University of Idaho Extension

Cindy Kinder

Beef Frame Score Chart

Feeder cattle can be evaluated into frame sizes of: small, medium and large. Differences between breeds play a role in the frame size of a feeder calf. In general British breeds are small to medium frame and Continental breeds are medium to large frame. Some breeds will have all three sizes. Frame size is determined by length of body, height at the hip, and length and size of cannon bone.

Frame size is important in determining management and indicates how large the mature animal will be. In feedlots sorting by frame size will help producers feed each size to their market weight. When selecting breeding heifers producers select the right size of animal to what feed resources they have.

Producers estimate the correct finished weight for an animal by determining the approximate frame score and proper finish for that score. Frame scores are an objective, numerical score, which reflect the growth pattern and potential mature size of an animal. Frame score values typically range from 2 (small) to 9 (large) and are calculated from hip height and age.

In the chart below find the animals age in the left-hand column and the hip height in that row to determine approximate frame score. Once frame score is found then look at the bottom row to determine the estimated finish weight. These are projections for average yearling cattle. Actual weights will vary due to muscling, body length and condition.

Age (months)	Frame Score 4 (medium)	Frame Score 5 (medium)	Frame Score 6 (large)	Frame Score 7/8 (large)
10	45.3 "	47.3"	49.3"	51.3"
11	46.2"	48.2"	50.2"	52.2"
12	47.0"	49.0"	51.0"	53.0"
13	47.8"	49.8"	51.8"	53.8"
14	48.5"	50.4"	52.4"	54.4"
15	49.1"	51.1"	53.0"	55"
16	49.6"	51.6"	53.6"	55.6"
Est. Finish Wt.	1050 to 1174 lbs	1175 to 1250 lbs	1251 to 1350 lbs	1351 to 1485 lbs

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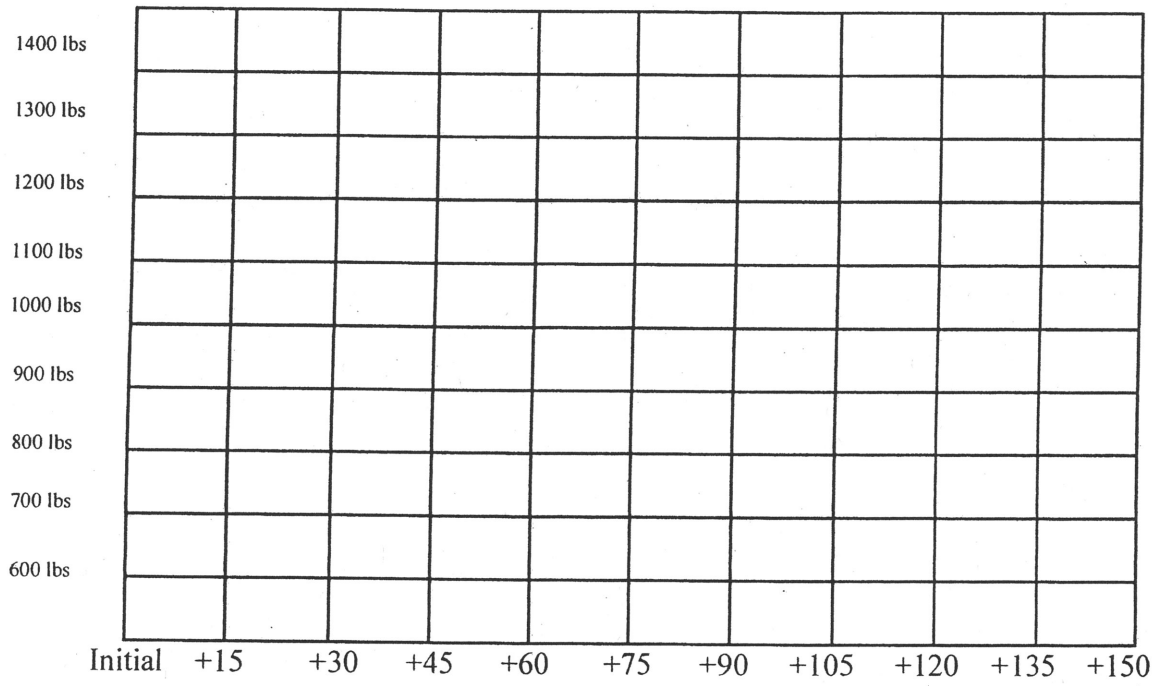
Market Beef Growth Chart

