

Wood County 4-H Beef Project Guide



Helpful information for your beef project.

The contents of this guide are meant to be just that, a **guide and may be subject to change without notice. Be vigilant about referencing the Wood County Fair website for the most up to date information regarding the fair.

Beef Project Overview

There are several beef projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Here is a brief summary of each project:

4-H #	Title	Description
117B	Beef Breeding	Raise a meat breed for breeding or production purposes.
117BF	Beef Feeder (Market)	Raise a beef breed calf to a suggested weight of 700 lbs. at fair
117DF	Dairy Beef Feeder (Market)	Raise a male dairy calf from a few days or weeks of age to a suggested weight of 600-900 lbs.
117 M	Market Beef	Raise a market steer (male) or market heifer (female) for production purposes.

Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your beef project:

- **Beef Project Handbook** (\$17.75) - Designed to be used for all years of your Beef projects.
- **Beef Project and Record Book** (\$8) - Obtain and keep for the resource info it contains. Note: do not use for your annual record keeping (with the exception of the first year).
- **Wood County Livestock Project Record Book Insert** (free) - Download this document and use as your records for your project. You may also purchase one from the Extension Office for \$4. Obtain a new one each year. *You will need to bring this completed document to 4-H Project Interview Judging.

In Summary: obtain the first two books listed above and keep and use them for all years you are taking a Beef Project. Each year: download a new Livestock Record Insert and use it to keep your annual project records.

**Note to those with Market Animal Projects; as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc. that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Wood County Livestock Record Insert to keep this information.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION: * = Mandatory

Activity	Due Date	Location	Reference Page # (in this guide)
*Enroll in 4-H	No later than March 15	https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in	2
*4-H Project Interview Judging	Second Thursday in July	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	2
Skill-a-thon	Second Thursday in July	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	3

Activities that will take place prior to the Wood County Fair

The following 4-H activities are described below.

4-H Enrollment

Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. Your 4-H club Advisor will assist you with the online enrollment process. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University. Members must remain in good standing with their 4-H club, meaning: attending a minimum of five meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.

Project Interview

Project judging is an exciting time to showcase your hard work spent on your 4-H project. Our judges love talking with you and learning about your project. Please be patient and understand if a judge is running behind. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Judging Hints

- Arrive at the Junior Fair Building with your project book and record books. Remember to wear nice attire to judging. See Dress Code below.
- Check in at the registration desk.
- Complete the top of a judging interview sheet. Be prepared to talk about your project, know what you did, how you did it, and what you learned. Be proud of your accomplishments! You worked hard. Have a seat, talk to friends, and RELAX!
- If you are unable to attend the specified project interview judging day in July at the Junior Fair Building, your advisor may judge the project and provide a grade to the Extension Office by the required date.
- *Please note* To be eligible for awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd, honorable mention, and premier livestock interviewer) you must be judged on the day your project is assigned.

Dress Code Rule for All Junior Fair Exhibitors

The Junior Fair Dress Code is in effect for Interview Judging Days and Livestock Shows.



wood.osu.edu

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu.

- Livestock Interview Judging and Livestock Shows: exhibitors must wear a collared polo or buttoned shirt with some sleeve and nice blue jeans (no rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops, t-shirts, or sleeveless tops).
- **Consequences for not following this rule may include class disqualification, or no interview until wardrobe is changed. This rule was adopted by the 4-H Committee and Junior Fair Board.

Skill-a-thon

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show who knows the most about their species. You will study various topics on beef and then at 4-H Project Interview Judging, you will go into the skill-a-thon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are two levels: juniors (8-13 years old) and seniors (14-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Beef Skill-a-thon is an activity that takes place prior to fair, at 4-H Project Interview Judging. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your Beef project. The goal of the Skill-a-thon is to facilitate learning about your project. It is not *expected*, but *highly encouraged* that you participate in the Skill-a-thon.
- A Beef Skill-a-thon Study Guide is available to assist your learning. The Study Guide can be found on the Wood County 4-H web site:
https://wood.osu.edu/sites/wood/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/skillathon/beefskillstudy17.pdf
- Online practice quizzes:
<https://wood.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/livestock-information/animal-science-virtual-learning-lab>
- Additional information for the Skill-a-thon can be found in your Beef Resource Handbook.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who perform well in the Skill-a-thon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes which are handed out at 4-H Spirit Night in October.

