

BASICS ABOUT

BEEF

NUTRITION ♦ BUYING BEEF ♦ BEEF CUTS
FOOD SAFETY ♦ COOKING METHODS ♦ TIMETABLES
TENDERIZING ♦ CONVENIENCE PRODUCTS ♦ CARVING



Funded by
the Beef Checkoff.

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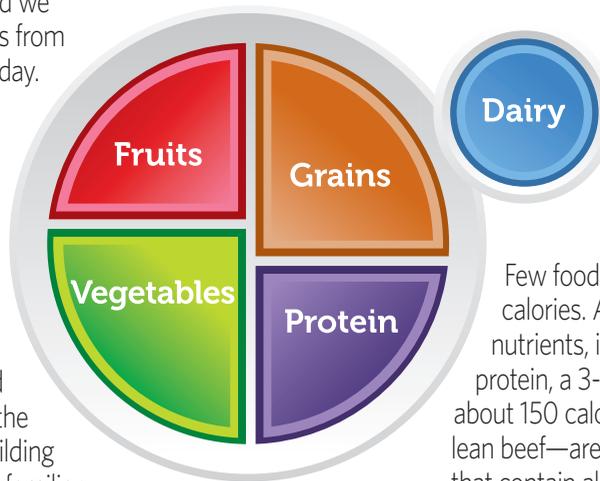
This booklet is all about beef. The information is designed to help you get the most value when you buy beef and to show you how to prepare beef to enhance the tenderness and flavor. But why should you choose beef in the first place? The most important reasons are to obtain many of the key nutrients needed by your body and to enjoy its taste.



NUTRITION

About 50 separate nutrients are essential to health and no single food contains them all.

For this reason, registered dietitians and other health professionals recommend we consume a wide variety of foods from the different food groups every day. One type of food can't do the job alone, and extra amounts of one nutrient can't make up for too little of another. To help you choose the right variety and amounts, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides dietary guidance through a food icon, *MyPlate*, which illustrates the five food groups that are the building blocks for a healthy diet using a familiar image—a place setting for a meal. These food groups include grains, fruits, vegetables, protein and dairy. Each of these food groups provides some, but not all, of the essential nutrients. Foods in one group cannot totally replace those in another. No one food group is more important than another — all are necessary for good health.



component of dietary guidance because it contributes to the Daily Value (DV) of many key nutrients, like protein, iron, zinc and many B-vitamins. The DV for a nutrient refers to the amount most teens and adults should eat each day. The value (recommended amount) is based on a person who eats about 2,000 calories each day. The DV is approximate because the exact amount each person needs varies with age, gender and activity level. The chart below lists the DV of many essential nutrients found in beef.

Few foods offer so many nutrients in so few calories. An important source of 10 essential nutrients, including iron, zinc, B-vitamins and protein, a 3-oz serving of lean beef provides about 150 calories. Animal proteins—such as lean beef—are complete, high-quality proteins that contain all of the essential amino acids your body needs. Lean beef is a calorie saver, especially compared to other protein choices. In fact, to get the same amount of protein found in lean beef, you'd have to consume two to three times more calories from plant proteins.

First choose naturally nutrient-rich foods that provide more and greater amounts of nutrients in fewer calories. Then you can choose other less nutrient-rich foods as long as you stay within your caloric allowance.

The Protein Foods Group is an important

DAILY VALUES (DV_s) FOR SOME KEY NUTRIENTS

Protein	50 grams
Niacin (B ₃)	20 milligrams
Vitamin B ₆	2.0 milligrams
Vitamin B ₁₂	6.0 micrograms
Iron	18 milligrams
Zinc	15 milligrams



Take a look at what 25 grams of protein looks like and see the caloric cost of plant protein.

Peanut Butter	6 tablespoons	564 calories
Black beans	1 3/4 cups	382 calories
Quinoa	3 cups	666 calories
Edamame	1 1/2 cups	284 calories
Lean Beef	3 ounces	154 calories

When it comes to choosing proteins, lean beef is a delicious choice for beefing up your high-quality protein needs. It's also a perfect partner for fruits, vegetables and whole grains, making it even easier to enjoy a balanced diet to meet the Dietary Guidelines and MyPlate recommendations.^{1,2}

Naturally nutrient-rich foods such as lean beef also help people get more essential nutrients in fewer calories. A 3-oz serving of lean beef contributes less than 10 percent of calories to a 2,000-calorie diet, yet it supplies more than 10 percent of the Daily Value for 10 essential nutrients. You'd have to consume 18 oz of cooked chicken breast to get the same amount of zinc and at least 7½ oz of cooked chicken breast to get the same amount of iron as in 3 oz of cooked beef. In addition, lean beef supplies significantly fewer calories and more nutrients than many plant proteins. A 3-oz serving of lean beef (about 150 calories, on average) provides about the same amount of protein as 1½ cups of cooked black beans (341 calories) but in less than half the calories.³

A DIETARY SOLUTION FOR OPTIMAL HEALTH

Research suggests that many of the 10 essential nutrients in lean beef, including high-quality protein, could be a dietary solution to many issues facing Americans today.

 A growing body of evidence indicates high-quality protein plays an increasingly important role in muscle maintenance, weight management, and the prevention of chronic diseases such as sarcopenia, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.⁴⁻⁶

 Research shows the iron, zinc and B-vitamins found in beef play an essential role in developing and maintaining cognitive ability in children and across the lifecycle.⁷⁻¹³

PROTEIN

A 3-oz serving of lean beef is an excellent source of protein, supplying nearly half the protein most people need each day. In addition, the protein in lean beef is a complete, high-quality protein which means it supplies all of the essential amino acids the body needs to build, maintain and repair body tissue. In addition, coupled with physical activity, the high-quality protein in lean beef can help you maintain a healthy weight, sustain weight loss and keep a favorable body composition over time, and also promote satiety to help you feel full longer.^{14,15}

IRON

A 3-oz serving of beef is a good source of iron. Unlike plant proteins, beef is the food supply's most readily available and easily absorbed source of iron. Iron not only helps red blood cells carry oxygen to body tissue, it also plays an important role in cognitive health, including memory, ability to learn and reasoning.¹⁶



ZINC

A 3-oz serving of beef is an excellent source of zinc, which is an essential nutrient that fuels thousands of bodily processes, including building muscles and healing wounds, maintaining the immune system, and contributing to cognitive health. In addition to containing a high level of absorbable zinc, beef also increases the absorption of zinc from other foods when eaten at the same meal.¹⁷

VITAMIN B₁₂

A 3-oz serving of beef is an excellent source of vitamin B₁₂, which is needed for normal functioning of body cells and of the nervous system, as well as lowering blood homocysteine levels, an amino acid that increases risk for heart disease and dementia. Vitamin B₁₂ works closely with folate to form red blood cells.

