

Show Steer Selection

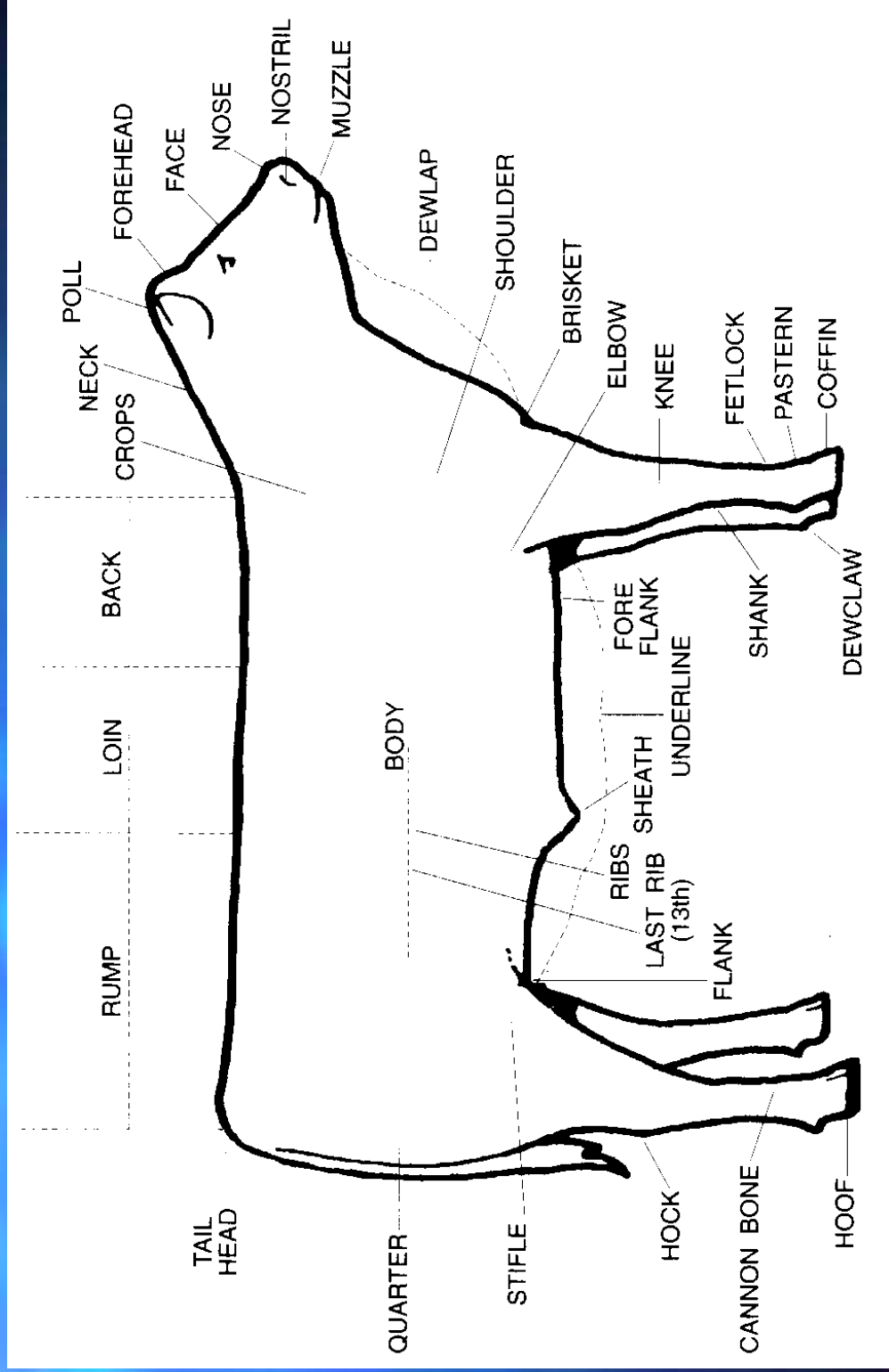


Darrell Rothlisberger

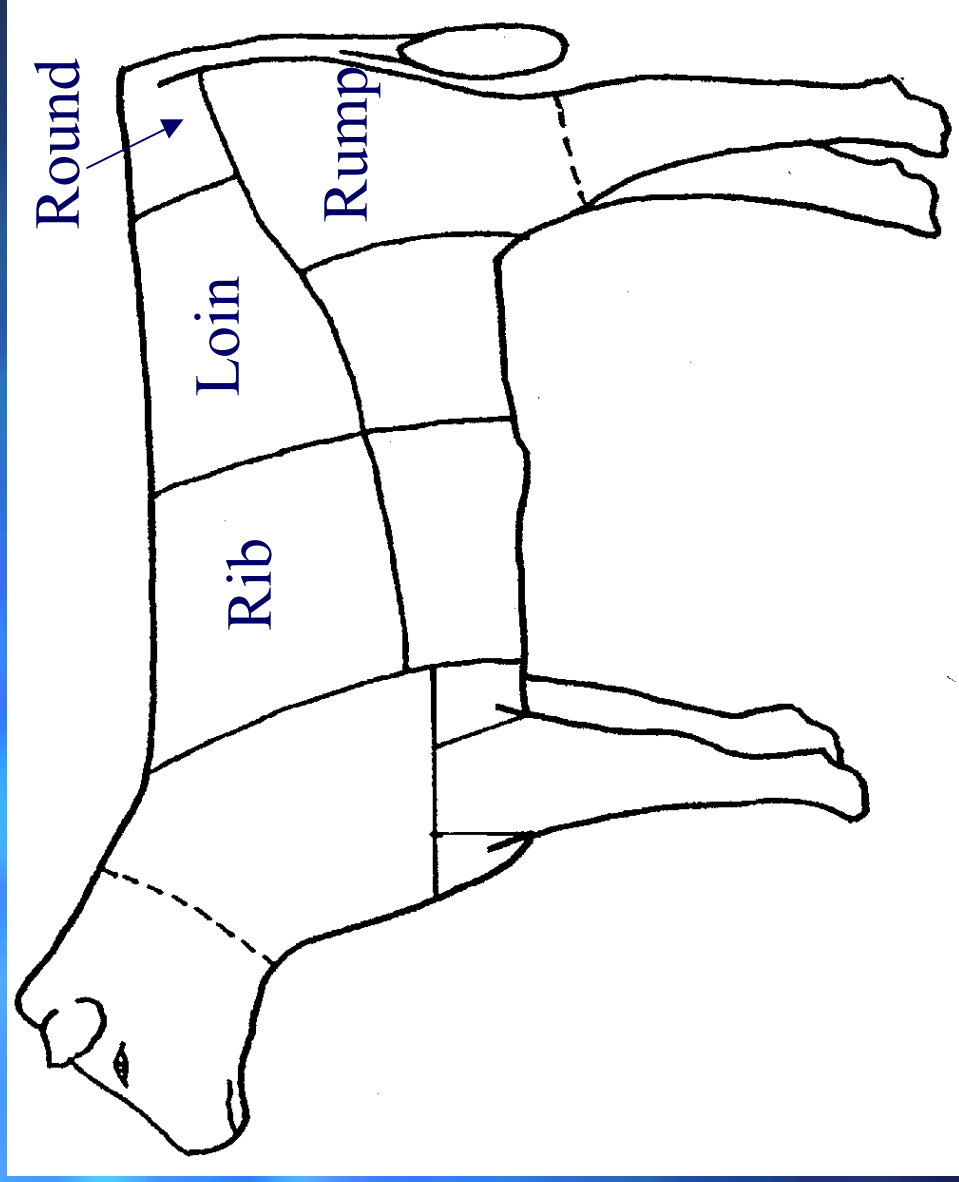
Utah State
UNIVERSITY



Parts of the Steer



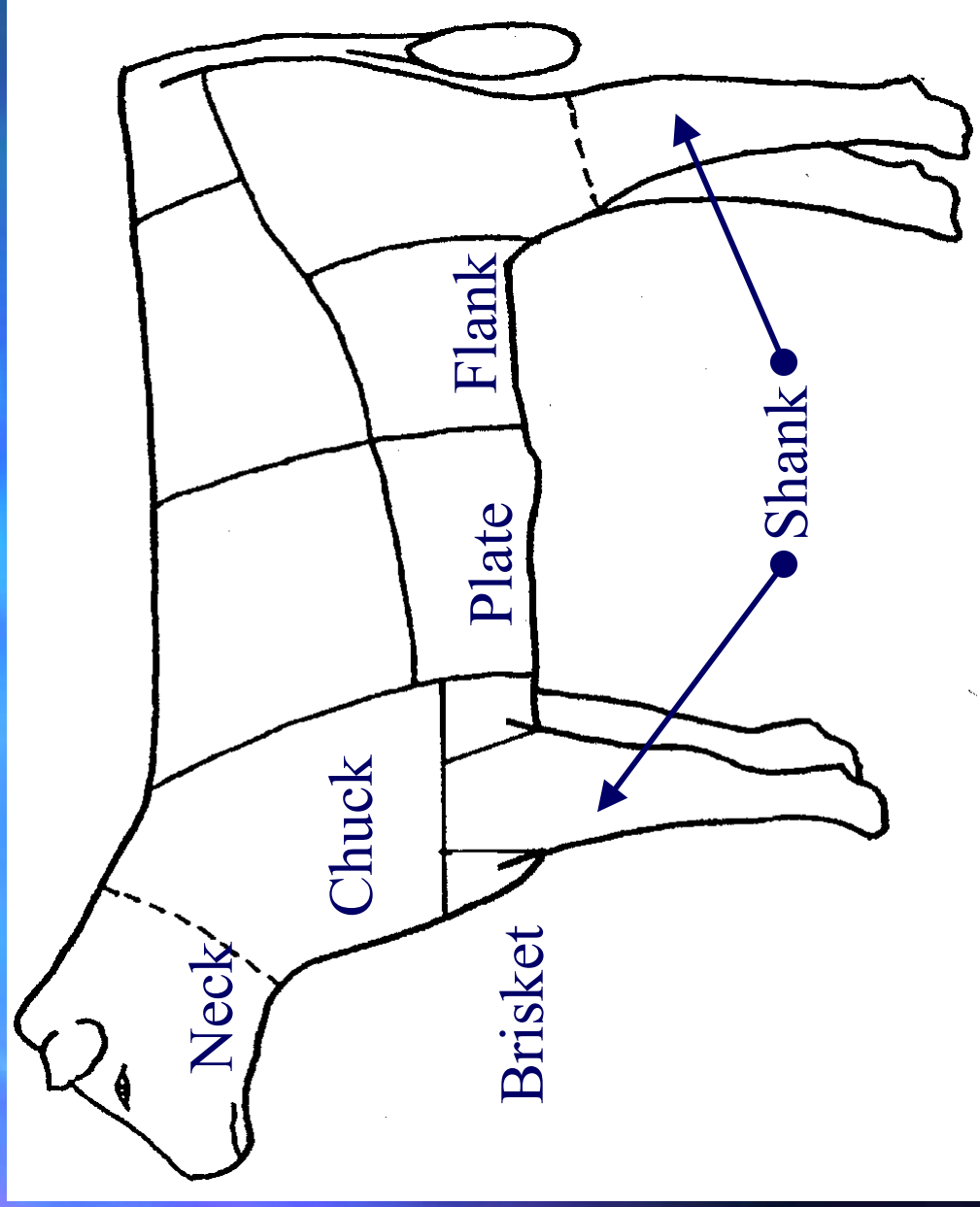
Wholesale Cuts of Beef



Highest
Value

\$ \$ \$ \$
\$ \$

Wholesale Cuts of Beef



Lower
Value

Selection Criteria

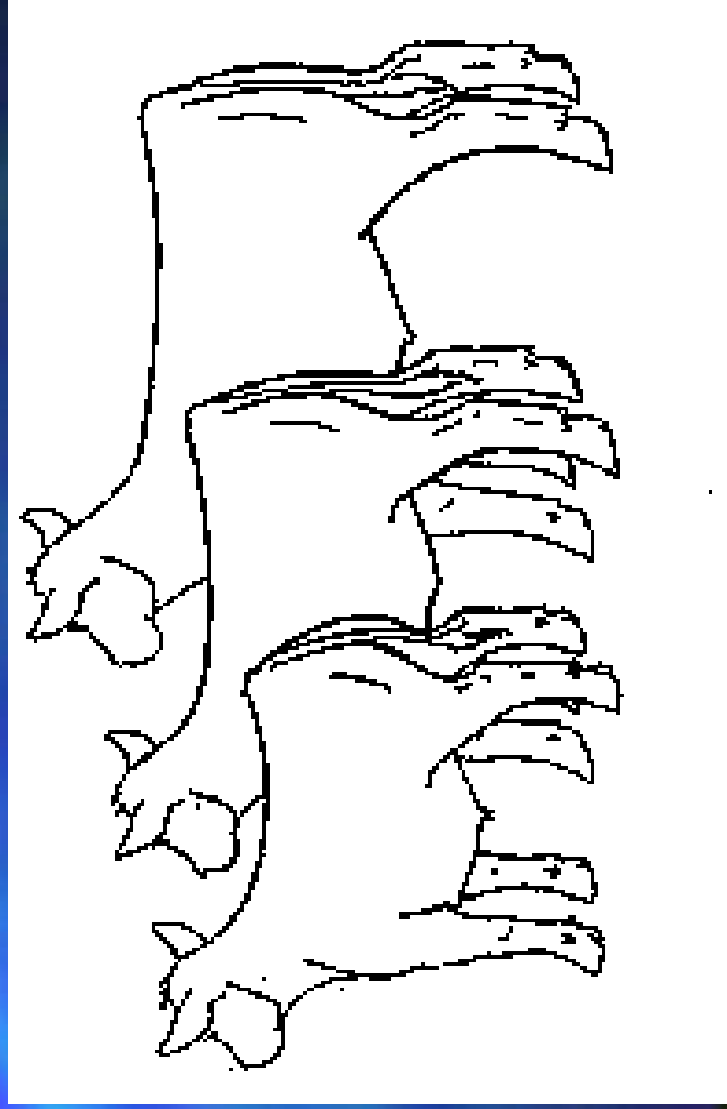
- ◆ Age
- ◆ Frame Size
- ◆ Muscle
- ◆ Balance
- ◆ Structural Correctness
- ◆ Disposition

Age

- Show calves will be market ready when 15 to 18 months old at County Fair
- Born between February and May of the previous year
- For example a steer born in March of 2003 will be 17 months old at fair time

Frame Size

- Adequate
- Long Bodied
- Clean



How Big Should He Be?

