

Cattle-On-Feed Report Points To Tough Summer For Fed Prices

Based on USDA's cattle-on-feed data, released April 21, NC market analyst Jeff Stolle warns cattlemen – ranchers and feedlots alike – of price pressure on cattle due to large supplies headed for the packing house.

“It does appear that prices could dip into the low to mid-\$70s on a live basis some time during the next 90 days given the record on-feed numbers and the fact that Texas and Kansas feedyards will have significantly more late-spring and early-summer fed cattle to offer due to drought-induced placements over the last few months,” says Stolle.

Nebraska prices have already fallen to near 2005's summer lows. “Without a quick and significant improvement in fed-cattle prices, it is quite possible that some summer-time

fed-cattle shipments could lose as much as \$100-\$150 per head. Such losses could significantly dampen feedyard demand for replacement animals and have a negative impact on yearling and calf prices during the summer and fall,” warns Stolle.

In the seven major feeding states, April 1 on-feed inventory was 10.4 million head, a new record for that date since this data series began in 1996. Nebraska, Texas, Kansas, and Iowa all posted records.

The April 1 total was 9% above last year and 8% above the five-year average. Furthermore, April 1 inventories, as well as March placements (up 4% over 2004), exceeded pre-report trade estimates. At the same time, March marketings of harvest-ready cattle

from feedlots fell below expectations.

Most of the extra cattle placed during March were under 700 pounds, but placements weighing over 800 pounds were up as well (5.4% more than March 2005, and the third-largest March for the 800-plus category).

It's bearish for the summer, but prices may improve in the fall if Texas-Oklahoma placements start to slow, says Stolle. “The drought conditions in Texas and Oklahoma should dictate that far fewer graze-out wheat yearlings will be available for placement over the next couple of months.” Slower placements in the South will be needed to offset the aggressive placements in Kansas (up 8% in March) and Nebraska (up 12% over March 2005).

Low-Stress Cattle-Handling Seminars To Feature ‘Williams Technique’

Low-stress cattle-handling techniques for calves, pioneered several years ago by Bud Williams, will be the topic of two seminars this July in the Sandhills.

Veterinarian Tom Noffsinger of Benkelman, Neb., will present the training sessions July 10 in the Hyannis area and July 11 in Broken Bow (fairgrounds). The all-day seminars will feature classroom instruction in the morning and field training in the afternoon.

Thanks to sponsorship from Vita-Ferm Feeds and Daniels Manufacturing, the cost is only \$20 for this seminar, which includes lunch.

The Williams technique focuses on weaning calves and transporting them to a feedlot – the most stressful time in a calf's life. If improperly handled, this stress will affect performance, health and carcass-grading, cutting into profits on each calf.

For the past several years, Noffsinger has been conducting these clinics throughout the Midwest. He recommends starting the Williams techniques when the calves first get to the pen. “It's important to give newly received calves a good first impression of their new surroundings,” he says. “It is our

goal for them to feel comfortable at the front of the pen near the water and feed. Once acclimated, they will start to eat and drink quicker, which directly affects the overall health and performance.”

The Williams technique is also used when processing cattle. “Many operations that have implemented this technique have essentially eliminated their hot-shot use,” says Broken Bow veterinarian Scott Reynolds.

In order to plan the meetings, please RSVP to the NC office in Alliance at (308) 762-3005 by July 1.

Expert Line-Up Planned at BQA Seminars

At least eight expert presenters are planned at each of five Beef Quality Assurance seminars and certification sessions planned around the state in the coming months.

During the half-day sessions, participants will rotate among four "stations," where they can hear 30-minute presentations on:

- * Feeds & Feeding: by nutritionists Tim Loy and Rick Rasby
- * Testing & Necropsy: Dee Griffin, plus a local vet and a Pfizer rep
- * QSA/animal ID: NCFB's Logan McClelland and Steve Johnson, database specialist with UNL's Great Plains Veterinary Center.
- * Biosecurity: Pfizer technical consultants Dale Grotelueschen and Gerald Stokka.

