



National Hereford Feedout Proves Hereford Efficiency

A total of 274 steers were entered in the 2008 National Hereford Feedout. The test was conducted at Royal Beef Feedyard, Scott City, Kan.

“Once again the National Hereford Feedout has shown the efficiency and worth of Hereford cattle to the beef industry,” says Tom Granzow, test coordinator and Kansas Hereford Association (KHA) secretary.

The National Hereford Feedout, formerly the Genetic Outreach Program, allows producers from across the country to consign whiteface cattle to be fed out at Royal Beef Feedyard. The KHA organizes the program in such a way that Hereford and Hereford-English cross pens can be entered in the test with just a minimum of five head.

The steers in the 2008 feedout represented a diverse cross section of Hereford genetics and were all handled the same. They were sorted by weight and body type, and after 75 days on feed, ultrasound data for backfat was collected. The cattle were then marketed according to ultrasound data, with a desired backfat thickness of .4 inches. In this manner, the cattle were all subjected to the same environmental conditions and feed.

At harvest they were individually weighed again, and final carcass

information was gathered. The feed efficiency of each steer was calculated based on a Cornell University formula that breaks down pen statistics into individual feed efficiency figures by accounting for maintenance and growth requirements of different sized animals.

At the end of the trial, each participant gets a graph analysis of his or her cattle ranked in comparison to the others in cost of gain (COG), as well as other performance and carcass data measures. For producers who consign sire groups, this service provides for genetic selection and rapid herd progress.

Overall winners are determined by a formula that takes into consideration the performance and carcass quality of consignments, putting the most emphasis on profit-driving performance traits.

Consigning 209 head to the feedout group that was started in December 2007 were: Shumaker Herefords, Wetmore, Kan.; Katherine Krauss, Russell, Kan.; Ridder Hereford Ranch, Callaway, Neb.; ML Cattle, Dalhart, Texas; Ray Allaman, Junction City, Kan.; Linton Herefords, Miller, Neb.; Phillip Moon, Harrison, Ark.; KEG Herefords, Valentine, Neb.; Dvorak Herefords, Lake Andes, S.D.; Bookcliff Herefords, Russell,

Kan.; Harmony Herefords, Quinter, Kan.; Brad & Dixie Hollenbeck, Brownlee, Neb.; Zero Hereford Ranch, Miller, Neb.; Schu-Lar Polled Herefords, Lecompton, Kan.; Wayne Sweeley, Burwell, Neb.; and M-M Ranch, Chanute, Kan.

This group of Hereford and Hereford-cross steers had an average daily gain (ADG) of 3.66 lb. per day. The COG on this group was \$0.67 per lb. of gain, and they converted at 5.64 lb. of dry feed per lb. of gain. The average marketing weight was 1,231 lb. of pay weight and the average number of days on feed was 168. See Table 1 for a comparison of the group to the Kansas yard average for the same time frame.

The group also did very well on the rail. The group averaged: backfat .48 inches (in.), marbling score 4.9, ribeye area (REA) 12.98, hot carcass weight 782 lb. and yield grade (YG) 2.44.

Entering 65 head in the group starting in February 2008 were: Shumaker Herefords; H Bar Ranch, Modoc, Kan.; Kumm Herefords, Davey, Neb.; Nelson Polled Herefords, Tracy, Minn.; Krieg Herefords, Basco, Ill.; Ray Allaman; Miller Ranch, Manhattan, Kan.; and Granzow Herefords, Herington, Kan.

This group had a 3.95 ADG, .66 COG; a dry-matter conversion average of 5.14, an average market weight of 1,211 lb. after being fed for an average of 141 days.

In the carcass traits, this group had an average backfat of .38 in., marbling score 5.01 (Low Choice), REA 12.26 in., hot carcass weight 743 lb. and YG 2.45.

“The commercial beef industry is crying for efficiency that comes naturally, not in some new and improved high-cost feed additive,” Granzow says. “We can offer the commercial industry all of this and not compromise carcass quality or fertility in the whitefaced replacement female.”

For more information and to find out how you can participate in future tests (winter, spring or summer), contact Granzow at (785) 466-2247, (785) 466-6790 or kansashereford@tctelco.net. **HW**

Table 1: National Hereford Feedout vs. Kansas Yard Average^a

	Feedout	Kansas Yard Average
Average Daily Gain	3.66 lb./day	3.45 lb./day
Cost of Gain	\$0.67/lb. of gain	\$0.87/lb. of gain
Conversion	5.64 lb. dry matter/lb. gain	5.81 lb. dry matter/lb. gain

^aDecember 2007 start date

Table 2: National Hereford Feedout vs. Kansas Yard Average^b

	Feedout	Kansas Yard Average
Average Daily Gain	3.95 lb./day	3.62 lb./day
Cost of Gain	\$0.66/lb. of gain	\$0.87/lb. of gain
Conversion	5.14 dry matter/lb. gain	5.92 dry matter/lb. gain

^bFebruary 2008 start date