

## 4-H DAIRY STEER PROJECT

### WHY A DAIRY STEER?

1. More youth can purchase a dairy steer because male calves are more available and purchase price is reasonable.
2. The project terminates (or ends) in a shorter periods of time.
3. More youth can have an opportunity to learn about the dairy industry and its career opportunities.
4. More youth will have an opportunity to make money with their 4-H project because a dairy steer project can be profitable.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(Give complete address)

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

### PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. Dam and sire must both be of the same recognized dairy breed. Example: Dam – Holstein. Sire – Holstein
2. Birthdate of dairy steer shall have been before January 1 of previous year.
3. Members may enroll and show six Dairy Steers.
4. Calves must be properly enrolled January of project year. You will be notified about ear tagging.
  - a. Calves will be tagged by members of the committee in January
5. All Dairy Steers must be properly dehorned and castrated.
6. Complete Record Book.

### RECORD KEEPING

It is important to keep accurate records on each animal. These records should start by January 1, of the project year. The information can be placed in tables on cost of raising, and financial summary.

## **EARLY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

### **HOUSING**

House your calf in a well-ventilated barn, free from drafts at all times. Keep the pen dry and clean.

### **DEHORNING**

The calves should be dehorned using either of several methods. Consult either with your Extension Agent – Agriculture or your veterinarian concerning what method to use and when to do it.

### **CASTRATION**

Castration is an operation on bulls to prevent the development of sexual maturity and masculine characteristics. All animals in this project must be castrated as a safety precaution.

Calves should be castrated when they are about six (6) to eight (8) weeks of age, or before 300 pounds. There are several methods of castration. See your veterinarian for proper procedure.

### **NUMBER OF CALVES TO FEED**

Recommend feeding two or more calves together because they eat more when competing for feed.

### **EARLY BIRY MANAGEMENT**

The calf should be born in a clean, well-bedded box stall and receive milk from the dam for a minimum of two to three days after birth. Following separation of your calf from the dam, feed your calf milk at a rate of 8% of its body weight during the first week and 10% of its body weight during the second week. After the third week, decrease the amount of milk gradually. Healthy calves can be weaned from milk at the age of 6 to 8 weeks. Milk-fed calves should be given body temperature milk twice daily from sterilized pails.

### **HAY, GRAIN, & WATER**

To start your calf eating grain, put a small portion in his mouth or in the bottom of the bucket following milk feedings. Recommend to use some sort of palatable starter mix. Increase the amount of grain gradually until he is eating 3½ to 4 pounds of a commercial or good home mix daily. Begin feeding hay between four and six months of age.

### **RECOMMENDED WEIGHT**

Recommended weight at end of project should be somewhere between 1300 to 1500 pounds.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_

**SUGGESTED FEEDING PROGRAM**

4-H DAIRY STEER  
250 lbs. to market weight

RATION 1

830 lbs. shelled corn or barley  
150 lbs. soybean oil meal (44%)  
10 lbs. steam bonemeal or  
dicalcium phosphate  
10 lbs. trace mineral  
5 million units of Vitamin A  
5 million units of Vitamin D  
Total: 1,000 lbs. (14% protein)

RATION 2

790 lbs corn and cob  
190 lbs soybean oil meal (44%)  
10 lbs. seam bonemeal or  
dicalcium phosphate  
10 lbs. trace mineral  
5 million units of Vitamin A  
5 million units of Vitamin D  
Total: 1,000 lbs. (14% protein)

SUGGESTIONS FOR FEEDING ANY OF THE ABOVE RATIONS

1. The above rations can be fed free choice with a minimum amount of hay.
2. Minerals and salt should be available at all times.
3. Animals have to be watched carefully when feeding heavy.
4. Also, you might consider feeding corn silage along with a grain ration at approximately 6 months of age and older. At this time decrease hay consumption.

If you want to use a different ration, write it down here:

ITEM

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Total:

ITEM

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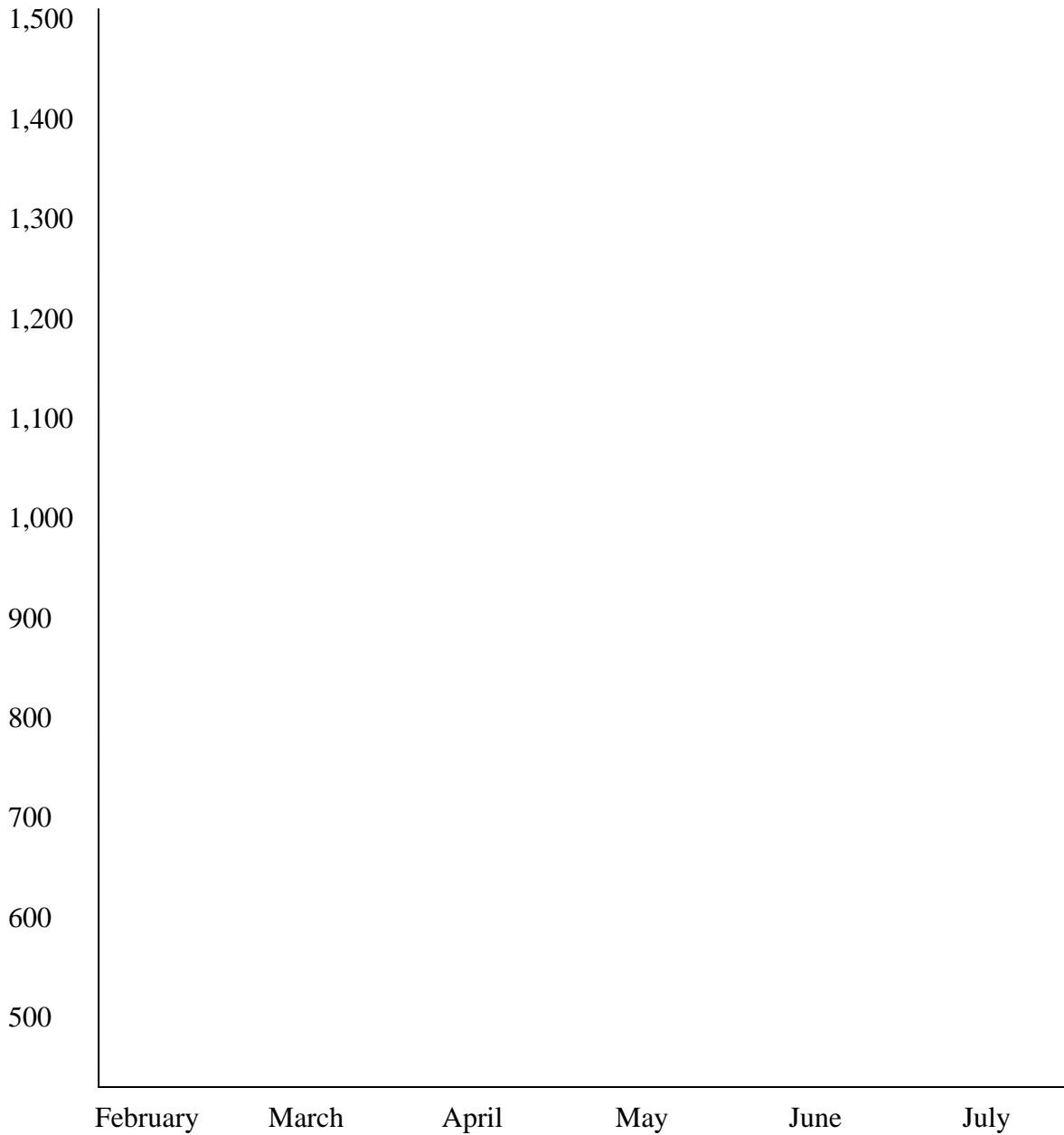
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Total:

### Growth Chart

Measure your steer once a month and calculate the rate of gain per day. Place a tape measure around the heart girth girth, pull snug, and plot the weight on the first day of each month on the growth chart.



**COST OF RAISING**

Please list below items and costs in raising your steer as of January 1 of project year.

	Steer #1	Steer #2	Steer #3	Steer #4
Value of Calf as of Jan. 1				
Feed costs (include hay, grain, minerals, etc.)				
Veterinary Costs (include any medicine required)				
Trucking Costs				
Total Costs				

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

	Steer #1	Steer #2	Steer #3	Steer #4
1. Beginning value or cost as of Jan. 1 of project year.				
2. Date project started				
3. Date project completed	Aug. 1	Aug. 1	Aug. 1	Aug. 1
4. Weight at start (actual or taped)				
5. Weight at end (sale weight – estimate this weight)				
6. Pounds of gain (line 5 minus line 2)				
7. Days on feed (line 3 minus line 2)				
8. Average daily gain (line 6 divided by line 7)				
9. Pounds of grain fed (start to finish)				
10. Total Cost				
11. Feed efficiency # pounds feed required per pound of gain (divide total gain, line 6 by total pounds of grain fed, line 9)				
12. Cost per pound of gain (divide total cost, line 10 by total gain of animal, line 6)				
13. Beginning cost or value of animal (line 1)				
14. Total cost of raising (line 10)				
15. Total costs (line 10 and line 1)				
16. Market price to be used				

each year announced at Dairy Workshop. Money or value received for animal when sold (estimate according to market price on last day record kept.)				
17. Gross profit (line 16 minus line 15)				

**FAIR AUCTION**

1. Only animals that are exhibited at the Fair are eligible to sell at the Fair Auction.

Please list below 3 to 5 things you have learned form the Dairy Steer Project.

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