VITAMIN B₆

A 3-oz serving of beef is an excellent source of vitamin B₆, which is important for a healthy nervous system and helps with the production of antibodies which help the body fight infection. Vitamin B₆ helps turn tryptophan into niacin and serotonin. In addition, along with vitamin B₁₂, B₆ also lowers blood homocysteine levels.

NIACIN

A 3-oz serving of beef is an excellent source of niacin, which promotes healthy skin and nerves, aids digestion, releases energy from food and fosters normal appetite.

RIBOFLAVIN

A 3-oz serving of beef is a good source of riboflavin, which helps the body use energy from carbohydrates, produce oxygen-carrying red blood cells and promotes healthy skin and good vision.

SELENIUM

A 3-oz serving of beef is an excellent source of selenium, a trace mineral occurring naturally in many food sources. Selenium works with vitamin E to protect the body from the damaging effects of free radicals and may reduce the risk of heart disease.

PHOSPHORUS

A 3-oz serving of beef is a good source of phosphorus, which helps build and maintain healthy bones, normal blood pH levels and muscle regulation.

CHOLINE

A 3-oz serving of beef is a good source of choline, an essential nutrient for humans that plays a vital role in cognition and long and short-term memory functions. Choline works with folate to help promote brain and memory development in growing fetuses and newborn infants.¹⁸



A 3-oz (85g) cooked ground beef burger (usually 4 oz, uncooked) is about 3 inches in diameter and 5/8-inch thick.



In general, a 3 oz serving of lean cooked beef is about the size of a smartphone.

LEAN CUTS OF BEEF

Today, more than two-thirds (69%) of beef sold at retail, including popular cuts like Top Sirloin, Tenderloin, Top Loin (Strip) steak and 93% lean or leaner Ground Beef, meet government guidelines for "lean" (less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams or less of saturated fat and 95 milligrams of cholesterol per serving and per 100 grams). In addition, 18 of the top 25 most popular muscle cuts meet these same guidelines.

Beef contributes less than 10 percent of saturated fat and total fat in the diet. Further, beef contributes less than five percent of total calories in the American diet.

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BUYING BEEF

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There are several factors to consider as you purchase beef:

- ▶ **Wholesomeness**
- ▶ **Quality**
- ▶ **Appearance**
- ▶ **Storage**
- ▶ **Cost per serving and number to serve**
- ▶ **Cookery method and time needed for preparation**

WHOLESOMENESS

Wholesomeness has to do with the safety of food. Federal law requires that all beef sold must pass inspection for wholesomeness.

BEEF INSPECTION

The purpose of inspection is to assure the consumer that all beef sold is from healthy animals which were processed under sanitary conditions, and that the beef is safe to eat.

Some states have their own inspection programs which regulate beef that is processed and sold only within that state. If a state does not have an inspection program or if the beef is to cross state or national borders, it must be federally inspected. Federal inspection is supervised by the USDA.

Experienced veterinarians or specially trained, supervised inspectors inspect beef both before and after processing. Beef which passes federal inspection is stamped with a round, purple mark made with a safe-to-eat vegetable dye. The number inside the mark is the official number assigned to the plant where the beef animal was processed.

State inspected beef will usually have a different inspection mark which varies state to state. The inspection mark is generally placed only once on larger (wholesale) cuts, so it is unlikely you will see it on the cuts you buy.

Whether done by the federal government or the state government, beef inspection is extensive and thorough, resulting in U.S. beef products with a safety record envied throughout the world. In addition to inspection of animals and of processed beef at the plant, beef is subject to further inspection as processing continues, in product manufacturing facilities, supermarkets and restaurant kitchens. For information on food safety in the home see page 11.



QUALITY

Quality is a factor to consider in buying beef. Quality refers to characteristics associated with the palatability of the beef (tenderness, juiciness and flavor). The names you see on beef labels often indicate the level of meat quality. These names may be either the USDA grade names or the beef packer and retailer brand names.

Remember, beef **inspection** is mandatory. The inspection mark means the beef is wholesome and safe to eat.

Beef **grading**, on the other hand, is voluntary. The grade mark indicates a level of quality (tenderness, juiciness and flavor).

USDA BEEF GRADING

Unlike mandatory inspection, beef quality grading is voluntary and paid for by beef packers and, ultimately consumers. Grading sets standards of quality and yield used in the buying and selling of beef. The beef grading program is administered by the USDA, using highly trained specialists. Recently, the USDA has approved grading instruments to assist in determining the official quality grade. This enhancement to the grading program will result in improved consistency and uniformity across all beef plants throughout the country.

GRADES OF BEEF

Prime: The grade of beef which contains the greatest degree of marbling.* It is generally sold to finer restaurants and to some selected stores. It is usually higher priced because it is produced in very limited quantities.

Choice: The grade preferred by many consumers because it contains sufficient marbling for taste and juiciness. It is usually less costly than U.S. Prime.

Select: Generally lower-priced grade of beef with less marbling than U.S. Choice. Select beef cuts are leaner but also less juicy and flavorful.

OTHER NAMES INDICATING BEEF QUALITY

Because beef grading is a voluntary program, not all beef is graded by the USDA. Some beef processors use "brand names" their customers can readily identify with a desired level of quality. Therefore, you may find varying names on beef labels.



*Marbling is the term for the small flecks of fat that are interspersed with the lean (muscle). It contributes to juiciness and flavor. (See next page)

APPEARANCE

When buying beef, consider how it looks at the meat counter. Look at the color of the cut, the amount of marbling and seam fat, and the trim fat.

LEAN

The color of the lean part of the beef should be bright cherry-red unless it has been cured and/or cooked. (Cured beef is further processed using salt or a salt solution and sodium nitrite.)

