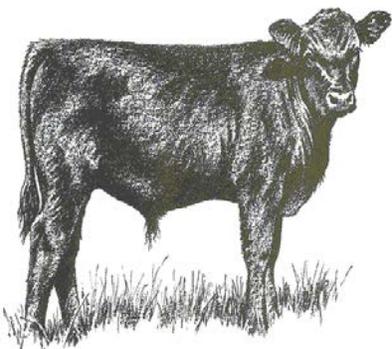




# Uinta County 4-H Catch-It-Calf Participant's Program Information



## Important Contact Information

If you need help, please call anytime. We do not know if you are struggling or have questions unless you ask. The committee is happy to help, they just need to know.

### Do you have questions?

If you have questions about the program, monthly reports, animal replacements, fair entry information call:

Uinta County Extension Office

228 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Evanston, WY 82930

307-783-0570 - office

307-783-0580 - fax

[4-H@uintacounty.com](mailto:4-H@uintacounty.com)

If you have questions about your animal after you have received it such as animal nutrition, showmanship, animal's health, etc. call:

Committee Members (2019)

Kerby Barker 307-679-0460

Roni Camphouse 307-761-3337

Marissa Cornelison 307-679-6174

Barb & Jerry Huntington 307-780-5662 or 307-07-780-5321

Andrea Osborne 435-730-2434

If you have questions about your animal's health or behavior and cannot get a hold of a committee member or Extension staff, please contact the veterinarian. Do not wait until the animal gets sicker.

If your animal dies, contact the Extension Office or a committee member immediately.



# Uinta County 4-H Catch-It-Calf Program

## Policy Statement

The purpose of this youth development program is to help youth learn the skills needed to raise and manage a cow/calf pair. Additionally, youth will learn life skills that can help them to become responsible, contributing citizens. These skills are developed or enhanced by learning to care for (feed), raise, and show both a heifer and her subsequent calf.

The Catch-It-Calf program rewards youth for being involved in their project. It is an educational program designed to encourage youth to expand their knowledge and skills by taking on the responsibility of a new project area, with the benefit of experienced mentors. By participating in this program, members will be taking on the responsibility of completing an application form, writing monthly sponsor reports, learning to show an animal and financing a livestock project.

## Why Is This Project Different Than Any Other Livestock Project?

Two distinctive things make this program very different from the traditional livestock project. They are:

1. The Catch-it-Calf project is a long term commitment. This project will last a minimum of 2 years. Members are rewarded for the time and effort they put into their project. This project is not won by producing the "best" animal, but by being committed to the project and documenting that commitment. The project champion is chosen from a composite score based on monthly reports, sponsor letters, an interview and exhibition. The youth who puts forth the most effort in acquiring knowledge, keeping records, and completing reports is the one rewarded and recognized as the winner.
2. The program draws in youth and community donors by offering them an opportunity to receive advertisement/recognition, while supporting the youth in the community. This is one of the few times people who give financial support to the 4-H program have an opportunity to stay in contact with the individual receiving the support. Donors receive written monthly progress reports and have an opportunity to watch the youth grow and advance as they complete their project.

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# Uinta County 4-H Catch-It-Calf Program

## General guidelines:

- The Catch-It-Calf program is a two-year breeding beef program.
- Youth can only participate in the program once.
- Youth earn a spot in the program by participating in the catching contest. Extension staff will encourage donors to get the calves to the recipients by December 1st of the year they catch.
- Youth will compete in a Catch-It-Calf exhibition class. This will only be for Catch-It-Calf animals and will not be divided by youth age.
- Youth need to obtain a bill of sale, made out to Uinta County 4-H when they acquire the calf from their donor.
- Youth do not own their animals until they have completed the entire program. At the conclusion of donating a calf back to the program they will receive a bill of sale and ownership papers for their cow.
- Youth must donate a calf back to the program within a year of completing the project.
- The donated calf might be swapped out for another animal if the committee feels the original calf is not suitable for the program (size, temperament, etc.).

## Prior to earning a spot in the program youth must:

- Attend the mandatory program meeting which occurs right before the catching contest, unless other arrangements were made with Extension personnel ahead of time.
- Participate in one of the scheduled workshops, or online video, prior to receiving their animal and securing a spot in the program. First year's topic will be selecting an animal and second year will be on conditioning of the animal.

