

FATTENING YEARLING STEERS - 1954 - 55

On October 15, 1954, four lots of 10 yearling steers each were placed in lots for fattening on corn silage and varying supplements. Lot I was fed 3.5 lbs. of a supplement similar to Purdue supplement - A per head daily. Lot II received 2 lbs. of soybean oilmeal, 2.5 lbs. of alfalfa hay, .2 lbs. of steamed bonemeal, and .07 lb. of trace mineralized salt per head daily. Lot III received the same ration as Lot II for the initial 60 days, then was given 4 lbs. per head day of ground barley and oats mixed 2:1 in addition. Lot IV was fed the same ration as lots II and III for 60 days, then the soybean oilmeal was reduced to 1 $\frac{2}{11}$ lbs., and 1 lb. of the same grain mixture as used in lot III was added.

For the second consecutive year, purdue - A - like supplement gave less efficient gains than any other supplement used. Each 100 lbs. of beef produced in lot I required 3,336 lbs. of corn silage and 180 lbs. of supplement. Feed cost of lot I beef was given \$25.70 per cwt. Lot II was second lowest in efficiency of gains. The feed cost of beef in lot II was \$23.65 per cwt. That high cost of gains did not allow any profit except by virtue of the margin in selling price over purchase price. Lot III steers were the best finished steers at market at time and sold higher than any others. Silage consumption per 100 lbs. of beef averaged 2,749 lbs. in lot III. Total feed cost of 100 lbs. of beef in lot III was \$22.15. Lot IV was the most economical in feed cost, averaging \$21.22 per cwt. of beef produced. Lots III and IV which received grain in the ration during the final 90 days of the fattening period were the best finished of all the lots, yet the thinner steers of lot II chanced to sell 15 cents per hundred weight higher than lot IV steers.

The packers who purchased the steers gave the dressing percentages and carcass grades as shown in [Table VIII](#). Only 7 of the 10 steers in lot I were fat enough for the butcher. The carcass grade bore out our observations as to relative degree of finish in the 4 lots of steers. Only lot III steers were fat enough to grade choice, lot IV was half choice and half good, lot II had 3 choice and 7 good, while lot I had only 1 choice steer. The packers' reports mentioned the somewhat darker color of fat in all steer as objectionable. The yellow fat probably can be traced to the high level of corn silage in the ration.

Table VII - 1954-55 Steer Feeding Results

	Lot I	Lot II	Lot III	Lot IV
Number of steers	10	10	10	10
Avg. initial wt.	759	759	759	759
Avg. final wt.	1054	1054	1095	1087
Gain per steer	295	295	336	328
Daily gain per steer	1.92	1.92	2.20	2.14
Days on Feed	153	153	153	153
Daily feed consumption per steer				
Corn silage	64.3	63.7	60.4	64.0
Purdue Supp. A ¹	3.5	---	---	---
Soybean oilmeal	---	2.0	2.0	2.0**
Alfalfa Hay	---	2.5	2.5	2.5
Grain	---	---	4*	1*
Steamed bonemeal	---	.2	.2	.2
Trace Min. Salt	---	.07	.07	.07
Feed per 100 lb. Gain				
Corn Silage	3336	3306	2749	2992
Purdue Supp. A	180.3	---	---	---

Soybean Oilmeal	---	103.2	90.5	78.9
Alfalfa Hay	---	129.0	113.1	116.0
Grain	---	---	108.3	27.8
Steamed bonemeal	---	10.3	9.1	9.3
Trace Min. Salt	---	3.59	3.15	3.24
Feed cost per 100 lb. gain	\$25.70	\$23.65	\$22.15	\$21.22
Initial feed cost per cwt	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
Initial value per steer	144.21	144.21	144.21	144.21
Feed cost per steer ²	75.80	69.65	74.42	69.49
Total cost per steer	220.01	213.86	218.63	213.70
Selling price per cwt.	20.60 - 7 hd. 19.10 - 3 hd.	22.15	22.40	22.00
Value per head (avg.)	213.22	233.46	245.28	239.14
Avg. net return per steer	-6.79	19.60	26.65	25.44

*After 60 days

**After 60 days reduced to 1 $\frac{27}{16}$ lb.

Steamed bonemeal and trace mineralized salt were available in all lots in addition to that in the ration.

¹Mixed as follows: 1301 lbs. soybean oilmeal (44%), 280 lbs. best molasses, 280 lbs. alfalfa meal, 104 lbs. steamed bonemeal, 34 lbs. trace mineralized salt, and 1 lb. Vitamin A & D feeding oil.

²Feed prices used: corn silage \$10.00 ton, soybean oilmeal \$100 ton, Purdue A \$100 ton, alfalfa hay \$20.00 ton, barley and oats mixture \$40.00 ton, Steamed bonemeal \$110.00 ton, trace mineral salt \$54.00 ton.

Table VIII					
	Date Sold	Date Killed	Dressing %	Carcass Grade	
				Choice	Good
Lot I*	3/17/55	3/22/55	58.08	1	6 ¹
Lot II	3/17/55	3/22/55	57.45	3	7 ¹
Lot III	3/17/55	3/21/55	61.94	10 ²	0
Lot IV	3/17/55	3/22/55	57.30	5	5 ¹

¹Condition and covering was satisfactory for grade choice. Graded good because of darker color.
²Some of this lot would have been graded prime except for darker color.
*Three lighter steers from Lot I were cut back by buyers and sold as feeders.

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