# Osceola County 4-H Market Steer Skill-A-THON REFERENCE BOOK

&

## INTERMEDIATE SKILL-A-THON ACTIVITIES

2024-2025



	BEEF CATTLE	SWINE	SHEEP
INTACT MALE	BULL	BOAR	RAM
MALE CASTRATED PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS	STEER	BARROW	WETHER
MALE CASTRATED AFTER DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS	STAG	STAG	STAG
FEMALE THAT HAS PRODUCED PROGENY	COW	SOW	EWE
YOUNG FEMALE WITH NO PROGENY	HEIFER	GILT	EWE
VERY YOUNG PROGENY	CALF	PIG	LAMB

## **STEER SKILL-A-THON**

## Introduction

This manual is provided as a *study guide* for the skill-a-thon competition and should be used as an additional aid to ongoing educational programs. Sections are labeled **Junior, Intermediate, Senior, & Bonus** to help exhibitors and educators identify which materials are required for their age level. The topic for this year's Skill-a-thon is **cuts of meat and by- products.** 

Topics for the Knowledge and Skills Stations may include the following:

#### Juniors (age 8-10 as of September 1, 2024)

Body parts

Breeds Structure Beef By-products Wholesale Cuts of Beef

Retail Cuts of Meat

#### Intermediates (age 11-13 as of September 1, 2024)

All of the above

#### Seniors (age 14 and over as of September 1, 2024)

All of the above plus... Parts of a Feed Label

#### **Bonus For All**

Knots

# The contest will be held on January 29, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Osceola County Extension Office

# The Skill-a-thon contest will be held on January 29, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Osceola County Extension Office.

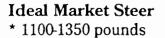
## KVLS Skill-a-thon Rules for 2024-2025

- 1. Market exhibitors who do not make the 3.25 grade requirement <u>must</u> take the Skill-a-thon in their project area for the animal that they are showing in order to participate in the market programs, i.e. steer exhibitors <u>must</u> take the Steer Skill-a-thon. Any exhibitor who does not meet the required grade average on their report card or who does not have a report card <u>must</u> score 70% on the Skill-a-thon to participate in the Market Animal Program.
- 2. All exhibitors must take the Skill-a-thon for the first time on their own, then a reader can be requested the second time, if a passing grade is not achieved.
- 3. Awards will be given on the score of the first Skill-a-thon taken. Top awards are only given for passing scores (70% or above).
- 4. Only those exhibitors who do not make the 3.25 grade point requirement are required to take the skill-athon and make a passing score of 70% or above in order to participate in the market animal program.
- 5. Exhibitors <u>must stay</u> in the testing room once they have signed up to take the Skill-a-thon.
- 6. Exhibitors showing a second animal <u>must stay</u> in the testing room to take the second animal Skill-a-thon.
- 7. No parents or other adults not on the Committee are allowed in the Skill-a-thon room.
- 8. No exhibitors are allowed to have cell phones while in the Skill-a-thon room.
- 9. No time limit will be imposed on the exhibitors.
- 10. Skill-a-thon handbooks will be given at the start of the project

#### **KVLS** Awards

There will be a Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), Senior (14 - graduate from High School) division for the contest. Within each division, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive rosette ribbons and a monetary award.

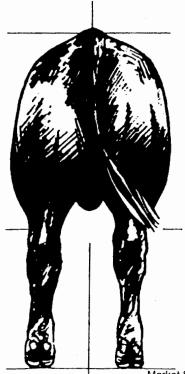
## The Ideal Market Steer



- \* 5.0-7.0 frame score
- \* High-Select to High-Choice Quality Grade

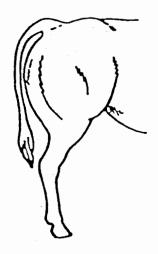
BEEF

\* 1.0-2.5 Yield Grade





Market Steer Skill-a-thon Book Page 5



## **Evaluation of Market Cattle**

When selecting and evaluating market cattle, the 4-H member must keep in mind the purpose of these animals. The primary function of market animals is meat production. Therefore, traits such as muscling and finish are emphasized. Frame size and structural correctness are examined but to a slightly lesser degree than in breeding cattle.

