OBJECTIVES

The Allegan County 4-H Market Beef Program will help youth to:

1. Experience the pride and responsibility of owning and caring for a market steer.

2. Learn how to feed, fit, show, and raise market steers.

3. Learn proper handling procedures to prevent injuries to 4-H members and their Project animal(s).

4. Become good citizens by working together in groups and supporting 4-H Market beef Project activities and events.

5. Develop leadership initiative, self-confidence, sportsmanship and other desirable character traits.
Getting Started

The Leaders Role
As a leader in the 4-H market beef project, you should be knowledgeable in the care and management of market steers. The leader’s goal should be to help the 4-H members fulfill as many of the objectives outlined by the member and leader.

Housing
Proper housing is necessary to raise healthy and productive animals. Make certain there is proper shelter from the elements as well as ventilation. The MSU Extension Office has resources including shelter designs that are available.

Nutrition
Proper nutrition is a must to be successful. Learn about nutrition from resources available from the MSU Extension Office as well as from area Feed Stores. The animal’s diet will affect its weight and condition. Always provide fresh, clean water. Make certain it is available during hot weather as well as freezing weather.

Management
Housing and nutrition are basic parts of proper management of the market beef project. Also included is the general care of the animal. Ensure that there is clean dry bedding available. Routine hoof trimming, worming and vaccinations are a must.

Fitting and Showing
Use proper handling techniques from the beginning of your project. It is easier to start working with a 500 # animal then waiting until a month before fair and trying to beak a 1200# animal. Working with your animal on a daily basis will pay off in the long run. Learn proper fitting and showing techniques by going to other shows, Fairs, demonstrations and clinics. Bulletins are also available thru the MSU Extension Office.
PROJECT LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The adult 4-H Market Beef project leader is expected to assist members, through a project learning experience, to grow and develop into responsible, emotionally mature young adults. This goal can be achieved in the following specific areas:

**Project administration**
- Secure project literature and other relevant materials from the Extension Office and other sources.
- Provide Administrative leader of the club with information on new 4-H members.
- Work with 4-H members and other leaders to decide on meeting dates, locations, times and duration.
- Encourage 4-H members to keep records and assist them in understanding and following all guidelines in projects.
- Keep 4-H members informed about local, county and state events and activities.
- Assist members in finding prospective project animals. Before February 15th visit the member and observe how the member works with his/her animal. Give suggestions as needed. Follow up visits as needed or requested.
- Complete required 4-H Market Beef Project forms and submit to office by February 15th.

**Communication**
- Communicate with the club administrative leader as well as other club leaders.
- Make an effort to get acquainted with parents of members. Inform parents of meeting dates, times & places set by the group.

**Project Education**
- Plan the project experience based upon the needs and interests of the 4-H members, using a variety of teaching techniques, demonstrations, illustrated talks, tours, trips, audio-visual material, resource people, etc.
- Meet periodically with the project group to provide instruction in subject matter and to help members achieve the goals which, together and individually, they have set.
- Assist 4-H members in setting goals, and developing a realistic self-evaluation program checking their progress periodically and helping kids develop a positive self-image through regular encouragement and sincere praise.
- Involve 4-H Teen leaders with specific tasks and/or other responsibilities, which have been developed in consultation with teens.

**Leadership**
- Attend and participate in Monthly 4-H Livestock Leader meetings to keep up to date on what is happening at the county, regional, state and national levels.
- Participate in county, regional, state and national leader training when possible.
Allegan County MSU Extension is located at 3255 122nd Avenue, Suite 101 in the Human Services Building at the County Services Complex near Dumont Lake about 5 miles north of Allegan. The Phone number is 269-673-0370. The fax number is 269-673-7005.

*Publications* - The Allegan County MSU Extension Office has 4-H and Extension Beef publications available for purchase by clubs.

*Website* - Use the Allegan County MSU Extension office website [www.msue.msu.edu/Allegan](http://www.msue.msu.edu/Allegan) to find out what's happening in the county and throughout the state in Beef programming. You can also connect to Michigan State University through our site.

*Other Resources* - Breed Associations and State/National Beef Organizations.

