

LEAVENWORTH COUNTY FAIR 2026

4-H BUCKET CALF

Superintendent: Nicole Tollett

Exhibit Check In: Tuesday, July 28th, 11am; Beef Scale (West end of the Sheep Barn)

Exhibit Judging: Consultation – Wednesday, July 29th; 8am; 4-H Building

Fitting and Showing – Wednesday, July 29th; 1pm; Show Arena

The 4-H Bucket Calf project is an introductory animal science program designed for younger members (ages 7–12) to learn the basics of bovine care without the high cost or physical demands of a full-sized market steer.

Rules

1. Read General Rules. Violation of any of the following rules may result in disqualification. All decisions will be made by a county agent and their decision is final.
2. Bucket Calf project exhibitors must be between the ages of 7 and 12 (4-H Age).
3. Animals (beef or dairy; bull or heifer calves) must have been born after January 1 and prior to May 1 of the current year.
4. Calves must be no more than 14 days old when purchased. Calves are to be hand raised. No nurse cows are allowed during the entire term of the project.
5. Calf must be weaned and off the bottle before the fair to be shown at the fair. NO bottle feeding allowed at fair time.
6. Animals must have been officially tagged by the first Sunday in May. Complete Bucket Calf Family Identification Worksheet and turn it in to the Extension Office by first Sunday in May. Designate breed on worksheet.
7. Members are limited to exhibiting one bucket calf.
8. Bucket Calves are not eligible to be sold in the 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction.
9. 4-Hers ages 7 to 9 must not clip their calves and will not use show sticks. 4-Hers age 10 to 12 are required to clip their calves and will be required to use show sticks.
10. All calves are required to be vaccinated for IBR/PI3 and 7-way Black Leg. Calves born before April 1 must also be vaccinated for BVD. This is for your calf's protection. Proof of vaccinations will be required at fair time.
11. All calves must be healthy. Calves must be checked by the superintendent before unloading. Calves must be unloaded by the designated check-in time per the Fair 4-H Schedule. Weigh in will be directly after beef weigh in. It is the responsibility of the 4-Her and parents to locate the superintendent for the check-in. Calves must have a normal temperature and normal stool and no heavy mucus running from the nose.
12. If calf is on any medication for any contagious disease (respiratory infection, skin lesion, diarrhea, etc.), is ill or should become ill during the fair, the calf must be taken off the fairgrounds. If calf is ill and cannot be on the fairgrounds, the 4-Her may still participate in consultation judging. If the 4-Her's calf dies after worksheets are due then they may still participate in consultation judging only.
13. 4-Hers enrolled in the bucket calf project cannot show the bucket calf in any other classes, including open class. Bucket calf members may not exhibit any 4-H market or breeding beef project.

14. Show halters can be used, but are not required. Consultation judging is with the 4-Her and judge only. Parents and leaders are welcome to listen in only. Judging order will be decided by the superintendent and posted in the barn on show day. Criteria for judging will be based on health and condition of the animal and knowledge about the animal, (i.e., breed, age and feeding).
15. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping their stalls and tack areas clean and neat.
16. Animals used must be entered in a class and owned by exhibitor. Showmanship is judged on grooming of the animal and the ability to handle and control the animal.
 - a. DRESS FOR BUCKET BEEF CALF SHOWMANSHIP: Attire for Beef Showmanship includes clean long pants (jeans-no holes) and 4-H appropriate shirt and closed toed shoes (preferably leather boots or shoes). This includes dairy bulls, steers and crossbred heifers.
 - b. DRESS FOR BUCKET CALF DAIRY HEIFER SHOWMANSHIP: White shirt and white pants are industry standard and preferred but a white shirt and dark pants (Jeans-no holes) is acceptable with closed toed shoes or boots (preferably leather boots or shoes).

CONSULTATION

Classes

Juniors (Ages 7-9)

Seniors (Ages 10-12)

FITTING and SHOWING

Classes

Juniors (Ages 7-9)

Seniors (Ages 10-12)