#### MUSCLING

\*Modern market cattle should exhibit extra muscling down their top and through their hind quarters. These are the areas from which the high-priced cuts come. Traits that are found in the ideal market steer include:

- more natural thickness down the top
- more muscular loin
- long, level rump
- thicker through the center of the quarter
- wider, deeper stifle

#### FINISH

\*Finish refers to the amount of fat cover a market animal possesses. An ideal market animal should have the minimal amount of body fat and still be able to reach the Choice quality grade. Desirable traits in regard to finish include:

- smooth and uniform fat cover over ribs
- uniform depth of body
- freedom from fat patches about tailhead
- no excessive fullness in brisket

#### FRAME SIZE

\*Current trends in market cattle frame size have shifted toward moderation. Market cattle should have enough frame to enable them to reach an acceptable market weight (1,100-1,350 lbs.) at an age of 12-18 months. Acceptable traits for today's frame size include:

- moderate hip height (frame size 5.0-7.0)
- extra length of body
- longer rump

#### STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

\*While it is not emphasized as greatly as it is with breeding cattle, structural correctness is an important selection criteria when judging market animals. As with breeding cattle, look for animals that are:

- standing squarely on front and rear legs
- heavier boned
- moving with a long, reaching stride
- more nearly level from hooks to pins
- possessing adequate set to the hocks

## **COMMON LIVESTOCK TERMS**

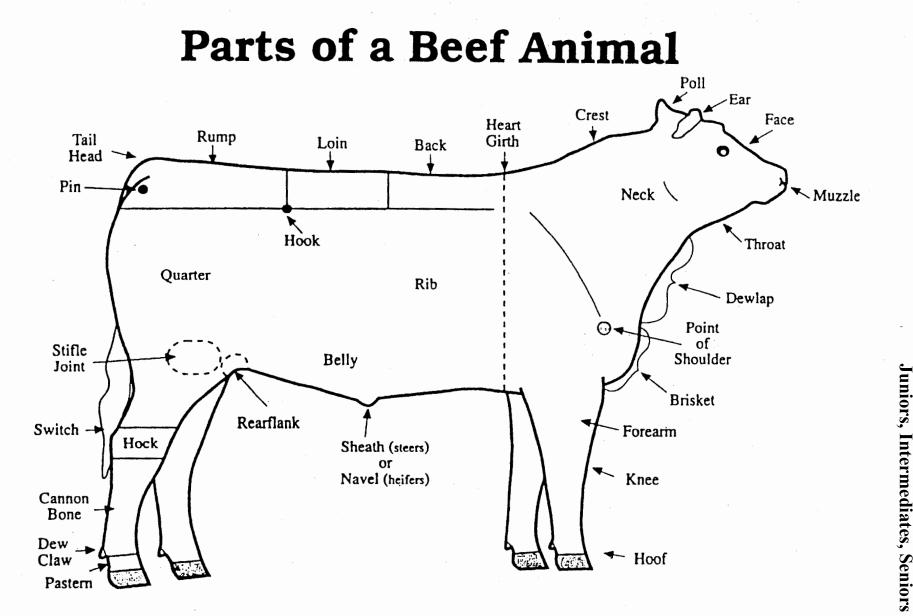
When working with cattle the following terms are important to know.

BULL	Intact male of cattle
COW	Female that has produced progeny in cattle
PROGENY	Offspring, young
CALF	Very young progeny
HEIFER	A female in cattle under three years old, which has not produced a calf
STEER	Male castrated prior to development of secondary sexual characteristics in cattle
CARCASS	The dressed body of a slaughtered meat animal, offal having been removed.
FINISH	Refers to the amount of external fat covering on an animal.
MARBLING	Refers to flecks of fat distributed within the muscle.
MILKING ABILITY	Refers to the amount of milk an animal can produce
HINDQUARTER	The rear half of a side of a carcass, divided between the $12^{th}$ and $13^{th}$ rib.
FOREQUARTER	The front half of a side of a carcass, divided between the $12^{th}$ and $13^{th}$ rib.
POLLED	Naturally hornless
PARASITES	Organisms living on other organisms - doing harm
CROSSBREEDING	Is the mating of two animals from different breeds.
HYBRID	The offspring produced from crossbreeding.

