



### DECATUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE 545 S COUNTY ROAD 200 W GREENSBURG, IN 47240 PHONE: 812-663-8388 4-H EDUCATOR: NORA BRUNS EMAIL: <u>stacyn@purdue.edu</u>

Booklet prepared and created by Bonita Hellmich, Decatur County Extension Office Revised February 2023 SOURCES: <u>https://beef2live.com/story-fun-facts-products-beef-cattle-0-104636</u> <u>www.farmflavor.com</u> <u>https://www.wikihow.com/Halter-Train-Cattle</u> <u>https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/webster/Fit%20%26%20Show%20Beef%20Beginners.pdf</u>

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### <u>Mini 4-H'ers Page</u>

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. You are a special person. Mini 4-H'ers have a lot of fun! There are many activities for you to explore and new things to try. You can share it with your family and friends. Mom, Dad, another adult and your 4-H club can help you with your project. When it is finished, bring your project to the 4-H fair to display it so others can see what you have done. You will also get a ribbon made just for Mini 4-H'ers. Most of all, have fun with learning about horses!

### Here are some things to know about 4-H:



The 4-H Symbol: The symbol is a four-leaf clover with a "H" in each leaf.

Clover is a plant which grows in fields, yards, and along roadsides. Most clovers only have 3 leaves. If you look closely when you are outside, you may get lucky and find a clover with four leaves. A four-leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.

**The 4-H Colors:** The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green and the "H" in the leaf is white.

**The 4-H Motto:** "TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER." When something is better than all of the others, it is *the best*. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best, you have ever done.

<u>The 4-H Mission</u>: The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to "provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who positively impact their community and the world".

<u>The 4-H Vision</u>: Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

The 4-H Pledge: A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you.

I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, My HEART to greater loyalty, My HANDS to larger service, And my HEALTH to better living, For my club, my community, My country and my world.

### Mini 4-H Helper's Page

Welcome to the Mini 4-H program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive project manuals for their chosen project(s) after enrolling in Mini 4-H. These manuals provide information to learn about the chosen project along with learning activities to provide fun and interaction throughout the year in Mini 4-H. The manuals also provide ideas for a project to bring to the fair.

As a Mini 4-H helper, your job will be to guide and encourage the Mini 4-H'er through doing the activities in the manual. A wide range of activities are provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the child you are working with. It is suggested that you DO NOT complete the activities for them, but instead, help them, guide them, and work with them, letting the child do as much as they possibly can themselves. 4-H believes in allowing children to "learn by doing". The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is setup to allow children to display a project activity based upon information learned from this manual. Some children choose to exhibit their project at the Decatur County 4-H Agricultural Fair. Fair week is an exciting week for 4-H members, Mini 4-H'ers and their families. It is a week that allows the community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. As an adult helper, you can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the child(ren) as they have fun learning while doing the activities, and sharing what they are learning with you.

If you have questions regarding Mini 4-H or the 4-H program and projects, please feel free to call the Decatur County Extension Office at 812-663-8388.

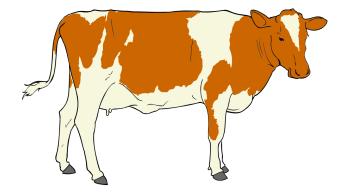
Decatur County Extension Office 545 South County Road 200 West Greensburg, IN 47240 Phone: 812-663-8388 4-H Educator: Nora Bruns Email: stacyn@purdue.edu

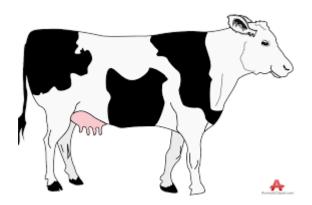
#### Mini 4-H Program Rules

The Mini 4-H program is designed to supplement and introduce students in kindergarten through second grade to the Decatur County 4-H program.

#### <u>Rules</u>:

- Mini 4-H is open to any boy or girl who is currently enrolled in Kindergarten, first or second grade on January 1st of the current 4-H year.
- Mini 4-H participants will enroll in a 4-H club where they may get help with their project
- from older 4-H'ers and their club leader. They can also do their project at home with help from their parents.
- Mini 4-H'ers in Decatur County may enroll in any of the following projects: Arts and Crafts, Bicycle (grade 2 only), Bugs, More Bugs (2nd grade), Collections, Dinosaurs, Farm Animals, Foods, Foods 2 (2nd grade), Forestry, Garden, Genealogy, Models, My Pets & Me, Plants & Flowers, Sewing, Space, Whales & Dolphins, Wildlife and Woodworking.
- Animal projects now have manuals, and the child will participate in the Mini 4-H Livestock show during the fair for the species they have signed up to show. They will use an animal provided by an older sibling, relative, friend, or other 4-H'er that is already being shown at the fair. Older 4-H'ers and adults will help them so they will learn the proper way to show the animal. Animal projects include: Beef, Dairy, Rabbits, Goats, Sheep, Horses, Puppies/Dog, Swine and Poultry. The animal booklets are good for 3 years of Mini 4-H.
- Mini 4-H'ers will complete activities in their project manuals, show in the Mini 4-H show, and if desired, turn in a project also. Any poster exhibits must follow the following specifications:
  - The poster must be a stiff cardboard or foam core board so it can stand up easily, if needed. Poster board size is to be 22" high x 28" wide. Posters are to be covered with plastic to protect them.
  - The Decatur County Extension Office sells foam core poster board and plastic sleeves to cover the poster boards, as a set, at a minimal price.
  - Posters must be positioned horizontally.





### BEEF CATTLE

Beef cattle are raised for meat. They eat grass, hay, alfalfa, cracked corn, silage (the complete corn plant chopped into small chunks), protein supplement, and lick on salt and mineral blocks.

Beef cattle help America maintain a proper balance of our land and crops. Eighty-three percent of our land is unsuitable for producing crops for human consumption, but nearly one-half of that land grows grass which feeds cattle.

Cattle, unlike man and most other animals, are ruminants, meaning they have four stomachs. Therefore, they can convert fibrous plants such as cornstalks into highly nutritious food— BEEF—for human use.

Grass and forages account for three-fourths of all feed consumed by beef cattle. Corn and other feed grains are used only during the last few months before marketing in order to help produce a high quality, flavorful beef product. Today's consumer does not want a lot of fat on the meat. Cattle are marketed when they weigh 1000 to 1300 pounds.

Without cattle, millions of America's acres would not be used to produce food. The United States is second in the world in the production of cattle. Indiana's fourth largest farming commodity is cattle. Counties in Indiana that lead in cattle production are: Elkhart, Kosciusko, Lagrange, Dubois, Washington, Wabash, Daviess, Lawrence, Harrison and Jackson.

The most common types of beef cattle we have in Indiana are: Black Angus, Hereford, Red Poll, Shorthorn, Charolais and Simmental cattle.

It is very important the cattle are taken care of properly by the farmer. If the animal does not get the nutrition it needs it could become sick and will not produce good quality products for you to use. Like all animals, cattle need special food specifically for them, and fresh water every day.

Beef cattle do more than provide meat for us to eat. There are many items we use every day that contain beef by-products.

### Fun Facts: Products We Get From Beef Cattle

What comes to mind when you hear the word "beef"? Perhaps, meat, hamburger, steak or even leather. These are all products of the beef animal (or cattle), but there are also many other by -products. Beef by-products are the products that we get from beef cattle that might not be quite so obvious. For example, soap is a beef by-product be-cause it uses beef fat.



If you have a beef animal that weighs 1,000 pounds - 640 pounds of the animal will be used for meat products, such as steak, roasts and hamburgers. This means 64% of the animal is used for meat. However, 99% of the cow is utilized for meat and other products.

From 1 cow hide you can get 12 basketballs OR 144 baseballs OR 20 footballs OR 18 volleyballs OR 18 soccer balls OR 12 baseball gloves.

If you strung 1 year's worth of hotdogs - end to end - around the world, you would go around the world 16 times!

Leather is a very good example of a beef by-product. It is made from the cow hide and it is used to make by-products. By-products are a product of the animal that is used as an "ingredient" in other products.

There are many foods that are obviously by-products, such as steak, roasts and hamburgers. Another more obvious product is milk and other dairy products, such as butter and yogurt.

Name some food products that come from animals. Meat, beef, beef jerky, hotdogs, lamb chops. These are all direct example of food products, but they may be used in tv dinners and lunchmeats.