An Example...

- A March born calf is 8 months old in November when you buy him
- He should weigh about 550 pounds
- From November to August is 9 months
- An acceptable market weight depending on the steers frame is 1250 pounds
- He needs to gain about 77 pounds per month

A Look at the Math

- 1250 finish weight ■ 700 pounds to gain
- -550 beginning wt ■ \div 9 months to fair
- 700 pounds to gain ■ 77 pounds/month

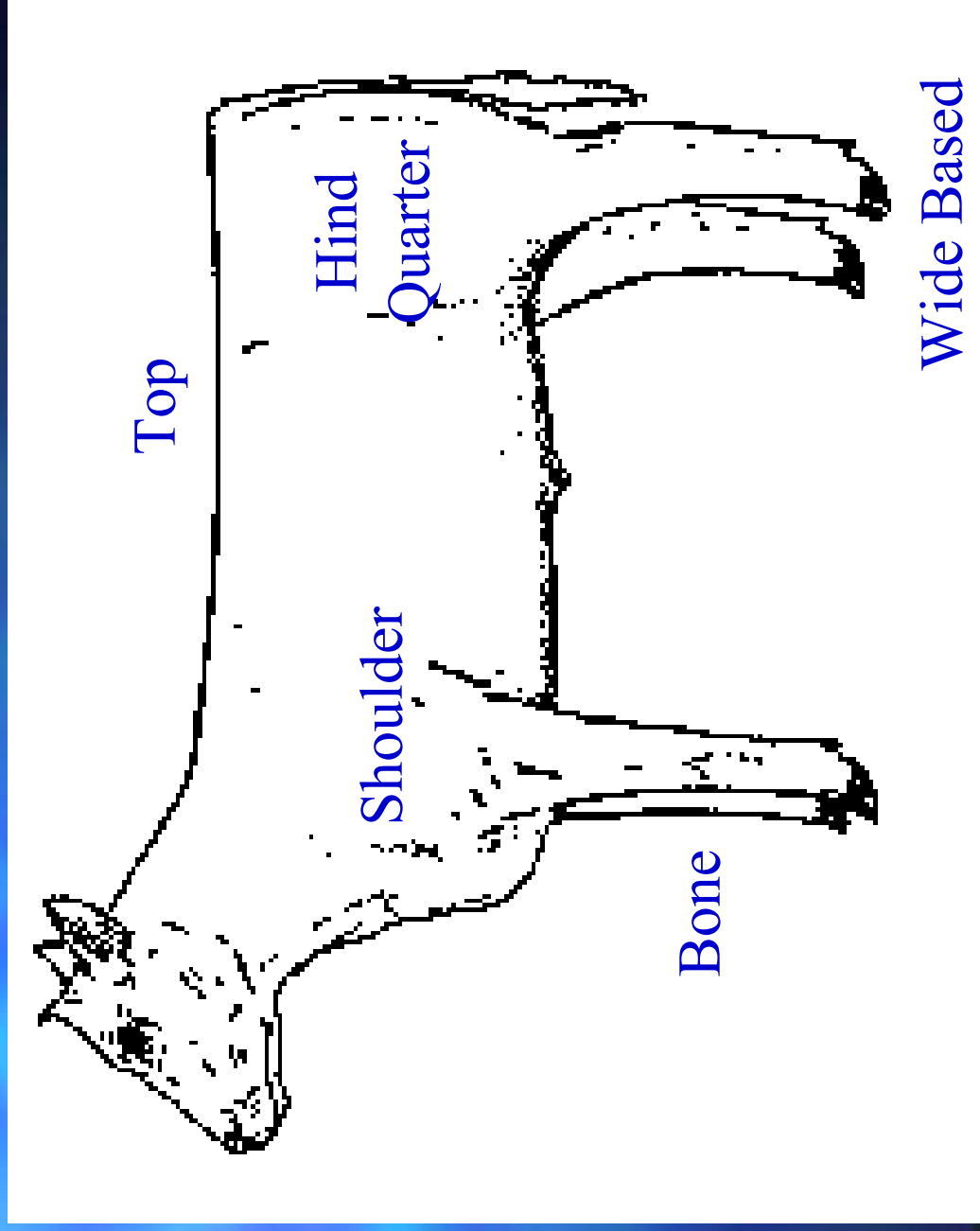
How Much Will He Eat?

- Beef convert 6 pounds of feed concentrate into 1 pound of gain
- Needs to gain 77 pounds in a month (30 days).
- That's 2.5 pounds per day
- $2.5 \times 6 = 15$ pounds
- He needs to eat 15 pounds of feed per day to gain 2.5 pounds
- $15 \text{ pounds} \times 30 \text{ days} = 450 \text{ lbs of feed per month}$
- $450 \times 9 \text{ months} = 4050 \text{ pounds of feed}$

This is an average over the feeding period. And does not include hay intake.

