



When youth have a passion for animals, the 4-H Beef Project provides a great opportunity to explore their interest. From judging contests and visual presentations to animal production and competitive showing, 4-H'ers can participate in aspects of the project with or without animal ownership.

The project teaches animal husbandry including selecting, feeding, managing, and marketing of beef cattle. Developing teamwork, responsibility, and decision-making alongside both animals and people is unique to the livestock program experience. Hobbies or careers in animal agriculture enable utilization of these lifelong skills and project mastery.

Starting Out Beginner

Starting a livestock project is exciting and challenging! There is so much to learn!

Join a 4-H livestock club to meet knowledgeable, experienced mentors and friends. Volunteer at your county show.

Develop presentations to learn about topics like animal health and handling, then share them with your club and in competitions.

Test your culinary skills and learn about beef products in the Cookout Contest.

Learning More Intermediate

Put your knowledge into practice by competing in contests and purchasing an animal.

Join your livestock or meats judging teams.

Buy a beef animal and present it at your county, district, and state shows.

Explore complex topics for visual presentations such as genetics, reproduction, and nutrition.

Document project activities and goals in your record book.

Exploring Depth Advanced

Advance your showmanship to the next level competing in regional and national shows.

Expand your learning to multiple species with the livestock bowl.

Showcase your skills in the Premier Exhibitor competition.

Raise or buy heifers to enter the Replacement Beef Heifer Development Contest.

Use your project record book to review average daily gains, costs, and other project milestones.

4-H Thrive

Positive Youth Development

Developing Competence

Adults create environments where youth can develop competence in their chosen project area.

Building Confidence

Youth build confidence as they learn to think for themselves, build mastery, and are recognized for their efforts.

Nurturing Caring

Adults nurture a caring environment where mutual trust between youth and adults is established. Caring relationships with adults are key to resilient youth.

Finding Connection

Youth build solid connections which are critical to their well-being.

Forming Character

Create a community where youth play an active role in developing their character.

Determining Contribution

Youth actively contribute to their clubs and communities.

***Mississippi State University is
an equal opportunity
institution.***

Expand your experiences!

Connections & Events

Service and Leadership projects related to the Beef Project:

- Organize a fundraising event to purchase beef products to donate to a local food bank or soup kitchen.
- Lead other 4-H members in participating in local beef producer events
- Volunteer to help at your county or district livestock shows
- Conduct a beef promotion presentation during National Beef Month in May

Competitive Activities (Indicate Jr or Sr or Both):

Judging:

- National Livestock Judging, Sr.
- State and National Meats Judging, Sr.
- State and District Livestock Judging, Jr. & Sr.

Visual Presentation:

- Beef Visual Presentation at Club Congress, Sr.
- Beef Visual Presentation at Project Achievement Day, Jr.

Miscellaneous:

- Beef Cattle Shows: Showmanship, Breeding, and Market Classes
- Beef Cookout Contest, Jr. & Sr.
- Beef Premier Exhibitor Contest, Sr.
- Legislative Livestock Showdown at the Dixie National Jr. Roundup, Jr. & Sr.
- Livestock Bowl, Sr.
- Replacement Beef Heifer Development Contest, Sr.
- State Record Book Contest, Jr. & Sr.
- Ultrasound Steer Evaluation Contest at the Dixie National Jr. Round-Up, Jr. & Sr.

Curriculum

Book Level 1: Bite into Beef. National 4-H Curriculum.

Book Level 2: Here's the Beef. National 4-H Curriculum.

Book Level 3: Leading the Charge. National 4-H Curriculum.

Beef Helper's Guide. National 4-H Curriculum.

Exploring Beef Health & Husbandry. National 4-H Curriculum.

4-H Record Book

4-H members practice skills in data collection, organization, and analysis as they document their project activities and goals in their record books. The books provide practical information as well as highlight progress made toward goals. Juniors and Seniors can enter the state record book competition.

Seniors are eligible to win a trip to National 4-H Congress for Dairy Cattle Project record books.

Resources

1. *4-H Animal Lines*. MSU Extension Newsletter
2. *Animal Identification Process for Mississippi Junior Livestock Shows*. MSU Extension Publication P3385
3. *Beef Showmanship*. MSU Extension Publication P2210
4. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy*. MSU Extension Publication P2806
5. *Keeping Your Livestock Show Animals Healthy: Proper Drug Use*. MSU Extension Publication P3689
6. *Leadership Opportunities in the 4-H Livestock Program*. MSU Extension Publication P2837
7. *Mississippi Livestock Quality Assurance Program for Youth Producers*. MSU Publication P2526
8. *Tattooing Cattle*. MSU Extension Publication 3880
9. *Top 10 Values and Skills Gained Through Participation on a Judging Team*. MSU Extension Publication P3003
10. *4-H Livestock Judging Manual*. MSU Extension Publication P2289
11. *4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl: How to Get Involved!* MSU Extension Publication P3467