

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI      COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Published and Distributed in Furtherance of Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914,  
Providing for Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics  
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# LEADER'S GUIDE

## Baby Beef Production Clubs

(To be used with 4-H Club Circular 54)

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Baby beef has been a popular club project with Missouri boys and girls for many years. Indeed there are many benefits to be gained by the girl or boy who seriously and intelligently goes about the job of producing the best possible grade of beef from the best type of feeding animal they may practically acquire using practical feeds and feeding methods; or the job of producing a desirable feeding animal from the best breeding cows at their command.

There have been developed a number of shows at which 4-H Baby Beef Club members may exhibit their animals. However, the winning of a prize at a show is not the chief purpose of Baby Beef Clubs, but rather, the purpose shall be to show progress, on the part of the club member, and an earnest effort to do the best possible practical job of producing beef with the materials available. Nevertheless, Baby Beef Shows have an important place in stimulating activity of members toward their true goal. Shows or prizes should never become the end in themselves.

The care of livestock, the owning of property, the keeping of records, and the association with a group of other members with a common interest, all are experiences which help lay the foundations for successful lives.

**Object.**—The object of the beef club project is to organize boys and girls into groups to demonstrate beef feeding and management, economy of production, use of balanced rations, cattle judging and exhibiting, and to train the members in leadership.

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## II. REQUIREMENTS

**Work Required.**—The 4-H Beef Club Project—For Calves to be Finished as Yearling.

Each club member is required to feed, care for and exhibit a purebred or grade steer, born between January 1 and September 1 of the year previous to the one in which the calf is shown, with preference for April, May and June calves.

The calf must be started on feed on or before April 1, and fed for at least six months, separate from other farm animals, without the use of milk in any form, after eight months of age.

The 4-H Beef Club Project.—For Calves Born After September 1.—

Each club member is required to feed, care for and exhibit a purebred or grade steer born after September 1 of the year previous to the one in which shown.

The calf shall be started on feed by the time it is three months old, and fed until the time of the round-up, separate from other farm animals, without the use of a nurse cow, except that a calf may nurse its own mother up to 8 months of age.

The 4-H Beef Club Project.—For Cow and Calf.—

Each club member is required to feed, care for and exhibit the calf produced by a purebred or grade beef cow which was secured before the calf was dropped. Cows which will drop calves in January, February or early March should be given preference; however, cows which will drop calves between October 1 and April 1 may be used.

The calf should be fed grain while nursing the cow. The calf should be sold the following November or December and the cow may be used for another year's work. The calves may nurse their mothers until 9 months of age.

The above Beef Club projects must be carried on according to the instructions of the Extension Service of the Missouri College of Agriculture.

**Records Required.**—Each club member is required: to keep a record of the weight at the beginning and at the close of the feeding period; to keep a complete record of feeds used and their cost; to keep a record of receipts and expenses; and to write a story of the club activities for the year.

**Ownership Required.**—Each club member is required to own the animal or animals used in the project and to provide the necessary feed and expenses.

**Time Required.**—Time is required: to feed and care for the animals used in the project; to attend six or more club meetings; for an all day tour; and for one day at the Round-Up at the close of the year's work.

## III. ORGANIZATION

**1. Organizing Baby Beef Clubs.**—Baby beef clubs may be organized from September to March but should preferably be organized early enough in the fall to enable the securing of desirable calves or cows. Record keeping must start not later than April 1 and should preferably be started with the date of purchase of the project animal, particularly in the case of cow and calf projects. Records should be completed by the time the animals are shown or sold and not later than November 1 in any case.

**2. The Standard 4-H Club.**—A standard 4-H club is composed of a group of five or more boys or girls from the same community between the ages of 10 and 21 years, who are working upon the same club project under the direction of a local club leader.

Each standard club usually is sponsored by a community organization of some kind, or by a small committee of interested persons, who are selected to speak and act for the community in cooperation with the county club leader in the conduct of 4-H club work.

Standard 4-H clubs are required to hold at least six regular meetings during the club year. These meetings may be conducted as often as the

local club leader and members desire; however, the meetings usually are conducted once each month.

