Beef Project

Monthly Lesson Plan
January 2023

Upcoming Deadlines

✓ **February 1st –** Re-enrollment deadline

✓ **March 4th-** Market Beef Ownership deadline

Project Progress

Suggest the following as things your members should work on or accomplish with their project this month:

1. **E Record Books:** Download the 2023 Livestock Recordbook

2. **Hands On:** Members should evaluate their cattle housing for any weak or hazardous materials (beef resource handbook 3-1)

3. **Knowledge:** Members should calculate what size market calves they need to purchase to reach market weight by Fair (2.5 lb average daily gain to reach 1250lbs by Aug. 1st

4. **Other:** Update your calendar with 2023 Animal Project Dates

2023 Animal Project Dates

Opportunities

See 4-H Calendars for full details & more recently added events

- January 20th- Beef Workshop – at NWSS
- January 7-22 – National Western Stock Show – cattle shows
- February 8th – Project 101 Virtual
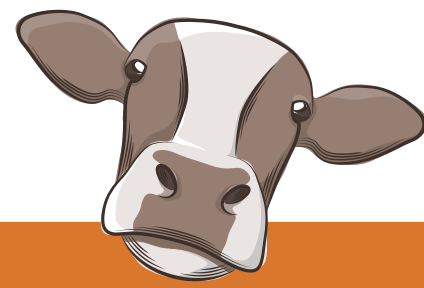
ADAMS COUNTY
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EXTENSION

Beef Project

Attached Activities

Use these suggested activities at club project meetings to increase member knowledge and keep members engaged in their project.

Group: Planning the Beef Project Year
- This activity guides club members to be involved in planning what they want to learn in their beef project this year.

Individual: Determining Frame Score
- a.This activity helps member to determine their animal's frame size and discover how that effects their target finishing weight.

for more Beef project activities, order the National 4-H Curriculum "Beef Helpers Guide" through the 4-H Office

In winter, cattle with snow on their back are actually warmer than wet cattle — they are retaining their body heat!

KODAK 5062 PX

Timely Tips to Share

Make sure cattle have access to a wind break of some kind to reduce exposure and drop in weight gain. Wind breaks can be provided by wooded areas, bales, or permanent installation.

Resources

- The following & more can be found on the ADCO 4-H Beef Project Webpage: http://adams4h.org/4-h-beef-project/
  - 2023 Animal Project Save the Dates
  - Beef Resource Handbook (Ohio State)
  - Animal Care Form
  - E Record Books
  - Fourcast Newsletter Signup
  - Project Tipsheets
- Fairgrounds Livestock Scale – can always be used by 4-H members with appointment. Contact Kenzie to schedule a time.

4-H Agent - Kenzie Kimmel
303-637-8109 / kkimmel@adcogov.org
Beef Superintendent - Steve Sterkel
Sterkel_livestock@hotmail.com

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Planning the Beef Project Year

Beef project meetings offer exciting settings for youth to develop project and life skills. When they participate in planning, youth are developing an important life skill. You will find that these programs will more closely meet the needs of your youth when everyone is involved in identifying what to do, when to do it and how to do it.

This activity has been designed to help your group plan its year's program to include five or more project activities. You will explore ways to involve your group in the planning process. A list of meeting topics is found at the end of this guide.

Getting Started

Before the meeting, you may want to talk to the parents to see what they feel their children need and how your organization can help. At the meeting, ask the youth and their parents to discuss what they would like to learn and do. Suggest looking through the project literature and list of meeting ideas for additional topics.

Your role is to create situations in which the youth (and their parents) can develop both project and life skills. Helping a group plan a year's program or just one meeting takes a lot of patience and the ability to "sit on one's hands" while everyone works together. Here is a technique for generating ideas and arriving at decisions.

A youth plans with her leader for the upcoming beef project year.

Taking on the Challenge

Generating Goals and Project Topics

First ask everyone what the group's goals should be for the year. The process described here for determining what the activities should be can also be used to set goals. Have everyone review the topics in the appropriate project meeting guide plus those mentioned in other resource materials. Then have each person write ideas for project meetings and supporting activities (community service, farms, shows, petting zoos, promotions, etc.) Sometimes youth can generate more ideas by working together in groups of two or three, with one person writing the ideas. Allow five to ten minutes.

Sharing Ideas

Have each person share his/her ideas in round robin fashion. One person shares an idea, then the next person and so on until all ideas have been given and recorded on a blackboard or a large sheet of paper. List the ideas quickly without discussion. After all ideas are listed, provide time for the person who suggested the idea to clarify or explain it. Others can add support, questions or concerns. After a short discussion, move to the next idea.

Determining Preferences

From all the ideas generated and discussed (and possibly combined), have each person rate the items in the order of preference on a separate sheet of paper. You may want to have participants indicate their top five or ten choices. If ten choices are indicated, the top choice would receive a ten and the last choice a one. Read each idea and have all members give their ranking. Add up the numbers. Allow time to discuss the choices as they relate to the group's overall goals. From the decisions made, make up the list of topics for the year's program.

