



Facilities

It is extremely important for you to have good facilities for your show cattle. Although it has no nutritional value, it greatly affects the animal and how it utilizes the nutrients provided to it

- Your show calf needs a minimum of 75 square feet of shelter space.
- The barn needs to be well ventilated
- Your show calf also needs to have a pen that is at least 100 feet by 200 feet
- The barn and pen also need to be located on a slope to aid in drainage
- It is also a good idea to put a gutter around the edges of your barn to prevent mud holes from forming.
- Mud is extremely harmful to your animal; it can inhibit hair growth and stress the calf causing it to not gain to its full potential.
- You should also have access to electricity for the use of fans, blowers, clippers, etc.
- You also want to keep your barn clean of manure and old hay to help keep your calf healthy and its hair coat fresh.



Sources:
<http://www.cattletoday.com/archive/2004/September/CT353.shtml>
<http://beef.osu.edu/library/show.html>
<http://www.nalf.org/programs/halja/feedwinnersfinalJune2003.pdf>

FEEDING AND MANAGING YOUR SHOW CATTLE

APPLIED ANIMAL NUTRITION
MATTHEW R. MADDEN

IT TAKES A LOT OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO GET YOUR ANIMAL TO THE WINNERS CIRCLE!!!!



FEEDS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

- Oats- Used as a main show feed ingredient, oats are fairly high in protein, sufficient in fiber. Oats are said to keep cattle growing without putting condition on them.
- Barley- Barley is higher in energy than oats, and will put condition on cattle. Barley is recommended in some rations because it is more economical than oats or corn in some parts of the country.
- Corn- It is used as a main ingredient in all show cattle rations. Corn is high in energy and will put on condition rapidly.
- Protein supplement- There are many sources of protein such as soybean and cotton seed meal, but many feed companies recommend a protein pellet that is a minimum of 32%.
- Minerals- These are a necessary component of feed to fill the void left by what the calf cannot synthesize.
- Feed Additives- These are often used to provide cattle with supplements that protect them from setbacks due to stress.

FEEDING YOUR SHOW CALF

- Always provide cool, fresh and clean drinking water.
- You should feed your calf 2.5% to 3% of its body weight
- Your show feed should be between 12-15% protein and 2-5% fat for your calf to best utilize it
- Daily feeding should be broken down into at least two feedings with 50% coming in the morning and 50% in the evening
- If the temperature outside is very high you may feed your calf 40% of its feed in the morning and 60% in the evening to keep the animal eating the same amount.
- Always feed at the same times of the day, and try to make it between 10 and 12 hours apart. 7 A.M. morning feeding and 5 P.M. evening feeding.
- You need to provide the animal with a nice feed trough to eat out of that is 12 to 20 inches high, 6-8 inches deep, and 12 inches wide.
- As your calf grows you will need to increase its feed, but make sure you increase it no more than 2 pounds a day to prevent any digestive problems from occurring.
- You should provide your calf with free choice hay and a mineral lick tub to prevent deficiencies from occurring.

COMMON DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS

- Bloat- Bloat is a common problem that can occur with your show calf. The most common cause in show calves is the feeding of highly concentrated feeds. It can either be frothy or gaseous bloat, and you can remedy this problem by adding surfactants, detergents, or oils to your feed.
- Scours- Scours are caused by many different things. They can be caused by moldy feed left in the trough too long or increasing your calf's diet too rapidly. This problem is marked by loose or watery feces in the pen or dried on the hair of the calf.

DISASTER PREPARATION FOR YOUR CALF

- If you have time, the best thing to do is to pack some feed and hay in your trailer and evacuate your farm with your calf so that it does not get injured.
- If you are unable to take your calf with you, you need to make sure you supply your calf with everything that it needs. Make sure that it has plenty of fresh water that is shielded from any possible salination brought on by a storm surge. Also make sure that the calf has plenty of food along with a safe and sturdy building to get into to avoid the wind, rain, and debris flying around.
- As well as the above listed things, the best thing to do is open all interior gates and tie them back so that the calf can get to safer and more protective areas.



Superior Nutrition is a MUST for Superior Performance!!!!