



Cattle Feedlots




DID YOU KNOW?


 **Feedlot:** A confinement unit, generally for finishing cattle.

 **Finishing:** The phase of production where cattle are fed high-concentrate diets to reach market weight.

 **Cattle:** Group of animals belonging to the bovine species.

 **Price:** The specific amount paid for a given grade and weight.

 **Average Daily Gain (ADG):** The weight gain during a feeding period divided by the number of days.

 **Stock Density:** The number of animals in a part the pen for a certain amount of time.

WHAT ARE FEEDLOTS?

Feedlots, also called feed yards, are large fenced areas where cattle are kept and fed on a diet of grains until they are sent to be processed into meat. Once calves are weaned and vaccinated they are sold through livestock auctions or directly to the feedlots. At the feedlots, they are usually fed 70-90 percent grain and protein concentrates until they are at their desired weight. This is considered the last stage in farming for beef cattle.

Cattle remain in feedlots for different amounts of time, depending on their rate of gain. The feeding period tends to fall within 90-300 days or 6 months. Over that time they gain 2.5-4 pound daily until they weigh anywhere from 600-950 pounds.



OUTSIDE VS ENCLOSED

Outside feedlots are suited for drier climates and have a perimeter as well as internal fencing. Enclosed feedlots are for wetter climates and have slatted floors so the manure can fall through to a holding pit and the weather is monitored.

The main difference between these two is that enclosed feedlots are much smaller and hold fewer cattle per pen but have a higher stock density. The main similarity is that they all have feed bunks and a pen where feed can be delivered usually by tractors.



HISTORY OF FEEDLOTS

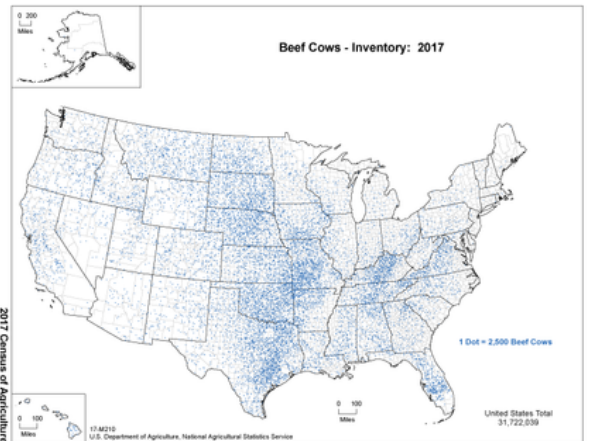
Feedlots started in the 1800s when grain farms sought a market for excess grains and year-round work for farmers. So farmers began feeding the grains to livestock and realized the increased value in grain-finished beef. The demand for beef continued to grow rapidly. This led to farmers expanding their operations and then moving closer to grain-producing areas in the 1950s.

Today, most cattle feedlots reside in the midwest and have 1,000 head of cattle or less.



FUN BEEF FACTS

- An average cow eats: 20 pounds of hay, 20 pounds of corn silage, 10-20 pounds of corn, and 6-12 pounds of supplement (protein, vitamins, etc.)
- The hamburger meat from 1 steer can feed a family of 4 every day for 6 months.
- Cattle outnumber humans in 9 states: Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming.



The more blue represents the more cattle feedlots in that area
1 Dot = 2500 Beef Cows

JOKE OF THE DAY

Why did the two cows not like each other?

They had beef!

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