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# Wyoming 4-H Livestock Projects



## The 4-H Beef Cattle Project: AN INTRODUCTION

Enjoy the exciting experiences  
and educational challenges  
of caring for and learning  
from another creature



## 4-H Livestock Projects Offer....

**Fun and exciting experiences**—the joy of making new friends through club meetings, county fair activities, state fair events, and national programs.

**Challenges**—the responsibility of caring for an animal and learning about production, management, nutrition, health, grooming, showing, and ethics.

**Life skills**—the understanding of citizenship, leadership, self-respect, coping, decision making, and caring for others that leads to a positive and productive life.

**Competition**—the opportunity to exhibit an animal, demonstrate showmanship, display sportsmanship, and produce record books.

## Goals for the 4-H Beef Cattle Project....

### *4-H Members can learn about:*

- Breeds of Beef Cattle
- Correct Nutrition and Care
- Proper Care and Management
- Selection and Production Practices
- Breeding and Feeding Procedures
- Proper Fitting and Grooming Skills
- Showmanship Skills and Techniques
- Ethics and Sportsmanship

## Opportunities in the 4-H Beef Cattle Project....

### *4-H Members can:*

- Participate in the County Fair
- Participate in the State Fair
- Participate in Progress Shows
- Participate in Breed Association Activities
- Become a member of a Judging Team
- Attend National Events and Activities
- Become a Junior Leader and assist younger members with their projects.

## Ownership, Possession, and Financial Estimations for the 4-H Beef Cattle Project....

### *Market Beef (steers and heifers)*

**Purchase cost:** \$500 and up with an average cost of about \$900.

**Feed:** Provide 2% of the animal's body weight (including hay) per day.

**Sale of market beef:** 1,200-pound animal @ \$1.25 = \$1,500.

**Possession/ownership date:** Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Market beef can be exhibited for one show season.

### *Breeding Beef (bulls and heifers)*

**Purchase cost:** \$500 and up for a heifer depending on its age and breed.

**Purchase cost:** \$750 and up for a bull depending on its age and breed.

**Feed:** Provide 2% of the animal's body weight (including hay) per day. This varies greatly depending on the age and breed of the beef animal as well as the length/stage of gestation or lactation of the heifer/cow.

**Sale of breeding beef:** Breeding beef are not typically sold at the county fair. They are usually retained by the exhibitors for the production of calves, or they are sold via private treaty sales.

**Possession/ownership date:** June 1<sup>st</sup>. It is possible to exhibit breeding beef for more than one show season.