Boys' and Girls' Club Work: Baby Beef Club

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

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BOYS’ and GIRLS’ CLUB WORK

BABY BEEF CLUB

EXTENSION SERVICE

South Dakota State College of Agriculture and
Mechanic Arts and U. S. Department
of Agriculture Cooperating.

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Prepared by
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and
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REGULATIONS

1. Any boy or girl 10 to 19 years inclusive may enroll with your county agent.

2. Enrollments must be completed on or before November 1.

3. Each member selects a calf dropped between January 1 and June 1, prior to enrollment.

4. Calf may be pure-bred, crossbred or grade.

5. Calves intended for breeding purposes are barred.

6. One calf or more may be selected.

7. Feeding period begins November 1 to 15, and continues for 10 months. Calf must be weighed at beginning and close of feeding period.

8. Instructions relative to selecting, feeding and care of baby beef are sent to each member the first of each month.

9. Each member does his work, follows instructions, keeps a record book, makes his report each month, and writes a story of his work and submits same to the county agent.

10. With the same calf the member is entitled to compete for community, county, state, inter-state and international honors.

11. Beefes will be disposed of at the best market advantage when finished.

Arrangements have been made with the South Dakota State Fair Board for a large exhibit of baby beefes at the State Fair. A large premium purse is offered for this exhibit. The State Fair Board wishes to see every baby beef in County Championship Class and its owner at the State Fair.
BABY BEEF CLUB

A baby beef is a beef animal that has not been allowed to lose its calf or milk fat, and falls under the market class known as light weight beef steers.

The justification of raising baby beefes are:

a. It is the best beef produced and demands the highest market value.

b. It may be produced cheaper than most any other grades of beef by careful feeding, as young animals feed more efficiently than older ones.

c. Feeding calves saves an extra years pasture on a steer and balances up the years labor and saves interest on longer investment in the calf.

d. Feeding livestock is imperative in order to maintain soil fertility, profitable crop production and increased land values. Baby beef production is an undeveloped line of livestock feeding in South Dakota that should come forward under present circumstances.

BASIS OF AWARD

Gain in weight and finish ............ 30%
Economy of gain and Junior Farm Accounts Record ............... 30%
Best report and written story showing knowledge of feeding and care of baby beefes ............... 40%

Total 100%
HOW TO SELECT THE RIGHT CALF.

Select a calf that is low set, blocky and fat.

Avoid the dairy calf or rough scrub.

To be a good feeder the calf must grow fast and fatten as he grows.

He must have a short, broad head, a short, neat neck and short, strong legs.

He should have a broad, deep chest, a broad, straight back and be thick through the thighs.

If possible pick out a calf that comes from a large beef-type mother.

The better bred calf you select the better and more economical gains he will make.

The right kind of feed and care will make a fine baby-beef from an ordinary fat beef calf.

A 200 pound calf will gain 2 pounds per day on good feed and milk, or one percent of his weight.

A 1000 pound steer gains 2 pounds per day on good feed or 1/5 of 1% of his weight.

Therefore, the calf gains five times as much in proportion to his own weight as the mature animal does.

A baby-beef must have more concentrated feeds than an old cow. He will not eat as much ensilage, alfalfa hay or fodder in proportion to the grain that he will consume.