Congratulations on the successful completion of your project!

Getting Started

- Your 4-H Advisor, Fair Board, club members, and/or Extension Office can provide a list of possible sources of animals.
- It is highly advisable to seek out a reputable breeder to obtain your project animal. A good breeder wants you to be successful with your project and with the animal(s) they are offering. It is not advisable to look toward sale barns (stockyards) for project animals as you will not know the breed, health status or anything else about the animal you are getting.
- Create a relationship with a veterinarian in your area. Verify that they are willing and able to see your animal(s) should the need arise and share contact information so that you are prepared.
- Provide a barn with adequate ventilation.



- Pen spacing of 25-30 square feet per animal is recommended.
- Pens need to be sturdy/strong and need to be at least four feet in height.
- A tub or tank to supply clean, adequate water during the project.
- Straw or mulch can be used for bedding.
- Good supply of CLEAN water, at all times.
- A feed trough or bunk will be needed to keep feed off the ground and fresh.
- Beef animals should consume 2% of their body weight daily.
- Do not switch feed all at once. Use a gradual method of introducing new feed. Check with breeder or local feed store nutritionist for feed recommendations.
- Offer a good quality grass hay, free of weeds, free choice to the animal(s).

Selecting a Quality Animal

- Selection of a project animal should be done carefully, with consideration given to breed, size, and quality. Size and quality are especially important. While management and nutrition have great influence on both, it is a big help to begin with a good animal.
- Make sure that the price you are willing to pay is consistent with your project objectives.
- A successful project outcome requires that the calf has a desirable genetic background and an excellent environment while in your care.

Duration of the Project

- Weigh your animals periodically during the summer.
- Closer to the fair, weighing is important, so you know if you need to adjust the amount of feed you are providing your animal.
- Keep ALL records of feed used and all medications given (if any).

Working With Your Calf

- Start walking your animal daily as soon as you get them.
- Rinse calves daily to promote hair growth for grooming.
- Keep pens clean with fresh bedding at all times.





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*4-H Project Interview Judging	Second Thursday in July	Wood County Fairgrounds Junior Fair Building	2
*Own Mkt. Steers *Own Feeders	December Weigh-In May Weigh-In	Wood County Fairgrounds Wood County Fairgrounds	8
*Quality Assurance	No later than June 1	With 4-H Advisor or at a county training	5
*Register with Fair	No later than June 1	FairEntry online website See email from Jr. Fair Coordinator	11
Sign-up for Showmanship	No later than June 1	FairEntry online website See email from Jr. Fair Coordinator	6
Turn in Drug Use Notification Form	Fair Weigh-In (for market animals only)	See email from Jr. Fair Coordinator	11
*Barn Meeting	Day before Fair starts (Saturday)		11
*Fair Weigh-In	Follows barn meeting		12
*Animal Show	Wednesday of Fair Thursday of Fair		8-9, 12
Showmanship Show	Wednesday of Fair		12
*Clean Pen	Last day of fair	Wood County Fairgrounds	7

See WOOD COUNTY FAIR Website

Project Requirement for Exhibition at the Wood County Fair

Participation is an opportunity available to you because you are a 4-H member. Exhibition at the Wood County Fair is not mandatory to fulfill the commitments of taking your 4-H project, but it is highly recommended. If you are interested in exhibiting a beef project at the Wood County Fair, you need to know and meet the exhibition requirements. Basic exhibition requirements include:

- You must be enrolled in 4-H (or FFA), no later than March 15th, in the project you want to exhibit.
- You must be a member in good standing of your 4-H Club: meaning attending a minimum of five meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.
- You must participate annually in Livestock Quality Assurance Education, by the deadline of June 1st for market ready projects only (this does not apply to dairy beef feeders or beef feeders). This training is provided by your 4-H club advisor or the county extension agent.



