

BULLETIN ROOM  
LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY FARM.

RESULTS  
of the  
First Annual  
Minnesota Carload Baby  
Beef Contest

1925-26  
(4)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
DOCUMENTS  
SEP 21 1976  
ST. PAUL CAMPUS LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION

(1)  
(2)

Published by the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, Extension Division, F. W. Peck, Director, and distributed in furtherance of the purposes of the co-operative agricultural extension work provided for in the Act of Congress of May 8, 1914.

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations. Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

**FINAL AWARDS**  
**FIRST ANNUAL MINNESOTA CARLOAD BABY BEEF CONTEST**  
 1925-26

Name	Address	County	Breed	Average weight per calf	Rank
James Ellsworth	Magnolia	Rock	Hereford	1056	1
Walter Oelke	Blue Earth	Faribault	Aberdeen-Angus	1039	2
Jodie Anderson	Worthington	Nobles	Aberdeen-Angus	1026	3
F. J. Sheffield	Springfield	Redwood	Hereford	1016	4
E. D. Karlen	LeRoy	Mower	Aberdeen-Angus	1003	5
O. A. Solve	Hancock	Stevens	Hereford	965	6
John C. Wester	Adrian	Nobles	Hereford	956	7
W. F. Deters	Caledonia	Houston	Shorthorn	940	8
Dean Farm	Adams	Mower	Shorthorn	895	9
P. J. Frisch	St. James	Watonwan	Hereford	881	10
Elmer H. Bendixen	Morgan	Redwood	Aberdeen-Angus	860	11
Daly Brothers	Granada	Martin	Hereford	842	12
J. M. Thorston	Springfield	Redwood	Hereford	830	13
P. Abrahamson	Lanesboro	Fillmore	Aberdeen-Angus	829	14
E. G. Shaffer	Pipestone	Pipestone	Hereford	826	15
Hambrecht and Malcomson Bros.	LeRoy	Mower	Hereford	792	16
Ed. Johnson & Son	Fairmont	Martin	Aberdeen-Angus	788	17
J. F. Sullivan & Son	Guckeen	Martin	Hereford	738	18

**Committee in Charge of Contest**

H. O. Tellier, Farmington, Minn., Live Stock Breeders' Association  
 L. W. Kube, Stock Yards Company, South St. Paul  
 A. A. Dowell, University Farm, St. Paul

# RESULTS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MINNESOTA CARLOAD BABY BEEF CONTEST—1925-26

By A. A. Dowell

## INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Carload Baby Beef Contest was made possible through the liberal financial support received from the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association, from every interest on the South St. Paul Livestock Market, including the packers, commission companies, and stockyards company, and from the American Hereford and Shorthorn Breeders' Associations.

The first annual contest was thrown open for entries in the spring of 1925. Within a few weeks, forty beef cattle breeders and feeders, scattered throughout the state, had entered 15 calves each, or a total of 600 head. Entries were made from the following counties: Dodge, 2; Faribault, 1; Fillmore, 1; Houston, 1; Kandiyohi, 1; LeSueur, 2; Martin, 6; Mower, 7; Murray, 2; Nobles, 5; Pipestone, 2; Redwood, 5; Rock, 2; Stevens, 1; Watonwan, 1; and Winona, 1.

Fifteen calves were required to make the "carload" entry. As stated in the rules (given in the latter part of this report), they must be bred and fed by the contestant. It was further required that the calves be dropped on or after February 1 and on or before July 31, 1925. Only calves sired by a registered beef bull and out of beef-bred cows were eligible. Each calf in the carload was given a separate earmark for identification, and entered when but a few weeks old, on a separate enrollment card, showing date of birth, name and number of sire, identification of dam, and earmark of calf. To avoid the possibility of any contestant being forced to drop out later because of the loss of one or more calves, each man was allowed to enter as many as 20 calves if desired. To insure the results being as practical as possible, "nurse cows" were barred. No other limitation was placed on the kind of feed or method of handling.

The contest closed, so far as any one entry was concerned, when the average age of the 15 calves in the carload was 450 days, or approximately 15 months. Each contestant then had the privilege of selecting the 15 heaviest calves out of the number entered.

Awards were based on final weights at the farm. The heaviest carload was awarded first prize, the second heaviest second

prize, and so on, in order of total average weight. The first load to average 450 days of age was weighed out on June 12, 1926, and the last load on August 10, 1926.

The object of this contest was to locate some of the most successful baby beef breeders and feeders in the state so that their methods could be brought to the attention of other producers. Furthermore, it was thought that baby beef producers should have certain definite goals in mind, goals that could be used as a guide in checking up on their own operations.

Beef cattle producers in general will be interested in the light which this contest throws on such questions as the following:

1. Is it possible for beef producers to apply the "Babcock test" to beef production? In other words, How can the beef cattle man raise the productivity of his cow herd?
2. How does the weight of heifer calves compare with that of steers when finished at 15 months of age?
3. What type of sire is best suited to baby beef production? Should the commercial baby beef producer select the big type, medium type, or small, early maturing type of sire?

This report covers the records and results of the ten highest men in the first annual Minnesota Carload Baby Beef Contest. These men have proved their ability to breed and feed prime baby beeves. Their methods are worthy of careful study on the part of every beef producer in the state.

## FIRST PRIZE



OWNER.—James Ellsworth, Magnolia, Rock county

BREED.—Hereford                      AVERAGE WEIGHT.—1,056 pounds

AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.—April 10, 1925

FINISHING DATE.—July 4, 1926

SIRE.—Polled Dan 1110496, a big type, thick-fleshed, mature, polled Hereford

DAMS.—Two purebred Hereford, balance high-grade Hereford. Medium to big type horned cows

**Management of cow herd.**—The cows ran on bluegrass pasture and meadows from May 15 to November 1. They were then turned into the stalk fields until about the first of January. During the early winter they received clover and wild hay with a little corn fodder. Some ear corn was fed with the hay during the latter half of the winter. Mr. Ellsworth says, "I like to keep my breeding cows in good flesh during the winter as this insures stronger calves and a heavier milk flow."

**Management of calves.**—The bull calves were castrated on May 10, their average age being about 30 days at that time. Two of the calves were raised on the pail, hence were kept in the lot and fed whole oats twice a day during the summer. The rest of the calves ran with their dams on pasture, and received no grain until weaning time in the fall. It is interesting to note that the two pail-fed calves were just as growthy and fat at weaning time as those raised with the cow. At the close of the contest they were among the largest and best in the lot. Half of the calves were polled; the others were allowed to run without dehorning.

**Water and salt.**—These were available at all times. The large concrete water tank, which was located in the lot near the feed bunks, was protected by a shed-like cover,

hence a tank heater was not required. Mr. Ellsworth prefers common barrel salt to block salt, as he believes the calves do not get enough of the latter.

**Feedyard equipment.**—The calves were allowed the run of a small lot adjoining the frame cattle and hay barn, one side of which was always open for shelter. Nearby buildings and a straw stack gave added protection from wind and storms. All grain was fed in feed bunks out in the lot, the hay being fed inside the barn.

