



North Dakota

2008 Feedlot Survey

August 2008

Introduction

The data in this report are the result of a survey conducted during January 2008 by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Approximately 200 reports from farmers/ranchers were tabulated. The survey was designed to provide information on cattle feeding and cattle feeding practices in North Dakota in 2007. Comparisons with 2004 are from a survey conducted in May 2005 by the North Dakota State University Extension Service.

For the purposes of this survey, cattle backgrounded refer to animals that were fed a lower grain diet for later placement in another feedlot or to be returned to pasture. Cattle finished refer to animals that were fed a high grain ration and were sent directly to slaughter.

Appreciation is expressed to all survey participants who provided the data for this report and also to the North Dakota State University Extension Service personnel for their assistance on this project. Funding was provided by the North Dakota State University Experiment Station and Extension Service.

The Data

This report contains state and district level comparisons for number of feedlots, feedlot capacity, cattle on feed, and cattle finished annually for North Dakota. The report also provides cattle marketings by quarter and the usage of ethanol by-products by cattle feedlots. Comparisons between January 1, 2008 and May 1, 2005 are available for number of feedlots, feedlot capacity and the percentage being fed for steers, heifers, cows and bulls. Also, annual comparisons between 2007 and 2004 were made for cattle fed and cattle finished.

The Results

Feedlots in North Dakota with a capacity of 500 head or more totaled 151 operations on January 1, 2008, up from 130 operations on May 1, 2005. Feedlot capacity increased from 189,000 head to 226,300 head. The mix of cattle on feed on January 1, 2008 was 47 percent steers, 41 percent heifers and 12 percent cows and bulls, compared with 41

percent steers and 59 percent heifers on May 1, 2005. Cattle on feed totaled 241,000 head in 2007, up slightly from 2004. The 241,000 head on feed in 2007 were split between 56 percent backgrounded and 44 percent finished for slaughter. The 240,000 head of cattle on feed in 2004 were split between 63 percent backgrounded and 37 percent finished for slaughter. A total of 102,700 head of cattle were finished for slaughter in 2007. Data were not available for the percentage of cows and bulls being fed on May 1, 2005, and the number of cattle finished for slaughter in 2004.

During 2007, producers reported marketing 25 percent of their cattle on feed in the first quarter, 29 percent in the second quarter, 21 percent in the third quarter, and 25 percent in the final quarter of 2007. Producers also reported that Dried Distillers Grains made up an average of 16 percent, or 4 pounds, of the daily ration for cattle that were on feed. Wet Distillers Grains made up an average of 24 percent, or 9 pounds, of the daily ration for cattle that were on feed.

The southwest district had the highest number of cattle on feed, 35,100 head, and the highest number of cattle finished annually, 29,800 head. The southeast district had the second highest number of cattle on feed, 34,800 head, and the second highest number of cattle finished annually, 19,000 head. The west central district had the third highest number of cattle on feed, 18,200 head along with the number of cattle finished annually at 11,900 head. The southeast district had the highest number of feedlots, 41, as well as the highest feedlot capacity, 54,800 head. The west central district had the second highest number of feedlots, 27, as well as the third highest feedlot capacity, 42,900 head. The southwest district had the third highest number of feedlots, 26, as well as the second highest feedlot capacity, 45,000 head.

Feedlots and Cattle on Feed: North Dakota¹

Item	May 1, 2005	January 1, 2008	2008 as % of 2005
			<i>Percent</i>
Number of Feedlots	130	151	116
Feedlot Capacity	189,000	226,300	120
Cattle on Feed²			
% Steers	41	47	115
% Heifers	59	41	69
% Cows and Bulls	NA	12	NA
Item	2004	2007	2007 as % of 2004
Cattle Fed Annually	240,000	241,000	100
% Normally Backgrounded	63	56	89
% Normally Finished	37	44	119
Cattle Finished Annually	NA	102,700	NA

¹ Includes only feedlots with a capacity of 500 head or more. ² Percentage from 2008 to 2005 is not a true indication as cows and bulls were not asked in 2005. NA = Not Available.

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2008 FEEDLOT SURVEY

Cattle Marketing by Quarter: North Dakota, January 1, 2008

Date	Percent
Quarter 1 (January-March)	25
Quarter 2 (April-June)	29
Quarter 3 (July-September)	21
Quarter 4 (October-December)	25

Use of Distillers Grain: North Dakota, January 1, 2008

Dried Distillers Grain in Ration, %	16
Dried Distillers Grain Fed Per Animal, Lbs.	4
Wet Distillers Grain in Ration, %	24
Wet Distillers Grain Fed Per Animal, Lbs.	9

Feedlots and Cattle on Feed by District: North Dakota, January 1, 2008¹

District	Number of Feedlots <i>Number</i>	Feedlot Capacity <i>Head</i>	Cattle on Feed <i>Head</i>	Cattle Finished Annually <i>Head</i>
Northwest				
North Central	14	18,300	8,900	4,500
Northeast	8	10,000	7,400	11,800
West Central	27	42,900	18,200	11,900
Central	16	22,400	9,200	9,600
East Central				
Southwest	26	45,000	35,100	29,800
South Central	12	24,100	15,600	9,100
Southeast	41	54,800	34,800	19,000
Combined Districts	7	8,800	4,800	7,000
State	151	226,300	134,000	102,700

¹ Data published in combined districts to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS
NORTH DAKOTA**