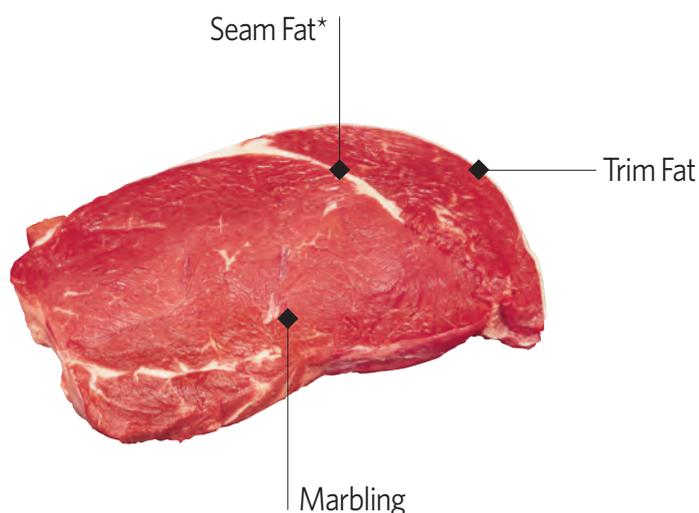
When first cut, beef is a dark, purplish-red color. Vacuum-packaged beef will have this same dark color. After cutting and exposure to the air, the surface becomes bright red due to a reaction with oxygen in the air. This is why the outside layer of ground beef is often red while the middle is darker. The middle will also brighten after it is exposed to the air. With extended exposure to air, beef will eventually take on a brown color.

MARBLING

The small flecks of fat throughout the lean are called marbling. Marbling improves the beef's flavor, tenderness and juiciness. It also supplies a few additional calories — although marbling is not as big a factor as trim fat in supplying fat and calories.

TRIM FAT

The thin layer of fat surrounding many beef cuts is called trim fat. Most cuts currently available in the supermarket have little or no trim fat. Look for one eighth of an inch or less on steaks and roasts. Cooking before removing the fat has little effect on total fat and calories. However, be sure to trim all visible fat before eating.



*Seam fat is the fat between sections of lean beef.

STORAGE

Before buying beef, consider how you plan to store it.

REFRIGERATING

Most beef is prepackaged and should be stored wrapped as purchased. When purchasing beef, look for packages that are cold and tightly wrapped without tears or punctures. It can be stored at a temperature of 35° to 40°F for one to four days after purchase. Meat compartments in many refrigerators maintain ideal temperatures.



FREEZING

Freezing Fresh Beef

1. Freeze beef as soon as possible after purchase while fresh and in top condition.
2. Select proper freezer wrapping materials, such as:
 - ▶ specially coated freezer paper
 - ▶ aluminum foil
 - ▶ heavy-duty, food-safe, plastic freezer bags

The wrap must seal out air and lock in moisture. If air penetrates the package, moisture is drawn from the surface of the beef causing a whitish surface layer known as "freezer burn." This affects the palatability of the beef when cooked, but not the wholesomeness.

You can freeze beef in its original packaging up to two weeks. For longer storage, wrap in heavy-duty aluminum foil or place in plastic freezer bags, removing as much air as possible.



3. Prepare beef for freezing before wrapping. Think ahead to your weeknight meals and re-package into right-size portions for you and your family.
4. Wrap tightly, pressing out as much air as possible.
5. Label properly. Indicate name of cut, approximate number of servings and/or weight, and date of freezing.
6. Freeze immediately at 0°F or lower. Do not stack unfrozen packages or freeze too many packages at one time. This slows down the freezing, which may lower quality. Maintain freezer temperature at 0°F or lower. Use a thermometer to check freezer temperature.
7. Use chart below for storage recommendations.



STORAGE TIMETABLE

Type of Beef		Refrigerator (at 35-40°F)	Freezer (at 0°F)
Fresh Beef	Roasts, Steaks	3 to 4 days	6 to 12 months
	Beef for Stew, Kabibs, or Stir-Fry	2 to 3 days	6 to 12 months
	Ground beef	1 to 2 days	3 to 4 months
Fresh Veal	Roasts, chops, cutlets	1 to 2 days	6 to 9 months
	Ground veal	1 to 2 days	3 to 4 months
Cured and/or Smoked and Ready-To-Serve Beef Products	Corned beef (ready-to-cook)	1 week	2 weeks
	Frankfurters, Deli Meats	3 to 5 days	1 to 2 months
	Luncheon meat	3 to 5 days	1 to 2 months
	Sausage, smoked	1 week	Not recommended
	Sausage, dry and semi-dry, (unsliced)	2 to 3 weeks	Not recommended
Leftover Cooked Beef	All	3 to 4 days	2 to 3 months

FREEZING COOKED BEEF:

Cooked beef can be frozen by following steps 4-7 at left. Be sure to chill the beef in the refrigerator for approximately two hours before freezing.

FREEZING CURED, SMOKED OR READY-TO-SERVE BEEF PRODUCTS:

These products do not keep their high quality in the freezer as long as fresh beef. This is because salt in the products speeds the development of rancidity which results in objectionable flavors and odors. For best quality, limit freezer storage time of products such as corned beef and deli meats.

DEFROSTING:

For best quality, defrost beef in the refrigerator, never at room temperature. Place frozen package on a plate or tray to catch any juices and place in the refrigerator according to chart.

Beef can be refrozen as long as it was defrosted properly and is used within the freezer storage guidelines below.

DEFROSTING GUIDELINES

Beef Cut	Package Thickness	Approximate Refrigerator Time (at 35-40°F)
Steaks, Ground Beef*	½ to ¾ inch	12 hours
Beef for Stew, Kabobs or Stir-Fry	1 to 1½ inches	24 hours
Small Roast	Varies	3 to 5 hours per pound
Thin Pot Roast	Varies	3 to 5 hours per pound
Large Roast	Varies	4 to 7 hours per pound
Thick Pot Roast	Varies	4 to 7 hours per pound

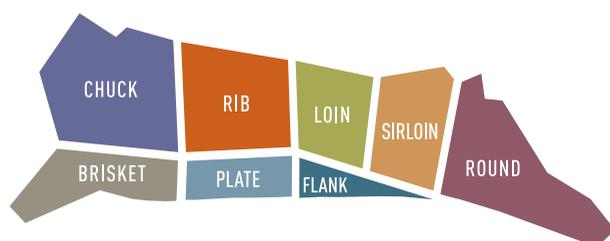
* According to USDA, Ground Beef can be defrosted in the microwave, but it must be cooked within the same day.



COOKERY METHOD AND TIME

When deciding on a cut of beef to buy, consider the cooking method you plan to use. Moist heat methods, like braising and stewing, are best used with less expensive, less tender cuts, such as the chuck and the round. Dry heat methods, like broiling, are best with tender cuts from the loin and rib. For information on different cooking methods, see pages 14-16.

You can make any beef cut tender and taste great if you use the right cooking method. Not all beef cuts should be cooked the same way. Many supermarkets are helping their customers by including cooking information right on the package. To find out how to cook beef to get the most tender and best-tasting results, go to BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com. Knowing a little about how muscles in the beef animal affect the tenderness of different beef cuts will help get you started.



