

4-H BEEF CATTLE SELECTION, GROOMING, & SHOWMANSHIP

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Livingston County**



PROSPECT CALF SELECTION

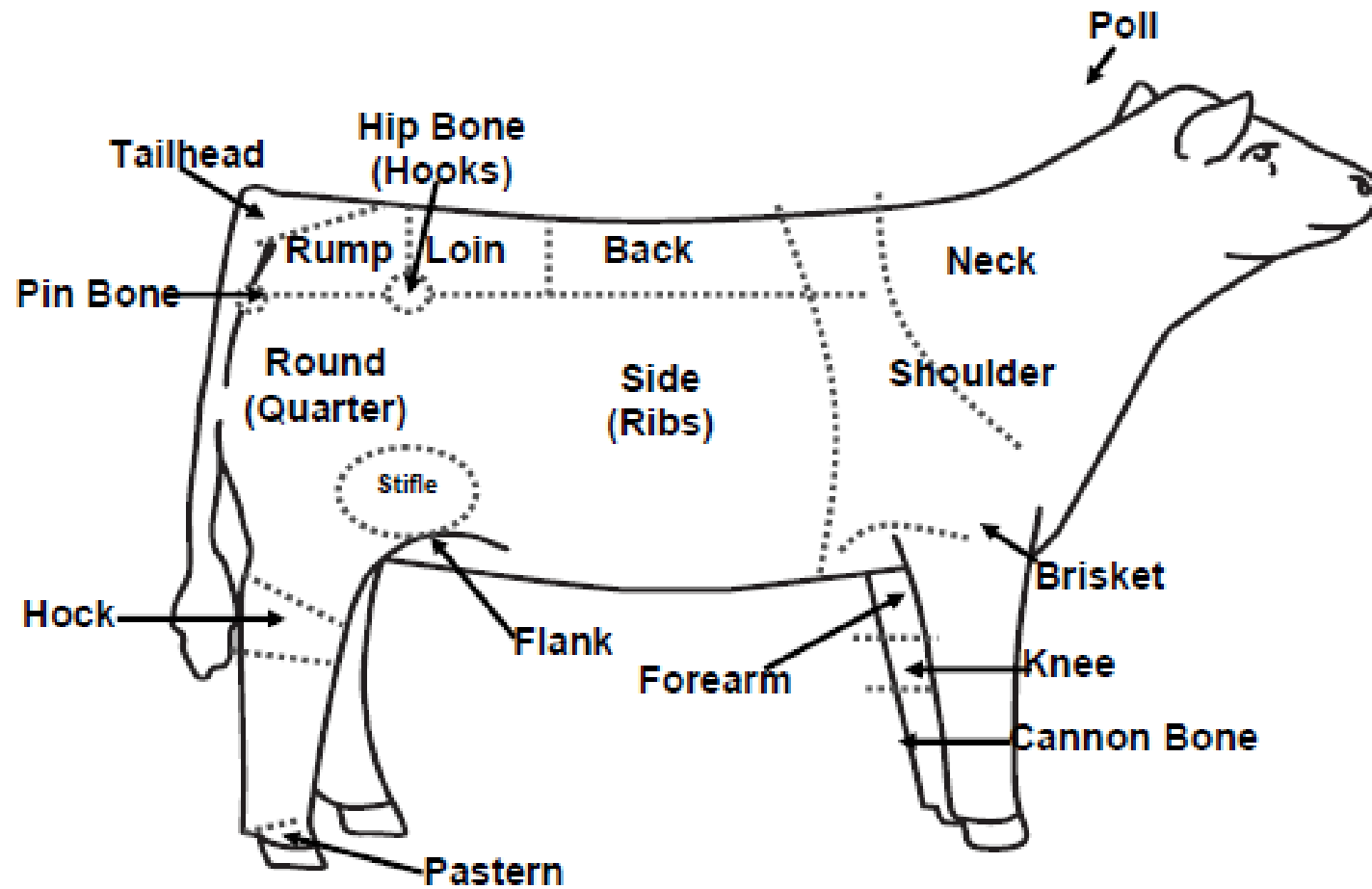
LIVESTOCK RULE #31

IF YOU LIKE IT THEN YOU
SHOULDA PUT A

HALTER
~~RING~~ ON IT.

