

# Livestock Notes

## Feeding Show Steers

Your steer should be fed to produce an ideal end product — the carcass. The ideal carcass will weigh between 600 to 800 pounds, it will be Choice quality grade, and have a Yield Grade of 2 or 3.

Most steers will have a dressing percentage of 58 to 62. If a 1000-pound steer has a dressing percentage of 60, it will produce a carcass which weighs 600 pounds (1000 x .60 = 600). However, a 1,350-pound steer with a 62 percent dress will weigh 837 pounds — well above the ideal.

The quality grade is determined by age or maturity of the steer and marbling (flecks of fat in the meat). Your steers should all be young enough that maturity is no problem. Most breeds will require at least 0.4 to 0.5 inches of fat cover over the 12th rib for them to grade Choice.

Yield Grade is determined by the amount of fat or waste, the size of the rib eye muscle, and the carcass weight.

Fat thickness over the rib eye muscle determines preliminary yield grades.

Fat Over Rib Eye (Inches)	Preliminary Yield (Grade)
.2	2.5
.4	3.0
.6	3.5
.8	4.0
1.0	4.5

• Rib Eye area is measured at the 12th rib. Heavily muscled steers have a larger rib eye area and a more desirable yield grade with higher cutability.

• Carcass weight affects rib eye area. With 500-pound carcasses, we expect about 2 square inches of rib eye per 100 pounds of carcass weight. With 800 pound carcasses, we only expect about 1.7 square inches per 100 pounds of carcass weight.

Breeds and individual steers within breeds differ in their mature size. The potential mature size determines at what weight the steer should grade low to average choice — a desirable quality grade.

We break all cattle into seven frame sizes. This is based upon the weight they can be expected to grade low choice.

Frame Size	Live Weight At Low Choice
1	750-850
2	850-950
3	950-1050
4	1050-1150
5	1150-1250
6	1250-1350
7	Over 1350

British beef breeds will usually range from frame size score 3 to 5. The large European continental breeds will be frame size score 4

to 7; the cross of the smaller and larger breeds will be frame score 3 to 6.

→ Measuring steers for hip height (measure from top of loin at hip area to the ground) will help estimate the final desirable weight.

## Hip Height Chart in Inches--Steers

Month Of Age	Frame Scores						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
6	35	37	39	40	43	45	47
7	35.5	37.5	39.5	41.5	43.5	45.5	47.5
8	36.5	38.5	40.5	42.5	44.5	46.5	48.5
9	37.5	39.5	41.5	43.5	45.5	47.5	49.5
10	38.5	40.5	42.5	44.5	46.5	48.5	50.5
11	39	41	43	45	47	49	51
12	40	42	44	46	48	50	52
13	41	43.5	45.5	47.5	49.5	51.5	53.5
15	42	44	46	48	50	52	54

Using the information presented so far, you can determine the final desirable weight of a steer. You can also see that the most desirable steers have a frame score 3 through 6.

Always remember that the most economical gains are the fastest

gains. You should never have your steer at the desired weight two to three months before your show.

To determine the desired final weight, subtract the present or beginning weight and divide by the number of days between. This will give you the necessary daily

gain. (Example: 1150 lb.-500 lb. = 650 divided by 290 days = 2.24 lbs.)

A. Daily rations that will produce daily gains of 1.8 to 2.2 pounds for steers weighing 500 to 700 pounds.

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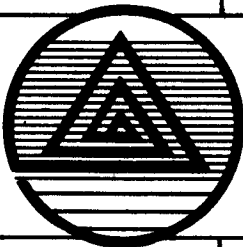


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