# Ranching 101 Livestock Marketing

April 18, 2017



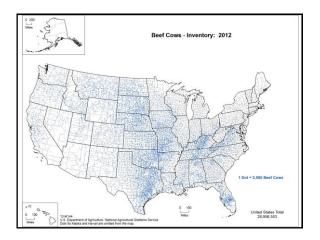
# Agenda

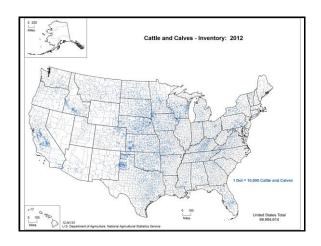
- Livestock marketing options
- What happens at livestock markets
- Preparing to market cattle
- What are they worth
- Niche markets

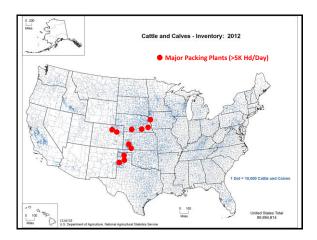


Cattle Class Terminology					
	Name	Weight	Prices	Buyers	
R	Calves	0 – 400 lbs.	\$175/cwt \$450/head	Ranchers/ Specialists	
	Stockers	500 – 650 lbs.	\$143/cwt \$780/head	Stockers/ Backgrounders	
	Feeders/ Yearlings	700 – 900 lbs	\$135/cwt \$1,080/head	Feedyards	
	Live/ Fed Cattle	1100 – 1500 lbs	\$128/cwt \$1,660/hd	Packers	
					-

Cattle Class Terminology					
	Name	Age	Prices	Buyers	
	Pairs	2 – 8 Years	\$1,200/pair	Ranchers	
	Replacement Females	< 3 Years	\$1,000/head	Ranchers	
	Slaughter Cows	Any	\$70/cwt \$700/head	Packers	
	Bulls	Any	\$90/cwt \$1,100/hd	Packers	
					-







# **Key Marketing Decisions/Factors**

- What are the goals for your operation?
  - Marketing or operational plan
- What resources do you have available?
  - What are you buying/selling?
  - Small or large volume?
  - Cattle type?
- Who is buying?
  - When, where, what?



# Your Marketing Options

- · Livestock markets
- Premium/Commingled sales
- Direct trade/private treaty
- · Forward contracting
- · Online/Video sales
- Online/Country Cattle Listings
- · Retaining ownership and feeding partnerships
- Do nothing
- · Other options are available



### Livestock Markets

#### Advantages

- Full benefit of price advances
- · Very good price discovery
- Frequent sales
- Convenience
- Market stands payment risk, insures legitimacy of buyers

#### Disadvantages

- · Full risk of price declines
- Value-added cattle have trouble bringing full potential
- Transportation, shipping, and selling costs are higher



# Premium/Commingled Sales

#### **Advantages**

- Allows small operators to maximize the price potential of their cattle
- Very good price discovery
- Market stands payment risk, insures legitimacy of buyers

#### Disadvantages

- Cost to participate in the sale may be prohibitive
- Infrequent sales require advance planning
- Transportation, shipping, and selling costs are higher because few markets hold these sales

## Direct Trade/Private Treaty Sales

#### **Advantages**

- Terms may be tailored to specific situations
- Easier to develop a reputation for good cattle

#### Disadvantages

- You have to work to find buyers
- You stand payment risk

Example Bill of Sale





# **Forward Contracting**

#### **Advantages**

- Terms may be tailored to specific situations
- Allows long-term planning to a specific delivery date
- Allows basis contracts and hedging

#### Disadvantages

- Greater knowledge required due to involvement of risk management tools
- Upside price potential may be limited
- · You stand payment risk

# Satellite/Online Video Sales

#### **Advantages**

- Larger, targeted buyers from large areas can view your cattle
- The video sale assumes payment risk

#### Disadvantages

- Large lots of cattle required, minimum of a truckload (60-70 calves)
- · Requires advanced planning



