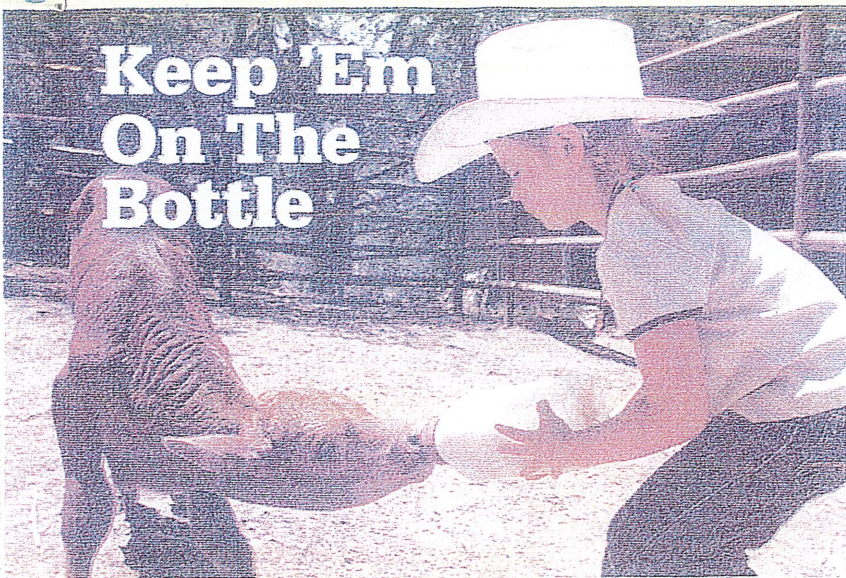


# Keep 'Em On The Bottle

PHOTO: JAMES TREMPER



I would like to raise baby calves without having to bottle feed them. Is there a feed I can put them on that will replace the milk?

No, there is not a feed that will replace milk or milk replacer. Some people have had success weaning calves as early as three weeks, but that takes increased management.

After making sure calves have received adequate colostrum, I would recommend giving them 8 to 10% of their body weight in milk or a very high-quality milk replacer each day. Keep them at that level until weaning.

Calves should be offered a small amount of good starter ration beginning at two to three days of age. Gradually increase this after the first week of life. Feed only what the calf will consume in a day.

Since the energy from the milk replacer remains constant as calves grow and their energy needs increase, the amount of starter they eat will also gradually increase. As calves age, some may need to be limited to 4 to 6 pounds of grain per day for larger calves, and 4 to 5 pounds for smaller calves. This will encourage consumption of roughage, especially hay.

Most good calf starters contain 18 to 22% crude protein and about 80% total digestible nutrients. They should also contain a coccidiostat such as Deccox, Bovatec or Rumensin. A good starter must be very palatable.

Leaving some of the grain whole, cracked or rolled, or pelleting finely ground ingredients, will increase palatability. Calf starter is even more important than hay when it comes to rumen development.

Recommendations on feeding hay vary greatly. Some start feeding hay when calves are as young as one week old; others wait until calves are two months old. If you choose to feed hay before weaning, be sure calves are not allowed to consume so much hay that it limits grain consumption.

Fresh water should be provided daily throughout the year, and should be available at all times during hot weather. In freezing weather, water should be offered on a daily basis.

Calves may be weaned at various times under different programs. But a good rule of thumb is to wean between six to eight weeks of age when the calf is consuming at least 2 pounds of calf starter a day.

# Colostrum Feeding Do's and Don'ts.

ITEM	DO	DON'T
<b>Dry Cow Mgt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that dry cows are well fed and gain 100 pounds during the dry period and are protected from heat stress.</li> <li>• Work with your veterinarian to develop a vaccination program which will help protect young calves from disease.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have dry cows in same pens as lactating cows.</li> </ul>
<b>Calving Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calve cows in a clean, dry maternity pen or on a clean pasture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forget to separate close-up cows and lead feed 3 weeks before calving.</li> <li>• Forget to clean pens between cows.</li> </ul>
<b>Separating Calves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate calves from the dam as soon as possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave the calf and dam together for more than an hour.</li> </ul>
<b>Colostrum Collection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean cow and udder prior to milking.</li> <li>• Milk out cows as soon as possible after birth (Preferably within 1-2 hours after birth).</li> <li>• Collect colostrum in a sanitary manner and test for quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wait until 6 hours or longer before milking out cow after calving.</li> <li>• Mix colostrum with transition or hospital milk.</li> <li>• Collect colostrum from a dirty udder.</li> </ul>
<b>Colostrum Quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure colostrum quality with a colostrometer or quick test method before use.</li> <li>• Use only good quality colostrum.</li> <li>• Use fair and poor quality colostrum only for calves 24 hours and older.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use colostrum from cows that are known Johnes, BLV, BVD-PI or Mycoplasma positive.</li> <li>• Use thin, watery colostrum, especially if from a heifer.</li> <li>• Use mastitic colostrum.</li> <li>• Use colostrum that contains blood or otherwise abnormal.</li> <li>• Pasteurize colostrum.</li> </ul>
<b>Colostrum Storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chill colostrum immediately after collection.</li> <li>• Refrigerate only in 2 quart containers(40° F.) for less than 24 hours.</li> <li>• Colostrum should be frozen if stored for more than 24 hours.</li> <li>• Save good quality colostrum by freezing in double bag, plastic freezer bags and label properly. (Cow #, disease status, date, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pool colostrum.</li> <li>• Store colostrum at room temperature.</li> <li>• Place frozen colostrum in extremely hot water or thaw in a microwave under high power for &gt; 1 min at a time (this destroys the antibodies).</li> <li>• Store colostrum for more than one year.</li> </ul>
<b>Colostrum Feeding and Timing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed first feeding of colostrum as soon as possible (warm and within 1 hour after birth).</li> <li>• Use fresh colostrum from the dam if good quality.</li> <li>• Do one of the following options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Feed 3 quarts of high quality colostrum (green range) via nipple bottle as soon after birth as possible (within 1 hour) and repeat 12 hours later.</li> <li>B. Feed 4 quarts of high quality colostrum (green range) by esophageal feeder as soon after birth as possible (within 1 hour).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use an esophageal feeder if the calf will not consume sufficient colostrum.</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect esophageal feeder between calves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use colostrum from cows that are leaking colostrum from their udder prior to or at calving.</li> <li>• Use colostrum that contains blood or is mastitic.</li> <li>• Wait for the calf to get up on its own and nurse.</li> <li>• Allow the calf to get its colostrum from nursing the cow, or feed less than 2 quarts per feeding.</li> <li>• Use a broken or dirty esophageal feeder.</li> <li>• Use same esophageal feeder on sick calves as that used to feed colostrum.</li> </ul>
<b>Calf Management Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dip navels with 7% tincture of iodine as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Put calf in an isolated, dry, and draft-free environment.</li> <li>• Test calves to determine the effectiveness of your colostrum program. (Serum total protein testing or other tests).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use teat dip or other solution other than tincture of iodine to dip navels.</li> <li>• Group calves together or house calves in a wet or drafty environment for 2-3 days after birth.</li> </ul>

