

4-H Market Steer Handbook:

Equipment

You will need a few basic pieces of equipment before purchasing a steer.

Work Halter The first piece of equipment needed is a good work halter. Buy or make a halter from half-inch polypropylene rope. Polypropylene is a plastic that won't swell and tighten on the calf's head when it gets wet. For this reason, avoid using a hemp rope halter. Polypropylene will not rot and should last through many calves, if provided proper care.

Rice Root Brush There is no substitute for a good rice root brush. There are many cheaper, plastic-bristled brushes on the market, but they don't do the job as well. It is a good idea to soak the brush in water overnight when it is new to keep the bristles from falling out.

Scotch Comb Scotch comb is essential to training and pulling up the hair of the steer. It comes in a 6- or 9-inch comb, but a 9-inch comb may be more useful. Make sure the teeth are coarse enough to prevent pulling hair from the steer.

Plastic Curry Comb Plastic curry comb is very useful for washing and removing mud and dirt from the hide.

These few pieces of equipment are all you will need to begin the project, but before the show you will need some of these items:

- leather show halter,
- show stick,
- feed pan,
- water bucket,
- hose,
- neck rope,
- show box,
- hair coat dressing and
- saddle soap.