The first seminar is scheduled for May 23 at the Alliance Country Club; the next is June 6 at the fairgrounds at Bladen. Additional seminars will be held at West Point on June 27, the Valentine sale barn on July 18, and the Beatrice fairgrounds on Aug. 1.

A guest speaker is planned at each seminar. So far, NCBA animal ID coordinator Allen Bright is scheduled to speak at Alliance and Red Cloud veterinarian and BQA trainer Dave Rethorst will speak at Bladen.

A similar format is planned at all the meetings:

- * Registration: 12:45 p.m.
- * Program starts at 1:30 p.m.
- * Rotate through the stations: 2:00-4:15 p.m.
- * Snack break: 4:15-4:30 p.m.
- * Q&A and guest speaker: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- * Supper: 5:30 p.m.

Thanks to sponsorship from Pfizer, cost of the seminars, including the meal, is only \$10. For an additional \$15, you can become BQA-certified. Certification is good for three years. For info, call Cody in the NC office (402-475-2333).

Book Midyear Lodging Early

If you haven't registered yet for the Midyear Meeting June 8-9 in Holdrege, there's a Registration Form in this newsletter. You may also register online at www.nebraskacattlemen.org.

Due to a limited supply of lodging in the Holdrege area, you are encouraged to make motel reservations early. Business meetings start at 9 a.m. Friday at the Holdrege Middle School, but you won't want to miss the steak feed and social starting about 5:30 Thursday evening at the Holdrege Country Club.

Here are some lodging facilities to consider:

- Super 8 Motel,* Holdrege (308) 995-2793 or (800) 800-8000
- Plains Motel,* Holdrege (308) 995-8646 or (800) 340-8000
- Das Gasthaus Bed & Breakfast, Holdrege (308) 995-2440
- Uncle Sam's Hilltop Lodge, Funk (308) 995-5568
- Clifton Classic Bed & Breakfast, Loomis (308) 876-2187
- Wingate Inn,** Kearney (308) 237-4400
- Country Inn & Suites, Kearney (308) 236-7500

* Holding an NC block of rooms until May 18

** Holding an NC block of rooms until May 11

Remember To Vote May 9

NC reminds members to vote in the May 9 primary election. There are many candidates for state office – including 21 new term-limited seats to fill in the Unicameral. Plus there's the well-watched governor, U.S. Senate, and House races.

Get to know your state candidates. NC's success in the Unicameral could well depend on who's elected in Tuesday's primary.

Finally, NC bylaws prevent the association from endorsing any candidates.

Next Newslines: May 24

THE NEBRASKA WAY

MEMBER FDIC

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2006 NC-NCW MIDYEAR MEETING

REGISTRATION FORM
JUNE 8-9, HOLDREGE



FIRST REGISTRATION

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____
Business: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Phone: _____ ZIP: _____
E-Mail: _____

ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS

#1) Name: _____
Address: (if different) _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
E-Mail: _____
#2) Name: _____
Address: (if different) _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
E-Mail: _____

A PRE-REGISTRATION: By MAY 26! Includes Thursday's welcome supper, all NC/NCW meetings, educational sessions and coffee breaks at the Holdrege Middle School on Friday, plus Friday's NC Research & Education Foundation luncheon.

PRE-REGISTRATION SUBTOTAL: _____ (number of people) @ **\$45** per person = _____

MEAL COUNT: Please indicate number of registrants for: THURS. SUPPER (Holdrege Country Club) _____
(no extra charge for meals) FRI. LUNCHEON (Holdrege Middle School) _____

(After May 26, registration will cost **\$50** per person. On-site registration at **\$55** will be available June 9 at the Holdrege Middle School.)