**Rations.**—The calves were brought in from the pasture on November 1 and immediately started on feed. For the first few days they received whole oats and alfalfa hay. Later corn-and-cob meal was added, in the proportion of half whole oats and half corn-and-cob meal by measure. They were allowed all the alfalfa hay they wanted in addition to access to oat straw. This grain mixture was steadily increased until they were getting all they would clean up in from 1½ to 2 hours, being fed three times a day. During November and December, 10 pounds of grain was consumed per calf daily.

On January 1, shelled corn was added in place of part of the corn-and-cob meal. The shelled corn was gradually increased and the corn-and-cob meal reduced, the latter being eliminated entirely by February 1. During January and February the grain mixture was half (by measure) whole oats, and half corn; alfalfa hay and oat straw being available at all times. The average daily grain consumption for these two months was 14 pounds per calf.

Beginning with March 1, shelled corn was increased and whole oats reduced. For March and April the mixture averaged shelled corn two-thirds by measure and whole oats one-third. This gave an average daily grain consumption of 14 pounds of shelled corn and 4 pounds of whole oats, or a total of 18 pounds per calf. Alfalfa hay and oat straw were continued as before.

The same grain mixture and roughages were continued to the close of the feeding period, the only change being the addition of a small allowance of linseed oilmeal and an increase in the amount of grain consumed. From May 1 to the close, the calves were consuming approximately 15 pounds shelled corn, 5 pounds whole oats, and ¾-pound linseed oilmeal daily with free access to alfalfa hay and oat straw.

It is interesting to note that home-grown feeds were used exclusively except for a small allowance of oilmeal during the last two months.



**Sale report.**—This load of cattle was considered “prime” from the standpoint of both breeding and finish, by market interests. They had no difficulty in topping the market for mixed steers and heifers.

## SECOND PRIZE



**OWNER.**—Walter Oelke, Blue Earth, Faribault county

**BREED.**—Aberdeen Angus      **AVERAGE WEIGHT.**—1,039 pounds

**AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.**—March 23, 1925

**FINISHING DATE.**—June 16, 1926

**SIRE.**—Ten calves sired by Blackbird Boy W 3d 355486; five calves sired by Engraver Blackbird 246421. These were compact, thick-fleshed, mature sires of medium size.

**DAMS.**—Medium to big type, thick-fleshed, purebred Aberdeen Angus

**Management of cow herd.**—The breeding cows ran on blue-grass pasture from June 1 to November 1 when they were turned into the stalk fields. By January 1 the stalks were pretty well cleaned up, so they were given a moderate feed of corn fodder with what oat straw they wanted. This combination was continued until the first of April, when silage replaced the bundle corn. From April to June they were allowed what timothy and wild hay they would clean up in addition to the corn silage. Mr. Oelke believes that it pays to keep breeding cows in good condition the year round and that it is false economy to allow the cows to run down during the winter and go on grass in a thin, weakened condition.

**Management of calves.**—All bull calves were castrated in May, before the cows were turned on pasture. The calves ran in the pasture with their mothers without grain until October 26. They were then brought in

and started on a light feed of whole oats and shelled corn, with what alfalfa and clover hay they wanted. They were weaned on December 9. By that time they were accustomed to the grain feed and hence shrank very little from the weaning process. During the six weeks prior to weaning, the grain was fed but once a day. From weaning to the end of the feeding period grain was fed twice daily.

**Water and salt.**—These were available at all times. A tank heater was used to remove the chill from the water. Mr. Oelke uses barrel salt, as he believes the calves will consume more in that form than in any other.

**Feedyard equipment.**—Mr. Oelke has an exceptionally well located and equipped feedlot. The calves have access to an open shed with a moderate sized lot adjoining. This lot is enclosed by a board fence with timber protection on three sides. The feed bunks and hay racks are in the lot, with the water tank near at hand.

This combination of frame shed, hay rack, board fence, and surrounding trees insures ample protection from wind and storms.

**Rations.**—The feeding period proper began at the time of weaning, December 9, tho, as previously stated, the calves had received a light feed of grain once a day during the preceding six weeks. From weaning time on, grain was fed twice a day. Up to January 1, they were allowed all the ground ear corn they would clean up in 30 minutes, both morning and evening, with  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound linseed oilmeal per calf daily. Whole oats was fed once a day at the rate of 2 pounds per head. For roughage, they had access to mixed clover and alfalfa hay.

During the next sixty days, the calves were allowed a trifle more oilmeal and slightly more time to clean up their feed. Otherwise, the ration was the same as before. During this period, they were eating 16 pounds ground ear corn, 2 pounds whole oats, and  $\frac{2}{3}$  pound oilmeal per head daily, in addition to the mixed clover and alfalfa hay.

Beginning with March 1, the whole oats and clover hay were dropped from the ration. From this time to the middle of April the average daily consumption per calf was 18 pounds ground ear corn,  $\frac{2}{3}$  pound oilmeal, with all the alfalfa hay they wanted.

The ration was changed considerably about the middle of April to add variety and stimulate the appetite of the calves. A small amount of whole oats was



added, also blackstrap molasses, and corn silage. The corn silage was first put in the feed bunks, then the ground ear corn was poured over the silage, and the blackstrap molasses, diluted one-half with water, was poured over all. During this period the average daily ration was as follows: 18 pounds ground ear corn, 1 1/5 pounds whole oats, 1 1/2 pounds blackstrap molasses, 2/3 pound oilmeal, 10 to 12 pounds silage, and free access to alfalfa hay.

The same method of feeding was followed to the close of the feeding period, except that, beginning in the latter part of May, the ground ear corn was gradually replaced by shelled corn. The calves were finished in the dry lot.

Mr. Oelke fed some raw bonemeal as well as a little commercial mineral mixture during the winter and spring. In addition to this, the 49 baby beeves which were fed together in the lot, were fed 50 pounds of ordinary clean black dirt each week. Mr. Oelke says, "The calves like this black dirt and eat it just like a boy eats sugar. It increases their appetite with the result that they eat more grain."

**Sale report.**—Market authorities considered this a very choice load of calves, "prime" as to both quality and finish. Mr. Oelke's cattle sold at the extreme top for mixed steers and heifers.

### THIRD PRIZE



**OWNER.**—Jodie Anderson, Worthington, Nobles county

**BREED.**—Aberdeen Angus      **AVERAGE WEIGHT.**—1,026 pounds

**AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.**—May 12, 1925

**FINISHING DATE.**—August 5, 1926

**SIRE.**—Bowden C 242398, a big type, thick-fleshed, mature bull

**DAMS.**—Half were purebred Aberdeen Angus, the rest high grade. They were medium in size.

**Management of cow herd.**—The breeding cows ran on native grass and sweet clover pastures from early June to September. They were then turned into the meadows and stubble fields, which provided ample feed for the next sixty days. Early in November they were moved to the cornstalk fields. During December the stalk fields were supplemented with corn fodder, the latter being continued to the first of March. In addition to the bundle corn, the cows received corn silage and a little clover hay from the middle of January to March, and silage and clover hay from then until put on grass. Oat straw was available throughout the winter feeding period.

**Management of calves.**—The bull calves were castrated when they averaged five weeks old, as Mr. Anderson considers it important to perform this operation at an early age. The calves ran with their dams on pasture without grain up to the middle of October. They were then brought in to wean and immediately started on feed.

