

# GRATIOT COUNTY



## BEEF PROJECT RECORD BOOK 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club/FFA Chapter/Open: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (as of January 1): \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Project Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Record Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Record Closed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month / Day / Year                      Month / Day / Year

Check One

**Junior:**  
8-11 years old

**Intermediate:**  
12-14 years old

**Senior:**  
15-19 years old

# All about my beef project...

*For this animal use the animal the exhibitor will most likely exhibit at the fair. If you are exhibiting market and breeding stock, focus on one market steer.*

Name (or identification) of my animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Tag Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Color(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  Actual Birthdate  
 Estimated Birthdate

Special Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One:  Purchased  Raised Date of purchase: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check One:  Steer  Heifer

Purchase Price: \_\_\_\_\_ If you raised your animal, list the estimated market value.

*A completed record book should have photos of your animal. At minimum this book should have a beginning and ending picture. Photo captions are encouraged. Up to two extra pages can be included behind this page within this record book.*

*Good resources to help complete this record book is the publication are "Your 4-H Market Beef Project" (4-H1188) which is available at the Gratiot County MSU Extension (4-H) Office and "Beef Resource Handbook" (OSU Extension 4H117R) is available for checkout at the Extension office as well.*



# All about my beef project...

You choose to do the weight record **OR** the half-page essay though you may only do one for this record book. The points scored for whichever choice you make will be the same. The fair recommends all market exhibitors weigh their animals frequently though understands that access of a scale is not guaranteed.

## Choice 1 - Weight Record:

*Do not complete the essay "Choice 2" below if you complete this section.*

It is recommended to weigh your market beef animal(s) at least once each month. Use one chart for up to four animals. These should be the same (up to) four market beef animals registered on the market beef registration form or if you are doing a breeding program this can be cattle being raised.

| ANIMAL ID   |  |        |        |        |        |
|---|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| DATE  | METHOD<br><small>Scale, tape, etc.</small> | WEIGHT | WEIGHT | WEIGHT | WEIGHT |
| beginning   |  |        |        |        |        |
|   |  |        |        |        |        |
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|   |  |        |        |        |        |
| Final   |  |        |        |        |        |
| Describe changes made based on information you gathered collecting these weight data. |  |        |        |        |        |

## Choice 2 - Project Essay:

*Do not complete the essay "Choice 2" below if you complete this section.*

Write an essay from one of these two essay topic choices. Junior exhibitors complete an up to half page essay. Intermediate Exhibitors complete an up to one page essay. Senior Exhibitors complete an up to 2 page essay. **Topic 1:** Visit with a former livestock (or dairy) farmer to compare and contrast today's beef projects with those in the past. Discuss what is better today and what was better in the past. **Topic 2:** Describe the significance of the cow in Spain's "Running of the Bulls". Essay will be scored the same as this weight section.

# My project expenses:

*List all expenses for this market project and record the cost spent under the proper account. If your family/farm is providing feed, please estimate an approximate value. Add additional sheet if necessary.*

| How many animals are in this project. This can be your likely project animal along with backup animals. |                      |           |                 |              |            |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| Date of purchase  | Purchase Description | Feed Cost | Vet/Health Cost | Bedding Cost | Other Cost |
|   |                      |           |                 |              |            |
|   |                      |           |                 |              |            |
|   |                      |           |                 |              |            |
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|   |                      |           |                 |              |            |
|   |                      |           |                 |              |            |
| TOTAL Column Expenses   |                      |           |                 |              |            |
| TOTAL Project Expenses: (find by adding Total Column Expenses together)                                 |                      |           |                 |              |            |
| AVERAGE Cost per animals (total project expenses divided by number of animals in project)               |                      |           |                 |              |            |

# My business plan (MARKET TRACK):

Use the market track (pages 5-6) for exhibitors who will be showing a market animal. If you are **only** showing breeding stock, use the Breeding Stock Track (pages 7-8). No additional points, preference or extra credit will be given for doing both tracks. All exhibitors continue at page 9.

