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Personal Authors: No personal authors

Author Affiliation: Washington State Univ., Pullman, USA.

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Abstract:

In 15 contributions each by specialists in their particular field in a wide geographical range of American practice and scientific study, this book covers all aspects of a most important industry which in 1970 had a turnover of about 25 million cattle 55% of which came from 2242 commercial herds each having a capacity of over 1000 head whilst the remaining 45% came from herds of under 1000. The larger herds are increasing in number and in size up to 100 000 head and the smaller ones decreasing in number. Throughout the book it is repeatedly stated that the key to success is management at every stage of the enterprise including such details as financing, purchase and sale of animals, siting and design of pens keeping in mind minimum labour requirements and least disturbance of animals, also means for disposal of manure having regard to pollution whether to the atmosphere or from drainage, handling feed and feeding equipment, disease prevention or control and continuous study of market requirements. It is generally cheaper to move cattle to the source of feed than to move the feed and too much reliance should not be put on one type of cereal or forage crop in case of failure of that particular crop leading to additional haulage costs. The margin of profit is often small since the price for 100 lb of the fat animals is sometimes less than that at purchase. Judicious buying and optimum feed conversion rates should therefore be the aim. Mud, rain and wind can increase feed consumption by as much as 33%, so the value of natural or artificial shelter on a dry site is most important. Care of the breeding cow and preparation of the calf for entry to the feed lot form an interesting chapter as does the one on the veterinary aspect where it is stated that parasite and disease control are influenced more by management and environmental conditions than by any other factor. Studies based on over 600 000 cattle indicated that disease cost \$3.50 to \$5.00 per animal over a 150-day feeding period. Mortality was 1.5% in yearlings and 2% in calves but monetary losses resulting from poor feed efficiency and slow gains associated with disease and other stresses could reach \$10 or \$20 per head. To the reviewer this very comprehensive book makes interesting reading and though some overlapping may be inevitable this does not detract from its value. The many references dealing largely with American publications should be useful to the research worker and the principles involved in the whole enterprise be of value to those feeding cattle intensively on a large or small scale. W. Thomson.

ABSTRACT: In 15 contributions, each by specialists in their particular field in a wide geographical range of American practice and scientific study, this book covers all aspects of the industry which in 1970 had a turnover of about 25 million cattle 55 per cent. of which came from 2,242 commercial herds each having a capacity of over 1,000 head whilst the remaining 45 per cent. came from herds of under 1,000. The larger herds are increasing in number and in size up to 100,000 head and the smaller ones decreasing in number. Throughout the book it is repeatedly stated that the key to success is management at every stage of the enterprise including such details as financing, purchase and sale of animals, siting and design of pens, keeping in mind minimum labour requirements and least disturbance of animals, also means of disposal of manure having regard to pollution (to the atmosphere or from drainage), handling feed and feeding equipment, disease prevention or control and continuous study of market requirements. It is generally cheaper to move cattle to the source of feed than to move the feed and too much reliance should not be put on one type of cereal or forage crop in case of failure of that particular crop leading to additional haulage costs. The margin of profit is often small since the price for 100 lb. of the fat animals is sometimes less than that at purchase. Judicious buying and optimum feed conversion rates should therefore be the aim. Mud, rain and wind can increase feed consumption by as much as 33 per cent., so the value of natural or artificial shelter on a dry site is most important. Studies based on over 600,000 cattle indicated that disease cost \$3.50 to \$5.00 per animal over a 150 day feeding period. Mortality was 1.5 per cent. in yearlings and 2 per cent. in calves but monetary losses resulting from poor feed efficiency and slow gains associated with disease and other stresses could reach \$10 or \$20 per head.

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