Farm News

Yield Grading of Beef Carcasses Is Gaining

(From USDA's Agricultural Marketing)

By W. E. Tyler
Consumer and Marketing Service

Yield grading was a new term — and a new idea — to many people when it was introduced in June 1965 as an official service of the U.S. department of agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service.

In the three years since then, however, this new marketing tool for the beef industry has really begun to "catch on."

During the first month yield grading was available, only slightly more than 13 million pounds of beef were yield graded — about one and one-half percent of the beef quality graded during that same period.

The volume of beef being yield graded now amounts to about 13 percent of the beef being quality graded. During 1967, more than one billion pounds of beef were officially yield graded by USDA meat graders.

This increase has resulted from the acceptance and use of yield grades by numerous meat packers and retailers throughout the country.

What Yield Grades Mean

Yield grades measure and identify one of the two primary value determining factors of a beef carcass — the quantity of salable beef a carcass will produce. The familiar USDA quality grades for beef — Prime, Choice and Good — Measure and identify the other factor — quality.

Yield grades identify carcasses for differences in the yields of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts from the round, loin, rib, and chuck. Carcasses of the same quality grade differ widely in these yields and, therefore, in value.

For example, it is not unusual for Choice grade carcasses of the same weight to very as much as $50 in retail sales value, and differences of $25 to $30 are quite common.

Of the five yield grades, carcasses in Yield Grade 1 have the highest yields of retail cuts while carcasses in Yield Grade 5 have the lowest yields. Yield grades are separate from the quality grades, so beef carcasses can be identified for yield grade, quality grade, or both.

Retail Value Spread

During the nearly three years since yield grades were adopted, there has been an average difference in retail sales value of about $3.50 per hundred-weight between carcasses of adjacent yield grades.

Differences in value between a Yield Grade 2 and a Yield Grade 4 of the same quality grade and weight would be about $7 per hundredweight — or a difference of $45 between 650-pound carcasses.

Buyers and sellers of carcass beef are becoming more aware of these value differences and are beginning to realize the importance of trading on the basis of both quality and yield grades.

Most packers selling beef on a yield graded basis have been able to obtain at least some price differentials between yield grades. In carlot channels, Prime and Choice Yield Grades 1 and 2 have commanded a premium of $1 to $1.50 per hundredweight over regular carlot prices and in many cases Yield Grade 3's have sold at 50 cents over the market.

These price differentials do not accurately reflect the full value differences associated with differences in yields of retail cuts — but they are an important step in the right direction.

Fat Is Top Factor

The amount of fat trimmed in making retail cuts is the most important yield grade factor. And the economic importance of this to the industry is becoming well recognized. It costs money to put excess fat on cattle and it costs money to ship excess fat around the country.

Millions of diet-conscious shoppers are forcing retailers to trim excess fat from retail cuts of beef in ever increasing amounts. Each year retailers trim more than two billion pounds of waste fat from the fed cattle portion of our cattle production.

To the producer, this fat represents an estimated cost of $1.25 billion. But as a by-product of the retail beef business, it represents a value of only about $100 million.

At least one-half of the excess fat being produced could be eliminated through improved breeding and management programs without any sacrifice in the eating quality of beef. This could result in a net savings of $30 per head on the cost of producing our fed beef.

Yield grades, which offer a means of identifying strains of cattle and production methods which produce high quality, meat-type cattle with a minimum of waste fat, can help bring about these savings.

The growth of yield grading over the last three years has been encouraging.

The increased use of yield grading indicates that the livestock and beef industry is becoming more "cutability conscious."

Confab Will Eye Vaccination End

DES MOINES — The first of four two-day conferences on ending vaccination for hog cholera will open Tuesday in Des Moines with a noon luncheon in the Kirkwood hotel.

The Des Moines meeting and others at Kansas City, Louisville and Atlanta are sponsored by Livestock Conservation, Inc., in cooperation with extension and livestock groups.

Tuesday afternoon's program will include a panel discussion of what ending vaccination will mean for the farmer, the purebred swine breeder, the veterinarian and the feeder pig industry.