## CALF RAISING IS AN ART

Dairy and Beef producers must strive to raise every calf. In Iowa one out of five baby dairy calves die. Producers should not be satisfied with death losses that average close to 20 percent. Your goal should be a calf loss below 5 percent. Many producers can reach this realistic level.

The most important factor in raising beef and dairy calves is you. To have the greatest success, you should give each calf special attention, notice details, do everything when it should be done, and be able to recognize early symptoms of illness.

## KEEP CALVES HEALTHY

Good health care involves more than treating animal with drugs and vaccines. Three things can help prevent health problems of dairy and beef calves.

1. Proper nutrition-- Make sure the calf gets plenty of colostrum the first few hours of life and adequate whole milk or milk replacer until weaning.
2. Proper housing and adequate ventilation-- Respiratory disease problems (pneumonia) can be caused lack of good ventilation. Calves must be kept dry, or chilling will occur, resulting in scours or pneumonia.
3. Good sanitation-- The calf's living quarters should be kept clean along with all feeding equipment.

Spend a lot of time with your young calves. Then you can recognize problems early and prevent diseases. Diseases with a head start are more difficult to treat. For example, in cold weather watch for the friendly calf that acts like it wants to climb into your pocket. These calves are hungry and cold and need more milk for energy than in milder weather. Severely chilled calves act depressed or sleepy and are in real trouble.

In very cold weather, small calves can lose their outer cover of body fat quickly, so learn to routinely feel their backbone and ribs at feeding time. Also check for rough hair coat, dry muzzle, rapid breathing and signs of scours. When in doubt, take the calf's temperature. Always have a good thermometer available. A normal calf should have a temperature of about 101 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit. A higher temperature indicates infection. A lower temperature indicates hypothermia, and is just as serious as an elevated temperature.

When you spot problems, get a proper diagnosis before you start treatment. Don't give a sick calf antibiotics until you know the cause of the problem; this may only delay recovery. For example, giving a chilled calf antibiotics won't help because it really needs heat and more milk. Call a veterinarian early so that you can use proper treatments. Force yourself to inspect each calf at feeding time to look for signs that might indicate a problem. This habit will help you spot problems early and start proper treatment.

## CONTROLLING EARLY DISEASES IN CALVES

### Immunizing calves

If a calf's mother has been properly immunized, and the calf is in an optimum environment (dry and 55 degrees), it need not be vaccinated until 4 to 6 months of age. At that age, the calf should receive all the vaccines; IBR, PI3, BVD, Pasteurella, and Hemophilus.

If necessary, a newborn calf (first week of life) can be vaccinated with IBR, PI3, Pasteurella, and Hemophilus vaccines. The pasteurella and Hemophilus vaccinations should be repeated 3 weeks later. Calves vaccinated before they are less than 3 months of age must be revaccinated and given vaccines when they are 4 to 6 months old.

### Treating Scours

Symptoms of scours are diarrhea, depression, sunken eyes, dry skin, and a tendency to lie on the breast bone. A calf with scours quickly becomes dehydrated. This means it loses essential body fluids and the necessary electrolytes which these contain. (A 100 lb calf can lose up to 16 lbs of fluid in a 3 to 4 day period.) Fluid losses may lead to circulatory collapse and death. Or it may weaken the calf the pneumonia sets in.

### Recommendations when scours occur

1. Stop feeding milk.
2. Give the calf dry and very warm quarters (temperature 70 degrees).
3. Replace fluids immediately with commercial electrolytes, recommended by your veterinarian, using a nipple bottle to give the calf up to 3 or 4 quarts a day. If the calf is unable to nurse, it may be given electrolytes intravenously or through a stomach tube.

4. Give antibiotics (as recommended by your veterinarian) to prevent further intestinal infection and pneumonia.

5. Resume feeding when scours cease, but limit the calf to  $1\frac{1}{3}$  or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  its normal milk intake, plus as much electrolyte solution as it wants.

6. After 2 to 3 days of limited feeding, resume normal feeding.

### FOLLOW THE "5 D's" OF ENVIRONMENT FOR CALVES

Providing a good environment for calves can help insure their health and growth throughout the cold winters of Iowa.

#### The "3 Ds" are:

1. Dry Keep a calf's environment dry. A calf with a wet coat of hair chills easily. A roofed shelter protects against moisture. Another source of moisture is build-up from body wastes. Depending on the number of calves and the space provided, you may have to put out fresh bedding each day.

