Dairy Feeder & Beef Feeder Calf Guidelines

Superintendents: Greg Baker & Sara VanDyk

- All 4-Hers are eligible to participate if they are between the ages of 5 and 19.
- Club members can only bring a total of (2) Feeder Calves to the fair.
- By April 1, the calf must be in the member’s possession and a photograph of the member with their calf, RFID tag number, and child’s name must be posted to the Feeder Calf Facebook page (link: Kalamazoo 4-H Feeder Calf Club)
- Calf must be vaccinated dehorned, castrated, and have an RFID tag in the calf’s ear are required to come to fair.
- An educational exhibit with a profit and loss statement is required.

Requirements for Dairy Feeder Calves

- Dairy calves must be 100% dairy breeds (Aryshire, Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, or Brown Swiss)
- Calf must be born between January 1 and February 28.
- Calf must be de-horned, castrated, vaccinated, and have a RFID tag in the ear.

Requirements for Beef Feeder Calves

- Beef calves can be pure bred or mixed. Dairy/beef cross is considered a beef calf.
- Calf must be born between January 1 and May 1st.
- Calf must be de-horned, castrated, vaccinated, and have a RFID tag in the ear.
- Beef heifers are allowed.

Feeder Calf Show: The show will be on Wednesday of Fair at 9:30 am. Dairy and Beef calves will compete together in showmanship, separately in market classes.

Auction info: There is an option of selling two calves at the auction. It is also optional to sell the Grand and Reserve Champion calf exhibit. The calf (beef and dairy) must have an average daily rate of gain of 1 3/4 pounds to be allowed to go through the auction.

Auction picture: A fabulous looking picture of a clean calf and 4-H member (dressed in show clothes) must be given to Greg or Sara by Tuesday of fair. Unacceptable pictures will need to be retaken at the Superintendent’s discretion.

Cloverbud Requirements

- The breed requirements for beef and dairy are the same as above.
- The dairy feeder calf may be born between January 1 and March 31.
- Cloverbud showmanship, weight class, and still exhibit will be non-competitive.
- Cloverbuds may not sell at the auction.
Still Exhibit: An educational exhibit with a profit and loss statement is required. The educational exhibit can consist of a notebook, poster, or video of any other creative idea you can come up with. You may combine your feeder calf notebook with a market steer notebook.

Notebook / Poster Suggestions

CLOVERBUD 5-8 years:
- Dairy breeds
- Color picture with breed markings
- Parts and/or cuts of the feeder calf

JUNIOR 9-12 years:
- Breeds
- Special characteristics of breed
- By products of a steer
- Know what a feeder steer is and their importance to beef and dairy industry
- Meat cuts of a steer in detail

INTERMEDIATE 13-15 years:
- Health issues
- Parts and cuts of a steer in detail
- Show etiquette and equipment
- Importance of feed
- Careers that pertain to the beef or dairy industry
- Current issues within the beef or dairy industry

SENIOR 16-19 years:
- Explore any segment of the industry from “semen to steak” that interests you include profit and loss for industry.
- Know wholesale cuts and what retail cuts are included.
- Be able to identify strengths and weakness of an animal, what you would change and why from an industry perspective.
- Technology that is pertinent to the beef or dairy industry.