Wednesday's discussions will deal with rules on interstate shipping of hogs, state regulations, workable shipping rules and uniform market standards. The conference will adjourn at noon.

Under Iowa's cholera eradication program, only veterinarians will be allowed to vaccinate hogs after July 1, and no vaccination will be permitted by anyone after next Dec. 31.

U.S. Has Quarter of World Honey Output

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is far and away the world's largest honey producer but has only a dwindling share of the natural sweet moving in international trade.

Even in an unusually short crop year, such as 1967, American output was 223 million pounds, or more than one-fourth of world production.

The United States consumed all but 5 percent of domestic honey.

Good Incomes Spark Strong Food Demand

WASHINGTON — Per capita food consumption in the U.S. this year is expected to be about 4 percent above the 1957-59 average, USDA reports.

During the first quarter of this year, food expenditures were up 3 percent from the last quarter of 1967 and were up 6 percent from the spring quarter of last year.

Advancing personal incomes are supporting a strong demand for food, USDA says.

—Gazette photo by Rex Conn

West German Editor Views Iowa Farming

Dr. Herbert Kremp, editor of the Rheinische Post, Duesseldorf, West Germany, left, got an explanation of a modern corn planter Friday from Tom Schmuecker of Amana and his father, E. J. Schmuecker, at the latter's farm eight miles northeast of Marengo. At Dr. Kremp's rear is Harry Hirsch, U.S. state department escort, who is accompanying the German editor on an extensive tour of this country under the state department's international visitors program. The planter, which belongs to the Schmueckers' neighbor, Walter Volz, has boxes for seed, fertilizer, pop-up fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide, Tom explained.

Meat Consumers' Reactions Are Reflected in Demand

By Don Kendall

WASHINGTON (AP) — Per capita consumption of beef has risen almost 50 percent in the United States since 1900, a department of agriculture economist says, but when the housewife feels the price is too high she doesn't hesitate to switch to pork or poultry.

"The housewife may prefer beef today, but she won't pay any price to get it," said Stephen J. Hiemstra, head of the food consumption section of the Economic Research Service.

Hiemstra is preparing a report on consumer buying trends, with emphasis on beef, pork and poultry, since the turn of the century.

Consumers React

"Over-all, the consumer can react quite rapidly to retail meat prices. The producer, on the other hand, must make long-range plans. Certainly, what the housewife is willing to pay is considered by producers in planning what they will do next."

For example, if a housewife decides that a cut of meat is too expensive she can turn to a lower-priced variety or cut.

Eventually, Hiemstra said, lowered demand by the housewife will cause supplies to be adjusted. But, he said, it takes time for producers to make adjustments.

Breeding stock, feed supplies and other requirements of growing meat from a newborn animal to a finished product ready for slaughter must be adjusted by the farm producer.

The farmer, he said, receives only about one-third of the housewife's food dollar, and therefore doesn't feel the entire impact of a consumer action.

Changes in Consumption

Changes in the production and consumption of meat in the United States have been dramatic, Hiemstra said. In 1900 beef consumption was 72.3 pounds a person annually. It was 106.3 pounds last year. Production increased in the same period from 60.7 million cattle in 1900 to 108.8 million last Jan. 1.

In the same period, pork consumption declined from 72 pounds a person to 64 pounds.

"Processing, merchandising and technology in general also have contributed to these trends," Hiemstra said. "In the times when we consumed a lot of smoked pork-hams, bacon and the like- the consumer had no other way to keep meat. Technology has had much to do with these trends."

The rise in the general economy in the post World war II period has contributed to the consumer's change in preferences. So have production changes, perhaps most remarkably in the poultry industy.

The Rise of Poultry

"Poultry at one time was a treat," Hiemstra said. "Years ago turkey, for example, might have cost you twice what it does today."

Last year, department figures show, U.S. farmers produced nearly 3 billion chickens, compared to 1.7 billion a decade earlier. Production has changed from small flocks to huge factory-type operations involving thousands, even millions of broiler-type chickens annually.

