Showing 101
Showing Beef Cattle In Arkansas
Cattle Showing 101

Steven M. Jones – Associate Professor
Carla Vaught- County Extension Agent
What Types of Livestock Projects Are Available?

Market – a category of show animals that are raised to show and then slaughtered.

Breeding- a category of show animals that are raised to show and then retained for raising offspring.
What is Showing?

The showing of livestock is the art of presenting an animal to the best of its potential to a judge who will evaluate the animal.

Showmanship is also part of showing. Showmanship involves presenting an animal at its best where the skill, ability, and appearance of the exhibitor is evaluated.
Basic Terminology

Bovine – Animals commonly called cows, divided into two distinct divisions –
Bos taurus- non-Brahman influenced
Bos indicus (Brahman influenced)

Heifer – Young female bovine who has not yet had a calf

Bull – Male bovine animal

Club calf – Calf raised for the purpose of being shown

Ruminant – Large category of animals who have a four compartment stomach allowing them to digest grasses. Ex – cattle, deer, sheep, goats

Steer- Castrated male bovine
Why Have a Cattle Project?

- Carrying on in the family tradition
- Raising “home-grown” meat
- Return show animals to herd
- Sale of animal following show
- Perceived as a natural progression from “smaller” project animals
Four Components of the Beef Cattle Project

Market Steer

Commercial Heifer

Registered Beef Cattle

Showmanship
Market Steer

- Terminal project
- Finished weight in Sept. and Oct. Fairs
- Born late March to early May
- Obtain animal in Nov or Dec.
- Shows: Spring as Prospect
  Fall as Market Steer
Market Steer:

• Steers are broken into classes based on weights (ASF) (Classes may also be determined by hip height)

• Some shows also go by breed type:
  • American - Brahman influenced cattle
  • English-genetic makeup primarily of British breeds
  • Continental-Breeds originated in Europe
Commercial Heifer

Mixed Beef Breed heifer 6 mos - 2 yrs

Age eligibility determined by mouthing at show

Broken into breed divisions like steers

Shown in classes based on growth characteristics (Hip height, good muscling, structurally sound, good growth)

Should be 500# at 205 days of age
Registered Beef Cattle

Heifers or bulls registered with a breed registry

Shown by age: 6 mos – 2 yrs

Judged for growth, structural correctness, and potential to pass on desirable beef characteristics to their offspring

Show against others of same breed

Low participation may show in AOB (all other breeds)
What Class Will My Registered Heifer/Bull Show In?

They are typically shown by birth date on registration papers.

Summer calf . . . . . . . May and younger
Spring calf . . . . . . . . March and April
Junior calf . . . . . . . January and February
Winter calf . . . . . . . November and December
Senior calf . . . . . . . September and October
Late Summer yearling . . July and August
Early Summer yearling . . May and June
Late Junior yearling . . . March and April
Early Junior yearling . . . January and February
Senior yearling . . . . September thru December

However, these classes vary depending on the breed and show
Equipment Needed for Beef Cattle Projects

Housing:

Clean stalls and secure feed storage system

Well-insulated shaded barn
12’ x 12’ or 16’ x 16’

Secure turnout pen for nighttime exercise
Equip., cont’d

Rope training halter

Clean rope halter and neck rope

Color appropriate leather dairy show halter

Show stick (size appropriate for showman

Rice root brush

Feed pan

Water pan
The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is implied.
Clean-up equipment

- broom
- pitch fork
- shovel
- pooper-scooper

Hair-working brushes/combs

- scotch combs
- neck sweats
- washing brushes

Helpful Extras

- exhibitor number and comb clips
- neck sweats
Assorted grooming products for show day

Transportation of animal

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is implied.
HOW much is all of this going to cost?

Before you hit the floor, please realize this budget includes one-time cost items and that you will be able to sell some of your equipment at the conclusion of your years in the project.
# Beef Cattle Start-Up Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Heifer</td>
<td>$2500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Bull</td>
<td>$2000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Heifer</td>
<td>$1200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steer</td>
<td>$1500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rope Halter</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck Rope</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Halter</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showstick</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotch Comb</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice Root Brushes</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Pan</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Color Denotes one-time cost)*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Trough</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Hose</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed Scales</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucket</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Fan</td>
<td>200.00-300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grooming Chute</td>
<td>450.00-650.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Blower</td>
<td>340.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grooming products</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shots/hoof trimming</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry Fees</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs</strong></td>
<td>@ $ 4000 - 6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prize money from Fairs</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>1250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market value for beef ( @ $1.25/lb)</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OK!! We’re going to do this, what type of beef animal do we select?

Decide in which type of beef animal you will invest
Steers – terminal
Heifers - retained for breeding
Bulls – retained or sold as herd sires

Learn parts of beef animals

Look at pictures of champion animals, attend shows to see what judges are using, talk to breeders and others who are knowledgeable about the beef industry.