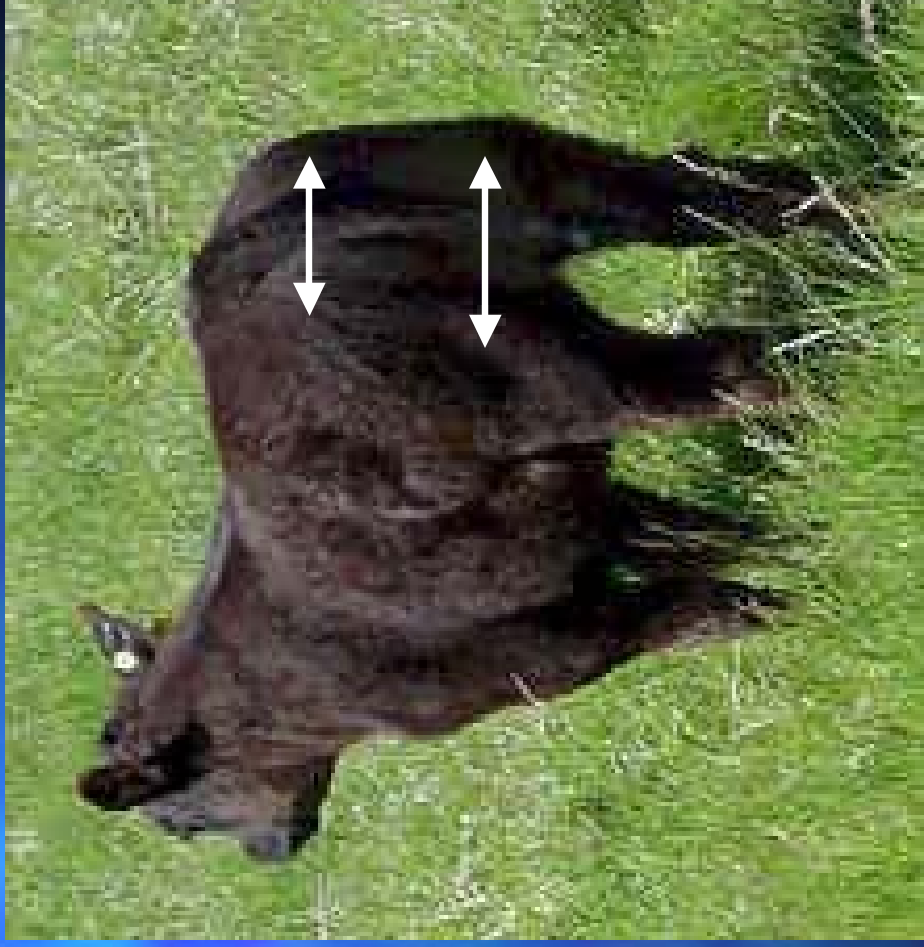
Muscle

Five Indicators of Muscle



Muscle - Hind Quarter

- Width between pin bones
- Stifle



Muscle - Shoulder



- Bold and rugged
- Thick fore arm
- Smooth

Muscle - Top

- Long
- Level
- Straight



Muscle - Top

- Wide Topped

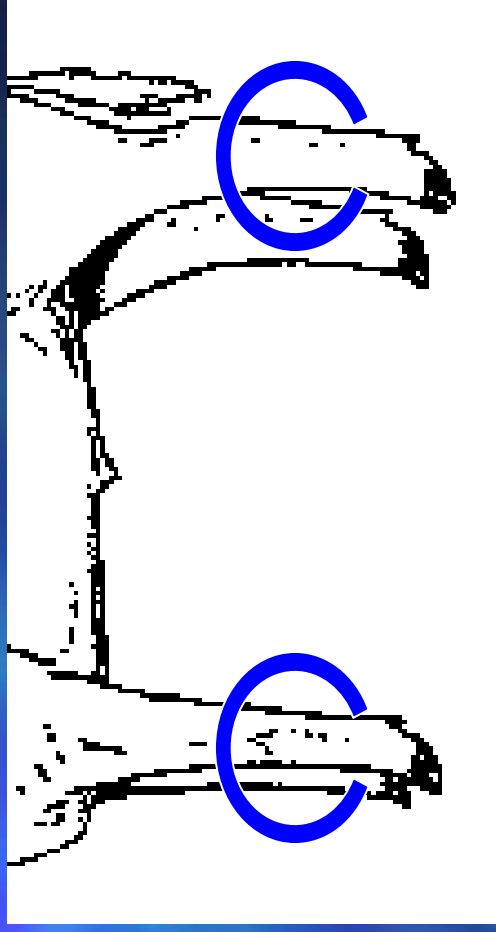


Muscle - Wide Based

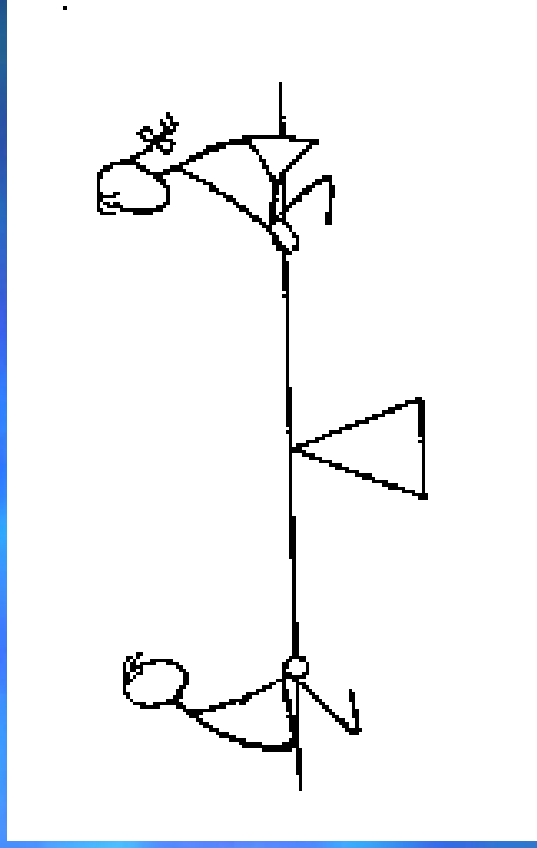


Muscle - Bone

- Large circumference of bone



Balance



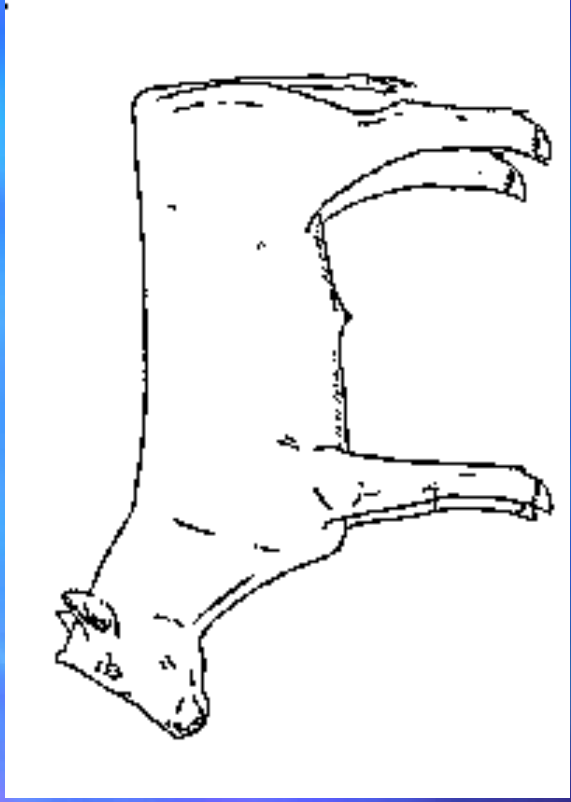
Your calf should be balanced on both ends

Balance

- Select a calf with style
- A deep bodied calf that is full in the flank
- Uniform in capacity and ruggedness
- Smooth



Examples of Balance



Good Balance



Poor Balance

Structural Correctness

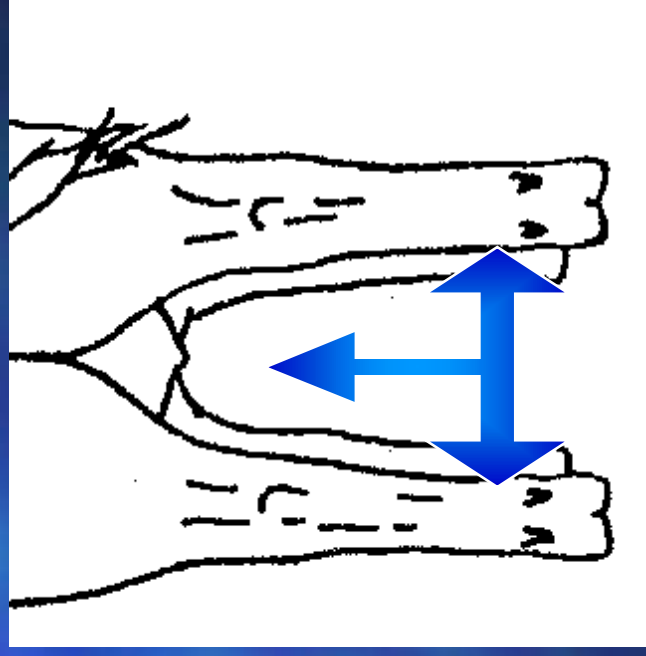
- Legs and feet
- Set to hock
- Flex at pastern
- Take long strides