Did you know that gelatin, what Jell-O is made from, comes from the connective tissues of the beef animal. So when you eat Jell-O, you are actually eating an animal by-product.

Other products that contain gelatin might include gum, fruit snacks like gummy bears, and marshmallows.

Many medical products are made from animal by-products. Some products may contain stearic acid that is found in fatty acids, such as in beef cattle. Ointments for burns and first aid creams may contain animal by-products.

Anti-rejection drugs are used when someone has a heart transplant, liver transplant or even a ligament in your knee to help the body accept the new organ. Animals, such as beef, sheep and swine have remarkable similarities to our own bodies.

Insulin is utilized by diabetics. It can be synthetic, which means that is man-made, but it also can come from livestock.

There is a sticky part on the bandages that can be made from animal fatty acids since fatty acids are used to make adhesives.

Household and office products also may contain beef by-products. Dog food might include chicken, beef or pork by-products. Rawhide bones that dogs chew on are made from animal hides.

Laundry pre-treatments contains enzymes - a protein found in cattle and sheep.

There is a certain kind of china that knick knacks may be made out of that can be made from an animal by-product - bone china. Bone china is made from the bones.

There may be fatty acids from cattle or other animals added to toilet paper to make it soft.

What's on the label of the glue bottle? There is a cow on the label of glue because you can use a cow's hooves and horns to make glue.

Dish soap may contain beef fat that helps make your hands soft.

Even film contains the beef product - gelatin - on the coating of the film.

Candles may have beef by-products in them to give them more strength, to help them last longer, and make them more opulent.

What would crayons have in them? Probably beef fat, but there is also a kind out now that is made from soybeans.

Paintbrushes can be made out of horse hair, but can be made out of the hairs from other animals as well. Sports equipment is often made from animal by-products. Many professional teams use cowhide footballs. So not all footballs are made of pigskin like many people think. Footballs can be made out of both pig skin and beef skin.

Volleyballs can be made from leather, and so can the baseball glove and the outer covering of the baseball.

Industrial use - many lubricants and fluids may contain beef fats. Some inks used in printing contain animal fats. High gloss printing might contain animal fats.

Industrial cleaners may also include beef by-products.

Grooming - Nail polish remover contains gelatin that helps give your nails strength. Soap, lotions, makeup and lipstick may contain stearic acid, a fatty acid. But not all of them do - as some people are allergic to animal by-products. Some also contain lanolin which is a sheep byproduct. Shaving cream also contains stearic acid, a fatty acid.

Many deodorants contain fatty acids. When people clean their contacts, they use little white tablets called enzymatic cleaners. Enzymes are a protein found in animals.

Saddle soap is used on leather shoes and any type of leather product. It helps leather items maintain softness.

Travel and transportation. Antifreeze may contain glycerol, an animal by-product. Hydraulic brake fluid and car wax also may contain animal by-products. Highways are made of asphalt and contain a binding agent made from beef by-products. Tires contain stearic acid which helps tires maintain their elasticity. Car seats can also be made from leather.

Clothing and furniture also may contain animal by-products. Office chairs, wallets, watch bands and a whole host of products can be made from leather from cattle – such as shoes, leather jackets, belts, gloves and other clothes.

https://beef2live.com/story-fun-facts-products-beef-cattle-0-104636



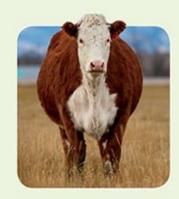
# **Cow Know-How**

Learn the difference between cattle breeds



### ANGUS

Known as Aberdeen Angus around the world, the breed arose in Scotland. Solid black or red, Angus is valued for adaptability, health, and marbled meat.



### HEREFORD

From England, Hereford is an ancient breed. Red in color, they are fast-growing cattle with good beef quality.



#### SIMMENTAL From Switzerland, Simmental produce a naturally lean beef. They were one of the first continental breeds introduced in the U.S.



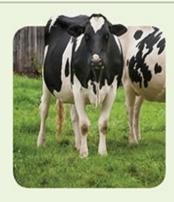
### LIMOUSIN

Originally from France, the Limousin is a hardy and adaptable animal suited to meat production.



### JERSEY

From an island in the British Channel, Jerseys are smaller than Holsteins and produce a denser milk that is higher in butterfat.



### HOLSTEIN

Recognizable by their black and white markings, Holsteins are known as a dairy cow and have the world's highest milk productions.

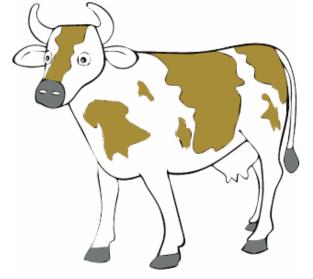


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## Beef Cattle

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British Braford Simbrah Brahman Brangus Stocker Feeder Saler Angus

### TYPES OF BEEF CATTLE

### Black Angus:

Black Angus cattle are a breed of hornless black cattle which originated in Scotland and were brought to the United States in 1873. They are rapidly becoming one of the most popular beef cattle in the country.

### Hereford:

Hereford cattle are a medium to large, deep bodied animal with white faces and white markings. They came to the United States in 1817, and have remained a popular breed of cattle since that time.

#### **Red Poll:**

This breed of cattle was developed as a dual purpose breed, both for milk production and for beef. They are a breed of hornless cattle. They are medium bodied and are light red to dark red in color. This breed was brought to the United States in 1873. Although they can be used for both meat and milk, they are primarily used for meat in the U.S.

#### Shorthorn:

This breed of cattle was once known as Durham cattle. This breed is medium sized with short, rectangular bodies. Their colors vary from red to white to any combination of the two. They were first introduced to the United States in 1783. Genetically hornless shorthorns are about 60% of the beef Shorthorns registered in the U.S.

### Charolais:

This breed of beef animal has a muscular appearance and a creamy to wheat-colored coat. They were first brought to the U.S. in 1936.

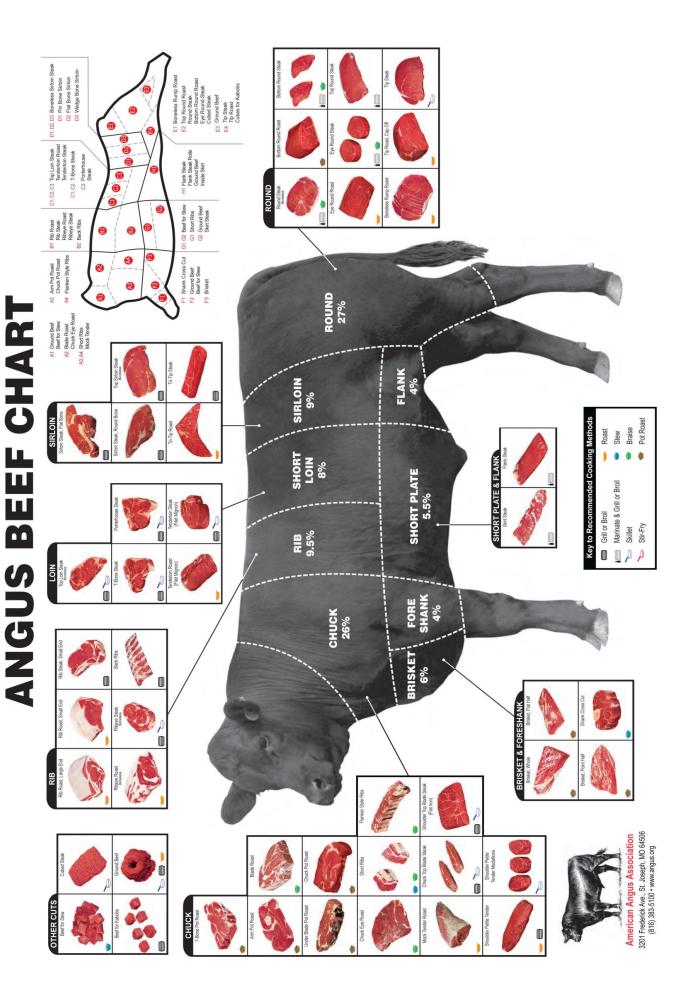
### Simmental Cattle:

This is a large, dual purpose animal. They are usually a red color with or without a white head. They first came to the U.S. in 1886.