The beef animal is made up of two types of muscles: suspension and locomotion. Suspension muscles are not used greatly in movement and have less connective tissue than locomotion muscles. (Connective tissue supports and reinforces the fibers in the muscles.) Locomotion muscles are used in movement and have more connective tissue.

Generally, the most tender beef is from muscles which are not used greatly in movement and which have smaller amounts of connective tissue. Therefore, beef from suspension muscles is frequently more tender than beef from locomotion muscles. Early in the marketing chain, the beef carcass is divided into eight primals (wholesale cuts). The rib and loin primals are made up of suspension muscles (tender) and are found along the middle of the animal's back. The locomotion muscles are found in the remaining primals which are usually less tender (e.g. chuck, flank, round, brisket).

Recent innovations in the beef industry have resulted in new cuts, from the chuck and the round which offer the same tenderness as many of those from the rib and loin. These two primals, traditionally considered to be less tender, contain muscles which can provide lean, tender steaks and roasts. Consumers are now seeing more variety and quality choices in supermarkets and restaurants.

As a general rule, look for the primal name, rib or loin, on the package label to ensure tenderness.



HOW TO READ BEEF LABELS

Labels include the weight, price per pound, total price, safe handling instructions and country-of-origin. The label may include a quality grade (see page 6), and a "sell-by" or "use-by" date. The "sell-by" date is the last day by which it is safe to buy the product. Beef should be used or frozen within two days of that date. The "use-by" date states the last day it is safe to use the product. Use or freeze ground beef before that date.

Tip: Factor the cost per serving when selecting beef, not just the price per pound. A cooked 3-oz serving of beef, which provides nearly half of the Daily Value of protein, on average costs just about \$1 per serving.

The nutrition facts label provides nutrient content data on a particular product. The information includes serving size, number of servings in the package, calories per serving and the amount of various nutrients contained in the product. The nutrition facts label can help you follow a healthful diet because you can easily see the nutrient content of foods.

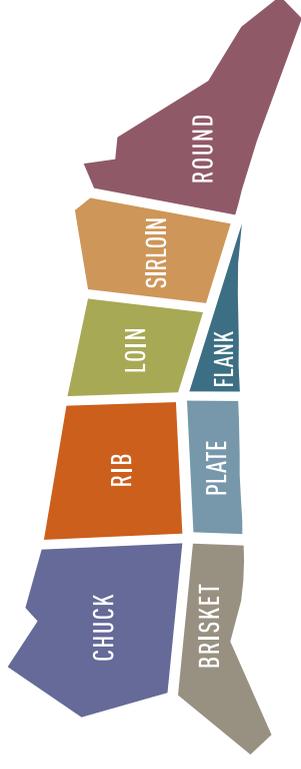
At the time of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990 (NLEA), which required nutrition labels on many food packages, the government determined that many Americans did not consume enough fiber, iron, calcium, and vitamins A and C. Along with required information on serving size, calories, total fat, calories from fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, carbohydrates, sugar, sodium and protein, these five nutrients were required to be included on the label. NLEA required the nutrient data to be provided based on the product as packaged. Fat, sodium, carbohydrates and protein must always be listed on the label. If their content is zero, other nutrients do not have to be included on the product's label.

The requirement for nutrient facts labels on fresh meats became mandatory in 2012. This rule requires that the same nutrition information required in the 1990 Act be readily available for the 40 most popular cuts of raw meat and poultry products, and all fresh ground products sold in retail. To comply with this regulation, supermarket retailers must display complete nutrition labels on the specified 40 cuts either directly on the package or on a poster at the point-of-purchase near the meat case. Retailers may choose to label other cuts in addition to the 40 required cuts. Fresh ground products must be labeled on the package.

Protein foods are not a natural source of fiber, calcium, and vitamins A and C. They most often are a nutrient-rich source of protein, iron, zinc, and many B-vitamins (see page 4). In order to display the nutrient benefits of beef, grocery stores are encouraged to expand the nutrient facts label to

Beef Cuts

AND RECOMMENDED COOKING METHODS



CHUCK	RIB	LOIN	SIRLOIN	ROUND	OTHER
Blade Chuck Roast	Ribeye Roast, Bone-In	Porterhouse Steak	Top Sirloin Steak	Top Round Steak*	Kabobs*
Cross Rib Chuck Roast	Ribeye Steak, Bone-In	T-Bone Steak	Sirloin Steak	Bottom Round Roast	Strips
Blade Chuck Steak*	Back Ribs	Strip Steak, Bone-In	Top Sirloin Petite Roast	Bottom Round Steak*	Cubed Steak
7-Bone Chuck Roast	Ribeye Roast, Boneless	Strip Steak, Boneless	Top Sirloin Fillet	Bottom Round Rump Roast	Stew Meat
Chuck Center Roast	Ranch Steak				

<p>Chuck Center Steak*</p> 	<p>Flat Iron Steak</p> 	<p>Ribeye Steak, Boneless</p> 	<p>Strip Petite Roast</p> 	<p>Coulotte Roast</p> 	<p>Eye of Round Roast</p> 	<p>Shank Cross Cut</p> 
<p>Denver Steak</p> 	<p>Top Blade Steak</p> 	<p>Ribeye Cap Steak</p> 	<p>Strip Filet</p> 	<p>Tri-Tip Roast</p> 	<p>Eye of Round Steak*</p> 	<p>Ground Beef and Ground Beef Patties</p> 
<p>Chuck Eye Roast</p> 	<p>Petite Tender Roast</p> 	<p>Ribeye Petite Roast</p> 	<p>Tenderloin Roast</p> 	<p>Tri-Tip Steak</p> 	<p>BRISKET</p>	
<p>Chuck Eye Steak</p> 	<p>Petite Tender Medallions</p> 	<p>Ribeye Filet</p> 	<p>Tenderloin Filet</p> 	<p>Petite Sirloin Steak</p> 		
<p>Country-Style Ribs</p> 	<p>Short Ribs, Bone-In</p> 	<p>Short Ribs, Bone-In*</p> 	<p>KEY TO RECOMMENDED COOKING METHODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRILL OR BROIL STIR-FRY SKILLET SLOW COOKING ROAST SKILLET-TO-OVEN 		<p>Skirt Steak*</p> 	<p>Flank Steak*</p> 
<p>IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER.</p> <p>Beef's WhatsForDinner.com</p> <p>Funded by the Beef Checkoff.</p>			<p>* MARINATE BEFORE COOKING FOR BEST RESULTS</p> <p>These cuts meet the government guidelines for lean, based on cooked servings, visible fat trimmed.</p>		<p>Skirt Steak*</p> 	<p>Brisket Point</p> 
					<p>Brisket Flat</p> 	<p>Short Ribs, Bone-In*</p> 

All lean beef cuts have less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams or less of saturated fat, and less than 95 milligrams of cholesterol per 3½-oz serving. Based on cooked servings, visible fat trimmed.

show the complete nutrient profile of fresh beef products. This would allow consumers to ensure they choose foods providing essential nutrients like niacin, zinc and vitamins B₆ and B₁₂.

