

4-H and FFA BOTTLE/BUCKET CALF PROJECT

PURPOSE:

1. To learn proper health care, environmental needs and nutritional requirements of young cattle.
2. To learn basic beef/dairy management skills without a large investment.
3. To expand record keeping and communication skills.
4. To provide a better understanding of the cattle industry.
5. To learn the basics of beef and/or dairy showmanship.

PROJECT GUIDELINES:

1. Project open to 4-H and FFA members in Cedar County who have an “active member” status.
2. 4-H member should be enrolled in Bottle/ Bucket Calf Project.
3. Any newborn or orphan calf born between January 1 and April 30 of current year. Calves must be in possession of the member within 2 weeks of birth. **No bull calves allowed.**
4. Calf must be bottle or bucket fed. No nursing permitted.
5. Member may **identify up to three animals** but will be limited to a **maximum of two for exhibit** at the fair. These are only eligible to be shown in the bottle/bucket calf class.
6. Calves must be identified with herd ear tag or tattoo and recorded in 4hOnline. Side photo of each animal showing ear tag number must also be uploaded to 4hOnline. This identification must be completed in 4hOnline by **May 15 by 11:59pm (no exceptions).**

PROJECT EVALUATION:

1. The project will be evaluated on a four-part, 450 point system:

Written Records	100
Oral Interview	200
General Health/Fitting	50
Showmanship	100

2. Written records should be completed and brought to the interview session which will be held on **June 24th**. You will receive a schedule in the mail with your interview time prior to **June 24th**.
3. General health, fitting and showmanship will be evaluated during the fair in a show ring evaluation.
4. Ribbon placing will be based on overall points given for the written records, interview, general health and fitting and showmanship. Champion and reserve champion awards in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Divisions will be based on overall points (450 total).

COUNTY FAIR REQUIREMENTS

1. Calves will be shown at halter and fitted according to beef or dairy guidelines. The class will be divided according to grade of exhibitor as of September 15, 2015: Junior – Grades 4 through 6; Intermediate - Grades 7 and 8, and Senior – Grades 9 through 12. Further class divisions may be made at the discretion of the show superintendents.
2. Entry and release time same as market beef and dairy. Entries will be weighed in for fair 7/9 6-6:30pm.
3. Show ring evaluation will occur **Sunday, July 14th** at the fair.
4. See health requirements online (<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/cedar/4h>).
5. Judging will be based on:
 - What member has learned about care and management of raising each calf?
 - The fitting and showing of the calf (according to beef or dairy guidelines) with emphasis on what the member has learned.
 - General health, condition and management of the calf and members knowledge of this area.
 - Accurate and complete records of the project.Quality or conformation of the calf will not be considered in the bottle/bucket calf project since purchase should not be on this basis.
6. Members are encouraged to keep animals and enter them in the return bottle/bucket market beef show or in the appropriate beef or dairy classes next year.
7. **A stall fee of \$4.00 per head will be due by June 30th without a late fee. After June 30th there will be a stall fee plus a \$25.00 per head late fee.**
8. Animals are to be housed on the grounds during fair and will be assigned stalls.

PROJECT DATES:

January 1–April 30: Members must purchase and have calf/calves in possession within 2 weeks of birth.

May 15: Bottle/ Bucket Project ID form due in Extension Office.

June 24: Written records due and brought to interviews. Schedules will be sent to participants.

June 30: Bottle/ Bucket stall fees are due without late fee.

July 14: Bottle/ Bucket calf show ring evaluation.

First Friday in September: All record keeping is due to the Cedar County Extension Office.