

Note: Last year the “Cowboy Articles” were written to help you with your beef project. Remember when Cowboy did this?

Title: Feeding, Weighing and Clipping. Oh! My!

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On May 19, 2008, Cowboy weighed 955 lbs. His average daily gain (ADG) was 3.54 lbs per day. That was close to his target ADG of 3.8 lbs. I was out of town for four days and I asked the neighbor to feed Cowboy. When I got home Cowboy did not run up to the bunk as usual, plus I smelled something sour. I looked in the pen and saw that he was scoured. Cowboy was telling me he got too much grain at one feeding. My neighbor was feeding the required amount of four and a half scoops. The problem was he fed one day at 7 am then 2 pm and the next day at 10 am and 7 pm. Cowboy needed to be fed at consistent times to help his rumen digest the high amounts of grain. Because his weight increased, I have increased the feed for Cowboy to 5 scoops of 2-way grain ($955 \text{ lbs} \times 2\% = 19 \text{ lbs}$ per day) and 2 flakes of alfalfa hay ($955 \times 1\% \text{ hay/roughage}$) per feeding. The flakes weigh almost 5 pounds. If Cowboy does not eat all of his hay I reduce the amount of hay he gets. I also make sure Cowboy has good clean water. The days were getting warmer, so I checked every day to make sure the tank was clean, and no birds had fallen in! At a *Halter Breaking Workshop* I learned a few things to help me for fair time. At feeding time, I combed Cowboy’s hair forward to train the hair. On the weekends during chore time, I tied up his head really high while I combed him. I did this so Cowboy could practice holding his head up and his front feet together. Come show time it would be easy to hold Cowboy’s head up. He was slowly shedding his winter coat so I shaved off all the dead hair. Cowboy liked being shaved. Now his hair would re-grow better, as I trained it forward.



This year’s steer - Dash

I named this year’s steer Dash, from the movie ‘The Incredibles’. On March 21st he weighed 765 lbs. His estimated final weight is 1150 lbs and target A.D.G. is 2.4 lbs/day. Dash should be getting 15 lbs of grain ($765 \text{ lbs} \times 2\% = 15 \text{ lbs}$ per day) and 2 flakes of alfalfa hay ($765 \times 1\% = 8 \text{ lbs}$ hay/roughage) per day. The hair is starting to grow back from the ringworm spots we doctored with iodine. It was hard to get Dash clean so I shaved off all his hair and I found more ringworm spots to doctor!

How is your project going? Here are some questions you can ask yourself.

- ✚ What does your animal weigh?
- ✚ What is your estimated final weight?
- ✚ What is your predicted average daily gain (ADG)?
- ✚ How many pounds of grain and hay (or other roughage) are you feeding?
- ✚ What is your animal telling you?
- ✚ How are you practicing for the show?

