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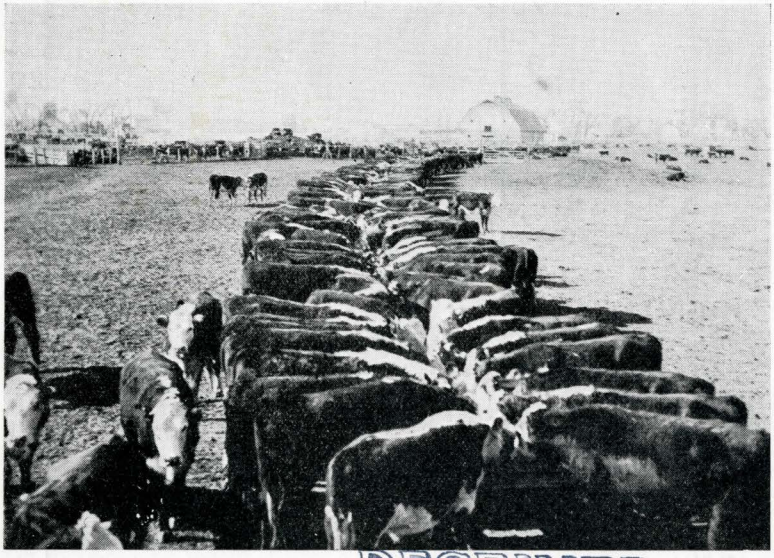
Extension Circular 236 January, 1933

Know Your Feedlot Costs



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The University of Nebraska Agricultural College Extension Service
and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

TABLE 1.—*Effect of shrink on costs of feed-lot gains*

	Two-year-olds Fed 125 days	Yearlings Fed 150 days	Calves Fed 200 days
Weight into feed lot	878	708	376
Gain in feed lot	306	353	442
Weight out of feed lot	1,184	1,061	818
Shrink to market	*Per cent*	*Per cent*	*Per cent*
3 per cent	13.13	9.91	5.88
4 per cent	18.31	13.67	7.99
5 per cent	23.99	17.69	10.20
6 per cent	30.23	22.00	12.49

These figures can be made to conform to individual cases by calculating in the following way:

Feed cost per 100 pounds gain (determine by chart) multiplied by *feed lot gain* equals total feed lot cost. Total feed cost divided by *net gain* (market weight minus original weight) equals feed cost per hun dred pounds of gain with shrink included.

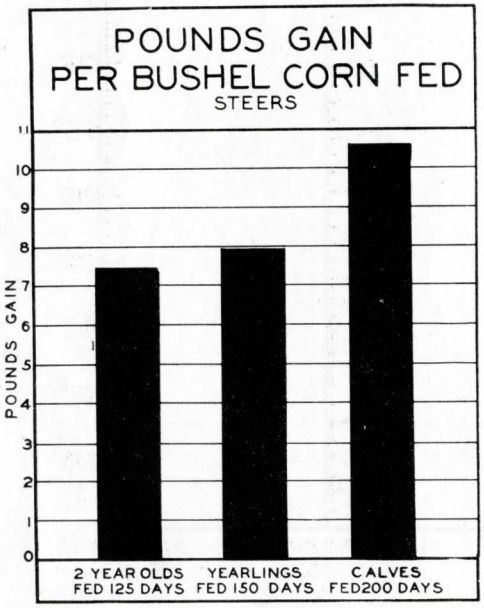

FIG. 1.—Based on a weighted average of numerous trials conducted at the Nebraska Experiment Station, 1915 to 1932.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The purpose of this circular is to assist the feeder of livestock in determining his feed-lot costs. The facts and figures are taken from results of experiments at the Nebraska Experiment Station since 1915. The tables and charts are taken from Bulletin 274 "The Contract Feeding of Livestock" prepared by R. R. Thalman and published by the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture Experiment Station.

