

# 2009 Catch A Calf Project Guidelines

## Johnson County 4-H/FFA Fair

*Mike Bayliss Memorial*

This program is a joint effort and is supported by the 4-H Youth Development Committee, Extension Service staff, and numerous volunteers. Please read the following guidelines carefully. It is very important to have a **full understanding of the expectations and financial obligations** of the members who participate in this 4-H program.

1. The Catch-A-Calf Project is open to any 4-H member in Johnson County who is enrolled with Johnson County Extension by **May 15** of the current year and is therefore eligible to exhibit at the Johnson County Fair during that year. The member does not have to be enrolled in the beef project area to apply for the "catch".
2. The Applicant must be in grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade as of January 1 of the current year.
3. The Applicant must complete and return the Catch-A-Calf Project Application Form to the Johnson County Extension Service, 4265 Oak Crest Hill Rd., SE, 4-H Fairgrounds, Iowa City, Iowa 52246-5881 by **June 1**.
4. Applicants will be interviewed by a volunteer committee comprised of volunteers.
5. Based on the interview process and written information on the application form, members will then be selected from the pool of applicants for the opportunity to catch a calf at the Johnson County 4-H/FFA Fair following the selection of the Breeding Beef Showmanship Champions (Wednesday of Fair week).
6. Members, and parents of members, who are selected for the opportunity to catch a calf must sign an injury waiver form prior to the event.
7. Rules set forth in the Johnson County 4-H/FFA Fairbook will apply to the maintenance and presentation of this project.

### DESIGN OF THE PROGRAM

1. A goal of three to five heifer calves, born this calendar year, will be provided to the members for the opportunity to catch a calf. A member may only catch one calf during their 4-H years of membership. There will be more members than calves, therefore not all youth participating will receive a calf (dependent upon number applications received).
2. Calves caught at the Fair will go back to producers until weaned.
3. Following weaning and conditioning, members will attend a meeting in October to obtain information and to schedule the pick-up of their calf. Calves shall be in the member's possession by December 1.
4. The heifer received must be exhibited in the Breeding Beef Division the following summer at the County Fair.
5. The first progeny of the heifer (two years from summer of catch) will be donated back to the program for use in that year's catch. All calves born after the first progeny become the property of the member.
6. All calves will start from Johnson County genetics.
7. Semen for the first progeny calf will be provided by the Mike Bayliss Memorial Fund.
8. AI Service will be provided by the Memorial Fund.
9. If first progeny is a heifer calf, it must be tattooed during the first 2 weeks following birth, returned to the program for the summer catch and provided to the new member that fall. A member of the Catch-A-Calf Committee must be notified within two days of when the calf is born.

10. If the first calf is a bull, 4-H'er must provide a heifer calf at their expense for the fall possession out the of original herd from which the dam originated. The bull calf will be the calf used for the "catch".
11. All registered heifers must be bred to maintain registration for the progeny returned to the program.
12. Beef producers of Johnson County will serve as the source of the heifer calves for the first 2 years after which the program will generate calves for each successive "catch".
13. If the first calf should die at birth or be unable to be returned to the program, it will be the responsibility of the member to replace the calf and provide a heifer calf to the program. Any heifer calves that fail to settle and provide a first progeny will be replaced by the Memorial Fund at no cost to the member.
14. Four special meetings with beef topics will be attended by all Catch-a-Calf participants for the year after the catch. These meetings are mandatory.
15. A separate record book must be kept on the Catch-A-Calf project and submitted by the 4-H member along with the regular record book.
16. Any member who has completed four full years of 4-H membership and continued with the Catch-A-Calf project project during this time will be given the opportunity to submit an application to the committee along with all their Catch-A-Calf records for a college scholarship. Participation fully in the program will be considered and taken in the decision process.
17. Any 4-H member and their family receiving a Catch-A-Calf is responsible for all costs associated with the care, feeding and management of the heifer and its progeny with the exception of AI services.
18. In the event that a "catch" calf should die in the possession of the member due to health or management reasons before the first progeny is produced, it will be the responsibility of the member to replace the heifer at their expense out of the herd from which it originated.
19. All Youth receiving a calf from this project are highly encouraged to purchase **insurance** to cover the value of the calf to reduce the monetary risk associated with the project in the event of the calf's death.
20. All Catch a Calf projects will be recognized during the Breeding Beef Show as being part of the program.

#### CATCHING PROCEDURE

- After catching the calf, it must be taken back to the fence and either held or tied.
- Once a member has hold of the calf, no other member may try to take it away unless the calf gets loose on its own.
- The calves will have halters on with shortened lead ropes. No lassoes or other ropes may be used.

Special Note: Any circumstances arising and not addressed in these guidelines will be reviewed and ruled upon by the Catch-A-Calf Committee.

Catch Calf Rules.doc