

# Lucas County 4-H

## Cattle Project Guide



Helpful information for your Cattle project.

\*\*The contents of this guide are meant to be just that, a **guide** and may be subject to change without notice. Be vigilant about referencing the Lucas County Fair website for the most up to date information regarding the fair.

### Cattle Project Overview

There are several Cattle projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member. Here is a summary of each project:

4-H #	Title	Description
117BF	Cattle Feeder (Market)	Raise a Cattle breed market steer (male) or market heifer (female) to a suggested weight of 250 - 700 lbs. at fair.
117DF	Dairy Cattle Feeder (Market)	Raise a male dairy calf from a few days or weeks of age to a suggested weight of 350-700 lbs.
117 M	Market Cattle	Raise a market steer (male) for production purposes.

### Project Literature

You will need the following project materials for your Cattle project:

- **Dairy Resource Handbook** (\$28) - Designed for members taking a beef, beef breeding, beef feeder, or dairy beef feeder project.
- **Cattle Project and Record Book** (\$12) - Obtain and keep for the resource info it contains.
  - One record book per year, even if you are taking multiple types of cattle, such as dairy feeder and beef feeder.
  - You will need to purchase a new record book each year you take a beef project.

\*\*Note to those with Market Animal Projects; as a food animal producer you are required, by law, to keep a record of any treatments, medications, drugs, etc. that are used for the health of your animal. Use the Treatment Record within your Lucas County Livestock Record Insert to keep this information.



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION: \* = Mandatory

Activity	Due Date	Location	Reference Page # (in this guide)
*Enroll in 4-H	No later than April 1	<a href="https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in">https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in</a>	2
*4-H Project Interview Judging	Monday of Fair	Lucas County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent	2
*County Fair Entry	May 15	<a href="https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfairentry">https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfairentry</a>	3
*Skill-a-thon	Monday of Fair	Lucas County Fairgrounds Entertainment Tent	3

### 4-H Enrollment

Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. Your 4-H club Advisor will assist you with the online enrollment process. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University. Members must remain in good standing with their 4-H club, meaning: attending a minimum of five meetings, completing a demonstration, fully participating, etc.

### Project Interview

Project judging is an exciting time to showcase your hard work spent on your 4-H project. Our judges love talking with you and learning about your project. Please be patient and understand if a judge is running behind. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### Tips to be Successful

- Arrive at the Entertainment tent with your record books. Remember to wear nice attire to judging. See Dress Code below.
- Check in at the registration desk.
- Be prepared to talk about your project, know what you did, how you did it, and what you learned. Be proud of your accomplishments! You worked hard. Have a seat, talk to friends and RELAX!

### Dress Code Rule for All Junior Fair Exhibitors

The Junior Fair Dress Code is in effect for Livestock Shows and all Interview Judging Days.

- Livestock Interview: No rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops or sleeveless tops.
- Livestock Shows: exhibitors must wear a collared polo or buttoned shirt with some sleeve (no rips or cut-offs and no tank-tops, t-shirts or sleeveless tops). Pants should be black, khakis or jeans, reach exhibitors shoes and have no holes. Shoes are closed toe boots.
- \*\*Consequences for not following this rule may include class disqualification, or no interview until wardrobe is changed.



### Skill-a-thon

This is where you have the chance to shine as an exhibitor. This is a contest to show who knows the most about their species. You will study various topics on cattle and then at 4-H Project Interview, you will go into the skill-a-thon and answer the questions they pose for you. There are 3 levels: juniors (8-12 years old), Intermediate (13-15 years old) and seniors (16-18 years old.) The exhibitors with the highest scores can earn ribbons and then have a chance to earn cash prizes.

- The Cattle Skill-a-thon is an activity that takes place prior to fair, at 4-H Project Interview. It is a series of stations on topics you are learning about in your cattle project. The goal of the Skill-a-thon is to facilitate learning about your Cattle project.
- Prizes are awarded to exhibitors who perform well in the Skill-a-thon. Prizes typically include cash and rosettes which are handed out at Sunday awards in the Livestock Arena.

### **Congratulations on the successful completion of your project!**

### County Fair Entry

For exhibition information, such as move-in, possession and show information, visit the Lucas County Fair junior fair exhibition rules at: <https://lucascountyfair.com/exhibitors/#junior> then select "Livestock Rules"

- Fair Entry is due **May 15** and is completed online using this link: <https://go.osu.edu/lclivestockfairentry> Late or edited entries will be accepted until **May 22 with a \$50 fee payable to the Lucas County Fair.**
- For Entries after the late entry date, May 22, penalties are Grade and Exhibition only, \$50 fee, no premium, awards, or auction. Exhibition request will need approval.

### Find a Breeder

- It is highly advisable to seek out a reputable breeder to obtain your project animal. A good breeder wants you to be successful with your project and with the animal(s) they are offering. It is not advisable to look toward sale barns (stockyards) for project animals as you will not know the breed, health status or anything else about the animal you are getting.
- Create a relationship with a veterinarian in your area. Verify that they are willing and able to see your animal(s) should the need arise and share contact information so that you are prepared.

### Getting started

- Provide a barn with adequate ventilation. Pen spacing of 25-30 square feet per animal is recommended.
- Pens needs to be sturdy/strong and need to be at least four feet in height.
- A tub or tank to supply clean, adequate water during the project.
- Straw or mulch can be used for bedding.
- Good supply of CLEAN water, at all times.
- A feed trough or bunk will be needed to keep feed off the ground and fresh.
- Cattle animals should consume 2% of their body weight daily.



- Do not switch feed all at once. Use a gradual method of introducing new feed. Check with breeder or local feed store nutritionist for feed recommendations.
- Offer a good quality grass hay, free of weeds, free choice to the animal(s).

### **Selecting a Quality Animal**

- Selection of a project animal should be done carefully, with consideration given to breed, size, and quality. Size and quality are especially important. While management and nutrition have great influence on both, it is a big help to begin with a good animal.
- Make sure that the price you are willing to pay is consistent with your project objectives.
- A successful project outcome requires that the calf has a desirable genetic background and an excellent environment while in your care.

### **Duration of the Project**

- Weigh your animals periodically during the summer.
- Closer to the fair, weighing is important, so you know if you need to adjust the amount of feed you are providing your animal.
- Keep ALL records of feed used and all medications given (if any).

### **Working With Your Calf**

- Start walking your animal daily as soon as you get them.
- Rinse calves daily to promote hair growth for grooming.
- Keep pens clean with fresh bedding at all time