

Note: Cowboy weighed 725 at initial weigh-in (3/19) and should weigh 1375 by fair. August 30<sup>th</sup> is the fair date for the "Open to the World Steer Show" at the Twin Falls County Fair. I am writing a few articles to address some of my challenges of feeding and raising a project steer. This may be helpful to you with the management of your project.

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

By Cindy A. Kinder, Area 4-H Extension Educator

On May 19<sup>th</sup> Cowboy weighed 955lbs. His average daily gain (ADG) is 3.54lbs per day that is 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 7am 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. I am now feeding Cowboy 5 scoops of 2-way grain (955 lbs x 2% = 19 lbs per day) and 2 flakes of alfalfa hay (955 x 1% hay/roughage) per feeding. My 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 are getting warmer, so I check every day to



make sure the tank is clean, and no birds have fallen in! At the *Halter Breaking Workshop* last fall I learned a few things to help me during the show. At feeding time I am combing Cowboy's hair forward to train the hair. On the weekends during chore time, I tie up his head really high while I comb him. I do this so Cowboy can practice holding his head up and his front feet together. Come show time it will 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 will re-grow better, as I train it forward.



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

- ✚ What does your animal weigh?
- ✚ Is the actual ADG below or above the estimated 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?