In addition, retailers are encouraged to provide a dual declaration label, showing the nutrient content of the beef product as packaged as well as the nutrient content of the cooked product. Since consumers do not eat raw fresh beef, it is important they understand the significant, and most often beneficial, nutrient differences between raw and cooked beef.

Most beef cuts packaged in the fresh meat case have fat trim of 1/8th inch or less (see page 7). Trimming visible fat before cooking or eating often results in a significant reduction in the total fat consumed as compared to the total fat listed on the raw beef package. Consumers prefer that a nutrient facts

Strip Filet
Beef, Top Loin, Boneless, Split
Grill for best results

		raw, as packaged				broiled**			
Serving Size 4oz (112g)		Amount/Serving		%DV*		Amount/Serving		%DV*	
Servings per package varied									
	raw as packaged								
Calories	260	Total Fat	18g	27%	7g	11%	Sodium	55mg	2%
Fat Cal.	160	Sat. Fat	7g	36%	2.5g	14%	Total Carb	0g	0%
	broiled**	Cholest.	90mg	31%	70mg	24%	Protein	23g	46%
		Iron		10%		10%	Riboflavin		6%
		Niacin		35%		35%	Vitamin B6		30%
		Vitamin B12		20%		20%	Phosphorus		20%
		Zinc		25%		25%	Selenium		35%
									40%

*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Not a significant source of dietary fiber, sugars, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, or Calcium.
** Cooked data based on lean only, visible fat trimmed.

label on a fresh beef cut provide the most accurate and useful information. This is possible when the label includes not only the raw nutrient data, as the product is packaged, as well as the cooked nutrient data with the visible fat trimmed.

The percent Daily Values listed on the label shows the consumer which foods are high or low in essential nutrients.

GROUND BEEF LABELING

The lean/fat ratio must be displayed on the label for all ground product, e.g., 90% lean/10% fat. The label may also indicate from which primal the beef was sourced, such as Chuck, Round or Sirloin. The percentage of leanness guides consumers in choosing the ground beef product that meets their needs for health, taste and proper use in recipes. Different ground beef dishes require different degrees of lean to fat ratio. Three traditional categories of ground beef and some dishes best suited for each category are listed below.

The package label will indicate whether the product is ground beef, hamburger or another type of ground product. What's the difference? Beef fat may be added to "hamburger" but not

to ground beef. A maximum of 30% fat is allowed in either hamburger or ground beef. Both hamburger and ground beef can have seasonings or mixed ingredients, but no added water, phosphates, extenders or binders. The labeling of meat food products must comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) and the meat inspection regulations and labeling policies set by USDA.

Most states and cities set standards for store-packaged ground beef which by law, cannot be less than federal standards. If products in grocery retailers were found to contain more than 30% fat, they would be considered "misbranded" under federal law.

Ground Beef
75% Lean
Good for dishes in which you drain the fat from the cooked beef, such as Sloppy Joes, chili and spaghetti sauce.

Ground Beef
80%-85% Lean
Suitable for meatloaf, meatballs, casseroles and Salisbury Steak.

Ground Beef
90%-95% Lean
Good for combination dishes and low calorie recipes.



KEEPING BEEF SAFE

Most cases of foodborne illness that are reported in the U.S. every year can be traced to poor handling, storage or preparation at home or in foodservice establishments.

The key is to control conditions that give bacteria opportunities to get into food, grow and/or survive during the food preparation process.

STEAKS AND ROASTS

Bacteria are part of the environment and may exist wherever food is present. Not all of these bacteria are harmful. If a cut of beef contains any harmful bacteria, they will exist on the surface. Cooking steaks and roasts to medium rare (145°F) doneness will destroy surface bacteria.

GROUND BEEF

When raw beef or poultry is ground, harmful bacteria that might exist on the surface are mixed throughout the meat. Therefore, it is important to thoroughly cook both the inside and outside of ground beef.

The food industry, from farm to fork, follows strict rules to help ensure safe and wholesome food. Procedures and safeguards are implemented as needed. The safe handling label on raw beef and poultry provides basic guidelines for keeping food safe.

Safe Handling Instructions

This product was prepared from inspected and passed meat and/or poultry. Some food products may contain bacteria that could cause illness if the product is mishandled or cooked improperly. For your protection, follow these safe handling instructions.



Keep refrigerated or frozen. Thaw in refrigerator or microwave.



Keep raw meat and poultry separate from other foods. Wash working surfaces (including cutting boards), utensils, and hands after touching raw meat or poultry.



Cook thoroughly.



Keep hot foods hot. Refrigerate leftovers immediately or discard.



SAFE FOOD HANDLING TIPS

Follow this checklist to help keep food safe.

- Plan to make beef the last purchase before returning home.
- Wash hands with hot soapy water before preparing food and after handling raw beef, poultry or fish.
- Use hot soapy water to wash surfaces and utensils immediately after preparing beef, fish, poultry, or unwashed fruits and vegetables.
- Use separate cutting boards, platters, trays and utensils for cooked and raw foods. Do not put cooked food on a platter which held raw food without washing the platter first.
- Thaw beef, fish and poultry in the refrigerator or microwave oven, not at room temperature.
- Marinate beef, fish and poultry in the refrigerator. Throw out leftover marinade that came into contact with raw beef.
- Ground Beef (patties, meatloaves, meatballs) should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F (medium doneness). Color is not a reliable indicator of Ground Beef doneness.
- Due to the natural nitrate content of certain ingredients often used in meatloaf, such as onions, celery and bell peppers, meatloaf may remain pink even when a 160°F internal temperature has been reached.
- Reheat leftovers to 165°F.



COOKING METHODS



Tender cuts from the rib and loin are best cooked by dry heat methods. Less tender cuts from the round, chuck, brisket and shank require moist heat methods. The longer cooking time at lower temperatures with moisture helps soften connective tissue in less tender cuts.

Marinating less tender cuts may allow them to be cooked with dry heat methods. For an explanation of marinades and how they work, see page 17.