## **Basic Livestock Terms**

- 1. **Condition, Finish or Covering** All are used to denote fat. The terms finish and covering are used to describe fat on market animals, while condition is used when describing breeding stock.
- 2. **Growthiness** The characteristics of having size and weight at a certain age.
- 3. **Balance or Symmetry** A proper proportion and blending of parts of the animal. Balance or symmetry is evaluated from a side view.
- 4. **Ruggedness, Stoutness** The quality of being heavy or large boned. This is usually determined by the size of the cannon bone (from the knee to the ankle).
- 5. **Quality** A general term that combines smoothness and refinement. Refinement of hair coat, freedom of wrinkles in hogs and freedom of roughness, patchiness in cattle indicates quality.
- 6. **Scale** The size of the animal as determined by skeletal structure, independent of weight. The height, length and width of the animal.
- 7. **Style** The general eye-appeal or attractiveness of the animal. Includes balance, structural correctness and quality.
- 8. **Broodiness** Female breeding stock term that means she has a favorable combination of characteristics to be a good mother. Depth, capacity, prominence of teats and/or mammary system, stoutness and correctness of vulva.
- 9. **Breed Character** Characteristics that separate breeding stock of one breed from other breeds, primarily by differences of the head: shape, length, dish of face, width of muzzle, shape of poll and ears; color markings and wool covering in sheep.
- 10. **Trimness** Freedom from fat or finish.
- 11. **Meatiness/Muscling** having a high proportion of muscle in the areas of the high-priced cuts. This is shown primarily by the relative width, length and fullness of the quarter, leg or ham, and by the thickness and fullness through the rib, rack or loin.
- 12. **Type** A combination of characteristics that make an animal useful for a specific purpose. Determined by the general shape and form of an animal. Desirable types are constantly changing.
- 13. **Tight Framed** The ability of the animal to hold itself together. Indicated by a strong top (back), tightness of shoulder and squareness of feet and leg placements.
- 14. **Structural Soundness** The desirability or correctness of the skeletal structure with major emphasis on straightness of top and proper feet and leg structure.
- 15. **Femininity** Characteristics that distinguish the female from the male. Indicated by refinement of the head, neck and shoulders.
- 16. **Masculinity** Characteristics that distinguish the male from the female. Indicated by boldness or massiveness of head and chest, thickness of the neck and development of the forequarters.

It is important for livestock producers to share a common language. Using the correct names for various body parts is one way to be certain your message is understood. Study the pictures with the names of the body parts labeled so that you can communicate with other producers using correct terms.



## **BREED IDENTIFICATION**



#### BRANGUS

The Brangus breed was developed by crossing Brahman and Angus cattle. Brangus cattle are based on foundation stock that is 3/8 Brahman and 5/8. Angus. Brangus cattle have sleek solid black hides and are polled. An inspection is necessary to determine conformation and breed character before the animal may be registered.



#### BEEFMASTER

This breed is a result of crosses among Herefords, Shorthorns and Brahmans. The exact percentage of blood from each is not known. The breed has a variety of colors. Selection has been mainly for good disposition, fertility, gain, conformation, hardiness, and milk production.



#### **MAIN-ANJOU**

Maine-Anjou cattle are dark red and white in color. Some animals are roan in color. They have lightly pigmented skin. They are a horned breed with medium-size horns that curve forward. They are considered docile and easily handled.

## **BREED IDENTIFICATION**



#### BRAFORD

The color of the Braford is red and shows a Hereford color pattern. The breed is about 5/8 Hereford and 3/8 Brahman. Calves grow rapidly and attain weaning weights of 500 to 800 pounds. The breed is noted for its superior maternal ability.



#### GELBVIEH (a big yellow cow)

This breed originated in Germany. They are solid cream to reddish yellow in color. These animals are known as a general-purpose breed with good milking abilities.



#### ABEERDEEN-ANGUS (polled, black cow)

This breed originated in Scotland. These animals are polled with a black coat. They are known for their carcass quality, milking, mothering, and reproductive abilities.

### Juniors, Intermediates, Seniors

## **BREED IDENTIFICATION**



#### LIMOUSIN (a long, sleek cow)

This breed originated in the west-central part of France. They are solid-red to golden-red in color with lighter circles around the eyes and muzzle. When slaughtered at an early age, these animals yield a high percentage of lean meat with a minimum amount of fat.



#### SANTA GERTRUDIS (a saggy, solid cherry red cow)

This breed was developed on the King Ranch in Texas. These animals are 5/8 Shorthorn and 3/8 Brahman. They are known for their growth rate, long life, and hardiness.



#### CHAROLAIS (a big, white, pink-nosed cow)

This breed was developed in France and imported into the United States from Mexico in 1936. These animals are large and white. They are noted for their fast growth and lean meat.

### Juniors, Intermediates, Seniors

## **BREED IDENTIFICATION**



#### CHIANINA (the biggest/tallest cow)

This breed was developed in Italy. These animals are white with black skin pigmentation. They are large. A mature bull can weigh up to 4,000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall. They are noted for their working, mothering, and beef producing abilities.



