

**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR  
BEEF PROJECT**



**Minimum Number of Days to Achievement:** 180 days

1. The Beef Project includes:

**Unit 1 - The Beginner Beefperson**

This project is designed for the 4-H member who does not presently own a beef animal, but who wishes to learn more about the project while participating as an active member of the club. During the course of the year, the member will become familiar with the 4-H beef project, gain knowledge of beef husbandry, and prepare for ownership of a beef animal. It is expected that a member would spend no more than one year enrolled in Unit 1. On achievement day, each member will exhibit their record book (4-H BC publication 416), indicating completion of 8 beef-related activities as outlined in the Beef Project Leaders' guide, or as identified by the Club Leader. (updated Dec 2015)

**Unit 2 – Young Beef**

The member is to select and raise a quality feeder animal or heifer to be a maximum of 12 months of age on achievement day (born in the calendar year). The member will learn basic feeding, husbandry, showmanship, grooming and judging, and will gain an appreciation of basic animal welfare, while raising and handling a young beef animal. The calf is raised for show only (i.e. not eligible for market) and the member will exhibit their project on achievement day. The calf from a Unit 2 project may also be used as the calf portion of Unit 5 or 6.

**Suggestion:** For 4-H Club Achievement Days and 4-H fair/exhibition classes, the following groupings may be used:

- Steer Calves
- Heifer Calves
- Bull Calves (see item 8 – castration policy for eligibility of intact males within 4-H Beef project)
- Or any alternative groupings as determined by a 4-H Club or 4-H Fair Committee to best fit their particular situation.

**Note:** A member may lease or purchase a calf from a fellow member registered in Unit 5 or 6, but it is the responsibility of the Unit 2 member to feed, train, groom, and exhibit the calf independently for purposes of achievement.

(updated Nov 2018)

**Unit 3 - Market Animal**

The member is to select a quality feeder animal and raise it to a finished market weight as determined by the achievement day judge. The member will learn basic beef feeding, husbandry, showmanship, grooming, and judging, while gaining an appreciation of basic animal welfare. The member will exhibit their project on achievement day.

**Unit 4 - Heifer**

The member is to select and raise a quality heifer to be a minimum of 12 months of age and a maximum of 24 months of age on achievement day. The member will learn basic beef feeding, husbandry, showmanship, grooming, and judging, and will gain an appreciation of the practical aspects of beef production and animal welfare. The member will exhibit their project on achievement day.

**Unit 5 - Cow-Calf**

The member will learn aspects of the cow/calf industry particularly as it relates to sustainable agriculture, integrated resource management, and environmental concerns. The member will raise a bred heifer through calving. The member may use a previous year's 4-H project animal or they may buy or lease a new animal. The heifer must not have calved prior to the start of the project. The cow and calf will be shown on achievement day. The calf from a Unit 5 project may be enrolled in Unit 2. (updated Nov 2017)

**Unit 6 - Mature Cow-Calf**

The member will learn aspects of the cow/calf industry particularly as it relates to sustainable agriculture, integrated resource management, and environmental concerns. The member will raise a bred cow through calving. The member may use a previous year's 4-H project animal or they may buy or lease a new animal. The cow must not have calved

prior to the start of the project. The cow and calf will be shown on achievement day. The calf from a Unit 6 project may be enrolled in Unit 2.

(updated Nov 2017)

### **Unit 7 - Carcass Animal**

The member is to select a quality feeder animal and raise it to market weight, to be shown at achievement day. The carcass is to be graded and/or evaluated at time of slaughter. The member is to inspect the carcass, obtain relevant information on marketing and grading, and gain an appreciation of beef marketing, and beef information promotion to the consumer.

**Note:** It is suggested that a young and/or inexperienced member, who wishes to raise an animal for market, commence with the Market Animal Project. A more experienced member should be encouraged to take the Carcass Animal Project and gain an appreciation of beef carcass judging. Placings of market animals and carcass animals may be separate or combined.