**Suggested Activities**

**Club & County Activities**
- Guest speakers, such as a Veterinarian, Extension Staff, judging team.
- Try a Quiz Bowl to make learning fun.
- Visit a beef farm, vet clinic, Livestock auction, research farm, neighboring County Fair Show, Open Shows, etc...
- Attend County 4-H Beef Sheep Show in July at the Fairgrounds
- Allegan County Fair in September

**Participate in State and National Activities:**
- 4-H Communications Contest in February at MSU for 9 - 19 year olds.
- 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Workshop held in Feb. at Kettunen Center.
- ANR Week in March at MSU for all youth and adults
- MI Beef Expo (March-April) at MSU Pavilion
- MSU Vet-A-Visit (March or April) at MSU
- B & B Youth Livestock Judging Contest (April) at MSU Pavilion
- MI Jr. Beef Show & Beef Showcase (June) at MSU Pavilion
- 4-H Exploration Days at MSU in June for youth 12-19 years old.
- State 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest (July) at MSU Pavilion
- Ag Expo (July) at MSU
- Michigan State Fair held in August.
- MI Jr. LS Winter Classic Beef Show at MSU Pavilion

Contact the Allegan County 4-H Staff for more information on State and National 4-H Beef Activities.
SUGGESTED LEARNING PLAN

Members should learn:

1. To recognize breed of their Beef project.

2. Proper show attire – see guidelines

3. How to select a good project animal
   A. Breed & characteristics of Breed
   B. Age
   C. Confirmation
   D. Registered or cross

4. Principles of proper feeding, housing and health requirements.

5. Proper handling skills.

6. Basic anatomy of their Beef project.

7. Basic fitting and showmanship.

8. How to keep accurate records:
   A. Expenses of project (animal, feed, housing equipment, etc.)
   B. Length of project.
   C. Income of project - animal sold, premiums

9. In-depth knowledge of their project animal.


GENERAL 4-H MARKET BEEF PROJECT RULES

Membership
1. Allegan County 4-H Market Beef Projects are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.

2. Youth must be at least 9 years old and not older than 19 years old as of JANUARY 1ST of the current year to be enrolled in the 4-H Market Beef Project

3. Youth must be enrolled in a 4-H club to participate in 4-H Market Beef project activities. (Youth showing as independents at the Allegan County Fair wanting to sell at the 4-H Market Livestock Auction must follow the same rules as 4-H and pay a participation fee of $10 payable by tagging deadline)

4. A youth may enroll in a 4-H club at any time during a project, however, activity/event deadline dates must be adhered to, in order to maintain eligibility in those areas.

Project Animal(s)
1. 4-H Members must have their Project animal tagged and in their possession by February 15th. Youth may tag 2 market beef but bring only one to the fair. Breed papers must be submitted to the MSU Extension Office at time of tag sheets or no later then 60 days after tag deadline of 2/15. Tag numbers must match registration papers. Dairy beef crosses or dairy animals are not allowed to show as market steers or be sold at auction.

2. Beginning in 2007 the Michigan Mandatory RFID Tag will be used as the tag for market beef. Please see MSU Extension bulletin #E-2968 for additional information.

3. 4-H members must work with their market beef projects becoming familiar with them by caring, fitting, and learning how to show their animals.

4. 4-H Members are responsible for 80% of their project animal's care.

5. Project animals must be kept clean.

6. Each project animal must meet State Health guidelines.

7. 4-H Members should keep a 4-H Market Beef Project Record Book.

8. Market steers need to be dehorned before the Fair. (per Allegan County Fair rules).

9. 4-H members must review the 4-H Quality Assurance handout and turn in a signed 4-H Market Animal Agreement form during weigh in at the Fair.

10. Steers must weigh a minimum of 900# to show and sell at the fair.
**Dress Code**
The 4-H Livestock Leaders policy for appropriate dress for 4-H members showing beef, sheep and swine:

1. Dress neatly. Wear a short or long sleeved collared type shirt tucked into clean not ripped jeans or show pants. Wear a belt for neatness. Jewelry that makes noise or interferes with handling should be avoided.

2. Leather or safety boots/shoes must be worn for safety and appearance reasons.

**Commission fee**
1. A commission fee of 4% (as determined by the 4-H Livestock Leaders Committee prior to the Fair) will be charged on each animal sold through the auction.
2. .5% of the commission fee is dedicated to the insurance fund as the 4-H Livestock Leaders are self insured.
3. 3.5% of the commission fee is used by the 4-H Livestock Leaders to cover auction expenses, advertising and support county 4-H livestock programs and activities.