**Water and salt.**—The water tank stood just outside the shed, hence a tank heater was used to keep it open at all times. Block salt was available at will.

**Feedyard equipment.**—The calves were wintered in an open shed with a rather large lot adjoining. All feed bunks and hay racks were inside the shed. The surrounding buildings gave additional protection from wind and storms.

**Rations.**—At the time of weaning, October 15, the calves were started on a light feed of whole oats with all the clover hay and oat straw they wanted. On December 1 shelled corn was added in the proportion of half and half by measure of shelled corn and whole oats.

Beginning with the first of January, approximately 2 pounds per calf daily of corn silage was added to the ration, with a small allowance of corn fodder. As before, clover hay and oat straw were available at all times. The proportion of oats was then gradually reduced. During January and February the grain ration consisted of three-fourths by measure of shelled corn and one-fourth whole oats.

By March 1, whole oats had been entirely eliminated from the ration, and the amount of corn was correspondingly increased. At no time during the winter, however, had the calves been given a heavy grain allowance. During March and April the same roughages were fed as before—silage, clover hay, and a little corn fodder, with access to oat straw.

Beginning in early May the grain ration was increased steadily until they were getting all the shelled corn they would clean up twice a day. Silage was continued as before, and alfalfa hay was fed in place of clover hay. The average daily consumption per calf during May and June was approximately 18 pounds of shelled corn, 5 pounds of silage, and 2 pounds of alfalfa hay.

Toward the latter part of June, the corn silage was discontinued and some linseed oilmeal added. From then to the end of the feeding period, the ration consisted of shelled corn, oilmeal, and alfalfa hay. The calves were finished in the dry lot.

**Sale report.**—These calves were considered "prime" by the salesman who sold them, as well as by the packer buyer. They topped the market on the day sold.

#### FOURTH PRIZE



OWNER.—F. J. Sheffield, Springfield, Redwood county.

BREED.—Hereford                      AVERAGE WEIGHT.—1,016 pounds

AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.—March 23, 1925

FINISHING DATE.—June 16, 1926

SIRE.—Dale Monroe 959789—a medium sized, very thick, beefy type, mature

DAMS.—Medium to big type, thick, meaty, purebred Hereford

**Management of cow herd.**—The cows ran on bluegrass pasture from May 10 to November 25. In addition to this, they had access to hay meadows and stubble fields after the middle of September. Stalk fields were available from the latter part of November to about the first of the year. During January and February the cows received a light feed of silage once a day, but got the bulk of their roughage from bundle-corn which

had first been picked over by the fattening cattle. Oat straw was also available at all times. After the first of March, silage was fed twice a day—allowing all they would clean up in a reasonable time. They also had a small allowance of wild hay and a little timothy with the oat straw. By following a similar method each year, Mr. Sheffield is able to carry his breeding cows through the winter in vigorous condition on feeds that would otherwise have comparatively little market value.

**Management of calves.**—Mr. Sheffield follows the plan of castrating his bull calves when young, to avoid any serious setback from this operation, those in this contest averaging five weeks old at the time. All the calves ran with their dams on pasture without grain until weaning time in the fall. They were weaned on October 28 and immediately started on feed. The calves were not dehorned, as Mr. Sheffield does not consider horns a handicap in the case of baby beeves.

**Water and salt.**—Water was available at all times from a specially constructed concrete tank inside the shed. The construction and location of this tank was such that a heater was not required. Block salt was used through most of the feeding period, barrel salt being used during the last few weeks only.

**Feedyard equipment.**—These calves had access to one side of a frame cattle and hay barn, with a moderate sized lot adjoining. The grain bunks were located just outside the shed. Hay was fed both inside the barn and in a nearby hay rack. The open barn, straw stack, hay rack, and surrounding windbreak gave ample protection during severe weather. Mr. Sheffield has a very well equipped beef cattle feeding plant, so arranged as to handle 3 or 4 carloads of mature steers in addition to and separate from his baby beeves.

**Rations.**—The calves were weaned on October 28 and immediately started on feed. They were fed twice a day throughout the feeding period. Up to January 1, the ration consisted of three parts by weight of whole oats to one part of whole ear corn. During this period they consumed about 10 pounds of grain per calf daily, with what alfalfa hay they wanted. The calves took to the whole ear corn from the start, shelling it off the cob much as horses or hogs would.

From January 1 to March 1 the ration was made up of one-half, by weight, whole oats and one-half whole ear corn, with a moderate feed of silage, and alfalfa available at will. The average daily consumption per



calf during this period was about 13 pounds of grain, 5 of silage, and 2 of alfalfa hay.

It will be observed that up to this state of the fattening process, home-grown feeds only were used, and these were fed in a natural unprepared condition—whole ear corn, whole oats, and alfalfa hay.

Mr. Sheffield is a firm believer in using a variety of feeds during the finishing period. Consequently the ration was changed considerably about the first of March. At this time some shelled corn was added, also ground barley, bran, and linseed oilmeal. From March 1 to the close of the contest, the average daily feed consumed per calf was approximately 4 pounds shelled corn, 4 pounds whole oats, 7 pounds whole ear corn (figured on a shelled corn basis), 2 pounds ground barley, 1 pound linseed oilmeal,  $\frac{2}{3}$  pound bran, 3 to 4 pounds corn silage, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound each of alfalfa hay and mixed hay. The calves were finished in the dry lot.

**Sale report.**—This carload of baby beeves sold at the extreme top of the market for mixed steers and heifers. They were considered very choice.

### FIFTH PRIZE



OWNER.—E. D. Karlen, LeRoy, Mower county

BREED.—Aberdeen Angus      AVERAGE WEIGHT.—1,003 pounds

AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.—April 6, 1926

FINISHING DATE.—June 30, 1926

SIRE.—KaKidem 319135—a medium to big type, moderate fleshed, rather rangy, mature bull

DAMS.—Good, thick-fleshed, medium to big type, purebred Aberdeen Angus



**Management of cow herd.**—Bluegrass pasture supplied the forage for the cows from May 15 to October 1. They were then turned into the hay meadows and stubble fields, this pasturage lasting until the latter part of November. Beginning with early December, silage was fed twice daily, allowing all that the cows would clean up readily. In addition to the corn silage, they had constant access to shredded corn fodder and oat straw, and a light feed of mixed clover and timothy hay throughout the winter and spring until pasture was again available. Mr. Karlen considers it good business for the baby beef producer to carry the breeding cows through the winter in a vigorous condition. He recognizes the necessity, however, of keeping the winter feed charge down to the minimum. Hence his plan of using a variety of cheap roughages—shredded corn fodder, corn silage, oat straw, and a small allowance of mixed hay.

**Management of calves.**—The calves ran with their dams on pasture during the summer. Mr. Karlen tried to start them on feed while in pasture, by providing a "calf creep." This was begun on September 15, but discontinued when the cows were moved to the hay meadows two weeks later. During this brief period, only a few of the calves made use of the whole oats in the creep. It is Mr. Karlen's opinion, however, that a creep would be valuable if the calves were taught to eat grain before being turned out, otherwise it seemed difficult to get them to eat grain fed in this way.

