

## A feed trough should be how far from the ground?

The feed boxes or bunks should be approximately 18 to 24 inches above the ground or floor, 24 inches wide and 6 inches deep. Each animal should have about 2 ½ linear feet of feeding space. If hay is fed, the hay racks should be in a dry area away from the feed trough.

## How often should you worm your cattle?

In addition to the vaccinations, deworm the steer at the start of the feeding period. One deworming treatment will probably be enough, but there may be the need to deworm again two to three months later. Many commercial dewormers are available in paste, bolus, injectable or as a "pour-on." When purchasing your calves, make sure they are properly vaccinated by producer.

## How many pounds of feed must be fed for 1 pound of gain for a steer?

The efficiency at which an animal converts the feed it eats to gain. The average for steers is about 6-9 pounds of feed per pound of gain.

## If your cattle are tied up under fans in the barn, how often should they be watered?

As a rule of thumb, consumption will range from 1 gallon per 100 pounds of body weight during cold weather to nearly 2 gallons per 100 pounds of body during the hottest weather. Water is the most important nutrient for all livestock to be able to gain. Calves should not go more than 2-3 hours without water specially in the summer heat.

## How much feed should your steer consume per day?

Calves that are gaining at a moderate rate (2 to 3 lbs/day) need about 1.5% of their body weight as grains (800 lb calf = 12 lbs of grain), whereas calves gaining at a greater rate (+ 3 lbs/day) need more grain in their diet and should consume up to 2.0 to 2.25% of their body weight as grain (800 lb calf = 16 to 20 lbs of grain). Feeding grain at greater than 2.25% of a calf's body weight dramatically increases the risk for digestive upset, acidosis, and laminitis.

## How many stomachs does a beef animal have?

Cows actually only have one stomach... but it has four different compartments to it, so you will hear them being described as having four stomachs. Each compartment is used for a different stage of their digestive process.

## At what age will a heifer start her first heat cycle?

The range in age at puberty based on breed can be from 11 to 20 months of age. With the goal to have heifers calve at 24 months, heifers need to be bred by 14 or 15 months of age.

## Where should my cattle be housed?

Out of the sun, in a clean, dry pen, a pen of minimum of 15 feet by 15 feet. A small shed to a larger shed or barn, depending on the number of steers you have to feed. The shed should be dry and well-ventilated so the animal can keep cool during the summer and warm during the winter. In addition to the housing, you will also need to provide feed and water for your calf. Although the water troughs may be placed either inside or outside the shed, it is best to keep the feed box inside to keep the feed dry from rain or snow.

## How do you know if your calf is sick?

Signs to tell if your calf is sick:

- Separation from herd
- Apparent blindness
- Nasal discharge
- Poor appetite
- Hunched up
- Abnormal respiration
- Grinding teeth
- Cough
- Ears are droopy

### Calf's Vital Signs

Average Temperature— 102.5 Degrees F

Normal Pulse Rate— 100-140 rate/minute

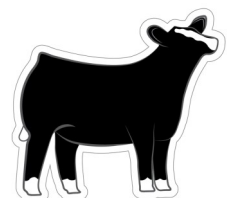
Normal Breathing Rate— 24-26 rate/minute

**If your steer should eat 2% of his body weight per day. How much feed should your 1,200 pound steer eat?**

$1200 * .02 = 24$  pounds

**On average, a steer gains 1.5 to 2.5 pounds per day. If it is May 1st and your steer weighs 1,000 pounds and gains 2 pounds per day. Will it make market weight of 1,300 pounds by August 1st? May 1 to August 1 = 92 days**

$92 \text{ days} * 2 \text{ lb/day} = 184 \text{ pounds}$        $1,000 \text{ lbs on May 1} + 184 \text{ lb gain} = 1,184 \text{ lbs on August 1st}$



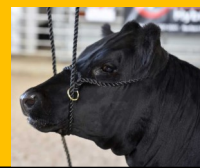
# Halter Breaking Calves

## 1. Build a Relationship

- ◆ Build trust with your calf.
- ◆ Put calves in a small pen, so they cannot run away from you. Begin scratching on them with a show stick to calm them down.
- ◆ They might run away, kick a little bit, so be calm and quiet.
- ◆ When you are able, start scratching them with your hands around their tail and top line.
- ◆ When they get more comfortable, try scratching their head and neck.
- ◆ Do this more than once a day until they are settled down for 2-3 hours each time.

## 2. Haltering

- ◆ When you can scratch your calf in a small area without them moving is when you move to the haltering step.
- ◆ Use a halter with a ring at the cinch point to make it easier for catch and release of the calf.
- ◆ When the halter is in your hand, continue scratching your calf while putting the halter on its head.
- ◆ Place the halter over the ears than over the nose, so the calf is not as frightened.
- ◆ A slow first experience of being haltered



## 3. Time to Tie

- ◆ Tying your calf up is where it can learn lots.
- ◆ After calf is haltered, find the closed play to tie your animal to the fence. Make sure the fence or post is sturdy.
- ◆ Tie the head level to its nose with giving it about 1-2 feet of rope.
- ◆ Use a simple pull through loop that is easy to untie and release.
- ◆ Start at a low/medium tie because the calf will pull back, fight, and possibly flip over.
- ◆ When tied up, scratch and brush the calf.
- ◆ Tie your calf lower up for 2-3 hours for the next 3 days.

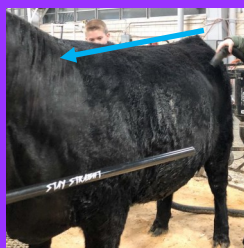


## 4. Leading to the Finish Line

- ◆ After the calf stands fairly well tied up, now is the time to start learning to lead.
- ◆ Start in a small pen by trying to pull it a few steps. After the calf takes 3-5 steps forward reach out and loosen the halter then rub the calf on its head to reward it.
- ◆ Your calf might potentially jump forward or pull backwards.
- ◆ Letting go teaches your calf that it can get away every time, so try not to let it go.
- ◆ When you feel it is walking forward well, you can think about going out of the pen to the washrack.
- ◆ In a small area, you have more control of the calf.

## 5. Time to be a Show Cow

- ◆ After walking your calf to the wash rack and barn now is the time to start blowing and rinsing.
- ◆ Blow the dirt out before washing the calf.
- ◆ Always start blowing the calf slowly to get the calf used to the blower.
- ◆ Blow the hair forward from butt to head, same with combing.
- ◆ After washing your calf, blow your calf completely dry every time.



## 6. Be Consistent Every Day

- ◆ Being consistent with feeding time, halter breaking, and everything with your calf will always lead to more success.
- ◆ 1. Catch and tie each day to feed –this teaches your calf to be caught every day to make it easier.
- ◆ 2. Tie your calf up for a few hours after washing and blowing.
- ◆ Instead of turning it loose right away, let it stand to learn how to stand for the show.
- ◆ 3. Practice showmanship for 20-30 minutes each night before turning your calf out for the night.