2. Draft free A calf's environment should be draft free. Break the force of the wind when possible by providing access to shelter or a building. On cold days, high-moisture air and wind-chill factor make draft free shelter even more important. However, don't completely close a building. Without good ventilation there may be moisture build-up which could lead to respiratory problems.

3. Distance Provide adequate space for the number of calves you have. If calves are crowded, bedding gets wet quickly and disease outbreaks may be more serious.



# Unit 3

## Calf Feeding

After your calf has received colostrum for the first three days, you must decide how you will feed your calf for best growth and least cost.

Excess colostrum and waste milk (from cows treated with antibodies) are the cheapest feeds for your calf. If these are not available, consider whole milk or milk replacer.

Whole milk is excellent feed for your calf. It contains ample protein, energy, and minerals. However, with high milk prices, it may be cheaper to feed your calf milk replacer. A good milk replacer should contain (look at the tags on some milk replacers at the feed store):

- a minimum of 22 percent crude protein or 20 percent digestible protein;
- a minimum of 95 percent Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN);
- a minimum of 10 percent fat; and
- less than .5 percent fiber.

### Example of two milk replacers

Feed Tag A (Good)	
Guaranteed Analysis	
Crude protein, min.	24.0%
Crude fat, min.	20.0%
Crude fiber, max.	.25%

Ingredients  
Skim milk powder, dried whey casein, animal fat, soy lecithin

Feed Tag B (Poor)	
Guaranteed Analysis	
Crude protein, min.	21.0 to 10.0%
Crude fat, min.	10.0 to 5.0%
Crude fiber, max.	1.00%

Ingredients  
Skim milk powder, buttermilk powder, dried whey, animal fat, vegetable fat, soy flour, distillers' dried solubles, wheat flour, dried meat solubles, brewers' dried yeast

Milk replacer must be digested (broken down) by the calf. Most of the nutrients should be from milk or milk by-products. Milk replacers containing large amounts of soybean flour, cereal flour, and meat solubles can slow your calf's growth. In mixing milk replacer:

- measure the water accurately;
- sprinkle powder on top of the water;
- stir well with a wire whip (ask your mother) or stirring stick;

- keep water at body temperature or warmer (be consistent);
- mix only enough to be used at that feeding;
- follow the directions on mixing—usually 10 to 15 percent solution (1 pound of milk replacer + 9 pounds of water = 10 pounds of whole milk or 10 percent solution).

Milk or milk replacer should be fed at the rate of 8 percent of the calf's body weight. (Example: a 100-pound calf is fed 8 pounds of milk per day.)

### Once-a-day feeding

To save time and labor, calves can be fed once a day instead of at morning and night (twice a day). Calves fed this way gain as rapidly as those fed twice a day, and there are no differences in the rate of scours or other health problems. If you switch to once-a-day, follow these instructions.

- Fresh water must be available at all times.
- Calves must be fed regularly (same time) every day.
- Colostrum must be fed the first 3 days after birth.
- A mixture of 13 to 18 percent milk replacer should be made (1 pound powder + 6 pounds of water).

### Dry feed

The sooner your calf begins to eat calf starter and hay, the better. Several reasons for encouraging early dry feed intake are:

- less dependence on milk or a liquid ration (less scour problems and death loss);
- earlier weaning age;
- less cost (dry feed is cheaper than milk or milk replacer); and
- development of rumen structure and ability to digest forage.

Calves will begin to eat grain and hay as early as 2 weeks of age. A good calf starter is palatable (tastes good), coarse (rolled or cracked rather than ground finely), and nutritious (16 percent crude protein, 80 percent TDN, and a maximum of 6 percent fiber). Molasses can be added for flavor. Whole oats increase texture and palatability. Following are calf starter rations. Commercial calf starters—already formulated and mixed—are available.

Component	Ration 1	Ration 2	Ration 3
-----pounds-----			
Shelled corn,			
coarse ground	55	39	62
Oats, ground.	3x117.11		
crushed or rolled	26	39	10
Wheat bran	0	10	10
Soybean meal			
(44 percent)	17	10	8
Dicalcium phosphate	1	1	1
Trace mineralized salt	1	1	1
Linseed meal	—	—	8
-----units per 100 lbs.-----			
Vitamin A*	200,000	200,000	200,000
Vitamin D*	50,000	50,000	50,000

\*Vitamins A and D need not be added to the grain mix if calves receive milk replacer that supplies 2,000 units of vitamin A and 500 units of vitamin D per day.

To prevent scouring, use a grass-alfalfa mixed hay instead of an all-alfalfa hay. Calves fed a "complete" calf starter containing fiber do not need hay. Fiber stimulates rumen development and digestion. Whether or not you feed hay depends on the type of calf starter, the available time and labor, and existing hay feeding mangers. Hay silage can be fed instead of hay, but guard against overeating. Corn silage should not be fed at a young age because of its high moisture and low protein levels.

### Weaning

Weaning is switching your calf completely away from milk or milk replacer to dry feed (grain and forage) and water. The calf should be eating a **minimum of 1 to 1½ pounds** of a good quality calf starter. The calf should be 4 weeks old. Also, consider your calf's size and health. Wean your calf from milk to water gradually. Allow several days for this switch. Every extra day your calf consumes milk or milk replacer, it costs you additional money. When your calf is consuming a calf starter, wean it.

### Rumen inoculation

When the calf is very young, few bacteria live in the rumen (one of the four sections). As soon as fibrous feed is fed, your calf will need some bacteria in the rumen ("rumen bugs") so the fiber can be digested. If the calf is in a building with older animals, the rumen will become inoculated (bacteria transferred to the rumen) by itself. The bacteria are small enough to move in the air and on feed.

