Acknowledgment is gratefully given to the Texas Hereford, American Brahman Breeders and the American Shorthorn Associations for supplying certain breed pictures.
SO YOU WANT TO BE A COWMAN. You want to find out more about cows and calves, bulls and steers. You'd like to know what to call different parts of their bodies, be able to talk like a cowman, know the difference in breeds and be able to pick the best. If you knew all this, then maybe Dad would let you get a calf.

Boy, it would be fun getting a pen all fixed up for a calf. You'd have to put up a fence, build a shed, a shade, a feed trough, a water trough, a hay box and some other things. Maybe someone would help you if the calf had to be doctored—like dehorning, castrating or vaccinating. Who knows, you might even become an animal scientist.

Calves have to be fed, so you need to find out about all the foods they need to make them grow. You have seen youngsters at shows feeding corn, oats, hay and lots of other things. Dad or someone could tell you about all that stuff.

Those pretty calves at the show could have been to a beauty parlor. But, they don't have beauty parlors for calves. You've seen kids fix up a calf at the county fair. They washed him, brushed and combed him, shined his toes and made his tail big and fluffy. They even made him stand still when you petted him. It's fun getting to do all those things with a calf.

Say, why don't you hit Dad up for a calf? You can fix a place for him and if those other kids can feed their calf, then surely you can. There is nothing hard about brushing and combing a calf—besides you're a bigger man than some of those kids at the fair.
Sometime . . .
when you have a club meeting draw a big outline of me
and see how many of these names you can write on it.

This picture shows different parts of my body.
You will know me by my solid black or red color. I never have horns.

Some of us look like this.

You will know me by my solid black or red color. I never have horns.

Red and white are my colors, and sometime I am called "Whiteface." I may be horned or polled.
I may be all white or red, red and white or roan. I may have horns or be polled.

My ears hang down and I have a hump on top of my shoulders. I am white to grayish and may even be reddish.
I am reddish in color and have horns.

My color is usually called "brindle." That means black and white hairs mixed together, giving a grayish look. Since I am crossbred, you can find me in many colors. You will find some of us nearly anywhere you go. As you ride down the road, have a contest with the rest of the family. You take a breed and let others in the car take a different breed and see who can get to 100 head first.
Some of us look real good, while others--well, they lack something.

Look at my side view. See how deep it is. And I have length of body to go with it. I have a long rump and I am just as deep in the foreflank as in the hindflank. Then I'm just the same width all along my top from shoulders through the rump. My rounds bulge toward the outside and behind me too. They are almost down to my hock joints. I am deep in the twist and my hide is loose and pliable. Some folks say I resemble my parents. In fact, if I do say so, I think I look pretty fancy!

Guess I won't ever win any beauty contests. I am what they call “shallow-bodied.” That means I don't have the length, depth or width which judges look for. I'm narrow over the top and have a triangular look from my shoulders back through my rump. My rounds are scrawny looking and I have heard people say “look at that high twist.” Real cattlemen say they don't want animals that look like me. Sometime, when you find a bunch of us together, look at our differences and rank us first, second, third and so on. Take turns being the judge.
This type pen is a good place to keep me.

![Sketch showing minimum feedlot equipment and arrangement for feeding one calf.](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRUSH ARBOR</th>
<th>WATER TROUGH</th>
<th>FEED TROUGH</th>
<th>PORTABLE HAY BOX</th>
<th>MINERAL BOX</th>
<th>SHED OR GABLE ROOF TYPE Calf Shed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feeding may be done here during hot weather.</td>
<td>Removable type No. 2 wash tub size.</td>
<td>4 in. above ground 3 ft. long 2 ft. wide 8 in. deep</td>
<td>1 x 12 lumber 2 ft. long 2 ft. wide 2 ft. deep</td>
<td>8 in. above ground 1 ft. long 1 ft. wide 4 in. deep</td>
<td>8 ft. long 6 ft. wide 6 ft. high at plate Dirt floor Hinged openings at bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEN Poles and posts 5 ft. apart. Net wire or board fence.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Diagram showing dimensions and layout of feedlot equipment and arrangement for feeding one calf.](image)

- **PEN**
  - Dimensions: 10' x 7' with a gate at 3'
  - Water trough
  - Brush Arbor with sandbox 6" deep
  - Feed trough
  - Portable Hay Box
  - Mineral Box
  - Shed or Gable Roof Calf Shed

*Note:* The diagram includes dimensions for the feedlot equipment and arrangement for feeding one calf.
It's Meal Time!