The feeding period proper dates from October 10, when the calves were brought in and placed in the feed lot. They were not weaned, however, until December 10. The bull calves were castrated 10 days before weaning.

**Water and salt.**—Both block and barrel salt were before the calves at all times. Mr. Karlen thinks that calves will not eat enough block salt, particularly during cold weather, hence he uses the barrel salt as well. Water was always available in a nearby tank covered with a small frame shed. A tank heater is considered an important part of the feedyard equipment and is used regularly during cold weather.

**Feedyard equipment.**—Shelter consisted of one side of a large frame barn, a board fence around a portion of the adjoining lot, and considerable timber around the feedyard. During the winter the calves were confined to the barn at night and shut out in the lot throughout the day except in stormy weather, when they were out about four hours only. All grain and hay were fed inside the shed.

**Rations.**—From October 10 to the last of November the calves were fed 2 pounds whole oats per head once a day, with all the mixed timothy and clover hay they wanted. In addition to this they were allowed to nurse twice daily.

Beginning with the first of December, the grain ration was changed to half shelled corn and half whole oats by measure, with 1 pound of linseed oilmeal daily per calf. They were also allowed all the corn silage they would clean up twice a day, a limited amount of alfalfa hay, and all the timothy and clover hay and oat straw they wanted. This combination of feeds was continued from December 1 to the last of March—the average daily consumption of concentrates being approximately 7 pounds of grain and 1 pound of oilmeal. This was fed in two equal feeds, morning and night.

The whole oats was gradually reduced after the first of April and finally eliminated altogether. The ration then consisted of shelled corn, oilmeal, corn silage, and timothy and clover hay. A little later ground shelled corn was used in place of the shelled corn. This change was made at once, without noticeable trouble. From the first of April to the close of the contest, the calves consumed about 16 pounds of corn, 2 pounds of oilmeal, and 4 pounds of silage per day, with what mixed hay they would eat. They were finished in the dry lot.

**Sale report.**—This load of calves was also considered “prime” at the time of marketing, and topped the market for mixed steers and heifers.

### SIXTH PRIZE



**OWNER.**—O. A. Solve, Hancock, Stevens county

**BREED.**—Hereford **AVERAGE WEIGHT.**—965 pounds

**AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.**—April 17, 1925

**FINISHING DATE.**—July 11, 1926

**SIRE.**—Richard Fairfax 149th 1183397, a medium sized, low-set, compact, mature bull

**DAMS.**—Three purebred Hereford, balance high-grade Hereford. These cows were medium in size, and on the thick, meaty order.

**Management of cow herd.**—For summer pasture Mr. Solve likes a mixture of sweet clover, alfalfa, alsike clover, and timothy. He also uses considerable brome grass. The breeding cows are on pasture from the middle of May to September 15, when they are turned into the meadows and stubble fields. By the first of November the cornstalk fields are available. This furnishes ample forage up to December. Corn fodder and oat straw supply the roughage required during December. About the first of the year, the silo is opened and corn silage is fed from that time to the grass season. A little alfalfa hay is also fed throughout the winter with all the oat straw they want.

**Management of the calves.**—On the Solve farm the bull calves are always castrated while young—this particular lot averaging about six weeks of age. All the calves were allowed to run with their mothers during the summer and early fall, no grain being fed until they were weaned, the first of November. Grain and silage were then fed twice a day throughout the feeding period.

After the calves were weaned and had become accustomed to their feed and new surroundings, they were

dehorned, on November 15. Mr. Solve prefers the clippers for removing the horns on cattle of this age.

**Water and salt.**—A tank heater was used to remove the chill from the water and thus encourage the calves to drink as much as possible. Water was always available. Barrel salt was kept before them at all times. Mr. Solve thinks that baby beeves do not get enough salt when it is fed in block form.

**Feedyard equipment.**—A one-story frame shed 34x70 feet was used to house the 40 baby beeves that were fed together last winter. Running full length through the center of this shed is a 5-foot feed trough which connects with the silo at one end of the building. The silage and grain are fed in this trough or bunk, while the hay is fed from a rack in the lot nearby. Doors into the shed are always open so that the cattle can go in and out at will.

**Rations.**—The calves were started on feed November 1. They were allowed a light feed of grain, approximately half what they would have cleaned up, the mixture consisting of equal parts by measure of ground oats and ground barley. Silage was fed twice a day, the amount being regulated entirely by the appetite of the cattle. Alfalfa hay and oat straw were before them at all times. This combination of feeds and method of feeding was continued from November to the end of January.

During February the grain ration was changed to one half by measure of ground ear corn and the other half a mixture of equal parts ground oats and ground barley. They were still allowed only about half a feed of grain. Silage was fed twice a day as before, allowing all they would clean up in a reasonable time, with the alfalfa and straw available at will.

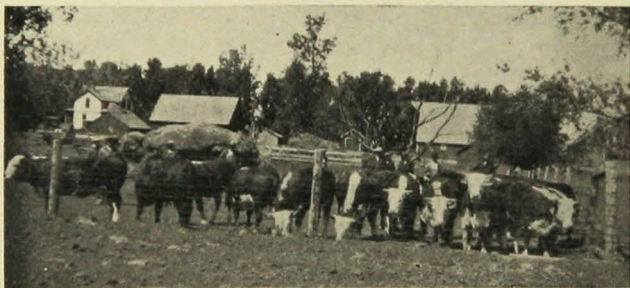
The same mixture of grains and roughages was continued through March and April. The allowance of grain, however, was increased from one-half to two-thirds feed.

Beginning with the first of May, ground ear corn made up two-thirds by measure of the grain ration, and the ground oats-ground barley mixture, the remaining one-third. The cattle were then getting all the grain they would clean up twice a day. Silage was continued to May 15, with alfalfa hay. From the latter part of May to the close of the contest, the

calves were each allowed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds daily of a commercial feed containing grain screenings, blackstrap, and a little mineral. This was fed with the grain mixture and the alfalfa hay. The calves were finished in the dry lot.

**Sale report.**—These calves topped the market for mixed steers and heifers, and were considered “prime” by market experts.

### SEVENTH PRIZE



**OWNER.**—John C. Wester, Adrian, Nobles county

**BREED.**—Hereford **AVERAGE WEIGHT.**—956 pounds

**AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.**—May 13, 1925

**FINISHING DATE.**—August 6, 1926

**SIRE.**—Stanway Boy 821303, a thick-fleshed bull of medium size

**DAMS.**—Mostly purebred Herefords, the rest being high grades. They were classed as medium to big type.

**Management of cow herd.**—The cows ran on bluegrass pasture from May 10 to the first of November, altho the meadow and stubble fields furnished the bulk of the forage during the latter part of this period. From November to the first of the year they ran in the stalk fields. Corn fodder was fed twice a day from that time to the first of March. From the first of March to grass time they received mixed clover and timothy hay with a little ear corn twice a day. Oat straw was available throughout the winter feeding period. Mr. Wester is convinced that it pays to give the breeding cows a little grain in addition to the mixed hay during the latter part of the winter. This keeps them in a strong, vigorous condition and insures



a good calf crop with ample milk to give the calves a running start.