#### HEREFORD (a white-faced cow)

This breed was developed in England and brought to the United States in 1817. These animals have red bodies with white faces. They are known for their foraging ability, vigor, hardiness and quiet dispositions.



#### SHORTHORN (a red-and-white, red, white, or roan-colored beef cow)

This breed was brought to the United States from England in 1783. These animals can be red, white, or roan in color. They are noted for their good disposi-tion, mothering and milking abilities.

## **BREED IDENTIFICATION**



#### BRAHMAN

The Brahman breed was developed in the southwestern part of the United States. The major use of the Brahman is in crossing with other breeds. The color of the Brahman is light gray or red to almost black. In addition to the characteristic hump over the shoulders, they have loose skin under the throat and large drooping ears. Brahman cattle have a very high heat tolerance.

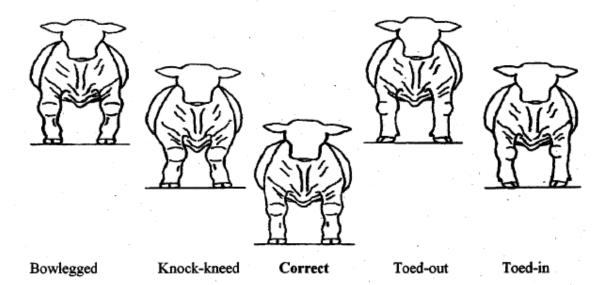


#### SIMMENTAL

This breed was imported into the United States from Switzerland, France, and Germany. These animals can be red to dark red, brown, or black with spotted bodies and white faces. They are noted for their fast growth and milking abilities.

#### STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES FRONT & REAR VIEWS

#### **Front Leg Alignment**



**Rear Leg Alignment** 



Bowlegged



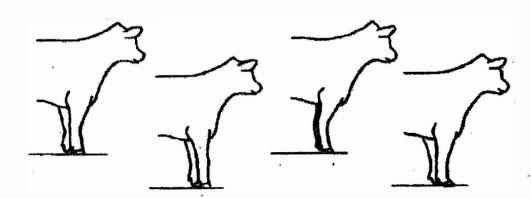
Correct



Cow-hocked

STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES SIDE VIEWS

## Front Leg Set



Correct

Buck-kneed

Calf-kneed

Weak Pasterns

Hind Leg Set



Post-legged



Correct



Sickle-hocked

#### STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES DESCRIPTIONS

Buck-kneed

Calf-kneed

Weak Pastern

Postlegged

Sickle-hocked

Bowlegged

When the calf is "over at the knees" or buck-kneed, full extension of the knee cannot occur when observed from the side. This is usually seen in cattle that are also too straight in their shoulder.

This is the other extreme, where the calf stands "back at the knees" when viewed from the side.

Having an angle greater than 45 degrees in the pastern/hoof alignment, putting too much pressure on the joint.

The hock has too little angle or set. The calf is too straight through the joint, resulting in very stiff, constricting movement because of the lack of flexibility. More cattle become unsound because of being postlegged than sickle hocked.

When viewing the rear legs from the side, the hock has too much angle or set, causing the steer to stand too far underneath itself. Often these calves also will droop excessively from hooks to pins.

When viewed from the front or rear, the knees set too far out.

Knock-kneed When viewed from the front, the knees are close together.

**Toed-out (splayfooted)** The feet toe out away from each other. This problem is often seen in extremely light-muscled, narrow-chested cattle, where the legs are naturally set too close together.

**Toed-in (pigeon-toed)** Toes turn in towards each other.

Cow-hocked W

When viewing the rear legs from the rear, the hocks are turned in or placed too close together.

## **Animal By-Products**

Everything but the moo! Animal by-products are anything of economic value other than the carcass that comes from animals during harvest and processing. They are classified as edible or inedible for humans. There may be some disagreement about what is edible but we can all agree that there are many uses for what is left after the carcass is rolled into the cooler. In developing countries by-products may become jewelry, religious implements, tools, fuel, construction material, fly swatters, or musical instruments. In developed countries, advances in technology have created many products from non-animal sources (synthetics) which compete with animal by-products, thus reducing their value. Still, by-products represent multibillion dollar industries in the United States and other developed countries. An added benefit of changing inedible parts of carcasses into useful products is that the decaying materials don't pile up and cause environmental problems.