## Program guideline after the youth has earned a spot in the program:

- If an animal dies within 2 months after the youth received their original animal, the youth can work with the committee to receive a replacement animal. The expense of the animal will be the responsibility of the youth to cover. If the animal dies 2 months or more after the youth received their original animal, the youth cannot get a replacement but can restart the program the next year. Youth cannot use another animal that is already in their possession to replace their deceased animal. Leased animals are not an option as a replacement.
- At any point, if a youth elects not to participate in the program or an animal is removed from a member for any reason, the animal will be offered to an alternate, up to April 1 of the 1<sup>st</sup> year in the program. If this occurs after April 1, the animal will not be awarded to the alternate.
- Heifers or cow/calf pairs will be removed from the youth based on any of the following removal criteria points:
  - Heifer must be halter broke by March 1 for 1<sup>st</sup> year members.
  - For 1<sup>st</sup> year members, the heifer must have first weight turned into Extension Office by 1 month after the youth received their calf. A second weight must be reported in April or May. Additional weights may be requested if the committee feels it is warranted. Estimated weights need to be included on the youth's reports each month.
  - Animal(s) will be removed if youth do not complete the monthly reports. After two missed reports the youth must submit a letter to the Catch-It-Calf committee stating why the reports were missed. If needed, a joint meeting will be held between the youth, their parents and the committee. After three reports are missed -- in a given program year -- the heifer will automatically be taken away.
  - Animal's condition is not satisfactory (condition can be body score, facilities, health, etc.)
- If an animal is removed, youth do not receive any compensation for any expenses incurred while the animal was in their possession (such as feed, veterinarian, etc.)
- Youth must be enrolled in 4-H before possession of the animal is taken.

### **Entering your animal at fair**

- When youth complete their entries for fair they need to enter the Catch-It-Calf Showmanship class.
- If youth fail to complete their fair entry they will still be able to compete in the showmanship class to earn their respective points for that category, but they will not be able to win the class and earn the prize given for the champion showman.
- If a youth chooses to show their animal in a breeding class beyond the showmanship class that is up to the youth. That is not a requirement of this program.
- If funds are available, buckles will be awarded to the champion Catch-It-Calf participant for each year and it will be based on the youth who earns the most points.

## Program Scoring

### RUBRIC

The following is the breakdown of how you will earn your points throughout the project:

Sponsor Letters.....	40 points
Monthly Reports.....	20 points
Interview.....	20 points
Exhibition .....	20 points

Bonus points -- a maximum of 4 points for educational workshops and 2 for pre-program meeting -- will be added to the final score.

The Grand Champion Catch-It-Calf is determined by a composite score computed from the four areas they are judged in, plus any bonus points earned for educational workshops.

### **Tie Breakers**

In the event of a tie in final scores, the winner will be decided based on the following tie breaker categories:

1. Sponsor letters
2. Monthly reports
3. Interview
4. Exhibition

### **1<sup>st</sup> year versus 2<sup>nd</sup> year points**

Each year is scored separately. The points will be cleared after the first year and start over at zero in the second year.

**SPONSOR RELATIONS – 40 points**

Each month youth will write a letter to their sponsor. Each letter received on time is eligible to receive 5 points.

It is the youth's responsibility to submit all letters on time. Each letter is due into the Extension Office on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each required month at 11:59 p.m. Once the letter is received, it will be forwarded on to the donor. The Extension Office **will not** be sending out reminder cards each month a letter is due. It is your responsibility to mark your calendar and get these in on time.

Each letter is worth a maximum of 5 points and should:

- Be at least a ½ page in length single spaced, 1 page if double spaced;
- Include information about 4-H member;
- Information about your animal which you could include:
  - Animal's weight and rate-of-gain since your last report or since you received the animal.
  - What are you feeding your animal and how much of it.
  - Health update - have you given your animal any vaccinations or other treatments for the month.
  - What have you been doing for the month to prepare your animal for exhibition
- Include at least one photo.
- Include correct spelling, punctuation, complete sentences and legibility.

**Letters are due:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Thank You Note**  
September 1

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year Participants</b>				
December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	
April 1	May 1	June 1	July 1	

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> year Participants</b>				
December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	
April 1	May 1	June 1	July 1	

## **MONTHLY REPORTS- 20 Points**

Each month youth will complete a monthly report that they submit to the Extension Office and their sponsor. Each required report received on time is eligible to receive 2.5 points. If received after due date the report will be worth 1 point.

Report forms will be available online or by email upon request from youth.

It is the youth's responsibility to submit all monthly reports on time. Each monthly report is due into the Extension Office on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each required month at 11:59 p.m. Once the report is received, it will be forwarded on to the youth's donor. The Extension Office **will not** be sending out reminder cards each month a report is due. It is your responsibility to mark your calendar and get these in on time.

### **Reports are due:**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Year Participants**

December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1
April 1	May 1	June 1	July 1

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> year Participants**

December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1
April 1	May 1	June 1	July 1

Monthly reports must be received in the Evanston Extension Office by the date they are due.

Each monthly report is worth a maximum of 2.5 points and will be scored using the following:

- Mathematical completeness (every column completed and totaled, math correctness, expenses are specific);
- Grammatical correctness (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, complete sentences);
- Correctness and completeness of the answers to the questions.

### **Tips and hints for succeeding in the monthly reports section:**

- Keep all financial receipts as you will need them to complete these reports.
- You should have expenses each month whether it is animal expenses, dues, stamps, etc.
- Entries and answers should be made neatly and accurately.
- Dates should include specific day (ex. May 21, 2017), not just a month and year.
- Entries should reflect actual expenditures - prices paid, not an estimation.
- Provide all information requested in the unit it is requested in.
- Be sure to proof read all answers.
- Answer questions in complete sentences.
- All columns should be totaled or subtotaled at the bottom of a column.
- Answer questions with specific information not generalizations.
- Reports can be handwritten or typed.