### **Unit 8 - Senior Management**

The member is to select, upon approval of the club leader, a project of interest to the member related to the Beef project. It is required that the Senior Management Project Approval Request – Publication #5016 be submitted for project approval. Approval from Youth Development Staff is required to start this project. Senior Management projects must have records kept for 10-12 months (projects may include a research component to fulfill the 10-12 month project period). Animals used in a Senior Management project cannot be enrolled in any other units for the duration of the project.

Possible projects could be:

- Beef herd, raise 3 or more breeding animals
- Beef feedlot, raise 3 or more market animals
- Forage/pasture/range management - the member will study and record forage, pasture, or range types and conditions production potential, and management practices. The minimum size area for the survey and study is two hectares.
- Sire comparison study
- Feed comparison study
- Cross breeding program
- Beef cattle management systems
- Record of performance methods
- Summer job on a beef ranch or farm; or with a "show circuit" herd

(updated Jan 2020)

2. Animals in all units must be the property of the club member and their family, or if by other arrangement, such as leasing, only on a sound written basis.
3. All animals must be properly identified with registered eartags. Record of the eartags must be filed with the 4-H District Council Awards Coordinator at least six months prior to Achievement Day. **NOTE: This is the responsibility of the club leader.** The club leader is responsible for collecting the identification numbers, completing the 4-H Club Project Identification form (publication #395), and submitting it to the District Awards Coordinator.  
(updated Dec 2015)
4. Each 4-H animal must be kept on the property where the club member resides or on property leased by the member or their parents unless specific permission is granted by the club or club leader to keep it elsewhere.
5. (A) Each 4-H club member enrolled in Units 1-5 must exhibit their project animal(s) at the Club Achievement Day.  
(B) Members enrolled in Unit 6 may exhibit their project at the Club Achievement Day, recognized field day, or have a home inspection of their projects by the leader.
6. A club member must personally feed and care for their animal(s) for at least six months, maintaining and completing their Project Record Book.

7. Horns are not permitted on 4-H market animals. Horns are not recommended on 4-H breeding project animals, except for registered purebred cattle from those breeds where horns are considered to be a desirable breed characteristic (purebred registration documentation to be provided by the member).
- Horn is defined as *“any visual hardened bone-like projection that is attached to the skull”*.
  - This would not disqualify any animal with a scur: *“a small unattached growth of horn at the site of a normal horn”*.
  - When horned breeding project animals are exhibited, safety of both the members and the projects animals must be the first priority.
8. All male animals must be castrated by the time they reach 3 months of age. Animals castrated by the short scrotum method or cryptorchid cattle are not acceptable 4-H project animals.
- Special Note: If a member wants to save an intact male from their Unit 2, 4 or 5 project to use as a sire in a future breeding project, they can do so at the discretion of their club leader, as long as the following applies. The intact bull calf is still nursing and is shown as part of a cow-calf pair or shown on its own up until 3 months of age. At the leader’s discretion, the cow-calf or young beef project may be exhibited at Achievement Day or evaluated at the member’s home.
- (updated Dec 2018)
9. As 4-H BC promotes livestock best practices and safe animal handling, the use of humbugs as a restraining device on cattle at 4-H events is not permitted. In the interest of the safety and reputation in the public eye, 4-H beef animals should be adequately trained before attending a 4-H event in order to avoid the use of the humbug device.
10. On the death of an animal or in the event of incurable sickness or serious permanent injury so as to render the animal totally unfit to be maintained as a Beef Club Project, a member must notify the club leader at once. At the discretion of the club leader, and by a motion of authorization from the club membership, a member may apply to replace their animal with another of the same age and weight.
- (i) This change must be approved by the District 4-H Council at least 60 days prior to Achievement Day.
  - (ii) There will be no substitution of deceased, incurably sick, or permanently injured animals under any circumstances after the 60 day deadline.
  - (iii) A District 4-H Council committee reserves the right to inspect the animal. This committee may seek the advice of a veterinarian.
- (updated Nov 2018)
11. In the event that an animal is deemed dangerous so as to render the animal totally unsafe to be maintained as a beef club project, a member must notify the club leader at once. At the discretion of the club leader, and by a motion of authorization from the club membership, a member may apply to replace their animal with another of the same age and weight.
- (i) This change must be approved by the District 4-H Council at least 120 days prior to Achievement Day.
  - (ii) There will be no substitution of dangerous animals under any circumstances after the 120 day deadline.
  - (iii) A District 4-H Council committee reserves the right to inspect the animal.
- (updated Nov 2018)
12. Each 4-H family should in addition to this publication have 4-H Publication #150, “BRITISH COLUMBIA GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR 4-H CLUBS”.



