

Fayette County 4-H

Bucket/Bottle Calf Project



Bucket/Bottle Calf Project

Objectives

1. To learn proper health care and nutritional requirements of calves.
2. To learn basic calf management skills.
3. To learn basic livestock record keeping skills.

Guidelines

- Open to Clover Kids in grades K-3 and 4-H members in grades 4-6.
- Calves must be born between February 1 and April 30 and owned, fed and cared for by the exhibitor within two weeks of birth.
- Calves must be identified by June 1 using 4-H Online <https://iowa.4honline.com> or on a Bucket/Bottle Calf Identification Form. Paper copies for Clover Kids are due by noon on June 1. Two calves may be identified, but only one calf may be entered and exhibited.
- Calves cannot be nursing a cow; they must be bottle or bucket fed.
- Calves MUST be weaned from the bottle or bucket before fair.

Calves at County Fair

- Calves must be clean and will be shown at halter during the show. No clipping or grooming.
- The classes will be divided into two groups. 1) Clover Kids – grades K-3 and 2) Junior – grades 4-6.
- Interviews will be conducted on the day of the show on an individual basis as youth enter the show ring.
- Interview judging will be based on what the exhibitor has learned about caring for and raising a calf, health care, feeding, normal growth, etc.
- Exhibitors have the choices of stalling their animal at the fair or bringing their calf on the day of the show. Calves arriving on Monday, July 20 must be on the grounds by noon and will be stalled with 4-H clubs in their respective species barn. Calves arriving on Friday, July 24 must arrive for check-in between 7:30 and 8 am in the Stephens Building. A certificate of veterinary inspection (health paper) must be turned in during this time. All bucket/bottle calves will be shown at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 24.
- Ribbon Dollar Value: Blue \$5.00, Red \$4.00, White \$3.00

Overall Judging will be based on:

1. Showing with an emphasis on what the 4-H'er has learned.
2. General health of calf.
3. Interview score.
4. Completed records and report form will be evaluated.
5. Note: Quality and calf conformation will NOT be considered.

Milk Replacer

- Purchase a high quality milk replacer. The milk replacer should contain a milk-based protein and not a soybean based protein as soybean protein is hard to digest.
- Calves should be fed twice per day. Follow the directions on the milk replacer bag. Feed fresh milk at each feeding. Calves should be on milk for at least 4 to 6 weeks.
- Feed milk at 100 degrees or about the temperature of very warm tap water.

Example:

- A calf weighing 80 pounds needs 6.4 pounds (3.2 quarts) of milk per day (1.6 quarts per feeding).
- A calf weighing 100 pounds needs 8 pounds (4.8 quarts) of milk per day (2 quarts per feeding).
- A calf weighing 120 pounds needs 9.6 pounds (4.8 quarts) of milk per day (2.4 quarts per feeding).

Calf Starter

- Begin feeding a calf starter about 7 to 10 days of age plus a handful of quality hay. Remember to change feed every feeding to prevent it from becoming stale.
- Try to encourage the calf to eat some calf starter after it has finished with its milk. Calves should have access to fresh water during the day when they begin to eat feed. Calves do not like finely ground and dusty feeds. Feed should be coarsely ground, cracked, rolled or flaked.
- Calves should be weaned at 4 to 6 weeks of age or when they are eating 1.5 to 2 pounds of calf starter per day. Keep feeding starter up to 3 or 4 months of age plus free choice of hay. The calf can then be put on a grower ration of corn, oats and protein.

Housing

- Keep your calf in a pen (4x6') until weaned. Calves do best in their own hutch or pen. Two or more calves housed in the same pen are not a good idea because of sucking problems.
- Thoroughly clean and bed pens often with fresh straw or bedding.
- Fresh air is important in preventing health problems, but try to prevent drafts on the calf.
- Place feed boxes and water buckets so that the top is about 20 inches from the floor. Water should be placed at the front of the pen near the feed.

Health

- Check your calf before and during each feeding for any health problems. Some signs of illness are drinking slower than normal and diarrhea.
- Calves can pass diseases by sucking on each other. Try to prevent the spread of bacterial infections, wash and sanitize buckets, bottles and nipples after each feeding. Keep the calf equipment clean, just like the dishes you eat from.
- For your safety, calves should be dehorned. Dehorn calves when the horn button can be felt. The electric dehorner or dehorning paste are possible methods. Check with your vet for help with dehorning. No horns are allowed on calves at the fair.

Fayette County Bucket/Bottle Calf Project

Due June 15

Exhibitor name _____ Grade _____

Calf tag # _____ Date of birth and/or purchase: _____

Where did you keep your calf?

What did you feed it?

How much?

Did your calf have any problems? Tell about them.

Tell about your experiences in taking care of your calf:

What did you do to take care of it?

What did you learn about your calf?

What do you plan to do with your calf after the fair?

I really like my exhibit because:

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Financial Record Summary

Exhibitor name _____ Address _____

Date you received your calf _____ Beginning weight _____

Beginning cost of calf \$ _____

Other costs

Medication/vet fees _____

Equipment and housing _____

Trucking fees _____

Bedding _____

Miscellaneous _____

Total of other costs \$ _____

All 4th, 5th and 6th graders must complete the Financial Record Summary and turn it in on the June 15 entry day.

Feed Costs

Type of Feed	Pounds Fed	Cost per Pound	Total Cost
Milk Replacer		\$	\$
Corn		\$	\$
Oats		\$	\$
Protein Supplement		\$	\$
Complete Feed		\$	\$
Hay		\$	\$

Total cost of feed \$ _____

Financial Summary

Beginning cost of calf	\$
Vet expenses	\$
Total feed cost	\$
Other expenses	\$
Total expenses	\$

Date at end of project _____ Ending weight _____

Selling price of calf	\$
Subtract total expenses	\$

Profit/loss on the project \$ _____

Project Evaluation

Days on feed _____ Total gain _____

Total Gain
_____ = Average Daily Gain _____

Days on feed

(divide total gain by days on feed)