#### **BONES/HOOVES/HORNS**

adhesives buttons charcoal football helmet glue pet food glass combs shampoo & conditioner piano keys photo film

#### <u>FAT</u>

antifreeze bio-diesel candles cement ceramics chalk chewing gum cravons deodorant dish soap fireworks makeup matches oils & lubricants margarine rubber tires paint perfume

#### HIDE (HAIR & SKIN)

baseball baseball mitt belts boots candies Insulation football gelatin gummy bears marshmallows medicine wallets soccer ball volleyball paint brushes

#### **INTERNAL ORGANS/BLOOD**

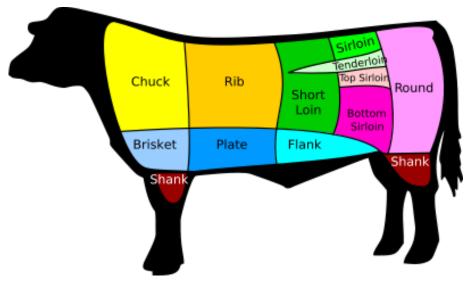
cake mixes dyes & inks insulin medical sutures medicines tennis racket strings instrument strings

#### MANURE

fertilizer

## Wholesale Cuts of Beef

Fabrication of carcasses is the cutting of the carcass into wholesale and retail cuts for distribution to various markets. The size of the carcass and the preferences of the customer will determine how it is fabricated. For beef carcasses, wholesale cuts come from standard cutting methods developed to: a) Separate fat from lean portions b) Separate tough from tender sections c) Separate thick from thin sections d) Separate valuable from less valuable cuts e) Separate retail cuts by cutting across the grain.

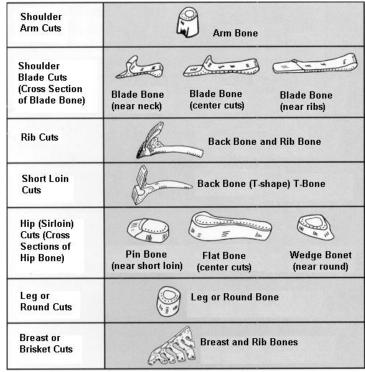


Source: Wikimedia commons

#### **Primal Cuts**

Of the wholesale cuts, those that are lean, tender, thick, and valuable and that contain a large proportion of their muscles running in the same direction are called primal cuts. The **primal beef cuts are round, loin, rib and chuck.** 

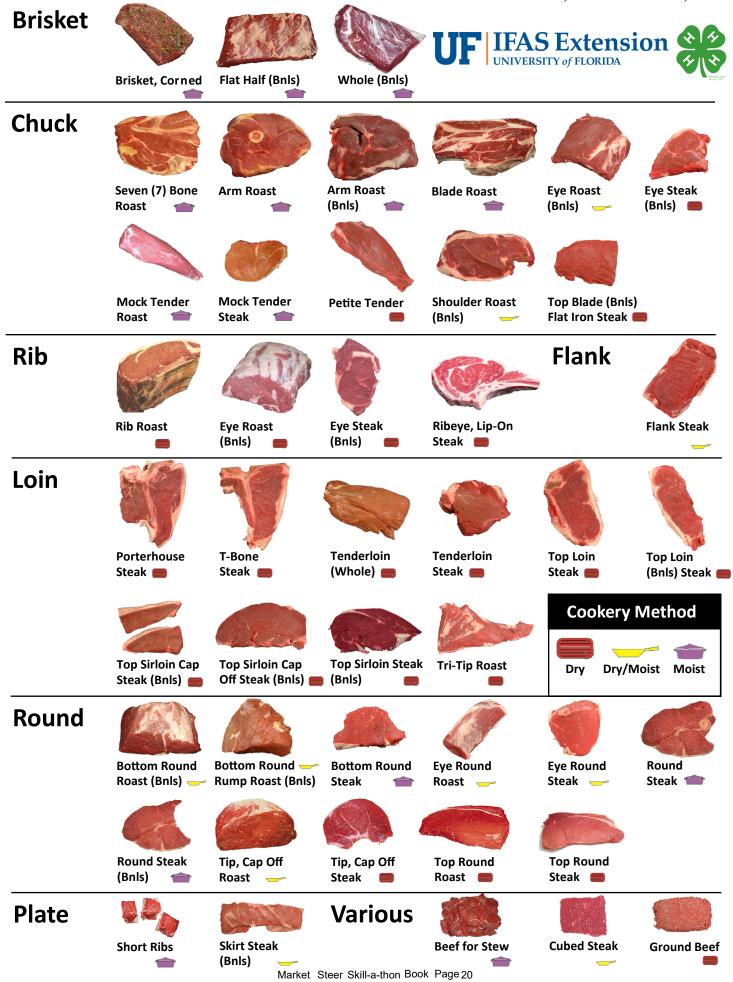
(Copied with permission from NCBA, "The Guide to Identifying Meat Cuts")



