

**Keokuk County
4-H
Bucket Bottle Calf
Project Record**



4-H BOTTLE/BUCKET CALF PROJECT RECORD

Name _____

Club _____

Calf Tag # _____

Date of Birth or Purchase _____ Home Raised Yes No

Value when obtained \$ _____

Breed of Calf _____ Sex of Calf Male ___ Female ___

What color is your Calf _____?

Is your calf meat or dairy? Circle one: Meat Dairy

.....

What did you consider when choosing your project?

Describe the facilities where you housed your Calf:

Describe what you fed your calf in the first month.

Did your calf have any health problems? (Describe what and how they were treated)

How did you prevent health problems?





What do you think your calf will be worth when you sell it?

What equipment did you need to care for your calf?

What have you enjoyed and learned through this project?

What was the biggest problem you had and how did you solve it?

Financial Summery

 Feed	Pounds Used'	Cost \$	Total
Milk Replacer			
Calf Starter			
Calf Grower			
Complete Feed or Corn 			
Protein Supplement			
Hay		.	
Bedding			
Veterinary charges			
Hours spent on care _____ x \$ per hour _____ =			
Other			
Value of calf at beginning of project 			
Total Invested 			



SOME POINTS ABOUT CALF CARE

1. Give the calf colostrum starting immediately after birth for at least the first 3 days of life. Leaving calf with its mother for 3 days if possible would be most desirable.
2. Do not overfeed or underfeed calf. Weigh or measure milk – following feeding recommendations. Feed milk once or twice daily at regular intervals. Warm milk to 100 F, especially during the first 3 weeks.
3. Use nipple feeder pail to prevent calf from gulping milk. However, nipples, valves and buckets must be washed and sanitized to prevent bacterial infections. Calf diseases can also be passed from one calf to another by the nipple feeder.
4. Always have fresh water available in clean pail or from automatic drinking cup after calf is about 3 weeks old. Water pail should be in the front of the pen, opposite from the feed.
5. After calf is weaned, keep trace mineralized salt before it at all times.
6. Do not depend on silage as a source of feed for calf under 6 months of age. Silage should not constitute all of the roughage after 6 months of age.
7. Do not depend on pasture as a source of feed for a young calf, except under the most favorable conditions. Too often a calf is neglected and undernourished on poor pasture.

Good pasture nearby the barn with shade and water can be a satisfactory supplement feed and provide the calf exercise and clean quarters.

FEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS

COLOSTRUM – Colostrum fed to calves as soon after birth as possible (ideally within 15 minutes and certainly within 4 hours) protects against disease. Early feeding of colostrum is necessary because:

1. New born calves have no antibodies to provide natural protection against disease until colostrum is received.
2. Calves' ability to absorb gamma globulin (the disease protection component) is substantially reduced 24-36 hours.
3. Calves may become infected with highly pathogenic (disease-causing) bacterial immediately after birth. Excess colostrum is highly nutritious feed, but has little or no immunity properties (antibody protection) when the calf is more than a day old. Undiluted excess colostrum contains about a third more solids than milk or reconstituted milk replacer, and is highly digestible. Storage and subsequent use of excess colostrum is highly desirable. It may be fed fresh, frozen or stored, then thawed prior to feeding.

MILK REPLACER – Milk replacers vary in quality. Study the feed tag. The best milk replacer contains at least 20% protein, all derived from milk products. The protein level should be 22-24% when chemically modified soy protein, soy isolates, or soy concentrates are used because plant proteins are less digestible than milk protein.

Table 1 lists various sources of protein according to acceptability in milk replacers. Compare the protein sources listed on your milk replacer feed tag with this list.

MILK REPLACERS	A. Optimum	B. Acceptable	C. Inferior
Skim milk powder		Chemically modified	Meat soluble
Buttermilk powder		Soy protein	Fish protein concentrates
Dried whole whey		Soy concentrate	Distillers' dried soluble
Delactosed whey		Soy isolates	Brewer's dried yeast
Casein			
Milk albumin		Wheat flour	
Oat flour			

4-H Bottle/Bucket Calf Project

Purposes:

To design a livestock project to fit the physical size and maturity level of younger youths, to teach proper health care and nutritional requirements of young livestock, to teach basic sheep/goat management skills without a large investment, to teach basic record-keeping skills and to provide a better understanding of the beef industry.

Guidelines:

1. Bottle calf – An orphan or newborn calf; male or female, fed on bucket or bottle. No nursing permitted. Begin your project by selecting and or purchasing a calf born between January 1 and April 30th of current project year within two weeks of birth.
2. This project is for youth 4th through 12th grade. 4-H members must be enrolled in the Bucket Bottle Project
3. Identification- Animals must be identified with 4-H tag and birth date by May 15th online Exhibitors may identify and show up to two animals per species. Tags available at County Extension Office
4. Record – 4-H Bottle Calf Record
5. Fair Classes - Divisions are set in the Fair book and will be adjusted by the superintendents
6. Calves MUST be weaned by fair time