

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

Title: Cowboy says it's HOT !



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

Cowboy weighed 1150 lbs on June 29, 2008 and was gaining 4.16 lbs./day this was above the target average daily gain. I am 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 was hot so I made sure Cowboy had shade. One 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 I changed the water every 3 or 4 days so it is cooler. At chore time, I tie up Cowboy to the top rail of the fence for 20 minutes. He was practicing holding up his head. I sprayed him down with water and combed his hair forward. I also was practicing with the show stick; moving his feet. At first it was hard and Cowboy kicked at the show stick, over time Cowboy understood 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 the location 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.

#### This year's steer - Dash



Dash now weighs 878 lbs (5/3), he is gaining 2.62 lbs per day. He is getting 18 lbs of grain (878 lbs x 2% = 18 lbs per day) and 3 flakes of alfalfa hay (878 x 1% = 9 lbs hay/roughage) per day. I added two other animals to the pen, last month and one of them bloated. I was lucky the bull did not die. I was going to cut back the amount of hay and grain I was feeding in order to prevent the bull from bloating again. But I thought that would reduce the amount of feed for

everyone. Dash needs to gain as much as he can in order to meet his market weight goal. So I decided to separate the bull from the others. I could have set all my animals back instead of pushing the healthy ones and easing the one with the bloat problem. As you can see from the picture the ringworm is finally gone!

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?
- ✚ Are you pushing your animal to eat more?
- ✚ What is your animal telling you?
- ✚ How are you practicing for show day?
- ✚ Is your animal getting fatter? How can you tell?