### Antibiotics

Antibiotics are not nutrients; they are feed additives. Antibiotics are chemical substances that will destroy or control disease organisms. An example is penicillin. Don't confuse these with **antibodies** which are found in colostrum milk. Antibodies provide immunity or protection while antibiotics destroy the organism that causes the disease. Antibiotics are added in small amounts to calf starters and milk replacers (2 to 4 pounds per ton) to increase resistance to intestinal bacteria, to lower infections, and to reduce stress. This results in increased appetite, vigor, smoothness of hair coat, and improved feed efficiency. Higher levels are needed to control a serious case of scours or pneumonia. Some veterinarians do not recommend antibiotics in feed because the disease bugs "get used to" the drug. In these cases, antibiotics given to sick animals may not destroy the diseases when control is really needed.

### Urea for calves

Urea is a feed that contains nitrogen. Rumen bugs convert this nitrogen into protein. However, urea is a bitter feed containing no energy, minerals, or vitamins. If your calf does not chew its cud (ruminate), it cannot convert the urea to protein. Then, urea can actually slow your calf's growth and result in rough hair and appearance. No urea should be fed to a calf until it is 3 to 4 months old.

### Gains and goals

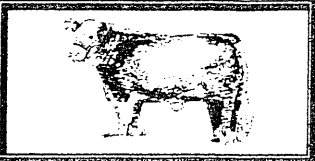
Your calf should gain 1 pound a day first month. After this, 1 to 1½ pounds per day should be your goal. Heifer calves should not be overly fat because fat may then be deposited in the udder and in the reproductive organs. Overfat heifers are often hard to breed. They may produce less milk because fat is in the udder instead of milk-producing tissue.

When your heifer is 3 to 4 months old, a grain ration with adequate protein is all that is needed with forage, free choice trace mineral salt, and dicalcium phosphate. The level of protein in the grain mix depends on the forage type and quality.

Forage type	Crude protein in the grain mix
Legume	8-10%
Grass	10-12%
Corn silage	12-14%

The total ration (forage and grain) should average 12 percent crude protein (on a dry basis). If you feed 2 to 5 pounds of grain a day together with good quality forage, your calf should meet the 1½ pound grain per day goal. As forage quality decreases or pasture areas dry up in summer, you will need to adjust grain intake accordingly.

# **BEEF SHOWMANSHIP SCORE CARD**



(100 points possible)

## **A. APPEARANCE OF CALF**

Perfect Score 40 points

### **1. Cleanliness 10**

- a. Hair and switch clean and free of stains.
- b. Hide clean and free of dust and dandruff.
- c. Legs and hooves clean.
- d. Halter clean and properly adjusted.

### **2. Grooming 20**

- a. Hair handled in a manner best suited to the individual calf. Long hair may be curled or it may be pulled forward and blocked. Short, stiff hair may be shown smooth. In some cases, areas may be brushed smooth, while other areas, such as the rounds may be fluffed or pulled up to emphasize thickness or perhaps minimize some deficiency.
- b. Hooves trimmed and shaped so that the animal can stand straight; trimming done early enough so the animal's feet are not sore and so the animal has had time to adjust. Trimming to cause excessive straightness is discouraged. Hooves should be oiled. The addition of unnatural color or other compounds should be discounted.
- c. The switch may be left natural, fluffed, ratted or formed at twist height.
- d. The addition of natural or synthetic hair or hair-like materials will not be allowed.
- e. No coloring agents allowed.

### **3. Clipping 10**

- a. Major clipping done about one week before show.
- b. Head clipped on polled or dehorned market calf; never clipped on horned animal but may be trimmed and cleaned up if necessary. Head clipped from ears forward and over top of poll, if desired. Ears or eyelashes never clipped. Hair blended from clipped to unclipped part.
- c. Head of polled breeding heifer clipped unless breed custom dictates. Head of horned breeding heifer not clipped.
- d. Tail clipped from a point above the twist upward to the tailhead. Tailhead never clipped but long hairs trimmed and area from clipped to unclipped parts blended.

## **B. SHOWING CALF**

Perfect Score 40 points

### **1. Parading and Changing**

Positions 10

- a. Calf led from left side; lead strap held in the right hand from 1 to 2 feet from the head and at height of calf's poll. Extra length of lead strap balanced between left and right hands or carried in the form of several large folds in right hand. Extremely short lead straps may not require folds. Wrapping strap around hand should be severely discounted. Exhibitor never leads calf while walking backwards.
- b. Backward pressure applied with the lead strap and by pressing on the point of the shoulder to back calf out of line.
- c. Halter should be properly adjusted and show stick of suitable length.
- d. Calf may also be moved out of line by leading forward and then back through the line.
- e. Calf led in clockwise direction when necessary to parade it or move it to a different line.

- f. About 6 feet space maintained between exhibitor calf and the next calf in front.

2. Posting in Ring 15

- a. When pulled into line, showman keeps calf in position at least 3 feet from calf to the left.
- b. Exhibitor faces calf and holds lead strap in left hand while showing.
- c. Calf stands alert with head up, back level and legs placed squarely under the body.
- d. Show stick used to place calf's hind feet. Either show stick or exhibitor's foot used to place calf's front feet.

- c. Works quickly but not abruptly.
- d. Alert and responsive to judge's and ringmaster's requests.
- e. Not distracted by persons and things outside ring.
- f. Shows calf, not himself/herself.
- g. Does not leave ring until released by ring official.
- h. Displays a courteous and sportsmanlike attitude while at the show.
- i. Prepared to give prompt answers to questions related to the 4-H beef project (i.e.; age, breed, nutrition, pregnancy status, performance and carcass value).

C. APPEARANCE AND MERITS OF EXHIBITOR

Perfect Score 20 points

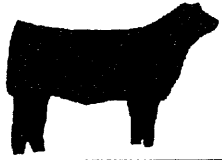
1. Appearance 10

- a. Exhibitor well groomed and clothes clean and neat.
- b. It is suggested that no headwear be worn in class. However, the final decision on headwear is left to the individual show.
- c. Dark blue jeans are preferred. Shorts are not considered appropriate. Extremes in colors and fit are not appropriate. A belt should be worn with trousers with carriers or loops.
- d. White shirt (or blouse) with the official 4-H chevron, a 4-H T-shirt or official shirt (or blouse) provided by show management are considered appropriate. However, the final decision on dress code is left to the individual show.
- e. Hard soled shoes or boots should be worn. Other footwear not considered appropriate.

