

*Note: Cowboy is headed to the Twin Falls County Fair to the Open to the World Steer Show the fair date is August 30<sup>th</sup>. Cowboy weighed 725 at initial weigh-in (3/19) and should weigh 1375 at fair. See how he is doing.*

Title: Cowboy says it's HOT !

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

It is getting closer to fair and Cowboy weighs 1150 lbs (6/29) and is gaining 4.16 lbs./day this is above the target. I am now feeding Cowboy 5 scoops of 2-way (corn and barley) grain (1150 lbs x 2% = 23 lbs per day) and 2 large flakes of alfalfa hay (1150 x 1% hay/roughage= 11.5 lbs per day) per feeding.



It is hot so I make sure Cowboy has shade. The other night Cowboy did not eat very much grain. He looked fine and there was no scours. I then looked at his water tank; it had moss in the water and it was warm. He was not drinking so he was not eating either.



I cleaned out the tank and now I change the water more often every 3 or 4 days so it is cooler. In the evening, at chore time, I tie up Cowboy to the top rail of the fence for 20 minutes. He is practicing holding up his head. I spray him down with water and comb his hair forward. I am also practicing with the show stick; moving his feet. At first it was hard and Cowboy kicked at the show stick, but now Cowboy understands the process; Stop; head up; front feet together. At show time all I have to worry about is placing his back feet either at a profile (off set) or square depending on where we are in the show ring. The legs are set at a profile

(picture) if the judge has a side view of your animal and the legs are set square if the judge has a front and rear view.

I took Cowboy to the Camas County Jamboree June 25<sup>th</sup>, a practice day. Cowboy did well for his first major trailer ride and the process of being loaded, unloaded and tied in a stall all day with all the different noises. Cowboy had the show halter on for the first time. He did not like the chain under his chin. I should have practiced that at home. I led him with a rope halter instead. With more practice at home Cowboy and I should know what to expect at fair.

Cowboy had an ultrasound done while at the Jamboree. He has a 11.6 square inch ribeye, .28 inches back fat, and marbling score of 3.6 which is a select grade. There is 60 days until fair so I hope the marbling score will increase to 4.0 which is a quality grade of choice. I can see Cowboy is starting to get fat; there are fat deposits around his tail head and his back is getting broader; maybe he is going to weigh closer to 1250 lbs at fair.



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

- ✚ What does your animal weigh?
- ✚ How many pounds of grain and hay (or other roughage) are you feeding?
- ✚ What is your animal telling you?
- ✚ How are you practicing for show day?
- ✚ Is your animal getting fatter? How can you tell?