

Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Allegany County

4-H Office

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<http://allegany.cce.cornell.edu>

January 2019

Dear 4-H'er:

Your Project Record Books have been revised for 2019 and there are a few changes we wanted you to be aware of:

- We have included your pre-fair Registration form, Fair registration form and the Fair Rules and Regulations for each animal you will be showing with your record book.
- Due Dates for each form are stated on the top in **Red**.
- Project Record Books and all the Fair Forms will be available on the 4-H webpage (<http://allegany.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development>) as well as in the 4-H office.
- Project Record Books are designed so that you work on them throughout the duration of your project, and not at the very end. Please plan your time wisely in order to get the most from this fun and rewarding opportunity!
- Additional Fair Forms will be available from our web site, if you need more you can print them from our website or contact the office and we can mail them to you.

**Market animals that received a rabies vaccination need to have those done 21 days before the start of fair (June 24<sup>th</sup>).**

**Your Project Records for Market and Breeding Animal's will be due the Friday of Fair (July 20<sup>th</sup>) during your livestock interviews.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the office at 585-268-7644 ext.16 or by email at [pjh34@cornell.edu](mailto:pjh34@cornell.edu)

I look forward to seeing you at fair this year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tricia Heary".

Tricia Heary  
4-H Program Coordinator

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.



Allegany County Cooperative Extension  
Senior 4-H Market Beef Project Book



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**INSERT A PHOTO OF YOUR  
MARKET ANIMAL HERE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (as of January 1<sup>st</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_

Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

Date Project Started \_\_\_\_\_

Date Project Closed \_\_\_\_\_

# Why Records Are Important

The objective of a steer project is to give youth an opportunity to develop skills that will advance them in the future. This hands-on opportunity will help youth develop skills like leadership, organization critical thinking, goal setting, time management and communication. The task of keeping records can also help prevent a youth from falling short of their goals and maximize their opportunity to grow, learn and develop as an individual.

## What You Need to Get Started

- an interest in raising a steer
- a place to keep and raise a steer
- money to purchase and raise a steer
- equipment to handle, feed and water a steer safely
- support from an adult

## Knowledge About Steers

- different breeds and their characteristics
- cattle terminology
- body parts of a steer
- what steers eat to grow efficiently
- common steer behavior

## Instructions

1. Use this project record for Market and Non-Market Steer Projects.
2. In this project record you will need to show pre-purchase evaluations of both your actual project animal and an animal you considered but did not purchase.
3. Keep a separate record for each individual animal.
4. Fill out a new project record book every year for Market and Non-Market Steers.
5. Write the things you do with and without your animal that relates to your steer project.
6. Keep all receipts as proof of money spent for your project. Photo copies of receipts are allowed.
7. Turn in your project records after the market sale by the date given by extension to receive your check. Non-market animals should be turned in by this date as well using true market estimations or actual sale price of animal.

## Here is Some Terminology to Help You Get Started

**Artificial Insemination-** Manually placing semen into the reproductive tract of the female with the purpose of producing pregnancy (AI)

**Backgrounding-** Growing program for feeder cattle from the time calves are weaned until they are on a finishing ration in the feedlot

**Dystocia-** difficulty giving birth

**Expected Progeny Difference-** one half of the breeding value of a sire or dame; the difference in expected performance of future progeny of a sire, when compared with that expected from future progeny of bulls in the same sire summary (EPD)

**Estrus-** Adjective meaning “heat”; the estrous cycle is the time from one heat to the next

**Hybrid vigor-** The degree to which the offspring out performs its parents

**Open-** not pregnant

**Ovulation-** The process of releasing eggs or ova from the ovarian follicles

**Palpation-** Examine by touching

**Seedstock-** Registered animals for establishing a breeding herd

## Project Animal's Information

Animal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Identification Number and/or Tattoo \_\_\_\_\_

County Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_

Breed(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Total Purchase Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs Purchase Hip Height (inches) \_\_\_\_\_

Days from Purchase till fair weigh in \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Finish Weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Estimated Amount of pounds needed to gain to finish \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Estimated pounds gained per day till fair weigh in \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

# Project Evaluation

Most of this information you should be able to get directly from the breeder. However, every breeder operates differently and some estimation can be use like Sire's mature weight and Dam's weight. Most registered pureblood herds are required to collect this data for every animal and those breeders can make the information readily available to you while other breeders may not know what these values are. By collecting all of this data is good practice and know how if you plan to be a part of a breeding herd someday. Your steer's current weight and hip height should be true values and not "eyeballed". Use the charts in the following pages to calculate an estimated finishing weight and frame score of your steer.

