

# BEEF

## Bannock County 4-H

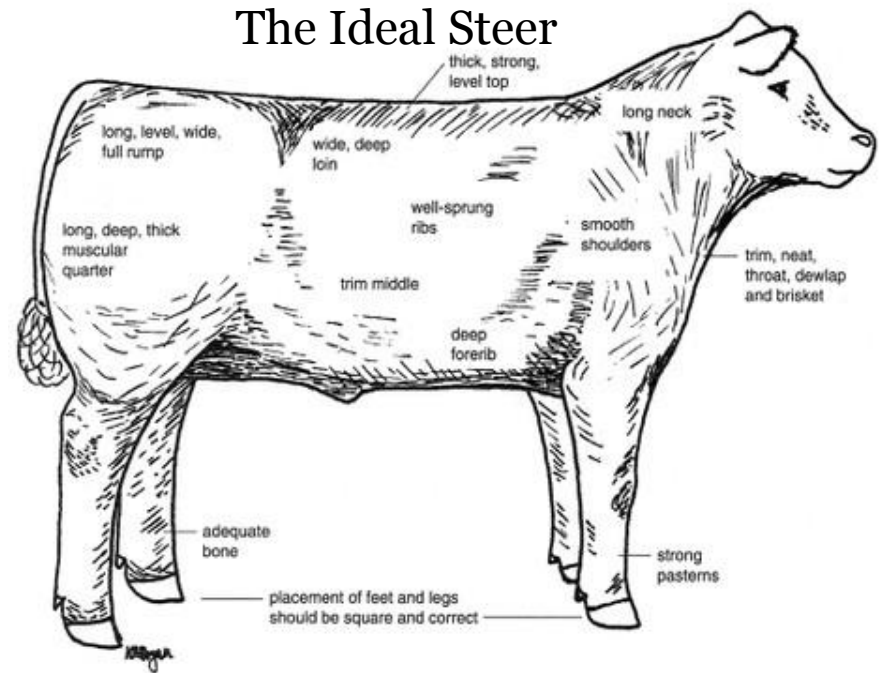
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# Animal Selection

- What are the Priorities?
  - Structure
  - Muscle
  - Condition (fat or lean)
  - Balance (eye appeal)
  - Volume
  - Quality
  - Travel



	NORMAL RANGE	AVERAGE	IDEAL
Live weight (lb.)	900 - 1,400	1,150.0	1,220.0
Dressing percentage	55 - 67	62.0	62.0
Fat thickness (in.)	.15 - 1.0	.50	.30
Ribeye area (sq. in.)	8 - 16	11.5	13.3
KPH fat percentage	1 - 6	3.5	2.0
Quality grade	Low Select - Avg. Prime	Low Choice	Avg. Choice

Adapted from *Live Animal Carcass Evaluation and Selection Manual*, 4th edition, 1993, Donald L. Boggs and Robert A. Merkel.

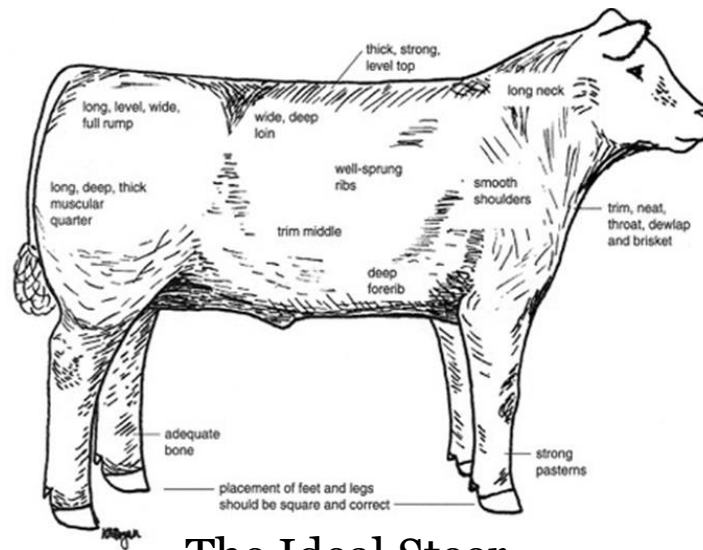
# Animal selection(cont.)

## Compare #1 vs. #2



Which feeder steer is more muscular and is more like the picture in the previous slide?

When selecting a project try to find one that closest resembles the ideal steer.



The Ideal Steer



# Calf Daily Care

- Some items to consider include
  - Feeding
  - Feeding hay
  - Watering
  - Halter breaking
  - Exercise
  - Washing with soap
  - Rinsing
  - Brushing/combing hair
  - Clipping
  - Worming/ vaccinating
  - Cleaning out bedding
  - Trimming hooves
  - Practice showing
  - Applying fly spray

# Feeding

- Providing clean fresh water to cattle at all times.
  - A calf will drink about 10 to 20 gallons per day depending on the weather (more when it's hot)
- Feed steers 2.5 lbs of dry feed for every 100 lbs of body weight each day.
  - Typically 7 lbs of feed=1 lb of gain. The average daily gain (ADG) should be around 3lb/day.
- Feed growing cattle a ration that includes about 12%-16% crude protein (protein is important for the animal to grow).

# Halter Breaking



- The hardest part of getting started on halter breaking is getting the halter on the steer the very first time. Never do anything that frightens your steer and he will quickly learn that your voice, your presence, and finally your touch will not hurt him. Over time you will be able to put that halter on his head without a fuss -- but this is a steady and patient task. Be sure to fasten the halter snugly.
- After the halter is on the steer, you need to teach the steer that he can't win in the fight with the rope. This is important because eventually he may weigh 10 times your weight and could drag you at will. This is best done by securing the lead rope to a stationary, firmly placed object - a secure fence post.

