

Beef Builders Calf Project Guide



Cochise County

Sponsored by:
Riverview, LLP
Purina/Stronghold Feeds

June 2021

Dear Beef Builders Project Member:

Welcome to the Beef Builders Project! The materials contained within this booklet were prepared to help you gain a meaningful experience.

This is an animal project designed to teach you about the selection and management of a dairy-beef animal, specifically a Jersey-Limousin cross, called a BeefBuilder™. We hope you enjoy the experience.

This project is continuing to develop, feel free to offer suggestions on how we may improve it.

For questions/help with your calf contact Coronado Farms:

- Moiria White: 970-217-6116
- Arturo Arizon: 605-450-8647
- Juan Carranza: 320-349-0072
- Coronado Office: 520-766-2100

Your club beef project leader is also another great contact.

BEEF BUILDERS PROGRAM GOALS

1. To provide youth an opportunity to gain experience working with and showing smaller beef animals.
2. Teach proper health care and cattle management skills without a large investment
3. Teach basic record-keeping skills
4. To have fun showing cattle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Participants will be starting with a weaned heifer or steer Jersey Limousin cross calf (about 90 days old) on or around July 1st. The exhibitors will be expected to halter break and prepare their calves to be shown at the Cochise County Fair.

Calves are to be placed on high-energy growing diets until the Fair in September. Feed will be provided and can be picked up from Stronghold Feeds in Willcox. You will need to provide at least a 10 x 10-foot pen with some shade for the calf. Exhibitors are expected to attend the project meetings, exhibit the calf at the County Fair, participate in an interview at fair, exhibit an educational display about beef at the county fair, and complete a record book on the project.

There will be one mandatory Vaccination/ Workshop Day held on August 13th. There will be 2 site visits of which the dates are somewhat flexible in July and one in early September. Project records will be submitted at fair weigh-in. You may purchase your calf to use for next year's project at the end fair for \$400 but must notify Riverview, LLP of your intent to purchase by the 15th of September.

SCORING

The following criteria will be used for selecting the Champion Beef Builders:

50 points: Beef Builders Class

- 25 points General Appearance: condition and health of the calf.
- 25 points Presentation of Calf in the Showring: halter broke and the ease with which the youth can lead, control and setup the animal.

30 points: Site Visits (15 points each visit)

- 6 points Health and Welfare of calf- This includes cleanliness of pen and calf including feed and water areas and body condition of calf.
- 7 points Interaction- has the member been working with the calf? Is the calf easily Haltered/handled? Does the member have basic skills to work with calf?
- 2 points General Knowledge- Does the member appear to know and understand what is happening on a daily basis with his/her calf.

25 points: Project Record, Story, Photos

- 10 points Project Record Summary (you may use either the 4-H Record Book or the summary provided in this booklet.)
- 10 points Story (maximum of 600 words) Tell us about your calf and what you learned caring for the calf. Include anything that you would like about your calf (health problems, breaking to lead, feed program, etc.) and the fun you had raising your calf.
- 5 points Photos – Up to two pages of photographs (maximum of 8 photos), illustrating different aspects of your 4-H Beef Builders experiences this year. Your photographs should be action oriented and should illustrate learning by doing, contributing and leading. Include labels that tell who, what, when and where.

15 points: Educational Exhibit (must use standard tri fold presentation board 36"x 48")

- 10 points Idea – educational exhibits (Information used is accurate, complete, organized, original, creative, practical, and clearly communicates, etc.)
- 5 points General appearance and design (Exhibit is neat and attractive)

25 points: Member's Knowledge

- 25 points Member's knowledge of the calf (age, breed); feeding (amount, cost, what and when, how much); care of the calf given by the member; interview with the judge to determine member's knowledge.

5 C's of Calf Care

Colostrum

- The first milk given by a dairy cow after birth
- Rich in fat, protein, and immunity elements
- Given to newborn calves within the first 24 hours of life

Calories

- Calories are very important to grow and remain healthy
- Provided by a balanced ration
- Need more in the winter
- Water-Clean and Fresh!!

Cleanliness

- Clean facilities help ensure healthy animals
- Remove manure daily
- Make sure pen has good drainage (no standing water)

Comfort

- Comfort for a calf is:
- Well bedded
- Warm in winter, cool in summer
- Well ventilated
- Well built pens free of sharp edges

Consistency

- Calves are creatures of habit
- They want to be fed the same feed at the same time each day

Feed Management

- Keep feed in a dry shaded environment
- Ensure feed “looks” right
 - Free of mold
 - No foreign material
 - Ensure the nutritional needs of animals are met.

You will be feeding a ration called **AMPLI_CALF®, developed by Purina.

AMPLI-CALF® Grower feed specifically supports healthy rumen development so that calves can transition to heifers/steers better suited for nutrition absorption of a diet higher in fiber. The calf is born with a small, underdeveloped rumen compared to its other stomach compartments. The calf feeding program is critical to provide the nutrients needed to achieve the calf’s full potential for growth (weight and frame), and it also is an important aspect in the transition of the calf from a pre-ruminant to a ruminant animal. The growing ration's purpose is to increase the size and muscularity of the calf without adding excessive fat cover to the calf early on.

