The Beef Project Is . . .

Most 4-H’ers who take the Beef Project look forward to the day when they can own and show their own beef animal. Nothing quite equals the thrill of getting that purple ribbon. For that moment, you know your animal is the best.

But the 4-H Beef Project is more than showing beef animals. It also helps boys and girls learn about selecting, feeding, breeding, and day-to-day care of beef animals. To take the Beef Project, you’ll need to own a steer, heifer, or cow/calf and have a place to care for your animal.

The 4-H Beef Project can be divided into two parts: The Beef Breeding Program (see Extension publication YANR-147) and the Market Steer Program (see Extension publication YANR-145). The Beef Breeding Program is usually started with a young heifer, either purebred or commercial. The heifer is fed, cared for, and bred to start a beef herd. The herd grows as you keep the calves or buy more heifers.

In the Market Steer Program, a 4-H member must select a different animal each year. A steer weighing approximately 500 pounds is selected. He is fed, cared for, and trained until he weighs about 1,200 pounds.

Things You’ll Learn
- The breeds of beef cattle.
- Desirable conformation (body build).
- Classes of feeds and proper feeding practices.
- How to groom and show beef animals.
- Desirable slaughter grades.
- The parts of a beef animal.
- How to sell a beef animal.

Things You Can Do
- Visit purebred and commercial beef operations.
- Visit a packing plant or feed mill.
- Feed and care for your animal.
- Attend one or more livestock shows.
- Show your own animal.
- Take part in a meats judging or livestock judging contest.
- Tour an Experiment Station.
- Give a demonstration on beef to your local club.

www.aces.edu
Cattlemen have used brands for many years to mark their cattle. The brand is a symbol, a code that tells anyone who sees it who the animal belongs to.

Here is a code. Each symbol stands for a letter of the alphabet. The answers to the following descriptions are in code. Break the code and write the answers in the blank.
1. A black breed of cattle that is polled, meaning naturally hornless or genetically dehorned:

\[ \text{Beef} \ 3 \]

2. Cattle recognized by their white faces and red bodies:

\[ \text{Beef} \ 3 \]

3. White cattle considered to be the first exotic breed used in Alabama:

\[ \text{Beef} \ 3 \]

4. The nutrient that supplies the major source of energy for cattle:

\[ \text{Beef} \ 3 \]

5. The material necessary for proper bone and tooth formation in cattle:

\[ \text{Beef} \ 3 \]

6. A cow that has not produced a calf:

\[ \text{Beef} \ 3 \]

7. A castrated male calf:

\[ \text{Beef} \ 3 \]

8. A male animal used for cattle breeding:

\[ \text{Beef} \ 3 \]
**Annual Record of Beef Activities,**

Name __________________________________________ Age ________

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<th>Animals Bought or Raised During Year</th>
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Total Cost or Value ____________________________

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Total Cost or Value ____________________________

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Total Cost or Value ____________________________

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For more information, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county’s name to find the number.

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2M, Reprinted June 2006, YANR-101