# Satellite/Online Video Sales Lot # 8882 Cobb Cattle Co. BASE WILL STATE CONTROL STATE COMMITTEE COMMITT









# **Country Cattle Listings**

#### **Advantages**

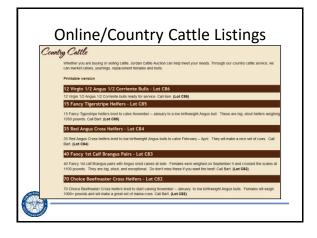
- Larger, targeted buyers from large areas can view your cattle
- The online service may or may not assume payment risk
- Large, truckload lots may not be required

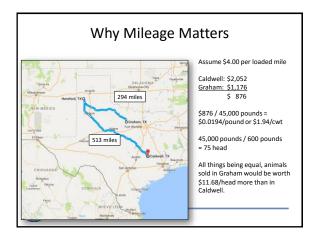
#### Disadvantages

- · Cattle may not sell
- Disadvantage to buyers: Sellers generally set unrealistically high prices









# Retaining Ownership/ Feeding Partnerships

#### Advantages

- Opportunity to take advantage of cattle that perform well
- Some years this makes a lot of money

#### Disadvantages

- Generally, large lots of cattle required, minimum of a truckload (60-70 calves)
- Requires advanced planning
- Generally requires additional equity
- Some years this loses a lot of money, greater risk



# Before Committing to a Sale Type

- Know what you have in the cattle
- Know what it will cost to hold cattle longer
- Understand what resources you have available
- Fully understand the risks at hand: what can you gain/lose



# What Really Happens at a Livestock Market?



# What <u>really</u> happens at a livestock market?





# Unload Your Cattle



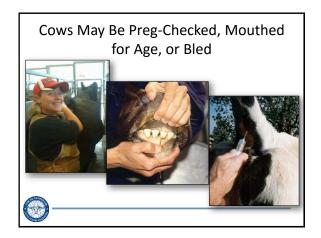


# Cattle Counted and Identified, Seller Information Collected

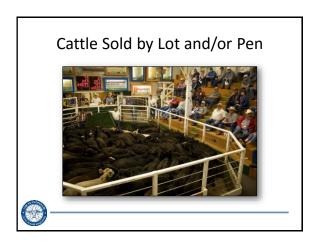


# Brand Information Recorded

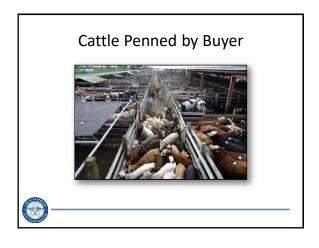




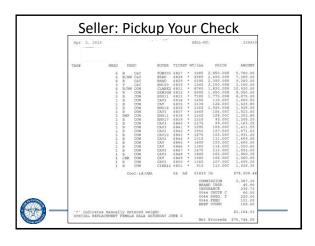


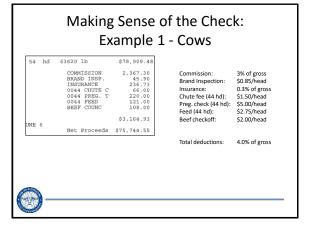


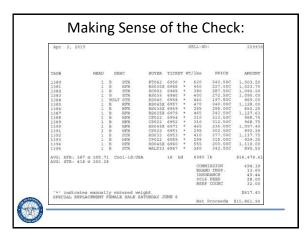


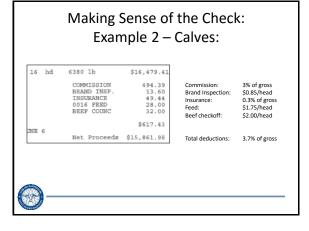












#### More Information

- Southern markets generally rely on price commissions: 3-4% of sale price
- Northern markets generally rely on per head commissions: \$25-35/head
- Most markets will not publish their commission models
- Most markets will charge some form of yardage for feed/water
- Beef checkoff and market inspection deductions are standard



### Insider's Notes: Market Timing

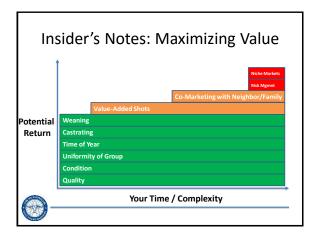
- · Best Times:
  - June through August
  - November through March
- · Worst Time:
  - Late September through October



# Insider's Notes: Maximizing Value

- 1. Quality
- 2. Condition
- 3. Uniformity of Group
- 4. Time of Year
- 5. Castrating (\$15/cwt)
- 6. Weaning (\$10+/cwt, seasonal)
- 7. Value-added shots (7-way is not value-added)