Activity: Circle the pictures of these six types of beef cattle described above:



THIS CHART SHOWS WHAT PART OF THE BEEF COW EACH CUT OF MEAT COMES FROM.



### CUTS OF BEEF THAT WE EAT:

*Chuck:* This area contains a great deal of connective tissue, including collagen. Collagen melts during cooking, making the meat intensely flavorful. Cuts from this area benefit from slow, wet cooking methods like stewing, braising or pot-roasting.

**Top Round:** This is the most tender part of the round; it can be prepared as pot roast or cut into thick steaks for braised dishes.

*Rib:* Tender and flavorful, ribs can be cooked any number of ways: roasted, sautéed, panfried, broiled or grilled.

*Flank:* This meat is lean, muscular and very flavorful. Flank is primarily used for flank steaks. It can also be used for kabobs.

*Short Loin:* This area boasts extremely tender cuts and can be prepared without the aid of moist heat or long cooking times. Cuts from the short loin may be sautéed, pan-fried, broiled, pan-broiled or grilled.

**T-bone Steak:** Cut from the middle section of the short loin, similar to the porterhouse steak, has a smaller piece of the tenderloin; usually grilled or pan-fried.

**Tenderloin:** Often considered the tender cut of beef; responds well to sauces, meaning the meat does not overpower the flavor of the sauce. It can be cut as the whole strip, or into individual steaks for filet mignon.

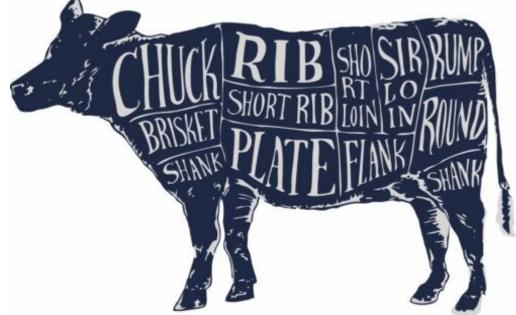
*Sirloin:* These tender cuts respond well to sautéing, pan-frying, broiling, pan-broiling or grilling.

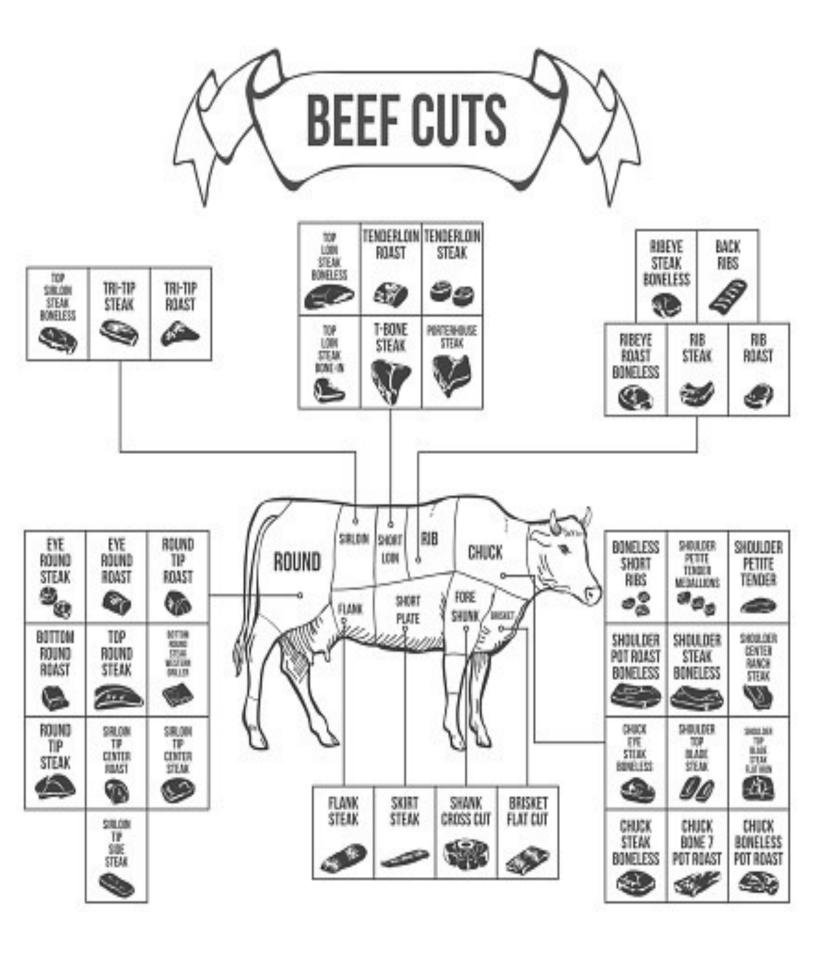
*Plate:* This section is best used for stew meat, where its rich, beefy flavor can be appreciated.

Shank: Excellent stew meat.

**Brisket:** A leaner cut of the brisket, for those who want the flavor but not the fat of a brisket pot roast.

Hamburger: This is all of the scrap pieces of meat that are ground together to make the hamburger.





### HOW TO HALTER TRAIN CATTLE

### https://www.wikihow.com/Halter-Train-Cattle#Steps

**1** Catch the calf. This is actually easier said than done, and there are several ways you can do this, depending on the age and size of the calf, and your available help (if you have someone helping you or you are doing this alone). Ideally, you should first have the calf in a 20' by 30' pen to make it easier to catch and to get near.

• A young calf that is only a few days old can be caught by calmly cornering it or using a cane to catch its leg and pulling it towards you so you can grab the calf by hand. Calves this age are a little "dopey," so it's easier to guide them to where you want to halter and hold them than to simply put a rope its neck and try to lead it. You could put the halter on right where you caught the calf. Just watch out for its mother, especially if she isn't halter-trained herself and isn't too happy with you messing with her calf. If she's giving signs of this, then consider putting the pair in an area where you can separate mom and calf briefly while you begin to introduce the halter to the calf.

• Calves that are a week or so older will be harder to catch, but can be roped using a lariat. Calmly approach the calf close enough you can throw the rope to get a lasso on it. Loop over the neck so that the lasso of the rope catches the head. Lead the calf to the side of the fence or wherever you wish to put the halter on. Leading will be the fun part, because you will get a calf that will resist having itself pulled along by its neck and do everything it can to get free or be the one doing the pulling!

For calves that are quite used to being around people and aren't afraid of getting quite near to a person, you can simply use a lead rope to catch it and lead it to the fence to put the halter on. Dairy calves, or bottle-fed beef calves are most likely to be comfortable around humans, and would obviously be the easiest to catch, if at all. You probably won't even need to catch such a calf if you have its bottle with you and it is eager to try to drink from it.



**2** Put the halter on the calf. While still hanging on to the rope over the calf's neck, the halter, especially if it's a rope one, should be put on head/ears-first followed by the nose. Loop the calf's ears through the halter with one hand, letting the rope fall over the ears naturally instead of you just putting it on over the head and ears. The adjustable part of the rope halter (which is the nose portion) should be put as wide as possible so that the nose can also be looped in with the halter and the rope tightened to the calf's muzzle.

• Leather or nylon halters would be put on the same way, and the head piece adjusted so that it is snug, not pinching. Usually with halter-training a calf, heifer or steer you would normally use a non-show halter first and foremost before introducing, and possibly wrecking the leather show halter.

If you are working with an older calf, or a calf that is typically unruly, you may need to confine its head first with a head-gate or head-catch (usually connected to a squeeze chute or cattle crush) so that you can put on the halter without the risk of injuring yourself or the calf running away on you with the halter hanging half-on. The crazier the calf, the more likely you should put it in the head-catch.



**3** Connect the lead. Snap the lead in a metal ring that is attached on the halter under the chin.

With <u>rope halters</u>, this does not need to be done as a lead rope is already attached to it when the halter was made.



**4** Leave the halter on for a week or two. The halter and lead should be left on for a week or so to allow the calf a chance to get used to it and to learn to respond to the halter's pressure points when it steps on the lead rope.



**5** Be around the calf as frequently as possible. This is much more important with calves that are not on the bottle and are a bit leery of you. Feed him range cubes or try to offer him range cubes from your hand, or even a little grain if that's more readily available. Repeat this as often as possible, and even during that time try to get closer to him. But do not try to corner him. Just let him come to you and allow him to figure out for himself that you are not there to cause him any harm, but rather be a bringer of good and pleasant things like food, and even-tually rubs.

