



State of Iowa

Feedlot Summary

The Iowa feedlot closeout data for the fourth quarter of 1997 is contained on the backside of this bulletin. This summary represents 150 pens of finished cattle (29,081 head) marketed from Oct. 1, 1997 through Dec. 31, 1997. The data were collected from cattle feeders using computerized record keeping and monitoring programs in the day-to-day management of their feeding operations. This summary is prepared as a service to the cattle feeders participating in these programs.

Total cost per cwt (less interest) for the 600-800 lb. starting weight steer category averaged \$47.99 per cwt during the fourth quarter of 1997 versus \$47.48 per cwt during the third quarter of 1997 for a decrease of \$.51. Total cost per cwt (less interest) for the heavier weight steer category (>800 lbs.) was \$47.49 per cwt versus \$48.36 during the third quarter of 1997, for a decrease of about \$1.00.

The average price paid by cattle feeders for a bushel of No. 2 yellow corn was \$2.51 for this last reporting period, a \$.05 decrease from the previous quarter.

Feed conversions were similar and daily gains generally improved in comparison to the third quarter of 1997.

Breakevens were mixed, but generally higher compared to the third quarter of 1997, likely due to higher feeder cost. Average Iowa-Southern Minnesota prices were \$66.22 for steers and \$66.40 for heifers during the fourth quarter of 1997 (from John Lawrence, ISU extension economist). This represents a 2 percent increase compared to the third quarter of 1997.

The next summary will be published in April, 1998 and will cover the marketing period of January through March, 1998. For additional information contact Doyle Wilson or Dan Loy at 515-294-2240.

STATE OF IOWA FEEDLOT SUMMARY^{a,b,c}

Oct. 1, 1997-Dec. 31, 1997

Item	Steer starting weight, lb.			Heifer starting weight, lb.	
	<600	600-800	>800	<600	≥600
Pay wt. in, lb.	541 ± 42	703 ± 60	892 ± 63	541 ± 42	716 ± 80
Pay wt. out, lb.	1204 ± 140	1280 ± 78	1349 ± 53	1053 ± 183	1191 ± 79
Ave. daily gain, lb.	2.71 ± .37	3.02 ± .36	3.41 ± .38	2.41 ± .40	2.88 ± .33
Feed (dm)/gain	7.65 ± 1.00	7.29 ± .80	7.12 ± .63	7.60 ± .82	7.25 ± .76
Ave. Percent Conc.	68.41 ± 10.25	82.47 ± 3.37	87.1 ± 1.71	75.11 ± 12.16	83.20 ± 3.16
Days on feed	244 ± 52	194 ± 34.9	136 ± 23	206 ± 59	166 ± 35
Death loss, %	86 ± .90	.73 ± .76	.23 ± .37	.45 ± .30	.31 ± .47
Feed cost, \$/cwt ^c	39.20 ± 5.28	40.15 ± 4.78	39.57 ± 3.63	41.42 ± 4.55	39.63 ± 5.16
Total cost, \$/cwt	49.81 ± 4.41	50.99 ± 11.67	53.94 ± 4.89	52.69 ± 3.42	52.25 ± 7.90
Total cost (less interest), \$/cwt	44.88 ± 4.29	47.99 ± 5.22	47.49 ± 5.35	46.82 ± 3.88	46.77 ± 6.83
Breakeven, \$/cwt	59.89 ± 3.84	61.40 ± 12.91	68.69 ± 3.20	60.54 ± 4.81	62.89 ± 4.57
Number of head	2,775	7,706	5,151	2,230	11,219
Number of pens	14	41	27	12	56

^aSummary statistics are based upon 150 pens of cattle closed out during Oct.-Dec. 1997. Each average includes a ± standard deviation. Approximately sixty-eight percent of all the information summarized lies within the range given by the standard deviation for each item.

^bThe State of Iowa Feedlot Summary is a service to feedlot operators and owners providing closeout data to the Iowa State University Cooperative Extension Service for analysis and reporting. There also are many private industry agencies cooperating with ISU in this venture and the number has become too numerous for each to be listed.

^cAll costs are given in \$ per cwt of gain.