

Result Demonstration Report

South Texas Beef 706

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Summary

Seven feeder steers were committed to the South Texas Beef 706 Program. The steers were fed for 154 days at King Ranch Feed Yard and harvested at Kane's Processors on October 25, 2016. The steers had an average daily gain of 4.01 lbs/day, starting off at 687 lbs and ending at 1300 lbs of live weight. Carcass weights averaged 811 lbs. Dressing percentage was 62.3%. Ribeye area was 14.3 square inches and fat thickness of 0.51 inches. Two steers graded high select, three graded low choice and two steers graded average choice. Only two steers profited during the feeding period and five steers lost money with a total average loss of <\$97.47> and a range of \$87.50 profit and <\$291.41> loss.

Objective

The purpose of this trial was to demonstrate to beef cattle producers, the feedlot performance of south Texas feeder cattle and the economics of producing beef past the initial segment of the industry, which is the cow/calf operation.

Materials and Methods

Seven feeder steers, representing various breeds and crosses, were selected and purchased for this program. On May 23, 2016, 36 beef cattle producers met at Gulf Coast Livestock Auction in Alice, Texas to evaluate and purchase a steer thru a mock auction. Six groups of producers were formed and the cattle were assigned to the group purchasing the animal. The cattle were then transported to King Ranch Feed Yard where they were fed for 154 days. Performance data was collected on each calf. On October 25th, the cattle were sent to Kane's Processors in Corpus Christi to be harvested. Carcass data was collected at this time. On November 1st, half of each carcass was transported to the Meat Science Lab at Texas A&M University in Kingsville, where the participating producers graded and fabricated their steer's carcass into primal and sub-primal cuts. Carcass cut-out data was collected at this time.

Results and Discussion

Data was collected at each phase of the program. The following tables illustrate the cattle's feedlot performance, carcass data and economic data collected during the feeding trial.

Table 1. Feedlot Performance

ID	Desc	ON WT	GAIN	ADG	LIVE WT	SALE WT
41	CharX	660	684	4.47	1400	1344
42	Char X Brah	670	626	4.09	1350	1296
43	Red MF	670	655	4.28	1380	1325
44	Angus	645	632	4.13	1330	1277
45	HerfX	730	537	3.51	1320	1267
46	Brang	765	627	4.10	1450	1392
47	Brindle	670	530	3.46	1250	1200
AVG		687	613	4.01	1354	1300

When the steers were delivered to the feed yard, their average weight was 687 lbs. Their average daily gain was 4.01 lbs/day for the 154 day feeding period. They gained an average of 613 lbs for a final average weight of 1300 lbs.

Table 2. Carcass Data

ID	Desc	CARC WT	DRESS	FAT	ADJPYG	REA	REA/CWT	KPH	AMAT	MARBSC	QG	YG
41	CharX	855	63.6	0.30	2.8	16.5	1.93	2.0	A	MT00	Avg CH	1.6
42	Char X Brah	774	59.7	0.30	2.8	13.3	1.72	2.0	A	SL70	High SE	2.3
43	Red MF	827	62.4	0.35	3.1	16.0	1.93	2.0	A	SM30	Low CH	1.8
44	Angus	812	63.6	0.70	3.7	13.9	1.71	2.0	A	MT20	Avg CH	3.3
45	HerfX	786	62.0	0.70	3.7	13.8	1.76	2.0	A	SM20	Low CH	3.2
46	Brang	889	63.9	0.60	3.7	13.8	1.55	2.0	A	SM20	Low CH	3.4
47	Brindle	734	61.1	0.60	3.7	12.7	1.73	2.0	A	SL70	High SE	3.1
AVG		811	62.3	0.51	3.4	14.3	1.76	2.0				2.7

At harvest, the steer's carcass weighed an average of 811 lbs. Dressing percentage was 62.3% with a ribeye area of 14.3 square inches and fat thickness of 0.51 inches. Two steers graded high select, three graded low choice and two steers graded average choice.

Table 3. Economic Data

ID	Desc	CALF Value	Feed Cost	Processing	Medicine	Other	Feed Exp	Total Exp	Grid Value	DIFF
41	CharX	\$937.00	\$431.95	\$17.27	\$0.00	\$1.81	\$451.03	\$1,388.03	\$1,406.48	\$18.45
42	Char X Brah	\$1,045.00	\$395.32	\$17.27	\$0.00	\$1.81	\$414.40	\$1,459.40	\$1,167.99	-\$291.41
43	Red MF	\$1,012.00	\$413.51	\$17.27	\$102.42	\$1.81	\$535.01	\$1,547.01	\$1,348.01	-\$199.00
44	Angus	\$819.00	\$398.98	\$17.27	\$0.00	\$1.81	\$418.06	\$1,237.06	\$1,323.56	\$86.50
45	HerfX	\$934.00	\$339.24	\$17.27	\$0.00	\$1.81	\$358.32	\$1,292.32	\$1,248.95	-\$43.37
46	Brang	\$1,086.00	\$395.95	\$17.27	\$0.00	\$1.81	\$415.03	\$1,501.03	\$1,413.51	-\$87.52
47	Brindle	\$905.00	\$334.70	\$17.27	\$0.00	\$1.81	\$353.78	\$1,258.78	\$1,092.92	-\$165.86
AVG		\$962.57	\$387.09						\$1,285.92	-\$97.46

The calf value was assessed based on the price each producer group paid (times the weight of the calf) during the mock auction at the start of the program. Feed costs were calculated using cost of gain figures provided by the feed yard. Only one calf incurred additional costs during the feeding period due to an illness and that calf (Tag #43) acquired an additional \$102.42 in medicine costs. The grid value of the cattle was calculated based on carcass data and premiums awarded for meeting certain criteria on quality and yield grades as well as qualifying for the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) program. Only two steers profited during the feeding period and five steers lost money with a total average loss of <\$97.47> and a range of \$87.50 profit and <\$291.41> loss.

Conclusions

This demonstration showed the participating beef cattle producers some of the complexities and economic issues associated with our industry. At the start of the program, cattle prices were on a decline and continued to do so. Consequently, this was partly to blame for the losses at the end of the program. From the testimony provided by the participants, most left the program with a better understanding of beef cattle breeds and how they impact carcass quality and value and also how their management practices at the ranch ultimately have an impact on the beef that is being produced on the rail.

Acknowledgements

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