

Hard Surface Pens for Finishing Cattle, 1965 (Project 660)

F. W. Boren, H. B. Perry, G. H. Larson,
R. I. Lipper and E. F. Smith

Each of two lots was 24' x 92', one completely surfaced with concrete; the other, soil except for a 24' x 16' concrete feeding floor where the cattle stood to eat from a fence line feeder.

Results are reported in table 2. Steer performance was slightly better in the nonsurfaced lot. Conditions for feeding were favorable during the summer with normal rainfall and little hot weather. About 22 inches of artificial rain was applied to both lots during the feeding period as a part of an experimental plan to measure run-off and degree of water pollution from feedlot wastes. Water applications were timed so that the unsurfaced lot was muddy only a few weeks.

Table 2

Hard surface pens for finishing cattle, May 25 to September 4, 1965 - 101 days.

	Concrete surface	Soil surface
Lot no.	25	26
No. steers per lot	9	9
Av. initial wt., lb.	801	808
Av. final wt., lb.	1075	1101
Av. daily gain, lb.	2.71	2.90
Feed per lb. gain, lb.	8.87	8.36
Feed cost per cwt. gain ¹	\$ 17.67	\$ 16.95
Daily ration per steer, lb.:		
Sorghum grain	17.95	18.14
Alfalfa hay	4.14	4.14
Supplement ²	1.94	1.94
Av. feed fed per day, lb.	24.03	24.22
Feed per lb. gain, lb.:		
Sorghum grain	6.62	6.26
Alfalfa hay	1.53	1.43
Supplement	0.72	0.67
Carcass data, av. per animal		
Av. carcass wt., lb.	646.0	658.0
Dressing %	60.0	59.8
Carcass grade ³	18.7	18.3
Marbling score ⁴	6.7	7.4
Rib eye area, sq. in.	11.45	11.40
Fat thickness, 12th rib, in.	0.44	0.55
Yield grade ⁵	2.9	2.8

1. For feed prices, see inside of back cover.

2. The protein supplement on a percentage basis consisted of soybean oil meal, 45; molasses, 10; dehydrated alfalfa, 15; urea, 4; ground limestone, 5; sorghum grain, 20; and premix, 1. The premix supplied per head daily, 70 mg. aureomycin, 10 mg. stilbestrol and 10000 I.U. of vitamin A.

3. Carcass grade score: high good, 18; low choice, 19.

4. Marbling score: lower score indicates greater degree of marbling.

5. Yield grade: lower score indicates a higher percentage of trimmed, boned major retail cuts, scored from 1 to 5.