



4-H Market Steer Project

THE BASICS

PROJECT LENGTH 10-12 months

The market steer project is approximately 10-12 months long but can be longer depending on factors such as age of the steer, date of the show, etc.

COST \$6,000.00

The average total cost of the market steer project is \$6,000-\$8,000 per animal. This includes purchase price, feed costs, supplies, veterinary care, show entries, etc. First time members should also consider costs of facilities and other one-time purchases.

TIME COMMITMENT 2-3 hrs/day

Expect to spend 2-3 hours in the barn everyday. Animals need to be fed and have waters checked at least twice a day and should be walked/exercised and practiced with at least once a day.

FACILITIES

At a minimum animals should have a well-ventilated shelter to get out of the elements and a fenced area with approximately 75-100 square feet per animal. Fence height should be at least 54 inches tall and should be predator proof. Additionally, considerations for electricity, water, flooring, drainage, and waste disposal should be made.

PURCHASING ANIMALS.... WHEN

Market steers are typically 16-20 months old at the time of show. Determining which show the animal will be shown at is critical to determining when the animal should be purchased. Common examples are:

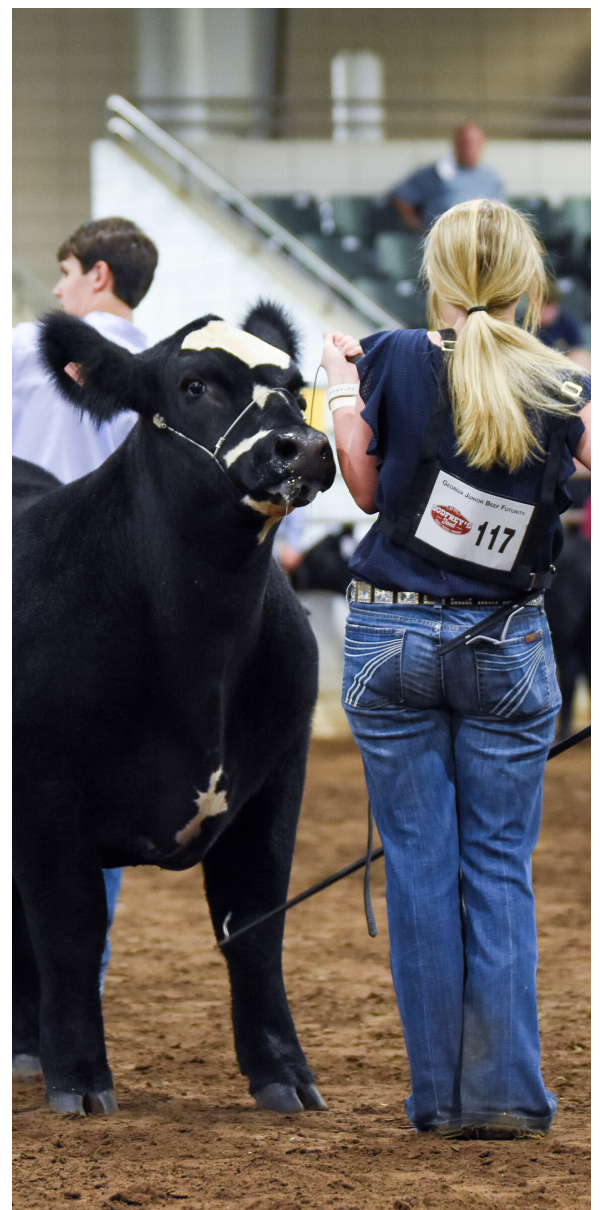
<u>Show</u>	<u>Suggested Purchase Dates</u>
WCJLS, LVJLS, Spring Major Shows.....	March- May
Fall Major Shows.....	Oct.-Dec.

Note: All animals MUST be purchased/owned by Validation deadlines.



ADVANCED

Due to the length of the project, size of the animal, and cost of the project, this project is recommended for those with previous animal project experience.



EXPERT TIPS

PURCHASING ANIMALS... WHERE

Market steers can be purchased anywhere, both in or out of state, in person, at auctions, or online. Look for reputable producers with whom you can develop a good working relationship. A list of producers in Texas can be found at the Texas Youth Livestock website, however, there are many more in Texas.

<https://texasyouthlivestock.com/livestock-connection/>

VALIDATION

Market steers are required to be state validated for Wilson County Junior Livestock Show, La Vernia Junior Livestock Show, and all major livestock shows. Tags are purchased in early spring and validation is in June.

KNOW YOUR SHOW

Knowing which show(s) you plan to show at and the rules and regulations of those shows will be *critical* to the success of your market steer project. Show dates, whether or not the show is terminal, and how many animals can be shown are all major factors to consider at the *beginning* of the project.

FEEDING

Feeding will begin with a high protein, low fat feed then gradually switch to a low protein, higher fat feed. Additionally, cattle rely heavily on forages, like hay, to maintain a health digestive tract

HEALTH CARE

The best veterinary care is preventative care. Start by building a working relationship with your local veterinarian. Work with them to determine proper vaccinations and de-worming protocols.



For more information about the Texas 4-H Steer project, visit:

<https://texasyouthlivestock.com/beef-cattle/>