



Project Title: Beef

Description:

Allows youth to learn life skills and grow in project knowledge while raising a beef animal for breeding or market.

State Fair Entries:

Open. Visit www.indianastatefair.com for information. Exhibitor's Corner opens in the spring. If there is any chance you will exhibit at the Indiana State Fair (ISF), be sure to check the appropriate box in the animal's 4-H Online enrollment page. Checking this box does NOT enter you for the ISF, but it will carry the animal's information into the ISF entry system.

Exhibit Guidelines:

Division	Project Book
Beginner (grades 3 - 5)	NCR 499 or BU-6351
Intermediate (grades 6 - 8)	NCR 500 or BU-6352
Advanced (grades 9 - 12)	NCR 501 or BU-6353

2025 4-H Beef ID Night- Thursday, May 8, 4-6 pm

2025 4-H Fair Beef Check-in- Wednesday, July 16, 6-10 am

2025 4-H Beef Show- Friday, July 18, 4 pm

1. Any 4-H member may show a maximum of six (6) individual heifers, commercial or purebred, and six (6) market beef animals.
2. All 4-H calves (steers, market heifers and/or *ALL* heifers) must be enrolled on 4-H Online, weighed and/or properly identified at the designated county identification date before May 15. All heifers, registered or commercial, must obtain an RFID microchip ear tag. Registered heifers must also have a legible tattoo. All 4-H calves must be enrolled in 4-H Online by May 15. Identification requirements can be found on page 3 of these guidelines.
3. Animals entered in 4-H Online are considered co-enrolled among 4-H members on the same Family Profile. You only need to enter an animal on one family member's profile to be eligible for each member of that family to be able to exhibit that animal. The exhibitor for each animal will be declared when checking in at the fair, and that exhibitor is the only exhibitor that should be showing it unless they have more than one in a class and a substitute showman is needed. *(Example: John and Jane Doe are siblings and are enrolled on the same family profile. All animals, including steer 80123, are entered under John's 4-H Online member profile. At fair check-in 80123 can be put in Jane's name. At that fair, Jane is the only one that can show 80123 in breed class (unless she has more than one animal in class), showmanship, and auction. John can't use 80123 in showmanship but Jane show it in breed class just because it is also in John's name.)*

4. All animals must have all forms of ID (tattoo, county tag, RFID tag) in the animal by the time they arrive on the fairgrounds for 4-H Fair check-in.
5. Stalls will be assigned by the Beef superintendent on the designated penning and stalling date, based on requests made in FairEntry prior to July 1. Applicable pen fees will be paid when you are assigned pens. No animals will leave the 4-H Fair Grounds without prior consent from the 4-H Council until specified release time. Violators (owner: see rule 1) will be barred from exhibiting the 4-H project for 1 year.
6. Cow/calf pairs can be shown in exhibition in its own class. Heifer calves can be split and shown in their respective breed, but cannot be shown as a feeder calf.
7. Market beef will be divided into classes according to breed.
8. At the fair, market beef classes will be divided by breed then declared weight into approximately the same number of animals, with a maximum of ten per class.
9. Market Beef weighing less than 900 lbs. may be shown at the county fair but not at the State Fair. Also calves weighing less than 900 lbs., will NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO BE SOLD ON THE OUT TRUCK. (See Livestock Sale Rules for exceptions.)
10. ALL BREEDING HEIFERS WILL BE SHOWN BY BREED IN AGE CLASSES: Age Class Determination – Current State Fair Rules apply.
11. BREED CLASS DETERMINATION: Current State Fair Rules apply.
12. Record sheets are no longer required, but completing the learning activities in the project book is highly encouraged and recommended to enhance the learning experience in this project. If you do not exhibit an animal but would still like to complete the project, you may complete the record sheet and turn it in prior to the first day of the 4-H Fair. You may also complete an educational exhibit (see #14 below).
13. All animal exhibitors (beef, goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine) are required to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) OR Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care (4-HQLC) each year. YQCA can be completed online at <https://yqcaprogram.org> for \$12. YQCA is recommended if you plan to show at any open or large national shows. Indiana 4-H is no longer affiliated with YQCA- any questions need to be referred to YQCA. 4-HQLC will be offered in-person a few times before the fair. Register through 4-H Online. Either training will be accepted at any Indiana 4-H Show.
14. An exhibitor may choose to exhibit an educational beef poster or notebook. Please see the guidelines for Animal Education. There will be one Animal Education- Beef entry eligible for the Indiana State Fair.

COUNTY BORN AND BRED AND OWNED MARKET BEEF CLASS RULES

1. Market beef must be born and raised in Tipton County.
2. Market beef will be designated at the Spring identification if the calf is to be in the Tipton County born and raised class.
3. Only designated market beef are eligible to show in the county class.
4. All county calves must abide by county and state fair rules.
5. An animal whose dam was also owned in the exhibitor's name, without any transfers of ownership since the calf was born, will be eligible to show in the Bred and Owned class.

Indiana State Fair Identification Requirements: (County Fair Identification requirements are the same except County Only animals do NOT need to submit a DNA Hair Sample. If there is any chance you might exhibit at the State Fair, submit a DNA Hair Samples by May 15. Collection envelopes are available in the Purdue Extension Office, and the sample can be collected at tagging night):

	For State Fair	Max # to Enroll	Deadline
Beef and Dairy Steers	840-RFID tag AND 5-digit County Tag AND DNA Hair Sample	10 total steers	May 15
Commercial and Market Heifers and Dairy Feeder	840-RFID tag AND 5-digit County tag AND DNA Hair Sample	10 total	May 15
Beef, Registered Heifers	840- RFID tag AND Tattoo AND DNA Hair Sample	10 total heifers	May 15

A properly enrolled Registered Heifer, whose tattoo AND RFID tag numbers match what was entered at enrollment, can be declared a crossbred at fair check-in at the exhibitor's discretion. The tattoo would replace the county tag as the second form of identification.

An animal entered only as a crossbred by May 15 CANNOT be moved to a registered breed class if they were not enrolled in that breed in 4-H Online.

If you have valid registration papers from more than one breed association for an individual animal, enroll that animal for each breed in may be shown under. The exhibitor will declare which breed it will represent at fair check-in, and it cannot change or be shown under another breed at that show.

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