

Cattle Feeding Benchmark Data: Fall & Winter 2014 Spring & Summer 2015

A.S. Leaflet R3047

Garland Dahlke, ISU Extension and Outreach Program
Specialist;
Iowa Beef Center

Summary and Implications

After a number of years of record high feed grain prices, feed grain prices have moderated while cattle prices remained high. Feeder calf prices have eroded the margins somewhat, but a late summer of 2015 decline in fed cattle prices may be showing the end of strong fed cattle returns.

Introduction

Cattle markets from the fall of 2014 through the summer of 2015 have been characterized by moderate feed grain prices, high feeder calf prices and strong fed cattle prices. This dynamic in input cost along with a lessened penalty for heavy carcasses has encouraged cattle feeders to maintain the trend of feeding cattle to greater market weights. The number of heifers reported on feed has been significantly diminished from what may be normal, possibly indicating a significant movement to retain heifers for breeding and forecasting a future increase in cattle numbers. The closeouts of late summer 2015 indicates a softening in

fed cattle market demand and may be the beginning of the end of the strong returns brought from fed cattle.

Material and Methods

Closeout data from cattle pens finished from the fall of 2014 through the summer of 2015 are included in this report. These closeouts were generated by users of the Iowa State University Feedlot Monitor Program and are reported by season of the year. Most participants are located in the Midwest with the primary concentration being located in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota. Data from these users are summarized by the Iowa Beef Center in the following tables and provided back to the participants at the end of each season. These data can be used by participants as benchmarks for their own operation or as they see fit. The entire year's data for all participants is provided at this time in this report.

Results

Reports provided to participants from Fall of 2014 (Sept. 21, 2014 through Dec. 21, 2014), Winter of 2014 (Dec. 22, 2014 through March 22, 2015), Spring of 2015 (March 23, 2015 through June 21, 2015) and Summer of 2015 (June 22, 2015 through Sept. 23, 2015) were provided as follows:



Feedlot Monitor Benchmark Report



Finished fall 2014
Sept 21 - Dec 21

	Heifers		Mixed Pens		Steers		Dairy Steers		Background/Heif Dev	
	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation
Pens	17		*		24		*		*	
Pen Size	157.9	67.3			171.8	54.5				
In Pay Wt (lb)	883.0	253.4			800.3	268.9				
Out Pay Wt (lb)	1372.9	64.6			1464.0	172.7				
% Dead	0.8	0.7			0.8	0.9				
Carcass Yield %	64.2	0.9			64.1	1.4				
Days Fed	157.4	72.6			198.0	49.7				
ADG (lb)	3.2	0.4			3.4	0.4				
F:G	8.6	2.1			8.3	1.9				
DMI (lb)	27.3	6.8			27.6	6.2				
AFI (lb)	42.1	7.6			39.7	9.7				
NE g (avg Mcal/lb)	61.5	2.7			61.4	13.1				
\$/lb gain Feed	\$0.66	\$0.11			\$0.65	\$0.13				
\$/lb gain Total	\$0.84	\$0.15			\$0.80	\$0.12				
\$/Ton Feed DM	\$133.03	\$45.15			\$150.71	\$23.23				
Breakeven- live	\$137.89	\$9.75			\$131.59	\$26.66				



Feedlot Monitor Benchmark Report



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Finished winter 2014-20
21-Dec 22-Mar