• If the calf is not used to the range cubes, just put some in the feed trough if he does not accept your hand-held treat the first time. Once he gets used to the texture and taste it will be much easier to get him to come for them.

Clean up the pen of manure and old straw and such, careful not to crowd him or make him upset in any way. The best way to do this is to talk to him calmly while focusing on your job.



**6** Tie up the calf. Catch the lead rope and tie it up to a sturdy post in such a way that a couple of loops around the post are made, and secured with a quick-release knot. The rope should allow no more than 8 to 12 inches (20.3 to 30.5 cm) of length between the calf's head and the post, and be tied at the height of the calf's head.

The first tying session should last no more than around 30 minutes. You can increase the time the calf is tied over time



## **7** Get the calf used to being handled. While tied, you can start getting him used to being brushed and rubbed. You can also feed him a couple cubes as a treat for being tied up.

• Cattle love getting rubbed, but those who have not been handled before may try to get away from you. Just be patient, and rub and brush him over with your grooming supplies when he's staying still. Don't reward him with rubs when he's moving around. Start at the top, from the neck to the tail head (they absolutely love getting rubbed and scratched on and around the tail head area), down the sides and down the dewlap to under the throat. You could also eventually try to get his legs, but work on that slowly. Most cattle don't like having their feet and legs handled at first.

Work on both sides, just like with horses. Cattle can be good with you doing grooming on one side but a little uncomfortable with the other. Make sure you pay equal attention to rubbing and grooming both sides during the training sessions.



8 Untie the lead from the post and begin trying to lead the calf. A younger calf is going to be easier to lead than a weaned calf, but you still may get a fight on your hands, so be prepared. Always lead your calf within the pen, not outside in a more open area. You shouldn't try to lead your calf in an open area until you are confident he won't try to get away from you and is leading properly.



**9** Take the lead in your hand and shorten it. Take several lengths of rope into your hand (do not wind the rope around your hand) until your hand is several inches from the muzzle of the animal.



## 10 Start walking forward, pulling the lead as you do to encourage the calf to move with you.

• Always walk on the left side of the animal.

Make sure you are not walking behind the head nor shoulders of the animal. You must be in lead. If the calf tries to get ahead of you, stop and collect the calf, or get the calf to have its head beside you again.

Do not simply drag the calf as you go along. Encourage it to walk with you by pulling first, then releasing when the calf begins to move, and repeating until you have the calf starting to walk beside you. This will take many attempts to get, and you won't get a calf walking with you on the first session.



**11 Practice doing turns**. To turn the animal to the left by walking into the head. It will swing away from you as you do so. To turn right, bring the animal's head around your left side.



# **12** Watch for signs of wanting to get away or turn on you. If the animal gets jumpy or excited and starts jumping around, calmly keep a grip on the lead and jerk the lead until he stops.

• If your calf bolts and starts to run, collect the calf again and bring it around to you. Do not let it get away, because if you do let him get away he will learn that he can get away from you whenever he wants. You do not want that to happen to you in the show ring! Even if it's a larger calf, make sure you hang on and don't let go. The calf should have already learned how to resist the pull of the halter from that time when he was walking around freely dragging the lead rope, and what pressure on the halter means, so even if he tries to baulk on you and get away, a pull or jerk on the lead will teach him that he can't get away even if he tries.

If he does manage to get away on you, get him back in your control as quickly, but calmly as possible. Do not end the session on his terms, this way you are definitely teaching him bad habits.



End each session on your own terms. You are the leader and the boss so it's up to you and you alone when the practice and training session should end. End it with rubbing and softly talking to him, letting him sniff you, whilst slowly dropping the lead or unclipping the lead rope. Then turn and walk away.



**14** Practice, practice, practice! Repeat these steps every day for 15 minutes to an hour a day to get it used to being lead and halter-broke. It may take you two to three months to get a calf, heifer or steer fully used to being on a halter and lead, and to want to walk with you. You may not be able to take the halter off the calf until it readily comes to you or willingly stands to be caught and haltered. Until then, keep the halter on for as long as possible.



### BEEF SHOWMANSHIP

### Using the Halter

When leading, walk on the calf's left side with the lead in your right hand. Hold your hand 6 to 12 inches from the animal's head on the lead strap (This is near the junction of the chain and leather strap).

Firmly grip the lead so your thumb is up and toward you with your little finger nearest the chain. Your wrist is stronger this way and provides better control over the animal. Measure the lead strap to be just long enough for control (about shoulder width). It must not touch the ground; if the lead can reach the ground, you or the calf may step on it, making it awkward to switch hands. To prevent injury, do not wrap the halter strap around your hand or fingers.

### At Show Time

Before the show, walk over the show ring to find any low spots on the surface. This will help you avoid these areas when setting up your calf. If possible, position the calf so the front feet are placed on higher ground than the rear feet. Enter the show ring counter clockwise promptly when the class is called.

Generally, cattle are lined up side by side to start a class. When pulling into line, look where you will be, and head into that position. Do not merely follow the person in front of you since this usually ends in an "S" configuration. You can end up brushing against the calf that was in front of you as you pull into line. If you are third or fourth in the ring, line up even with the other calves, leaving 3 or 4 feet on both sides of your calf. This allows ample room for all exhibitors to set up. Smoothly, yet quickly, get the calf set up with its head high.

When pulling into line, check your calf a few feet before reaching your destination to slow the calf. To check the calf, lift up slightly on the halter so the calf knows you are about to stop.

### Using the Show Stick

Four basic uses for the show stick include:

- Assisting in placing the feet.
- Calming and controlling the animal.
- Keeping the top level.
- For scotch-driving the animal.

When setting up your calf:

- Switch the lead strap from the right hand to your left hand quickly and smoothly.
- Switch the show stick from your left hand to your right hand.
- Slowly scratch the calf's belly a couple of times to help calm the calf.

• Set the calf's feet in the appropriate position.

**Remember:** You have two tools in your hands to set the feet—the lead and the show stick. Set the rear feet first. To move a rear foot back, push backward on the lead and use the show stick to press (do not jab) the soft tissue between the toes in the cleft of the hoof. To move a rear foot forward, pull on the lead and use the show stick to apply pressure under the dew claw (Figure 1).

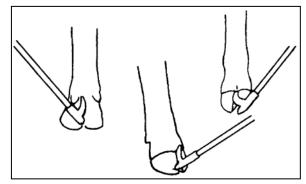
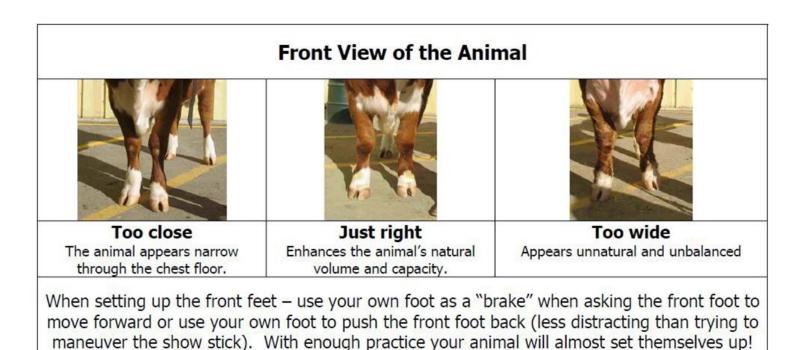
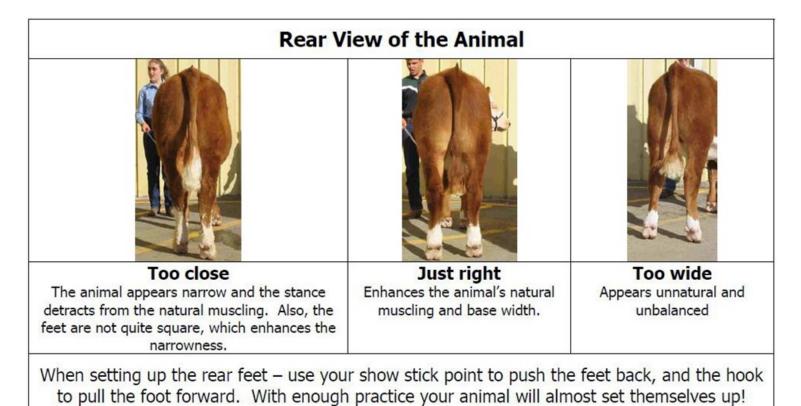


Figure 1. Proper use of the show stick in placement of the feet.