Put a picture of the “ideal” animal in your mind and compare animals seen to ideal
Parts of a Beef Animal

- Rump
- Loin
- Back
- Neck
- Poll
- Forehead
- Crops
- Forehead
- Nose
- Nostril
- Muzzle
- Shoulder
- Dewlap
- Brisket
- Elbow
- Knee
- Fetlock
- Pastern
- Coffin
- Shank
- Flank
- Sheath
- Underline
- Fore flank
- Last rib (13th)
- Ribs
- Cannon bone
- Hoof
- Stifle
- Tail head
- Quarter
- Body
- Dewclaw
Wholesale Cuts of Beef

Rib

Loin

Rump

Round

Highest Value

$ $ $ $ $ $ $ $.
Wholesale Cuts of Beef

Neck
Chuck
Brisket
Plate
Flank
Shank

Lower Value
Research what the “ideal” animal encompasses
Five Indicators of Muscle

- Shoulder
- Top
- Bone
- Hindquarter
- Wide Based
Structural Correctness- Legs

Legs should hit the ground straight

Point straight ahead
Here are some examples of structure to avoid.

- Post legged
- Sickle hocked
- Bow legged
- Cow hocked
- Toes out
- Toes in
A calf should be wide based, her feet wide apart. She should be wide over the top and straight, long, and level in the rump.

The muscle expressed in the lower quarter of the round should be visible when the animal walks.

These represent a wide based, well muscled calf.

These represent a narrow based, light muscled calf.
Disposition

This is how the animal behaves, whether or not she is “calm, cool and collected” or “off the wall”.

Disposition will affect how easy the animal will be to halter break and show. Calm-natured animals are easier to handle.

Disposition is also an indicator of how she will feed out as “nervous” animals do not gain as well as “calm” ones.
When evaluating the disposition of an animal:

1. Notice how the seller handles the animal.

2. Can you move easily around the animal without him getting nervous?

3. Look her in the eye. Does she have a pleasing gentle eye?

4. If surveying a group of animals, is he the one with his head up, eyes wide and looking for a path of escape?
Feeding Your Calf

Three Basic Feed Mixes:

- **Starter mix** – low energy, high roughage and fiber, and high in protein. Usually medicated to prevent young calves from overeating grain while rumen adjusts from forages to grain diets. Feed only 2-4 weeks.

- **Grower mix** – at least 12% protein, moderate fiber, and moderate energy content. Feed to calves in growing stage 500-900 lbs. Most common ration fed in cattle projects.

- **Finisher ration** – high energy (50% corn). Breeding heifers seldom require this feed. Change over to this stage in small amounts.
How Much Should I Feed My Calf?

Rule of thumb: Feed calves a good quality ration mix (12% protein) at a rate of 2.5% of body weight

Feed a good quality grass hay at a rate of 4 – 8#/head/day

Weigh your feed – DO NOT guess

For example:

800 # Calf - 20 lbs of feed plus hay (10 lb am & pm)
1000 # Calf - 25 lbs of feed plus hay (12.5 lb am & pm)
1200 # Calf - 30 lbs of feed plus hay (15 lb am & pm)
What About Supplements?

Let the eye of the feeder be the master

Examples:  #1 Mineral (Moorman’s)
            Nutri-boost (LoneStar)
            Oxy-Gen
            Winners’ Edge
            Fast Fat (Moorman’s)
            MuscleMaster

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is implied.
When Should I Feed My Calf?

Feed ½ ration twice daily, at the same time daily 12 hours apart for best gains. (6 am & 6 pm)

If cattle are “slow eaters” or need to consume more feed, 3-a-day feedings are advised.

3-a-day eaters usually consume more feed and have less digestive stress. (6 am, noon, 6 pm)
How Can I Tell If My Feeding Program Is Correct for the Animal?

Manure observation - Consistency is good indicator

**Firm manure patty** that does not spatter when dropped to ground indicates animal is on full feed with proper amount of concentrate.

**Watery stool** (scours) means too much energy and either the amount of feed or energy level (corn) portion of ration should be reduced. If persists, acidosis results and animal goes off feed.

**Too firm or dry stool** indicates animal needs more feed or a higher energy concentration in the ration. Inadequate energy intake results in lower gains and decreased finishing.
What Shots Should I Give My Calf?

*Be sure to check with your veterinarian before beginning any shot regimen*

Probable vaccinations for your calf may include:

Blackleg: *Clostridial* vaccinations should have been done before weaning, if not, vaccinate with a **7-way** at time of purchase and followed by booster 2-3 weeks later and another booster at 6-8 mos later. Protects against blackleg and over-eaters.

Tetanus: Vaccinate with tetanus **toxoid** at time of purchase.

Leptospirosis: Vaccinate with **3 or 5 way** at purchase and give booster every 6 mos.

Brucellosis: Heifers must be vaccinated by a vet between 6 and 12 mos of age.
Beef Management Tips

Provide clean water to cattle at all times. A calf will drink about 8% of his weight a day in cold weather and 19% a day in hot weather.