2. Merits 10

- a. Brings calf into ring promptly.
- b. Recognizes quickly and corrects faults of calf.





# Beef Showmanship Guide

A good showman is a person that has a sense or knack for an effective presentation of an animal. Showmanship is the one area of exhibiting beef cattle over which you have the most control. In showmanship, you are judged on your abilities to control and present your steer or heifer to bring out its best characteristics. Advanced planning and hard work are the keys to becoming a good show-person. Showing beef cattle not only generates enthusiasm and competition in the show ring, but also teaches valuable lessons that can be used in day to day life. These lessons include responsibility, learning about work and determination to reach a goal, winning graciously and losing with dignity.

## Start Early

Success in beef cattle showmanship starts at home. The first step is to halter break your calf. Properly put a rope halter on the calf and allow the lead rope to drag on the ground for two to three days. This makes the calf aware of the halter.

Next, tie the calf for an hour, working up to three to five hours a day. During this time, brush and talk to your calf. This will assist in calming the calf and allow it to become accustomed to you. In time, the calf will respond to your hand movements with the halter and show stick.

Training your calf to walk, stop, and set up easily will take time and patience. First, try to lead the calf to and from water and feed. Then begin leading the calf around the barnyard. Make sure the calf is accustomed to setting up with the halter and show-stick.

Practice in several short segments, not long drawn out sessions. After the calf is used to being walked and set up, practice having another person move in close to handle the calf with you at the halter. This will allow the calf to remain calm under a judge's close inspection.

## Using the Halter

The halter should be properly placed on the calf's head with the lead strap on the calf's left side. The halter strap that crosses over the muzzle or nose of the calf should be approximately two inches below the eye. Rope halters and show halters can be adjusted for proper fit. Do not have the halter too big so that the nose cross piece is down by the mouth.

When leading, you should be on the calf's left side with the halter in your right hand. Your hand should be six to twelve inches from the animal's head. With show halters, this is usually at the junction of the chain and leather strap. **Firmly grip the lead so your thumb is up and toward you with your little finger nearest the chain.** Your wrist is stronger this way and provides better control over the animal.

The strap length should be long enough for control, but not long enough to touch the ground. If the strap of the show halter can touch the ground, you or the calf may step on it and it becomes awkward to switch hands. Any extra strap may be folded and held in the right hand, or the extra length may be held in your left hand. If the strap is long, holding the extra length in your left hand is preferred. If the calf is spooked you will have two hands on the strap. **DO NOT** wrap the halter strap around your hand or fingers in order to prevent any injury.

## Using the Show-stick

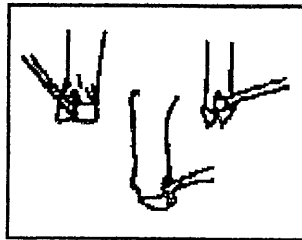
There are five basic uses for the show-stick. They are:

- Assisting in placing the feet.
- Calming the animal.
- Controlling the animal.
- Keeping the top level.
- For scotch-driving the animal.

### When setting up your calf –

- Switch the lead strap from the right hand to your left hand quickly and smoothly.
- At the same time switch the show stick from the left hand to your right hand.
- Slowly scratch the calf's belly a couple of times to help calm the calf.
- Set the calf's feet in the appropriate position.

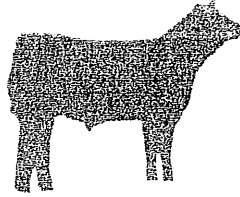
**Remember:** You have two tools in your hands to set the feet. One is the halter, the other is your show-stick. Set the rear feet first if necessary. If you want a rear foot to be moved back, push backward on the halter and press (do not jab) the soft tissue where the hoof is split with your show-stick (**Figure 1**). If you want a rear foot to move forward, pull forward on the halter and apply pressure with your show-stick under the dew claw (**Figure 1**). Remember it is easier for the animal to put a foot back than forward. When the rear feet are too close together, apply pressure to the inside of a leg just above the hoof and they should stand wider.



**Figure 1:** Proper use of showstick in placement of the feet.

Front feet can be moved by using your boot or show-stick to apply pressure in the previously mentioned areas while pushing or pulling with the halter in the desired direction you want the foot to move. Younger, less experienced show-persons will be safer if they use the show-stick.

Placement of the feet depends on what view is provided to the judge and what makes the animal look its best. When the cattle are lined up side by side, in a straight line, the feet should be set at all four corners under the animal (bearing their full share of the animal's weight). At this view, the judge is looking at the rear and front of the animal. When the cattle are lined up on the profile (head to tail), the feet should be set as if a professional photographer is taking a picture. The rear feet should be staggered so that the far-side foot is slightly in front of the foot closest to the judge. Usually a heel to toe relationship works best (**Figure 2**). That means the heel of one foot is parallel with the toe of the other foot. The front feet should be set square or staggered less than the rear feet. The toe of the front foot away from the judge should be set back half the width of the hoof on the judge's side. By setting the feet in this manner, you provide the judge with a perception of depth and thickness. It also makes it easier to correct a top line and rump structure. As the judge moves to the rear of the calf on profile, an experienced exhibitor will again square the feet. As the judge moves back to the side view, profile the rear feet again.



**Figure 2: Set up when viewed on the profile.**

The show-stick can also be used to correct a top line.