The next few data collection points will help you determine your profitability. Subtract the steer's current weight from the calculated finish weight. This equals the total number of pounds needed to gain prior to fair weight in. Next multiply this by five as a general rule it takes five pounds of feed for one pound of gain for a steer. By multiplying your total pounds needed to gain by five you have calculated the estimated number of pounds of feed your steer will eat during his growing period to reach his target weight. If you have already priced out feed great break down the cost to a single pound unit and multiply it by the estimated pounds of feed needed to finish your steer. This calculation will give you an estimated cost of your total feed dollars. Your other estimated costs such as hay, healthcare, and other expenses you can look at past records our use your best judgment. Add all of these cost and the cost of your steer together to get the total estimated cost to raise.

Moving on to market pricing. Cooperative Extension can give you last year's sale prices to use for your high and low values. It may be a good idea to also get the high and low weights of the steers sold in the previous year as well. This will help give you a better estimation on your "goal" price per pound. These values should not be made up numbers or current market values as you may find in the end they were incorrect for this sale. Now you have all the data needed to project profitability. Take each value (low, average, goal) and subtract it accordingly from your total cost to raise.

## ***How does your profitability look?***

This calculation may play a big factor in your marketing scheme for your steer. Finally after evaluating not only the steer you are documenting in this project record you will collect the data on a second steer and compare the two. Be sure you use the same sale values for each steer evaluated. Keep in mind a heavier steer is probably going to bring slightly less per pound

than a lighter steer. This maybe something you determine in your profitability justification. You can also take into account structural values as this plays a larger role in that of a show steer verses a commercial steer. If higher structural value is most likely to gain you more money come sale time even though that particular steer is going to cost you a little more to raise it may be in your best interest to purchase the more structurally sound steer. This is all a part of hedging. No penalties will be given if you do not choose the most profitable steer but it is important to give a proper justification as to why you would not want to have a more profitable steer. It is also important to know how to calculate and project profitability of an animal before purchase. This also gives you a baseline to watch how the steer should grow and let you know if your project is in danger of not finishing on time before it is too late. If you are capable of having two steer projects evaluating them from the start and comparing to the final numbers may help you choose a better project steer in the future. If you need help contact your extension office and you can be guided to a committee member that can help you directly on farm.





# Project Evaluation

Here is where you need to compare a minimum of two animals (one animal you purchased and one animal you did not purchase but considered).

## Animal 1

Name/identification number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Pedigree or back ground breeds \_\_\_\_\_

Preconditioning with what and when \_\_\_\_\_

Birth weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs Weaning weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Number of days from birth till weaning \_\_\_\_\_ days Average daily gain \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Dam's frame score \_\_\_\_\_ Dam's body condition score \_\_\_\_\_ Dam's weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Sire's frame score \_\_\_\_\_ Sire's yearling weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs Sire's mature weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Steer's current weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs Steer's hip height \_\_\_\_\_ inches

Calculated frame score \_\_\_\_\_ Calculated finish weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Number of pounds needed to gain to finish \_\_\_\_\_ lbs (times) 5lbs of feed \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Estimated cost per pound of grain \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (times) estimated feed needed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost of hay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated cost of health care \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost of other expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost of animal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Total cost to raise \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated sale price per pound (low) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/lb (times) Estimated finishing weight \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated sale price per lb (Average) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/lb (times) Estimated finishing weight \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated sale price per lb (goal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/lb (times) Estimated finishing weight \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Projected profitability of animal at low sale price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Projected profitability of animal at average sale price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Projected profitability of animal at your goal sale price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Animal 2

Name/identification number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Pedigree or back ground breeds \_\_\_\_\_

Preconditioning with what and when \_\_\_\_\_

Birth weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs Weaning weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Number of days from birth till weaning \_\_\_\_\_ days Average daily gain \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Dam's frame score \_\_\_\_\_ Dam's body condition score \_\_\_\_\_ Dam's weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Sire's frame score \_\_\_\_\_ Sire's Yearling weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs Sire's mature weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Animal's current weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs Animal's hip height \_\_\_\_\_ inches

Calculated frame score \_\_\_\_\_ Calculated finish weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Number of pounds needed to gain to finish \_\_\_\_\_ lbs (times) 5lbs of feed \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

Estimated cost per pound of grain \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (times) estimated feed needed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost of hay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated cost of health care \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost of other expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost of animal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost to raise \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated sale price per pound (low) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/lb (times) Estimated finishing weight \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated sale price per lb (Average) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/lb (times) Estimated finishing weight \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated sale price per lb (goal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_/lb (times) Estimated finishing weight \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Projected profitability of animal at low sale price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Projected profitability of animal at average sale price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Projected profitability of animal at your goal sale price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**You may add pages to keep records on all animals considered or with other notes like structural values of each animal.**

## Comparison

Which animal shows better projected profitability and why?

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Which animal did you choose and why?

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Did you have higher inputs for one animal over the other due to backgrounding?

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Was one animal's genetics better when looking at EPD's or by looking at dam, sire and other siblings?

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Did one animal have better structural values over the other if so what were they and how does this affect your project vs a commercial steer?