**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
GENERAL REGULATIONS  
FOR 4-H CLUBS**



1. **Club Membership**

Youth who have reached their **6th** birthday before January 1st of the 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their **22nd** birthday before January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, are eligible for membership in a 4-H club, based upon enrollment in one of the following categories:

- (A) **Cloverbud Project** for 6, 7 and 8 year olds – youth who have reached their 6th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 9th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year. (See Cloverbud Project Regulations #6301 for specific unit guidelines.)
- (B) **General 4-H Projects** for 9 to 19 year olds – youth who have reached their 9th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 20th birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> of 4-H enrollment year. (See 4-H project specific regulations for specific unit requirements.)
- (C) **Specialty Senior Projects:**
  - **4-H 20 & 21 Year Olds** – Young adults who have reached their 20th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 22nd birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year
    - [20, 21 year old 4-H members] may take only the following projects: Junior Leader Project, and/or Self Determined Project, and/or Senior Management unit in a Project. 20 and 21 year old members may participate in judging competitions but not communications competitions.
  - **4-H British Columbia Ambassadors** – Young adults who have reached their 16th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 22nd birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year [16 -21 year old 4-H members] and who meet the requirements, may be selected as a 4-H BC Ambassador (See 4-H BC Ambassador Program application form for details, 4-H BC Pub. #129). 4-H BC Ambassadors must be selected through a regional process. They will remain members of general 4-H clubs but will serve in their Ambassador capacity for their entire 4-H region.

2. **Independent Projects**

The AgMent project provides opportunity for older youth to complete a standalone professional development project independently, without joining a traditional 4-H club. AgMent Projects are for youth who have reached their 18th birthday by January 1st of 4-H enrollment year, and who have not reached their 25th birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> of 4-H enrollment year (see AgMent regulations, 4-H BC Pub. #6700 for specific requirements).

3. **Leadership**

4-H club leaders must be age 22 and older. Leaders must complete the screening, registration, and training as per the Provincial Leader Registration Policy. Any adult working with 4-H members on a regular and ongoing basis (more than a guest speaker or judge who participates occasionally) should be registered as a 4-H leader or a screened volunteer. See Publication #115 - Volunteer Recruitment and Screening Instructions for information about screening requirements for 4-H leaders and screened volunteers.

4. **Club Requirements**

A 4-H Club Shall:

- (A) Consist of not less than six members between the ages of 6 – 21.
- (B) Have two or more registered 4-H leaders or screened volunteers age 22+. A minimum of one trained 4-H leader and one screened volunteer is required per club.
- (C) Have an official 4-H club sponsor.

General 4-H Clubs may set their own calendar of events and activities for the year as long as they include the following minimum required elements:

- (A) Club Business Meetings run by 4-H Members
- (B) Communications
- (C) Judging
- (D) Project Work
- (E) Safety Education
- (F) Achievement Day

Participation opportunities in each element must be offered in 4-H clubs each year. Cloverbuds and Speciality Senior Projects are exempt from some of these elements; see specific project regulations for details.

#### 5. **Enrollment**

Returning 4-H members and leaders must re-enroll annually by **January 15<sup>th</sup>** via the online enrollment system. District Key Leaders have until January 31<sup>st</sup> to sign off on enrollments, receive club membership assessment fee cheques, and mail a verified district enrollment summary with fees to the Provincial 4-H office.

New members, new leaders, or new clubs can enroll at any time (365 days) during their first year of enrollment. Key Leaders are to work with the Provincial 4-H office to support the enrollment of brand new individuals.

