

Note: This year I enrolled as a beef project member I completed the market beef project by exhibiting Cowboy at the Open to the World Steer Show, at the Twin Falls County Fair, and filling out my record book.

Title: Cindy's Record Book - Profit or Loss?
By Cindy A. Kinder, Area 4-H Extension Educator

My Goals for this year were:



1. To feed Cowboy to 1,375 pounds.

I came close, by challenging him with his feed and keeping his water clean and cool. I also watched Cowboy for changes and illness. Cowboy's final weight (10/05) was 1,350 pounds. His overall A.D.G. was 3.20 pounds per day.

2. To make Cowboy look his best at fair time.

I halter broke Cowboy early in the year so we knew each other a lot by fair. I also worked daily with him combing his hair, leading him and practice showing him. He did not make final weight by fair time so he could have looked more market ready.

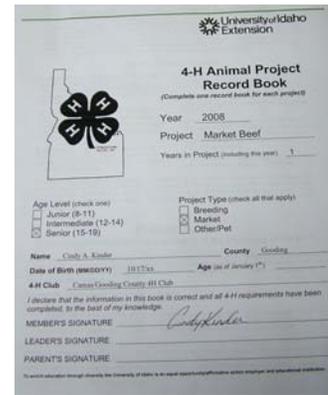
3. To do my best at fair time.

I was able to show Cowboy without any trouble. All my hard work paid off, he did not get away from me in the showing. I attended the Halter Breaking Workshop last fall where I learned how

to clip and fit him. I did the best I could.

4. To make gold performance.

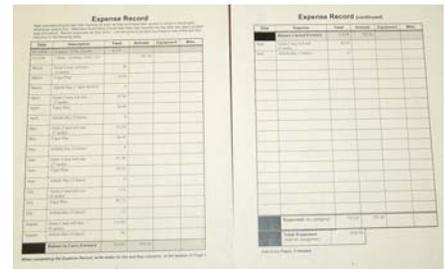
Cowboy gained over the required 2.8 pounds per day and I will know in a few days what his carcass quality and yield grade is to find out if he met the gold performance standards. When Cowboy had the ultrasound in July his quality grade was select. Hopefully his feed program and his genetics will allow him to grade choice.



My Presentation for my record book was titled "My Beef Project – Cowboy (a series)". I used the six articles I submitted to the county newsletter as my illustrated talk. In each article I talked about my beef project. It gave weight updates, what I was currently feeding and/ or should be feeding and listed my problems and observations. I learned a lot about feeding my animal and selecting the right animal and I hope you did too.

My Project information and activity log I included the weigh-in I went to, the Magic Valley Classic Beef show where I watched and learned about showing procedure. I also attended the ultrasound education day where I learned about ultrasounds and meat grading. I did a lot of work at home feeding combing and, leading Cowboy. I learned that it takes a lot of hard work to make him look his best. I also listed the county fair because I learned that sometimes you get close to your goals.

My Expense Record included: Cowboy when I first bought him for \$797.50 (725 lbs x \$1.10). My feed which was Vigor plus (5 bags) \$133.95, 2-way roll mix (46 bags) \$591.50 and alfalfa hay (17 bales at \$100 per Ton) at \$68. I also had a yardage fee of \$.09 per day for 195 days. I had my show equipment and halters on hand. The total expense was \$1,608.50. I fed Cowboy for 195 days instead of 150 days. This cost me \$141.05 for feeding him those extra 45 days. Ouch! Adding the bull and heifer to the pen in August cost me because I had to feed Cowboy for a longer time. Next time, if I want to save money I will keep them separate.



My Income Record included: Cowboy at 1,350 pounds and the floor price at fair time of \$.97 per pound. This is the current value of a Choice Beef Carcass. Total income was \$1,309.50.

My Profit and Loss Record shows that I lost \$-299 dollars on my Beef Project. Holy cow! I am glad I do not own a pen (100 head) of market cattle with hay and grain prices as high as they are. 4-H and FFA beef members are lucky they get Blue Sky donation money.



How did your project go? Here are some questions you can ask yourself.

- ✚ Did you meet your goals?
- ✚ Did you learn something new from your presentation or summer activities?
- ✚ What were your expenses? Floor price income?
- ✚ Did you have a profit or loss? How can you decrease your expenses or increase your income?
- ✚ Are you ready for next year?