



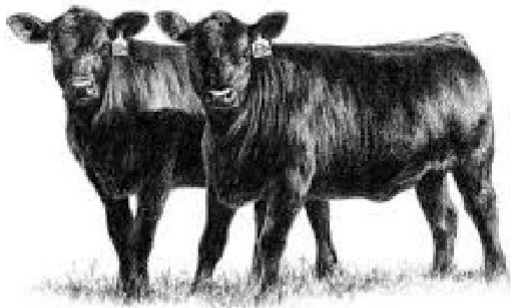
# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



## 4-H BEEF PROJECT

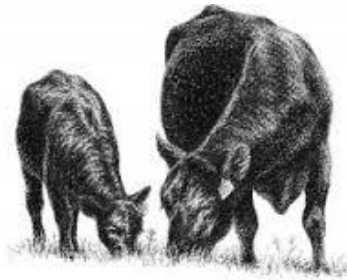
Livestock Projects



### Beef Project

Market Beef

Breeding Beef



Have you ever wondered what it takes for a calf to become a Champion heifer or steer. The 4-H Beef project is an excellent way to learn about the different phases of the beef industry in Virginia and the rest of the nation. Your involvement in this project allows you the opportunity to develop and use new life skills as you learn the different aspects of the beef industry, either by caring for a market animal or building your own herd.

### Resources

- Beef Resource Handbook
  - It is recommended that one book per family is used.
- Livestock e-Record
- Breeding Beef Record Supplement
- Livestock e-Record Guide
- Meat Quality Assurance

### Tips

- Use only fresh, high quality feed
- Remove stale feeds from the bunk
- Feed regularly-preferable two or three times a day if hand feeding
- Observe regularly for disorders
- Provide clean, fresh water at all times.
- Water is the most important nutrient.
- A calf weighing 500 lbs will drink 5-12 gallons of water.
- A 750 lb calf will drink 7-18 gallons of water.
- It takes about 2500 pounds of grain and 2000 pounds of hay to properly feed a market calf over the last 170 days.
- Before starting a beef project you should consider that it may have a sizeable investment in excess of \$2000.00. You should develop a cash flow budget and be sure that you have adequate funding for this project.

Starting Out Beginner	Learning More Intermediate	Exploring Depth Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about beef cattle</li> <li>• How to identify the parts of a calf</li> <li>• Identify breeds of cattle</li> <li>• Different types of feeds</li> <li>• Evaluating different beef animals</li> <li>• Purchase, feed and care for animals</li> <li>• Evaluate project with leader</li> <li>• Learn about goal setting</li> <li>• Learn how to keep records</li> <li>• Exhibit an animal on tour, achievement day or at the fair</li> <li>• Learn how to assume responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about nutritional requirements for beef cattle</li> <li>• Learn about a cow's digestive system</li> <li>• Identifying common cattle diseases</li> <li>• Learn about goal setting</li> <li>• Gain knowledge of sound management practices</li> <li>• Exhibit an animal on tour, achievement day or at the fair</li> <li>• Develop sportsmanship</li> <li>• Develop public speaking skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to deal with current issues relating to raising beef</li> <li>• Gain leadership skills by helping others learn about cattle</li> <li>• Explore career opportunities in the beef industry</li> <li>• Investigating technology's impact on beef production</li> <li>• Exhibit an animal on tour, achievement day or at the fair</li> <li>• Build lifelong friendship</li> </ul>

