



## State of Iowa Feedlot Summary

The Iowa feedlot closeout data for the fourth quarter of 1999 is contained on the backside of this bulletin. This summary represents 15 pens of finished cattle (2,685 head) marketed from Oct. 1, 1999 through Dec. 31, 1999. 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 \$33.44 per cwt during the fourth quarter of 1999 versus \$37.22 per cwt during the third quarter of 1999 for a \$3.78 decrease. Total cost per cwt (less interest) for the heavier weight steer category (>800 lbs.) was \$34.79 per cwt versus \$40.45 during the third quarter of 1999, for an increase of \$5.66.

The average price paid by cattle feeders for a bushel of No. 2 yellow corn was \$1.89 for this last reporting period, \$.14 lower than last quarter and \$.15 lower than last year.

Feed conversions improved slightly compared to the third quarter of 1999. Daily gains were improved for heavy steers, but lower for the 600-800 lb. category. Market weights were up dramatically for the heavy steers, compared to the third quarter of 1999.

Breakevens continued to decline for steers compared to the third quarter of 1999. Average Iowa-Southern Minnesota prices were \$68.97 for steers and \$68.95 for heifers during the fourth quarter of 1999 (from John Lawrence, ISU extension economist). This is more than a \$4 improvement compared to the third quarter. Lower breakevens, coupled with sharply higher prices point to the most profitable quarter in some time.

The next summary will cover the marketing period of January through June 2000. For additional information contact Doyle Wilson or Dan Loy at 515-294-1058.

**STATE OF IOWA FEEDLOT SUMMARY<sup>a,b,c</sup>**

October 1, 1999 - December, 1999

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Item	Steer starting weight, lb.	
	600-800	>800
Pay wt. in, lb.	650 ± 39	933 ± 78
Pay wt. out, lb.	1257 ± 204	1420 ± 54
Ave. daily gain, lb.	2.69 ± .30	3.21 ± .57
Feed (dm)/gain	6.84 ± .64	6.94 ± .73
Ave. Percent Conc.	75.83 ± 5.04	84.21 ± 5.69
Days on feed	224 ± 84	161 ± 60
Death loss, %	2.00 ± 1.99	.92 ± 1.25
Feed cost, \$/cwt <sup>c</sup>	26.12 ± 3.77	27.92 ± 4.85
Total cost, \$/cwt	38.96 ± 5.79	39.39 ± 5.98
Total cost (less interest),\$/cwt	33.44 ± 5.42	34.79 ± 5.87
Breakeven, \$/cwt	60.30 ± 10.05	57.57 ± 5.02
Number of head	1204	1481
Number of pens	6	9

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<sup>a</sup>Summary statistics are based upon 15 pens of cattle closed out during Oct.-Dec. 1999. Each average includes  $\pm$  standard deviation. Approximately sixty-eight percent of all the information summarized lies within the range given by the standard deviation for each item.

<sup>b</sup>The 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.

<sup>c</sup>All costs are given in \$ per cwt of gain