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# **Beef Retail Identification Cuts**

Juniors, Intermediates, Seniors



Seniors

## **Feed Label Information**

A commercial law requires each bag or bulk load to be accompanied by a label showing several key items:

- Net weight
- Product name and brand name
- Drug additives
- Guaranteed analysis of the feed crude protein, crude fat and crude fiber must be guaranteed on all feeds except straight mineral or vitamin supplements, molasses or drug compounds.
- Minimum percentage of crude protein, percentage of equivalent protein from nonprotein nitrogen, if any. The amount of crude or total protein in a feed is guaranteed. Crude protein is determined by multiplying the nitrogen content of a feed by the factor 6.25.
- When non-protein nitrogen (NPN) is applied to feedstuffs, a statement "for ruminants only" must appear underneath the name of the feed. Additionally, it must also have a guarantee for crude protein which has been supplied from non-protein nitrogen.
- Minimum crude fat content Fat has an energy value approximately 2.25 times the value of carbohydrate feedstuffs.
- Maximum crude fiber content Crude fiber is a measure of the indigestible or non-useful portion of a feed. Feeds having low fiber values tend to be higher in digestible energy or total digestible nutrients than those feeds having high fiber values.
- Minerals feeds containing 6.5 percent or more minerals must show a guarantee of: calcium – minimum and maximum; phosphorous- minimum; salt – minimum and maximum
- Vitamins, only if guaranteed
- Common and usual name of each ingredient or the collective term for each grouping of feed ingredients
- Directions for use and cautionary statements
- Name and principle mailing address of the manufacturer

#### 50 lbs net weight

Brand Name Show Feed (for ruminants only)

#### Medicated

Feed for 28 days as an aid in the maintenance of weight gains in the presence of respiratory diseases, such as shipping fever.

**Caution:** Use only as directed. Discontinue use 14 days prior to slaughter.

#### Active Drug Ingredients:

Chlortetracycline 7.6 grams/ton

#### **Guaranteed Analysis**

**CRUDE PROTEIN,** not less than 12% This includes not more than 1.00% equivalent crude protein from non-protein nitrogen.

**CRUDE FAT,** not less than 2.0% **CRUDE FIBER,** not less than 19%

**Ingredients:** Grain products, roughage products, plant protein products, processed grain by-products, forage products, molasses products, calcium carbonate, salt, vitamin E supplement, vitamin A supplement, ferrous sulfate, potassium iodide, manganese oxide copper chloride, cobalt glucoheptonate, vitamin D3 supplement, sodium selenite.

#### RUMINANT MEAT AND BONE MEAL FREE

FEEDING DIRECTIONS: Feed at the rate of 12 pounds per head per day.

#### MANUFACTURED BY:

The Best Feed Company P. O. Box 00000 Small Town, USA

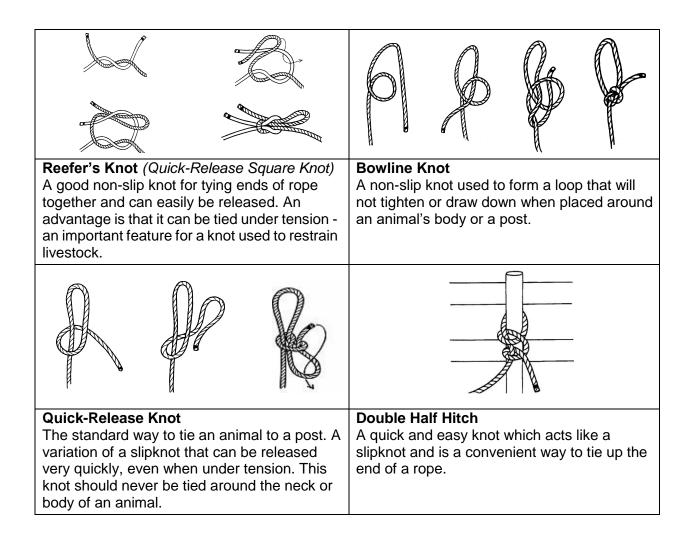
## **Knots for Livestock Handling**

There are many circumstances in cattle handling that will require you to tie knots. Take the time to learn to tie several types of knots and hitches so that you will have the right knot for the right circumstance. Practice often so that it becomes second nature. In an emergency situation, you do not want to have to think about which knot to choose and how to tie it.

Knots join ropes together, attach ropes to a post or rail, or attach ropes to an animal.

