thank you notes as outlined by the superintendent.

Section P - Dairy Feeder Steer

- Calves must be 100% Dairy Breeds that are any of the following: Holstein, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey, Jersey or a combination of the listed breeds, born between January 1 and February 28 (Feb. 29, if applicable) and in the exhibitors' possession by June 1.
- **Calves must be de-horned, castrated and vaccinated.**
- A picture of the calf with the RFID tag must be submitted to the superintendent by June 1 .
- **Cloverbud** (5–7-year-old 4-H members): calves must be born between January 1 and March 31 of the current year. All Cloverbud classes will be non-competitive. **Calves must be de-horned, castrated and vaccinated.** A picture of the calf with the RFID tag must be submitted to the superintendent by June 1.

Section Q - Beef Feeder Calf

- Beef calves can be purebred or mixed beef breed.
- Calves must be born between January 1 and May 30 of the current year and can either be a heifer or a steer.
- **Calves must be de-horned, castrated and vaccinated.**
- The calf must be in the exhibitor's possession by June 1. A picture of the calf with the RFID tag number must be submitted to the superintendent by June 1.
- **Cloverbud** (5–8-year-old 4-H members): calves must be born between January 1 and May 30 of the current year. All Cloverbud classes will be non-competitive. **Calves must be de-horned, castrated and vaccinated.** A picture of the calf with the RFID tag must be submitted to the superintendent by June 1

Section R - Beef/Dairy Cross Feeder Calf

- A beef/dairy cross is any beef breed crossed with Holstein, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey, or Jersey. Calves must be born between January 1 and May 30 of the current year and can either be a heifer or a steer. **Calves must be de-horned, castrated and vaccinated.** The calf must be in the exhibitor's possession by June 1. A picture of the calf with the RFID tag number must be submitted to

the superintendent by June 1.

- **Cloverbud** (5–7-year-old 4-H members): calves must be born between January 1 and May 30 of the current year. All Cloverbud classes will be non-competitive. **Calves must be de-horned, castrated and vaccinated.** A picture of the calf with the RFID tag must be submitted to the superintendent by June 1.

Section S – Showmanship

- All exhibitors must participate in Feeder Calf Showmanship.
- 4-H exhibitors must show their own animals with an exception for Cloverbud members.
- All feeder calves will compete together in showmanship.
- The Top Showman will be eligible for Master Showmanship.
- All Cloverbud classes will be non-competitive and will be entered under Dept 90.

Section T - Educational Exhibit

- Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge in the care, management and sciences related to the dairy feeder calf.
- The educational exhibit with a profit/loss statement for **each feeder calf** must include the following market journal. This will be considered a **minimum**. The market journal must be presented in a 3-ring binder or portfolio. Loose pages will not be accepted.
 - [Junior](#) (printable)
 - [Junior](#) (fillable)
 - [Intermediate](#) (printable)
 - [Intermediate](#) (fillable)
 - [Senior](#) (printable)
 - [Senior](#) (fillable)
- The member may submit a poster, video, or any other creative idea in addition to the record book. Exhibitors may combine the feeder calf educational exhibit with a market steer notebook.
- The exhibit must be turned in on the Saturday before the fair during still project judging.
- Exhibitors must be knowledgeable of all aspects of their project and be able and available to speak with the general public in the barn during fair week.

Auction -

- Owners of the Grand and Reserve Champion calves for each class (Dairy Feeder Steer, Beef Feeder Calf, Dairy/Beef Cross Feeder Calf) have the option of selling during the 4-H livestock auction, or they may take them home to bring them back as a finished project the following year.
- The calf must have an average daily gain of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds per day to go through the auction.
- Exhibitors must let the superintendents know immediately after the feeder calf show if their calf will be sold through the auction.
- The exhibitor's name, calf tag number, RFID tag number, and a (2) pictures of the side view of a clean calf with the exhibitor must be given to the superintendent if the calf is going through the auction.