

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

# RAISING BEEF

## ON THE FARM

**Learning Target:** Name what producers need to grow healthy beef cattle.

**Engagement Strategy:** "Would You Rather"

Before class, cut out the cards with the either/or choices on them. Place them at stations around the room or show them to the class one at a time.

Have students vote on which they would choose given the options show. Call on a couple of students to explain what made them choose one over the other.

Discuss how all these things are needed to raise cattle and keep them healthy and provide for their needs. Transition to the virtual field trip part of the lesson by saying:

*"And now we are going to hear from a producer about how they use these things to raise beef cattle."*

**Learning Activity:** Virtual Field Trip

Show the "On the Farm - Beef" video (17 minutes).

Pause the video as needed to check for comprehension.

Use the **FAQ page provided** to discuss each part of the beef operation and what how it contributes to raising healthy beef cattle.

**Culminating Activity:** "Cattle Crossword"

To finish out their learning unit on beef cattle, have students complete the "Cattle Crossword" puzzle. This is an opportunity for students to apply all the terms they have heard and learned throughout the lessons.

An answer key is included.

# WOULD YOU RATHER

## RAISING BEEF CATTLE

WOULD YOU RATHER...  
LICK A MINERAL TUB OR BLOCK?



WOULD YOU RATHER...  
EAT FORAGE OR MIXED RATION?



TEACHER'S GUIDE

# WOULD YOU RATHER

## RAISING BEEF CATTLE

WOULD YOU RATHER...

**DRINK FROM A POND OR A WATER TROUGH?**



WOULD YOU RATHER...

**GET A SHOT OR SWALLOW A PILL IF YOU WERE SICK?**



# RAISING BEEF FARM TOUR

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is a cow/calf operation?**

A Cow-Calf Operation is a type of system where a producer keeps a herd of cows to calve every year to produce offspring for many sectors of the beef industry (feedlot, herd sires, replacement heifers).

### **Why do producers need to check their cows everyday?**

Producers need to check for sick animals, for cows that are close to calving, to feed them, monitor fences, determine when vaccines should be given.

### **Why is it important to weigh cattle?**

Weighing cattle allows producers to keep up track of growth, determine feed rations, and calculate medicine dosage.

### **What is creep feeding?**

Creep feeding is a way to allow the calves to eat feed without the mother cows getting to it. It is a special feeder has bars or panels only big enough for small heads to fit through.

### **How does the squeeze chute work and why do producers use them?**

Cows stick their head through the opening then their shoulders pull the doors closed. The sides close with just enough pressure to feel like a hug. This calms the animal and allows the producer to work safely.

### **Why do handlers sometimes use a flag to sort cows?**

The flag makes noise and the motion encourages cows to move without stressing them. Also the flag reduces the risk of handlers getting kicked because the handler can keep their distance.

### **Why is it important to keep accurate records?**

Producers need to record the identification, age, weight, breeding information, vaccinations, and other health information to make sure they are raising their animals in the most efficient, effective, and healthy way possible.

### **Why do cows have ear tags?**

Ear tags allow producers to identify individual animals because many of the cattle look very similar and ear tags assist the producer in record keeping.

### **Why do you feed cows minerals?**

Minerals help the cows get the nutrients that might be missing in their normal diets.

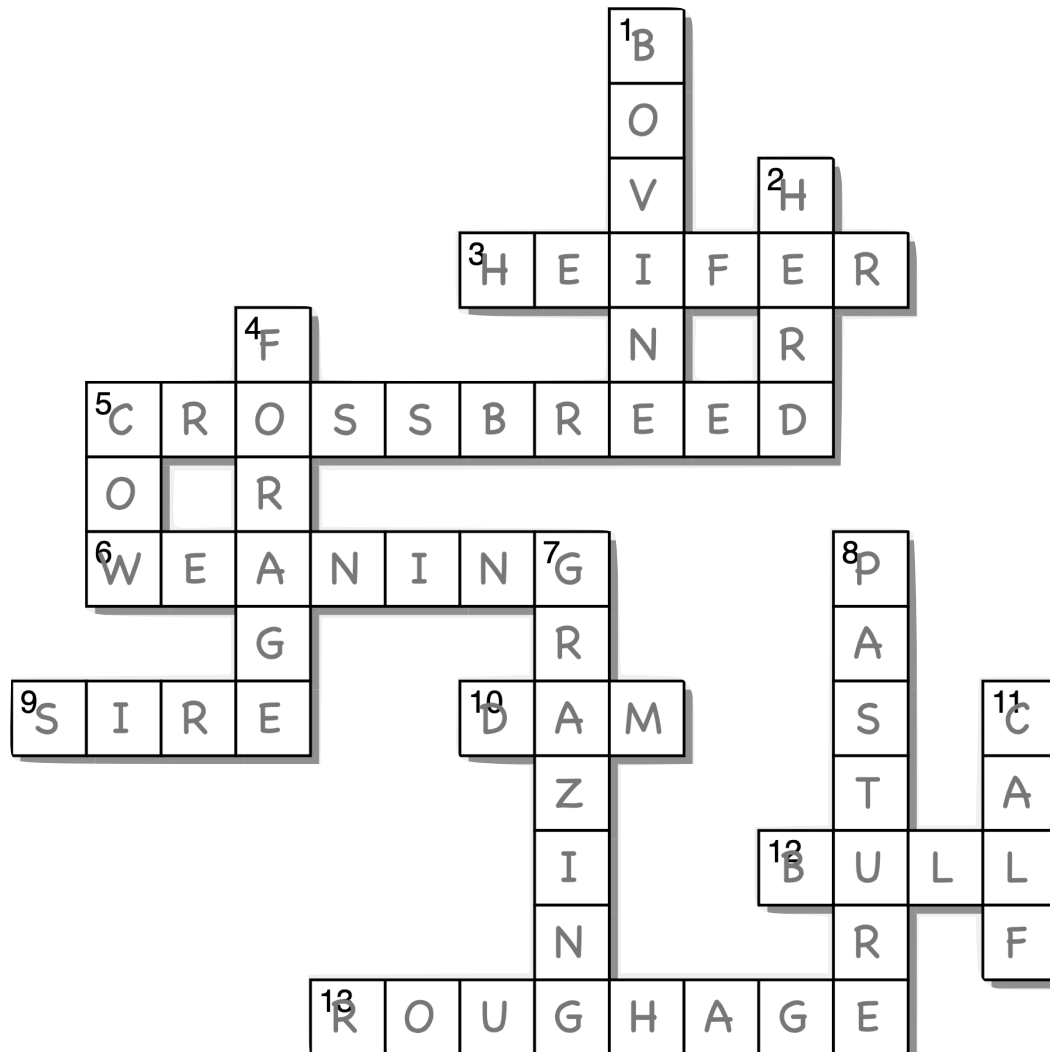
### **Why should handlers be gentle when working cattle?**