Below are suggested problems for a number of club meetings. It may be necessary to devote two or more meetings to the same subject and to change the order of some of the meetings as an adjustment to the seasons of the year. *Local club leaders and members are expected to adapt these subjects to local community conditions.*

**3. Supplementary Activities.**—The members of each club also will have an opportunity to study some optional activity in addition to the regular Baby Beef Club work, if desired, such as Everyday Courtesies, Conservation, Folk Songs and Games, Music Appreciation, etc., as suggested by the State Club Office.

#### IV. SUGGESTED MEETING PLANS FOR BABY BEEF CLUBS

##### Suggested Programs for Meetings

Local leaders will be able to make any slight rearrangement in the meeting plans that may be necessary to fit their project and the time of year.

##### I. Organization of the Club.

1. The business meeting.—The local leader in charge.
  - (1). Explanation of the duties of club officers and members. (See Club Secretary's Record Book.)
  - (2). Election of officers from the membership of the club; President, Vice-President, Secretary, Song Leader and Reporter.
  - (3). Selection of a time and place for regular club meetings.
  - (4). Selection of a name for the club.
  - (5). Adjournment of the business meeting for the discussion period.
2. Instructions.—The local club leader in charge.
  - (1). Distribution of the club literature and explanation of its use.
  - (2). Explanation of the Baby Beef Club project requirements and the standard 4-H club requirements.
  - (3). Adoption of the constitution and by-laws, as amended to suit local conditions. (The members may indicate their desire to carry out this project by signing their names as a pledge on blanks below the constitution and by-laws in the Club Secretary's Record Book.)
  - (4). Setting club goals.
 

(It is suggested that the club set up its own goals and write them out on blanks provided in the Club Secretary's Record Book.)
  - (5). Discussion of the main club activities for the year and setting up of a local club calendar of events for the club, including community and county-wide events in which the members desire to take part. (See blanks in the Club Secretary's Record Book.)
  - (6). Assignment of work for the next meeting; score card; terms used about the beef animal and topic for roll call, "Breed, cost and weight of my calf". Reference: Section II of Club Circular 54.
3. Social hour. (See Club Circular 35, "Recreational Activities of 4-H Clubs.")

##### II. Score Card—Terms Used About Beef Animals.

1. The business meeting.—The club president in charge. Reference: Duties of club officers, Club Secretary's Record Book.
  - (1). Meeting called to order by the president, who leads the club members in repeating the National 4-H club pledge, as follows: "I pledge my *head* to clearer thinking, my *heart* to greater loyalty, my *hands* to larger service, and my *health* to better living, for my club, my community, and my country".
  - (2). Roll call by the secretary, the members responding by reporting on the previously assigned topics.

- (3). Reading of the minutes of the last meeting by the secretary, which should be adopted as a permanent record by the club when approved.
  - (4). Unfinished business:
    - a. Any unfinished business from the last meeting.
    - b. Reports of the committees.
  - (5). New business:
    - a. Appointment of social committee to plan for games or other activities at future meetings.
    - b. Anything for the good of the club, such as club tour, club picnic, etc.
  - (6). Songs and yells, led by the song and yell leader.
  - (7). Adjournment for work.
2. Instructions.—The Local Leader in Charge.
- (1). Discussion—Selecting Beef Animals.
    - a. How can we become familiar with the various terms used to describe the parts of beef animals, their carcasses, etc.?
    - b. What is the purpose of the score card in learning how to select beef animals?
    - c. What type of calf or beef cow will you select?
  - (2). Demonstration.
    - a. Use of score card.
    - b. Identifying the various parts of a beef animal.
  - (3). Assignment of work, feeds and feeding, Reference: Section III, Club Circular 54.  
Topic of Roll Call—"How I Feed My Calf".
3. Social Hour. (See Recreational Circular for New Games.)

### III. Feeds and Feeding.

1. The business meeting.—The club officers in charge.  
(Follow order of business suggested for Meeting II.)
2. Instruction.—The local leader in charge.
  - (1). Discussion.
    - a. What are the most common feeds for beef animals?
    - b. What are carbohydrates? Proteins? Minerals? Fats? Fiber?
    - c. What are the two main classes of feeds? Illustrate.
    - d. What ration are you feeding your calf?
    - e. Could it be improved? How?
  - (2). Demonstration—Mixing ration and keeping a feed record.
  - (3). Assignment of work for next meeting—Care and management, Parasites and diseases—Reference: Section IV, Club Circular 54.
  - (4). Topic for roll call—"The Ration I Am Feeding My Animals".
3. Social Hour. (See Recreational Circular for new games.)