Deciding Who Does What

Now that the group has decided what they want to learn more about, be sure everyone shares in the responsibility of seeing that it happens. Give as many members (and families) as possible a specific job on the year's program.

BarnTalk

Shooting the Breeze
- What did you learn about planning?
- What process did you use to involve everyone?
- How do you feel about this planning session?

Show Me the Beef
- Why is it important to have goals and a plan?
- Why are decisions made through consensus often more accepted than those made by voting?
- Why is it important for youth, parents and leaders to work together on planning activities?

Where's the Beef?
- How will this experience help you plan family experiences?
- How will it help you plan other areas of your life?

Beef's Future
- How will the way you plan your week's activities change as a result of this experience?
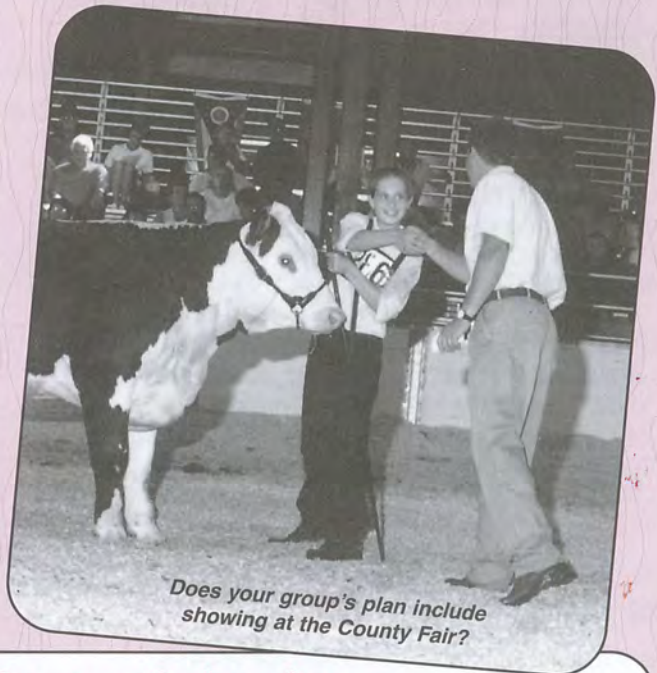
Does your group's plan include showing at the County Fair?

My Project Group Calendar

Name of Group _____ Name of Leader(s) _____

PROJECT GROUP GOALS FOR THE YEAR
1. Every member completes at least one-half of his or her achievement programs.
2. Practice the life skill of decision making.
3. Involve each family in activities.

Meeting Date Time & Place	Meeting Topic and Activities	Who Is Responsible	What to Do Before the Next Meeting
November 6 7 p.m. Chao Vu Family Home	Identifying parts of beef, Recreation, Presentation, Refreshments	Dave and Haun, Mark and Jim, Mary, Peterson Family	Review judging terms and make drawing of ideal animal

Recreation, demonstrations, refreshments and hosting the main program are all possibilities. If the group is large, the team approach is encouraged.

Completing the Program
Write an outline so everyone can see the plan taking shape. An example of a possible format follows. After the program is completed, make copies for each family. You might include a list of everyone's name, phone number and email address.

Summarizing the Activity
Help the members and parents understand the skills they have practiced in the planning process. Emphasize learning how to cooperate, to delegate responsibility and to provide for maximum involvement. Take a few minutes during or after the planning session to talk about the process of planning. The "Barn Talk" questions will be helpful.

Beef It Up!

1. Have the group use the same process (nominal group technique) to plan something else.

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Activity written by Tom Zurcher.

Determining Frame Scores

Cattle come in all shapes and sizes. The height of a calf at a certain age is called its frame score. You measure this using a level and a measuring tape (or stick) at the calf's hip bone. This measurement can be checked on a chart developed by the Beef Improvement Federation to determine the calf's frame score and potential target weight at 15 months.

Measuring hip height determines frame score.

Hip Height
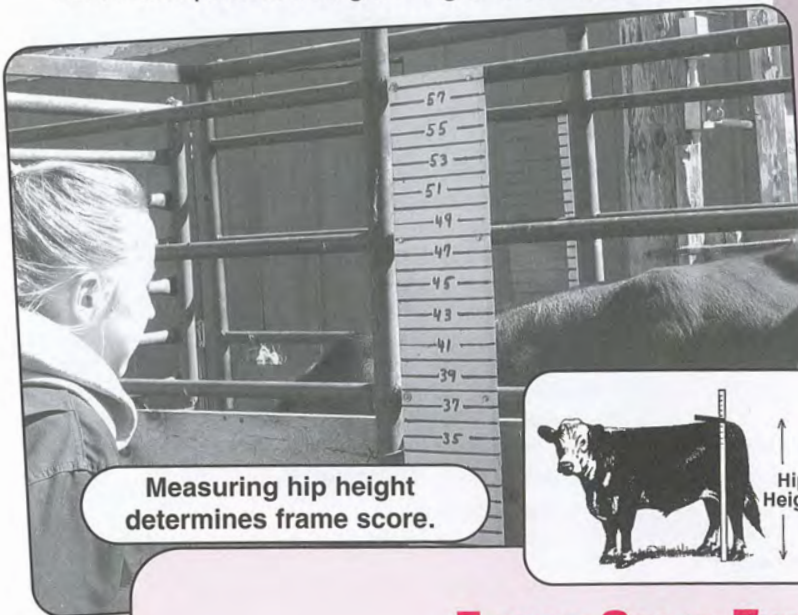
Taking on the Challenge

Use the chart in Beef Facts and pictures to answer these questions.

