



4-H Beef Project Series

For Leaders

- 2017 -

*4-H projects are the core of the 4-H program in Manitoba.
Beef projects provide exciting potential to ensure quality and innovative learning experiences.*

The 5 Goals Of The Manitoba Beef 4-H Project Series:

1. To develop skills in beef management related to:
 - Nutrition, health care, facilities and safe animal handling
 - Selection and evaluation for specific purposes
 - Marketing
 - Record keeping (costs of production, herd management, business planning, environmental, VBP)
 2. To increase understanding of entrepreneurial career opportunities in the beef industry.
 - To develop skills necessary to work in the beef industry
 3. To identify needs and opportunities to contribute to and learn skills within the community.
 4. To increase knowledge of the linkages between agricultural practices, the environment and consumer choices:
 - To understand the meaning and importance of sustainable agricultural practices in the production of healthy foods
 - To develop an appreciation of beef as part of a healthy diet.
 5. To develop humane attitudes and practices for working with animals.
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Each project topic series contains three levels of skill development: explore, discover, and master. Here's how it works:

Explore - each project series has one or more project outlining the fundamentals. All members will be expected to complete the Explore level project before moving into the Discover level projects. It introduces the basic skills and terms needed by members for subsequent projects in that series.

Discover - each project series has several project options and members are encouraged to take as many as they would like. At this level, members practice topic specific techniques and gain related skills through specialized builders.

Master - multiple project options encourage members to specialize in a topic. The Leader's role is look for opportunities for their members to have more in-depth experiences by: working with other mentors, partnering with outside agencies, participating in exchanges, entering competitions, etc.



How to Select the Correct Project Level in the NEW 4-H Beef series

The chart below and on the next page outlines where new 4-H members or members who have taken the previous 4-H beef projects might fit within the new project series.

All new members should begin with either the Cloverbud or Explore Beef manuals depending on age. Members with extensive beef management skills may begin at more advanced levels at the leader's discretion. You will notice that it is recommended that current members begin at the same level they have recently completed.

Former Project	Suggested New Series Project
<p>New Member (no previous beef project)</p> <p>And</p> <p>Cloverbud</p>	<p>All new, young members should enroll in:</p> <p><i>Cloverbud Beef</i>: Recommended for members who are 6 to 8 years of age. It gives a brief introduction to many aspects of the beef industry including selecting, feeding, facilities, health, and handling of a small calf. Members are encouraged to use a calf born between January 1 and March 15 of the project year.</p> <p>Returning Cloverbud aged members should take either :</p> <p><i>Cloverbud Beef</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>Explore Beef - Building Beef Skills</i> : Recommended for members who are 8 to 9 years of age. This project is presented in a workbook style which includes the records portion of the project. It builds on the material presented in Cloverbud Beef on the topics of selecting, feeding, facilities, health, and handling. The basics of judging is also presented. Members can choose a steer or a heifer, and the calf can be a yearling or a current year calf.</p> <p>Older members, new to the beef project and beef production should begin with Explore Beef.</p>
<p>Explore Beef - Bite Into Beef</p>	<p><i>Explore Beef - Building Beef Skills</i></p>
<p>Discover Beef 1 - Here's The Beef!</p>	<p><i>Discover Beef 1- Buying Into Beef</i>: Recommended for members who are 9 to 10 years of age. It expands on the topics of selecting, feeding, facilities, health, handling, and judging that were presented in previous levels. Members also begin to learn about the basics of carcass evaluation. Members can choose a current year calf, yearling steer or heifer, or a continuation heifer for their project animal.</p>

