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Market Steer Management Schedule



Plan

Buy six- to ten-month-old feeder steers weighing 450 to 650 pounds. Market them when they are 14 to 17 months old and weigh 1100 to 1350 pounds. Dates will change depending on the dates of your show.

Assumptions

Steers will eat an average of about 18 pounds of feed (less at first, more later) each day from a self-feeder and will gain an average of 2.5 pounds each day.

Enter the dates for your schedule in the table below. Your dates will vary from the sample ones, depending on the dates of your show.

<i>Steer weight</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sample dates (show date: Aug 15)</i>	<i>Dates for your project</i>
Less than 450 pounds	Plan project.	Aug-Sept	
	Arrange project financing.		
	Get barn and pens ready for steers.		
	Make sure feeders and waterers are ready to use.		
	Arrange to buy feed and bedding.		
500 pounds	Buy steer.	Oct 30	
	Keep new steers away from other cattle at least three weeks.		
	Vaccinate and deworm steers, if not done before purchase.		
	Ear tag, if appropriate.		
	Check steers for lice and mange. Treat if needed.		
	Start steer on feed slowly.		
	Write steer weights and prices in record book.		
	Begin halter breaking and leading process.		
Under 800 pounds	Weigh steers at county weigh-in, if required.	Dec 31	
800 pounds	Reduce crude protein to 12%.	March 1	
	Weigh steers and calculate average daily gain.		
	Evaluate and compare to target.		
900 pounds	Deworm steers.		
	Begin rinsing and introduce show stick.	April 1	
	Consider body clipping your steer.		
	Have veterinarian do appropriate health tests and send for health papers.		
Investigate taking your steer to a summer preview show. (Be sure to meet health requirements in plenty of time.)			

(continued)

<i>Steer weight</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sample dates (show date: Aug 15)</i>	<i>Dates for your project</i>
900 pounds, continued	Order new show equipment, if needed.		
	Start recruiting buyers.		
	Weigh steers and calculate average daily gain.		
	Evaluate and compare to target.		
1050 pounds	Have leader evaluate finish on your steer and recommend feeding changes.	June 1	
	Reduce crude protein to 11%.		
	Weigh steers and calculate average daily gain.		
	Evaluate and compare to target.		
1150 pounds	Do preliminary clipping.	July 1	
	Make arrangements to have hooves trimmed.		
	Make trucking arrangements for the roundup.		
1250 pounds	Show and sell steers.	Aug 15	
	Write down weights and prices in 4-H record.		
	Send thank-you notes to buyers.		
Daily	Rinse steer.		
	Walk steer.		
	Practice placing steer's feet and showing steer.		