One of the most important aspects of feeding animals is how much they eat.

- It is helpful to have a measuring scale so you can weigh how much you are giving your calf.
- The calves will eat about 3% of their body weight.
 - You will begin by feeding 7 pounds/head/day
 - When the calf is eating ALL the feed, you will add a half pound per day until you are up to feeding 10 pounds/day/head
- When you are feeding about 10 pounds/head/day you will also feed **free-choice grass hay** through 6 months of age to optimize growth in weight and frame and beneficial rumen growth and development.
- As the animal grows they may require more than 10 pounds per day at this time you may gradually increase them up to 15 pounds per day.

NOTE: The calf should be given all the grower ration that the calf will clean up each day. The total amount of feed should be divided into two meals per day. About half in the morning and half in the evening. If it is hot and daytime feed intake is a problem, you can provide about 40% in the morning and 60% in the evening. Feed should not be allowed to accumulate from one feeding to the next. Clean out feed or feces found in the feed tub prior to feeding. You want to make sure you have clean fresh feed for the calf. You may want to weigh the feed you remove from the tub to better adjust the amount you are feeding.

*****In the event that you are not taking care of your calf or your calf is not being fed the correct amount your calf will be removed from your care and you will be disqualified from the contest.*****

Disease Prevention

Structured Prevention Protocol:

Vaccination allows the animal to build up an immunity to a variety of diseases so that if they are exposed they will not get sick.

- Coronado Vaccination Schedule
 - At *birth*, calves are given vaccinations for prevention of respiratory disease
 - At *150 days*- vaccinate with Clostridium 7-way and for respiratory diseases and viral diarrhea
 - At *270 days*- calves are vaccinated with booster shots for Clostridium diseases, respiratory diseases, and viral diarrhea

Calf Sickness: Most Common Calf Diseases

Diarrhea (scours)

Symptoms	Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Off-feed calf○ Watery diarrhea○ +/- Fever (>103)○ Dehydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Fluids and electrolytes (oral or IV)○ +/- Antibiotics

Pneumonia

Symptoms	Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Off-feed calf○ Head down, neck extended○ Depressed○ Breathing hard○ Cloudy nasal secretions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Fluids and electrolytes (oral or IV)○ +/- Antibiotics

Heat Stress

Symptoms	Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Off-feed calf○ Increased respirations○ Open-mouth breathing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Shade○ Water○ Ventilation (fans and fresh air)○ Fluids and electrolytes

Fair Preparation

- Desensitization (Reduce Stress)
 - Noise
 - People
 - Washing
- Hair
- Leading
- Feed and Water