Structural Correctness

Legs

Legs should hit the ground straight

Point straight ahead

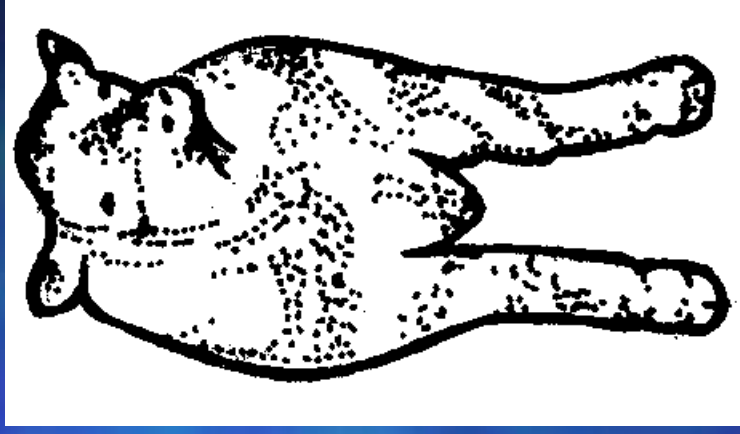


Structural Correctness

Legs



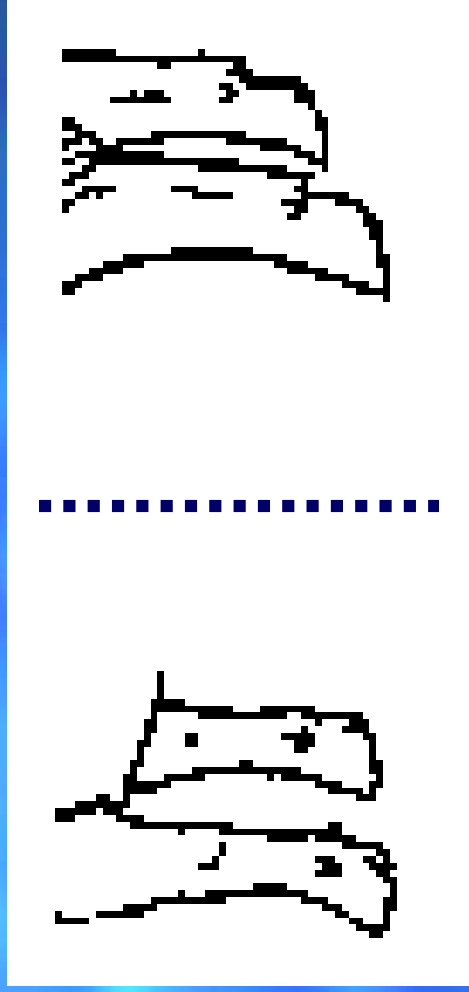
Toes In



Toes Out

Structural Correctness

Feet



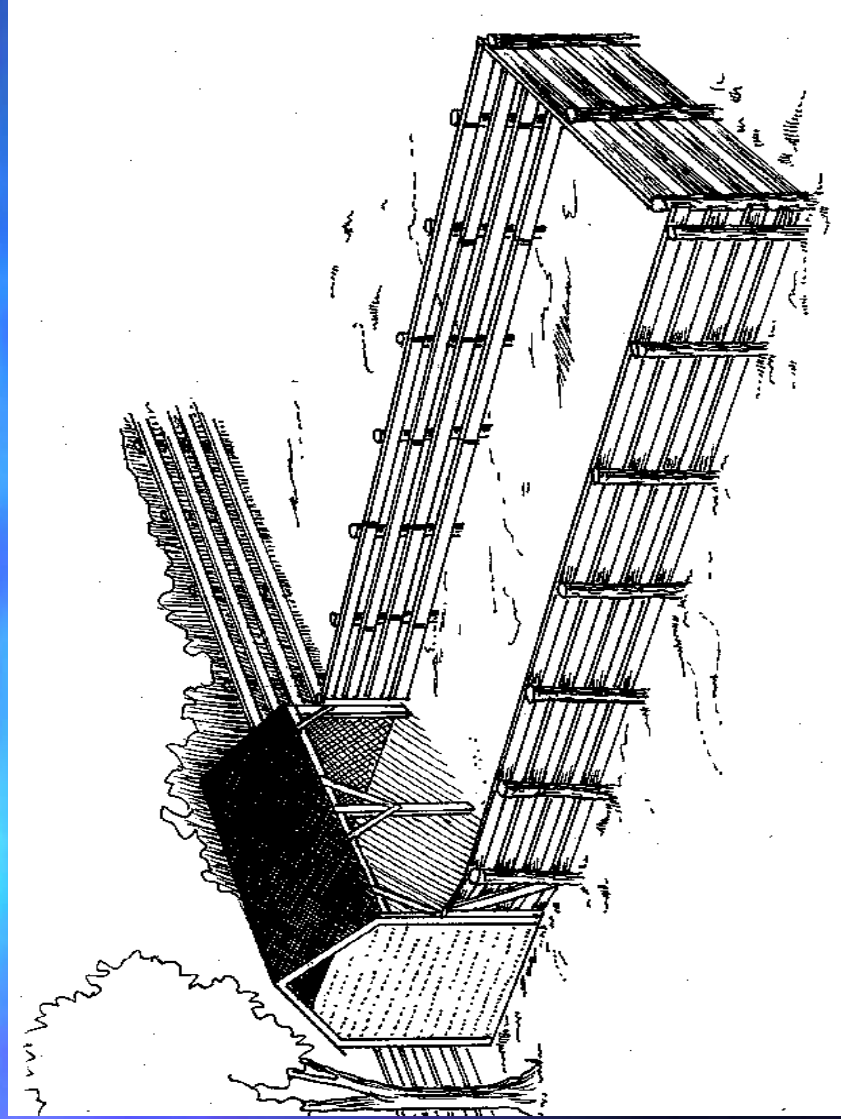
Feet should be big and rugged

Slope to pasterns

Disposition

- Notice how the seller handles the calves
- Can you move easily around the cattle without them getting nervous?
- Does your calf have a pleasing, gentle eye?
- Ask about the cow and bull
 - Bloodlines or pedigree etc

Facilities



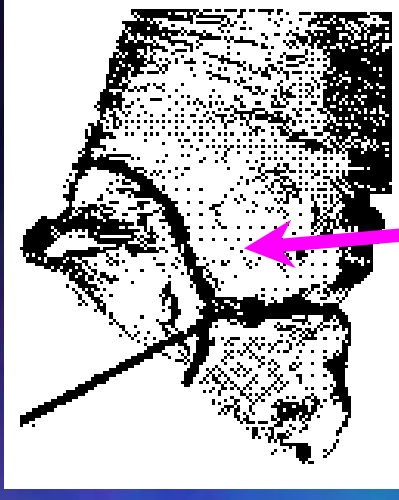
Large trees are the best source of shade.