"The retail cost of poultry meat has dropped about one-fourth since 1950," Hiemstra said. "Today, poultry isn't a treat—it has become a staple."

Department statistics show poultry consumption climbed from 15.7 pounds per person in 1909 to 46 pounds in 1967.

Linn Dairy Committee

The Linn county dairy promotion committee will meet Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in the Farmers State Bank, Marion.

Seed-Corn Beetles Damage Iowa Stands

AMES — Reports of seed-corn beetles attacking unsprouted corn from Harrison county in western Iowa to Scott county in the east have come in to the entomology department at Iowa State university, according to Harold Gunderson, extension entomologist.

This has been true even in fields treated with aldrin or heptachlor or when seed was treated with lindane or dieldrin, Gunderson reports.

The species involved in all the reports is ¼-inch long, slender, uniform reddish-brown in color, and quite active. These pests burrow in the soil and eat into the seed, killing the germ.

Observations in 1967 in eastern Iowa showed that this beetle didn't damage fields treated with organophosphate insecticides used for rootworm control. However, no chemical control can be applied after damage has begun.

Gunderson advises farmers to check their fields, and if replanting is necessary, the sooner the better. Seed corn planted in warm, moist soil germinates rapidly, and the seed-corn beetle won't cause damage.

Egg Demand Called Nearly Non-Existent

DES MOINES — The Iowa egg market ended the week with prices unchanged to 1½ cents lower, according to the Federal-State Market News Service. Demand was virtually non-existent, with limited trading confined to regular receivers, and in many cases their orders were reduced or cancelled, the reporting service said.

Gold Medal Dam

OLIN — Cloverbrook Master Betty, a registered Holstein owned by Jay Slater of Olin, has been designated a Gold Medal Dam by the Holstein-Friesian Assn. of America.

Big Carryover Of Corn Likely At Year's End

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government forecasts a heavy carryover of around 1.1 to 1.2 billion bushels of corn next Oct. 1 despite increased domestic use and exports before this year's crop is harvested.

This would compare to stocks of 823 million bushels at the end of last summer and indicates to the agriculture department the probability of lower average prices for the next few months of 1968.

Although corn consumption has been slightly above last year it failed to offset reduced use of other feed grains.

With the indicated slowdown of domestic use total carryover of all feed grains before the next harvest is estimated at 47 million tons, an increase of about 10 million tons over stocks at the start of this year.

Feed grain exports for the crop year are put at 23 million tons, about 5 percent more than they were a year earlier, with corn accounting for all and more of the rise.

Total use of sorghum grains is now expected to drop about 15 percent below last year, resulting in an Oct. 10 carryover of more than the 244 million bushels a year earlier.

Oat consumption may be from 6 to 8 percent less than last year, but the July 1 carryover may show little change from last year. Barley use and carryover are unlikely to show a substantial change from year-earlier levels.

Price levels and uncertainties have prompted farmers to place over 15 million tons of feed grain under loan so far this season. But with corn prices rising and holding near the loan rate since February, the pace of loan placing has slackened.

—Gazette photo by John McIvor

FARMS GOT HIT, TOO — Although most of the damage was done in the towns by last Wednesday's tornadoes, farms suffered heavy losses, too, as witnessed by these two farmsteads between Oelwein and Maynard.

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Many Farms Had Heavy Losses in Tornado Area

FAYETTE—Although the tally has not been completed, it appears that between 20 and 30 farms in the Oelwein-Maynard area suffered severe damage in last Wednesday's twister, according to M. C. Wangsness, Fayette county extension director.

At the Herb Malven farm north of Maynard the herd of 50 registered Holsteins was in the barn when the storm hit. Six cows were killed and many others suffered varying degrees of injury. Practically all the buildings on the Malven farm were destroyed, including two cement-stave silos.

The Peter Greco and Raymond Lundry farms south of Maynard suffered nearly complete destruction of buildings, Wangsness said.