B GOLF TOURNAMENT: \$35 per player

Four-Person Scramble, Holdrege Country Club
Noon, Thursday, June 8
(A four-person team is not required for entry)

Player #1 _____
Player #2 _____
Player #3 _____
Player #4 _____

- > Golf players' luncheon at 11 a.m.
- > Welcome Supper around 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Country Club for all Midyear registrants

C BEEF & WINE SHOWCASE

Friday, June 8
5:30-8:00 p.m.
Cheex Bar, Holdrege

(This fund-raising event requires a separate ticket. Reserved tickets may be picked up at the Midyear registration desk.)

_____ @ **\$30**/person = _____

Sponsored by Phelps-Gosper County Cattlemen and CattleWomen. Proceeds from this event will go to help local charities.

NOTE: You Can Register ON-LINE at www.nebraskacattlemen.org

D PAYMENT

A Registration Subtotal: _____

B Golf Subtotal: _____

C Beef/Wine Subtotal: _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

- VISA MASTERCARD
- DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS
- CHECK (# _____) Payable to Nebraska Cattlemen

Name on card: _____

Card #: _____ Expire _____

Signature: _____

NCBA Gearing Up To Repeal Estate Tax

Expecting a Senate vote before Memorial Day on permanent repeal of the federal estate tax, NCBA is urging all members and state affiliates to contact their senators to remind them of the tax's effect on family agricultural operations.

In fact, NCBA is organizing a national call-in day for May 9. To contact your senator, call the switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Individual office numbers can be found at <http://hill.beef.org/pdfs/109thSenateContacts.pdf>.

NCBA also urges members to send letters to senators by clicking on <http://capwiz.com/beefusa>. NCBA also has an estate tax website at <http://hill.beef.org/tax>.

NCBA doesn't expect a lot of notice before the Senate vote on H.R. 8. NCBA's best guess is a vote during May 8-19.

For more information, contact Jenni Beck or Michelle Reinke at NCBA at (202) 347-0228.

Plan Ahead With The Odor 'Footprint' Tool

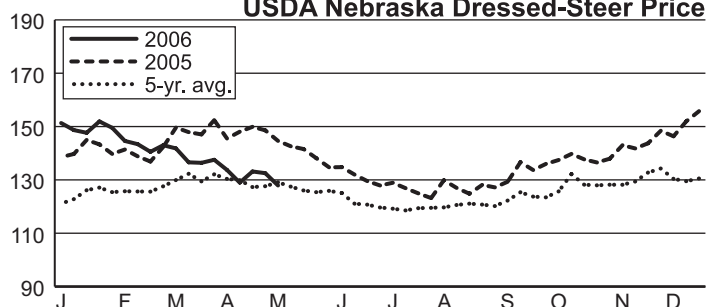
An Odor Footprint Tool is being developed at UNL to help live-stock producers plan new or expanded livestock facilities for reduced odor impact, plus help zoning officials implement separation criteria using science-based information concerning the expected extent of odor impact around such facilities.

The size and shape of the "odor footprint" (the resulting buffer zone for odor) is determined using the growing research knowledge base on the emission and dispersion of odor, information relevant for the site location, and a locally established tolerance level for exposure to annoying odor levels.

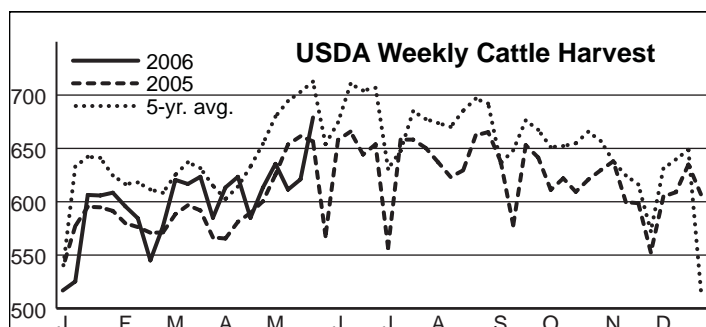
"Odor Footprint Tool resources provide communities science-based information to use in assessing the expected impact of odors on neighbors in the vicinity of proposed livestock facilities and in applying county zoning laws," says Duane Gangwish, NC vice president for technical services.