To achieve success with your 4-H Market Beef project, it is important you know the estimated final weight of your animal and your progress toward that goal throughout the feeding period. The chart below enables you to plot the predicted growth curve (immediately after the initial weigh-in) and then plot the actual weight of your animal at various times during the feeding period to determine if you are "on target."



Initial weigh-in date: _____ Initial animal weight: _____

Number of days in feeding period: _____ Estimated final weight: _____

1. Mark the initial weight at the appropriate location on the left-hand side of the table.
2. Mark the estimated final weight at the appropriate location for the number of days in the feeding period.
3. Connect these two points with a straight line. This is your predicted rate of growth.

Beef- Beginning Planning & Record Sheet

One of your market project goals should be to have a market ready animal. Knowing what your animal weighs now and the estimated end weight will help you be successful in achieving your market ready goal.

General Project Information

Youth Name: _____ Weigh-in Date: _____

Animal Tag Number: _____ Weight: _____ Hip Height (inches): _____

Animal Breed: _____ ESTIMATED FINAL WT: [ ]

Vaccinations (circle): wormer, 8-way type, Other (list): _____

_____

Estimate Average Daily Gain (ADG) for your steer

Est. finished weight		Beginning weight		Total required gain		Days in feeding period		Required daily gain
_____	-	_____	=	_____	÷	_____	=	_____

This about this...

1. What does market ready mean? Is your estimated final weight an ideal market weight for the beef industry?
2. The national average for ADG is 2.5 lbs/day. Is your required ADG achievable?

Feeding Your Steer-

Steers will consume about 3% of their body weight per day. A fattening ration is 2% in grain and 1% in hay. Make every effort to keep feed waste to a minimum. Grain waste can be 5 to 10% of the amount fed and hay waste 10 to 20%, depending on facilities and care in feeding.

List your concentrates (grain): _____

List your roughages: _____

List any other: _____

Describe your feeding method i.e.; free choice, feed truck or by hand, no. of times, fed in a bunk or feed pan, etc.

_____

_____

_____

How much do you feed <u>in the beginning</u>?

<u>Grain</u>: Steer wt. x 2% = pounds of grain per day / 2 feedings per day = pounds of grain per feeding

Steer wt _____ x 2 % = _____ lbs grain per day / 2 feedings = _____ lbs per feeding

<u>Hay</u>: Steer wt. x 1% = pounds of hay per day / 2 feedings per day = pounds of hay per feeding

Steer wt _____ x 1 % = _____ lbs hay per day / 2 feedings = _____ lbs per feeding

Ask yourself these questions

1. How much does one scoop weigh? Is one scoop of grain enough pounds to feed per feeding?
2. How many scoops should you feed?
3. Calculate how much grain and hay per feeding you will feed by fair time.

Weight & Feed Estimate Record

Tracking animal weight can tell you where your animal is compared to your goal. Weigh and record your animals' weight. Determine the estimate of feed you should be feeding. The feed amounts are just minimum estimates. You should be feeding more due to waste factor. If your animal is eating all the grain, increase it (slowly). It is better to push your calf, in the beginning, to get him market ready then run out of time in the feeding period.

Weigh date									
Days since first weigh day	XXXXX								
Current weight									
Overall A.D.G.	XXXXX								
Estimate Grain/day (wt x 2%)									
Estimate Hay/day (wt x 1%)									

This about this....

1. Typical influences in ADG can be feed, water, weather, and illness. Is the ADG more or less than predicted? What caused any problems?
2. After each weigh day; do you need to feed more grain or hay?
3. What happens if your animal does not have the ADG you predicted?
4. If your animal is not market ready by fair time, what happens?
5. Is carcass quality affect by your feeding?