

**BUCKET CALF**  
(See General Livestock Rules on page 121)

PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT:	Kathleen Herr, 317-694-8729, kmrulon@gmail.com
EXHIBIT CHECK-IN:	Wednesday, July 16, 2-8 PM
JUDGING:	Thursday, July 17, 8:30 AM, Open Judging
RELEASE TIME:	Tuesday, July 22, 7 AM-12 PM Noon, All Non-Auction livestock released
STATE FAIR ENTRIES:	All livestock for STATE FAIR must be properly identified and enrolled. Refer to indianastatefair.com for entry information.

**Project Description:**

A bucket calf is an orphan or newborn calf; male or female; dairy, beef, or cross; fed on bucket or bottle. This project encourages youth to learn about raising beef or dairy cattle. Members will learn about caring for and raising a calf and about related health issues. Emphasis in this project is placed on the 4-H'ers knowledge, not the quality of the animal.

**Levels: Grades 3-12**

**Project Guidelines:**

**Begin Project**

- Select and/or purchase a calf born between January 1 and April 15 of current project year within two (2) weeks of birth. If shown, calf should probably be at least ninety (90) days old. Animals must be identified by **May 15** through Extension Office.
- Calf Sources: Feedlots, dairies, sale barn, neighbor calving cull cows, county producers
- 4-H'ers may only show one bucket calf at the county fair.
- Develop management and marketing plan with parent, leader, or banker.
- Optional: Bucket Calf heifers could be shown in Beef or Dairy project if you sign up for the project and follow project rules.

**End Project**

Project ends when calf is sold at weaning age, as a feeder calf, dies, or end of 4-H Fair. If calf is continued as a breeding heifer or market steer project, begin record for next year with ending value.

**Identification**- Tag calf with official 4-H ear tag by **May 15** of current 4-H year. Tag available at County Extension Office.

**Record**— It is recommended to complete the 4-H bucket calf record sheet.

**4-H BUCKET CALF:**

**Identification deadline- May 15**

- Bucket calves must have a completed 4-H Beef Feeder Calves (County Only Exhibition) ID enrollment in the 4-H Online system by **May 15**.
- 4-H'ers must have a 5 digit County tag (can be picked up in the Extension Office) to put in their calf's ear on their own.

**4-H Fair:**

All bucket calves will be physically inspected prior to entering the barn and may be rejected or removed due to health issues at any time during the fair.

**Exhibit Requirements:**

All animals exhibited at the 4-H Fair must meet Board of Animal Health (BOAH) requirements. All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to original author.

**Fair Classes-**

Calves may be shown at halter in special beef or dairy class. Classes may be split (if numbers warrant) according to:

- 4-H'ers (Grades 3-5) showing Beef or Dairy Bucket Calf (Junior)
- 4-H'ers (Grades 6-8) showing Beef or Dairy Bucket Calf (Intermediate)
- 4-H'ers (Grades 9-12) showing Beef or Dairy Bucket Calf (Senior)

Classes judged by conference method based on:

- What 4-H'er learned about caring for and raising calf.
- Show ring presentation according to either beef or dairy guidelines, with emphasis on how much the 4-H'er learned and can do without help. However, parental guidance is encouraged.
- The general health of calf and knowledge of 4-H'er in health-related areas.
- Dairy or beef quality of calf should not be considered, since purchase is not made on that basis.

Bucket calves may be entered the following year in the beef cattle or dairy cattle project. 4-H Beef and Dairy Steers and Crossbred Beef Heifers must attend and be identified at the 4-H Beef/Dairy ID to be eligible to be exhibited at the 4-H Fair. Purebred Dairy Heifers and Purebred Beef Heifers must be entered on a beef/dairy ID enrollment in the 4-H Online system due **May 15**.

### **Awards-**

It is suggested that every entry receive a participation ribbon. If classes are ranked, it is important for spectators to know that placings are being made based on the interview and not on the quality of the animal.

### **Sale of Animal-**

It is suggested that the animal **NOT** be sold at a premium sale, so that true market value may be taught. Members may keep animal for breeding heifer or market steer project or sell at sale barn or by private treaty.