### IV. Care and Management—Parasites and Diseases.

1. The business meeting.—The club officers in charge.  
(Follow order of business suggested for Meeting II.)
2. Instructions—Club leader in charge.
  - (1). Discussion.
    - a. How should club beef animals be housed?
    - b. How can calves be protected from flies?
    - c. How would you start training your calf?
    - d. Explain how to care for the animal's hair, feet and horns.
    - e. Name the important parasites that infest cattle.
    - f. What diseases are common to calves?
  - (2). Demonstration.
    - a. Grooming, clipping, and curling.
    - b. Trimming the feet.
    - c. Training the calf to lead.

- (3). Assignment of work.—“Grooming, Fitting and Judging”, see Section V, in Club Circular 54.
  - (4). Topic for roll call—“How I Trained My Calf to Lead”.
3. Social Hour.

#### V. Grooming, Fitting and Judging.

1. The business meeting.—Club officers in charge.
2. Instructions—Club leader in charge.
  - (1). Discussion.
    - a. List the things that need attention in fitting an animal for showing.
    - b. Why should we know how to judge livestock?
    - c. By what methods may we learn to judge?
  - (2). Demonstration.
    - a. Use of score card.
    - b. Judging by comparison.
  - (3). Assignment of work.
    - a. Prepare calves for tour.
    - b. Get feed and weight records up to date.
    - c. See that any special committees necessary are appointed.
3. Social Hour.

#### VI. Tour.

1. The business meeting.—May be held at a convenient time—before, during or after the tour. Plans for the club round-up should be discussed.
2. Tour to visit all calves in club if possible. Practice judging of all classes of livestock at every opportunity.
3. Assignments for Achievement Day.
  - (1). Records and reports.
  - (2). Committees on exhibit, etc.
  - (3). Select teams to put on a demonstration at the Achievement Day program.
  - (4). Plans for continuing club work.

#### VII. Suggested Achievement Day Program.

(To be held when the club work is completed, except that animals do not have to be sold when achievement day is held.)

1. Exhibit of club calves.
2. Judging contest to pick club judging team.
3. Team demonstration.
4. Talk by local leader, representative of sponsoring organization or county agent.
5. Report of leader or committee on plans for continuing club work.
6. Presentation of club achievement pin, if awarded, by the extension agent or representative of the sponsoring organization.
7. Play or other dramatic club presentation, or typical club business meeting.
8. Adjournment.

#### V. STANDARD CLUB METHODS FOR MAKING THE CLUB PROGRAM MORE VALUABLE

By club methods we mean the ways and activities that have been developed through years of experience by club leaders and the Extension Service, for increasing the activity of club members in the project work to the end that interest will be maintained and learning and other benefits increased. Some of these methods are briefly discussed below. Note particularly their relation to standard club requirements.

**The Regular Club Meeting.**—The club meetings which should be held regularly approximately once each month should be made as interesting as possible. Strive for a full attendance, promptness and an active program in which the members have a major part.

**Records and Reports.**—Records to be kept by the Secretary include:

- a. Attendance—Pages 8 and 9 of Secretary's Record Book.
- b. Minutes—Pages 10 and 22, one page for each meeting.
- c. Project Summary—a special sheet attached to pages 24 and 25 of Secretary's Record Book.
- d. Summary of club work for the year—pages 26 and 27 of Secretary's Record Book. c. and d. to be filled out at completion of project with the club leader's help if necessary.

Records to be kept by club leader:

- a. Enrollment blank filled out completely for all members at the time club is organized.
- b. July 1st—check enrollment upon notice from county extension office.
- c. Fill out leader's final report at completion of the project. Blank form for this report is on the reverse of the enrollment blank.

Records to be kept by club members:

- a. Individual member's record blank.

(See project requirements on page 2 of this circular.)

**Exhibits.**—Club members should have an opportunity to exhibit their product. The location and nature of the exhibit will depend on local conditions. The exhibit is frequently combined with the achievement day, when the members' calves are shown and shipped.

**Judging.**—Judging is a means of encouraging further activity on the part of club members. Through judging, members learn the subject matter which pertains to standards of type and perfection, and get the training necessary to participation in judging contests.