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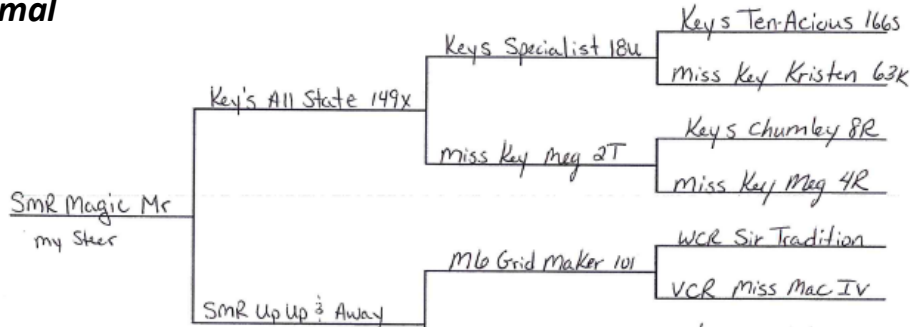
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# You Have a Project Steer

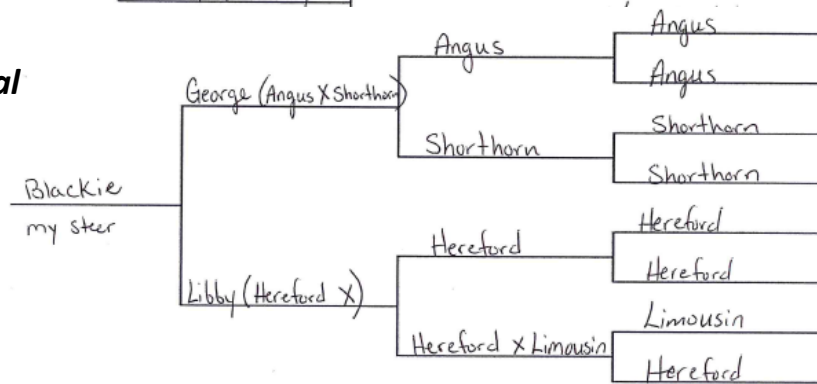
Review the fair rules to ensure your project animal gets the proper vaccinations and meets all other requirements such as weight and age for fair entry (attached).

If your animal is registered with a specific breed association copy, the names directly into the given pedigree. If your steer is a crossbreed fill in what you know even if it is just the breed. An example of each has been provided below.

## Registered Animal

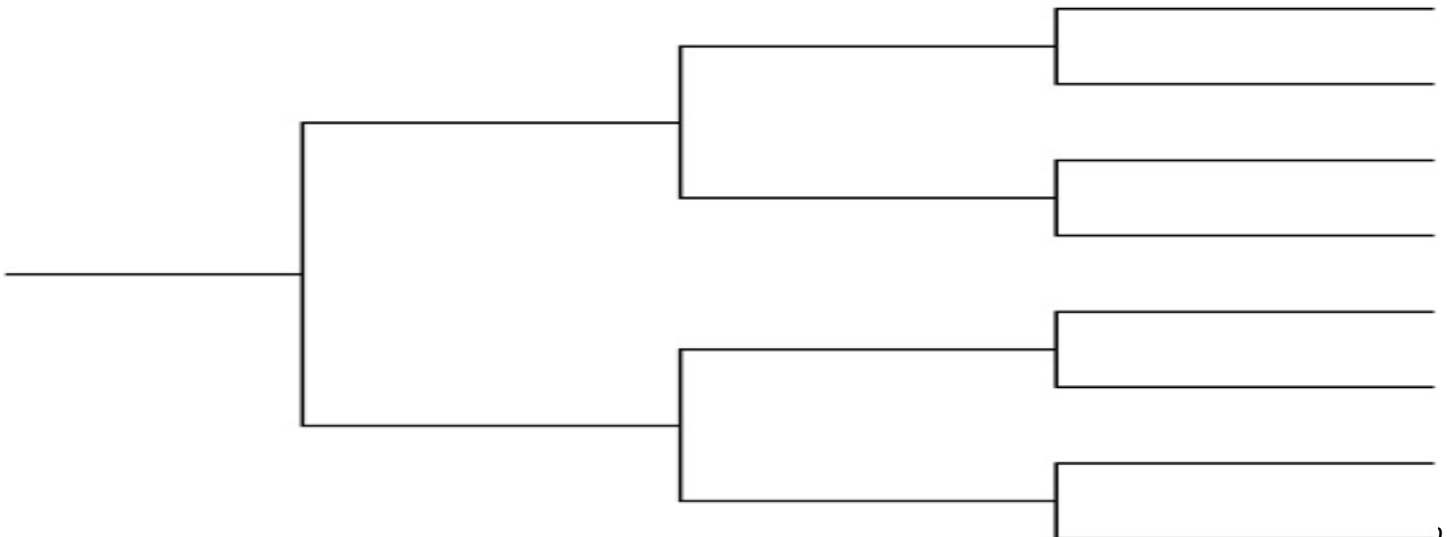


## Estimation of animal



## Project's Pedigree

Fill in as much of your project's pedigree even if it is just different breeds that make up your animal.



