



Rules for Participation

1. You must be enrolled in Alabama 4-H through 4HOnline. The \$30 fee is paid through 4HOnline. If you are new to 4-H, contact your county Extension office for details on signing up.
2. We will work with steer animals only. You may purchase one or two animals from the source of your choice. We do not provide animals for the program. You may choose any breed or crossbred animal. You should purchase and obtain your animals in the summer so that you may begin feeding and working with them.
3. There is no auction associated with the show. You are responsible for selling and processing your own animals.
4. You are limited to entering two animals. You will need a premises identification number and an electronic identification (EID) tag for your animals.
5. You are required to take your animals to one of several validation sites in the state to verify the initial weight, premises ID number, and EID tag. If you need help putting in the EID tag, this can be done at the validation site. Not all sites are equipped to handle animals that are not halterbroken, so select a site that can meet the needs of your animals.
6. You will attend an initial mandatory meeting, where you will take a pretest to determine your starting knowledge. Additional educational meetings will be held throughout the year (see Project Manual for details).
7. You will keep a record book of your activities. After the event, your completed record book will be submitted for a separate award. This will allow you to provide complete information as to the profitability of your project.
8. You are required to take part in the final event—the Beef It Up! Show. You must bring in your animals for weigh-in the evening prior to the show. This show is after most beef shows in the state, so there are no restrictions on the number of other shows you may enter. The only requirement is presentation of your animals at the final event.
9. At the show, you have two classes you can enter: halterbroke (for animals trained to lead on a halter) or penned (for animals that are not halterbroken), designed for younger novice members or youth with a disability.
10. The hair of all halterbroken animals must be clipped to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or less. Animals will be checked. One attempt at a reclip will be allowed. If your animal still has hair that is too long, the animal will be switched to the penned category. Penned animals may not be groomed, and steers do not have to be clipped.
11. Requirements at the final event (the show) will include participation in the following areas:
 - You will take a post-test to determine your knowledge level after raising your animal. This will include your understanding of terminology as well as your ability to calculate average daily gain, cost of gain, and feed conversion ratio.
 - You will enter a poster on a topic of importance to the commercial beef industry.
 - You will enter either the showmanship or interview category. Interviews are for youth entering a penned animal and showmanship is for youth entering a halterbroken animal.
 - You will enter the market class based on the breed and weight of your animal. The three breed classes are: (1) European and their crosses; (2) English and their crosses; and (3) Brahman and their crosses. At weigh-in, three experienced classifiers either will verify that the animal is entered in the correct breed class, or they will place it in the correct breed class.