**Hitches** are used to attach a rope to a post or rail - only thing securing the rope to post is the pressure of one rope coil wrapping upon the others.

**Splices** are used to permanently join ropes to one another - individual strands from each rope are interwoven with strands from the other.



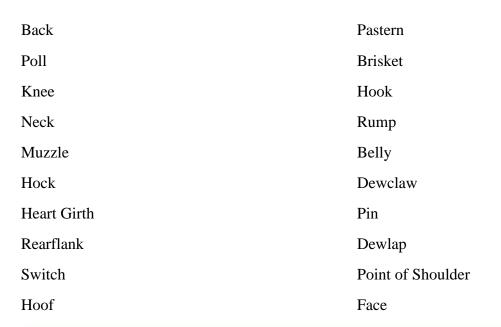
# Activities

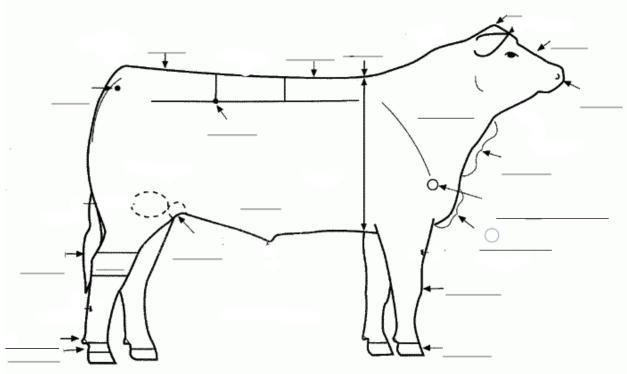
It is recommended that you complete the six activities provided in this skill-a-thon book to help prepare you for the skill-a-thon. <u>The activities are very</u> similar to what you should expect during the skill-a-thon and can be used for practice.

4-H Members Only: After you have completed an activity you should record it in your record book using the table on the 4-H Project Book/ Activities page or you can attach the activity pages you have completed into your record book. Before turning into 4-H in May have your leader sign the Activity Page showing they have seen your six (6) completed Activities.

# INTERMEDIATE STEER PARTS ACTIVITY #1

Write the name of the correct part of the animal on the lines below.





## INTERMEDIATE MARKET STEER BREEDS ACTIVITY #2

- 1. This breed originated in the west-central part of France. They are solid to golden-red in color.
- 2. This breed is big, white and pink-nosed. They were developed in France and imported to the United States from Mexico in 1936.
- 3. This breed was brought to the United States from England in 1783. They are noted for their good disposition and mothering and milking abilities. Color can be red, white or roan.
- 4. This breed originated in Scotland. They are known for their carcass quality, milking, mothering, and reproductive abilities. They are always polled with a black coat.
- 5. This breed was developed in England and brought to the United States in 1817. They are known for their foraging ability, vigor, hardiness, and quiet dispositions. Their bodies are colored red with white faces.
- 6. The biggest/tallest cow. This breed was developed in Italy. Their color is white with black skin pigmentation. They are noted for their working, mothering, and beef producing abilities.
- 7. This breed was developed in the United States. They were developed by crossing Brahman and Angus cattle. Foundation stock is 3/8 Brahman and 5/8 Angus. They are solid black in color and polled.
- 8. This breed was developed in the southwestern part of the United States. Their color ranges from light gray or red to almost black. They have a characteristic hump over the shoulders, loose skin under the throat and large drooping ears. They have a very high heat tolerance.
- 9. The color of this breed is red and shows a Hereford color pattern. The breed is about 5/8 Hereford and 3/8 Brahman. Calves grow rapidly and attain weaning weights of 500 to 800 pounds. The breed is noted for its superior maternal ability.
- 10. This breed has a solid cherry red color. The breed was developed on the King Ranch in Texas. These animals are 5/8 Shorthorn and 3/8 Brahman. They are known for their growth rate, long life, and hardiness.

