

# *Market Steer Selection*

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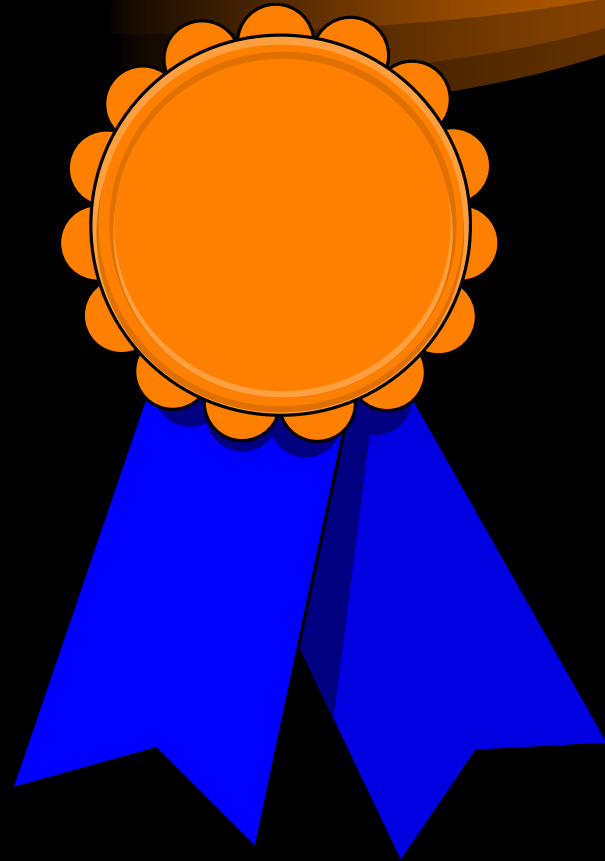
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# *Market Beef Selection*

- Age
- Muscle
- Balance
- Frame
- Structural Soundness
- Genetics
- Eye Appeal
- Disposition



# *Age of a Steer Calf for the August County Fairs*

- 16-18 months of age at fair time.
- Born March through first part of May of previous year of Fair

# Muscle

- Quarter
  - Square hipped
  - Stifle muscle exposed
  - Deep twisted
  - Wide tracking
  - Long rump
  - Natural thickness





*Wendell  
Ephraim*

# *Muscle Cont.*

- Loin or Top
  - Natural width with proportionate length
  - Wide pin set
- Shoulder
  - Natural thickness with smooth muscle pattern





# Balance

- Symmetry From front to rear of the calf
- Displays depth of body or rib
- be aware of heavy fronted cattle







## *Frame Size*

- A moderate frame size is usually desirable
- 52” frame at finish is a moderate size for today’s industry
- Judge frame when young by length of cannon bone

# *Moderate Frame*



# *Large Frame*



# *Structural Soundness*

- All four legs should be square under calf
- Things to be aware of when selecting for soundness
  - Post legged
  - proper slope to front shoulders (Stright Fronted)
  - Cow or sickle hocked
  - toe in or out
  - freedom of movement

# *Really Sound*





# *Genetics*

- By knowing the genetics of a calf, it can reduce the guessing game
- Look at current magazines at different sires or bulls
- use reputable breeders with proven success



# *Eye Appeal*

- A calf needs to be “pretty” with eye appeal
- What makes a calf “pretty”
  - Straight lines
  - Clean fronted
  - Long clean neck
  - Proportionate size head
  - Balanced
  - Color



*Mark Sneed*

# *WHAT NOT TO SELECT ON!*



- Fine bone
- One gutted
- Unbalanced
- Not structurally correct
- Un-level tops
- Leathery
- And so on









*Cam*







# *Disposition*



- It is a good idea to select a calf with a good disposition for a first year showman
- Look for a calf that won't stand back in the corner or away from people

# *Feeding*

- Feed a grower or starter ration (12-14% Protein)
- Small amount of good quality grass hay
- Feed twice a day
- Switch to finishing ration to get cattle fat (usually last 5-6 months depending on calf)
- Tie cattle up when feeding
- Feed a balanced ration!

# *Feeding Continued*

- Brand- Hi-Pro, Showmaster, Hi-Noon, Profile, Purina, Nutrina etc.
- Supplements- Know what you are feeding and the purpose of the supplements



# *Grooming & Fitting*



- Select “good” hair cattle
- “Work” hair as much as possible
- Clip cattle monthly
- Attend clipping clinics
- Practice, practice, practice



# *Hair*



*Carolyn Wilson*

11K

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- Steer Cost: \$2000.00- ????????
- Feed: 6000 lbs \$2000-\$2500
- Hay: \$300-\$400
- Vet Costs
- Show Supplies- Chute, Blower, grooming Aids, Etc.
- Cool Barn



# *Final Thought*

Good calves are born:  
Champions are made!