Former Project	Suggested New Series Project
<p>Discover Beef 2 - Leading the Charge!</p>	<p><i>Discover Beef 2 - Quality Beef From a Quality 4-H Project</i> : recommended for 4-H members who are 10 to 11 years old. Members can select a market animal, a heifer or a continuation heifer for their project animal. Members will learn more about selecting, caring for, handling and housing their animal. Other topics will include carcass evaluation, judging, animal welfare, and marketing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>Discover Beef 3 - 4-H BEEF MAKING THE GRADE</i> : recommended for members who are 12 - 13 years of age. Members will learn about the different breeds of beef, making rations for their calves, calving problems and other health concerns. Other topics will include manure management, animal welfare, ethics, carcass evaluation, markets and the consumer. Members can use a market steer or heifer, a breeding heifer, or a continuation heifer as their project animal.</p>
<p>Master Beef 1 - Feed Issues: Nutritional Disorders</p>	<p>Depending on age and experience, members may take either:</p> <p><i>Discover Beef 3 - 4-H BEEF MAKING THE GRADE</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>Master Beef 1 - "Meating " The Challenge of Raising Beef</i> : recommended for members who are 13 - 14 years of age. Members will learn more about nutrition, rations and feed costs, health and cow/calf care, handling and facilities. Other topics include alternative watering systems, environmental concerns, animal welfare, and "gate to plate" information such as carcass evaluation, marketing, the consumer link and current beef issues. Members can choose a market steer and/or a heifer, a breeding heifer or a continuation heifer for their project animal.</p>
<p>Master Beef 2 - Pick Your Specialization</p>	<p><i>Master Beef 1 - "Meating " The Challenge of Raising Beef</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i>Master Beef 2 - Pick Your Topic</i> : For members fifteen years of age and older, this project offers lots of choice. In addition to advanced record keeping and ration development, members can chose their own focus. Think outside the box - pick any beef related topic and develop it through research and experiences to gain a thorough understanding. Have you wanted to shadow a vet, learn about artificial insemination, investigate backgrounding or holistic management? What about learning more about herd sire selection or expanding your knowledge of beef and the environment. Select a topic from one of several available fact sheets or find your own information and mentor.</p> <p>The topic may be presented by an individual member or by a group. The topic has to be researched, documented and presented with your project book. You must choose a different topic, each year from the age of 15- 25. You may choose the type of medium that you feel best displays or presents your topic.</p> <p>Members can choose a market steer and/or a heifer, a breeding heifer or a continuation heifer for their project animal. Members also have the option to do this project without an animal or with a herd sire or group of animals.</p>

Frequently Asked Questions

Do Cloverbud members have to show a current year calf?

Manitoba 4-H Council has these policies for Cloverbud members in livestock projects:

- All Cloverbud members must be within arm's reach of a capable and experienced adult, when working with livestock. The Cloverbud member to adult ratio must always be 1:1, in these scenarios. In the case of riding (equine), member must be within view of the adult (specific distance guidelines to be determined).
- The size of project animal used by a Cloverbud, is at the discretion of the parent and/or leader. This decision should be based on an assessment of the skills and abilities of the member, and temperament of the animal, as outlined in the M4HC Safety Guidelines to be developed.
- That decisions regarding showing of animals in a competition should remain at the discretion of the club and/or the event administration.

Do I have to complete a separate record book to complete my project?

The new Beef project series **does not** have a separate record book. The record keeping pages for animals, rations, feed, health care and other expenses are a part of each manual. However, members are expected to meet any club requirements – check with you club head leader for club rules and ask if there are any requirements for a separate record book in your club.

Do I have to take part in a livestock show to complete my project?

The completion requirements for each Manitoba 4-H beef project are listed on the front inside cover of the member manual. The 4-H program does not require members to take part in a livestock show to complete their project. However, members are expected to meet any club requirements – check with you club head leader for club rules and ask if there are any exceptions.

Do I have to show and sell a steer?

Can I use a bull calf for my project animal?

Can I do my project with a pen of animals or a herd?

The completion requirements for each Manitoba 4-H beef project are listed on the front inside cover of the member manual. The 4-H program does not require members to take part in a livestock show to complete their project. However, members are expected to meet any club requirements – check with you club head leader for club rules and ask if there are any exceptions.

In addition, as a an advanced beef project member you may wish to take the *Master Beef 2 - Pick Your Topic* project. This project allows you to select and investigate a beef topic of your choice. This could include raising a herd sire, doing a project with a pen or herd of animals, or working with a three year old cow and its current and previous progeny. This project may be taken by an individual or by a group of members.