# Halter Breaking

- Be sure to tie the rope in a quick release fashion - we call it a stable knot. Tie your calf up every day for an hour or so. At first he will protest but over time he will learn that the rope will not let him go. Be sure to leave enough slack in the rope that the steer can stand up and lie down, but not enough that he can get his feet tangled.
- After he has a firm respect for the rope, as judged by his stopping to fight it and pulling on it, begin to attempt to lead him. This won't go well at first, but keep trying. Lead him to something he likes, like calf starter food, hay, or water. Wear gloves so you can hold the rope firmly without getting rope burns. This is not a task for a small child because they won't have the strength nor body weight to hold the steer the first few times.

# Exercise



- Over time, continuing to tie up the steer for an hour or so a day, leading it to food, it will begin to cooperate well with the halter and the lead rope.
- Once your steer is halter broken start leading him with his head help up high.
- Try to walk you steer every day.



# Grooming

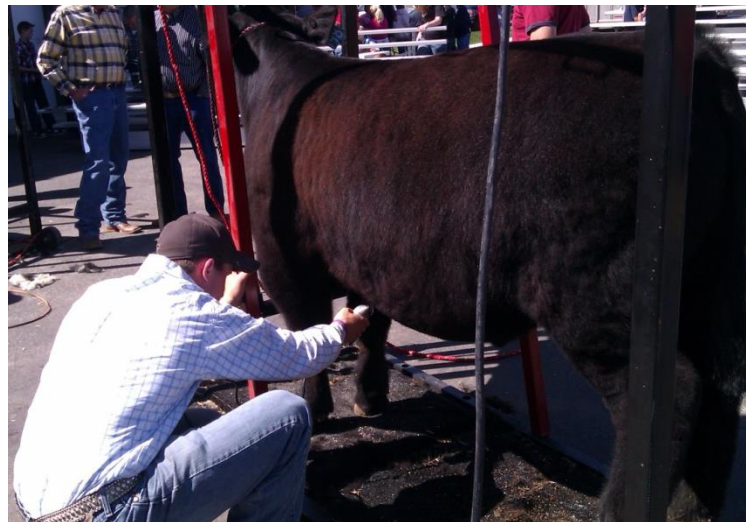
(including washing, rinsing, combing & brushing)



- It is important to keep your steer clean. Not only to prevent sickness and disease but to keep your project comfortable.
- During the hot summer it is a good idea to rinse your steer with cool water in the morning and night. This will help him stay cool during the day (when cattle are overheated they won't eat or gain weight).
- Washing with soap and water helps keep their hair and skin clean. This also helps hair to grow.
- Brush and comb cattle to calm them and clean and train their hair.

# Clipping

- Make sure that your blades are sharp for that crisp cut edge on the hair. Start clipping on the off side first and the show side last. Remember to slow down your clipping and focus on blending. When shaping or sculpturing, it is better to clip a little off at a time and make more passes than clipping off a lot in one pass.



# Clipping



- Keep in mind that you want the calf's side profile to look rectangular. Clip the high spots on the calf first, clipping hair to the lowest length. Blend in the rest of the low points. The hair on the head of the calf should be completely shaved off. Continue down between the front legs, trimming off all the hair. Blend the brisket to the stomach on the back of the front legs. Shave the hair completely off the sheath of the calf. Shave with the grain of the hair to smooth and square off the back of the rear section of the calf. To make the tail look square, shave from the top of the twist to the tail head.

# Health



- Check daily (or twice a day) for injuries, sickness, unusual things or changes in behavior.
- Provide shade from the sun and protection from wind, snow and rain.
- Implant, de-worm and treat steers for external parasites (fly spray).
- Replace dirty bedding periodically and provide straw for warmth and comfort.
- Signs of a sick calf:
  - Poor appetite, high temperature (normal 102.5 F), droopy ears, rapid breathing, runny nose, dry and crusty nose, gaunt gut, limping, patchy hair coat, diarrhea, swelled or tight left side.
  - If these things are happening to your steer contact your vet immediately

# Getting ready for the fair



- To finalize preparation for showing, train steers at least 3 times a week for one month prior to the show.
- Practice setting legs with a show stick. Try to square the legs. Also scratch the steers stomach. This helps to keep them calm.
- Have a parent or sibling act as the judge. They should walk around your steer, touch his side and ask you questions.

# Ready for the show



- Before going to the show you need to have a hoof trimmer trim your steers hooves. This not only makes your steer look better it will make him feel better and walk better (think of your self and trimming your own toe nails).
- For the show your steer should be clean and free of straw, saw dust and manure. You should have clipped his hair and combed it forward. If you want to use other show day products make sure you know what your are doing and don't over apply. Once that is complete you are ready to show

# Sources



- Halter Breaking:
  - [http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/How\\_to\\_Halter\\_Break\\_a\\_Cow\\_and\\_Teach\\_it\\_How\\_to\\_Lead.pdf](http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/How_to_Halter_Break_a_Cow_and_Teach_it_How_to_Lead.pdf)
- Clipping
  - <https://www.andis.com/blog/post/2013/01/24/Grooming-Cattle-for-Show-A-Beginners-Guide.aspx>
- Overall
  - Bite into Beef: 4-H CCS BU-o8143



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