#### **When using the show stick to correct a top line --**

- Apply pressure at the navel or flank with the hook of the show stick if the top is weak and needs to be raised.
- If the rump is steep and the loin is high, apply pressure to this area to bring it down; continue to scratch the calf's belly to keep it calm.

The show-stick may also be used to help control your calf while walking and to "scotch-drive". While showing, always keep the point of the show-stick down for safety reasons. While walking, the show-stick is in your left hand at the handle or about one-third of the way down. This will allow use of the show-stick as an additional control tool if needed. If the animal is moving too fast simply use the portion of the stick between your left hand and tip or hook end for tapping the nose. Never hit or beat, merely tap on the nose.

"Scotch-driving" is when your calf will not lead or walk and no one is around to help you get started. If this happens simply push forward on the halter with your right hand and tap the animal with the show-stick on its side or rump. Sometimes you need to hook the animal in the tender area right below the tail-head. This will make the animal think someone is behind it and it should start to walk.

*While showing, always keep the point of the show stick down for safety and professional appearance.*

#### **Using the Scotch Comb**

The scotch comb is used to groom the hair that may become messed up from the judge, another person handling your calf or another animal bumping it. The corner of the scotch comb may also be used to apply pressure to the loin or top to straighten the top line, like the show-stick. The scotch comb should be carried in your back pocket, or in a scotch comb sheath with the teeth toward you. This is for safety and courtesy reasons as you would not want someone else to get injured due to your equipment.

#### **Showtime**

Prior to the show, inspect the show ring to find any high and low spots of the show ring surface. This will help you to avoid these areas when setting up your calf. When possible, position your animal so that the front feet are placed on higher ground than the rear feet.



Dress neatly, look like a livestock exhibitor. Leather boots should be worn for safety and appearance reasons. If the calf steps on your foot, the calf's foot will slip off a leather boot much easier than a tennis shoe, with less opportunity for injury. Wear nice jeans or slacks. Faded blue jeans look less professional and should not be worn.

#### **Be Courteous**

Always be courteous to show officials, the judge, and the other exhibitors. A smile once in a while does not hurt anyone. Good sportsmanship is an important part of showmanship. Show your appreciation for the sponsorship of the show by being a good representative of your club, school, county, and family. Always try to do better next time and profit from your mistakes as you gain experience. If you have learned your showmanship lessons well, you will win without bragging and lose without complaining.

#### **Be Natural**

When showing, do not shake the lead strap and chain unnecessarily; do not try to stare the judge down; do not make a large amount of body motion; do not be a "grandstander." Be natural; overshadowing and too much movement are objectionable. Relax and be calm. Your calf will share your confidence.

#### **Be Alert**

Always be aware of the judge's location; however, do not concentrate on the judge so much that you forget about your animal and the animals around you. Your first obligation is to your calf, so keep checking to see that it is standing correctly and that it is in the proper position. Be ready to move if the judge signals you. Be prepared to answer any questions the judge may ask you about your calf, such as age or weight gain.

X Wear nice jeans (dark blue jeans preferred) or slacks; avoid faded blue jeans because they do not "look professional." Wear a nice button-down or polo shirt that is pleasing to the eye. T-shirts can be worn if they are 4-H or FFA issue or perhaps special shirts for a show or event. Also, tuck your shirt in and wear a belt for neatness. Leave hats back at the grooming area. Hats may distract the judge's concentration. Planning and neat appearance will help you to gain success.

X Enter the show ring promptly when your class is called and have the proper equipment. Be sure to have the correct exhibitor number, show-stick, and scotch comb. Know where to line up and how the classes will move through the show-ring. If you are not in the first class, watch a class or two to learn specific techniques or show style the judge prefers. The advanced exhibitor is able to adapt to any situation and provide the judge with exactly what he/she is looking for on that particular day.

Generally cattle are lined up side by side to start a class. When pulling into line, look where you will be and head into that position. Do not simply follow the person in front of you as this usually ends up in an "S" configuration. You can end up brushing against the calf that was in front of you as you pull into line. When pulling into line, "check" your animal a few feet before reaching your destination to slow the animal. To "check" your animal, simply lift up slightly on the halter so that the animal knows you are about to stop.

As you walk into the ring, line up where the ring person indicates. If you are third or fourth in the ring, line up even with the other calves, leaving three or four feet on both sides of your animal. This allows ample room for all exhibitors to set up the calves. Smoothly, yet quickly, get your calf set up as discussed earlier with the head held high. Be alert, keep a close eye on your calf, keep the feet set square, and know where the judge is located. If your calf is not set square and the judge is nearby, set your calf up. Most judges will wait for you to present your calf in the best way. Always allow the judge to see the view he or she is seeking. Try not to get between the judge and the animal.

When it is time to walk the cattle --

- X
- Move as the judge or ring steward instructs. Most likely you will pull the cattle up to the rail, turn left, go three-fourths of a circle, and walk right behind the tail of the other cattle in the side-by-side line.
  - Assist the exhibitors in front of you in moving a calf if he/she is having trouble. Tap the calf's rump with your stick, or preferably put your show stick in your right hand and twist the tail of the calf in front of you with your left.
  - Let your calf walk out freely. Move at an easy pace, not too slow or too fast.
  - Being courteous to others is a must!

When it is time to stop on the profile --

- X
- **Stop in a straight line head to tail.** Remember to "check" the calf and then stop by lifting the head. Allow 4 to 6 feet between your calf and the one in front. This allows the judge space to move freely around the cattle and helps to prevent calves from mounting or disturbing others in the line.
  - X
  - **Position the feet as discussed earlier; keep the top line level and the calf's head up.**
  - **Locate the judge and wait calmly.** Do not "saw" your calf in half with rapid stick movement while waiting for the judge. Use slow deliberate strokes with the show stick. Do not "saw" your animal in half with rapid stick movement while waiting for the judge. Do not make noises or rattle the chain of the halter.