TABLE 2.—*Effect of death loss on cost of feed-lot gains (cattle)*

Death loss	Two-year-olds	Yearlings	Calves
	Increased feed cost	Increased feed cost	Increased feed cost
Per cent	*Per cent*	*Per cent*	*Per cent*
1	3.50	2.59	1.38
2	7.34	5.33	2.81
3	11.44	8.26	4.29

NOTE: Data based on initial weights and gains as follows:

	Initial weight	Gain
Two-year-olds	878	306
Yearlings	708	353
Calves	376	442

TABLE 3.—*Feeding period and daily ration for steers of different ages*

	Two-year-olds	Yearlings	Calves
Length of feeding period *(days)*	125	150	200
Average daily ration			
Shelled corn *(pounds)*	18.4	16.6	11.7
Alfalfa hay *(pounds)*	8.5	6.9	4.3

Tables 3 and 4 were taken from a summary of numerous feeding trails at the Nebraska Station during the last 17 years.

TABLE 4.—*Total feed required and gain for average feeding period—steers of different ages*

	Two-year-olds	Yearlings	Calves
Length of feeding period *(days)*	125	150	200
Gain *(pounds)*	306	353	442
Shelled corn consumed *(bushels)*	41	44.3	41.6
Alfalfa hay consumed *(pounds)*	1,060	1,030	860

TABLE 5.—*Effect of death loss on cost of feed-lot gains (lambs)*

Death loss	Increased feed cost 55-lb. lambs into feed lot	Increased feed cost 65-lb. lambs into feed lot
Per cent	*Per cent*	*Per cent*
1	2.13	3.22
2	4.37	6.68
4	6.73	10.43
4	9.24	14.49
5	11.89	18.90

NOTE: Data based on 35 pounds of gain for 55-pound lamb and 25 pounds of gain for 65-pound lamb.

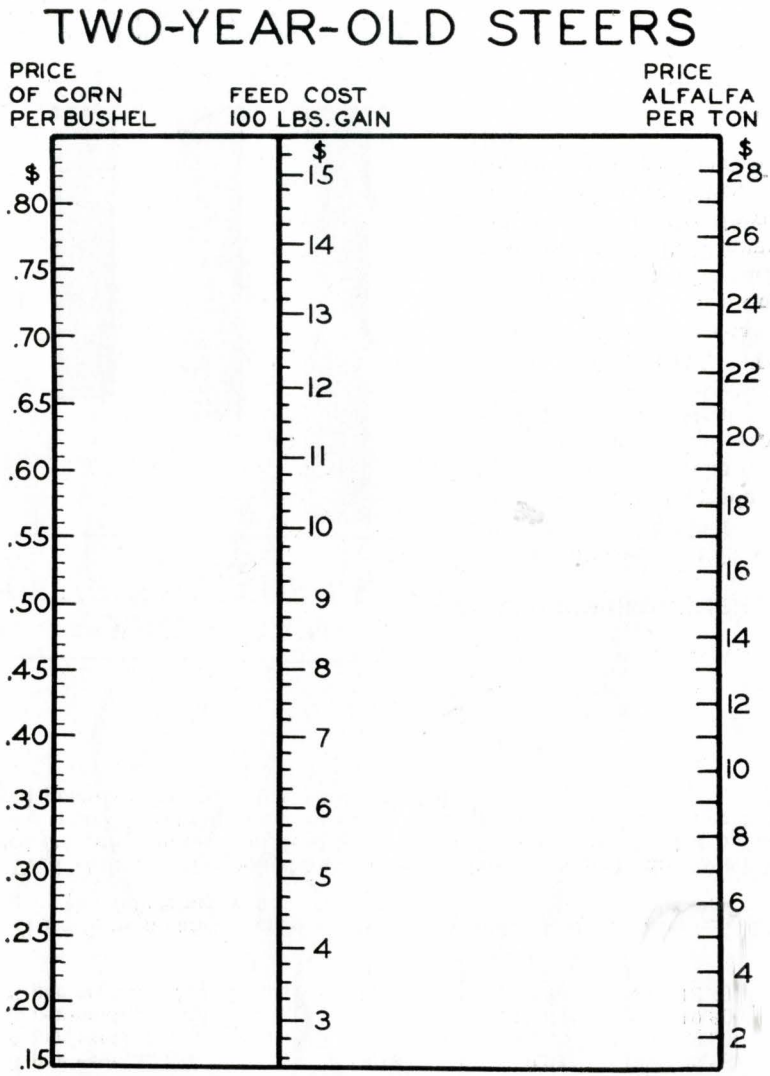

FIG. 2.—To find feed cost of 100 pounds of gain, lay a straight edge from price of corn per bushel to price of alfalfa per ton. The feed cost of 100 pounds of gain will be found at the point where the straight edge crosses the line marked "cost of 100 pounds of gain." The figures in this chart are based on a 125-day feeding period.