## Purchase Information

Because every breeder is different you may need to obtain some of the information yourself. Most breeders should be able to give you the animals tag or tattoo identification and location (left ear, right ear, both ears etc.), what breed(s) makes up your chosen animal, gender, birth date, and current weight. The county will be around to tag your animal with a county tag for identification.

Your steer's hip height should be measured in inches, then determine your steer's age in months. Use the charts below get an estimated finish weight. Count the number of days until fair weigh in. Next subtract the estimated finish weight of your steer and his current weight to get the total number of pounds he needs to gain by fair weigh in to be considered a finished steer. Finally, divide the total number of pounds the animal needs to gain by the number of days until fair weigh in to get your estimated average daily gain (ADG).

Age (Months)	Frame Score								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5	33.5	35.5	37.5	39.5	41.6	43.6	45.6	47.7	49.7
6	34.8	36.8	38.8	40.8	42.9	44.9	46.9	48.9	51
7	36	38	40	42.1	44.1	46.1	48.1	50.1	52.2
8	37.2	39.2	41.2	43.2	45.2	47.2	49.3	51.3	53.3
9	38.2	40.2	42.3	44.3	46.3	48.3	50.3	52.3	54.3
10	39.2	41.2	43.3	45.3	47.3	49.3	51.3	53.3	55.3
11	40.2	42.2	44.2	46.2	48.2	50.2	52.2	54.2	56.2
12	41	43	45	47	49	51	53	55	57
13	41.8	43.8	45.8	47.8	49.8	51.8	53.8	55.8	57.7
14	42.5	44.5	46.5	48.5	50.4	52.4	54.4	56.4	58.4
15	43.1	45.1	47.1	49.1	51.1	53	55	57	59
16	43.6	45.6	47.6	49.6	51.6	53.6	55.6	57.5	59.5
17	44.1	46.1	48.1	50.1	52	54	56	58	60
18	44.5	46.5	48.5	50.5	52.4	54.4	58.4	58.4	60.3
	Hip Height (inches)								

Frame Score	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Est. Finish Weight (lbs)	850	950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1550

## Project Performance

This is where you can document a minimum of four weigh-ins including your final weigh-in. There are also columns to calculate more detailed performance data on your steer. You may find these calculations useful to determine if your project is on target for fair or if you need to change something like the type or quantity of feed being given.

Here is how to do the calculations:

- 1) Count the number of days between weights taken.
- 2) Subtract the current weight with the last weight to get total number of pounds gained to date.
- 3) Divide total number of pounds gained by number of days in this growth period to determine average daily gain (ADG).

You can see if your steer is gaining enough weight per day to reach your target finish weight. Keep in mind steers grow in stages just like people, so seasons and weather changes will effect growth. It is important to look and re-evaluate your steer's target finish weight. Keep in mind most steer's finishing weight is within a few hundred pounds of their dam's mature weight. Therefore, if your steer is calculating to finish at a thousand pounds but you know his dam's weight is closer to one thousand four hundred pounds, you probably should adjust your steer's target finish weight to one thousand, two hundred pounds. However, you may find the next time you weigh him in and re-take his hip height that he went on a growing spurt and is not calculating closer to the one thousand, two hundred pounds.

- 4) Add up the total pounds of feed from the feed record chart to get the pounds of feed eaten for this growing period.
- 5) Divide pounds of feed eaten by total pounds gained to see how many pounds of your current feed it takes for your steer to gain one pound.

These calculations may help you determine if you should consider switching to a different feed or feed more of your current feed. Keep in mind changing feed on a steer to quickly can become deadly so it is important to make feed adjustments over several days and not all at once.



# Project Performance Evaluations

As your animal grows throughout the project year, document adjustments made for poor or over performance values. This is where you will compare projected and actual values. You can use any weigh-in you like if you have completed more than four or addition sheets can be attached.

## First weigh-in

Is your project gaining appropriate amounts to finish on time? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this actual compare with your initial estimation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What changes need to be made? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Second weigh-in

Is your project gaining appropriate amounts to finish on time? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this actual compare with your initial estimation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What changes need to be made? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Third weigh-in

Is your project gaining appropriate amounts to finish on time? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this actual compare with your initial estimation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What changes need to be made? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Fourth weigh-in**

Is your project gaining appropriate amounts to finish on time? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this actual compare with your initial estimation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What changes need to be made? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Final Fair weigh-in**

Did your project gain appropriate amounts to finish on time? \_\_\_\_\_

How does this actual compare with your initial estimation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What changes could have been made to correct or improve the final results?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Feed Record

Because not everyone has the same availability or set up to feed a project steer we have allowed for this record to be kept as fed feed or purchased. If you come from a large farm that grows most or all of the feed stuffs given to your steer, it may be easier to keep records on an 'as fed' basis. You could choose to document this daily, however this is not considered necessary. Keep in mind you need to know the amount feed eaten per weigh-in for your calculations.

