

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

Title: Bovine Beautician!

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Cowboy weighed 1180 lbs (7/18/08) and was gaining 3.76 lbs/day. This was just below the target of 3.9 lbs/day on the growth chart. I was feeding Cowboy 5 scoops of 2-way grain (1180 lbs x 2% = 23.6 lbs per day) and 2 to 3 flakes of alfalfa hay (1180 x 1% hay/roughage= 11.8 lbs per day) per feeding. I also topped dressed the grain with Vigor Plus. Cowboy had gone off feed; meaning that he was not cleaning up all the feed I fed him. He was not scoured; and the water tank was kept cool and clean. I believe the heat caused him to reduce his feed intake. I also saw fat patches in the tail head and cod areas so eating less could also mean he was close to market ready. So I reduced some of the grain he was getting in hopes he would get back to full feed soon.



We practiced with the show halter and show stick. I noticed that Cowboy leads a lot better with the show halter than the rope halter. I was showing Cowboy outside his pen; that lets him get used to more open space; so hopefully he would not run away with me at fair time! At chore time, I tied Cowboy to the top rail of the fence and I sprayed him down with water and combed his hair forward. His hair was looking good.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4

Are you a Bovine Beautician? You will be soon. As it gets close to fair time you will be clipping your animal. This is what I did for Cowboy. I shaved his entire head close (except the inside of his ears)(picture 1). I left the hair long on the side of his neck but clipped the top of the crest short and did some blending of the long and short hair (picture 2). I also shaved his brisket and between his front legs; making him look less wastey (picture 3). I left his body hair long since I shaved him in the spring and all the dead hair was gone. I trimmed his sheath only and some really long belly hairs (picture 4). I kept most of the belly hair long because Cowboy needs to have more depth.

This year's steer - Dash



Dash now weighs 996 lbs (6/26); he is gaining 2.38 lbs per day. He is getting 20 lbs of grain ($996 \text{ lbs} \times 2\% = 19.92 \text{ lbs per day}$) and approximately 3 large flakes of alfalfa hay ($996 \times 1\% = 9.96 \text{ lbs hay/roughage}$) per day.

I noticed the other day that Dash is not walking correctly and his front feet are starting to turn out. Dash's hooves are growing fast. This is due to the grain. The high energy feed helps my steer gain weight and fat faster and that is why I push the grain. However, that also causes his hooves to grow too. As you can see from the pictures his toes are different sizes and they are getting too long. I will have them trimmed as soon as possible; this way he is walking correctly and he does not injure himself. I should have his feet trimmed at least 30 days before the show. This time frame will give Dash time to heal up from trimming. The trim should restore the balance in each foot – equal amounts of weight bearing between the inside and outside toe. For a mature cow the toes should be approximately 3 inches in length; from top of the hoof to tip of the toe. Dash got a bath the other day. He loved all the scrubbing. It was finally dry enough to wash the mud off of him.



Have fun clipping, Bovine Beautician!

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

- ✚ Is your animal going to make his ideal MARKET weight?
- ✚ How are you practicing for the show?
- ✚ How are you clipping and fitting your animal?
- ✚ What is your animal telling you?
- ✚ It finally turned hot. Did your animal change what he was eating?