X The judge may handle the cattle and ask a few questions. As the judge moves around your animal, move a half step back to allow the judge the full view he or she seeks. Be prepared to answer questions about your

animal: weight, birth-date, sire, dam, pregnancy status of your heifer, feeding program, parts of the animal, yield grade, quality grade, and where retail cuts of meat come from.

If your animal has not moved and the judge has gone to the next animal, use the scotch comb to fix the hair that has been messed up. If the animal has moved or gotten out of line, pull your animal out in a clockwise circle in the ring and move the animal back into line. Set the animal up and then fix the hair. It is more important to first have the animal set correctly and looking its best as the hair may be minor compared to how the animal is standing.

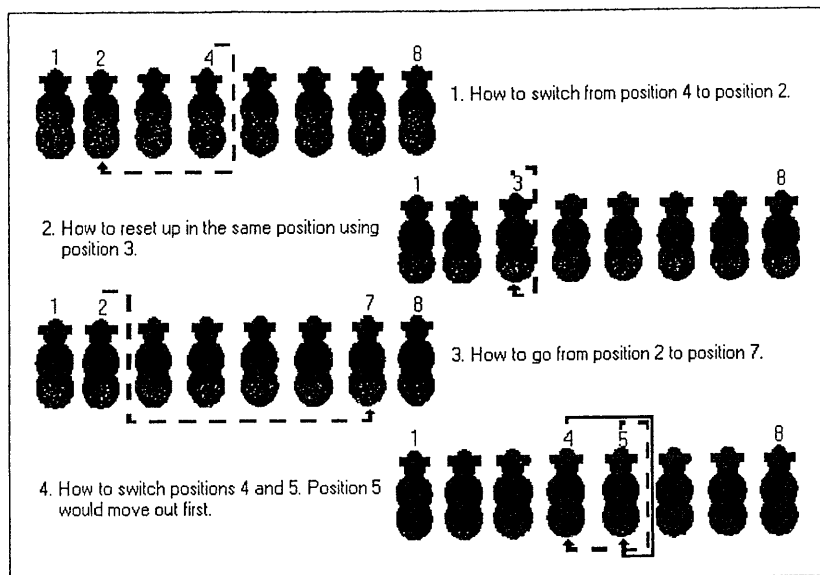
Be alert and aware of the judge. Look for a sign or motion to be pulled into line for the placing. This may be another profile line or side by side. As the judge pulls cattle from the profile line, empty spaces will occur. If two or more spaces between cattle become empty, move forward in the line. Remember to allow proper distance between calves, and set the calf up at its best. By moving forward and filling the empty spaces, it becomes easier for the judge to make comparisons.

When turning an animal --

- Always turn to the right (clockwise) unless the ring steward gives other instructions. Pushing the calf's head away from you prevents the possibility of the calf stepping on your foot, causing harm to you or the calf.

Once pulled into a side by side line you are nearing the end of the class, but it is not over. Pull into the side by side line as discussed earlier, and set the animal up. Be alert as sometimes positions may be switched.

Certain situations may occur in changing placings (Figure 3). Note that you pass back through the same hole you left, then to the proper position. If positioned up to a rail, do not turn around in the line. Back the calf out by pushing back on the halter with your left hand and applying pressure with your right at the point of the shoulder. Pull into the line at the instructed position.



**Figure 3: Switching positions.**

If you are positioned up to a rail, do not turn around in the line. Back your animal out by pushing back on the halter with your left hand and applying pressure with your right at the point of the shoulder. Then pull into the line at the instructed position.



When the judge starts his reasons the class is over, but your job is not. You should continue to work hard and display good sportsmanship. Leave the ring in an orderly manner as instructed by the ring person and pick up your awards.

### **Exhibitor Courtesy and Sportsmanship**

Remember to keep straight lines so that the judge can compare all the animals. If you are blocking the view of another animal and have space, move so that the judge can see all animals. However, if you are the one hidden, it is your responsibility to be where your animal can be seen. Do not rely on the other exhibitor as he or she may not have room to move.

On the profile, pull back in line where space is available. This may be at the end of the line.



Avoid bumping, crowding, or hitting other animals. If your animal becomes nervous or unruly, act like a professional. Be patient, remain calm, and never get discouraged or lose your temper.



Finally, congratulate the class winners and those that stood ahead of you. **Remember this is a learning experience.** Leave the ring with your head held high, knowing that you have given this project your best effort. Learn from your mistakes, watch other show-people, and improve your skills for the next show.

You are a winner by trying and participating in a worthwhile fun activity.



Study the illustration below to review the parts of a beef animal. After you are finished, go on to the next page to do an exercise designed to help you remember the names.

