

## **Boulder County 4-H 2-year Dairy Steer Program (DSP) (A pilot program in Boulder County)**

### **Rules and Guidelines**

The purpose of this program is to provide youth with an opportunity to:

- 1) Select a Dairy breed bull calf, and make him marketable.
- 2) Learn how to raise a good quality animal, demonstrating approved management principles.
- 3) Offer for sale a top-quality dairy market animal at the end of the 2-year program.
- 4) Give dairy and nondairy members an opportunity to gain valuable experiences in another marketable form of the dairy industry.
- 5) Exhibit (presentation) guidelines for feeder calves AND dairy market steers:
  - a. Animals must be presented in the show ring clean and well groomed.
  - b. Only the face and tail may be clipped. All hair is to be brushed down with a natural lay, no coloring or hair standup of any kind may be used; hooves may be polished with clear ONLY.
  - c. Showing steers will follow the dairy cattle guidelines (PDCA) as showing heifers, except with clipping.
  - d. Show sticks are NOT allowed.
  - e. Steers are not eligible in the showmanship classes (with females).

The Boulder County 4-H Agent, and the Dairy Cattle Fair Superintendent will assist in managing the program.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Any actively enrolled Boulder County 4-H member is eligible to participate in this pilot program.
2. The participant must enroll, or be enrolled in the Dairy Cattle project.
3. This is for Dairy breed Steers ONLY and will be a 2-year program. Dairy steers **MUST** be 100% dairy: Holstein, Jersey, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, Guernsey, or Milking Shorthorn. Dairy steers may be crosses from any of these dairy breeds only. **NO BEEF CROSSES WILL BE PERMITTED. The superintendent & agent reserve the right to make the final decision on breeds.**
4. The first year, bull calves must be **born Feb 1st to the last Friday in April (Animal ID deadline)** and submitted online by the last Friday in April using the current year Dairy Cattle ID form. All calves must have a permanent tattoo or an ear tag by June 1 & the ID must be updated if needed.
5. All feeder calves (1st year) must have been castrated and dehorned prior to their first fair. NO bulls or horned animals will be allowed.
6. In the second year, the participant must nominate and tag in their steers at the required **spring** tag in date of the current project year. Nomination cards are available at the Boulder County Extension Office. The 4-H agent will keep the original and send a copy of the nomination card to the dairy cattle superintendent.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Participants may ID and show up to 3 calves the first year. From these calves, participants may nominate and show up to two (2) steers, but are limited to selling only one (1) through the BCF Livestock Market sale on the

- second year.
2. The member must be the sole owner of the animal. A copy of the brand certificate, along with 3 photos of the steer, one headshot with the tag (readable), and one of each side, must be submitted with their nomination card or submit 2 photos (side view of each side), and list tag/tattoo # online with the Dairy Cattle ID form for calves.
  3. All 2nd year nominated steers must participate at designated tag-in and had exhibited at the prior Boulder County Fair. Only 1 steer may sell through the BCF Livestock Market Sale.
  4. The animal must be:
    - a. Born February - April (animal ID deadline) of the current year for the feeder calf. (5-7 months old at Fair time) and for 2nd year steers exhibited at prior year fair and were born February - April of the prior year (16-18 months old at Fair time)
    - b. Must be from a purebred dairy breed sire. (AI or natural breeding) NO BEEF crosses.
    - c. From a dam that is a dairy breed (see breeds), either registered or high grade and may be a dairy cross (combo of dairy breeds only).
    - d. Tattooed &/or tagged by June 1st of current year AND online ID updated for calves. Or, nominated & tagged by required tag-in date of current year for 2nd year steers.
  5. Members are strongly encouraged to solicit buyers for the sale of their steer. (Promoting EARLY, with photos of you with steer aids in your sale).

**SALE GUIDELINES- 2nd year only:**

1. Only 1 steer will be allowed to sell at the Boulder County Livestock Market Sale at the Boulder County Fair if all requirements are met. All Market Sale Rules will apply. (only one (1) animal regardless of species may sell from a member)
2. Steers must be of the correct age, completed the current tag-in & meet weight requirement of 900 pounds at fair, prior to the sale.
3. Official CO brand papers for ALL steers must accompany each steer.
4. Steers will NOT be eligible to sell if:
  - a. Did not show at the previous BCF
  - b. Missed the required nomination & tag in date of the current year.
  - c. Does not weigh at least 900 lbs. at weigh in when checking in
  - d. Is unhealthy, or in poor condition according to breed standards (size and condition for age & breed at time of check-in).
5. Participants will adhere to all Boulder County Livestock Market Sale Rules. A sale intent form will be required and turned in to the dairy superintendent by the end of show day.
6. Prior to receiving the sale check you must turn in your buyer's thank-you into the Extension Office by second Thursday in Sept. Failure to submit the letter(s) by the second Thursday in September will result in a \$100.00 fee being deducted from the exhibitor's check. This late fee will be contributed to the Market Sale Scholarship fund.
7. Members are highly encouraged to contact several potential buyers for their animals. Non BCF Sale animals may have opportunities to be sold at market price if sale committee is aware of these surplus animals.