

## 4-H BEEF PROJECT



Image: Janna Cline, UK

### Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Are you Into It?

**Steve Austin,**  
Extension Associate for Youth Livestock Programs

Participate in a 4-H beef project!

- Participate in a beef heifer breeding project or a market beef project.
- Demonstrate communication skills by preparing and giving oral reasons.
- Learn about selection and evaluation, nutrition and feeding, health and daily care, reproduction, and marketing of beef cattle.
- Develop life skills that are needed to be positive contributors to society.

### Communication

- Learn how to prepare and give oral reasons.
- Give a speech on the tools and equipment needed to properly groom and show an animal.

### Citizenship

- Volunteer to assist at a local livestock show or event.
- Demonstrate proper safety techniques when handling an animal to younger 4-Hers.

### Leadership

- Mentor a younger 4-Her on how to prepare and give oral reasons.
- Organize and lead a club activity on how to care for your animal.

4-H is a community of young people who are learning leadership citizenship and life skills.

## Here's what you can do all year!

#### Starting Out Basic/Level 1

- Learn about livestock nutrition, feeding, health, and daily care.
- Identify breeds.
- Select, care for, and train your animal.
- Learn how to show your animal.
- Show your animal at a county, district, and/or state fair.

#### Learning More Intermediate/Level 2

- Research common parasites and treatment.
- Learn about livestock evaluation.
- Prepare and give oral reasons.
- Demonstrate how to properly groom an animal for show.
- Learn how to properly use, store, and administer medications.

#### Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3

- Learn about livestock reproduction.
- Select breeding animals.
- Research the clinical signs and treatment of livestock diseases.
- Calculate feed rations.
- Research different housing systems.
- Develop questions and hold a quiz bowl.

Learn more at [www.kentucky4h.org](http://www.kentucky4h.org) or contact your county extension office.





# Take Beef Cattle Further!

## Explore Beef Cattle

- Enter to show an animal in the county or state fair.
- Participate in livestock judging.
- Give a 4-H speech or demonstration on a topic related to beef cattle.
- Compete at a 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest.
- Job shadow a veterinarian or cattle producer.
- Attend a livestock sale.
- Tour a meat processing facility.

## Events

- 4-H Livestock Skillathon
- 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
- Kentucky Dept. of Agr. (KDA) Show and Fair Promotion
- Kentucky Junior Livestock Expos

For additional information visit the 4-H Beef Projects Website at <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/4h-youth/meat-animal/beef-projects>.



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## Resources

4-H Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afterschool Agriculture – Acres of Adventure</li> <li>• Beef Resource Handbook</li> <li>• Beef, Sheep, Swine Selection Evaluation</li> <li>• Kentucky Livestock and Horse Volunteer Certification Manual</li> <li>• Kentucky Livestock Kit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beef Project and Record Book</li> </ul>

## Exhibit Ideas

- Create a poster showing the costs associated with purchasing, caring for, and showing an animal.
- Develop a video demonstrating how to properly groom an animal for show.
- Prepare an exhibit showcasing the various equipment needed to care for your animal.
- Create a poster showing the body parts of your animal.
- Develop a display featuring different cuts of meat and how to properly prepare each one.
- Create a poster that includes important animal and food science terminology.