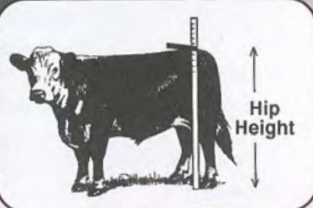What frame score is best to achieve a 1250 lb. finished steer? _____

At weaning time (seven months) a steer measures 44 inches. What will he weigh at 15 months? _____

What is the frame score of a calf at the age of 18 months and a hip height of 52.0? _____

What is the frame score of your calf? _____

Frame Score Types and Weights

1. 750–850 lbs.

2. 851–950 lbs.

3. 951–1,050 lbs.

4. 1,051–1,150 lbs.
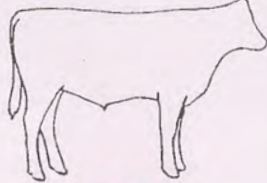
5. 1,151–1,250 lbs.

6. 1,251–1,350 lbs.
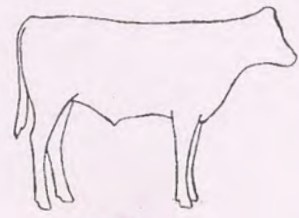
7. 1,351 and above lbs.

BarnTalk

Shooting the Breeze

- What was most difficult about measuring hip height? Why?

Show Me the Beef

- Why is it important to know the projected market weight, pounds of gain, cost of gain and pounds of feed needed for your steer to reach market weight?

_____

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Where's the Beef?

- Why is it important for you to make predictions and set goals for your life?

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Beef's Future

- What will you do differently next year as a result of this experience?

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Beef Talk Words

Frame Score

FACTS — Frame Scores

Selection of a quality market animal can be enhanced by an understanding of how to use frame scores. Frame scores help to project the final weight of the market animal and how much the animal will have to gain on a daily average.

Steps

1. **Determine hip height**
2. **Know age of your animal**
3. **Use the frame score table to determine the animal's frame score.**

For example, think of buying a seven-month old calf from your neighbor. It measures 40 inches at the hip. Look at the left hand column of the chart to find its age (seven months). Then, look across the row until you find its height (40 inches). This number falls into the column for an animal with a frame score of 3. What does this mean?

Look at the figure entitled Frame Score Types and Weights. Seven frame score types are pictured. Imagine you are looking at a calf and it is 140 days until the fair. The average beef animal can gain about 2.6 pounds per day, your calf could put on 365 pounds in that time.

140 days x 2.6 pounds per day = 365 pounds

The calf needs to have a starting weight of 635 pounds when you buy it in order to finish close to the expect finished weight of 1,000 pounds (1,000 pounds − 365 pounds = 635).

With an average feed efficiency (conversion of pounds of feed to a pound of meat) of 7 to 1, you will need to count on feeding 2,555 pounds of feed to get a 365-pound gain. Knowing the average cost of a pound of feed, you can determine how much you will have to spend over the next 140 days to feed your animal.

Frame Score Table

Measure height at hip or hooks.
Point of measurement is at hook bones (hip and level with center of back)

Hip Height in Inches

Age in Months	Frame Score 1	Frame Score 2	Frame Score 3	Frame Score 4	Frame Score 5	Frame Score 6	Frame Score 7
5	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
6	35	37	39	41	43	45	47
7	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
8	37	39	41	43	45	47	49
9	38	40	42	44	46	48	50
10	39	41	43	45	47	49	51
11	40	42	44	46	48	50	52
12	41	43	45	47	49	51	53
13	41.50	43.50	45.50	47.50	49.50	51.50	53.50
14	42.00	44.00	46.00	48.00	50.00	52.00	54.00
15	42.50	44.50	46.50	48.50	50.50	52.50	54.50
16	43.00	45.00	47.00	49.00	51.00	53.00	55.00
17	43.50	45.50	47.50	49.50	51.50	53.50	55.50
18	44.00	46.00	48.00	50.00	52.00	54.00	56.00

Beef It Up!

1. Attend your county beef weigh-in, measure hip heights and project the finish weights.
2. Spend a day with a cattle buyer in your area. What frame type does the buyer prefer? Why?
3. Explain to your helper how you would calculate the amount of feed a 500 pound calf with a frame score of 4 would need to reach 1000 pounds.