

Bucket/Bottle Calf Class O'Brien County Fair

We are excited that you have chosen to participate in the Bottle/ Bucket calf project. Please take time to read the information carefully as there are specific guidelines for recordkeeping. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call!

Purpose:

- To teach proper health care and nutritional requirements of young cattle.
- To teach basic record-keeping skills.
- To provide a better understanding of the feeder cattle industry.
- To design a dairy/beef exhibit to fit the physical size and maturity level of younger youth.

Guidelines:

- The Bottle/ Bucket Calf project is open to any youth grades 4th - 12th.
- Project animals must be born between February 1st and May 10th.
- The calf may be a bull, steer, heifer, dairy, beef, crossbred or purebred that is bucket or bottle fed. No nursing permitted.
- The calf must be in the youth's possession 7-10 days after birth.
- 4-H'ers may tag up to three calves on or before May 15 of current year with one calf being exhibited at the fair in the bottle/bucket class. Any extra calves may be entered in the Bottle/ Bucket Feeder Calf class.
- Ear tags will cost \$1.25 per tag, and are available at the Extension Office.
- Bottle/ Bucket Calves must be identified in 4honline by May 15 of current year. Paper ID forms will not be required.
- Records should be kept throughout the project on ALL calves which the member has identified as his project animals.

About the Bottle/ Bucket Class at the O'Brien County Fair...

1. The bottle/ bucket calf project involves keeping records on the growth and care of your calf. To evaluate what the youth learned throughout the project, each youth will have a **private interview with the judge** about your experience. Youth will sign up for interviews on Monday in the fair office.
2. Evaluation will be based on:
 - a. The grooming and showing of the calf
 - b. The general health of the calf
 - c. What the exhibitor learned about care and raising a calf.
 - d. A folder created by you including records, growth charts, photos, and any other information that you would like to share about your bottle/ bucket calf project experience. Please have your records neatly contained in **this** folder and return to the Extension office two weeks before fair.

Conformation or quality of the calf will not be considered, since purchase should not be based on this.

3. Youth will choose one calf to be shown in the bottle/bucket calf class. The calf will be broke to lead. Rope halters only please. No leather halters may be used.
4. No clipping is allowed. Washing and brushing are the only preparation needed.
5. Each exhibitor is responsible for the care of his or her calf and keeping the pen clean at the fair. Feed and water is the youth's responsibility during the fair.
6. Calf and exhibitor only in the show ring. Exhibitor must wear proper 4-H beef attire. Hard soled boots or shoes are highly suggested.

Health Notes....

- All Bottle/Bucket calves are required to be vaccinated with the 4-Way shot by **July 1** of current year.
- All calves will be required to have a Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection issued within 30 days prior to the fair.
- Please pay especially close attention to the health of your bottle/bucket calf projects. Virus and bacteria's can easily spread in these young calves. Talk with your vet about a health program that will keep your animals thriving.
- Young calves seem to do better with company. It is suggested that you purchase at least two calves. We offer the bottle/bucket feeder calf class in order for you to exhibit all of your animals at the O'Brien County Fair.
- The best way to show growth in your Bottle/Bucket calves is to measure their girth. A chart is included and it is suggested that you measure and document the girth of your calf every 20 days.

****If you have any questions about the Bottle/Bucket calf project, please call the office at 712-957-5045 or Glenn Fuller at 712-229-3471.**