It is easier for the calf to put a foot back than move it forward. When the rear feet are too close together, apply pressure to the inside of the leg just above the hoof or at the hock, and the calf should stand wider. You can move its front feet by using your boot or show stick to apply pressure on the foot while pushing or pulling with the halter lead in the desired direction you want the foot to move. Younger, less experienced exhibitors are safer using the show stick.



Placement of the feet depends on what view is desired for the judge and what makes the calf look its best. When cattle are lined up side by side in a straight line, the feet should be set on all four corners (bearing a full share of the calf's weight). On this view, the judge is looking at the rear and front of the calf.



When the cattle are lined on the profile (head to tail), set the feet as if a professional photographer is taking a picture. Stagger the rear feet so your near side foot is slightly in front of the foot closest to the judge (Figure 2). As the judge moves to the rear of the calf on profile, an experienced exhibitor will again square the feet. As the judge moves back to the side view, profile the rear feet again.

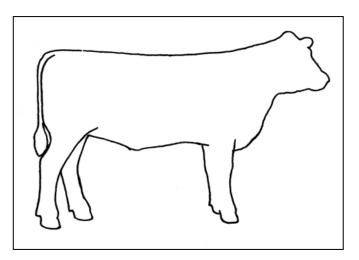
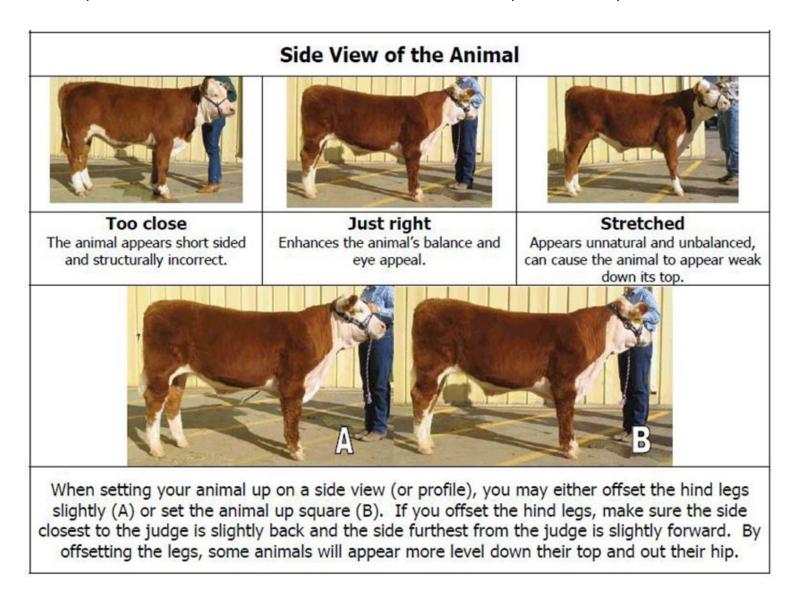


Figure 2. Set up when viewed on the profile

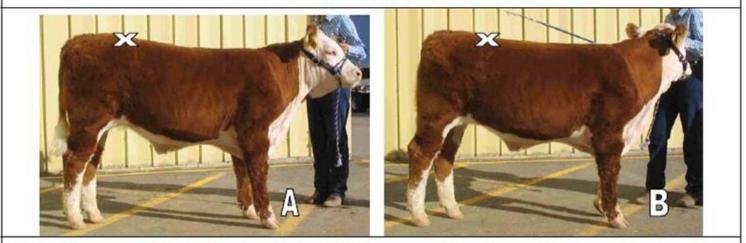
A heel-to-toe relationship works best when profiling. The heel of one foot is parallel with the toe of the other foot. The front feet are set squared or staggered less than the rear feet. The toe of the front foot away from the judge should be set back half the width of the hoof on the judge's side. By setting the feet in this manner, you give the judge a perception of depth and thickness. It also makes it easier to correct a top line and rump structure.



#### When using the show stick to correct a top line:

- Apply pressure at the navel or flank with the hook of the show stick if the top is weak and needs to be raised.
- If the rump is steep and the loin is high, apply pressure to this area to bring it down; continue to scratch the calf's belly to keep it calm.

### Adjusting the topline ("loining")



Note the calf in photo A – he is round out his hip and slightly hunched. By applying pressure on the loin (denoted with "X"), the calf's loin will drop, providing the illusion of leveling out his hip (photo B).

While showing, always keep the point of the show stick down for safety and professional appearance. Keep the stick in your left hand at the handle or about one-third of the way down when walking. This allows its use as an additional control tool if needed. If the calf is moving too fast, hold the portion of the stick between your left hand and tip or hook end in front of the calf's nose.

To scotch-drive: push forward on the halter with your right hand, and touch the calf with the show stick on its side or rump. This makes the calf think someone is behind it, and it should start to walk. Scotch-driving is needed when the calf will not lead or walk and no one is around to help you get started.

### Using the Comb or Cloth:

With haired cattle, carry a scotch comb in your right back pocket or in a comb sheath, with the teeth toward you for safety. Use the scotch comb to groom the hair that becomes messed up from the judge's handling your calf or from another animal bumping into your calf. You can use the corner of the comb to level the loin. If showing American breeds with short hair, carry a wipe cloth (bandana). You can use the cloth in the same manner as the scotch comb to groom the hair while in the showing.

### When it is time to walk the cattle:

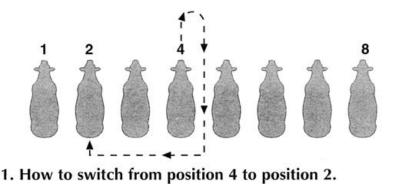
- Move as the judge or ring steward instructs. Most likely you will pull the cattle up to the
  rail, turn left, go three-fourths of a circle, and walk right behind the tail of the other cattle in the side-by-side line.
- Assist the exhibitor in front of you in moving a calf if he or she is having trouble. Tap the calf's rump with your stick, or, preferably, put your show stick in your right hand and twist the tail of the calf in front of you with your left.
- Let your calf walk out freely. Move at an easy pace, not too slow or too fast. When it is time to stop on the profile—

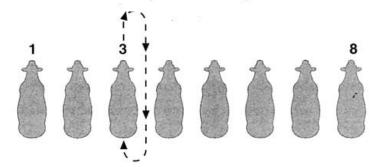
- Stop in a straight line head to tail. Remember to check the calf and then stop by lifting its head. Allow 4 to 6 feet between your calf and the one in front. This allows the judge space to move freely around the cattle and helps to prevent calves from mounting or disturbing others in the line.
- Position the feet as discussed earlier; keep the top line level and the calf's head up.
- Locate the judge and wait calmly. Do not "saw" your calf in half with rapid stick movement while waiting for the judge. Use slow, deliberate strokes with the show stick. Do not make noises or rattle the chain of the halter.

Remember to allow proper distance between calves, and set the calf up at its best. As the judge pulls cattle from the profile line, empty spaces occur. As spaces between cattle become empty, move forward in the line. By moving forward and filling the empty spaces, it becomes easier for the judge to make comparisons. Once pulled into a side by side line, you are nearing the end of the class. Stay alert and set the calf up as positions may continue to be switched.

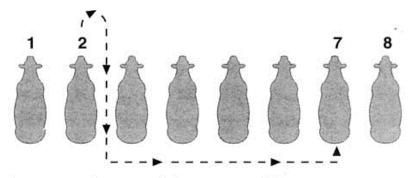
When turning an animal, always turn to the right (clockwise) unless the ring steward gives other instructions. Pushing the calf's head away from you prevents the possibility of the calf stepping on your foot, causing harm to you or the calf.

Certain situations may occur in changing placings (Figure 3). Note that you pass back through the same hole you left, then to the proper position. If positioned up to a rail, do not turn around in the line. Back the calf out by pushing back on the halter with your left hand and applying pressure with your right at the point of the shoulder. Pull into the line at the instructed position.

