



Beef and Dairy Steer Feeder Calf Basics

Choosing to take a livestock project in 4-H should involve sound decision-making. This sheet provides basic information to help you make a good decision.

SPACE NEEDED

- 30 - 40 square feet per animal in confinement
- 400 – 600 square feet exercise area

COMFORT ZONE

- 40-65° F for optimal performance

WATER REQUIREMENTS

- Access to clean, fresh, cool water is critical
- 6 - 10 gallons per day

FEED CONSIDERATIONS

- Will eat 9 - 15 pounds of feed per day (3% of body weight per day)
- Will gain from 2.3-2.8 pounds per day (Average Daily Gain or ADG)
- Needs approximately 5 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency)

MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- Approximate purchase cost for a 300 lb. calf is \$ 1.20/lb. for a dairy feeder or \$1.50 /lb. for a beef feeder (more for show cattle)
- Should weigh 400 - 800 pounds when project is completed
- Should reach this weight at approximately 8-10 months of age
- Not sold until 2nd year of project

BUDGETING

- Projected market price is \$ 1.40 per pound
- Projected feed cost is around \$ 320 and includes:
 - Hay
 - Grower Feed (complete feed with vitamins & minerals)
 - Starter Feed & Milk Replacer (if starting with a baby calf to 2 months of age)

Information originally developed in 3/2015 by Bonnie Malone, Extension Educator 4-H, Huron County, Ohio and Vicki Schwartz, Associate State Leader, Ohio 4-H. "Should I Take Feeder Calf".

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