Can I show and sell a market heifer instead of a market steer?

The completion requirements for each Manitoba 4-H beef project are listed on the front inside cover of the member manual. The Manitoba 4-H beef projects do not specify the type or sex of

Frequently Asked Questions

animal that must be raised. However be aware that your club may have specific rules - check with you club head leader for club rules and ask if there are any exceptions. In addition your local 4-H livestock show may specify what animals may be shown and sold, and you may not be able to take part with your chosen animal. There is the option to sell your animal privately or through the local abattoir or auction mart.

Do I have to raise an animal at all to complete a 4-H Manitoba Beef project?

The completion requirements for each Manitoba 4-H beef project are listed on the front inside cover of the member manual. The 4-H program does not require members to raise an animal to complete their project. However, members are expected to meet any club requirements - check with you club head leader for club rules and ask if there are any exceptions.

There may be situations where the prospective member is interested in learning about beef animals and the beef industry but is unable to raise an animal. The member could still complete the project material and finish the project. However, members are expected to meet any club requirements - check with you club head leader for club rules and ask if there are any exceptions. The club may have implement other achievement requirements in place of raising and showing an animal.

In addition, as a an advanced beef project member you may wish to take the *Master Beef 2 - Pick Your Topic* project. This project allows you to select and investigate a beef topic of your choice that may not involve raising an animal. Topics might include shadowing a veterinarian, investigating a beef related career or educational opportunity, serving as an ambassador for a beef breed, learning to be a livestock judge, or planning clinics or livestock shows. For more topic suggestions, please refer to the fact sheet "**Master Beef—Pick Your Topic Possibilities**". This project may be taken by an individual or by a group of members.

Do all clubs have the same rules or requirements for achievement or project completion?

All clubs must meet the basic requirements of Manitoba 4-H Council, but may set their own requirements such as attendance and taking part in specified activities. Check with your club head leader for club specific rules.

Do all Manitoba 4-H livestock shows have the same rules or requirements?

No, each 4-H livestock show may set its own rules as long as they comply with policies and procedures set by Manitoba 4-H Council.

What is the benefit of being a 4-H beef member besides being able to sell my steer?

All young people can benefit from being part of the Manitoba 4-H program. 4-H provides a strong foundation of leadership and skill development to help members succeed in everything that they do. In addition to technical project skills, members learn life skills such as public speaking, working with a group, responsibility, meeting management and community service. Members are eligible for scholarships and travel awards as well as having the benefit of listing their 4-H involvement on applications for jobs and other awards. 4-H is recognized in the community as building leaders and more-engaged citizens..

Resources on the Internet and Social Media

The internet can be an excellent source of information whether in print or video format. Be sure to always look for reputable and credible sources when using online resources. Examples of good resources would be sites posted by government, university, extension or other credible educational agencies. Companies may also post credible information but be aware that they could be promoting their own products and you may wish to find a second opinion.



Pinterest - The Visual Discovery Tool

Pinterest is a social media bulletin board for you to virtually pin pictures of things that interest you to your own personal boards - Pin-Explore-Discover! 4-H Manitoba has a Pinterest account. Each project series has a board full of fun and interesting ideas. There are also boards for 4-H Awesome, Community Service, Volunteers, Communications and Building Blocks. Check it out at www.pinterest.com/4hmanitoba/.

When you are doing a search for beef information on the internet be sure to be specific about what you want to find out - just entering "beef" will yield too many results for you to check and not all of them will relate to what you want to know. For example, try "rotational grazing for beef cattle", "preparing for a 4-H livestock show" or "judging 4-h beef steers".



YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/>

YouTube is an American video sharing website. You can search YouTube for videos on a variety of topics including livestock judging, showmanship and advocacy.

As with Pinterest, you will want to be specific in your search topics - this will decrease the number of results you find and increase the relevance of the videos you find.

Be sure that the information you are accessing from Pinterest, YouTube or blogs is from a reputable source and has referenced credible resources to support their statements. It is also important to be aware that some information may only be relevant to particular geographic locations.



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