



## Flathead County Market Steer Project

### Quick Hits and Tips

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## **Quick Tips For A Successful Project**

- INCREASE FEED: **1# for Steers PER DAY EVERY 3 DAYS AS LONG AS THEY ARE CLEANING IT UP.**
- Hand feed twice daily, close to the same time of day. You will get the best gains and feed efficiencies this way!
- Feed by weight and not volume.
- Feed long stem, grass / grass alfalfa mix hay, no straight alfalfa.
- Provide free choice salt and mineral.
- Why your animal might go off feed:
  - Bloat or acidosis will cause animals to go off of feed and leading causes for this are:
    - Irregular feedings
    - Change of feeds
    - Feeder ran out feed and was recently refilled and animals overate
    - Feeding of rich forage such as alfalfa with a rich energy feed
  - No water is available to drink or the water is frozen, too hot or dirty
  - They are sick
  - They are stressed
- Good sound management can help all of this be avoided.
  - Keep accurate records or what your animal normally consumes
    - How much they eat
    - How fast they eat it
    - If they run to the bunk

## **What If My Steer Is Too Light?**

- Not enough energy in the diet
  - This can be a result of a diet that is totally composed of roughage
  - Rules of thumb for diets are:
    - 2% of Body Weight(BW) should be grain
    - Remainder of diet should be roughage
    - Total diet should range from 2.75-3.50% of BW

- What type of grain are you feeding
  - Complete feeds really shine at this time
    - Champion Steer, Honor Show Chow, etc.

### **What If My Steer Is Too Heavy?**

- Exercise
  - In pen or walking him daily
  - This will help stimulate appetite
- Feed him sources that will help him feel full without adding calories
  - Shredded Beet Pulp/Beet Pulp Pellets
- More frequent feedings

### **Adding Eye Appeal.**

- FlaxLic
  - High in fats
    - Improves coat
  - Feed impact
    - Keeps rumen active and healthy to increase feed efficiency
- Squaring the animal up
  - Beet Pulp or Cotton Seed Hulls
    - Expand in the gut to create a fuller flank

### **Some Final Thoughts.**

- Have a good health check list
- Deworm and vaccinate- check with your veterinarian for recommendations
- Have a veterinarian connection
- Have an emergency plan
- Work with animals during the comfortable time of day for the animal
- Use the tools you have
- Take pride in your project