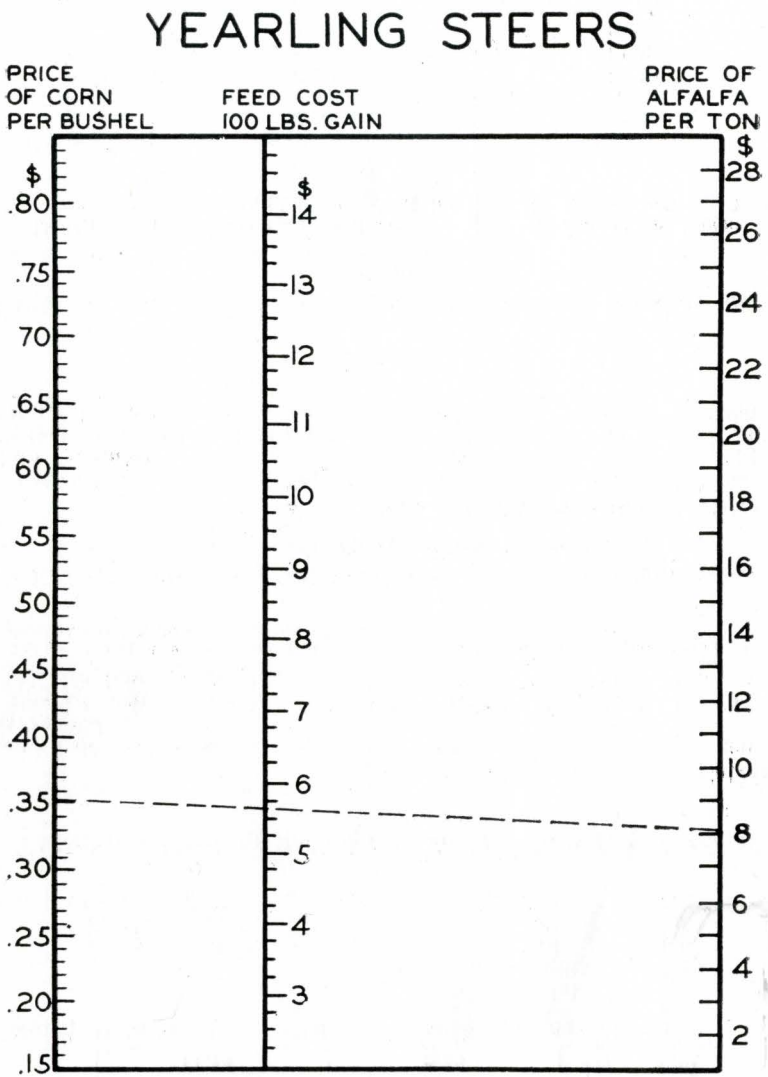

FIG. 3.—To find feed cost of 100 pounds of gain, lay a straight edge from price of corn per bushel to price of alfalfa per ton. The feed cost of 100 pounds of gain will be found at the point where the straight edge crosses the line marked "cost of 100 pounds of gain." The figures in this chart are based on a 150-day feeding period.