**ALLEGAN COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK LEADERS SELF-INSURANCE POLICY**

**COVERAGE** - A market animal owned by a 4-H member, which has been rightfully registered with the County Extension office, shall be covered under the following conditions. The Allegan County 4-H Livestock Leaders will pay for the direct physical loss caused by DEATH of the covered livestock from the time it is on the scales to be weighed at the fairgrounds until it is loaded onto a truck/trailer for shipping off fairgrounds.

**LIMITS OF INSURANCE** - Benefit will be paid in cases of death only. Benefit to be paid to whoever is the owner at the time of death. Amount of benefit to be paid will be based on the current market value at Wayland Hopkins Livestock Auction on Tuesday of Fair week. Weight will be the weight on the Fair weight slip. If claim(s) exceed the amount in the insurance fund, the fund will be distributed proportionately.

**EXCLUSIONS** - We will not pay for loss caused by or resulting from fire, floods, disease, crippling, theft, or dishonest acts by member/owner.

**D. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS**  - To receive the benefit a claim must be submitted in writing with proof of death attached. If a 4-H member is making the claim it must be signed by the member, parent, leader and superintendent with the weigh slip from the Fair attached. Claims to be sent to: Allegan County 4-H Livestock Leaders, 3255 122nd Ave., Suite 101, Allegan, MI 49010-9511.

**E. PREMIUMS** - GreenStone Farm Credit Services will deduct the premium of 1/2% from the commission of 4% which is deducted from the gross pay the 4-H member(s) receive(s) their animal(s) at the auction.
RATE OF GAIN

1. 4-H members interested in competing for Rate of gain must indicate so on the Market Beef Tag sheet and include a copy of a certified weight slip.

2. Using the weight slip given at the Fair for weigh in the member calculates the “rate of gain” in lbs per day.

3. The written calculations are presented to the Clerks table during the Youth Beef Show at the Fair. Calculations are checked and premium and ribbons will be awarded accordingly.

4-H MARKET BEEF RECORDS & NOTEBOOKS

1. 4-H members are encouraged to keep project records of their market animals. Sample 4-H record books that can be used are available from the MSU Extension Office.

2. Notebooks can be a valuable resource for members if kept up over the years. Sample table of contents of notebooks along with general guidelines are available at the MSU Extension Office.

3. 4-H Beef Notebooks can be displayed at the Fair in the Youth Exhibit Building. The class must be added onto the members entry form. Class 2952 under Section 12P010 Vet Science and Animal Science.
**4-H BEEF CARCASS PROJECT RULES**

1. Members may tag up to 2 animals (steers or heifers), but may only bring 1 animal. Tag sheets completed and turned in to MSU Extension Office by February 15th. Members of the same family can share their second animal, but if it comes to the contest it must be designated to an individual member. Holstein steers may be used. All animals must have an ear tag corresponding to tag numbers turned into MSU Extension Office.

2. Beginning in 2007 the Michigan Mandatory RFID Tag will be used as the tag for market beef. Please see MSU Extension bulletin #E-2968 for additional information.

3. **Youth must confirm with the MSU Extension Office by the June 4-H Livestock Leaders Meeting their intention of participating.** After this date if an animal becomes sick or dies the youth should notify the office immediately.

4. Youth participating in this show must also show a species of large livestock at the Allegan County Fair.

5. Calves are not required to be clipped or trained to lead, nor be Bovine TB tested, however calves must have an official Michigan RFID tag in their ear.

6. All participants must be actively present at both the Live Judging and Carcass Judging. Members not actively present will be placed at the bottom of the judging and will not receive any premiums.

7. All calves will be judged 20% live and 80% carcass. Added score will determine final placing.

8. Premiums will be on a graduated scale.

9. Animals cannot sell at auction, but the winning 1st place carcass will sell after the champion & reserve at the 4-H Livestock Auction during the Allegan County Fair.

10. **SLAUGHTER PAYMENT & PROCESSING INFORMATION** - Participants are responsible for slaughter/processing charges. Costs will be $70 (if you want heart, tongue & liver) or $65 (if Fillmore keeps them). Slaughter payment & processing information is expected the night of the carcass judging.

11. Participants and parents must sign a waiver of liability regarding the transportation of the animals from Wayland to Fillmore.

12. Participants must help set up a display at the Allegan County Fair.