**Demonstrations.**—In so far as possible, all club members should be instructed in the regular club meetings by the demonstration method. As a usual thing, one or more members of each club can begin demonstrating useful phases of the work program before the club soon after the processes have been demonstrated to the club group by the leader.

After two or three months of practical experience in handling real things, all mature club members should be able to give public team demonstrations. The scope of the team demonstration usually should be limited to the essential processes of some phase of the club work of the current year on one subject. A team of two or three of the best demonstrators, according to the number needed, should be selected from the membership of one club by individual try-outs in competition. All teams should have an opportunity to demonstrate before the local club group and the people of the home community, and the championship team should represent the local club at the county round-up.

#### **Suggested Subjects for Team Demonstrations**

Weighing out and mixing feed.

Making a halter from rope.

Treating for lice or bloating.

Demonstration on grooming for show.

Demonstration in judging.

Demonstration of various methods in production of baby beef.

Preventing losses in marketing livestock.

The following outline for a club demonstration may be helpful in developing a team demonstration on any subject chosen.

#### **Outline of a Demonstration for Baby Beef Clubs Ridding a Calf of Lice**

**Team.**—Two 4-H beef club members from one club, designated in this outline as "A" and "B".

**Equipment.**—Laundry soap, pails, brush or sponge, quart measure kerosene and calf to be treated.

**Reference.**—Page 18 of Baby Beef Circular.

**Time.**—Ten to fifteen minutes.

## PROCEDURE

<p><i>"A" Speaks and Demonstrates.</i> Leads in giving the national 4-H club pledge or other means of opening the demonstration and getting attention; gives a brief history of the club, to establish a background for the demonstration; introduces teammate and self; states the problem under consideration and establishes its importance; states how the demonstration will deal with the problem; and lists other ways of solving.</p> <p>1. "Ridding a Calf of Lice".</p> <p>(1). Explains that kerosene emulsion is one of the simplest ways of ridding a calf of lice and these materials are available on most farms.</p> <p>(2). Lists materials needed.</p> <p>(3). Explains and demonstrates how to make kerosene emulsion, using:</p> <p>(a). <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> bar of laundry soap dissolved in 1 quart of warm water then</p> <p>(b). Stir in <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> gal. of kerosene.</p> <p>(c). When thoroughly mixed, add 15. gals. water.</p> <p>When emulsion is diluted and ready to use "A", turns demonstration over to "B" who continues.</p>	<p><i>"B" Assists</i> Joins in giving the pledge, gives full attention to "A's" discussion and goes to work as soon as introduced.</p> <p>Aids in assembling materials and equipment.</p> <p>Aids in preparing materials and preparing the emulsion.</p>
<p><i>"A" Assists</i></p> <p>"A" Brings up calf to be treated.</p> <p>Aids "B" in treating calf.</p>	<p><i>"B" Speaks</i></p> <p>2. (1). Gives conditions under which the kerosene emulsion is applied to animal.</p> <p>(a). Reasonably warm weather.</p> <p>(b). Sunny day preferred.</p> <p>(c). If possible, apply as soon as any lice are found.</p> <p>(2). Takes lead in applying kerosene emulsion to calf, being sure a thorough job is done. Telling how to do the job as he proceeds.</p> <p>(3). States reason for repeating application in two weeks.</p> <p>Concludes his talk by stating that "A" will summarize the points in the demonstration.</p>
<p><i>"A" summarizes</i> points in demonstration—concludes by asking for questions on any points not clear.</p>	<p><i>"B" Collects</i> demonstration material and equipment.</p>

**Recognition of Achievement.**—One of the principal reasons for the achievement day is to recognize the progress made by club members in (a) producing club animals; (b) demonstration of approved practices; (c) judging of livestock; (d) conducting business meetings; (e) completing of a definite job. The plan for the achievement day on page 5 of this circular offers suggestions which may be adapted to fit community or county conditions.

**References.**—The following bulletins and circulars are suggested for leaders and members who may wish to study certain subjects more thoroughly. They may be secured through your county extension office, or by writing direct to the College of Agriculture, Room 127, Mumford Hall, Columbia, Missouri.

B330—The Feeding of Livestock.

C153—Cotton Seed Meal, Cold Pressed Cake and Linseed Oil Meal in Rations for Fattening Cattle.

E303—Beef Calf Production.