

4-H BUCKET CALF PROJECT

This project is designed to introduce youth 5-12 years-old to beef and dairy 4-H projects. By allowing younger children the experience of working with a smaller, less intimidating size of animal; they become comfortable with beef and dairy cattle as they grow. This is designed to be a short-term project with calves purchased in May and finalized with showing at the local County Fair.

A bucket calf is an orphan or newborn calf purchased when they are one to ten days old. The calves may be male or female, beef or dairy. The calves are started on a bottle (or bucket) and nipple.

Calves should be purchased between May 1st and May 31st of the current year. You must notify the County Extension Office by June 1st that you have purchased a bucket calf to prove ownership.

The Bucket Calf Project is entirely an educational experience. The animal is not judged for quality, but the person and calf are judged on how well it was taken care of through the interview process at the County Fair.

Judging of the Bucket Calf Project is done on a Danish system with blue, red and white ribbons awarded because EVERYONE is a winner who participates.