I have to eat and drink just like you. Some of my food is the same as yours but milk is my “fav-o-rite.” I like greens, too. This is where I get some of my Vitamin A. The dry grass I eat is called hay or roughage. My four stomachs help me take hay and squeeze out some of its sugar, vitamins and protein. You eat potatoes, corn, bread and rice to help you grow and give you lots of energy. I can eat corn, oats, barley, wheat and sorghum grain and any of your foods. These also give me energy, help me to grow and, when I eat lots of these, I get fat.

Meat and eggs, milk, beans and leafy green vegetables help you put on muscles, grow bigger and give you protein. I don’t eat all of these foods, so you will have to feed me cottonseed, soybean or linseed meal or pellets. I get some protein from all my other feeds, but these are really full of protein. So, it doesn’t take much to give me a stomach ache.

You don’t have to worry much about minerals, but I do. I like to eat salt, since I can’t sprinkle it over the feed. Salt helps my stomach digest hay and other feed. I have to have strong bones to hold me up. Your bones and mine are made of calcium, phosphorus and other minerals. All of our foods have some of these, and milk has lots of them. However, when I quit drinking milk and eating lots of other things, I need some extra phosphorus to develop and make my bones real strong. Bonemeal has lots of phosphorus in it, and I like to be able to eat it when I want it.

Naturally, I like clean, cool water. I have to drink water so it can mix with all the other food or they would get just like concrete in my stomach.

With many different things to eat, I like some of all of them. You would soon get tired of eating potatoes every meal and probably say, “I can’t look another spud in the eye.” My meals taste better when several feeds are mixed together. Don’t feed me spoiled feeds. When they are dusty and moldy, they don’t taste good. Besides, they make me sneeze and may make me sick. My preference is to have my grains coarsely ground or steam rolled. You don’t have to grind my hay or roughage because my stomach takes care of that. I like to eat at the same time twice a day.

It takes quite a bit of feed for me. Figure on giving me at least 3 pounds of feed a day for every 100 pounds that I weigh. You may have to feed some of us more or less than this, since we’re different. If you want to fatten me, here is a way to figure how much of each feed to give me. If you just want me to grow and develop, feed me about 1½ pounds of feed daily for every 100 pounds I weigh. If I were a bull or heifer calf, you could cut out some of the energy feed and give me more roughage.
Dehorn and castrate me when I am about 1 month old, if you want to fatten me as a steer for show. If I am a heifer, leave my horns on. Be sure I have ear tattoos if I am registered for permanent identification. There are always some diseases which could make me sick. But the veterinarian has some medicine that will keep me well. He uses a needle to vaccinate me. It’s best to call the veterinarian and ask about these things.

Once in a while you can see some bugs on my skin. Others are so small you can’t see them. You can use sprays, dusts and powders on me to get rid of these bugs. The county agent knows which ones to use. I heard him say one day if my pen was kept clean it would keep some of the bugs away.
Let's Get Ready for a Show!

Here are some things that I'd like for you to use on me everyday.

Brush me with a hard, rice bristle brush everyday if we're going to the show. This along with linseed and cottonseed pellets helps make my hair coat glossy. I like a bath once a month. Liquid or paste soaps and that hard bristle brush really get the grease and dirt off me. Scrub hard now; it doesn't hurt. Be sure to rinse out all the soap so my skin won't peel.