Facilities

- Clean and dry
- Good air circulation
- Out of snow, rain, and sun
- Free from debris and manure
- Adequate space for exercise
- A small pen to catch and halter

Halter Breaking

- Allow to get used to new home
- Put halter on properly
- Let drag halter for a few days
- Tie about knee level with about 8 to 10 inches of lead to break to tie



Halter Breaking

- Stay close by so you can help if needed
- Begin touching as soon as possible
 - You can use a broom to keep a safe distance so you don't get kicked
 - Don't poke . . . just rub !
 - Rub him all over with your hands as soon as possible and as often as possible
- Be calm with your voice and actions

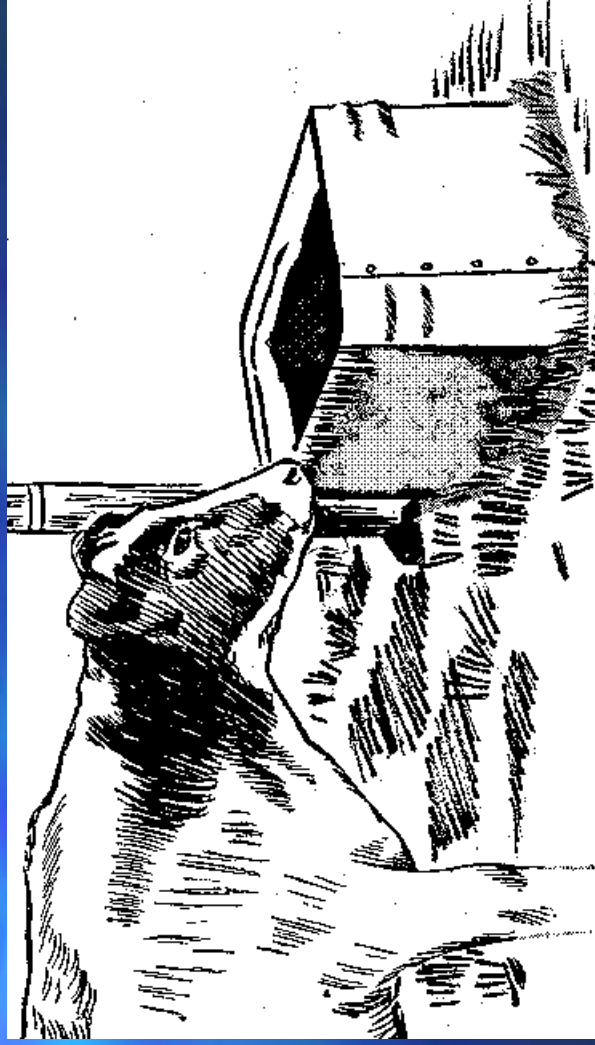
Teaching to Lead

- Pull - Release & Reward Method
- If he doesn't want to move...
 - Repeatedly tug firmly on the lead rope without giving him any slack
- Be patient
- Be persistent
- Remain calm but firm

Feeding

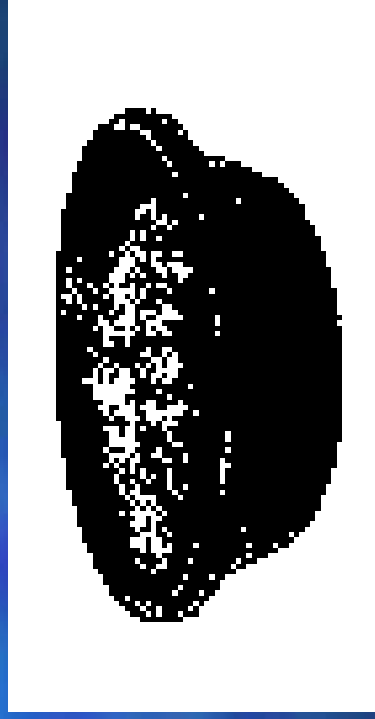
Water

What is the most important nutrient for your steer?



Feeding

- Clean feed
- Avoid dusty, moldy, spoiled feed
- Be sure feed pan or trough is clean each feeding

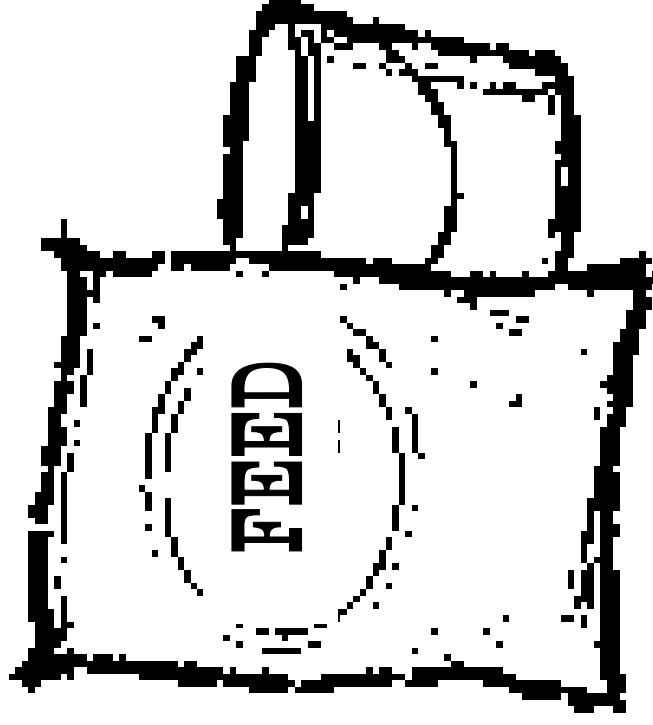


Feeding

- Calves will eat 2.5% to 3% of their body weight
- A 500 pound calf will eat approximately 13 pounds of feed when on **FULL FEED**
- Increase slowly when starting them on feed to prevent bloat