	Heifers		Mixed Pens		Steers		Dairy Steers		Background/Hef Dev	
	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation
Pens	8		3		24		*		5	
Pen Size	215.3	177.5	284.7	180.5	192.3	78.5		130.2	56.9	
In Pay Wt (lb)	823.0	215.2	741.9	457.1	814.7	199.8		576.2	62.2	
Out Pay Wt (lb)	1389.0	170.2	1478.5	351.2	1445.4	129.9		775.8	37.7	
% Dead	1.8	4.4	0.4	0.3	1.1	1.2		0.9	1.1	
Carcass Yield %	65.8		63.0		64.0	0.7				
Days Fed	169.8	49.1	204.5	78.1	185.4	45.0		92.1	22.7	
ADG (lb)	3.3	0.8	4.3	3.1	3.8	1.8		2.9	1.8	
F:G	8.0	1.1	7.2	2.6	7.4	1.4		8.6	3.8	
DMI (lb)	26.2	5.7	28.5	3.1	27.3	5.1		19.6	3.5	
AFI (lb)	43.8	11.3	50.9	4.5	40.8	6.0		31.3	3.6	
NE g (avg Mcal/lb)	63.4	3.3	62.9	2.1	62.7	2.2		55.6	14.3	
\$/lb gain Feed	\$0.58	\$0.12	\$0.45	\$0.17	\$0.56	\$0.12		\$0.62	\$0.57	
\$/lb gain Total	\$0.74	\$0.11	\$0.60	\$0.23	\$0.70	\$0.15		\$0.82	\$0.66	
\$/Ton Feed DM	\$127.51	\$25.37	\$115.66	\$16.55	\$138.28	\$16.51		\$109.35	\$42.19	
Breakeven- live	\$147.79	\$22.25	\$136.75	\$38.90	\$145.96	\$21.86		\$204.04	\$44.44	



Feedlot Monitor Benchmark Report



Finished spring 2014-2015
22-Mar 21-Jun

	Heifers		Mixed Pens		Steers		Dairy Steers		Background/Hef Dev	
	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation
Pens	4		*		28		*		7	
Pen Size	213.5	107.2			188.4	84.1			184.6	73.3
In Pay Wt (lb)	846.0	91.2			775.6	111.8			530.6	27.7
Out Pay Wt (lb)	1432.5	74.3			1410.8	94.3			722.9	24.7
% Dead	0.6	0.8			1.1	0.9			1.6	1.6
Carcass Yield %	62.3				64.0	0.9				
Days Fed	180.0	5.6			192.3	32.1			82.1	22.3
ADG (lb)	3.2	0.2			3.3	0.4			2.4	0.8
F:G	8.4	0.8			7.6	1.0			7.7	4.0
DMI (lb)	26.8	4.1			25.0	3.4			15.8	1.8
AFI (lb)	40.2	8.1			37.8	4.7			29.4	3.2
NE g (avg Mcal/lb)	63.3	1.7			61.8	2.6			52.1	15.1
\$/lb gain Feed	\$0.57	\$0.07			\$0.59	\$0.07			\$0.77	\$0.57
\$/lb gain Total	\$0.81	\$0.04			\$0.76	\$0.12			\$1.03	\$0.63
\$/Ton Feed DM	\$130.77	\$11.20			\$139.97	\$10.37			\$130.28	\$37.19
Breakeven- live	\$159.66	\$14.64			\$160.02	\$13.87			\$214.54	\$19.46



Feedlot Monitor Benchmark Report



Finished Summer 2015
22-Jun 23-Sep

	Heifers		Mixed Pens		Steers		Dairy Steers		Background/Heif Dev	
	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation	Average	St.Deviation
Pens	13		*		30		*		4	
Pen Size	145.5	64.0			199.4	84.8			77.3	101.4
In Pay Wt (lb)	771.8	221.0			783.2	115.9			329.4	298.8
Out Pay Wt (lb)	1369.3	78.6			1456.3	91.5			582.6	510.7
% Dead	0.7	0.8			1.0	0.8			1.2	0.3
Carcass Yield %					64.5	1.0			63.6	1.2
Days Fed	202.2	64.9			202.8	41.7			121.6	89.6
ADG (lb)	2.9	0.3			3.4	0.4			2.5	0.6
F:G	7.9	1.8			7.3	0.8			7.0	1.5
DMI (lb)	22.3	2.3			24.4	3.6			17.0	0.5
AFI (lb)	36.8	3.2			38.4	4.6			29.7	1.4
NE g (avg Mcal/lb)	61.0	2.2			62.0	2.6			59.3	3.4
\$/lb gain Feed	\$0.60	\$0.16			\$0.57	\$0.05			\$0.55	\$0.11
\$/lb gain Total	\$0.86	\$0.20			\$0.73	\$0.09			\$0.75	\$0.16
\$/Ton Feed DM	\$125.43	\$29.98			\$138.55	\$9.10			\$121.86	\$14.05
Breakeven- live	\$145.04	\$9.35			\$149.80	\$14.66			\$200.28	\$35.56