

# Getting to the Backdrop

2022-2023

Alachua County Youth Fair

Beef Committee

# Picking out a steer

- Start looking for a calf in the Spring. (March or April)
- Your calf should be a August-October calf from the previous year. Inquire about projected weight for your calf and frame score.

# Look for.....

- Heavy muscling, growth potential, & balance.
- A calf that is good structured and can move well, when set into motion.
- A calf that will weigh around 700 pounds at weigh in.
- A calf with a good attitude.

# Tips

- It is recommended that you feed your steer through the summer.
- It also is a good idea to work with your steer over the summer: halter breaking, teaching him to lead, & introducing a show stick.

# Where to keep him

- Your calf's enclosure should have free access to water.
- Shade
- Feed pan/trough
- Free access to roughage like grass or hay.

# Remember the Goal

- Your steer must weigh at least 1,000 pounds at the final weigh in
- His average daily weight gain must be a minimum 2 pounds a day
- Your steer should have at least 3/10-5/10 back fat to be considered “market ready”

# Tools you need at the Fair

- Rope Halter with Neck rope
- Pooper scooper
- Wheel barrow/cart
- Show halter
- Show stick
- Scotch comb
- Large feed pan
- Water bucket
- Feed for the entire time you're at the fair
- Outdoor Official Dress (boots, black jeans, white shirt, scarf or bow tie)
- Health papers
- EID tag shall be required at the final weigh in

# Also useful

- Grooming chute
- Blower
- Fan
- Hose with nozzle
- Washing supplies



# Don't be afraid to get help

Make sure to use all your resources!

- Ask your advisors, breeder, vet, or beef committee members when you have questions.
- If there is a problem do not wait until it is out of control before asking for help.
- For example: if your steer stops eating, contact someone within the week instead of waiting until he's in danger of not making weight.

# Evaluating

Take a minute and consider these two steers. What are the “pros/cons” of each? Which steer would you choose as your project?

Steer 1 is going to most likely finish out better in the long run.

1



2



# Steer 1



Some things to notice:

- He is heavy muscled, square out of his hip, and carries his muscling down into his leg
- Moderate frame size
- Big bellied
- Looks to have good structure... good angles to hock and pasterns
- Not too high in his flank (most young calves have high flanks, but they drop with feed and when fat starts to deposit into the rear flank)
- He has “extras” and is eye appealing (big bone, level top, long neck, clean through dewlap and brisket, and has hair)

# Steer 2



Some things to notice:

- Flat muscling through his entire rear end
- Large frame (meaning he will finish at a much higher weight than a small or moderate calf)
- Very high flanked and deep in his brisket, which combined make him look unbalanced
- Fine boned

# Heifers

Attributes of a quality breeding female

- Good structure is the main priority
- Deep and bold through the center of their body
- Feminine and extended head and neck
- Muscling, a wide pin set, and heavy bone are desirable