## **INTERVIEW – 20 points**

Interviews will be conducted prior to fair and will take place onsite with a group made up from the Catch-It-Calf committee and Extension staff. Individual appointments will be made.

There is a list of study questions provided after the Exhibition section in this document.

### **Tips for a successful interview**

Here are some hints for succeeding in the interview section:

- Study the questions provided prior to your interview.
- Dress appropriately.
- Introduce yourself to the judges with a hello and hand shake.
- Answer questions with complete sentences.
- Use examples in your answer any time you can.
- Relax and let your true self shine through.
- Nerves are normal. Let them be your best friend, not your enemy.
- Look at the judges - don't let your eyes wander.

## **EXHIBITION – 20 points**

1<sup>st</sup> year youth will compete in a showmanship class just for Catch-It-Calf participants. 2<sup>nd</sup> year youth will compete in a cow/calf pair class just for Catch-It-Calf participants. 2<sup>nd</sup> year members need to be on hand at their pen and be prepared to answer questions and interact with the animals as requested by the official. Both classes will be held during the Uinta County Fair. All youth in this project will compete against each other. There will be a single class for each year, it will not be divided up by age of youth.

Youth that want to participate in the 4-H showmanship classes that are divided by age are more than welcome to, but will need to make sure and enter them when they are doing their fair entries.

Following is a set of study questions that will aid youth in both the exhibition and interview phase of this program.

### **Tips for succeeding in the exhibition section**

Here are some hints for succeeding in the showmanship section:

- Start working with your animal early.
- Spend time with your animal training it to respond to your request - whether that is to lead, respond to a show stick, setting feet, being handled, brushed, etc.
- Spend time grooming your animal. Skin care takes more than a bath right before fair.
- Find a mentor who can help you learn how to show your animal.
- Learn early how to prepare your animal for fair. Might include clipping, shearing, trimming hooves, etc.
- If you have a chance to take your animal to a practice show or jackpot, take advantage of that opportunity.
- Be cautious of videos and items you view on the internet to make sure the information provided in them -- whether it is a video or a document -- is correct and up-to-date. Showmanship styles have changed over the past few years.
- The Extension Office has the resources for you to check out and view that may help you with showmanship.

## Sample Interview and Exhibition Questions

The following is a list of questions that may help youth with the interview and showmanship phase of the program. Interview questions are not limited to this list, but studying these may be helpful.

- < What breed is your animal?
- < How old is your animal? When was it born?
- < What are you feeding your animal (Know what kind of feed and how much - include water)
- < How much does your animal weigh?
- < What were your goals for the project?
- < What have you learned from the project?
- < What type of health steps have you taken?
- < How would you like to improve your animal (conformation wise)?
- < What is your animals' strong confirmation points?
- < What type of bull did you breed your heifer/cow to?
- < When will you wean your calf?
- < What would you change about the program?
- < What was the most difficult part of the Catch-It-Calf Program?
- < Will you make a profit or loss on your project?
- < Who helped you finance your project? Explain how.
- < Do you believe this program was a success for you?

## **BONUS POINTS**

### **Pre-Program Guardian/Youth Meeting -- Max. of 2 points**

There will be an opportunity for youth to participate, with a guardian, in the pre-program meeting. At this meeting youth and guardians will review the guidelines of the program and the scoring process. If the youth and a guardian complete the entire meeting they will receive 2 bonus points. These bonus points will be added to the youth's score after the weighed score has been figured.

This meeting is the time that the youth will commit to the program or choose to pass their spot on to an alternate.

This meeting is in addition to the mandatory one members should attend or view before receiving their calf.

### **Educational Workshop -- Max. of 4 points**

A maximum of 4 bonus points will be added to the final score. Youth can earn these bonus points by attending educational workshops and completing a summary worksheet.

At least three workshops will be offered each year specifically for Catch-It-Calf youth. These workshops are worth 2 points each. Youth can attend other workshops and clinics on their own and earn 1 point for each program they turn a summary worksheet into the Extension Office for. No matter what workshops a youth attends, bonus points are maxed at 4.

Workshops can include showmanship camps, feeding workshops, field days, etc.

Summary sheets can be handwritten or typed, but must include the following information:

- Name of educational workshop.
- Date of the workshop.
- Location of workshop.
- How long was the workshop?
- Presenter's name(s).
- What did you learn at the workshop?
- Did the workshop help you accomplish your goals for the Catch-It-Calf Program? How or why not?
- Would you recommend the workshop for other 4-H members?

If a youth attends a workshop sponsored by some other entity beyond the Uinta County Extension Office, summary sheets are due into the Extension Office 1 week prior to fair in order to get credit toward the youth's score.