If you document every time you buy feed, you may need to add a notation of 'pounds fed per day' unless the day you run out of feed is a day you choose to measure your steer's performance and you can simply add up the total pounds for that growth period.

## Feed Record Example

Date	Bought (B) or Grown (G)	Feed Type/ Source	Number of Units	Weight of a Unit	Total weight	Cost per Unit Total Cost	Cost per Pound
2-7	G	Hay/Forage	6 Bales	40 lbs per Bale	240 lbs	\$2/ Bale \$24.00	\$.05
2-7	B	Corn/Energy	6 Bags	100 lbs	600 lbs	\$10.95/ Bag \$65.70	\$.11
2-7	B	Grower/ Complete	8 Bags	100 lbs	800 lbs	\$13.95/ Bag \$111.60	\$.14
2-7	B	Grower/ Complete	.21 Bags	100 lbs	21 lbs	\$10.00/ Bags \$2.10	\$.10



Total cost of forages fed (add all forage total cost) \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of grains fed (add all grain total cost) \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of supplements fed (add all supplement total cost) \_\_\_\_\_

Total feed cost (add all three totals up) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Project Health Treatment Record**

It will be important to document not only what you treated your animal with but to collect the proper data off the label. Sometimes labels are not always clear but the data needed can typically be found by searching the internet. If you wish to become a future farm owner or manager someday treatment records are mandated. Here are a few examples of why proper records are needed:

If you have a cow that gets sick and you treat it with an antibiotic and then decided to cull the cow to an auction and that buyer in turn slaughters the cow for consumption, that cow's carcass could test positive for harmful contaminants. If the product you treated the cow with had a slaughter withdrawal time and the animal went to slaughter, your farm is legally responsible for any contamination or harm done to others.

In a different scenario, if you sell a heifer for breeding and you vaccinated her for shipping fever you would want to help ensure her health to your buyer. However the next thirty days go by and the new owner decides to slaughter the heifer instead. The vaccine you treated her with had a forty five day withholding and now your farm is being fined because the vaccine was given at your facility and you did not give the proper documentation to inform the new owner of the correct date of treatment, product used, and the withholding time.

It can also be useful when dealing with sickness on a farm to document the success of a treatment in case you need to look back and treat a different animal for similar symptoms. For example in a group of steers one steer starts breathing heavily due to respiratory disease. Your veterinarian recommends feeding that steer half a pound of granular Aureomycin a day for five days. Ten days after the treatment the heavy breathing returns in the same animal. Your veterinarian then recommends a ten cc shot of Draxxin which clears up the problem completely in this animal. The following year a different group of steers present the same heavy breathing issue. Looking back you can see it may be better for your herd to be treated with the Draxxin verses the Aureomycin and more cost efficient.



## Other Costs or Income

Here is where you may document things like buying shampoo to wash your steer or a halter to show him in. You can also document entry fees paid. If you take your animal to a show and you win prize money you will need to document it here. In the next section you will need to separate out if it was an income or an expense to be sure you are documenting it correctly in your chart. Final sale information will be placed on the financial summary page.

Date	Item/description	Cost (\$)	Income (\$)
Example 4/18	Entry Fee	\$5.00	
Total			

## Financial Summary Example

This section is where you will be calculating your profit or loss. If a loss did occur this page may help you determine why you had a loss so you can improve upon it with next year's project. This chart is meant to keep a running total in the last column.

	Actual Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
<b>Cost of animal at Purchase (\$)</b>	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>Total Cost of Feed (\$)</b>	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Health Care Cost (\$)</b>	\$50.00	\$2,550.00
<b>Other Cost (\$)</b>	\$380.00	\$2,930.00
<b>Other Income (\$)</b>	\$100.00	\$2,830.00
<b>Total Sale Price of Animal (\$)</b>	\$2.00/lb x 1200lbs = \$2,400.00	\$430.00
<b>Profit or Loss</b>		Loss

## Financial Summary

Here is where you are going to put all your documentation together from the previous pages.

### Income

Other income total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sale Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Final Weight \_\_\_\_\_ lbs

### Expenses

	Beginning Evaluation (\$)	Actual Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
<b>Cost of animal at Purchase (\$)</b>			
<b>Total cost of Feed (\$)</b>			
<b>Total Health Care Cost (\$)</b>			
<b>Other Cost (\$)</b>			
<b>Other Income (\$)</b>			
<b>Total Sale Price of animal (\$)</b>			
<b>Profit or Loss</b>			

How did you do and what can you do differently next year to increase profitability of your project?

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How did your initial profitability evaluation and the actual compare and why?