A Look at the Market

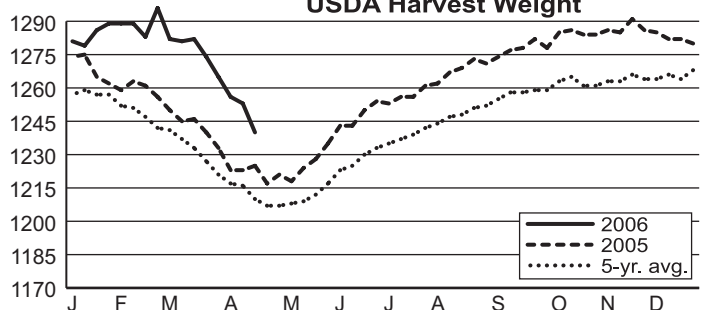
USDA Nebraska Dressed-Steer Price



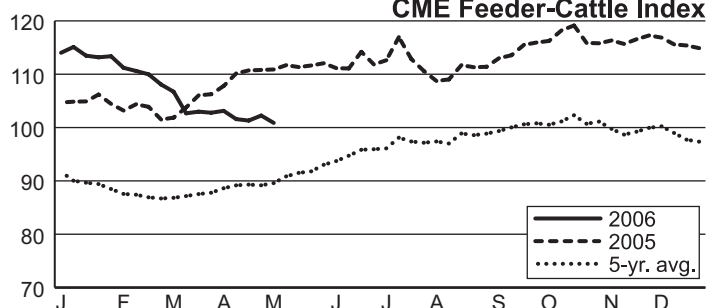
USDA Weekly Cattle Harvest



USDA Harvest Weight



CME Feeder-Cattle Index



Upcoming Events

May

- 6 Team Penning season kickoff, Roger Williams farm, St. Paul. 4:00 p.m. start to penning competition, followed by barbecue social.
- 23 BQA Training Seminar, Alliance Country Club. \$10. 12:45 registration, 1:30 start. Runs through 5:30 supper. At least 7 guest speakers expected. Topics include feeds & feeding, testing & necropsy, biosecurity, QSA/animal ID. Contact Clint at (308) 762-4140.
- 27 Team Penning, 5 p.m. Roger Williams Arena, St. Paul. (308) 754-4141.

June

- 3 Cattlemen's Ball, Midwest Feeding Co., Milford. Entertainment: Country singer/pianist/songwriter Phil Vassar. \$65 & \$300 per person. Call (888) 562-3602.
- 6 BQA Training Seminar, Bladen fairgrounds. \$10. 1:30-5:30. Supper after. 12:45 registration. At least 7 guest speakers expected. Topics include feeds & feeding, testing & necropsy, biosecurity, QSA/animal ID.
- 9 NC Board of Directors meeting, 7 a.m. Holdrege
- 23 NC Region 9 Regional Roundup. Chipper Hall, Cozad. 6:30 social; 7:30 meal. A chance to socialize, meet NC officers and staff, and discuss industry issues.
- 27 West Point BQA Training Seminar. \$10. 12:45 registration, 1:30 start. Runs through 5:30 supper.

Field Staff Position Still Open

NC continues to accept applications to fill a part-time Member Services field position in northeast Nebraska. NC seeks candidates with a strong understanding of the cattle industry to serve NC members, recruit new members, relay member concerns to NC staff and leadership, attend affiliate meetings in Regions 3 and 4, take photos at local events, and represent NC at various events in the northeast. The position involves travel and night/weekend meetings.

This position will work out of the home, and NC is looking for applicants who live in one of the following counties: Boone, Boyd, Burt, Cedar, Dakota, Holt, Cuming, Nance, Antelope, Dixon, Pierce, Wayne, Stanton, Madison or Thurston.

Send a cover letter and resume to Lee Weide, Nebraska Cattlemen, 134 S. 13th Street, Suite 900, Lincoln, NE 68508.

A similar part-time position for southeast Nebraska has been filled. Adams cattleman Dave Doeschot of Adams started on May 1.