Farms in the area hit by the storm are being contacted by extension workers to offer assistance, Wangsness said.

Americans ate 19 pounds of ground beef per capita last year, compared with 10 pounds twenty years ago.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

As we are leaving the farm, will sell the following described property at our farm 1 mile north of Oxford, 2 miles east on No. 6, or 14 miles west of Iowa City.

SATURDAY, MAY 25th
STARTING AT 12:30 P.M.

MACHINERY: Allis Chalmers 1953 WD 45, overhauled and painted; Allis Chalmers C tractor with hydraulic, and cultivator; 1948 WC Allis Chalmers with two-row picker, mounted; A.C. underslung 6' sickle mower for C tractor; 7' John Deere tandem disc; John Deere 14" 2-bottom plow on rubber; I.H.C. two-row corn planter; rubber-tired wagon with 6'x10' box; 18' 3-section harrow; 2 A.C. two-row cultivators; 2 A.C. model 60 combines; Dubait corn stalk shredder; 44' Kewanee elevator; John Deere 4-bar side-delivery rake; 8' I.H.C. wheel disc; high-wheel wagon; corn stalk chopper; 5-h.p. garden tractor, rotary; cement mixer mortar box; 6x8' garden tool shed; wood and steel fence posts and braces; galvanized steel roofing; 50-gal steel barrels; hog feeders.

SHOP TOOLS: 2 ¼" electric drills, like new; Sears 20" chain saw; electric emery; Craftsman Tools—10" radial arm saw; 6½" jointer; table saw; jig saw; saber saw; hand saws; vise; spades and shovels; woven wire stretcher; post hole digger driver; anvil, blow torch, electric cords, all kinds of carpenter tools, 40-gal. hand pump tank; 6' step ladder; four 5-gal. army cans and nozzles; mail box and post; all kinds of wrenches; bathroom lavatory; quantity of 14" and 15" good used tires; storm windows, screens, house doors, oil burner. 2½-gal. paint sprayer. Quantity of walnut and butternut lumber.

CHEVROLET — 1967 V-8 custom, long wheelbase, wide box ½-ton pickup, low mileage, with deluxe topper; 12' fiber glass boat with 7½-h.p. Johnson motor. VOLKSWAGEN 1962 bus camper with ice box, table, water tank, fully equipped, new tires. 1965 40-h.p. engine; 1959 Chevrolet V-8 2-door car, automatic; 2 new quick clamp portable boat seats; fishing and camping equipment; ice chest.

FURNITURE: Rocker and hassock, G.E. 36" range, like new; 2 kitchen dinette tables, one with 5 chairs, one with 4; Western end table and lamp, matching coffee table; occasional chair; round wicker table; G.E. portable 14" T-V with stand; R.C.A. console T-V 21"; Arvin portable stereo record player; vanity dresser; roll-away bed; studio couch; full size bed springs; floor and table lamps, new; electric fan; electric clocks; table radio; portable record player; suit cases; T-V lamps, electric blanket, bedding and curtains, single bed, 2 stands, 66" double sink, 6-ft. wooden base cabinet, 27" wall base cabinet.

MISCELLANEOUS: Self propelled 22" Sears lawn mower; Speed Queen washer; refrigerator; 10' Norge frost-free refrigerator; small freezer; lawn chairs; picnic table, like new; metal fruit cabinet; fruit jars; tubs; garden hose; 26" boys bicycle; 30-cup electric coffee maker; room air-conditioner; 6' aluminum Christmas tree and lights; gallon electric vaporizer; car top carrier; oil barrel stand. Pitcher pumps.

ANTIQUES: Kerosene lamps, 1 with milk glass base; kerosene lantern; dishes, pictures and picture frames, walnut mirror frames, chair, round table, hand butter churn. Singer sewing machine.

LIVESTOCK: HOGS — 60 EXTRA GOOD HAMPSHIRE FEEDER PIGS, RAISED ON CLEAN GROUND, VACCINATED, 7 TO 9 WEEKS OLD, THE BEST.

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