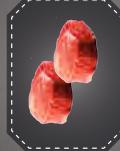
3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR BROILING BEEF

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CUT



T-Bone steak*



Tenderloin Filet*



93% lean or leaner Ground Beef patties or kabobs*

STEP 2

PREPARE YOUR BEEF



Set oven for broiling; preheat for 10 minutes.
(* Consult owner's manual for specific information)



Season beef with herbs or spices, as desired.



Place beef on rack of broiler pan. Position broiler pan so that surface of beef is within specified distance from heat according to chart.

STEP 3

COOK YOUR BEEF



Broil according to chart, turning once.



After cooking, season beef with salt, if desired.

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR OVEN ROASTING BEEF

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CUT

Some of the best cuts for oven roasting include:



Strip Roast



Ribeye Roast



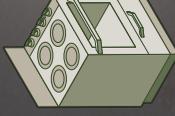
Tenderloin Roast*

(* indicates lean)

STEP 2

PREPARE YOUR BEEF

Place roast (directly from the refrigerator), fat side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan. (The exception is the Rib roast; the ribs form a natural rack).



Heat oven to temperature specified in guidelines.

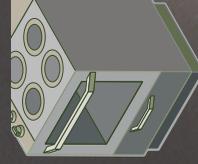


Season roast with herbs and seasonings, as desired.

Insert ovenproof meat thermometer so tip is centered in thickest part of roast, not resting in fat or touching bone.

STEP 3

COOK YOUR BEEF



Roast according to guidelines.



Transfer roast to carving board and tent loosely with aluminum foil.

Let stand 15 to 20 minutes.



(Temperature will continue to rise 5°F to 10°F to reach desired doneness and roast will be easier to carve).

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR GRILLING BEEF

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CUT

Some of the best cuts for grilling include:



Strip Steak*



Flank*



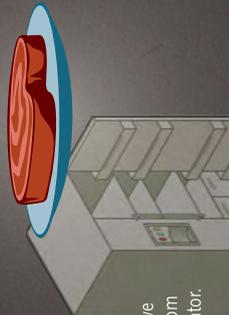
Ribeye

*Indicates lean

STEP 2

PREPARE YOUR BEEF

Prepare grill (gas or charcoal) according to manufacturer's directions for medium heat.



Remove beef from refrigerator.



Season beef with herbs and seasonings, as desired.

STEP 3

COOK YOUR BEEF



Place on cooking grid.



Grill, covered, according to chart, turning occasionally.

Once finished, season beef with salt, if desired.

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR SKILLET COOKING BEEF

(Pan Broiling)

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CUT

Ground Beef is one of the best choices for skillet cooking. Choosing 93% lean or leaner Ground Beef will keep it on the lean side.



Ground Beef

STEP 2

PREPARE YOUR BEEF

Remove Ground Beef from refrigerator.



Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot.

STEP 3

COOK YOUR BEEF



Add Ground Beef.



Cook 8-10 minutes.

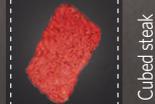


While cooking, break into 3/4-inch crumbles and stir occasionally. When finished, remove drippings.

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR PAN FRYING BEEF

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CUT



Cubed steak



Sirloin Tip Steak*



Flat Iron

STEP 2

PREPARE YOUR BEEF

Heat small amount of oil in heavy, nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot.



This step is where you flour or bread cuts such as Cubed steak.



Season beef (directly from refrigerator), as desired.

STEP 3

COOK YOUR BEEF



Place beef in preheated skillet (do not overcrowd).



Pan-fry to desired doneness, turning occasionally.



After cooking, season beef with salt if desired.

COOKING METHODS

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR

STIR FRYING BEEF

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CUT



Top Sirloin*



Sirloin Tip Steak*

(* indicates lean)



Flat Iron

STEP 2

STEP 2

PREPARE YOUR BEEF



Cut beef into thin, uniform strips or pieces.

For easier slicing, partially freeze beef (about 30 minutes).



Marinate beef to add flavor, if desired, while preparing other ingredients.

Heat a small amount of oil in wok or large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until hot.

STEP 3

STEP 3

COOK YOUR BEEF



Stir-fry beef in 1/2 pound batches (do not overcrowd), continuously turning with a scooping motion.

Cook until outside surface of beef is no longer pink. Add additional oil for each batch if necessary.

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR

STEWING BEEF

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CUT

Some of the best cut for stewing include:



Chuck Shoulder Pot Roast* (purchase whole and cut into cubes)



Bottom Round Roast* (purchase whole and cut into cubes)

(* indicates lean)



Beef for Stew (often made from Round or Chuck)

STEP 2

STEP 2

PREPARE YOUR BEEF

Coat beef lightly with seasoned flour if desired.



Heat a small amount of oil in a heavy stockpot over medium heat.



Slowly brown beef in batches, on all sides. Pour off drippings.

STEP 3

STEP 3

COOK YOUR BEEF

Cover beef with liquid (such as broth, water, juice, beer or wine).



Add herbs and seasonings, as desired. Bring liquid to boil, reduce heat to low.

Cover tightly and simmer over low heat to tenderize the beef and lock in flavor until fork-tender.

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR

BRAISING/POT ROASTING BEEF

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CUT

Some of the best cuts for oven braising/pot-roasting include:



Chuck Pot Roast (Shoulder, Arm or Blade) boneless



Shoulder steak boneless*



Short Ribs

Round



Bottom Round Rump Roast boneless*



Round steak (Eye or Bottom) boneless*



Shank/Brisket

Brisket fresh* (* indicates lean)

STEP 2

STEP 2

PREPARE YOUR BEEF



Slowly brown beef on all sides in a small amount of oil in heavy pan over medium heat. Pour off drippings.



Season beef with herbs and seasonings, as desired.

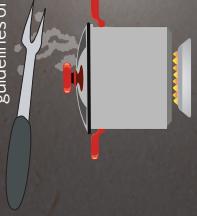
Add small amount (1/2 to 2 cups) of liquid, such as broth, water, juice, beer or wine.

STEP 3

STEP 3

COOK YOUR BEEF

Cover tightly and simmer gently over low heat on top of the range or in a preheated 325°F oven according to guidelines or until beef is fork-tender.



TENDERIZING

You may choose to tenderize less tender cuts of beef before cooking them. They can then be cooked by a dry heat method. Tenderization can happen through marinades, or by pounding or cubing the beef.

MARINADES

Marinades are seasoned liquid mixtures that add flavor and in some cases tenderize. A tenderizing marinade must contain an acidic ingredient or a natural tenderizing enzyme.

