

Grain Values in Feeding Test.

A few days ago there were sold in the Chicago market test cattle from the South Dakota experiment station, at the top market prices. A bulletin has just been issued giving the experiment in detail. The test was made by Profs. Skinner and Wilson to determine the relative feeding value of corn, oats millet and speltz as a growing ration for calves with separator milk; the relative value of these grains milk; and the value of these grains for yearlings while on pasture, and the practicability of fattening yearlings for the production of baby beef.

1905, when the lots were weighed up individually and an accurate account kept of all the hay and grain consumed until they were shipped to Chicago. The grains were all ground and each lot received all the grain and clover hay they could be induced to eat during the entire grain periods, the experiment being divided into three periods, calf, grass and fattening period. A supply of salt and water was supplied at all times. They were weighed at the end of each month and the gain noted.

CORN FED LOT.

The lot fed corn gained 797 pounds during the 431 days. During the calf period 4.94 pounds of grain and 3.99 pounds of hay were required for a pound of gain. During the grass period 7.93 pounds grain per pound gain, and during the fattening period 7.16 pounds of grain and 6.87 pounds of hay per pound gain.

An average daily gain of 1.84 pounds was made. Cost of feed used: Hay, 35¢ per ton; pasture, 75¢ cents per head per month; cost of calves at beginning, \$2.50 per cwt. Deducting these items gives the corn a feeding value per 56 pound bushel of 47¢; selling price, \$6.25 per cwt. This lot dressed out 69.4 per cent.

OATS FED LOT.

The lot fed oats gained 759 pounds, an average daily gain of 1.74 pounds. During the calf period 4.74 pounds of grain and 4.67 pounds of hay were required for a pound of gain. During the grass period 8.28 pounds of grain were required, and in the fattening period 6.28 pounds of grain and 8.31 pounds of hay for a pound of gain. Cost of feed used: Hay, 35¢ per ton; pasture, 75¢ cents per head per month; cost of calves at beginning, \$2.50 per cwt. Deducting these items gives the oats a feeding value per 56-pound bushel of 26¢. Selling price, \$4.00 per cwt. This lot dressed out 57.95 per cent.

MILLET-FED LOT.

The lot fed millet gained 695 lbs., an

average daily gain of 1.47 lbs. During the calf period it required 5.81 lbs. of grain and 5.34 lbs. of hay to produce a pound of gain. During the grass period 6.35 lbs. were required, and during the fattening period 5.37 lbs. of grain and 8.84 lbs. of hay were required per pound gain.

Cost of hay and pasture same as other lots; cost of calves at beginning, \$2.50 per cwt. Deducting these items gives millet a feeding value per 60-pound bushel of 38¢; selling price, 5.75 per cwt. This lot dressed out 57.95 per cent.

SPELTZ-FED LOT.

The lot fed speltz gained 727 lbs., an average daily gain of 1.69 lbs. During the calf period it required 6.23 lbs. of grain and 3.99 lbs. of hay to make a pound of gain. During the grass period 5.16 lbs. were required and during the fattening period 7.23 lbs. of grain and 6.51 lbs. of hay were required for a pound of gain. Cost of hay and pasture was same as other lots and cost of calves at beginning \$2.50 per cwt. Deducting these items gives speltz a feeding value per 45-pound bushel of

33¢. Selling price, \$5.85. This lot dressed out 58.23 per cent.

CONCLUSIONS.

In drawing conclusions the bulletin gives as follows: It required 37 of a pound more of ground millet seed than it did ground corn to produce a pound of gain on calves fattened for baby beef.

The best gains were made with the ground millet during the fattening period, being 1.76 lbs. per head daily, while the lot fed on corn produced 2.68 lbs. per head daily during this period.

The lot fattened on speltz made an average daily gain of 1.69 lbs., while the lot fattened on corn made an average daily gain of 1.84 lbs.

During the grass period the lot fed on speltz gained 112 lbs. more than the lot fed on corn. It required only 5.16 lbs. of speltz for a pound of gain, as compared with 7.93 lbs. of corn to produce a pound of gain during the grass period.

The lot fed on speltz did not consume as much hay per pound of gain as did

other lots, indicating that the husk of speltz is a good substitute for hay.

Ground oats proved to be a profitable feed for the production of baby beef. From a careful examination of the lots before shipping, these calves were nearly as fat as those fed on corn.

When calves were fed in lots on the same kind of grain from birth to maturity those which received the most highly carbonaceous grain produced the largest per cent of dressed meat.

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