



ADAMS COUNTY

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

Project Tips - Market Beef

Important Dates

February 1:

4-H Re-Enrollment Deadline

First Saturday in March:

Market Beef Tag-In

Spring (March-May):

MQA Training

April 1:

Animal Care (Primary Care) Form Due

4-H Enrollment Deadline

(New Members)

June 1:

Animal ID due on 4HOnline

Mid June:

Livestock Record Book Interviews

Late June/Early July:

Fair Entries Close

Early August:

Adams County Fair

September:

Livestock Record Books Due

(Friday before Labor Day)

Project Considerations

Difficulty:

★★★★☆

Cost:

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1. What facilities do you have available?
2. Are you able to house beef cattle year-round?
3. What breed of beef cattle would you like to exhibit?

Project Timeline



About the Project

Your market beef animal serves as a dynamic factory that changes hays, silage, grain, and other feed by-products into meat and other products that can be used by people. It is hoped that you will look upon your market beef project as business venture, as well as the fun learning experience that it is. Commercial beef production relies heavily on profitability, and so should your project.

There are several segments to the commercial beef industry in the United States. The seedstock segment is the group of producers who raise registered livestock that provide the genetic base for the remainder of the industry. The commercial cow-calf segment is the group of producers who purchase seedstock to improve their genetics. Their primary product to sell is weaned calves weighing around 350 to 550 pounds. Stocker or backgrounding operations purchase the weaned calves from the commercial cow-calf producers. They raise the calves on high forage diets until they are heavy enough to enter the feedlot, which is approximately 600 to 800 pounds. The feedlot segment takes these calves and finishes them, usually to a weight of approximately 1250 pounds. Once the cattle have reached their harvest weight in the feedlot, the packing plant will harvest the cattle and distribute the meat and other products for sale.

By participating in the market beef projects, you are actually participating in the stocker and feedlot phases of commercial beef production. These are two segments whose profitability relies heavily on low cost of gain for the cattle. Keep this in mind as you move forward with your project.

Project Requirements

Market Beef Project members who intend to exhibit their animals at the Adams County Fair must complete the following to remain eligible for fair entry and exhibition:

1. Enroll in the Market Beef Project by enrollment deadline.
2. Attend Meat Quality Assurance Training (MQA/YQCA) annually.
3. Complete and file an Animal Care and Housing Form (Primary Care) on 4HOnline (leased animals and animals not housed at home must turn form into Extension Office)
4. Tag all market beef at mandatory County Tag-in day.
5. ID all animals in 4HOnline by June 1 deadline.
6. Attend Livestock Record Book Interviews and present an up-to-date E-Record Book.
7. Enter fair classes online by entry deadline.
8. Complete and turn in E-Record Book the Friday before Labor Day to the Extension Office.

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Additional Information - Animal Entry in 4-H Online

1. 4-H members are required to enter their animals in the 4-H Online enrollment system. This page will help summarize the information required in this system.
2. All beef project animals must be entered in the 4-H Online system no later than June 1st of the current project year.
3. It is highly recommended that any and all animals with potential of attending Fair have ID in 4Online, if an animal does not have ID, it will not be allowed at Fair.



Beef Market

Tag:	<input type="text"/>	identifier
	Animal ID	
Sex:	Male ▼	
Beginning Weight:	<input type="text"/>	#.00-#.99
Beginning Weight Date:	<input type="text"/>	mm/dd/yyyy)
Breed:	* ▼	
Colors And Markings:	<input type="text"/>	
	List any characteristics OR Other Breed Name	
Retinal Image:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Animal Name:	<input type="text"/>	(optional)

Animal Uploads

Beef Market (Photo)
(Image/PDF files)

Beef Market (Brand Inspection)
(Image/PDF files)

Required Information for Market Beef Animals:

Animal ID / Tag - This is their Adams County Tag Number.
Animal Name
Sex - Male or Female

Optional Information for Market Beef Animals:

Beginning weight and Date, Color and Markings, ending weight and date, Breed(s), Premise ID and photos are optional.

Resources

- Beef Project Manual - MA0100 – Beef Resource Handbook -order through Club Leader
- Adams County Fair Premium Book - www.adamscountyextension.org
- 4-H Beef Project Leader
- Adams County Extension Staff

Stay up to date!

News/Events/Social Media Posts
adams.colostate.edu/4h/news.htm

Record Book

Beef Project Members complete the Livestock E-Record. Available at:

<http://co4h.colostate.edu/program-areas/projects/e-records/>

Contact

Kenzie Kimmel
Adams County 4-H Program
9755 Henderson Rd.
Brighton, CO 80601
Phone: 303-637-8100
Fax: 303-637-8125
kkimmel@adcogov.org