Acidic ingredients include vinegar, wine, and citrus or tomato juice. Naturally tenderizing enzymes are found in fresh papaya, ginger, pineapple and figs. The food acid or enzyme helps soften or break down the beef fibers and connective tissue and adds flavor. Some marinades also contain a small amount of oil. Marinades penetrate only about 1/4 inch into the surface of the beef, so they work best on thinner cuts.

If the marinade has been in contact with uncooked beef, it must be brought to a rolling boil for one minute before adding it to cooked beef. However, it is better to set aside a portion of the marinade mixture to use later as a sauce for basting. Be sure that it hasn't come in contact with raw beef.



POUNDING

Pounding with a heavy object such as a meat mallet tenderizes by breaking down the connective tissue.

CUBING

Cubing is a more thorough process than pounding because it breaks down the fiber structure even more. Beef is "cubed" by a machine. Do not confuse this with grinding or cutting the beef into cubes, as for stew.

COMMERCIAL TENDERIZERS

Tenderizers come in various forms and contain active ingredients called enzymes. The enzymes break down the connective tissue. Naturally occurring enzymes, such as papain from the papaya fruit and bromelain from pineapple, are used in commercial tenderizers. Generally, enzyme tenderizers only tenderize the outer 1/4 inch of beef cuts. Be sure to follow package directions when using commercial tenderizers or the beef may become overtenderized.



CONVENIENCE

In the past, many popular beef dishes took a lot of time to prepare. Microwave ovens were faster but not recommended for cooking beef cuts. Now manufacturers have developed new beef products specially made for quick reheating in a microwave. You can prepare your favorite beef dishes in minutes.



Look for fully-cooked pot roasts, meatloaves, stews, burgers and even steaks in the meat case of your favorite supermarket. If you can't find them, ask the meat department manager.

TIMETABLE *For cooking in a conventional oven*

18

The degree of doneness can be easily determined by measuring the internal temperature of a cut of beef. To do so, use an ovenproof meat thermometer.



Insert the thermometer into the roast at a slight angle so that the tip of the thermometer is in the thickest portion of the beef, but not resting in fat or against bone. Since the potentially harmful bacteria that might be present are typically on the surface of the beef cut, do not remove and reinsert the thermometer without first washing it in hot soapy water. In general, beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 145°F (medium rare), 160°F (medium) or 170°F (well done). To avoid overcooking, remember to remove a roast from the oven when the thermometer reads 5° to 10°F below the desired degree of doneness. As the roast sits before carving, its temperature will rise an additional 5° to 10° F. If you use an instant read thermometer, do not leave it in the roast during cooking. Follow manufacturer instructions.



ROASTING

DRY HEAT

Primal	Retail Cut	Approximate Weight (pounds)	Total Cooking Time ¹ Oven Temperature	Approximate		Remove roast from oven when temperature reaches
				Medium Rare (145°F)	Medium (160°F)	
CHUCK	Petite Tender Roast	8 to 12 -oz	425°F	20 to 25 minutes	25 to 30 minutes	135°F to 150°F
RIB	Ribeye Roast, Boneless (small end)	3 to 4	350°F	1½ to 1¾ hours	1¾ to 2 hours	135°F to 145°F
		4 to 6	350°F	1¾ to 2 hours	2 to 2½ hours	135°F to 145°F
		6 to 8	350°F	2 to 2¼ hours	2½ to 2¾ hours	135°F to 145°F
	Ribeye Roast, Boneless (large end)	3 to 4	350°F	1½ to 2 hours	2 to 2¼ hours	135°F to 145°F
		4 to 6	350°F	2 to 2¼ hours	2¼ to 2½ hours	135°F to 145°F
		6 to 8	350°F	2¼ to 2½ hours	2¾ to 3 hours	135°F to 145°F
LOIN	Rib Roast, Bone-In (chine bone removed)	4 to 6 (2 ribs)	350°F	1¾ to 2¼ hours	2¼ to 2¾ hours	135°F to 145°F
		6 to 8 (2 to 4 ribs)	350°F	2¼ to 2½ hours	2½ to 3 hours	135°F to 145°F
		8 to 10 (4 to 5 ribs)	350°F	2½ to 3 hours	3 to 3½ hours	135°F to 145°F
	Tenderloin Roast (well trimmed)	2 to 3 (center-cut)	425°F	35 to 40 minutes	45 to 50 minutes	135°F to 145°F
		4 to 5 (whole)	425°F	45 to 55 minutes	55 to 65 minutes	135°F to 145°F
SIRLOIN	Tri-Tip Roast	1½ to 2	425°F	30 to 40 minutes	40 to 50 minutes	135°F to 150°F
ROUND	Sirloin Tip Roast	3 to 4	325°F	1¾ to 2 hours	2 to 2¼ hours	140°F to 150°F
		4 to 6	325°F	2 to 2¼ hours	2¼ to 2¾ hours	135°F to 150°F
		6 to 8	325°F	2¼ to 2¾ hours	2¾ to 3¼ hours	135°F to 150°F
	Sirloin Tip Center Roast	2 to 2½	325°F	1¾ to 1½ hours	—	135°F
	Rump Roast	3 to 4	325°F	1¾ to 1¾ hours	—	135°F
	Bottom Round Roast	3 to 4	325°F	1¾ to 1¾ hours	—	135°F
	Eye of Round Roast	2 to 3	325°F	1¾ to 1½ hours	—	135°F
OTHER	Meatloaf (10" x 4")	2	350°F	—	1¼ hours	160°F

MOIST HEAT

BRAISING

PRIMAL	Retail Cut	Approximate Thickness (inches)	Approximate Weight (pounds)	Approximate Total Cooking Time (hours)
CHUCK	Blade, Arm, Shoulder Roasts	—	2¼ to 4	2 to 3
	Short Ribs	2 x 2 x 4	—	1¾ to 2½
ROUND	Bottom Round Steak, Boneless	¾ to 1	—	1½ to 1¾



