

Beef Project Guide

Helpful information for your Beef project (Richwood version)

There are several Beef projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Here's a brief summary of each project:

#	Title	Description
117B	Beef Breeding	Raise a meat breed for breeding or production purposes.
117BF	Beef Feeder Market	Raise a beef breed calf to a weight of less than 900 pounds
117M	Market Beef	This project is not exhibited at the Richwood Fair; if you want to raise a Market Steer or Market Heifer you will need to exhibit it at the Union County Fair.

Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your Beef project:

- **Beef Project Handbook** (\$17.75), Designed to be used for all years of your Beef feeder projects
- **Beef Project and Record Book**, (\$8) Obtain and keep for the resource info it contains. Note: do not use for your annual record keeping.
- **Union County Livestock Project Record Book** (free) Download this document and use as your Record book for your project. Keep a new one each year.

In Summary: obtain the first two books listed above and keep and use them for all years you are taking a Beef feeder Project. Each year: download a new Livestock Record book and use it to keep your annual project records.

Note to those with Market Animal Projects; as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Union County Livestock Record Book to keep this information.

Participation in Richwood Junior Fair

If you are interested in exhibiting a beef feeder project at the Richwood Fair,

You need to know and meet the exhibition requirements. Basic exhibition requirement include:

- You must participate annually in Livestock Quality Assurance Education, by the deadline of July 1st.
- You must be a member in good standing of your 4-H Club: meaning attending a minimum of 5 meeting, doing a demonstration, etc.
- **Beef feeders** must be registered online with photo and identification forms submitted by August 15, 2023.
- In coordination with your 4-H Advisor you must submit a Fair entry card by the Fair entry deadline of August 1st.



Getting Started

- You must own your Beef Feeder project by August 15th 2023.
- A barn with adequate ventilation.
- Pen spacing of 25-30 square feet per animal is recommended.
- Pens need to be sturdy/strong and need to be at least 4 foot in height.
- A tub or tank to supply clean, adequate water during the project.
- Straw or mulch can be used for bedding.
- Good supply of CLEAN water at all times.
- A feed trough or bunk will be needed to keep feed off the ground and fresh.
- Beef animals should consume 2% of their body weight daily.
- Do not switch feed all at once. Use a gradual method of introducing new feed. Check with breeder or local feed store nutritionist for feed recommendations.
- Offer a good quality grass hay free of weeds free choice to the animal(s).

Duration of the Project

- Weigh your animals periodically during the summer. The weight limit (maximum for a beef feeder) for the Richwood Fair is 899#.
- Closer to the fair weighing is important so you know if you need to adjust the amount of feed you are feeding your animal.
- Study for the skillathon!
- Make sure you take beginning and ending pictures of your calf for your feed record book for the skillathon.
- Keep ALL records of feed used and all medications given (if any).

Working With Your Calf

- Start walking your animal daily as soon as you get them.
- Rinse calves daily to promote hair growth for grooming.
- Keep pens clean with fresh bedding at all times.

Things to Pack for Fair

- Feed pans/ water bucket
- Show box for equipment/supplies
- Bottle of liquid soap (dish soap works fine)
- Rope halter and neck rope
- Leather show halter
- Grooming chute
- Show stick
- Scotch comb (used to style hair)
- Curry comb (used to clean dirt/manure off calf's hair)
- Fan should be used at the fair to keep animal(s) cool.
- Grooming clippers
- Show clothing attire per dress code: Collared shirt with no logos, pants with no holes, closed toed shoes (preferably leather boots) no tennis shoes.
- Additional livestock hair styling products can be used if desired.

Fair Entries and Fair Rules

4-H Advisors coordinate the submission of Fair entry cards. Discussion of and completion of Fair entry cards will likely take place at one of your club meetings (another reason it is very important to attend meetings). It is your responsibility to communicate with your 4-H Advisor about what you want to enter in the Fair. Richwood Junior Fair entries are due to

the Fair Board on August 1st. Therefore, completing entry cards will take place in July. Your Advisor will be able to answer questions about the Fair entry process.

When you choose to become a Jr Fair Exhibitor; you are responsible for knowing the general Fair rules and the Department rules for the project you are exhibiting. These can be found on the Richwood Fair website or in the fair paper under Jr Fair Rules.

You should also be familiar with Ohio Revised Code Sections 901.70, 901.71, 901.72, 901.73, 901.74, 901.75, 901.76, 901.99 and 2925.94. These govern all livestock shows in the state of Ohio.

It is important to note that at the fair, the only people permitted to care for, fit, clip, or groom your animal are your immediate family members, 4H advisors, or other members of your club and assistance is limited to explanation and minimal demonstration (ORC 901.19.31).

Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF)

If you are exhibiting a Market animal you are required, by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to submit a DUNF immediately prior to the Fair. This form requires you to declare the use of any medication that has been given to your animal. An online link will be sent to you by email to use for completing your form. You are not eligible to exhibit a market animal until this form is submitted to ODA.