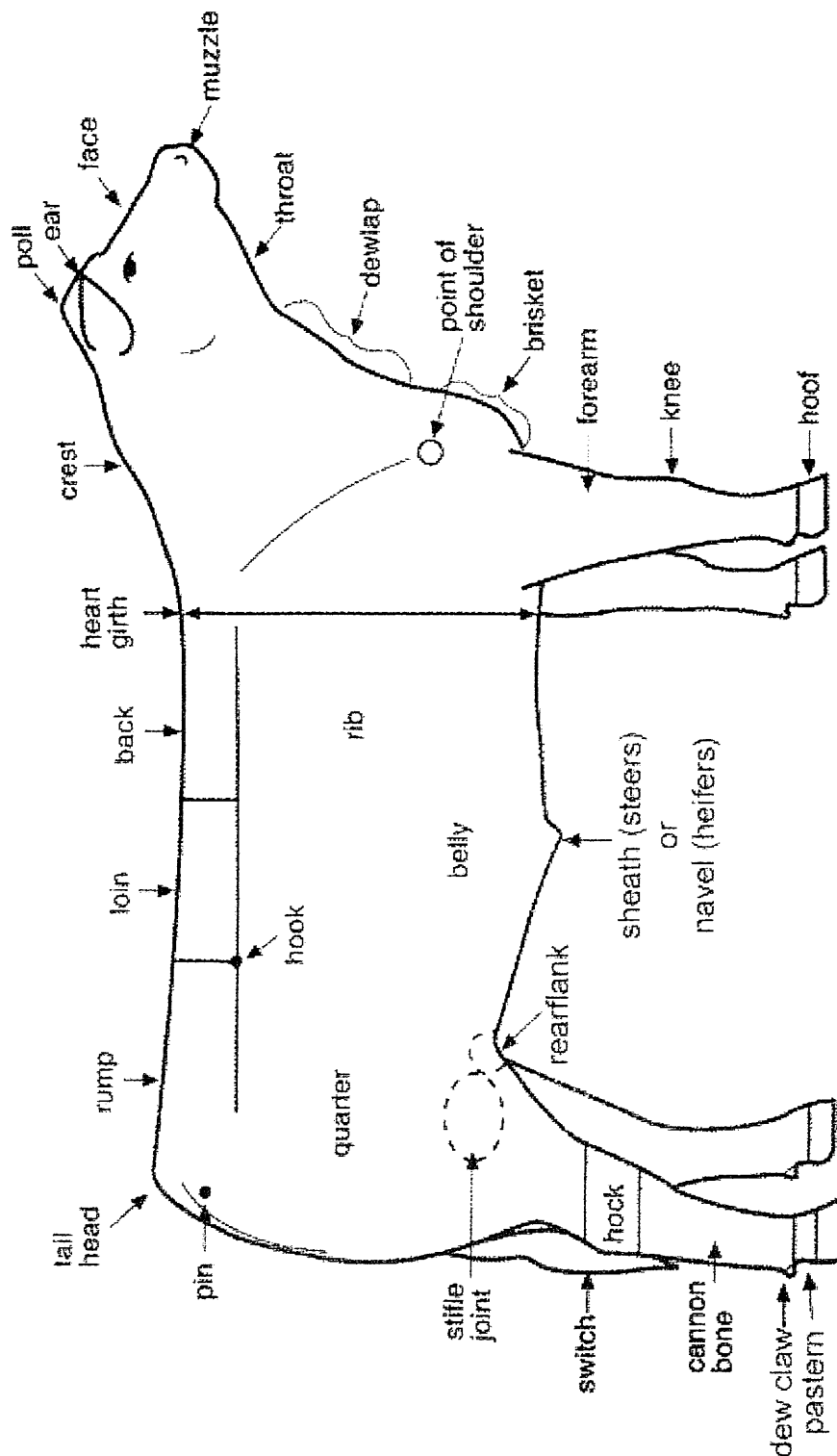


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Published on Calfology (<http://calfology.com>)

## Treatment for Ringworm

Submitted by Dan Van Arsdall on Tue, Mar 22 @ 10am

### Question:

My calves always seem to get ringworm. What is the best treatment and can I eradicate it from my herd?

### Answer:

Ringworm (barn itch, dermatophytosis) is the most common skin infection of cattle and is caused by a spore forming fungus called *Trichophyton*. Spores can remain viable for months in the soil or bedding and for years on objects such as halters, grooming equipment, working facilities, and barn surfaces. Cows become infected by simple contact with dormant spores from objects or other infected cattle. Upon germination the fungus invades hair shafts and superficial layers of skin. Body fluid exudes from the damaged skin and mixes with dead tissue to produce the classic tan or gray elevated crusty scab. These lesions are generally circular or oval in shape but they may coalesce to produce large irregular patches. Ringworm is usually found on the head, neck and trunk of calves, particularly around the eyes, ears, and muzzle. Unthrifty animals and those with compromised immune systems tend to be much more severely effected than healthy calves. Winter housing, confinement, and crowding are more conducive to an outbreak than summer pasture. This is a self limiting disease in that animals develop immunity to the fungus and the infection usually resolves in 2 – 6 months without treatment. It is uncommon to see ringworm in adult cattle, especially if they were infected as calves, but sporadic cases do occur.

Diagnosis is usually made by clinical appearance of ringworm lesions. This can be confirmed by microscopic examination or laboratory culture on selective media. Early lesions can resemble warts or other skin infections.

While inflammation and itching can be an annoyance to growing calves and hinder optimal performance, ringworm has minimal effect on their overall health. Reasons for concern include the fact that it can spread to people, especially young children, and be quite uncomfortable. Because it is highly contagious, infected cattle are prohibited from

sales, shows, and interstate travel.

There are several reasonably effective treatments for ringworm but in many commercial situations the intensive labor involved in catching, restraining, and treating large numbers of animals is impractical and the disease is left to run its course. Topical treatment is most effective if the lesions are first scraped or brushed to remove the crusty scab. This is particularly difficult when eyelids are involved and care should be taken to avoid contact of medication to the eye. People handling these animals are advised to wear gloves and wash thoroughly when finished.

After scraping, one of many products can be applied to all effected areas daily or every other day for 2 – 5 treatments. These products include: iodine, sodium hypochlorite (Clorox), captan (antifungal used in horticulture), miconazole, tolnaftate, or clotrimazole (antifungal creams used in human and small animal medicine). Treating groups of calves with whole body sprays of dilute captan is also advocated as a less labor intensive regimen for topical treatment. Systemic treatments include intravenous sodium iodide which must be administered with extreme caution and should not be given to pregnant animals. Injections with Vitamins A and D are recommended by some for prevention and treatment particularly for animals that have not been exposed to sunlight. Griseofulvin is an oral antifungal, commercially unavailable at this time, which is expensive but an effective systemic treatment. Consult with your veterinarian for specific recommendations and whenever using a product not labeled for use in cattle.

#### Sources:

<http://www.vermontbeefproducers.org/NewFiles/AsktheVet/Winter%2004.pdf> [1]

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