# Insider's Notes: How to Top the Market

- · English or exotic cross
- · Some condition to the animal
- Castrated
- Weaned
- Not crazy
- If in a group, uniform size and condition
- · Black color, but not required



# Insider's Notes: Who is Buying Volume

Sale Type	Order Buyers	Local Ranchers
Regular sale	80% of calves/yearlings	20%
Older Cows	100% packer buyer	0%
Younger Cows	15%	85%
Premium Sale (yearlings)	70%	30%
Replacement Heifers	85%	15%
Special Replacement Sales	5%	95%



# Cattle Sales vs. Cattle Marketing





#### Questions

- Who pays if the animal is hurt or killed?
- · When does title transfer?
- Do I have to sell the animal if I do not like the price?
- When is payment for purchases due?
- When is the market required to pay me?
- What if the check bounces?



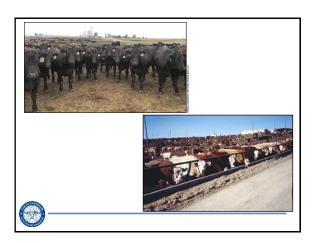
# **Preparing to Market Cattle**

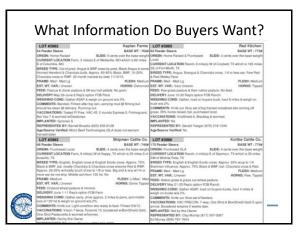


# How Do You Make More?

- Give Buyers <u>Convenient</u> Way to <u>Reduce Risk</u> and <u>Opportunity to Make Money</u>
- · Convenience:
  - Larger lots of like animals
  - Provide what the buyer wants: may or may not be quality
- · Reduced Risk:
  - Healthy animals
  - VAC-45, VAC-34, etc.
- Opportunity to Make Money:
  - More information on cattle
  - Lighter weights vs. heavier weights









# Who Is Your Competition?

- January:
  - Scarce, hard to find
  - Some double rotation calves
  - South TX sale barn calves
- February:
  - Early wheat cattle
  - South TX winter weeds and market cleanup
- · March:
  - TX Panhandle, OK, KS wheat yearlings
  - Few sale barn cattle
- April:
  - End of wheat cattle
  - GA, AL, FL fresh calves
- May:
  - Graze-out cattle from wheat and TX oats
  - MS rye grass cattle



# Who Is Your Competition? (cont'd)

- June:
  - Sale barn calves and graze-out cattle
- July:
  - OK Osage and central TX yearlings
  - Light FL calves
- August:
  - FL calves
  - Few south TX calves

- · September:
  - NM grass and KS Flint Hills yearlings
  - CO weaned calves
- October:
  - NM and CO high country calves
  - Clean-up grass yearlings
  - TX weaned calves



# Who Is Your Competition? (cont'd)

- · November:
  - Clean-up all classes
  - Sale barn lightweights
- December:
  - Mexican border, if open
  - Clean-up trade for first
     15 days
- · Key Questions:
  - When is trade volume highest and lowest?
  - When are feedyards most full?
  - Which cattle perform the best?



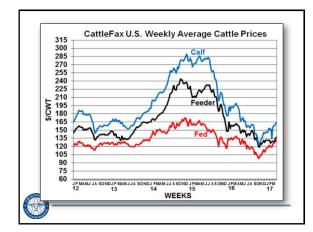
# What Are They Worth?

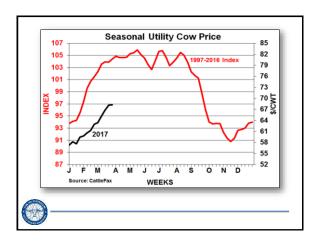


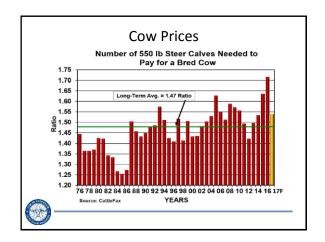
# Calf and Feeder Prices

- Primary Influences:
  - Supply of like cattle
    - Demand: primarily feedyard profitability
  - Availability of/Cost to grow animals:
    - Pasture, hay, etc.
    - Corn: rule of thumb is that a \$0.10/bu change in corn = \$1.00/cwt change in feeder cattle
  - Other factors such as consumer demand at retail have some effect but it is muted due to the mature of the supply chain