Anatomy of Beef Builders

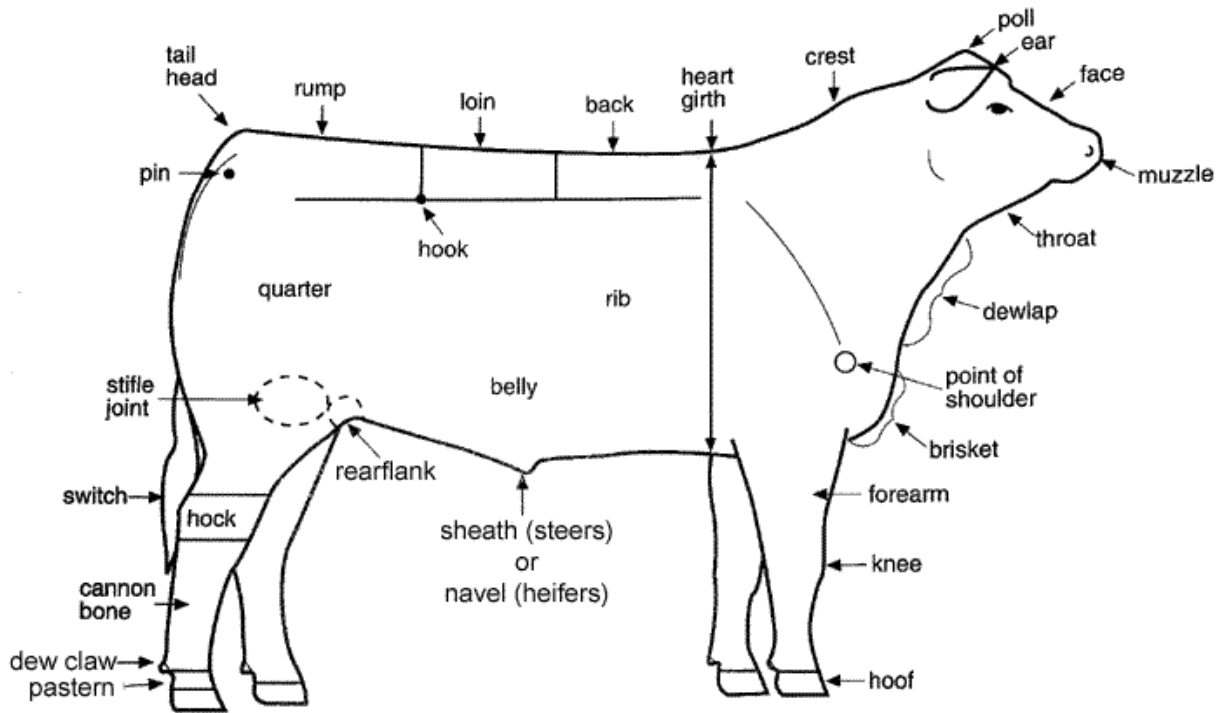


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BREAKING THE CALF TO LEAD

Getting the calf accustomed to a halter can be done quite easily when they are smaller. Begin by placing a halter on them and tying them up for 20 minutes twice each day for a week. Make sure to tie them with a slip knot that can easily be untied. Observe them carefully so they do not become entangled or injure themselves. After a week or two, the amount of time they are tied can be extended. Handle them gently and get them accustomed to you.

Once the calf gets used to being handled, begin teaching them to lead. Initially, having an adult assist you is probably the best. Lead them only a short distance at first and gradually extend the length.

Calves should be taught to stand quietly, with feet placed squarely underneath them. A show stick is helpful, but not necessary.

SHOWING AT THE FAIR

Beef Builders fair entries are due September 1st.

Please enter all three classes:

Division: Beef Builders

Classes: BeefBuilder

In addition to entering the Beef Builders division you can also enter the regular junior or senior beef showmanship classes.

Calves are to be brought to the fairgrounds on Wednesday of the fair, and will be left at the fairgrounds until the release time on Sunday. Please remember barn etiquette and make sure your calves are in the barn by the appointed time and out of the barn at the appointed time. ALL members participating in the Beef Builders Project will be responsible for clean-up. We will develop a schedule when we get closer to fair time.

All calves should be clean when shown. Use a mild soap, moderate water temperature and rinse thoroughly. Don't forget to clean the hoofs. There will be no grooming products allowed on the calves. Clipping will be done as a group prior to fair.

Showing will be very much like showing market steers. Lead your calf in a clockwise direction and from the left side of your animal. Pull, facing forward, the direction you want your calf to move. Keep your right hand near the animal's head and hold the extra lead (and show stick, if desired) in your left hand.

Follow the ring persons' directions. When the judge or ring person requests you to stop circling, they will hold one or both hands up. This is the time to set your animal up so the judge can view your exhibit. The judge or ring person will eventually call you into the placing line. Do so promptly, and line your exhibit up in line with the other cattle.

Remain in line until all cattle have been placed. Remember -- ALWAYS keep your eyes on the judge and BE ALERT!

BEEF BUILDERS PROJECT RECORD SUMMARY

MEMBER NAME _____ AGE: _____

CLUB: _____

DATE PROJECT STARTED _____

CALF EAR TAG NUMBER _____

CALF BIRTHDATE _____

DESCRIPTION OF CALF _____

VALUE AT START (ACTUAL OR ESTIMATE) _____

WEIGHT AT START (ACTUAL OR ESTIMATE) _____

PROJECT GOALS: List three of your goals to learn or do in this project.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Did you accomplish your goals? Why or why not? (Include skills learned)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Expense Summary

	Pounds	Cash Cost	Non-Cash Cost (items on hand)	Total Cost
Feeds: Grower Ration				
Hay				
Other Feeds				
Medications	*****			
Veterinarian Expense	*****			
Bedding	*****			
Other Costs, Miscellaneous Explain	*****			
Total Costs		A.		B.
Purchase Price/Value of Calf when project started				

Profit & Performance Summary

1. Weight at fair _____ lbs.
2. Starting weight of calf brought to fair _____ lbs.
3. Total days on feed _____ days.
4. Total weight gain (line 1-line 2) _____ lbs.
5. Average daily gain (line 4 divided by line 3) _____ ADG in lbs
6. Cash cost/lb of gain [(A. divided by number of calves)/line4]=\$ _____
7. Breakeven price per lb. [value of calf when project started + (B.)] divided by line1=\$ _____

Calf Name: _____

Ear Tag #: _____

Date	Pounds fed AM	AM Refusal	Pounds Fed PM	PM Refusal	Date	Pounds fed AM	AM Refusal	Pounds Fed PM	PM Refusal

Calf Name: _____

Ear Tag #: _____

Date	Pounds fed AM	AM Refusal	Pounds Fed PM	PM Refusal	Date	Pounds fed AM	AM Refusal	Pounds Fed PM	PM Refusal

Calf Name: _____

Ear Tag #: _____

Date	Pounds fed AM	AM Refusal	Pounds Fed PM	PM Refusal	Date	Pounds fed AM	AM Refusal	Pounds Fed PM	PM Refusal

NOTES: