



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating

Arkansas Steer Feedout Program 2011 – 2012

An Information Feedback System for the Beef Industry

- **Nominations must be received by October 21, 2011** ■
- **Five Head Minimum per Consignor** ■
- **\$25 per Head Nomination Fee** ■
- **Cattle must weigh 500-850 pounds upon arrival** ■

DELIVERY DATE:

Wheeler Bros. Feedyard, Watonga, OK
November 10, 2011 by 5:00 p.m.

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

Tom Troxel
Arkansas Steer Feedout Program
2301 S. University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72204

1. A producer may consign as many steers as desired; however the minimum number of steers that can be consigned is five. When nominations are received, producers will be sent a background information form that must be fully completed and returned before entries are final.
2. **Only calves weighing 500-850 pounds upon arrival will be accepted.** A steer feedout ear tag for each calf will be mailed to the producer through the county agent. Each calf must have the ear tag in place when the calves arrive at the feedyard. Each calf should also be tagged with a ranch ear tag. This will provide a double identification system. Place the steer feedout ear tag in the **left** ear.
3. It is strongly recommended that the calves are backgrounded prior to leaving the farm. A general recommendation would be to wean 45 days prior to shipment (November 10, 2011). At the time of weaning, vaccinate with a modified live virus vaccine (IBR-PI3-BVD-BRSV). Revaccinate two weeks after the first vaccination. **Vaccination with a modified live virus vaccine is required.** Consult with your local veterinarian to assess what other health needs should be addressed.
4. Assistance will be provided in coordinating shipment to the feedyard. Indications of requests for this type of assistance must be made on the nomination form and **must be received by October 21.** If a producer would like to deliver their own calves, they must arrive at Wheeler Bros. Feedyard on November 10, 2011 by 5:00 p.m. If you plan to transport your own cattle, call Wheeler Bros. Feedyard (580-623-4934) for directions and to make delivery arrangements.
5. Upon arrival, cattle will be processed according to standard feedyard procedure.
6. Cattle will be sorted into an appropriate number of expected outcome groups based on weight, frame size and flesh condition.
7. Animals that require treatment for any illness will be treated according to guidelines established by the feedyard veterinarian. Costs of treatment will be charged to the owner. The feedyard management and the Arkansas Steer Feedout Program management will make every effort to safeguard the health of all animals, but will assume no responsibility for death loss or sickness.

8. After an acceptable length of time, calves that are not achieving an economic rate of gain will be sold as realizers and the proceeds placed in escrow for disbursement at the end of the program. Owners will be notified when such calves are salvaged and when one of their calves dies.
9. Feed consumption for each pen will be determined at the time of close-out. Individual calf consumption will be prorated on the in-weight and average daily gain.
10. Charges to be assessed each entry at the end of the feeding period include: (a) processing fee, (b) yardage, (c) medicine costs, (d) feed cost, (e) trucking costs; (f) items A thru E will be financed at the prevailing interest rate and (g) Beef Check Off (\$1.00/head).
11. Entries will be marketed when individuals reach the weight and condition regarded as acceptable by the industry. The feedyard manager will make this decision.
12. Calves will be weighed individually at the conclusion of the feeding period and a 4 percent pencil shrink will be applied to the final weight to determine live sale weight for calculation of feedyard performance.
13. The cattle will be sold on a carcass basis, with premiums and discounts for quality grades, yield grades and carcass weights. Fair market value for all sales will be attained, but neither the feedyard nor Arkansas Steer Feedout Program management guarantees the profitability of participation in the program. Proceeds will be mailed to the consignor after the expenses listed in item 10 are deducted. Disbursement of funds will be approximately 4 to 6 weeks after each pen is closed out.
14. Feedyard performance information to be collected: average daily gain, total cost of gain, break-even, feed conversion and net return.
15. Carcass information to be collected: dressing percentage, carcass weight, ribeye area, fat thickness, USDA yield grade and USDA quality grade.
16. Producers will be sent a report after arrival at the feedyard with information on arrival weight and pen assignment.
17. At the conclusion of the feeding period, feedyard performance data and carcass information will be provided on each consignment. The information will be kept confidential for consignors to use in evaluating the cattle they are producing.

For more information, contact your local county Extension agent.