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## **Marketing a Project Steer**

In the above example of a financial summary we can draw a few different conclusions and then check our observation by looking deeper into our project record:

- 1) You notice your “other cost” total seems high. When you look back you see you documented the purchase of several start up items such as buckets, halters, and clippers because it is your first year. Many of these items will carry over to next year’s project. This would be one way your profit would improve next year as you won’t have these start-up costs next year since these items can be reused.
- 2) You also know you relied on buyers present at the sale to purchase your steer because you did not take the time to find a minimum of two buyers for your steer and you received the lowest price per pound for your steer on sale night.

This is where marketing comes into play. To make a good “sales pitch” to a potential buyer it is important to take the time and evaluate your steer. The information given to you by the breeder and the measurements you took upon purchase like current weight, hip height, age and breed can all play a role in your marketing scheme. By calculating your estimated finish weight you know about the total pounds your steer will weight come sale night. This is important since steers are typically sold on a per pound bases. Then by taking the weights



throughout the growing period you can see if your animal is staying on target to finish at that weight estimation or if it has changed. You will also start to see how efficient your steer is at turn feed (dollars invested) into pounds (product) to be sold and marketed. This can help you estimate what your final cost to raise your steer might be and give you time to change it before it is too late. You then can calculate what your approximant breakeven price would be (do not use your breakeven price as your market price as your goal should be to make a profit). Pick a reasonable dollar amount say five hundred dollars for profit. Add that amount to your estimated cost to raise and divide out by estimated finish weight to get your estimated desired market price. This is the dollar amount per pound you should be marketing to your buyers. Because steers are very costly not only to raise but to purchase be sure your potential buyer knows approximately what your steer is going to weigh so they can have a total dollar figure prepared when coming to buy. As you advance through the steer project you will be given more tools and ways to help calculate profitability however none of this will matter if you don't market your steer just as diligently as the effort put forth into raising him.

## Summing up Your Experience

Answer these final questions before turning in your project record. Answering these questions will help the program educators better understand where they can help improve the program for future years. It will also help you make realizations about your experience of raising a steer.

### What You Experienced

What skills did you learn or improve?

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What goals did you meet?

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In what ways did you help or teach others?

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Where did you struggle with your project and what did you do to fix it?

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What would you like to learn more about next year?

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Portions of this Project Book were adapted from publications from Penn State University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State Extension

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

# Body Condition Score (BCS) Descriptions and Depictions

BCS	Description
1	Clearly defined bone structure of shoulder, ribs, back, hooks and pins easily visible. Little to none muscle tissue or fat present.
2	Small amount of muscling in the hindquarters. Fat is present, but not abundant. Space between spinous process is easily seen.
3	Fat begins to cover loin, back and foreribs. Upper skeletal structures visible. Spinous process is easily identified.
4	Foreribs becoming less noticeable. The transverse spinous process can be identified by palpation. Fat and Muscle tissue not abundant, but increasing fullness.
5	Ribs are visible only when the animal stand stretched. Spin is not visible. Each side of the tailhead is filled but not mounded.
6	Ribs not noticeable to the eye. Muscling in hindquarters plump and full. Fat around tail head and covering the foreribs.
7	Spinous process can only be felt with firm pressure. Fat cover in abundance on either side of tail head.
8	Animal smooth and blocky appearance; bone structure difficult to identify. Fat cover is abundant.
9	Structures difficult to identify. Fat cover is excessive and mobility may be impaired.

Body condition scoring is a subjective measurement, meaning that one producer may score slightly different than another. There are many reasons to body score your herd often and at specific life stages. Many studies have been published and document correlating body condition scores with finish and cutability, colostrum production, pregnancy rates, pregnancy losses, and nutritional status. Body condition scores of 5-7 are optimal bull and cow scores and should be the scores to maintain.



BCS 2



BCS 5



BCS 3



BCS 6



BCS 4



BCS 7

## Rules and policies governing 4-H and FFA Market and Non-Market Beef Steers and Market and Non-Market Dairy Steers Classes and Sale

*Only Allegany County 4-H and FFA members are eligible and must be 8 years old by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year.*