**Management of calves.**—The calves were not allowed to run with their dams, but were kept in and allowed to nurse twice daily. Mr. Wester prefers this method on the ground that the calves are quieter and easier to handle. Furthermore, they can be fed grain during the summer and hence go through the weaning process with very little shrink. From the time the calves were large enough to eat, they were given a light feed of whole oats with all the alfalfa hay they wanted. The bull calves were castrated on October 10. They were weaned November 1. These calves were not dehorned.

**Water and salt.**—Water was always available in a large tank located in the lot near the shed and feed bunks, and a tank heater was used to keep it open during cold weather. Both block salt and barrel salt were used. The former was kept before the calves at all times, while the latter was fed at intervals during the feeding period.

**Feedyard equipment.**—These calves had the run of a frame shed open to the south, with a medium sized lot adjoining. The hay rack, straw stack, and surrounding trees and buildings furnished additional protection from unfavorable weather. Feed bunks and hay racks were placed in the lot just outside the shed.

**Rations.**—The feeding period proper began at the time of weaning on November 1 altho, as previously mentioned, they had received a light feed of whole oats and alfalfa hay during the suckling period. Shelled corn was then added to the ration in the proportion of half and half by measure of shelled corn and whole oats. In addition, the calves had all the alfalfa hay and oat straw they wanted. Beginning with a light feed of grain, the amount was steadily increased until they were approaching a full feed by the first of the year.

During January and February  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of oil-meal per calf daily was added to the ration. They were then getting all the shelled corn-whole oats mixture they would clean up twice a day, with the alfalfa hay and oat straw.

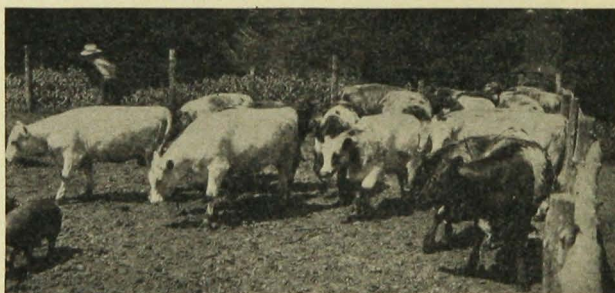
The same feeds were used during March and April, altho the proportion of whole oats was gradually reduced. On the average for this period they

were getting 3 parts by measure of shelled corn to 1 part whole oats. This mixture was continued to the close of the feeding period, the only change being a slight increase in the amount of oilmeal during the summer. The calves were finished in the dry lot.

Mr. Wester believes in using home-grown feeds and feeding them in a natural condition. The oats were fed whole, the corn shelled, and the alfalfa hay just as it came from the stack. The only feed purchased, aside from the salt, was the linseed oilmeal and this was fed in limited amounts.

**Sale report.**—These calves were quite uniform as to age and quality, and were called “prime” by market interests. They had no difficulty in topping the market for cattle of similar age and weight.

### EIGHTH PRIZE



**OWNER.**—W. F. Deters, Caledonia, Houston county

**BREED.**—Shorthorn **AVERAGE WEIGHT.**—940 pounds

**AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.**—April 15, 1925

**FINISHING DATE.**—July 9, 1926

**SIRE.**—Ten calves sired by Gloster's Diamond 928257; five by Prince Hennepin 1038441. These two bulls were medium in size, with fairly thick, compact body conformation.

**DAMS.**—Purebred Shorthorn. The majority of the cows were of medium size, altho a few would be classed as big.

**Management of cow herd.**—The breeding cows were on bluegrass pasture from May 1 to December 5. During the winter feeding period they received timothy and clover hay with access to oat straw. Mr. Deters aims to keep the herd in good condition for spring calving as this insures a good calf crop, with ample milk to give them the proper start.

**Management of the calves.**—The 20 calves were raised on 18 cows, as two of the best milkers were cut out for family use. As soon as the pasture season opened, the calves were kept in and allowed to nurse twice daily. They were allowed to run on a small pasture near the barn lot. Along with the milk and pasture, they received all the whole oats they wanted, beginning early in August and continuing to November 4, when they were actually started on the winter feeding period. During this time they averaged a trifle less than 2 pounds of oats per calf daily. After the weather turned cold in the fall, they were allowed to nurse only once a day. They were not weaned until January 1, altho the cows had been practically dry for several weeks.

The bull calves were castrated on June 24, when they averaged 10 weeks of age. They were dehorned on November 26, 1925.

**Water and salt.**—Water and salt were before the calves at all times. As the water tank was inside the barn a tank heater was not required. Barrel salt and bone-meal were fed in separate compartments inside the barn.

**Feedyard equipment.**—The 20 baby beeves which were fed together in this contest were housed in one side of a large frame stock barn, the floor space being 20x46 feet. They were shut inside the barn at nights, with the upper section of the doors open for ventilation. During the day they were allowed to run in and out at will. The water tank, grain bunks, and hay rack were located inside the barn. The rather small exercising lot, which adjoined the barn, was well protected by surrounding buildings and trees.

**Rations.**—The feeding period proper began November 4, altho they had been receiving all the whole oats they wanted for 90 days prior to this time. From November 4 to the first of January they were fed shelled corn, whole oats, ground flaxseed which carried about 50 per cent weed seeds, and alsike clover hay. The average daily feed consumption during this period was shelled corn 7 pounds, whole oats 3 pounds, ground flaxseed 1½ pounds, and alsike clover hay 4 pounds. In addition to this they were turned with their dams once a day, tho the cows had been practically dry for some time.

Beginning with the first of January, silage was added to the ration and linseed oilmeal was used in

place of flaxseed meal. During January and February the average daily ration was 10 pounds shelled corn, 2½ pounds whole oats, 2 pounds oilmeal, 7 pounds silage, and 3 pounds alsike clover hay.

The calves were fed twice a day throughout the feeding period. After they were accustomed to a full feed, they were allowed all the grain they would clean up from one feed to the next.

The same feeds were used through March and April, tho the proportion varied slightly from the previous two months. The average daily consumption for this period was approximately 11 pounds shelled corn, 1½ pounds whole oats, 2 pounds oilmeal, 8 pounds silage, and 2 pounds alsike clover hay. It will be noted that the proportion of oats to corn was reduced and that less hay was eaten.

Beginning with the first of May, oats were eliminated from the ration. Throughout the rest of the feeding period they were fed all the shelled corn they would clean up twice a day, 2 pounds of oilmeal, and 8 pounds of silage per calf daily with what alsike clover hay they wanted. The calves were finished in the dry lot.

**Sale report.**—Market interests considered this an especially choice load as to both type and finish. The heaviest calves for their age were considered the best in the lot.

## NINTH PRIZE



OWNER.—Dean Farm, Adams, Mower county

BREED.—Shorthorn                      AVERAGE WEIGHT.—895 pounds

AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.—April 3, 1925

FINISHING DATE.—June 27, 1926

SIRE.—Double Secret 112619; thick, meaty, big type, mature

DAMS.—Grade and purebred Shorthorn, the majority being purebred. These were good, useful cows of medium size.

**Management of cow herd.**—The cows had the run of blue-grass pasture from May 20 until the hay meadows and stubble fields were available. This supplied the forage until the stalk fields were ready, about the first of November. As the stalks were pretty well cleaned up by December, they were then put on the regular winter ration, consisting of corn silage twice a day throughout the winter, in addition to one feed a day of corn fodder until the middle of February, and mixed clover and timothy thereafter. Oat straw was available throughout the season.