Nutrition

- Protein
- Carbohydrates
- Roughage
- Additives



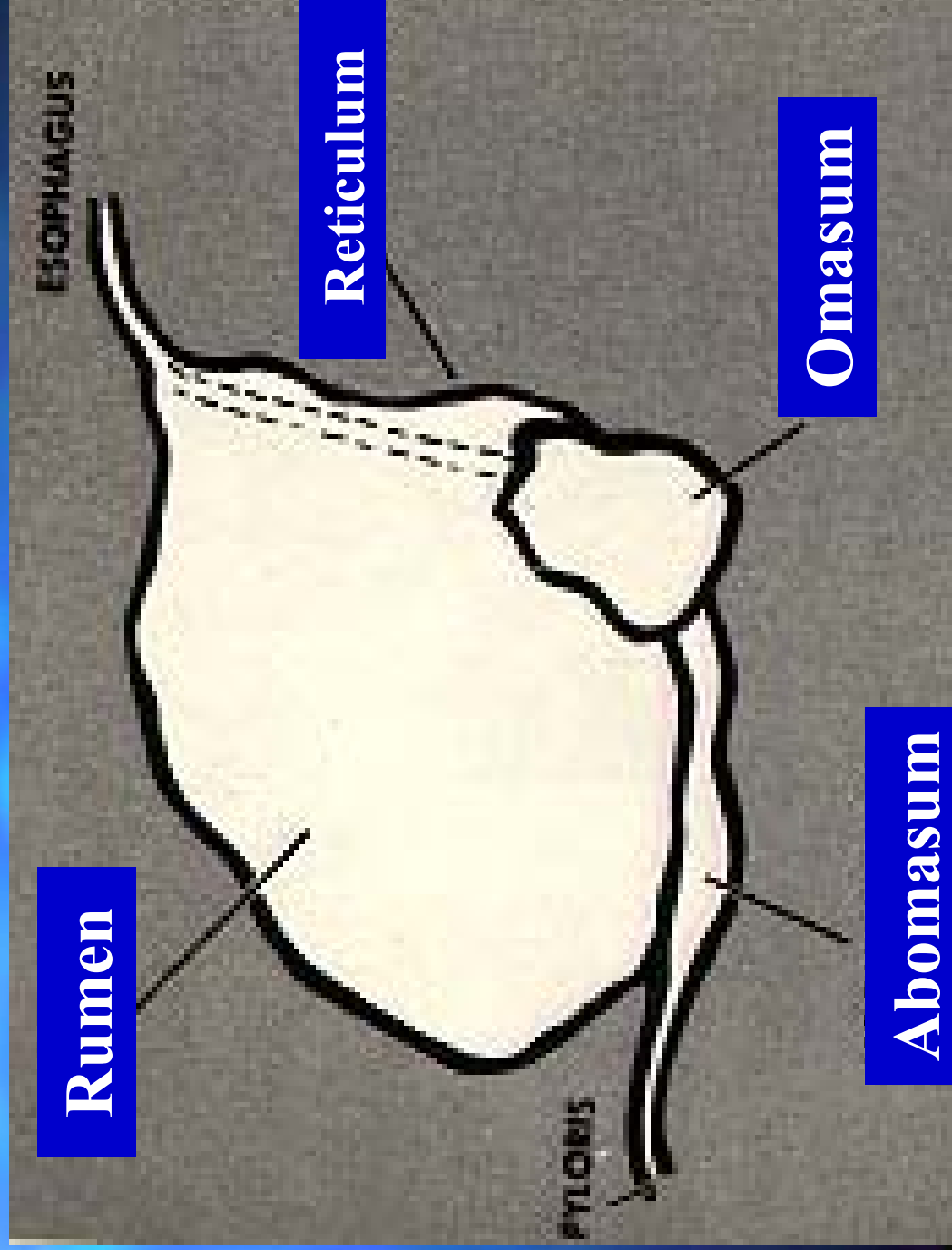
Nutrition Basic Definitions

- **Protein** – (Made of Amino Acids) Makes muscle and bone
- **Carbohydrates** – Gives energy and heat and helps put on fat
- **Vitamins and Minerals** – Essential for bodily functions. Be sure you have a balanced feed.
- **Roughage** – Important for proper ruminant digestion
- **Additives** – Add shine to coat or can help keep healthy appetite

The Four Stomach System

- Rumen – First and largest stomach
 - Food is broken down by bacteria and microorganisms
- Reticulum – Second and Safety net stomach
 - Catches foreign objects that may cause harm
- Omasum – Third Stomach
 - Takes water out of the food stuffs before entering the next stomach
- Abomasum – The true stomach, gastric juice aids in digestion of proteins

The Four Stomach System



Think of It This Way...

- **Protein** makes them grow
- **Carbohydrates or Fats** makes them finish and put on fat
- **Roughages** Aid in rumen health and gives them that full, deep bodied look
- **Additives** can help them have a good hair coat

Percentages

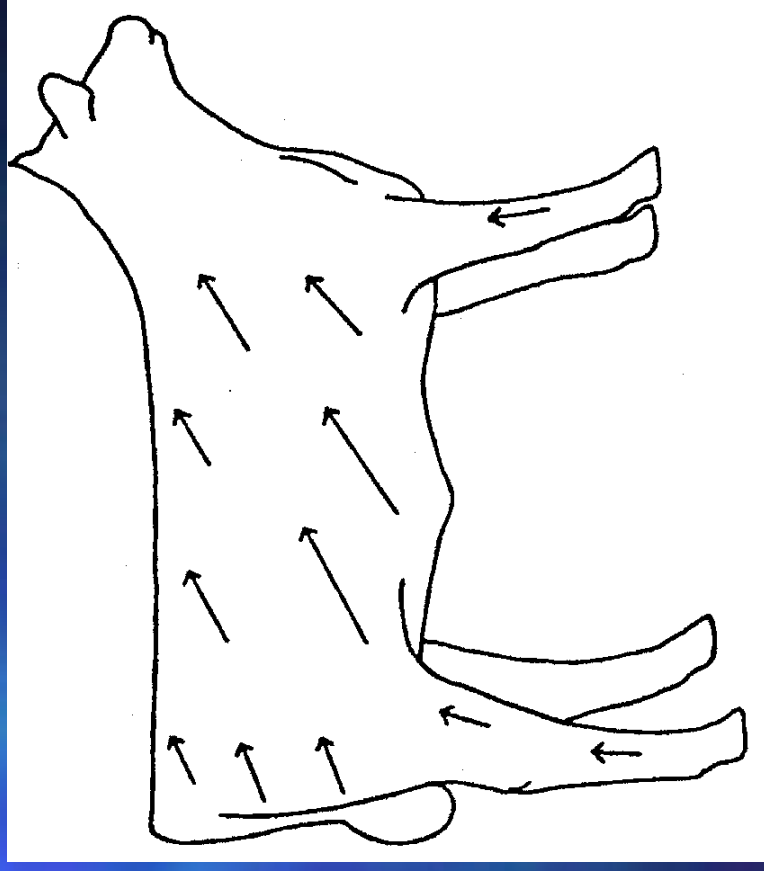
- **Protein levels** should range between 11% and 13%
- **Fat levels** should be between 2% and 4%
- **Roughages** – as much as they will eat and still clean up their grain

Hair Care

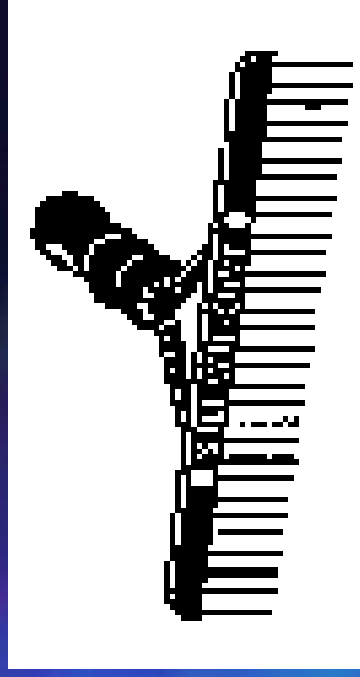
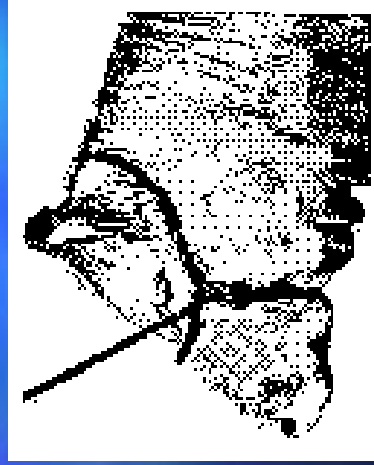
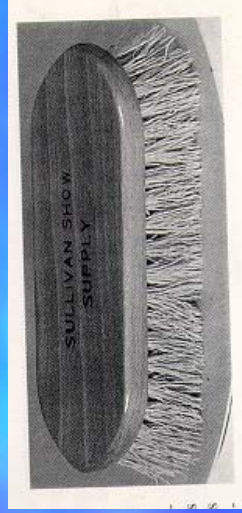
- Hair is genetic
- You can help keep the hair your calf has by brushing and combing
- Keep him clean
- Good air circulation is important
- Keep him out of the sun
- Give bath or rinse as often as possible