Activities that will take place at the Fair

The following Fair related activities are described below: Arrival/departure, Barn Meeting, Weigh-in, Classes Posted, Skillathon, Showmanship and Show, Jr Fair Sale

Arrival & Departure

Check the Fair Schedule and/or ask your Advisor to confirm the window of time you must arrive with your animal to the Fairgrounds. Upon arrival, find your assigned pen and unload your Beef project efficiently so as not to create a line. There are Barn Superintendents in the Barn on arrival day to answer questions. Check the time that animals are released at the end of Fair week; meaning this is the time you can re-load and take your animal home.

Barn Meeting

Check the Fair Schedule for the time of the Barn Meeting. Usually, a Barn Meeting for all Exhibitors will be held on Wednesday morning of the Fair, prior to weigh in.

Weigh-In

Only market animals are weighed.

Check the Fair Schedule, and listen at the Barn meeting, for the weigh in time for Beef Feeders. You MUST bring your Beef Feeder to the scales at the correct time to be eligible to show. There will be Barn Superintendents in the Barn to direct and help you get to the scales, but you MUST be present to get your Beef Feeder weighed. Your picture will also be taken with your calf during weigh in.

Classes Posted

Once all Beef Feeders are weighed classes will be created by dividing the approximately equal size classes based on their weights. These Classes will be posted on the Beef Barn bulletin board. It is your responsibility to review the Class posting for accuracy. Check to see that the ear tag number and weight are correct. If you have questions about the Class Posting contact the Jr Fair Board office immediately for assistance.

Showmanship and Show Classes

There are 2 different types of Classes within the Beef Show:

1. Showmanship Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the showmanship skills of the Exhibitor (you!). These classes are therefore divided by the age of the exhibitor. These classes will be posted in the Beef Barn. Check the posting for accuracy. Participation in your Showmanship class is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.
2. Beef Feeder Classes: in these classes the Judge is evaluating the conformation of the Beef Feeders. These classes are divided by the weight of the of the Beef Feeders. Following weigh-in, these classes will be posted in the Beef Barn. Check the posting to see which Class you are in.

Skillathon

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show what you have learned about your project. You will study various topics on beef and at the fair, you will go into the skillathon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are typically 3 levels: juniors (8-10 years old), intermediates (11-13 years old), and seniors (14-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn outstanding ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The goal of the Skillathon is to facilitate learning about your Beef project and practice other life skills (interviewing for example). It is *expected* that you participate in the Beef Skillathon.
- A Beef Skillathon Study Guide is available which outlines what each topic and station in the Skillathon will be about. The Study Guide can be found on the Union County 4-H web site:
<https://union.osu.edu/program-areas/4-H-youth-development/study-guides-skillathon-information>
- Information for the Beef Skillathon can be found in your Beef Project Resource Handbook or is attached to the Study Guide.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who do well in the Skillathon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes.

Premier Exhibitor Award Qualifications

- Premier Exhibitor is an award given to 1 Exhibitor per specie which recognizes the individual which has the best overall Combination of Skillathon score (40%), Showmanship (40%), market class placing (20%).
- To be eligible an exhibitor must; show a market animal project, participate in Skillathon, and participate in Showmanship.

Jr Fair Livestock Sale

The Richwood Fair Jr Fair Livestock Sale is held on Monday, the last day of the Fair. Exhibitors with market animals are eligible to sell ONE animal through the Jr Fair Sale, if they have met eligibility criteria (shown their animal, animal is within correct weight range, turned in Sale Designation form on time, etc).

During the Beef Show: Sale Designation Forms will be made available to all Exhibitors. If you want to sell your Beef Feeder through the Jr Fair Sale, you must complete the Sale Designation Form, indicating which calf (ear tag #) you want to place in the Jr Fair Sale, and turn in the Form by the end of the Beef Show. You **MUST** be present during the Jr Fair Sale on Monday in order to sell your calf.

A Sale Catalog (list of animals for sale) will be created and posted. It is generally posted in the Barn on Sunday of the Fair. Check the posted Catalog to see where you are in the Sale order so you can be ready.

Unique to Beef Feeder Projects; you have the option to participate with your Beef Feeder calf through the sale. If you do this you would receive the “premium” money only that was bid by the buyer of your animal, and, be responsible for taking your calf home.

There is not a re-sale (buyback) bid offered for Beef Feeder calves. Therefore, you would also take home any “extra” calves (calves not in the Livestock Sale).

You could choose to sell your extra animal privately. You would be entirely responsible for loading, transportation and all other aspects of the sale if you sell your extra animal privately.

Finishing your Beef project

When the project year is concluded its time to thank the people that have helped you with your project. It’s a great idea to send thank you notes to:

- the buyer of your animal if you participated in the Jr Fair Sale
- Your 4-H Advisors
- Other folks who helped you with your project (helped clip your calf for example)
- The sponsors of any awards, ribbons, banners, or other recognition you received