**Management of calves.**—The calves ran with their dams on pasture throughout the summer. A creep was placed in the pasture a couple of months before weaning so that they had access to all the whole oats they wanted. Some of the calves took to the creep quickly while others made little use of the feed for several weeks. However, the creep was considered a success as the calves were thus taught to eat grain before weaning, and at a time when the milk flow usually falls off because of short pastures. They were weaned October 1 and immediately placed in the feed lot.

The bull calves were castrated on October 1. These calves were not dehorned.



**Water and salt.**—Water was supplied from a tank in the lot, near the cattle shed. A heater was used to keep the tank open and water available at all times. On Dean Farm, block salt is considered satisfactory for beef cattle of all ages.

**Feedyard equipment.**—One side of a large frame cattle and hay barn was used to house the cattle. As the door to the barn was always open, the calves had access to the large lot adjoining, regardless of weather conditions. Grain and silage were fed in the feed bunks in the lot, while the hay was fed in racks inside the barn. The feed lot was surrounded by considerable timber as well as buildings, hence the cattle were well protected from wind and storms.

**Rations.**—The calves went through the weaning process with very little shrink as they had become accustomed to eating whole oats in a creep, placed in the pasture two months before weaning. They were then started on a light feed of whole oats two-thirds, shelled corn one-third, by measure. In addition to the grain fed twice a day, they had clover and timothy hay as desired. This ration was continued through October and November.

Beginning with the first of December, silage was fed once a day, allowing all that the calves would clean up readily. The grain mixture and roughage were the same as before, tho the proportion of oats was reduced slightly. The amount of grain was also increased steadily, tho a full feed was not given until later.

Linseed oilmeal was added to the ration on February 15, at the rate of 1 pound per calf daily.

The proportion of oats was gradually reduced throughout the winter, so that they were getting three-fourths shelled corn and one-fourth by measure whole oats by June 1. They were still receiving 1 pound of oilmeal per calf daily, all the silage they would clean up once a day, and clover and timothy hay at will. This combination of feeds was continued to the close of the feeding period. They were finished in the dry lot.

**Sale Report.**—These calves showed excellent breeding, as indicated by their quality and type. They were well grown, but could have carried somewhat more finish at time of marketing. Market experts graded the load as prime, consequently they sold at the top of the market for steers and heifers.

TENTH PRIZE



OWNER.—P. J. Frisch, St. James, Watonwan county

BREED.—Hereford AVERAGE WEIGHT.—881 pounds

AVERAGE BIRTH DATE.—March 19, 1925

FINISHING DATE.—June 12, 1926

SIRE.—Elmer Fairfax, 1093689, a thick-fleshed bull of medium size

DAMS.—Of mixed breeding, grade Hereford and grade Short-horn, with Hereford blood predominating. They were of medium size

**Management of cow herd.**—From the middle of May to the first of October the breeding cows ran on native prairie pasture. They were then turned on the meadows and stubble fields until the stalk fields were ready. These furnished ample roughage until December. Some corn fodder was fed during the early winter, but silage and wild hay furnished the bulk of the feed from December to the grass season. This method of feeding carried the cows through the winter in a fair condition of flesh.

**Management of calves.**—Mr. Frisch is another baby beef producer who believes that it pays to castrate the bull calves while young. His calves averaged six weeks of age at the time this operation was performed. Ten of the older calves ran with their dams in pasture, the balance being kept in and allowed to nurse twice daily. No grain was fed during this period. They were weaned on October 15 and immediately started on feed. These calves were not dehorned.

**Water and salt.**—The water tank was located in the lot close by the shed and feed bunks. As it was well packed and covered, a tank heater was not necessary. Barrel salt was available at all times.

**Feedyard equipment.**—The calves had the run of an open straw shed with a three-acre lot adjoining. Feed bunks and hay rack, which were placed just outside the shed, were exceptionally well protected by surrounding buildings.

**Rations.**—The feeding period began at the time of weaning on October 15. They were started on a light feed of grain consisting of equal parts by measure of ground oats and ground barley, with what corn fodder they would eat. The grain allowance was gradually increased until by the middle of November they were getting about all they would clean up readily. From then to the first of February, they averaged 9 pounds of grain per head daily in addition to the grain in the fodder. Silage and wild hay replaced the corn fodder early in February. They were allowed all the silage they would clean up readily twice a day, with hay available at will. The ground oats-barley mixture was continued as before, tho the amount had been increased to approximately ten pounds per calf daily.

On March 1 ground shelled corn replaced the ground barley in the ration, this being the only change up to April 15. The grain mixture was then changed to 2 parts by measure of shelled corn to 1 part whole oats. This, with the silage and wild hay, was continued to the close of the contest. The calves were finished in the dry lot.

**Sale report.**—These calves cashed at the top of the market on the day sold. They were pronounced "prime" by market experts, but could have carried a trifle more finish.

---

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

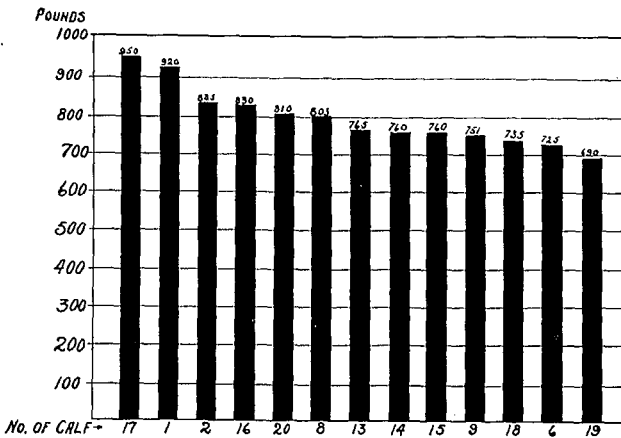
In reviewing the results of this contest it will be observed that no one breed had a monopoly on weight. On each of these ten farms there was more difference in weight between the lightest and heaviest calves, age considered, than there was in the weight of the first and the tenth prize loads. As the calves on any one farm were fed together, and in most instances, sired by the same bull, it appears that baby beef producers can do much to increase the productivity of their breeding herds by weeding out their inferior cows.

It is not safe, however, to weed out the cows at weaning time for, as pointed out by many of the men in this contest, a calf in just fair condition at that time may pass the rest

of the lot by the close of the feeding period. A heavy milk flow may produce a good fat calf up to weaning, but it takes the breeding or inheritance as well as the right kind of feed, to insure weight at the time of marketing.

#### Applying the "Babcock Test" to Beef Production

Too many baby beef producers have been accustomed to thinking in terms of a carload of cattle, a crib of corn, and a stack of hay. They have been overlooking the little things. Results obtained in this contest show that it is high time to give more attention to the individual calf and its dam. To be able to weed out the inferior breeding cows in the beef herd, it is absolutely essential that the age and identity of each calf be known and recorded. In beef herds maintained to produce market cattle, this can be done by giving each cow in the herd a separate and distinct ear notch or number. By making a fair-sized notch, each cow can be readily identified from a distance (see page 30 for suggested method of ear notching). Then if the calf is given the same number as its dam, the identity can be maintained permanently. This plan will enable the beef producer to apply the "Babcock test" to beef production.



