



Market Beef 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

- 40 - 50 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
- 10 - 20 gallons per day

FEED CONSIDERATIONS

- Will eat 15 - 20 pounds of feed per day
- Will gain from 2.2 – 3.5 pounds per day (Average Daily Gain or ADG)
- Needs approximately 6.5 - 7 pounds of feed per pound of gain (Feed Efficiency)

MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- Approximate purchase cost is \$1.50/lb. for 550 lb. steer (more for show cattle)
- Should weigh 1100 - 1400 pounds when finished
- Should reach this weight at approximately 17 months of age

BUDGETING

- Projected market price is \$ 1.20 per pound
- Projected feed cost is around \$ 615 and includes:
 - Hay
 - Grower Feed (complete feed with vitamins & minerals) Read feed tag for weight recommendations
 - Finisher Feed (complete feed with vitamins & minerals) Read feed tag for weight recommendations...normally use after the animal weighs over 900 pounds

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 Beef".

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