Feed growing cattle about 12-16% crude protein in their diet depending on weight and growth rate.

Check twice daily for injuries, sickness, unusual things or changes in behavior.

Replace bedding often.

Brush cattle to train hair, rinse daily, and train cattle at least three times a week for one month before show.
So, How Do I Start?

Remember: Never work alone when first breaking cattle to lead. Always have a helper!

1st 7 -10 days of possession: Let calf adjust to new surroundings. Move around animal slowly, rub and scratch while eating. Begin with the back or tail head not the head or face.

Halter Breaking: Begin as soon as possible. Try a padded nose halter to protect nose of calf. Put halter on calf, adjust. Allow animal to drag lead rope on ground. Always remove halter in the evening.
Halter Breaking: Use the lead rope to guide the calf to its feed trough

Training to Stand: Tie calf up securely. Never leave the animal unattended. Tie the head up high enough to bring the front feet directly underneath the animal. Tying the head up builds up the muscles the animal needs to show with its head in the up position.

Training to Lead: Stand to the left of the animal and pull on lead, giving slack when the calf moves forward. When the animal learns that the rope loosens when it walks, it will lead.
Do Not: Tie behind vehicle and pull
Hit with any object
Jerk hard or use a hot shot
Training for the show ring: Daily exercise is important both for the condition of the animal and its response to you.

Use a show stick to start training to stand correctly.

Begin by setting up front feet. Push feet back with the end of the show stick and pull them forward with the hook. After front feet are set, set back ones in same manner.

Use pressure on halter help place feet squarely under each corner of the body. Calf should appear natural in stance, not spread out.
Training for Show Ring

Any time the calf sets up, rub the belly with the hook of your show stick. The calf will soon learn that when it does right, it gets its belly scratched.

After much practice, calf will soon understand what is expected and will begin to set up itself. Remember to stroke the belly with the hook of your show stick when the calf responds in a correct manner. Teach calf to stand in one place for 10-20 minutes to help it build stamina for the show ring. A cheap full-size mirror propped against a tree can help you see the animal’s feet and view yourself and the calf.
What Will My Daily Routine Be?

AM – Catch up calf, halter, tie up at feeding area. Weigh out feed. Place before calf. Clean stall, fill waterer. When calf is done eating, turn into stall, feed hay.

PM – Catch up calf. Tie up and brush hair with rice root brush combing hair forward and up. Walk and practice setting up. Rinse calf, brushing hair forward and up. Weigh out feed, feed calf. Turn out in night turn out pen, hang out hay bag.
What Will My Year Be Like?

Steer Management Calendar
November/December

- Purchase or select prospect from pasture
- Start on starter feed ration
- Administer health shots and boosters
- Deworm

January

- Halter break and start training
- Trim hooves
February

- Intensify training, you and the animal need to learn to trust one another
- Change to a grower feed from starter
- Deworm

March

- Trim hooves
- Watch for warts and ringworm
- Look for spring/summer jackpot shows
- Complete entry for Spring Livestock Show in LR
April

Treat for fly control
Deworm
Show at any and all available shows
Nominate steer for State Fair

May

Continue fly control
Trim hooves
Steers: implant with approved growth hormone
Start finisher ration
Keep calf cool, manage for maximum hair growth
Rinse calf daily
Weigh calf
Nominate steer into district fair
June
Continue fly control
Deworm
Continue cooling management and rinsing
Continue practice showing
May have to adjust feed to keep consumption up

July
Continue fly control
Trim hooves
Continue cooling management
Keep rinsing and leading for exercise
Monitor feed intake and body condition
August

Deworm
Continue fly control
Complete entry form for County Fair
Continue cooling and rinsing
Monitor feed intake and body condition
Attend to health requirements for show

September/October

Trim hooves (no later than 1 week before show)
Continue cooling and rinsing
Monitor feed intake and body condition
Continue fly control
Show
Showmanship

One of the most important aspect of showing

Judged on how well exhibitor presents animal (includes animal handling and grooming as well as grooming and poise of exhibitor)

Knowledge of project may be questioned

Classes broken by age of exhibitor
Dressing for Showmanship

Your appearance is very important. A button down shirt, western cut jeans, belt & buckle, and western footwear is appropriate wear. You should also wear your number so that it can be easily seen and a scotch comb either in a comb clip or in your back pocket with tines turned toward your body. A neat haircut for boys and hair pulled back out of the faces of girls rounds out the better showmen.
Showmanship, cont’d

You may not have the Grand Champion animal, but you can groom the animal and yourself and present both of you to the judge and win Champion Showmanship.

It takes a lot of practice, work and patience to become a champion showman.

You should be knowledgeable about your project:
Breed, date of birth, weight of animal
What and how much you feed
Parts of the animal and strengths and weaknesses of your animal.
The 4-H Beef Cattle project is one of the most rewarding activities you will share with your child! Many exciting and educational experiences are waiting for you as you progress through this project.
That’s all folks!

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating.

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.