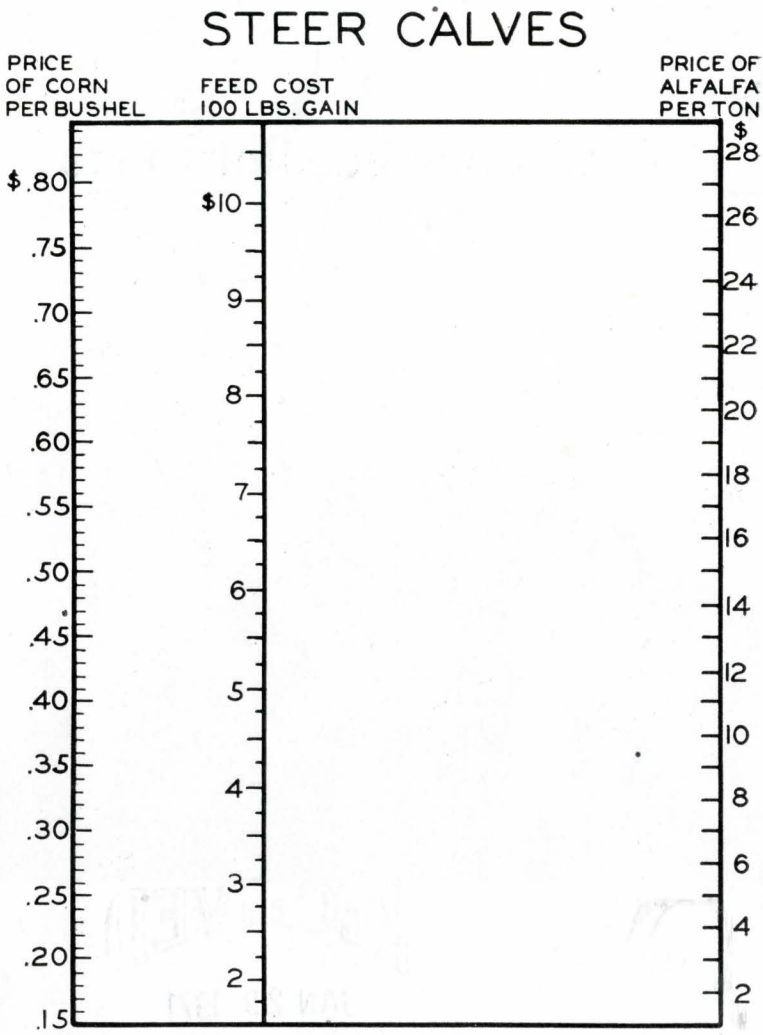

FIG. 4.—To find feed cost of 100 pounds of gain, lay a straight edge from price of corn per bushel to price of alfalfa per ton. The feed cost of 100 pounds of gain will be found at the piont where the straight edge crosses the line marked "cost of 100 pounds of gain." The figures in this chart are based on a 200-day feeding period.