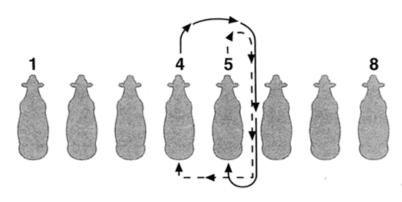




2. How to reset in the same position using position 3.



3. How to go from position 2 to position 7.



4. How to switch positions 4 and 5. Position 5 would move out first.

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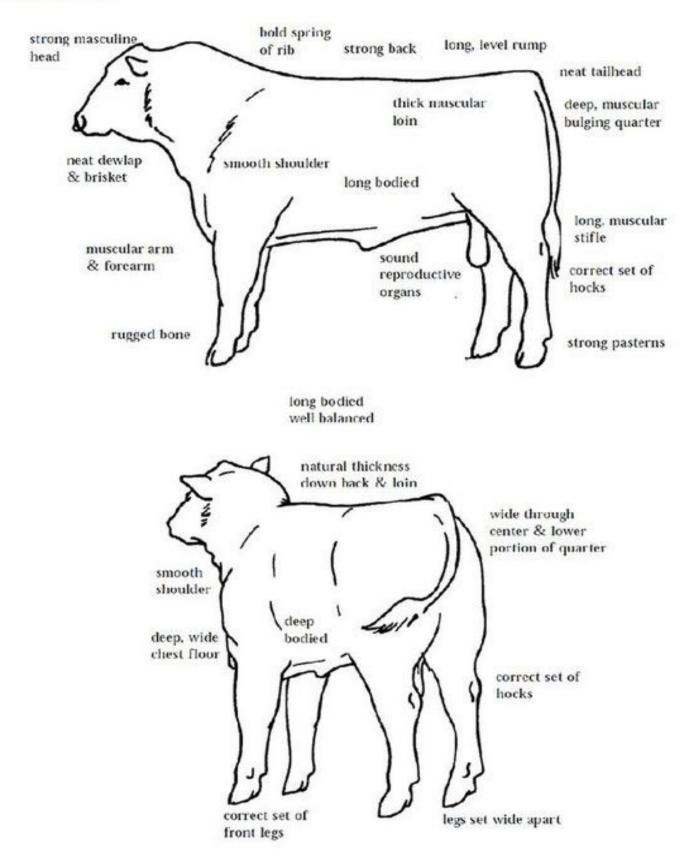
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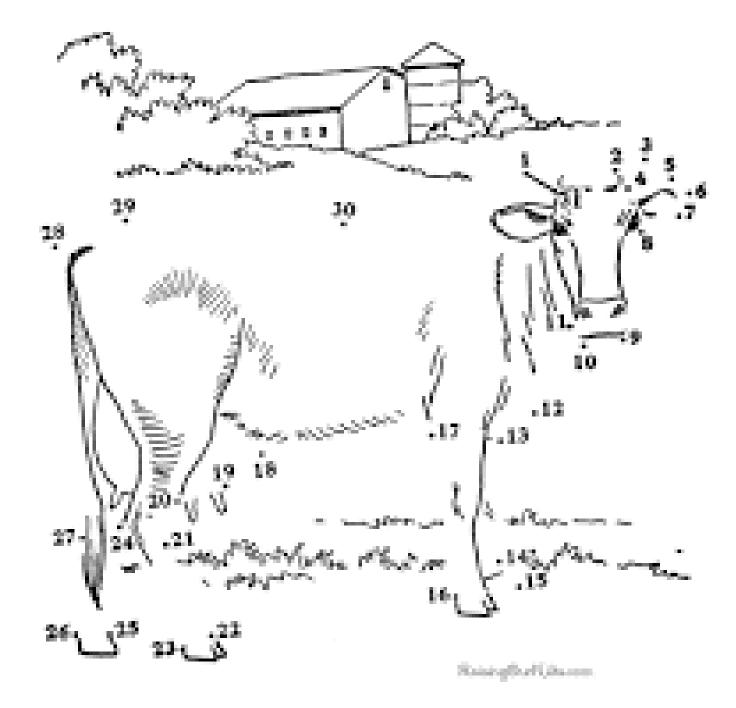
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### Ideal Bull





Connect the dots to finish the picture of the cow.

## GROOMING AND SHOWING YOUR BEEF COW

### Equipment Needed for Fitting:

(Some of the equipment listed may or may not be needed, depending on the breed and type of animal exhibited)

**BRUSHES** - brushes (assortment: rice root, synthetic fiber, wash brushes)

A Rice root brush is one of the most important grooming materials that is needed when training the hair of the animal. Brush the hair of the animal forward with the rice root brush. The brush will help remove the dead hair from the animal, as well as, training the hair to stand up straight. A wash brush (one made of plastic with soft bristles or a wash plastic wash mitt) is just what it sounds like a brush used when washing cattle. Brushing during the washing process helps the exhibitor get the cattle cleaner. Scrub the entire animal thoroughly, head, neck, face, feet, legs, and etc., in order to clean it properly.

### **COMBS:** Scotch combs (regular and fluffer combs)

Scotch combs are used when grooming the cattle's hair. Run the comb in a forward and upward direction. The points of the combs can be very sharp so the exhibitor must be gentle with the cattle. Most exhibitors prefer to have two of these combs available - one for grooming body hair and one for using with adhesives in grooming leg and tail head hair. A fluffer comb is used much like that of the regular scotch comb, but it's teeth are set further apart allowing the hair of the animal to pop or "fluff" as the comb is run through the hair.





#### BLOW DRYER:

This piece of equipment helps dry the beef project after they have been washed or rinsed, helps clean the hair of dust and foreign matter and is a valuable aid in training the hair. It is advisable to purchase a blower that has not only a blower but also a heating element to speed the drying process.

#### CLIPPERS:

There is a WIDE variety of clippers on the market today for use on livestock projects. It is best to chose a set of clippers with a good motor and interchangeable heads. Heads can be changed for clipping longer body hair or for close clipping of hair on such body parts as the head and tail.



### SCISSORS:

Scissors can be a very valuable tool as well when it comes to "fine-tuning" your final clip job. Be sure to invest in a pair that is sharp and able to cut through the sticky adhesives used on legs and tail heads.



### SHOW HALTERS:

Show halters come in all kinds, colors, and sizes. The most commonly used halter in today's show ring is a black rolled-nose leather halter with a short lead.





### GROOMING PRODUCTS

Soaps, adhesives, coat enhancing products and other grooming items

### SOAPS/SHAMPOOS:

Use a mild soap product (i.e. dish soap or shampoo) or other inexpensive soaps for general washing. Use a commercial livestock shampoo only when necessary due to its tendency to be very drying; stripping the natural oils from the hair coat.

### ADHESIVES:

### There are three types of adhesives used today for grooming of beef cattle.

<u>Standard or Leg Adhesive</u> - this type of adhesive is rather heavy and slower to dry than other types and some exhibitors prefer to use this type on the legs. If only one kind of adhesive can be purchased, the standard type will do for most general purpose use.

<u>Tail Adhesive</u> - this adhesive is another heavy type adhesive, but with a very unique quality; IT DRIES QUICKLY. It is generally used to set tail heads and in forming the bush of the tail. Tail adhesive may be applied to leg hair when a fuller leg appearance is needed.

<u>Body Adhesive</u> - this type of adhesive is very light and dries slowly. It is useful in setting body hair and it allows for easy combing through the hair even after it has set.

### ADHESIVE REMOVER

<u>Adhesive Remover</u> - A good commercial adhesive remover is a must to take the show day preparations out of cattle to insure the quality of hair after the show.

### SHOW FOAMS/SHAVING CREAM

<u>Show Foams/Shaving Cream</u> - These are generally applied only on the day of show and are used to work up and set hard to manage hair, (i.e. to take out the cow-licks).

### SPRAYS/OILS/HAIR COAT ENHANCEMENTS

These products are all typically used to add sheen and luster to the hair coat of animals. Reading of the label of each product is necessary to determine the use of the product. Some products can be used daily for hair training purposes, while others are only to be used the day of show.

### STARTING OUT WITH YOUR BEEF PROJECT

### Grooming

To become really good at grooming, one must first form a mental picture of how the finished animal (after you have completed your grooming tasks) should look. REMEMBER - No two animals are exactly alike and therefore no two animals should be fitted alike. The whole purpose of fitting and grooming beef animals is to make them look attractive. Study your animal and evaluate its' strong and weak points as compared to the ideal animal that you have formed a mental picture of. Plan how to groom the animal by making the weak points look as good as possible and accentuating the strong points.

However there is a BIG difference in hair types in animals. Grooming heifers and steers varies vastly between breeds, but the big difference is between the long-haired British and European breeds and the American short-haired breeds.