1. All project beef steers must be purebred or beef breed crosses. A market beef steer cannot knowingly consist of a dairy beef cross. Dairy Steers are to be of dairy breeding or cross of a dairy breeding to be eligible.
2. Project steers must be born on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. All steers must be properly dehorned or polled.
3. All Market steers (in sale) must be owned by the member and officially entered at the 4-H office. Entries are to be postmarked on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>. All Non-Market steers (not in sale) can be entered as late as May 1<sup>st</sup>. Appropriate entry forms will be provided through the Clover Connections publication, online, in the project record books and at our website. All steers will be inspected and ear tagged by Livestock Committee Members. Please have steers confined for tagging.
4. Project members will be required to have a NY State series "21" type ear tag, which can be installed by a veterinarian. (A series "21" type ear tag must be installed regardless of other ear tags already present on the animal.) If the ear tag is lost, the member is to notify the 4-H office in Belmont as soon as possible. Failure to notify the office or chair person may disqualify the animal. A new tag is to be installed immediately.
5. **Steers to be in place at the fairgrounds by 1pm** the day before the fair opens unless prior arrangements are made with the beef superintendant. Health papers must accompany the animal.
6. Each exhibitor must participate in the appropriate showmanship class with their own project animal.
7. All animals must be exhibited unless excused by superintendent because of illness, injury, temperament etc. If two animals are entered in one class, the second animal must be shown by a 4-H/FFA youth age 9-18, prior to January 1 of the year of the fair, who has shown a cattle project before or is otherwise approved by the Livestock Committee.
8. When showing or working around beef or dairy steers at the fairground, leather shoes or boots, preferably not light weight rubber boots, should be worn for safety. **No sneakers or sandals will be permitted.**
9. Completed record books must be presented and turned in at the project interviews.
10. Health papers are due at time of arrival. All project animals will be officially weighed-in by the Livestock Committee starting apporximently at 3 PM, Sunday before the fair opens. Project animals will only be weighted once. No filling or pumping allowed. Animals are not to be fed or watered two hours prior to being weighed. Each superintendent will be around to give a "last call" for feed and water for your species.

11. Steers must be fed, cared and groomed by the exhibitor. Limited assistance by other Allegany County 4-H and FFA members is permitted if necessary.
12. Weight requirement:  
**All Market eligible beef steers must weigh a minimum of 950 pounds** at fair weigh-in to be accepted and sold in the market sale. Dairy steers must weigh a minimum of 1,000 pounds at fair weigh-in to be eligible for the sale. Animals not meeting this minimum weight requirement will be considered feeders or Non-Market steer and placed in the appropriate weight class for show divisions.
13. Eligible Market animals must go through the auction and be sold to the highest bidder. An eligible animal is considered to have met all pre-fair, weight and age requirements as well as received a blue or red ribbon from the Market steer class during the youth beef show. Each exhibitor should actively secure buyers for his or her animal to be bid on and purchased sale night. Any animal pulled from the market sale that was shown in the market class will be subject to a penalty fee and forfeit all premiums and prizes earned.
14. The 4-H Livestock Committee will organize the sale and buyer recognition in return for a fee. 4-H will provide billing (not collection) and pay an exhibitor whom has met all requirements accordingly. The fee will be based on a percentage of gross sales receipts. The rate will not exceed 8% of the gross sales receipts, except in the case of penalties.
15. All steers will be placed according to weight class with Beef classes being Light, Medium and Heavy Weight. An Intermediate Weight class may be added, at the discretion of the Superintendent in charge. The Dairy Steer classes will be divided at the discretion of the Superintendent in charge accordingly. Steers that are to be non-market and not sold in the market sale are either designated at the time of enrollment by January 31<sup>st</sup> or are animals that did not meet weight or other requirements.
16. An extra fee will be deducted from any member's check that removes an animal or does not properly feed, clean and care for his/her animal until the release time set by the fair association. Animals left after the release time must be properly secured. Youth must participate in the cleaning of barn area after removal of animal unless otherwise excused by the Livestock Committee.
17. **Non-market steers need transportation after the fair is the responsibility of the exhibitor.** The livestock committee can assist with transportation for an additional trucking fee. If the animal is to be shipped to a slaughter facility the proper slaughter paper work must accompany the trucking fee or the animal will not be loaded and shipped.
18. Each exhibitor must care for his/her own animal, show them and help maintain cleanliness in the barn and show area.
19. The official judge for each class will judge based on the Danish system. The decision of the judge will be final and viewed with respect by all participants.
20. All market animals must conform to the Animal Health Regulations as started by the NYS Department of Ag and Markets posted annually. **All vaccinations such as rabies and shipping fever must be given within appropriate withdrawl times this can range from 14 days to 45 days depending on the vaccine.** It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure withdrawl times are met prior to slaughter. Also BVD testing is a state requirement and you

need to allow for test results to be completed and returned prior to fair as well as health papers. Local vets or livestock committee members can help you if health paperwork and proof of vaccination is unclear.

- 21. Failure of an exhibitor to comply with any regulation may result in an additional sale fee and/or disqualification at the discretion of the Livestock Committee.
- 22. Species superintendent (and/or committee members) has the privilege to inspect animals during the course of the project.
- 23. The forgoing rules and policies are intended to supplement those in the Allegany County Fair Premium Book.
- 24. Participation in the Youth Market Show and Sale implies acceptance of these policies and rules by the participating member and his or her parents.

\*\*\*\*\* NO RULES WILL BE CHANGED\*\*\*\*\*

**MARKET ANIMAL SALE RULES**

- \* All market animals must be sold at the fair sale, with the exception of animals labeled as Non-Market
  - \* Animals will be sold to the highest bidder
  - \* 4-H Livestock committee will organize sale and buyer recognition in return for a fee
  - \* 4-H will provide billing and pay to qualified exhibitors
  - \* All animals will comply with proper vaccines, testing and treatment withdrawal times
- These rules are included on the market entry form and must be signed by legal guardian and exhibitor.