Cows are easily scared and can sense human emotions. Calm motions lead to calm cows and a better experience for everyone.



# CATTLE CROSSWORD

## RAISING BEEF CATTLE



### ACROSS

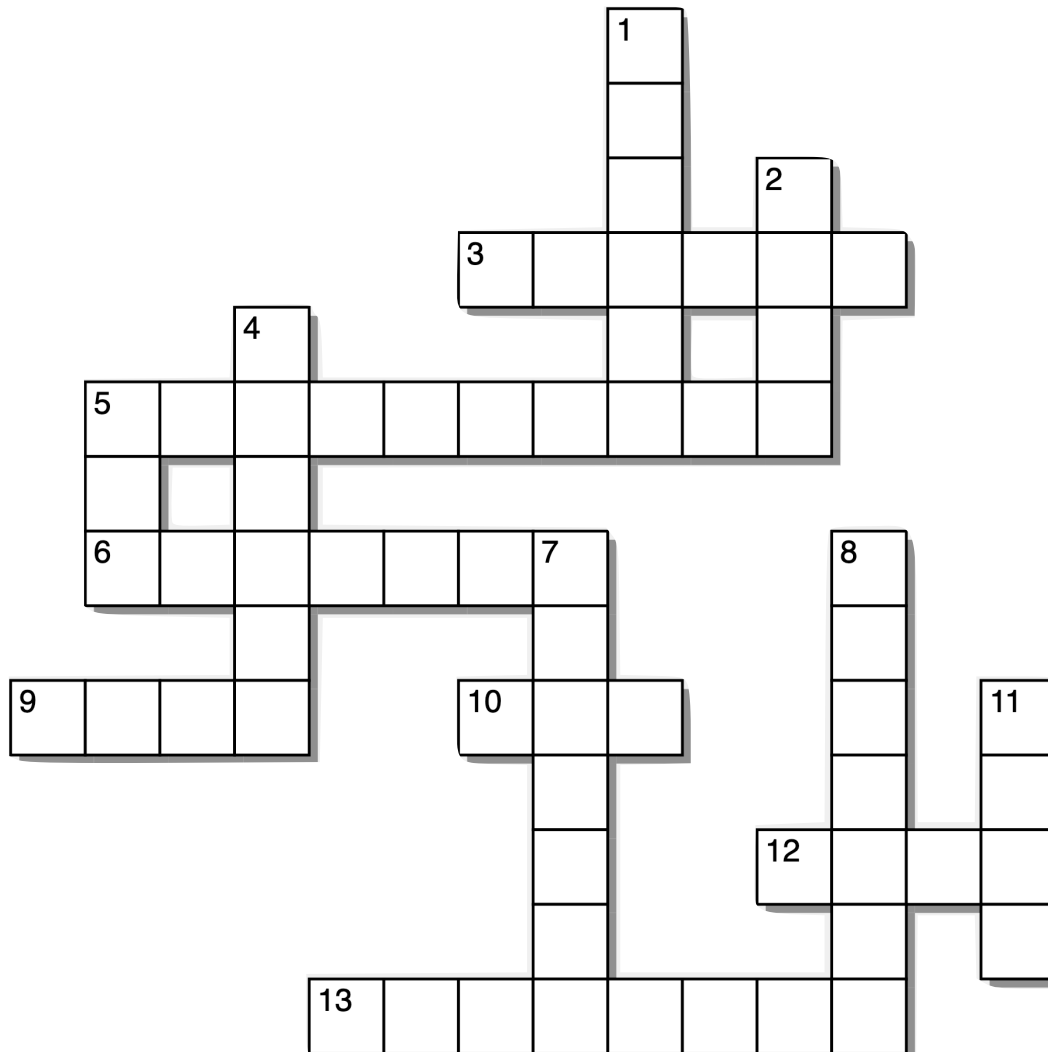
3. female bovine that has not had a baby
5. when a calf has parents from two different kinds of beef cattle
6. when a calf is separated from its mother because it is old enough
9. father of a calf
10. mother of a calf
12. adult male bovine
13. feed for cattle that is high in fiber

### DOWN

1. general term for cattle
2. group of cattle
4. bulky food for cattle like grass or hay
5. female bovine that has had a baby
7. when cattle eat grass in a pasture
8. a fenced field where cattle can eat grass
11. a baby bovine

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