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Boys' and Girls' Club Work: Baby Beef Club

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BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK

Baby Beef Club



EXTENSION DIVISION

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND MECHANIC ARTS AND U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING
C. LARSEN, DIRECTOR

JUNIOR EXTENSION WORK

Paul J. ScarbroState Club Leader
Irene DunneAssistant State Club Leader
A. L. Haynes, Assistant State Club Leader

Brookings, S. D.

THE PROJECT

The raising and feeding of Baby Beef is the one big coming project in South Dakota.

The material increase in the value of farm land is making it impossible to keep feeders to the age of $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 years before finishing them for market.

By careful selection, breeding, feeding, and care an animal can be brot to early maturity and placed on the market in prime condition at from 15 to 20 months of age and bring a higher price per pound than older steers.

By marketing beef at the baby stage, much valuable feed is saved on the farm and as a result a greater number of cattle, both breeders and feeders can be maintained.

The growing calf will gain from 30 to 40 per cent more weight from the same amount of feed than the mature steer. Therefore, our cheapest gains are over when the animal stops growing.

The early maturing beef is the prime beef on the market.

BASIS OF AWARD

Gain in weight	30%
Economy of gain	30%
Best report and written story....	40%
	<hr/>
	100%

REGULATIONS

1. Any junior 10 to 18 years inclusive, may enter.
2. Enrollments must be completed on or before November 1st.
3. Each member selects a calf dropped between January 1st and June 1st prior to enrollment.
4. Calf may be pure-bred, cross-bred, or grade.
5. Calves intended for breeding purposes are barred.
6. More than one calf may be selected if desired.
7. Feeding period begins October 15th to November 1st 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.
9. Each member does his work, follows instructions, keeps a good record, makes his report each month, and writes a story of his work.
10. With the same calf the member is entitled to compete for community, county, state, interstate, and international honors.
11. A special sale will be held each fall to dispose of the finished beeves.

Arrangements have been made with the South Dakota State Fair Board for a large exhibit of baby beeves at the 1919 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 1919 State Fair.

HOW TO SELECT THE RIGHT CALF

Select a calf that is low set, blocky.

Avoid the dairy type calf or scrub.

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

He should have a short, broad head, a short, thick neck, short, strong legs, well muscled.

He should have a broad, deep, chest, a broad, straight back and be thick thru 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 a very ordinary calf.

A 200 lb. calf will gain 2 lbs. per day on good feed or one per cent of his weight.

A 1000 lb. steer gains 2 lbs. 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.