#### 6. **Projects**

All 4-H Projects are divided into a “Unit” classification and specific regulations governing individual projects should be carefully reviewed by the club leader and the club member.

Members may choose to enroll in a **maximum of four units** in one 4-H year. These units may all be from one project, or from a variety of projects as long as the total number does not exceed four.

- “Project” is beef, clothing, junior leadership, self-determined, etc.
- “Unit” is Unit, 1, 2, 3, etc. of each Project.
- At the time of enrollment, members must select and identify the particular unit(s) they wish to enroll in.
- A 4-H member may only be enrolled in the same unit once in a 4-H year.
- A project animal or article may only be used to fulfill the requirements of one unit in a single year, unless an exception is noted in the specific project regulations.

A 4-H Club should endeavour to have a minimum of four members enrolling in any one project. A lesser number completing at Achievement Day will **not** eliminate them from achievement.

#### 7. **Project Identification**

Only an animal or an article that is properly identified as a 4-H project and is an enrolled unit, shall be eligible to enter a 4-H Club Achievement Day, and appropriate 4-H event classes and competitions at fairs, exhibitions, shows and sales. Animal projects must be identified using project ID sheets (General ID Publication #395, Dog ID Publication #5402, Horse ID Publication #1020, Cavy ID Publication #1620)

- (A) 4-H livestock projects are subject to identification check on Achievement Day, and 4-H events. Projects must be the same as that identified on project identification forms. Incorrect identification will result in the 4-H member being disqualified.
- (B) Each 4-H project must be inspected **at least twice** by the club leader or someone designated by the leader, during the course of the project. In the case of animal projects, at least one inspection must be at the location where the animal is regularly housed. The other inspection of animal projects can take place at a field day or club event. Inspection of non-animal projects can take place at any suitable club activity or event where project work is taking place.

## 8. Achievement Day

All club members, except those enrolled in units specifically designated not to be, must exhibit their project at the Achievement Day of the club. If a member is unable to participate in the scheduled club Achievement Day due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. - family, medical, unavoidable project circumstances), the leader may at their discretion offer an alternative Achievement Day that would allow the member to complete their project. Alternative Achievement Days are a privilege, not a right, and are offered at the discretion of the club leadership. Alternate Achievement Days must ensure that unit requirements have been met as per specific project regulations.

Units that do not have to be shown on Achievement Day, such as multi-livestock projects and senior management projects, should either be:

- (A) Exhibited at a field day, etc.; or
- (B) Inspected at home by the leader or someone designated by the leader.

Sale of completed 4-H projects is optional. If projects are to be sold please note:

- Projects are not eligible to be sold until after they have completed Achievement.
- A 4-H member is not allowed 4-H show rights of a market animal after the sale of the animal.

## 9. Achievement Certificate Requirements

Achievement certificates are awarded on the basis of work done by the club member throughout the entire year. Scoring is done by the club leader and/or designated person, based upon the following three categories:

1. **MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT:** (satisfactory or unsatisfactory)
  - An assessment to determine achievement of unit level standard of husbandry and care for livestock projects, or project work and skill for non-livestock projects.
2. **COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT:** (satisfactory or unsatisfactory)
  - A member must show their completed project at Achievement Day.
3. **COMPLETION OF RECORD BOOK:** (satisfactory or unsatisfactory)
  - A member must satisfactorily complete a project record book and turn it in to a club leader.

**Note:** Those members receiving “satisfactory” in all three areas will be awarded an Achievement Certificate.

Refer questions on the interpretation of any 4-H Club Regulation to your **4-H Key Leader**

or: **4-H British Columbia Provincial Council**

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## Background Information to General and Specific 4-H Regulations

General and Specific 4-H Regulations are for each individual 4-H member and individual 4-H Club to complete a 4-H year and achieve. (They are not designed to be used across or between any two 4-H members or 4-H Clubs competing or achieving at an inter-club event or competition.)

General Regulations are provincial 4-H policy governing each/all 4-H members/Clubs.