#### Match

\_\_\_\_\_ Brangus \_\_\_\_\_ Angus \_\_\_\_\_ Limousin Brahman Charolais Hereford \_\_\_\_\_ Shorthorn \_\_\_\_\_ Chianina \_\_\_\_\_ Santa Gertrudis \_\_\_\_\_ Braford

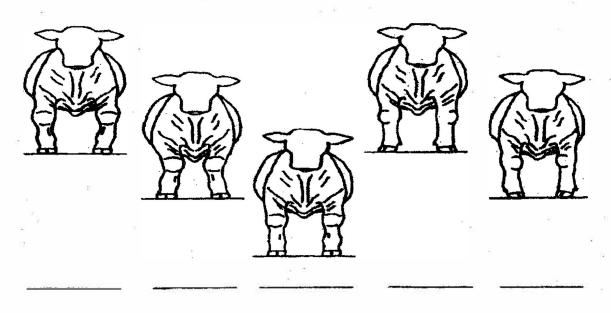
### **INTERMEDIATE STEER STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES FRONT & REAR VIEW**

#### ACTIVITY #3

Fill in the blank with the correct FRONT LEG Alignment

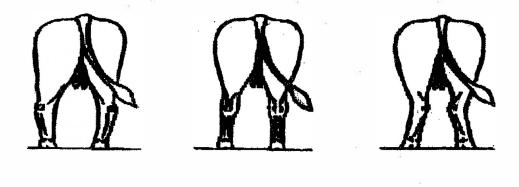
CORRECT KNOCK-KNEED BOWLEGGED TOED-IN TOED-OUT

#### Front Leg Alignment



Fill in the blank with the correct REAR LEG AlignmentCOW-HOCKEDBOWLEGGEDCORRECT

#### **Rear Leg Alignment**

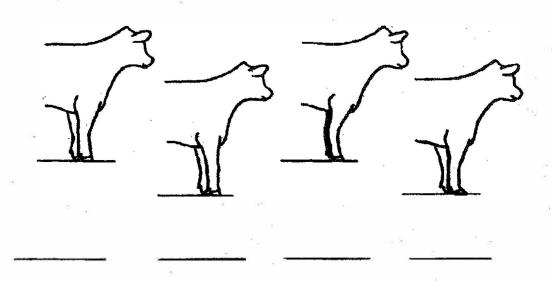


## INTERMEDIATE STEER STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES SIDE VIEW

## ACTIVITY #3

CALF-KNEEDFill in the blank with the correct Front Leg Set<br/>CORRECTWEAK PASTERNSBUCK-KNEED

Front Leg Set



Fill in the blank with the correct Hind Leg Set

CORRECT

SICKLE-HOCKED

POST-LEGGED

Hind Leg Set





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#### **INTERMEDIATE MARKET STEER BY-PRODUCTS – ACTIVITY #4**

Draw a line to match each cattle by-products to what it is made from.

#### **BONES/HOOVES/HORNS**

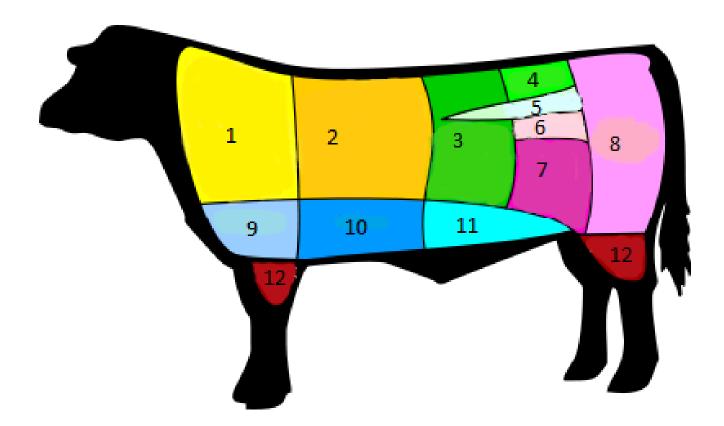
Cake mixes **Tennis racket strings** Fertilizer FAT Makeup Chewing gum **Boots** HIDE (HAIR & SKIN) Paint Insulin Tires Candles **INTERNAL ORGANS/ BLOOD** Paint brushes Marshmallows Belts Crayons MANURE Soap

## **INTERMEDIATE MARKET STEER**

## WHOLESALE CUTS OF BEEF ACTIVITY #5

Enter the correct number by the corresponding cut of beef.

Brisket	Tenderloin
Shank	Chuck
Rounds	Rib
Flank	Sirloin



## Intermediate Retail Cuts of Beef Activity #6

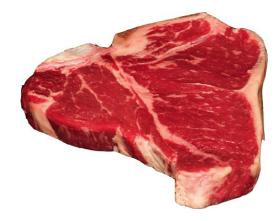
Write the retail and wholesale cut in the blank.

Retail cut:	Retail cut:
Wholesale cut:	Wholesale cut:



Retail cut:

Wholesale cut:\_\_\_\_\_



Retail cut: \_\_\_\_\_

Wholesale cut:\_\_\_\_\_