Weight of Calves at 12 Months of Age

From Carload Entered by W. F. Deters, Caledonia, Houston County

Each calf was weighed the day it was 12 months old. All were by the same sire and were fed and handled alike. Calf No. 17 weighed 260 pounds more than No. 19. At 10 cents a pound the difference was \$26 in favor of No. 17. The difference was due to the dams of the calves. By keeping proper records, beef producers can weed out the inferior breeding cows.

### Weight of Heifers and Steers Compared

When this project was started the contestants were divided on the question of how the steers would weigh out as compared to the heifers. The majority were of the opinion that the heifers, fed and marketed at an early age, would outweigh the steers. A review of the weight cards, however, shows that the steers consistently outweighed the heifers. The average weight of the 167 steers weighed out individually at the close of the contest was 932 pounds and their average age 449 days. The 88 heifers averaged 873 pounds at an average age of 451 days. When adjustment is made for this slight variation in age between the sexes (based on  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds per day as covered by the rules) the steers outweighed the heifers by an average of 64 pounds at 450 days of age.

#### WEIGHT OF STEERS VS. HEIFERS

Owner	Steers			Heifers		
	No.	Av. age	Av. wt.	No.	Av. age	Av. wt.
		days	lb.		days	lb.
James Ellsworth.....	11	450	1,056	4	452	1,055
Walter Oelke.....	12	451	1,047	3	443	1,006
Jodie Anderson.....	12	454	1,033	3	435	998
F. J. Sheffield.....	11	451	1,024	4	445	994
E. D. Karlen.....	13	451	1,008	2	442	970
O. A. Solve.....	8	450	986	7	450	940
John C. Wester.....	9	445	958	6	456	953
W. F. Deters.....	9	450	957	6	449	914
Dean Farm.....	10	445	927	5	460	831
F. J. Frisch.....	8	441	879	7	459	883
Elmer H. Bendixen...	10	452	900	5	447	781
Daly Bros.....	12	449	858	3	454	778
J. M. Thorston.....	5	437	836	10	457	827
P. Abrahamson.....	6	458	871	9	445	800
E. G. Shaffer.....	14	449	828	1	452	793
Hambrecht & Malcom- son Bros.....	5	440	804	10	455	785
J. F. Sullivan & Son...	12	451	742	3	446	718
Weighted average.....		449	932		451	873

The fifteen calves in the entry of Ed. Johnson & Son were weighed as a group, hence individual weights are not available.

The twenty calves entered by W. F. Deters, Caledonia, were equally divided as to sex, 10 steers and 10 heifers. Each calf was weighed the day it was 10 months old, and again when 12 months old, with the results shown in the accompanying table.

The steers not only outweighed the heifers by the good margin of 63.5 pounds per head at 10 months of age, but increased the spread to 78.4 pounds at 12 months of age.



## WEIGHT OF STEERS VS. HEIFERS

No. of calf	10 steers		No. of calf	10 heifers	
	Individual weights at 10 mo.	Individual weights at 12 mo.		Individual weights at 10 mo.	Individual weights at 12 mo.
	lb.	lb.		lb.	lb.
18	600	735	6	580	725
1	775	920	2	725	835
8	685	803	7	580	700
11	690	840	12	610	707
20	695	810	9	700	751
14	685	760	10	610	776
13	615	765	19	600	690
5	675	805	4	580	705
16	715	830	3	670	785
17	840	950	15	685	760
Total			Total		
10	6,975	8,218	10	6,340	7,434
Av.			Av.		
	697.5	821.8		634.0	743.4

## AVERAGE WEIGHTS

At 10 months:	lb.	At 12 months:	lb.
Steers .....	697.5	Steers .....	821.8
Heifers .....	634.0	Heifers .....	743.4
Advantage in favor of steers .....	63.5		78.4

## Type of Sire Best Suited to Baby Beef Production

The men whose calves rank near the top in this contest all used bulls of either medium or big type. These bulls were not the leggy, thin-fleshed, coarse-boned sort, but possessed scale with thickness. In show condition they would weigh from 2,000 to 2,600 pounds. The cows were also classed as medium or medium to big. As one man expressed it, "My largest and best three calves were out of the largest, beefiest, three cows in the herd. They would not be called heavy milkers but gave enough to carry their calves through to weaning in good shape."

So far as is known, the men standing at the top in this contest have bred and fed the heaviest baby beeves at 450 days of age, in Minnesota, of which there is record. However, every one of these men said, "If given my choice, I would rather produce all calves like the three or four heaviest in the lot. They will bring the most money." In other words, the heaviest baby beeves ever produced under farm conditions in this state were preferred by the producers and at time of marketing were not criticized by the packer buyer for being rough or coarse. Under present methods of grading and selling cattle at the central markets, the steers in each of the ten top carloads all graded "prime"

and would have topped the market on the day sold. In each case the heifers were sold with the steers, but in some of the heavier loads, the salesman had to take a slightly lower price for the group than would have been bid for the steers if sold separately. The heifers were not criticized for being coarse, but were pronounced a little too heavy to top the market. At the time this contest was started, it was the opinion of producers as well as market experts that baby beeves bred and fed under farm conditions would be prime at approximately 15 months of age. As the sale reports on some of the top loads show, a slight discount on the heifers due to overweight, it may be necessary in later contests to weigh out at an earlier age.

It is always possible to go from one extreme to another. The extreme big type "coarse quality" sires and dams would probably produce calves so lacking in quality as to sell at a discount compared with baby beeves showing more refinement. The results of this contest throw no light on the cost of producing a 1,000-pound calf at 15 months compared to one that weighs but 800 or perhaps 900 pounds at the same age, when both calves were sired by the same bull, and fed and handled together in the same lot. It is the feeders' opinion, however, that the heavier calf shows a much larger profit.

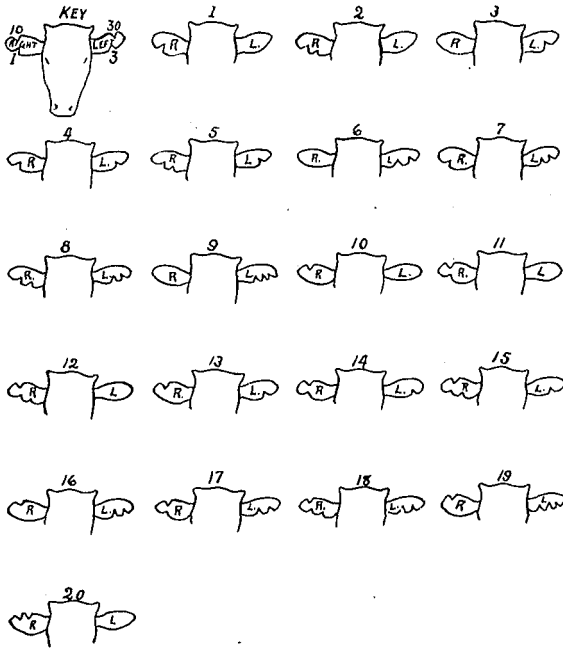
#### **Awards Based on Weight Only**

In outlining this project, it was agreed by all that the ideal basis for making awards would be to allow a certain number of points each for weight and quality. To do so meant that one of two things had to be done—either have the calves in each carload shipped to the South St. Paul market immediately upon reaching the average age of 450 days and there graded by market experts; or have the committee of market experts go direct to each farm on the weighing-out day and grade the cattle there. The first suggestion was considered impractical as some of the baby beef producers in this state are so located that they logically ship to other markets. The second suggestion was dropped because of the expense involved. Consequently, the contest was outlined with awards to be based entirely on final weights. The only apparent safeguard as to quality being that the calves must be sired by a registered beef bull, and out of cows showing beef breeding. A few comments regarding this method of arriving at the final awards will be of interest.