BROILING

DRY HEAT

Primal	Retail Cut	Approximate Thickness (inches)	Distance From Heat (inches)	Approximate Total Cooking Time ¹		
				Medium Rare 145°F	Medium 160°F	
CHUCK	Shoulder Steak, Boneless ³	¾	2 to 3	10 minutes	13 minutes	
		1	3 to 4	16 minutes	21 minutes	
	RIB	Ribeye Steak	¾	2 to 3	8 minutes	10 minutes
	ROUND	Top Round Steak ³ (marinate)	1	2 to 3	14 minutes	18 minutes
			1½	3 to 4	17 minutes	18 minutes
	LOIN	Top Sirloin Steak, Boneless	¾	2 to 3	27 minutes	29 minutes
			1	3 to 4	9 minutes	12 minutes
		Porterhouse/T-Bone Steak	¾	2 to 3	16 minutes	21 minutes
		1	3 to 4	10 minutes	13 minutes	
	Tenderloin Steak	1	2 to 3	15 minutes	20 minutes	
	Strip Steak, Boneless	1	3 to 4	13 minutes	16 minutes	
		1½	3 to 4	13 minutes	17 minutes	
FLANK	Flank Steak ³	1½ to 2 pounds	2 to 3	19 minutes	23 minutes	
OTHER	Ground Beef Patties	½	2 to 3	13 minutes	18 minutes	
				—	12 to 13 minutes	

PAN-BROILING/SKILLET COOKING

DRY HEAT

Primal	Retail Cut	Approximate Thickness (inches)	Range Temperature	Approximate Total Cooking Time ¹	
				Medium Rare 145°F	Medium 160°F
RIB	Ribeye Steak, Boneless	¾	Medium	8 minutes	11 minutes
	Top Round Steak ³	¾	Medium	12 minutes	15 minutes
LOIN	Strip Steak, Boneless	¾	Medium	8 minutes	11 minutes
	Tenderloin Steak	¾	Medium	7 minutes	10 minutes
SIRLOIN	Top Sirloin Steak, Boneless	¾	Medium	12 minutes	15 minutes
OTHER	Ground Beef Patties	½	Medium	10 minutes	12 minutes

GRILLING

DRY HEAT

PRIMAL	Retail Cut	Approximate Thickness (inches)	Approximate Total Cooking Time ¹	
			Charcoal Grill Medium Rare to Medium	Gas Grill Medium Rare to Medium
CHUCK	Shoulder Steak, Boneless ³	¾	8 to 12 minutes	9 to 12 minutes
		1	12 to 17 minutes	15 to 19 minutes
RIB	Flat Iron Steak	8-oz	10 to 14 minutes	12 to 16 minutes
	Ribeye Steak, Boneless	¾	7 to 10 minutes	7 to 9 minutes
LOIN		1	10 to 14 minutes	9 to 14 minutes
	Porterhouse/T-Bone Steak	¾	8 to 11 minutes	9 to 13 minutes
SIRLOIN		1	8 to 11 minutes	9 to 13 minutes
	Strip Steak, Boneless	¾	7 to 10 minutes	7 to 10 minutes
ROUND		1	7 to 10 minutes	7 to 10 minutes
	Tenderloin Steak	1	11 to 14 minutes	11 to 15 minutes
FLANK		1	10 to 14 minutes	11 to 15 minutes
	Top Sirloin Steak, Boneless	¾	7 to 11 minutes	8 to 13 minutes
OTHER		1	11 to 15 minutes	13 to 16 minutes
	Top Round Steak ³	¾	10 to 11 minutes	10 to 11 minutes
		1	10 to 11 minutes	10 to 11 minutes
		1	12 to 14 minutes	16 to 19 minutes
FLANK	Flank Steak ³	1½ to 2 pounds	11 to 16 minutes	16 to 21 minutes
OTHER	Ground Beef Patties	½	8 to 10 minutes	7 to 9 minutes

STEWING

MOIST HEAT

Retail Cut	Approximate Weight (pounds)	Approximate Total Cooking Time (Covered Over Low Heat) (hours)
Stew Meat (Boneless Round or Chuck)	1½ to 2	1½ to 2 hours

¹ Based on beef removed directly from refrigerator.

² Tent loosely with aluminum foil halfway through roasting time.

³ Marinate.



CARVING

Proper carving makes beef more tender. You need a good sharp knife, a good cutting board and some knowledge of the structure of the beef to be carved.

Beef is made up of bundles of long muscle fibers held together with connective tissue. Fibers would be difficult or impossible to chew if they weren't made softer and shorter. Proper cooking softens the fibers and connective tissues. Proper carving shortens the fibers.

The direction in which the muscle fibers run is called the grain. The principle of beef carving is to cut at right angles to the grain. This is a simple principle, but actual carving is not as simple. Some roasts are made up of several muscles, and the fibers in each of the different muscles may run in slightly different directions. This makes finding the grain more difficult. The illustration to the right shows the grain running the length of the beef and the correct method of slicing.



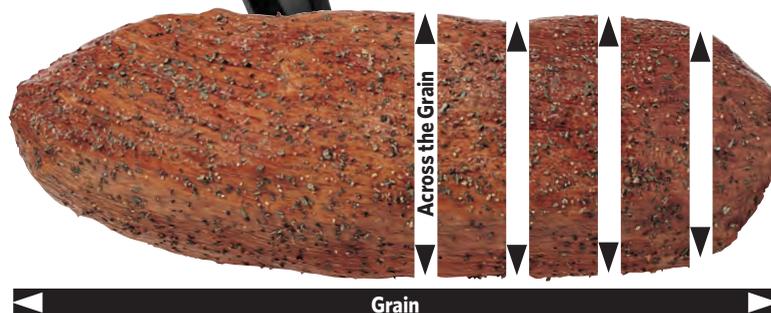
CUT ACROSS THE GRAIN

Steps

Follow these four easy steps for carving:

1. Remove a roast from the oven and let it sit in a warm place before carving so that it will be easier to carve and more juicy. Roasts should stand about 15 to 20 minutes before carving.
2. Determine which way the muscle fibers run in the beef. This is the grain.
3. Anchor the beef firmly with a two-pronged carving fork.
4. Carve roasts across the grain. Carve diagonally across the grain for flank steaks and other thin thin cuts.

Contrary to most carving rules, some tender steaks are carved with the grain. Steaks from the short loin and sirloin do not need to be cut across the grain because the beef fibers are tender and already short. (Roasts from these primals, however, should be cut across the grain.)



CARVING A RIB ROAST

Turn roast on its side and place on carving board. (If necessary, remove a thin slice to stabilize roast.) Insert fork from the side, below the top rib. Carve across the "face" of the roast toward the rib bone.

Cut along the rib bone with tip of knife to release slice of beef. To serve, slide knife under beef slice; steadying from above with the fork and lifting slice onto plate.



. ABOVE ALL ELSE .



IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER.

Funded by the Beef Checkoff.

For information, contact:
NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION
Contractor to The Beef Checkoff
9110 East Nichols Avenue, Suite 300
Centennial, CO 80112

School-Wellness.org
BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com

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