When I'm clean, put 2 tablespoons of creosote dip in 2 gallons of water and pour it over me. About the time I get dry, rub me with an old towel moistened with a mixture of one-half rubbing alcohol and one-half mineral oil. Just comb me now; there is no need to try to set my hair. About 1 month before show day, begin to bathe me once a week. Then give me a good bath the day before the show. Use that scotch comb on me as much as possible and comb up my sides and from my tail head to the hair swirl behind my shoulders.

You can part my mane, that's on top of my neck, back through the swirl. Brush and comb the back of my rounds toward the outsides. My tail switch should be real fluffy. It's easy to fluff by catching hold of the end of the switch with one hand and brush every hair out of your hand up toward the tail head. You can run the hairs against your thumb nail and index finger and make it real kinky. This is called ratting the hair. I'll need a hair cut about a month before the show and then a little trimming just before show day. Clip my head all over and behind my ears about 2 inches. Leave the hair to where the leather halter strap fits right on top of it. Clip all the hair off my ears and cut any extra long and old, dead-looking hairs anywhere you find them. Just make me look smooth and as deep in the hind-quarters as I am in the forequarters. You probably can take off some of that long hair on the underneath side of me. All of us look different and each of us has to be trimmed a little differently. My tail looks better when you clip the hair from a point on the tail, where the twist shows, up to the tail head. You may need scissors to make the hair look natural around the tail head. It's all right if you want to give me a shoe shine. Use some neutral shoe polish or even light-colored floor polish will work. Put it on all my toes and "shine away."
It's Show Time!

Before you show me, put on some clean clothes and comb your hair. Don't forget the show stick, and I want a nice looking leather halter. It looks better than that old rope halter. Now, get the plastic comb and put it in your hip pocket because you will need to comb my hair if it gets messed up. That's all we need now. Come on, they're waiting for us.

Look at all the calves. They're pretty, but really don't you think I show a little more "class?" Relax and quit punching me so much with that stick. Here comes the judge. Now just let him feel and look all he wants. I'll stand still and not kick him. Now, comb my hair back like you had it. Keep an eye on the judge because it won't be long now until he makes up his mind. Don't be so nervous; everything is okay. See there. He's motioning for us to come on up and be first in line. I thought he took a liking to me!
"Cowman Talk"

If you want to talk like a cowman you will need to know the meaning of these words.

**Balanced Ration** — Feeds necessary for normal growth and development.

**Bred** — Female which has been mated to a bull.

**Breed** — Group of cattle which are about the same color and look alike.

**Breeder** — Person that owns the bull and the cow at the time they are bred.

**Breeding Cattle** — Bulls and cows or mature male and female cattle.

**Bull** — Male sex of cattle.

**Calf** — Cattle less than 1 year old, male or female.

**Castrate** — Removing the testes from a bull calf.

**Cow** — Female which has given birth to at least one calf.

**Crossbred** — Any beef animal whose parents were of different breeds.

**Dehorn** — Taking the horns off a beef animal.

**Heifer** — Female before she has a calf.

**Horned** — Cattle born with horns.

**Mated** — Act which has taken place between a bull and a cow, causing the cow to become bred.

**Pedigree** — Similar to a birth certificate. A paper giving the name of the animal and his parentage, called registration papers.

**Polled** — Cattle born without horns.

**Purebred** — Animal whose parents are of the same breed.

**Ration** — Amount of feed given an animal for 1 day.

**Registered** — Animal whose parents are of the same breed and whose pedigree has been recorded.

**Scrub** — Animal of mixed or unknown parentage; usually without definite type.

**Stag** — Male which was castrated after he had grown to look like a bull.

**Steer** — Bull calf which was castrated before he started looking like a bull.

**Tattoo** — Marked or colored numbers or letters inside the ear for permanent identification.

**Testes** — Male sex organs.

**Vaccinate** — Treating an animal with some disease prevention material.

Now let's see how many of these you can write down without peeping.
Did you make any money?

It Cost Me

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Pounds</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein supplement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roughage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonemeal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halter, brush, comb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total

I Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
<th>Cents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prize money</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sold calf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed left over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total

I received ................................................................. $ 
It cost me ................................................................. (Minus) $ 
This is what I made ........................................................ $
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