Long-haired breeds usually show with the hair combed/brushed up while the short-haired breeds are shown with the hair brushed down for a slick, more natural appearance.

Time of year also plays a MAJOR role in grooming. Animals may have more or less hair depending on weather conditions. For example, a animal will typically have less hair in the summer months do to higher temperatures than in the cooler fall and winter months.

The following steps will take exhibitors from the wash rack to the show ring. We will discuss in section washing, blow drying, combing, clipping, fitting, and presenting your animal for show.

### STEP # 1-WASHING



Washing consists of cleaning the mud, manure, and dirt from the animal/s hair. It is also beneficial in stimulating hair growth. This is a very simple procedure but, you may get very wet at times. You will need the following when washing you animal: water hose, shampoo of you choice (try not to use harsh oil cutting shampoos), and a wash brush. While in the wash rack, secure your animal to the pipe stanchion to restrict his/her movement. Sometimes the wash racks at shows are very full so please try to be considerate of others and wait you turn. Once the animal is secure then wet the entire animal. While you are spraying water on the animal, squirt the soap in the stream of the water. This will evenly

disburse the soap on the entire body of the animal. Now comes the important part, take your scrub brush and scrub the entire body of the animal. Don't forget about the face, legs, and underline. It is very important that you get all of these places very clean. Also, don't be afraid to scrub hard, you will not hurt your animal at all.

Some kids will just use their hands to wash the animal, much like they wash their own hair, this method however, will not cut the mustard. You must scrub hard. After you have completely washed the animal, rinse all of the soap from the body of the animal. If you do not remove all of the soap residue from the hair coat, your animal may end up with a bad case of dandruff, which can make the animal's hair coat to look "flakey".

### STEP #2-BLOW DRYING

The next step that you must take is blow- drying your beef project. Common mistakes in blow drying are: drying in an inconsistent manner, and leaving parts of the animal wet. This is commonly the face, legs, and/or belly. Make sure that you dry the entire hair coat completely. You must be consistent when drying the hair of an animal. If you are not, the hair will be going in a thousand different directions. Start drying from the front of the animal and work your way back. It is imperative that you keep the direction of the nozzle in a 30 - 45 angle, much like when you are combing. You may decide to brush or comb while blow drying your animal as well; this will aid in training the hair even more.

### STEP #3 - BRUSHING/COMBING

### Training the hair

Brushing/Combing is a very important step in training the hair of the animal. Before you begin the hair training procedures, make sure your calf is broke to tie. Nothing stimulates hair growth (in long haired animals) like brushing or combing. Brushing is the only way to get the thick coat which is desired. A good hair coat is your best tool to use in covering many of your calf's minor faults. However, don't think just because your calf has a lot of hair that it will hide every fault. You should brush your animal daily to maintain optimal hair coat.

We suggest that you brush your calf's hair each time you feed your calf (which should be twice a day). It is best to wet the animal before you begin combing or brushing the hair. The hair training program should begin as soon as you get a gentle handle on your calf. Generally, cattle should be brushed and combed forward, and slightly up, at a 30-45 degrees angle. Comb the entire body of the animal and don't forget the inside and outside of the legs. To promote hair growth in warm weather, try to keep your animal cool, and increase the number of times per day you wet down and brush the steer or heifer. It is best to work the hair in the coolest part of the day, early in the morning and late in the evening. If you are brushing the animal adequately you will wear out a rice root brush in a single show season.

### STEP # 4 - CLIPPING

Clipping should only be done after the animal is thoroughly clean and dry. There are several different types and styles of clippers which can be used for beef cattle. There are two basic types of heads for clipping cattle. The first is referred to as the cattle of beef head. It is flat and is used for clipping areas that are to be shaved such as the belly, brisket, head and tail. The other type of head is known as the sheep head. This head is used for clipping body hair, or clipping legs. Clipping can be done several times before the major shows. For those of you that attend progress shows in your community, then your calf should be clipped prior to those shows. Before you attend county fair any of the major shows in Nebraska, you should clip your beef heifer 7-10 days before the show. You can do touch up work a day or two prior to

the show. Remember if you are showing steers then you must determine before the show if it is a slick sheer show or if the animals can be shown with hair. If it is a slick sheer show then you need to clip the animal several days before the show. Clipping can be the most rewarding and challenging part of this whole process. Patience and practice are the two most important parts of the clipping process. It sure feels great to see the appearance changes in your cattle while you are clipping.

This is very rewarding to see progress. I recommend that before you start clipping your animal, first you must step back and evaluate the strengths and faults of the animal. You must enhance the strong points and try to disguise the weak points. Always remember that no two animals are clipped exactly alike. Once you start clipping always clip against the natural contour of the hair to achieve a close, smooth job.

### CLIPPING THE HEAD

A. Clip the face from the poll forward using the beef head clippers or a small set of clippers. I use a small set that is not very loud because it does not scare the cattle as much.

B. Clip from the face down the dewlap to the brisket. This clip gives a long neck look when it is blended down into the brisket.

### CLIPPING THE BODY

A. If you have never clipped an animal before we recommend that you use two hands, one for steadying the clippers and the other to hold them. Put your free hand under your clippers to help you guide your way through the hair.

B. Always work one area at a time. Evaluate the area that you're finished, if you are satisfied you may move to the next section. Remember, you can always go back after you have finished.

C. When clipping the top line try to make the heifer or steer look square over the top.

D. Always try to make the entire body of the animal look square. This is very important especially over the top line and in the hindquarters.

E. The hip hair is important to give the animal a level hip. It is left long and blended into the hip and hindquarter. The area close to the tail is trimmed very short. It is recommended to just clip only one to two clipper widths wide. This adds thickness and dimension.

F. When clipping the legs make them look as square as possible. Try to make them look like  $4 \times 4$  post. Never take off to much of the hair when clipping the legs, you will shape them and take more hair off during the fitting process. If you take off to much hair on the legs then you will have nothing to work with later.

G. When clipping always try to blend in every part of the animals body. Never have hard lines. Make the animal look as natural as possible.

### FITTING YOUR CALF FOR THE SHOW

### Show day preparation

Fitting should be done on the day of show. Fitting your animal consist of pulling the hair up on the legs, hindquarters, and tail head. As you pull the hair up on the legs with your scotch comb. spray adhesive on the hair in order to make it hold. The adhesive is basically a strong hair spray, which can be bought at show supply dealers at the shows. When we talk about pulling the legs, I am talking about long haired cattle. Before you begin working the legs or any other body parts you must first wash and blow dry the hair thoroughly. You need to allow yourself plenty of time to do this. One suggesting we often make is to wash you animal the night before and bed them down in clean shavings. If you do this, then the next morning, if their not to dirty, all you have to do is blow the dirt off you animal and start preparing them for show. Generally most kids wash their animals the morning of the show.

Leg Preparation - Boning and clipping the legs promotes straightness and eye appeal. Use a leg adhesive product that can look natural to hold the leg hair in place. Don't just glob it on try to make it look as natural as possible. Remember always work small areas at a time. Spray adhesive on the leg and pull through with a scotch comb. If you have been training the hair all along it will look sharp. Remember to pull up and forward. You need to bone the legs up to the twist, which is about halfway up the hindguarter. After you bone the legs you will need to shape them with the clippers. As mentioned earlier make the legs look as straight as possible.

**The Body** - Grooming the body is really simple. All you need to do is take you scotch comb and comb upward and forward. Just as you did in the training process. You then spray Bright Lights Whitening ampoor (Gallon) an oil base conditioner, like Final Bloom or Final Touch, on the hair coat. Whichever product you use will be fine



Show-A-Pee







Sullivan's Pump Up Sprayer



Sullivan's Clear Choice Shampoo (Gallon)



(Quart)

Sullivan's Pig Face Brush

- - Nozzle Repair Kit





Clear Choice Shampoo



Sullivan's Bright Lights Whitening

Shampoo (Quart)



Sullivan's Show Pig Brush



Sullivan's Soft Show Pig Brush



### **SHOWMANSHIP**

The purpose of showmanship is to present an animal in a manner that will develop the most favorable impression on the judge. Showing beef steers and heifers properly is an important part of your beef project and an extremely rewarding experience. Beef cattle showmanship not only generates enthusiasm and competition within the show ring, but also teaches other valuable lesson that can be applied to everyday life. These lessons include accepting responsibility, winning graciously, losing with dignity, and learning the amount of work and determination it takes to become a winner.