- You must register your animals in FairEntry online by the deadline of June 1st.
- Complete a Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) online by the Fair Weigh-In.
- Health Requirements for the Beef Department are found at the front of the fair book.
- All Junior Fair Beef Animals must be on the fairgrounds and tied with neck ties in their properly assigned stall by 7:00 p.m. on Saturday (prior to the first day of the fair). The Junior Fair and Senior Fair Superintendents will make stall assignments. No straw or bedding allowed in the barn; mulch will be provided at a charge of up to \$15 per animal.
- All beef cattle must be halter broke and shown with halters.
- No market heifer may be shown in breeding classes. No breeding heifer may be shown in market classes for the Junior Fair shows. Animals can only be shown in one project.
- Any animal will be disqualified if the body or appendages are altered in any way. *The Wood Co. Agricultural Society shall have the right to require any animal (specifically the Champion and Reserve Champion of all Beef classes and showmanship classes) be subject to examination or tests to determine if a substance has been administered to the animal to change the conformation or temperament of the animal. See Junior Fair Rule No. 39.
- All barn rules will be observed daily. Important announcements will be posted on the barn bulletin board.
- Senior Showmanship contestants must be age 14 years or older and Junior Showmanship contestants must be age 13 years and younger as of January 1 of current year.
- One representative from the Beef Department will be selected to participate in the Showmanship Sweepstakes Contest. All divisions (Dairy and Beef Feeder, Beef Breeding and Market Steers/heifers) are eligible. Following the Beef Showmanship Classes, the final drive for overall Senior and Junior Showmanship will take place. The top Senior Showman will compete for a place in the Showmanship Sweepstakes Contest. Exhibitors must show their own animal.
- Showmanship classes will be limited to one animal per exhibitor. Exhibitors with entries in breeding, feeder calf or steer/heifer classes must choose the one animal to enter in showmanship. Any animal born after January 1 must be shown with feeder classes. Animals born prior to January 1 must be shown with market animals. You must sign-up for Showmanship in FairEntry online by the deadline of June 1st.
- All cattle must be dry when weighed.
- A mandatory barn meeting will be held prior to weigh-in. All exhibitors must be present. All Drug Use Notification Forms must be turned in at this time. NO DUNF- NO WEIGH!
- All cattle must remain in the barns at night.
- All exhibitors of dairy beef feeders will be charged up to \$10 to be paid at May weigh-in for a treatment to ensure healthy calves upon leaving the fairgrounds.
- Hanging fans are the first choice of the committee in the beef barn. Floor fans will only be allowed upon approval by Fair Board Beef Committee.
- Showmanship contests for all divisions will expect cattle to be clean and dry.



- If an exhibitor should decide to remove their animal(s) from the fairgrounds for any reason, they will not be permitted to return to the fairgrounds. This means no sale or premium! Exemption to participate in Wood County premium sale if exhibitor is participating in an official Ohio State Fair Junior Fair market show as per sale rule #6.
- An exhibitor may weigh up to three market steers/heifers but may only bring two to the fair. It must be declared at weigh-in as to which steer/heifer will be selling (going on the fair truck), or if they will be going home. No changes after this time.
- There will be an Overall Champion Market Beef Project. To be eligible for this award, an exhibitor must have participated in the skill-a-thon, interview judging, showmanship, and the market show. All first-year members must participate in Junior Showmanship to be eligible for Champion Project. See Champion Project Guidelines listed elsewhere in the fair book for more information.
- Breed papers will be required and must be brought with the animal to the scales immediately following weigh-in to be verified by the beef committee. If an exhibitor is unable to provide the proper registration papers, the animal will be put into a crossbred class. See Rule 2 of Junior Fair guidelines for ownership information.
- Paint or any other type of color enhancements will not be permissible for grooming, including hooves. Animals can be disqualified if added color is found.
- The County Born & Raised winner will be selected as the highest placing animal in the overall show. Appropriate awards will be provided to winners.
- Only the exhibitor and the animal he/she is showing shall be permitted in the make-up arena.
- No couches or furniture of any kind will be allowed in the building.
- The Junior and Senior Fair Beef Superintendents will make final decisions on any rules not covered.
- **Pens must be kept clean daily. Violators will be warned. First offense: written warning. Second offense: verbal warning. Third offense: \$25 fine (held from premium check). Pens will need to be completely cleaned out the last day of the fair.**
- Grand/Reserve Champion and 3rd-5th place overall will be picked for each specie including market beef, beef feeders & dairy beef feeders.
- Grand Champion/Reserve Market Beef, Dairy Beef, Beef Feeder must be exhibited in the Livestock Exhibition Barn (Champion Barn) 24 hours from the end of the show until sale time on Sunday.
- When placing the top five in each division, if the exhibitor is called to the ring and does not show, he/she will be skipped and next in line will move up.
- Exhibitors may only win one rate of gain trophy per beef project (Ex: one market beef, one dairy beef & one beef feeder).
- The limit on the number of times an exhibitor's animal can get loose in the show ring is two. If it gets loose a third time, the exhibitor will be excused from competition.



- Any beef project animal not shown on Wednesday/Thursday may not go through the sale.

Rules for Market Steers/Heifers & Dairy Steers

- Each 4-H and FFA member may show a maximum of two steers/heifers at the Wood County Junior Fair.
- All 4-H and FFA market steers/heifers must be identified, on feed, and in the members immediate possession and daily care by the December weigh-in. Separate penning of fair projects is strongly encouraged so accurate feed records can be maintained. All 4-H and FFA steer projects must be completely and fully owned by the member including exclusive showing rights.
- All cattle must be dehorned and properly healed by show. (Smooth healed)
- Dairy steers will be divided into show classes by weight at the discretion of the Junior and Senior Fair Boards. Market Steers/Heifers will be divided into show classes by weight also at the discretion of the Boards. Both market and dairy steers will be weighed on the first day of the fair. There will be an option for one re-weigh immediately following the first weigh. The second weight taken will be the published sale weight. Steers will sell at this weight.
- The Grand/Reserve Champion steers will be determined by the ranking in the show ring from third place overall through fifth place overall. This selection will be made at the conclusion of the Junior Beef Show.
- Grand/Reserve Champions must go through the sale and be slaughtered by the packer determined by the fair board.
- Dairy Steers must be of dairy breed or a cross of dairy breeds.

Rules for Dairy Beef Feeders and Beef Feeders

- All 4-H and FFA Feeder Calves (dairy and beef) must be identified, on feed, and in the member's immediate possession and daily care by the May weigh-in. Separate penning of animals from others is strongly encouraged so accurate feed records can be maintained. All 4-H & FFA Dairy Beef Feeder Projects must be completely and fully owned by the member including exclusive showing rights.
- Any 4-H or FFA member may show a maximum of two beef feeders and two dairy beef feeder steers/heifers in the Wood County Junior Fair. Exhibitors may initially weigh-in three of each in case of calamity.
- Only male dairy animals may be used for this project. Calves must be castrated by May at weigh-in. Any feeders showing evidence of testicular tissue as determined by the beef department superintendent and fair veterinarian will be removed from the fairgrounds and are therefore ineligible for awards.
- Beef Feeder Calves may be of any beef breed or cross between any beef breeds or a cross between a beef and dairy breed.



- Dairy Beef Feeder calves must be of any dairy breed or cross between dairy breeds. Beef Feeders must be purebred or a mix of beef breeds.
- All feeders must be dehorned by the May weigh-in to be eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion and rate of gain. Exhibitors will be notified if their animal is ineligible.
- Dairy Beef Feeder calves will be shown at the fair in weight classes of approximately ten calves each. Weight divisions will be based upon weigh-in weight of the first day of the fair. There will be an option for one re-weigh immediately following the first weight. The second weight taken will be the published sale weight.
- A champion/reserve Dairy Beef Feeder and Beef Feeder will be selected at the fair. Awards will also be given for 3rd-5th place overall.
- Showmanship classes for the two Feeder Calf Classes (Dairy Beef and Beef) will be divided by age divisions. The Junior Division will be for members 9 (or third grade)-13 (as of January 1) and the Senior Division will be for members 14 and older.
- Members will have the opportunity to sell one Dairy Beef Feeder and/or one Beef Feeder at the Junior Fair Sale or they may take the feeder home and feed them out with no premium. All feeders in the premium sale must sell in the Saturday feeder sale.
- Exhibitors with dairy beef feeders will be assessed up to \$10 for treatment to ensure healthy calves upon leaving the fairgrounds. The shot will be given and must be paid for in May at the time of weigh-in.
- All Feeder calves must be identified on the May weigh-in at the Fairgrounds to be eligible to show. All animals must weigh 500 lbs. or under to be eligible for champion.

Rules for Beef Breeding

- Each 4-H and FFA member may enter a maximum of two entries in each of the breeding classes listed in the Wood County Junior Fair.
- All 4-H and FFA beef breeding projects must be identified, and in the member's immediate possession and daily care by May 1. Separate penning of animals from others is strongly encouraged, so accurate records can be maintained.
- Beef breeding animals should be entered in the proper division according to breed and in the proper class according to age classifications.
 - Division A-D - Market Beef
 - A-1 Market Steers
 - A-2 Market Heifers
 - B-1 Beef Feeder Steers
 - B-2 Beef Feeder Heifers
 - C-1 Dairy Market Steers
 - D-1 Dairy Beef Feeder Division
 - E - Breeding Beef
 - Angus, Charolais, Chianina, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Maine Anjou, Simmental, Shorthorn, Mini Breeds, All Other Breeds, and Crossbred



- An Overall Champion and Reserve Champion County Born Female
- Beef Breeding Classes (Premium \$6.00 for exhibition)
 - Junior Heifer Calf (Dropped on January 1 to April 1 of current year).
 - Senior Heifer Calf (Dropped between September 1 and December 31 year prior)
 - Summer Yearling (Dropped between May 1 and August 31 year prior)
 - Junior Yearling (Dropped between January 1 and April 30 prior year)
 - Senior Yearling (Dropped between September 1 and December 31 two years prior)
 - Two-Year-Old Heifers
 - Cows
 - Cow Calf Class (Calves dropped between April 1 of current year and Wood County Fair)

Things to Pack for Fair

- Feed and feed pans
- Water bucket, suggestion: 5-gallon bucket placed inside a milk crate. The crate can be zip tied to the gate or buried in the mulch to prevent spilling.
- Show box for equipment/supplies
- Bottle of liquid soap (dish soap works fine)
- Hose and spray nozzle
- Rope halter and neck rope
- Leather show halter
- Grooming chute (optional)
- Show stick
- Scotch comb (used to style hair)
- Curry comb (used to clean dirt/manure off calf's hair)
- Fan should be used at the fair to keep animal(s) cool. Hanging fans only.
- Blower (optional)
- Grooming clippers (optional)
- Show clothing attire per dress code: Collared shirt with no logos, pants with no holes, closed toed shoes (preferably leather boots and no tennis shoes).
- Additional livestock hair styling products can be used if desired.

Fair Entries and Fair Rules

Each exhibitor is responsible for creating a fair entry for every animal that you plan to bring to the fair. Registering in 4-HOnline does not register you for fair. You register for fair in the FairEntry online program (with instruction from the Junior Fair Coordinator) by June 1st. Instruction on this will likely take place at one of your club meetings (another reason it is especially important to attend meetings). Your Advisor will be able to answer questions about the fair entry process.