LIVESTOCK RULES BY RANCHHOUSEDESIGNS

BEEF CATTLE STRUCTURE



VIDEO: PROSPECT CALF SELECTION VIDEO



<https://youtu.be/N6S2I6NdqrY>

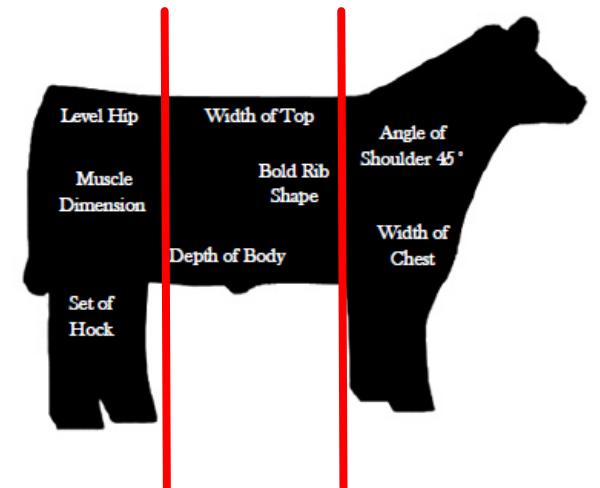
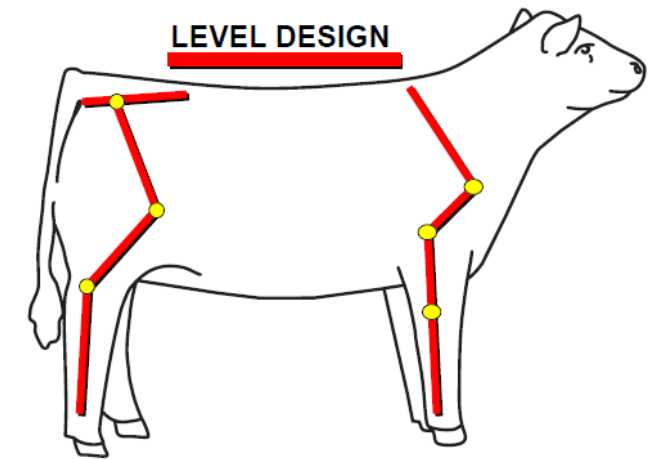
VIDEO: PROSPECT CALF SELECTION-FOCUSING ON FEET AND LEGS



<https://youtu.be/PGmYelWpQ30>

SELECTING YOUR STEER

- Structurally Sound and Correct
 - All 4 feet face forward, hocks should be square with about a 45° angle
 - Long smooth stride
 - Back feet place where the front feet left off
 - Level and square hiped
 - Level topped
- Heavy Muscled
 - Wide across his top/loin
 - Wide/long and expressive rump
 - Wide, deep stifle
- Balanced and Eye Appealing
 - Steer should be able to be split into equal thirds
 - Deep bodied with an adequate flank (not placed high)
- Frame Size
 - Moderate framed steers should finish between 1100-1250 pounds



HALTER BREAKING: NOT ALWAYS A STRESSFUL SITUATION



VIDEO: STRATEGIES FOR HALTER BREAKING



<https://youtu.be/OOJCrzqLgB8>

VIDEO:TIPS FOR HALTER BREAKING



<https://youtu.be/bI daEJVY43o>

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Stay Calm
 - This will help to keep a calm environment for the calf
- Move slowly
 - Fast movements may startle the calf and cause any progress to go backwards
- Be patient
 - It will take more than a few minutes for the calf to learn what you want it to do
 - Some calves take more time to halter break than others
- Stay consistent
 - Using the same techniques will allow for the calf to learn quicker
 - Work with your steer everyday
- Associate the halter with a positive experience
- Learn from your mistakes
 - What works for your friend may not work for you
- Don't give up!
 - Your hard work will pay off and it will get easier

**When should
you start?!
NOW!**

PREPARING FOR SHOW (AT HOME)



START THE VIDEO AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:
6:14-10:23 PROPER WASHING TECHNIQUES
12:34-17:38 CLIPPING TECHNIQUES



<https://youtu.be/StLY97V-vzA>

MY STEER LEADS ON A HALTER, NOW WHAT?!

- Continue working with your steer at least 3 times a week
 - Lead him, practice as if you were in the show ring
 - Get your steer used to your show stick!
 - Rinsing with cold water
 - Don't wash with soap each time, that will cause his skin to dry out and flake
 - Blow dry or brush/comb him
 - Working with his hair now will allow for it to “cooperate” when being fit for the show
- If you don't consistently work with your steer he will forget what he learned!
- Don't wait. The more you work with your steer, the more he will cooperate with you at the show



CLIPPING AND FITTING FOR THE SHOW

***SALE DAY FITTING FOR ALL SALE ANIMALS WILL BE LIMITED TO WASHING AND BLOW DRYING THE COAT. USE OF ADHESIVES WILL BE PROHIBITED.**