The following calculations will help you learn about your ability to earn a profit for your participation in this agricultural project. Often in animal projects the profit margin for industrial feeder facilities have a slim profit margin. Let's see how you compare.

Average cost per animal (from prior page): \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase cost (of primary project animal): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL EXPENSES (WHOLE PROJECT) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Project Animals in this report: \_\_\_\_\_

AVERAGE COST PER ANIMAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Finished Weight of Project Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: finished weight can be taken at home anytime during the week prior to fair or it can be the fair's official market weight.*

BREAK EVEN PRICE: \_\_\_\_\_

*To calculate break-even price divide the average cost per animal by finished weight.*

What is the current market price of market animal? \_\_\_\_\_

*A good source to find the current market price is the National Dairy Cattle & Beef Summary. If using this report use the 5 Area Weekly Accumulated Weighted Avg Cattle Price - LM CT100 on the table. Prices on this report will be calculated PER 100 LBS. Divide that amount by 100 to find the price per pound.*

Would have you been able to make a profit if you would have sold your steer at the stock yard (United Producers for example) at this current market price rather than the fair's livestock sale? Why or why not?

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## My beef project marketing plan (MARKET TRACK):

*One of the most important parts of any market animal project is marketing. This includes writing letters and talking to prospective buyers. Personalized letters are encouraged. Your letter should introduce yourself, state why you are participating in the auction, state the dates and times of the sale and why you would like them to come. You should never pressure a prospective buyer into buying your animal. A better idea is to invite the buyer to come early to meet you and see your animal.*

List 3 Potential Buyers:

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How will you invite these buyers to the sale and inform them about your project?

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Attach or write a copy/sample of your buyer's letter.

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## Feeding my beef projects: (BREEDING STOCK TRACK):

*Use the breeding stock track (pages 7-8) for exhibitors who will **NOT** be showing a market beef. If you are showing a market beef, use the Market Track (pages 5-6). No additional points, preference or extra credit will be given for doing both tracks. All exhibitors continue at page 9.*

Attach a feed label/nutritional analysis from the feed you are feeding your beef project. If you are **only** feeding farm feed, list the ingredients/recipe/formula of the feed in place of label. From your label/recipe, complete the chart below.

| From Analysis | Percentage | Purpose |
|---------------|------------|---------|
| Crude Protein |            |         |
| Crude Fat     |            |         |
| Crude Fiber   |            |         |
| Calcium       |            |         |
| Phosphorus    |            |         |

# Caring for my beef project: (BREEDING STOCK TRACK)

Describe the pen/pasture you have for your beef animal(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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I feed my cattle (please check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_ Hay                      \_\_\_\_ Pellets                      \_\_\_\_ Supplements  
\_\_\_\_ Grain                      \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your manure management of your beef project: \_\_\_\_\_

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How I get my beef animal ready for a show:

Two or more months before show: \_\_\_\_\_

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One month before show: \_\_\_\_\_

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One week before show: \_\_\_\_\_