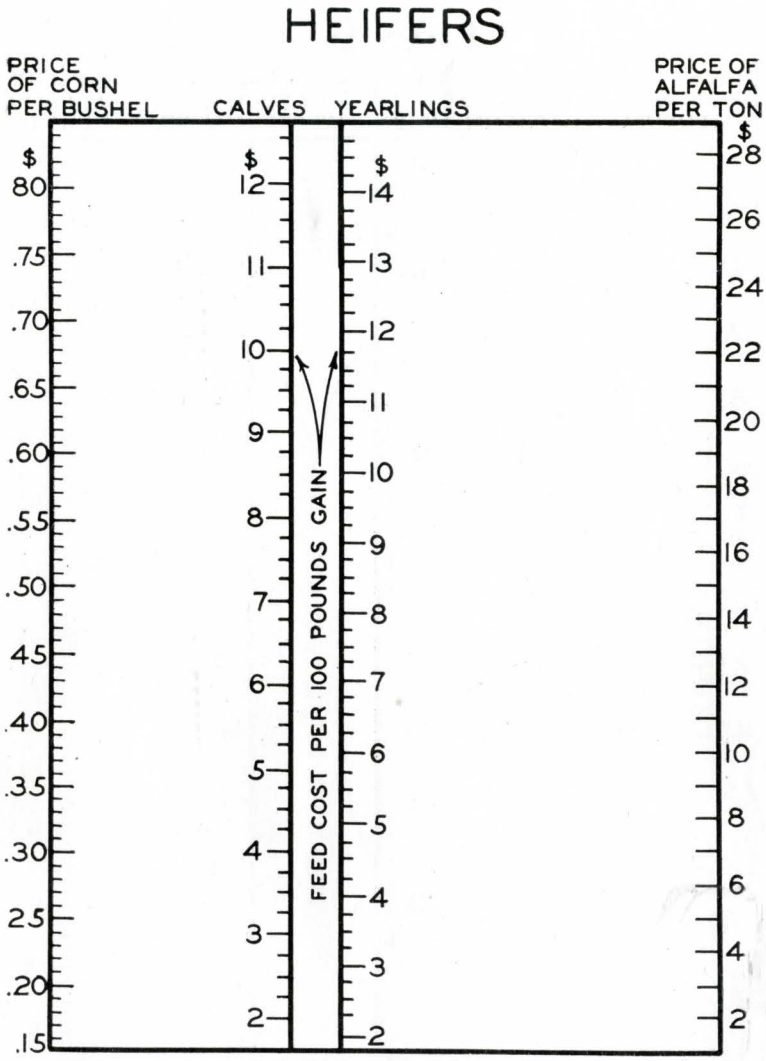

FIG. 5.—To find feed cost of 100 pounds of gain, lay a straight edge from price of corn per bushel to price of alfalfa per ton. The feed cost of 100 pounds of gain will be found at the point where the straight edge crosses the line marked "cost of 100 pounds of gain." The figures in this chart are based on a feeding period of 175 days for calves and 100 days for yearlings.

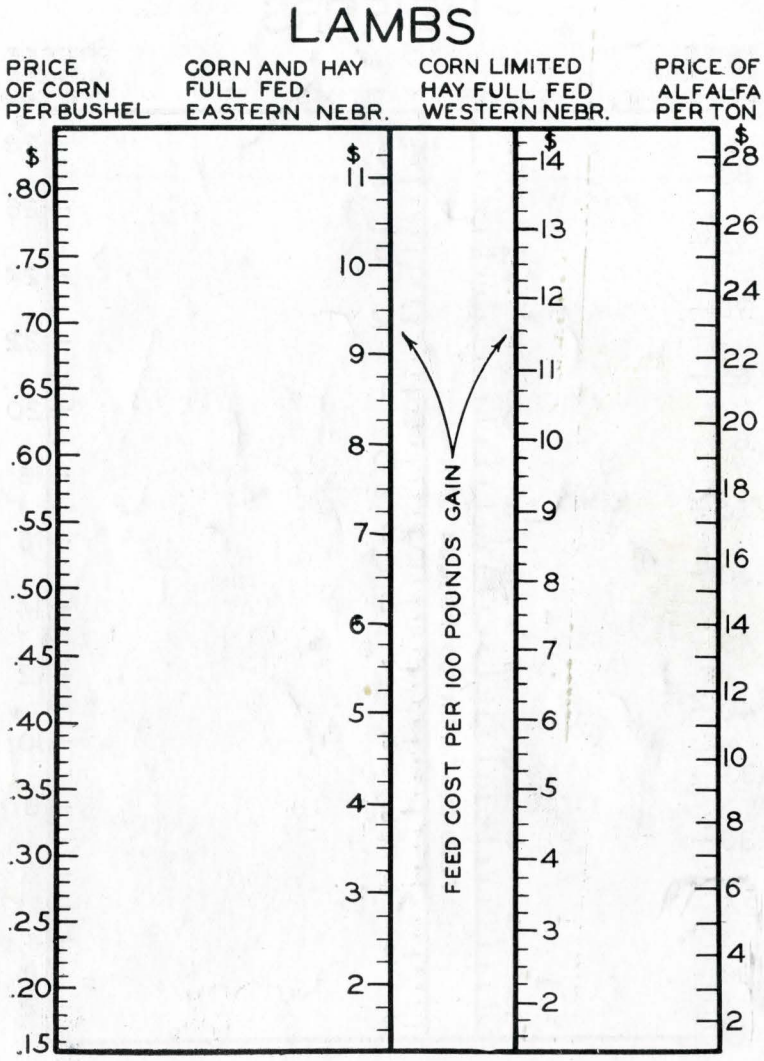

FIG. 6.—To find feed cost of 100 pounds of gain, lay a straight edge from price of corn per bushel to price of alfalfa per ton. The feed cost of 100 pounds of gain will be found at the point where the straight edge crosses the line marked "cost of 100 pounds of gain." Note the two intermediate scales. Each represents feed cost of 100 pounds of gain for a certain method of feeding.