-----  
I have read and understand completely the rules and regulations regarding Market and Non-Market steers. I understand that I can be charged addition fees and forfeit premiums and prizes earned if I do not comply with all the above rules, polices, and regulations set forth by the Livestock Committee.

-----  
Exhibitor Name (print) Date

-----  
Exhibitor Signature

-----  
Legal Guardian Name (print) Date

-----  
Legal Guardian Signature Date





**THIS IS NOT A FAIR ENTRY FORM**

**Note:** This completed form must be received in the 4-H office by the entry deadline of **January 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Allegany County 4-H Project Registration for:**

**Market Steer**

Please note; fill all of this form out in either BLUE or BLACK ink or type.

Additional copies are available at <http://allegany.cce.cornell.edu>

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
(As of 01/01/ **current yr.**)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Beef Project Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

	Animal #1	Animal # 2
<b>Breed</b>	1) _____	2) _____
<b>Ear Tag#</b>	1) _____	2) _____
<b>Date of Purchase</b>	1) _____	2) _____
<b>Birth Date</b>	1) _____	2) _____
<b>Name of Breeder</b>	1) _____	2) _____
<b>Purchased From</b>	1) _____	2) _____
<b>Purchase Weight</b>	1) _____	2) _____
<b>Purchase Price</b>	1) _____	2) _____
<b>Size</b>	1) _____	2) _____

**(nose to tail/foot to shoulder)**

Parent/ Guardian Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_



# Market Livestock Entry Form

## Allegany County Fair

Complete entire form, including signature at end of page. Please print or type carefully! Enter any class you think you may enter by circling number and in some cases writing correct number in space provided. **Please return to the 4-H office by June 1st**

**(Entries received by the 4-H office after June 1<sup>th</sup> will receive participation ribbons, but no cash premiums)**  
Advanced entries are required, so make the proper entry for any animal you think you will exhibit. The entry should be cancelled at the time of fair if you cannot exhibit a particular animal.

**Exhibitor's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Club/Ind:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street PO Box, RD & Apt) (Town) (State) (Zip Code)

**Circle one:** Senior (14 & up) Junior (8-13) Novice (1<sup>st</sup> Year)

**Exhibitor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

All entries are accepted with the understanding that the Allegany Agricultural Society and Cornell Extension will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury to any animals exhibited or any article of any kind. All animals shall be under the control and direction for the animal committee but solely at the risk of the exhibitor who will be responsible for any loss or damage of injury to any person, animals or property occasioned by him, his agents or employees, or by any animal owned or exhibited by him, and shall indemnify against any and all damages and liability thus occasioned, including attorneys fees, which may have occurred as a result thereof. The submitting of this entry form to the Fair Office shall constitute an acceptance by each person signing same provision here in set forth. **CLOVERBUDS DO NOT BRING THEIR OWN ANIMALS, THEY MUST SHOW ANOTHER MEMBER'S ANIMAL ALREADY ENTERED IN THE FAIR.** All entries and participants are subject to the rules and regulations of the Allegany County Agricultural Society.

**Fundraisers Participated in 1.** \_\_\_\_\_ **2.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age as of 1/1/(current year)** \_\_\_\_\_ **B-Day:** \_\_\_\_\_ **T-Shirt Size:** SM / MD / LG / XLG  
specify (**ADULT**)

**Circle all that you are entering**  
**Livestock Fitting and Showmanship**  
**(Mandatory)**

<b>Beef</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Swine</b>	<b>Sheep Halter</b>	<b>Goat</b>
B911	C912	D913	C914	SG955

**Market Classes, Please Circle all that you are entering**

<b>SD951</b> Market Hog	<b>SC952</b> Market Lamb	<b>SB953</b> Market Beef	<b>SB954</b> Market Dairy Steers
<b>SG955</b> Market Goat	<b>SR956</b> Market Rabbit	<b>SP957</b> Market Poultry	

**For market animals not in sale please refer to the fair book for class codes. Write them in on the back of the entry sheet**

<i>Class Number</i>	<i>Class Name</i>	<i>Registration Name / Number</i>	<i>Birth Date</i>	<i>Tattoo and/or Tag Number</i>
<b>SR956</b>	<b>MARKET RABBIT</b>		<b>05/08/2011</b>	<b>MS123</b>

Do you have animals entered in any OPEN CLASS \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO if so; use the Open Class entry forms for those animals

Are you showing in other departments at the Fair \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

if you are keeping your stock with an adult exhibitor, give his or her name \_\_\_\_\_

Approx Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Can your animals be housed together or separate? \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibitor Name/4-H Age as of 1/1/ current year** \_\_\_\_\_