

2025 Cleveland County Dairy Steer Project Rules

1. This project is open to youth residing in Cleveland County or registered with Cleveland County 4-H.
2. Participants must be 8 to 18 years old on January 1, 2025.
3. A maximum of 15 participants will be selected to participate in the 2025 project.
4. Cost to participate is \$350, which provides the calf, 1-2 bales of straw for initial bedding, 2 bags of milk replacer, a calf bottle, thermometer, 2 bags of starter feed, a rope halter, and vaccines. Payment (cash or check payable to "CCCA") is due at the Calf Care & Management Workshop on **Tuesday, March 11**.
5. Youth are expected to take the primary role in care, feeding, and all other practices involved in the dairy steer project.
6. Participants are expected to enroll as Cleveland County 4-H members in 4-H Online. Instructions for doing this will be provided by the 4-H Agent.
7. Because this is an individual project, calves must be assigned to a specific participant for the duration of the project. The participant must be listed on the Participant Agreement and Application and receive updates/information through the email address provided.
8. Participants agree to train, halter break and show their calves at the Cleveland County Agricultural Fair on **Sunday, October 5**.
9. Participants' legal guardians agree to provide or coordinate safe transportation for the calf to events.
- 10.** This is a **terminal** livestock project. The participant is required to sell their calf through the Cleveland County Agriculture & Livestock Exchange auction facility on **Tuesday, October 7**.

11. The Cleveland County Cattlemen's Association will act as fiscal agent for the project and will coordinate the sale of calves and distribution of proceeds to participants.
12. Online applications must be received by **5 PM on Friday, February 21**.
13. Applications will be screened by a committee, and we may request a site visit to gather additional information and assess housing and other conditions that might affect the health & wellbeing of the calf.
14. Applicants will be notified whether they were selected no later than **Friday, February 28**.
15. Participants and a parent/guardian must attend a Calf Care & Management Workshop from **6-8 PM on Tuesday, March 11**. The workshop will be held at the Cleveland County Extension Center located at 130 S. Post Road, Suite 1 in Shelby. Payment is due at that time.
16. Applicants or family members must pick up their calves and supplies at the agreed upon time and place and attend a brief training on the day of pickup. Failure to do so will disqualify applicants from the program.
17. The participant will be assigned an experienced mentor who is available to provide guidance, answer questions and make site visits to assess overall management and animal performance.
18. The participant will observe their calf for signs of illness every day and promptly report any suspected health issues or concerns to their assigned mentor. The mentor will determine if a project veterinarian should be consulted for advice regarding treatment.
19. The participant will determine the estimated weight of their calf using a weigh tape (provided at the start of the project) on the **first day of each month**. That weight must be recorded and reported to the assigned mentor.
20. The participants and a parent/guardian will deliver their calf to a Working Day for it to be vaccinated, castrated and dehorned. Participants are not permitted to perform these procedures themselves. The Working Day is planned for **Saturday, April 19** at the Cleveland Community College North Campus facility behind Alli's Café located at 891 N. Post Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

21. Participants are expected to perform good management practices as prescribed and to treat their calf humanely. Any animal that is determined to be neglected or abused will be removed and become the property of Cleveland County Cattlemen's Association.
22. Should a participant lose interest or be unable to complete the project, the assigned mentor should be notified.
23. Each participant must turn in a completed 4-H Project Record Book upon completion of the project. Participants' final check will be held until their record book is received by the 4-H Agent. Participants are asked to hand deliver their record book to the Cleveland County Extension Office (130 S. Post Road, Suite 1, Shelby, NC 28152). Project record books must be received by **5 PM on Friday, October 17**. Failure to turn in your record book by the deadline will result in a \$100 deduction from your final check.
24. Parents or legal guardians of the youth participant must sign the project agreement and be responsible for all expenses involved in the project.
25. By participating in this project, the participant and their family or guardian assumes all risks for financial loss, personal injury, and personal liability. All agencies and volunteers involved in this project are not responsible for any damage or loss to person(s) or property during and after the duration of this project. Liability is solely the responsibility of the participating youth and families.
26. The project steering committee decisions in all matters pertaining to this project not directly addressed in this document will be considered final.