



18 USC 707

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

Late June/Early July:

Fair Entries Close

Mid July:

Livestock Record Book Interviews

Early August:

Adams County Fair

September:

Livestock Record Books Due

(Friday following 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) 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 following Labor Day to the Extension Office.

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Additional Information - Animal Entry in 4-H Online

1. Beginning in 2016 - 4-H members will be 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

Animal ID:


Animal Name:

Sex: ▼

Beginning Weight:

Beginning Weight Date: 

Ending Weight:

Ending Weight Date: 

Breed: ▼

Other Breed:

Retinal Image:

Premise ID/Location ID:

State Fair Selection (office use only):

Resources

1. Beef Project Manual - MA0100 – Beef Resource Handbook
2. CSU Youth Livestock Extension Website - http://ansci.colostate.edu/outreach/youth_livestock_extension.html
3. Adams County Fair Premium Book - Available at: www.adamscountyextension.org
4. 4-H Beef Project Leader
5. Adams County Extension Staff

Record Book

Beef Project Members complete the Livestock E-Record. Available at: https://www.colorado4h.org/project_resources/erecords/index.php

Contact

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Required Information for Market Beef Animals:

Animal ID - This is their Adams County Tag Number.

Animal Name

Sex - Male or Female

Premise ID Number

Optional Information for Market Beef Animals:

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

Do not check the 'State Fair Selection' or 'Retinal Image' boxes