## **Numerous Market Reports**

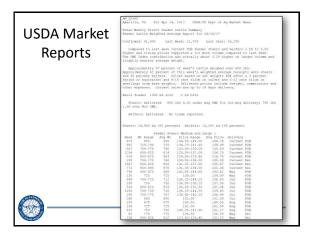
#### Free Reports:

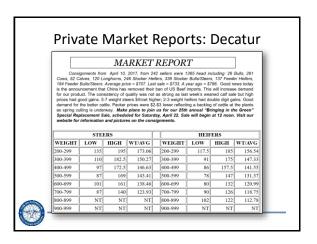
- · See handout
- Most markets self-report

#### Paid Services:

- CattleFax
- DTN

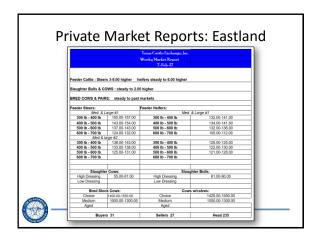


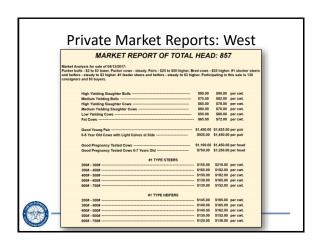


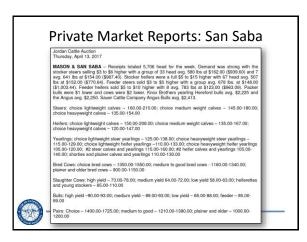


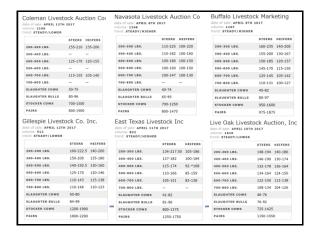


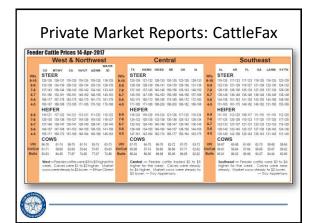












# Things to Remember About Market Reports

- Why was that animal the highest price?
- What quality was it?
- · What condition was it in?
- · What did it weigh?
- How many were sold at that price?
- · What had been done to that animal?



# **Niche Markets**



#### Niche Markets

- Producing a product for a unique, specialty market: organic, natural, grass fed, etc.
- Why?:
  - Additional value
  - Unique resources
- Why not?:
  - Where are the buyers?
  - Extensive investment may be hard to recoup
- Consider your business plan and resources before starting to produce for a niche market



# Stair Steps to Profitability + \$4 to \$9/cwt. Performance History (feedlot/carcass) + \$0 to \$9/cwt. Natural and Premium Programs (management/breed) + \$2 to \$6/cwt. Certified Vaccination + \$6 to \$7/cwt. Weaned Average Cattle = Average Price

# **Organic Beef**

#### Advantage

· Some premiums available



#### Disadvantages

- Beef must be verified through USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
- Significant startup and ongoing verification
- Difficult process to master and sustain



#### **Grass Fed Beef**

#### Advantage

· Some premiums available

#### Disadvantages

- Beef must be verified through USDA AMS
- Some startup and ongoing verification, though much easier than organic
- Forage supply must be a priority
- Higher cost of gain and longer time to get paid

# Non-Hormone Treated Cattle (NHTC)

#### Advantage

 Good premiums available through mainstream feedyards and packers

#### Disadvantages

- Beef must be verified through USDA AMS
- Some startup and ongoing verification, though easier than grass fed and organic
- Good documentation is required





### Export Markets: Japan, Taiwan, Russia, etc.

#### Advantage

Premiums have been minimized

#### Disadvantages

- Require USDA program verification
- Require additional recordkeeping
- Require some supply chain controls
- Need to connect with downstream premiums



### Specialty Breeds: Wagyu, Akaushi, etc.

#### Advantage

• Premiums may be available

#### Disadvantages

- Significant initial investment
- Require additional recordkeeping
- May have supply chain requirements
- "Coop" approach does not work for all



