

2021 Iowa Beef Expo Junior Skillathon Study Guide



Terminology

Bull: Sexually mature male. Bull calf used to denote males under a year of age.

Cow: Female that has produced a calf.

Heifer: Female that has not produced a calf.

Steer: Castrated male.

Calf: Young cattle (less than 1 year) of either sex.

Calve: Act of giving birth.

Crossbred: An animal that is a product of the crossing of two or more breeds.

A.I. – Artificial insemination

Types of Feed

Forage for Cattle – The majority of feed consumed by cattle should be forage/roughages. Types of roughages include corn, silage, pasture & hay.

Cattle Supplements – In some cases, roughage alone is not adequate nutrition for maintaining proper body condition as is the case during the breeding season and times of peak production.

Minerals for Cattle – As in all animals, salt and minerals are necessary to sustain life. As a general rule, a complete mineral supplement containing salt, calcium, phosphorus, and trace minerals should be provided free choice.

Get to Know The 4 Parts of a Cow's Stomach

Rumen – The rumen is the largest part of the cow's stomach, holding up to 50 gallons of partially digested food at any given time. It contains enzymes that start the digestion process, breaking down the hard food & cellulose. The food may spend 15 to 48 hours in and out of the rumen being chewed, swallowed, regurgitated (when cattle regurgitate their feed they are "chewing their cud") and swallowed again and again before it moves on to the second part of the stomach, the reticulum.

Reticulum – The reticulum traps anything that the cow should not have eaten, such as the pieces of fencing, rocks and pieces of wire. The reticulum also softens the grass that has been eaten and forms small wads of cud.

Omasum – The omasum has many folds to filter the food, squeeze out the water and further break down the cud.

Abomasum – The abomasum completes the digestion process. It passes essential nutrients to the bloodstream and sends the rest through the intestines.

Showing 101

- Rope Halters are the best halter to use to break a calf.
- You lead a beef calf from the left side.
- A show stick is used to adjust the legs on a beef calf.
- When leading a calf, your left hand should hold the show stick.
- Grooming is the word that describes actions such as brushing, washing & clipping.
- If all soap is not rinsed out of a calf during washing it will result in dandruff.
- Ideally, a calf should be brushed daily.
- When selecting an animal on structural soundness, special emphasis should be placed on the feet & legs.

Other Fun Facts

- Registration Papers list the sire and the dam of a purebred animal among other things.
- The amount of fat on a live market animal is called finish.
- A beef animal that naturally lacks horns would be known as polled.
- Spring is the season that most cows calve.
- The normal temperature of a cow is 101.0 F.
- The most important nutrient in a cow's diet is water.
- During the third trimester of pregnancy, the calf will gain the most weight.
- ADG = Average Daily Gain