

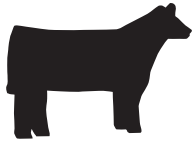


# 4-H BEEF CATTLE PROJECT



## Quick Reference Guide

### Types of Beef Cattle Projects

Market Steer	Registered Breeding Cattle	Commercial Heifer
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortest-term cattle project</li> <li>• Castrated males</li> <li>• Any breed or combination of crossbreeding qualifies</li> <li>• Shown in two divisions (Brahman and non-Brahman)</li> <li>• Shown by weight (850 lbs. min.)</li> <li>• Will require health papers</li> <li>• Slick-shearing Louisiana show rules eliminate high cost and skill variation for grooming</li> <li>• High-cost livestock project</li> <li>• Animal raised for meat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term cattle project</li> <li>• Registered or recorded with their respective breed organization (miniature breeds included)</li> <li>• Females and bulls</li> <li>• <b>Breed association registration papers required</b></li> <li>• Will require health papers</li> <li>• Shown by age (6 months-2 years)</li> <li>• High-cost livestock project</li> <li>• Animal raised for breeding purposes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short- or long-term cattle project</li> <li>• Females only</li> <li>• Any breed or combination of crossbreeding qualifies</li> <li>• Shown in two divisions (Brahman and non-Brahman)</li> <li>• Shown by weight (500 lbs. min.)</li> <li>• Will require health papers</li> <li>• Mouthing requirement (must not have lost baby teeth)</li> <li>• High-cost livestock project</li> <li>• Animal raised for breeding purposes</li> </ul>

**Estimated Timeline:** One to two years

**Estimated Cost:** \$4,500-\$10,000+

**Estimated Space Requirement:** 35-40 sq. ft. shelter per calf + one-half acre of grazing area

**Estimated Production Outcome:**

1,250 lbs. live weight = 800 lbs. hot carcass weight (HCW) = 728 lbs. boneless retail beef cuts = **\$1,719.46<sup>1</sup>**  
(Average family of four consumes 880 lbs. meat and poultry per year<sup>2</sup>)

**Estimated Youth Outcome:**

Goal setting, record keeping, critical thinking, decision making, communication, responsibility, marketable skills, self-discipline, leadership

<sup>1</sup> Colorado State University Department of Animal Science. 2014. Beef Cutout Calculator. <http://www.http://beefcutoutcalculator.agsci.colostate.edu/>.

<sup>2</sup> United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. 2017. Total Red Meat and Poultry. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-meat-domestic-data/live->

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For more information about this project, or 4-H in general, contact your local parish LSU AgCenter Office or visit the Louisiana 4-H website: [www.LSUAgCenter.com/4H](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com/4H)