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Day of show: \_\_\_\_\_

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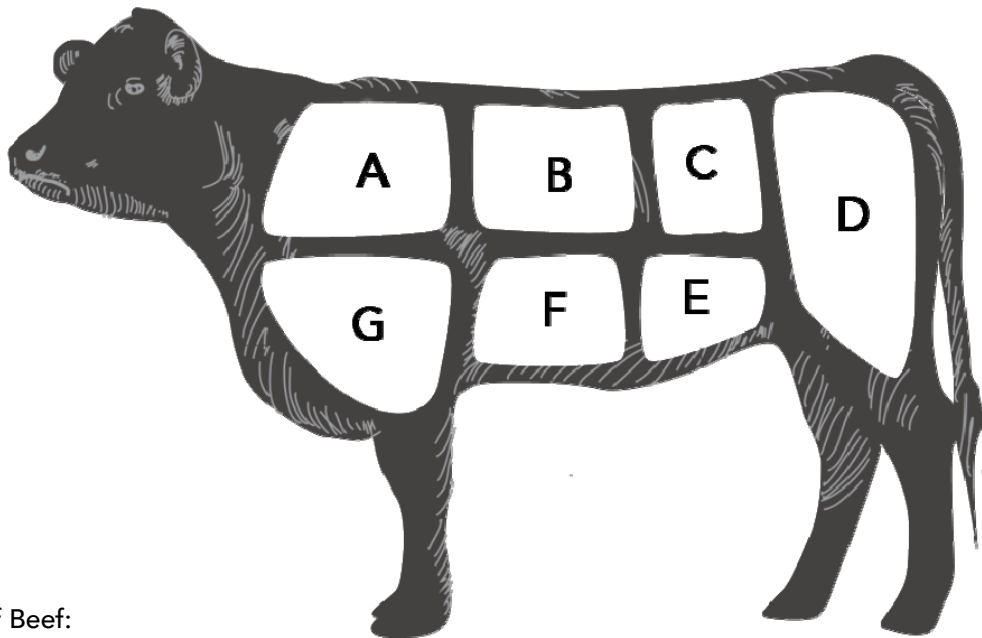
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# My General Beef Knowledge:

Ages 8 to 19 complete the following questions:



Cuts of Beef:

Identify each wholesale cut of meat from graphic. Write the retail cuts of meat from the following list under each wholesale cut from the chart.

Retail Cuts to Place in Chart:

*Back Ribs, Beef Brisket, Chuck Roast, Filet Mignon, Flank Steak, Ground Chuck, Ground Round, Ribeye Steak, Rump Roast, Short Ribs, Sirloin Steak, Skirt Steak, T-Bone Steak*

| Label From | Identify Wholesale Cut | Place Retail Cuts (listed above) for |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A          |                        |                                      |
| B          |                        |                                      |
| C          |                        |                                      |
| D          |                        |                                      |
| E          |                        |                                      |
| F          |                        |                                      |
| G          |                        |                                      |

# My General Beef Knowledge:

## Ages 8 to 19 complete the following questions:

Market beef steers at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth must have a minimum weight of \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. in order to show in market and sell.

All cattle (not just market) shown at GCFFY must have this in their ear \_\_\_\_\_.

All cattle shown at GCFFY should not have any horn longer than \_\_\_\_\_ inch(es).

What time must all fair animals be fed and watered and have their pens cleaned by? \_\_\_\_\_.

If proper care is not given to your animal the superintendent will place a \_\_\_\_\_ tag on your pen and the exhibitor must

\_\_\_\_\_

If there is a second offense, a \_\_\_\_\_ tag will be placed on your pen and the exhibitor must

\_\_\_\_\_

Normal temperature for a steer is \_\_\_\_\_ °F.

Infectious diseases that are spread between people and animals are called \_\_\_\_\_ diseases.

What is ringworm and what are the signs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You know your steer best, if you suspect your steer becomes ill at the fair you should report this to the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Ages 12 to 19 complete the following questions:

Because of the cow's special digestive system, they are called \_\_\_\_\_.

The four chambers of the cow's stomach are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can ring worm spread? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you know if ring worm is "dead" or inactive? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is an RFID Tag and what is its purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# My market beef questions - continued.

What are measures we can take to prevent our visitors from becoming ill after visiting the fair? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are signs of bloating and what are treatments? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Ages 15 to 19 complete the following questions:**

What is biosecurity? \_\_\_\_\_

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What biosecurity measures do you take at home before and after the fair (or if you go to other shows before the fair)?

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Where is meant by a withdrawal time on a medication? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the treatment protocol on a drug label? \_\_\_\_\_

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According to Beef Quality Assurance where is the proper location for vaccination on a steer?

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What is the ideal backfat on a finished steer? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the normal finishing weight for a beef animal? \_\_\_\_\_

What does finish mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you treat & prevent Bovine TB? \_\_\_\_\_

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