# Marketing Your Own Beef

- Difficult, time-consuming process
- Federal and state regulations apply
- Find a knowledgeable processor
- http://www.sare.org/publications/beef/beef.pdf



# **Questions?**



#### SAMPLE LIVESTOCK PURCHASE CONTRACT

Seller:		Buyer:	
Business Name:		Business Name:	
Contact:		Contact:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State:	Zip:	City, State:	Zip:
Phone:		Phone:	
Email:		Email:	
Agreement ends when live	estock is transferred to B	nd deposit is received by _ uyer or upon written agree gations and liabilities pertai	ment between the parties.
Type and Number of Lives			
		\$\$ \$\$	each each
			each
Total Livestock Price	Deposit Paid		
\$	\$		

#### **Deposits and Final Payment of Livestock Price**

For intact breeder, feeder or show livestock: Deposit due prior to placement on Seller's reserve list. Final payment due four weeks prior to pick-up date (this is to allow for payment to clear Buyer's bank).

Payment must be made in U.S. Dollars. Payment form may be PayPal, cash, checks or other compensation agreed to by both parties. All forms of payment must clear the customer's bank before livestock will be transferred.

Deposits, including partial deposit payments, are only refundable if Seller fails to provide livestock. Deposits, including partial deposit payments, will not be refunded if Buyer cancels Agreement without concurrence of Seller, if Buyer fails to make final payment as agreed to above, if payment fails to clear Seller's bank or if Buyer fails to accept transfer of livestock by pick up date (unless agreed to in writing by Seller). This is necessary as Seller prioritizes its breeding schedule and commitments based on deposits received and will incur costs to board and re-market livestock.

Customer may have to wait for a later delivery if the anticipated livestock do not have enough appropriate livestock for this order; this situation does not automatically require a refund of deposit.

#### **Services and Fees**

Veterinarian health certificate: If requested by Customer, Seller will obtain an appropriate certificate from its veterinarian. Cost will be according to the quote from the veterinarian, plus a transportation fee. Livestock that require blood tests will require Seller to make a second trip to the veterinarian and incur a second transportation fee. Fees due at time of final payment to allow for adequate time to schedule vet appointment and have necessary tests completed.

Import certificates: Customer's responsibility.

this Contract shall remain in full force and effect.

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation by third party shipper: Customer's responsibility.

Registration fee: Seller will pay for animal registration. Individual registration fee is Customer's responsibility.

#### Further Agreements:

- Seller agrees that livestock provided will be of sound health at transfer.
- Seller is not responsible for the health or welfare of livestock, including any latent (hidden)
  physical defects or illness (including inability to breed or nurture offspring as breeder livestock),
  after transfer to Customer.
- Customer agrees to provide name(s) of any persons who will act as Customer's representatives (third party shipper, including airline company). Transfer of livestock to Customer's representative has the same effect on this Agreement as if livestock were transferred directly to
- Customer. Seller is not responsible for the health or welfare of livestock after transfer to Customer's representative.

Both parties agree that this contract will be interpreted under the applicable laws of the State of

• Title to the livestock will transfer to Customer upon payment of all agreed fees and delivery to or pickup by Customer or Customer's representative.

. If any provision this Contract is held unenforceable all remaining provisions of

This Agreement may be modified only in writing and signed by both parties. Email messages confirming agreement by both parties will suffice and be considered as modifications to this contract.				
For Seller:	For Buyer:			
Signature:	Signature:			
Name:	Name:			



# **Market Reports**

# **Free Options**

TSCRA website: <a href="http://tscra.org/information/links/">http://tscra.org/information/links/</a>

817-332-7064 \* 800-242-7820 \* F:817-332-6441 \* WWW.TSCRA.ORG

USDA:

http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateP&page=Cattle

- USDA/ERS report subscription:
   http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/homepage.do
- Livestock Marketing Information Center: <a href="http://www.lmic.info/">http://www.lmic.info/</a>
- Most livestock markets post their latest market report on their website

# **For-Fee Options**

- Livestock Weekly: <a href="http://www.livestockweekly.com">http://www.livestockweekly.com</a> (some of their content is free)
- Cattle-Fax: <a href="http://www.cattlefax.com/">http://www.cattlefax.com/</a>