

# Raising A Show Steer

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1. Starting by having a healthy vaccinated calf that has been vaccinated for diseases that would cause calf to get sick and not make final weight.
2. Secure pen with 100 square feet of pen space. Exercise or dry lots should have 200 square feet per steer.
3. The pen should have a covered area for animal to get out of weather. Calf should have a good source of clean fresh air. Shade must be provided in our hot climate. If steers are hot they do not eat enough and will not gain weight properly.
4. Steers need about 10-20 gallons of cool clean water daily. This needs to be free choice all day not just when you go out to fill up the tub. Water troughs need to be cleaned out frequently.
5. Feed your steer twice a day, morning and evening at approximately the same time. If they get overly hungry or skip a meal this can turn them off of feed.
6. Feed good balanced steer ration. Increase by 3 pounds each week if he is cleaning up all of his feed after each feeding.
7. Do not change feed rations during the middle of your project. Making changes in the type of feed can make steers sick and go off feed.
8. It is critical to always have a clean feed bunk. If steer does not clean up feed, dispose of old feed. Old feed can make him sick, which will turn him off of feed.
9. Steers and Heifers should get free choice quality grass hay. Hay increases microbial activity in gut and increases consumption of grain. If steer is not consuming enough grain you may need to give him hay after he finishes grain.
10. Steers need to be exercised daily to develop muscle volume and tone. They should be walked daily in the morning or evening so the steer does not overheat. Exercise will also increase a steer's appetite thus eating more.
11. Monitor your steer's weight throughout the project to make sure he is growing at the correct rate so that he will meet the requirements at fair.
12. Taking your steer out of his environment to prospect shows and other events will get him used to the sights and sounds he will be exposed to at the county fair.
13. If you are concerned, about your steer's progress ask a knowledgeable adult to look at your steer.

For more information on steer projects see: <http://www.das.psu.edu/pdf/steerproject.pdf>  
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