VIDEO: CLIPPING TECHNIQUES



<https://youtu.be/bBd705-UGuQ>

VIDEO: WASHING, BLOW DRYING, & CLIPPING



<https://youtu.be/SCyJ0mKCiUU>

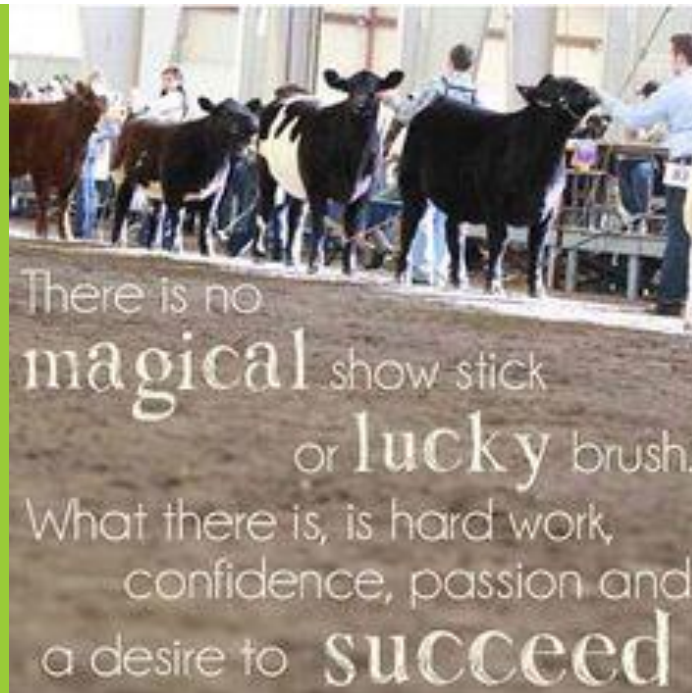
CLIPPING TIPS AND TRICKS

- Use the blower at home! Avoid introducing the blower while at the fair
 - Minimize as many new experiences at the fair as possible
- Take your time clipping
 - You can always take more hair off, but you can't put it back
- Every showman had their “first clipping experience”
 - Your first “clip job” may not be perfect
 - Don't be afraid to make a mistake
- Ask questions
 - Ask your fellow 4-H members or Leaders for their advice
- If you have the chance, attend a clinic
- And remember, you learn by doing!

FITTING TIPS AND TRICKS

- Practice makes perfect!
 - Practice fitting at home
- Always wash out any products that you use
- If you want hair that lays in the perfect position on show day, you have to “train” the hair at home
- Easy on the adhesive
 - It may say “easy comb” but if you spray too much, it won’t be “easy comb”
 - Spray a little, pull the hair up, spray a little pull the hair up
- Be sure to check the rules of every show. There could be some restrictions on products that are allowed

SHOWMANSHIP



There is no
magical show stick
or **lucky** brush.
What there is, is hard work,
confidence, passion and
a desire to **succeed**

FITTING AND SHOWMAN SHIP



<https://youtu.be/5f5Ij5CWUn4>

SHOWMANSHIP TIPS AND TRICKS FOR THE RING

- Don't forget your scotch comb
- Keep your eye on the judge!
- Set feet quickly but correctly
- Stay calm and don't get frustrated
- If asked to switch animals, be sure to look over the animal then change something
 - Walk the steer in a small circle and re-set his feet
 - Comb a small spot of hair
- Keep your steer alert
- Be prepared for the judge to ask you questions. Know the following
 - Weight/DOB
 - Breed/Sire
 - 2 things you like about your steer and 2 things you would like to change
 - General knowledge about raising your steer and the beef industry

EVALUATING YOUR FINISHED MARKET STEER





<https://youtu.be/HrF5aCEAI-0>

START VIDEO AT 6:24



<https://youtu.be/NjNRTaHi-l0>

HELPFUL REFERENCES

- Market Auction Rules
 - <http://ccelivingstoncounty.org/resources/1920-auction-sale-rules>
- NYS 4-H (Beef Cattle)
 - <http://4h.ansci.cornell.edu/animal-programs/beef/>
- Ohio State University Beef Team Resources
 - <http://u.osu.edu/beefteam/resource-library/>
- Ohio State University Extension Livestock Resources
 - <http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/livestock/livestock-resources>

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE RIBBONS

For ribbons will fade, and trophies grow old, money's soon spent and fame soon grows old. The important things are not the ribbons or pins, and sometimes it's really the loser who wins; the important things are the friends you make, the experiences you take, working as a team, cooperation and dedication. They'll help you become a mighty fine man, they'll do more for you than a prize ever can.



- Don't forget to fill out the educational requirement paperwork!
- If you have any further questions please contact Mark Wittmeyer
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