Hair Care

- Comb the hair down first
- Then forward
- Then up

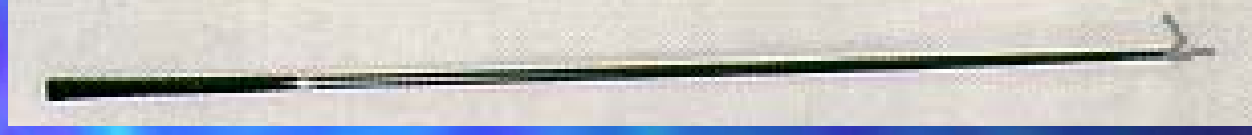


Equipment



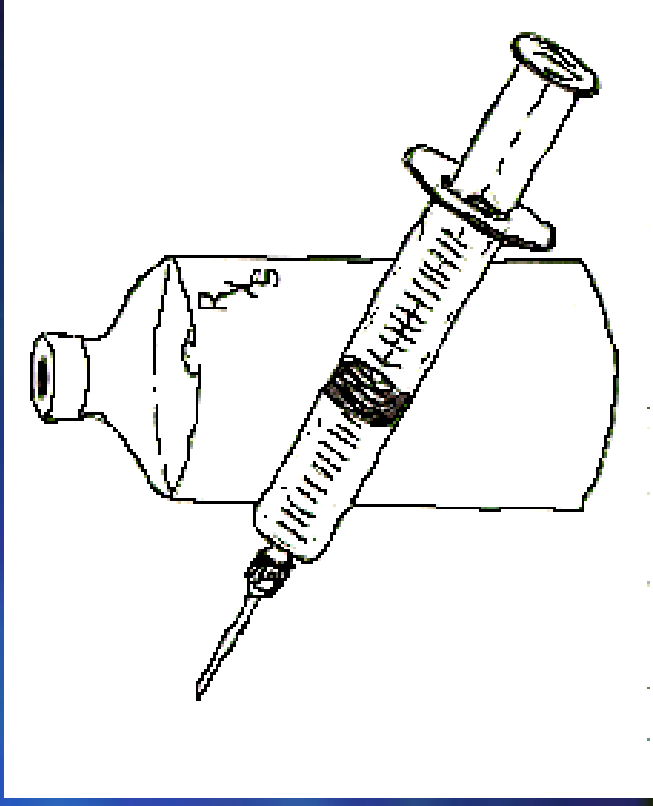
■ BASIC LIST

- Scotch comb
- Brush
- Rope halter
- Show stick



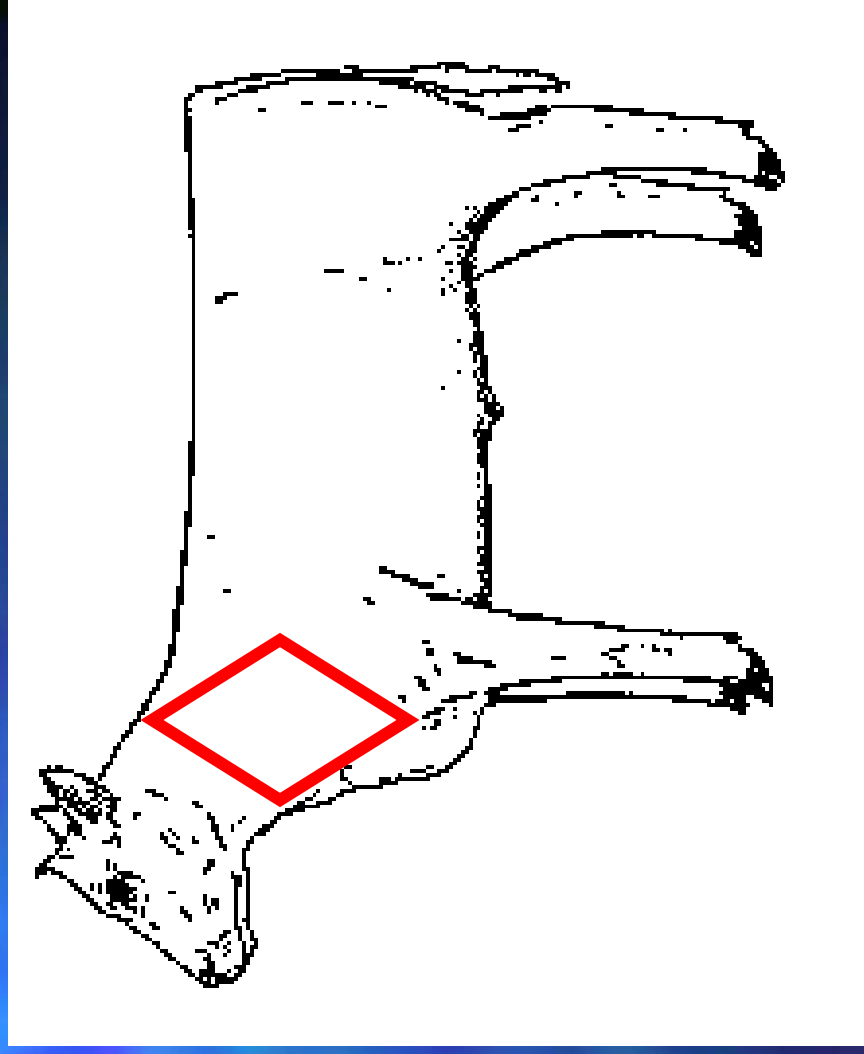
Health

- Ask your seller what vaccinations your calf has had
- SOME COMMON VACCINATIONS ARE:
 - 7 or 8 way
 - Overeating
 - Black Leg
 - Shipping Fever
 - Parasite control



Injection Sites and the Quality Assurance Program

Give
intramuscular
and
subcutaneous
injections in the
neck



Papers

- **Bill of Sale** from the seller
- **Get Brand Inspection**
- **BEFORE YOU PLAN TO** buy a calf
from out of state be sure to ask
Darrell for the proper procedures
required by **Utah Department of
Agriculture**

Fair Rules and Regulations

- It is your responsibility to make sure you meet all the requirements for the show

4-H Enrollment

- It is time to get your enrollment papers filled out at the Extension office so you can get the newsletter and be aware of all the County 4-H information

Opportunities in 4-H

- Livestock Judging
- Demonstrations
- Public Speaking
- Meal Prep
- Fashion Revue
- Record Book – Seniors can win a trip to National 4-H Congress!
- Many others...