Success in the show ring begins at home. Good showmanship isn't difficult, but it does take a lot of patience, determination and HARD WORK! It takes time to halter break your animal so that it is responsive to your hand movements on the show halter, or, to a show stick. Your heifer or steer should be trained to walk, stop and be set up easily and quickly when commanded. Make sure your animal is well accustomed to being handled with both a show halter and a show stick prior to entering the ring. In addition, your animal should also be accustomed to handling by another person. The judge will then be able to perform a close inspection without interruption or fear of injury. In preparing for a show, practice often with your animal in several short periods rather than a few long, drawn-out practice sessions.



Once your animal has been halter broken, it should be taught to stop and lead with its head up in a natural and attentive position. Rope halters may be used at any time before a show, but, it is advisable to start practicing with a show halter at least two weeks prior to a show.

When leading, hold the halter strap in your right hand, 6 to 12 inches away from the animal's head. (When using a show halter this would be where the leather lead strap connects with the chain) Keeping this distance will serve several purposes:

- 1. It will help keep the animal calm and minimize unnecessary movement
- 2. Will give enough distance between you and the animal so that the judge can critique your project.

https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/webster/Fit%20%26%20Show%20Beef%20Beginners.pdf

Remember, you can have a potential champion and if your calf is not presented to the judge in the right manner, it may be just another calf in the class. Probably one of the first things to think about when showing a calf is how the show person should be dressed. One should dress like a person who works with cattle would dress. This eliminates tennis shoes, t-shirts and western suits with ties, as well as ag and 4-H jackets.

As for what to do in the show ring, there are several basic rules that should be followed:

- 1. Always lead from the left side of the calf.
- 2. Lead the calf with your hand on top of the lead shank.
- 3. Always lead your calf with his head up and forward.
- 4. Carry your show stick in your left hand, pointing downward and towards the back of the calf.
- 5. Train your calf at home to stand with all four legs under each corner of his body.
- 6. Always lead your calf out of the line and to the right and back through the same hold when the judge asks you to put in a different hole.







## Inside Your Show Box

- Wash Bucket: include scrub brush, soap/shampoo, conditioner, plastic comb, rice brush, house & nozzle, soap foamer, etc.
- o Blower: blower & blower hose (throw in an extra hose clamp in case you loose one or it falls off)
- o Fogger
- o Clippers & extra blades (super blocking, medium blending, x-block)
- o Roto Brush & Drill
- o Rice root brush
- o Scrub/Massage Brush
- o Plastic comb
- Metal or Teflon combs: regular & skip tooth (be sure to have extras in case you have people come help dress your calf)
- o At least 2-25 foot extension cords, 4-50 foot cords & 1-100 foot cord & 2-3 way adapters
- o Vita Charge" Liquid Boost, Paste or Drench
- o Drench Gun (check show rules to see if drenching is allowed)
- o Adhesives
- o Adhesive removers
- o Fly Repellent
- o Sheen or daily hair care products
- o Liniment (added to sheen helps cool calf's body temp)
- o Extra Spray bottle & sprayer
- o Tail Bag
- Extra Rope Halter and Neck Tie (in case something happens to one you have on your animal or need another one while in the chute)
- o Show Halters
- o Number Harness
- o Neck sweat or cool collar (if you use them)
- o Duct Tape
- o Tool kit (drill, pliers, screw driver etc)
- o Wire & zip ties
- o Neck Ropes
- o Scissors
- o Paper Towels, rags or baby wipes
- Long hose (to wet stalls or to hook up to porta cool if allowed by show)

#### VET BAG

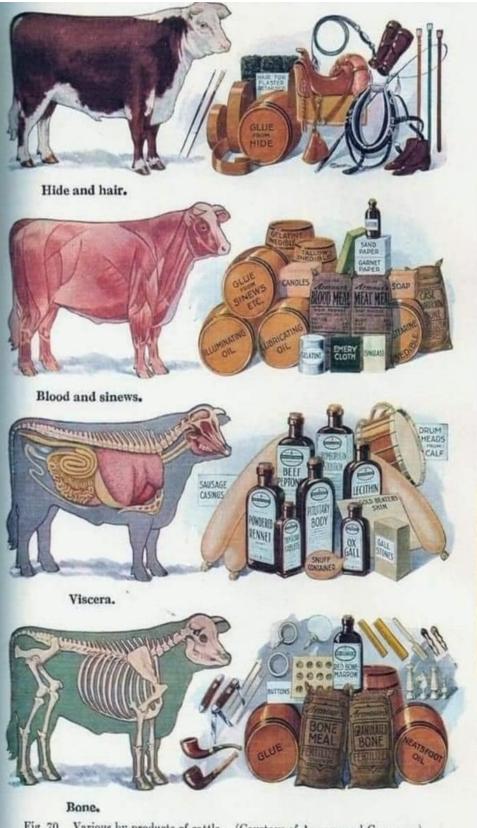
- o Digital Thermometer
- o lodine
- o Vet Wrap
- o Extra Needles (various gauge) & syringes
- o Balling Gun

- o Antibiotic (ask vet for recommendation)
- o Sulfa Boluses
- o Mineral Oil or Therbloat
- o Epinepherine

## COWS ARE INCREDIBLE.

WE WERE GIVEN ONE ANIMAL THAT CAN PROVIDE US WITH SOMETHING 1000S FACTORIES CANNOT.

ALL IT TAKES IS SUN, GRASS, AND WATER.

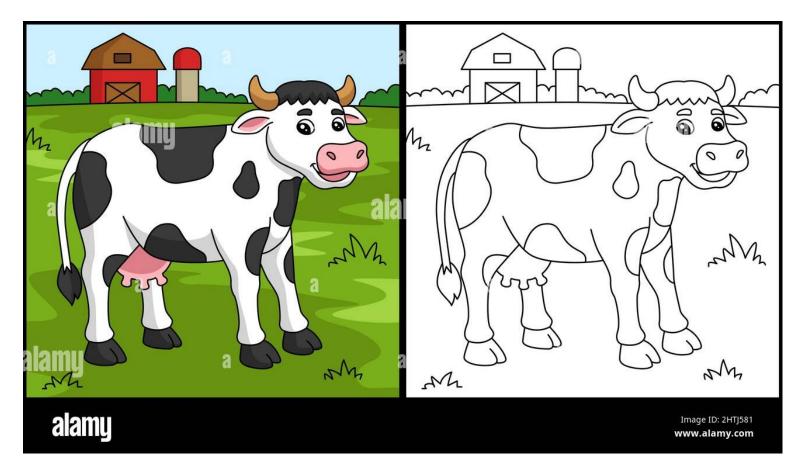


## REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR MINI 4-H BEEF PROJECT

The main requirement is for the child to attend and show in the Mini 4-H Beef show during the Decatur County 4-H/Agricultural Fair. Check with the Beef Supervisor or leaders for the time of the Mini 4-H Beef show.

NOTE: Mini 4-H'ers DO NOT bring in their own beef cow. During the Mini 4-H show, they will show a beef cow that belongs to either a sibling, friend, or other 4-H'er.

Although it is not required, as a 4-H'er in the Beef project, your child may do a poster or other project that pertains to the beef project. If you have any questions about your idea for a project, please call the Extension Office at 812-663-8388. The enclosed labels may be used on projects.



## Exhibit Name Tags

Below are name tags for you to cut our and attach to the project that you will be exhibiting at the fair. Attached the tag to the bottom right-hand corner of your poster or project. If you have another type project such as a model farm, attach the take to the tack with the tag hanging down where it can be seen at the bottom right corner of the project

| DECATUR                   |  |
|---------------------------|--|
|                           |  |
| Name                      |  |
| Club                      |  |
| Project                   |  |
| Grade MINI 4-H/CLOVERBUDS |  |

| DECATUR                   |  |
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| Name                      |  |
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| Project                   |  |
| Grade MINI 4-H/CLOVERBUDS |  |

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# MINI 4-H



4-H Pledge

I pledge My head to clearer thinking, My heart to greater loyalty, My hands to larger service, and My health to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

5t.

DECATUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE 545 S County Road 200 W Greensburg, IN 47240 Phone 812-663-8388

Nora Bruns, 4-H Extension Educator and Youth Development Email: <u>stacyn@purdue.edu</u>