When you choose to become a Junior Fair Exhibitor; you are responsible for knowing the general fair rules and the department rules for the project you are exhibiting. These can be found on the Wood County Fair website or in the Fair Book under Junior Fair Rules, Beef.

You should also be familiar with Ohio Revised Code Sections 901.70, 901.71, 901.72, 901.73, 901.74, 901.75, 901.76, 901.99 and 2925.94. These govern all livestock shows in the state of Ohio.

It is important to note that at the fair, the only people permitted to care for, fit, clip, or groom your animal are your immediate family members, 4-H Advisors, or other members of your club and assistance is limited to explanation and minimal demonstration (ORC 901.19.31).

Should you have any questions about rules, please contact the Fair Board Beef Committee.

Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) – only for market ready animals (not for dairy beef or beef feeders)

If you are exhibiting a Market animal you are required, by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to submit a DUNF immediately prior to the Fair. This form requires you to declare the use of any medication that has been given to your animal. An online link will be sent to you by email to use for completing your form. You are not eligible to exhibit a market animal until this form is submitted to ODA.

Activities that will take place at the Fair

The following fair related activities are described below: Arrival/departure, Barn Meeting, Weigh-in, Classes Posted, Showmanship and Show, Junior Fair Sale.

Arrival & Departure

Check the Fair Schedule and/or ask your Advisor to confirm the window of time you must arrive with your animal to the Fairgrounds. Upon arrival, find your assigned pen and unload your beef project efficiently so as not to create a line. There are Barn Superintendents in the Barn on arrival day to answer questions. Check the time that animals are released at the end of Fair week; meaning this is the time you can re-load and take your animal home.

Barn Meeting

Check the Fair Schedule for the time of the Barn Meeting. Usually, a Barn Meeting for all Exhibitors will be held on Saturday, prior to fair weigh-in.

Weigh-In

Only market and feeder animals are weighed.

Check the Fair Schedule, and listen at the Barn meeting, for the weigh-in time for beef animals. Animal(s) must be brought to the scales at the correct time to be eligible to show. There will be Barn Superintendents in the Barn to direct and help you get to the scales, but you MUST be present to get your Beef Feeder weighed.



Classes Posted

Once all animals are weighed classes will be created by dividing the approximately equal size classes based on their weights. These Classes will be posted on the Beef Barn bulletin board. It is your responsibility to review the Class posting for accuracy. Check to see that the ear tag number and weight are correct. If there is an error on the class listing notify the Junior Fair Coordinator immediately.

Showmanship and Show Classes

There are two different types of classes within the Beef Show:

1. Showmanship Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the showmanship skills of the Exhibitor (you!). These classes are therefore divided by the age of the exhibitor. These classes will be posted in the Beef Barn. Check the posting for accuracy. If there is an error on the class listing or if you need to drop from Showmanship, notify the Junior Fair Coordinator immediately. Participation in your Showmanship class is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.
2. Show Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the conformation of the animals. These classes are divided by the weight of the of the animals. Following weigh-in, these classes will be posted in the Beef Barn. Check the posting to see which class you are in. It is required to participate in showing your animal(s) to be eligible for awards.

Champion Project Award Qualifications

- More details to come.

Junior Fair Livestock Sale

- Make sure you are signed up for the online Livestock Showcase and Sale in FairEntry by June 1st. Refer to the sale section of Fair Book to ensure all steps have been completed.

Finishing your beef project

When the project year is concluded its time to thank the people that have helped you with your project. It is a great idea to send thank you notes to:

- The buyer(s) of your animal(s) if you participated in the Junior Fair Sale.
- Your 4-H Advisors.
- Other folks who helped you with your project (helped clip your calf for example).
- The sponsors of any awards, ribbons, banners, or other recognition you received.



The contents of this guide are meant to be just that, a **guide and may be subject to change without notice. Be vigilant about referencing the Wood County Fair website for the most up to date information regarding the fair.

<https://www.woodcounty-fair.com/>

Guide Credit: Christy Leeds, 4-H Extension Educator & Assistant Professor – Union County, Ohio