

POSSIBILITIES WITH

FEEDER AND STOCKER CALVES

1954-1955



GRAIN AND ROUGHAGE

FINISHING GOOD TO CHOICE FEEDER CALVES

Bought about October 1 weighing	450 lbs. & up
Approximate gain	400 lbs.
Expected sale weight (May)	850 lbs. & up

RECOMMENDED:

1. Graze approximately 60 days on aftermath or accumulated growth of cultivated crops and meadows.
2. Full feed approximately 170 days.

Feed required per steer	Approximate cost
30 bu. of corn at \$1.50 per bu. (corn & cob meal)	\$ 45.00
180 lbs. protein supplement at \$75.00 per ton	6.75
½ ton of hay (½ legume) at \$30.00 per ton	<u>15.00</u>
Total cost of feed	66.75
If bought at 19¢ per lb. a 450 lb. steer costs	<u>85.50</u>
Purchase price plus feed costs	\$ 152.25

To return market prices for grain and hay and the initial cost of the steer, an 850 lb. steer must be sold for above 17.9¢ per pound.

Calves fed in this manner can be marketed as high *good* to low *choice* steers. Additional feed will be required to place a high percentage of them in the *choice* slaughter grade.

FINISHING GOOD TO CHOICE YEARLINGS

May be substituted for above plan. These finish in shorter feeding period, but require larger daily rations. Place on feed in early fall for marketing Feb. 1, or follow plan for medium yearlings if feed is good quality and market in June. Avoid marketing *good* and *choice* cattle in March or April.

FINISHING MEDIUM YEARLINGS

Purchased in fall weighing	650 lbs. & up
Approximate gain	300 lbs. to 350 lbs.

RECOMMENDED:

This method is best suited where a large amount of cheap roughage is available. Yearling steers are more economical users of roughage, especially for cleaning fields and grazing the aftermath of row crops. Purchase in early fall to graze aftermath of cultivated crops then place on feed by December for 60 to 90 days. The best market for this type of steer grading high *commercial* to low *good* is usually in late February or just before the highly feed cattle are marketed in quantity. For a 90-day feeding period it will require approximately 15 bu. of corn, 150 lbs. supplement and ½ ton of roughage (grazing or hay). These steers must bring at least the original cost per pound to recover cash expenses and return market price for feed.

MOSTLY ON GRASS

FINISHING GOOD TO CHOICE FEEDER CALVES

Purchased in fall weighing	450 lbs. & up
Approximate gain	350 lbs. to 400 lbs.
Expected sale weight (late summer)	800 lbs. & up

RECOMMENDED: (Fall and winter gains of $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. daily should be obtained.)

1. Graze as long as there is good forage available.
2. As grazing slacks off supplement with 13 to 15 lbs. good quality hay daily (50% or more legume).
or (2a) If legume is limited, feed $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 lb. protein supplement daily.
or (2b) If roughage is of poor quality feed protein supplement and 2 to 4 lbs. grain per head daily.
- or (2c) Corn silage with $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. protein supplement or good grass silage can replace hay.
(Expect spring and summer gains of $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. daily.)
3. Graze during spring and summer on good pasture—1 to 2 acres per head.
4. 10 to 15 bushels of corn per head may be used last 20 to 60 days of grazing period, particularly if grazing has not been good.

Approximate feed requirement	Approximate cost
$\frac{1}{2}$ ton of hay ($\frac{1}{2}$ legume) at \$30.00 per ton	\$ 15.00
10 bu. corn at \$1.50 per bu.	<u>15.00</u>
Total cost of feed (other than pasture)	30.00
If bought at 19¢ per lb. a 450 lb. steer costs	<u>85.50</u>
Purchase price plus feed costs	\$ 115.50

To return market prices for grain and hay and the initial cost of the steer, an 800 lb. steer must be sold for above 14.4¢ per pound.

These calves will be marketed as *good* slaughter steers and with the addition of grain at the end of the grazing period the grade may be raised to *choice*.

300 to 400 lb. calves may be handled efficiently if fed good corn silage with oilmeal or grazed on winter small grain. Feed 30 lbs. good corn silage and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. oilmeal per steer per day. Winter gains of $1-1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. per day may be expected. Graze during spring and summer, then place on full feed.

FEEDING OUT MEDIUM FEEDER STEERS

Purchased in fall weighing	400 lbs. & up
Approximate gain	350 lbs. to 400 lbs.
Estimated sale weight	750 lbs. & up

RECOMMENDED: Same grazing and feeding periods as *good to choice* steers. (Expect fall and winter gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 lb. and spring and summer grazing gains of $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. daily.)

(Continued on next page)

Approximate feed requirement**Approximate cost**

½ ton of hay at \$25.00 per ton	\$ 12.50
8 bu. of corn at \$1.50 per bu.	12.00
Total cost of feed other than pasture	24.50
If bought at 15¢ per lb. a 400 lb. steer costs	60.00
Purchase price plus feed costs	\$ 84.50

To return market prices for grain and hay and the initial cost of the steer, a 750 lb. steer must be sold for above 11.3¢ per pound.

Will market as *commercial* slaughter steers. A few may get into *good* grade, particularly with limited grain feeding.

FEEDING GUIDE

These methods are presented to be used as a guide in feeding feeder calves and figuring the cost of feeding. In figuring the initial cost of the calves, the prices at 19¢ and 15¢ were used merely as an example. The cost of feed was figured at the estimated farm price or above.

The practice of "full feeding" calves to be marketed as slaughter steers in the spring requires a greater knowledge or experience on the part of the producer. However, good husbandry practices always pay regardless of the method of feeding that is used.

The cost of feeding steers may be reduced considerably through the use of home grown feeds. Good pastures are basic for economical beef production. The use of good improved pastures for spring, summer, and fall grazing and residue of cultivated crops and cover crops for winter grazing are strongly recommended.

See Extension Folder No. 110 "Seasonal Variation in Beef Cattle Prices". Market fed cattle on carcass grade and yield basis, or on a live grade and weight basis.

Prepared by

GUY R. CASSELL, Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

A. V. ALLEN, Extension Livestock Specialist

The methods of feeding were recommended by Dr. E. R. Barrick, Department of Animal Industry.

Published By

THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering of the University of North Carolina and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperating. State College Station, Raleigh, N. C., D. S. Weaver, Director. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.