Operational Procedures of Kansas Feedyards
Lyle Koons and Jack G. Riley

Summary

Twenty-four Kansas feedyards with 432,000 head capacity participated in a survey on operational procedures. The survey covered five areas: processing, animal health, rations, facilities, and marketing. Methods differed most in processing and starter-ration ingredients.

Introduction

The cattle feeding industry in Kansas is a conglomerate of many individuals with wide ranging viewpoints. The survey was introduced July 15, 1976 at the Kansas Cattle Feeder's Conference in Wichita, Kansas, and the final summary was made in September. This was the first survey in Kansas that attempted to provide an overall view of cattle feeding operations.

Results

Results presented here are from questions we felt were of general interest. The results show general procedures for the 24 feedyards rather than individual operations. They should not be interpreted as recommendations. Certain feedyard representatives referred to commodities by trade names. Our reporting then does not reflect endorsement of them over competing ones.

I. Processing Procedures

A. How soon are cattle processed

68% of feedyards surveyed process within 2 days of arrival
32% of feedyards surveyed process within 7 days of arrival

B. Drugs administered

Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis I.M., 2 cc
Bovine Viral Diarrhea
Leptospirosis

Blackleg Sub Q, 5 cc
Malignant Edema

II. General Animal Health

A. Most critical time-1st 21 days after arrival
B. 74% of feedyards use a medicated starter ration with an average antibiotic level of 660 mg/hd/day

C. Drugs most commonly used for treatment in this survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>Oxytetracyclines (TERRAMYCIN &amp; LIQUAMYCIN)</td>
<td>10 cc/100 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sulfa Boluses</td>
<td>10 cc/100 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No fever</td>
<td>Tylosin</td>
<td>3 cc/100 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sick appearance)</td>
<td>AMOPLEX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. Rations

A. Number of rations used

1 growing ration and 4 finishing rations

B. 58% of the feedyards surveyed were using Rumensin in September.

C. Grain processing

58% Flaked
37% Cracked or Rolled
5% Other methods

D. Percent of concentrate in 4 finishing rations (90% D.M. basis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Feedyard Facilities

A. Average capacity of feedyards surveyed

18,000 hd

B. Labor per 1000 head on feed

1.1 persons

V. Marketing

A. Percentage of cattle placed on feed that are native to Kansas

44%

B. Marketing of finished cattle

Live weight and grade - 95%
Rail weight and grade - 5%

C. Hedging is used on 18% of all cattle fed in the 24 feedyards we surveyed.