Every carload of calves entered in this contest was inspected within a few weeks of the weighing-out or closing date. At that time three or four of the largest calves for their age in each lot were singled out for more careful inspection. The owner was then asked why these calves were heavier than the rest of the load. Was this extra weight due to the fact that they were big, coarse cattle, or was it just because they were growthier, or did they carry more fat? Every man replied that the extra weight on these larger calves was not due to coarseness, but to the fact that they were growthier or as one man put it, "they were bred bigger." After this question was answered, the following was put to each of the contestants—"If given your choice, would you rather produce all of your calves like these three or four largest ones or like those a little further down the line in weight?" They were practically unanimous in replying, "I would rather produce them all like the three or four heaviest calves—they will bring more money." In some cases one could select real show-ring prospects about half way down the line in weight—calves that were low-set and blocky. But these men preferred the big ones, regardless of how they would fare in the judging ring.

This brings out a very important question. Have some of our purebred breeders been going too far in demanding the short, blocky, low-set, early-maturing type of cattle?

The results obtained in this contest indicate quite clearly that no matter how well the little "pony type" calf is fed, it never reaches a satisfactory weight for its age. On the other hand, the calf that is "bred big" must be properly fed if maximum weight for age is desired. It seems evident that weight depends on a combination of these two factors—growthiness and condition. The former depends largely upon breeding and the latter is largely the result of proper feeding.



### Suggested System for Marking Cows and Calves

Marking calves shortly after birth eliminates guess work of identification. Ear notching is one of the best systems. A V-shaped mark may be made by a special instrument or clipper especially made for this purpose. A simple and easy system recommended is illustrated.

In this system a notch in the outer margin of the right ear always has a value of 1 no matter where it is located in the margin. Similarly a notch in the outer margin of the left ear always has a value of 3, no matter where located; one in the inner margin of the right ear always has a value of 10, and one in the inner margin of the left ear, 30. Simply add the sums represented by the notches to get the number of the calf.

### RULES GOVERNING THE FIRST ANNUAL MINNESOTA CARLOAD BABY BEEF CONTEST

1925-26

Various livestock interests in co-operation with the Agricultural Extension Division of the University of Minnesota offer premiums for the heaviest carloads of 15 baby heeves produced in Minnesota at the age of 15 months (450 days).

#### Rules and Regulations

##### I.—Enrollment:

1. Any farmer in Minnesota is eligible to enter the Minnesota Carload Baby Beef Contest.
2. Calves entered in this contest must be bred and fed by the contestant.
3. A "carload" shall consist of 15 baby heeves.



4. All entries must be made upon special blanks, which may be obtained from the county agent or the Agricultural Extension Division.
5. Calves to be entered in the 1925-26 contest must be dropped on or after February 1, 1925, and on or before July 31, 1925.

II.—Breeding of Calves:

1. All calves entered in the Minnesota Carload Baby Beef Contest shall be sired by a purebred bull recorded in one of the following registry associations: American Aberdeen Angus Breeders' Association, American Galloway Breeders' Association, American Hereford Breeders' Association, American Shorthorn Breeders' Association.
2. All calves must be the produce of cows showing Aberdeen Angus, Galloway, Hereford, or Shorthorn breeding.

III.—Ear Marking and Nomination of Calves:

1. Each calf to be entered in this contest shall be ear-marked within 30 days after birth. This may be done with (1) tattoo marks, or (2) notches in the ear—each calf to have a separate and distinct number or mark. A certified report of this marking together with date of birth, sex, color markings, and name of sire and identification of dam must be forwarded to the county agent or the Agricultural Extension Division, for each individual calf within 30 days after birth. Blank forms will be provided for this purpose.
2. Calves not ear-marked within 30 days after birth will not be eligible, unless sufficient evidence is available to prove beyond question the exact date of birth of each calf. Final decision as to eligibility will be rendered by the Carload Baby Beef Contest Committee.
3. Each contestant may nominate as many as 20 calves if he desires, a minimum of 15 being required. If more than 15 are entered, each contestant has the privilege of selecting his best 15 calves for determining the final weight of his carload.

IV.—Inspection of Calves:

1. Each calf entered in this contest shall be inspected by the county agent or some other disinterested party within 30 days after birth. A report of this inspection shall be made to the office of the county agent or the Agricultural Extension Division.
2. This inspection will report date of birth, sex, ear-mark, other identification, and name of sire and identification of dam for each calf.

V.—Feeding Practices:

1. The use of "nurse cows" WILL NOT be permitted in this contest. Calves must be raised either on their own mothers or on the pail.
2. No other limitations will be placed on the method of feeding or kind of feed used, for the object of this contest is to find out the most profitable method of growing and feeding baby heaves for the market.

VI.—Feed Records:

1. Each contestant will be required to furnish to the county agent or the Agricultural Extension Division the following information:
  - a. Rations fed the cow herd from—
    - (1) Breeding to calving, and
    - (2) From calving to weaning.
  - b. Pasture used.
  - c. When calves were started on feed.
  - d. Estimate of kind and amount of feed used.
  - e. Feedyard equipment.
  - f. Feeding and management methods followed.

VII.—Official Weights of Calves:

1. An inspection and weighing committee shall consist of two or more disinterested parties.
2. The 15 baby beeves included in the carload should be weighed when they average 450 days old. This means the weight should be taken on the 451st day. Some calves will naturally be older and some younger at this time. If it is impossible to weigh on the 451st day, they must be weighed within 5 days preceding or 5 days following this date. If not weighed on the 451st day,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds per calf per day will be added to or subtracted from the weight reported, to adjust the weight to the proper date.
3. Reports of final inspection and official weights shall be made on special forms within 7 days after weighing, to the office of the county agent or the Agricultural Extension Division.
4. Reports not received in the office of the livestock specialist of the Agricultural Extension Division on or before October 15, will not be accepted for awards.

VIII.—Awards:

1. Awards for the first year, at least, will be based entirely on final weights. The heaviest carload of 15 baby beeves at 450 days of age will be awarded first prize, the next heaviest carload will receive second prize, etc.
2. The rules for this contest and awarding of prizes shall be under the direction of the Minnesota Carload Baby Beef Contest Committee.

IX.—All reports—entry cards, memorandum of rations, and final weights—shall be forwarded to the office of the livestock specialist, Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul, through the county agent, in all counties where one is located. For further information write to A. A. Dowell, Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

MINNESOTA CARLOAD BABY BEEF COMMITTEE,

H. O. Tellier, Livestock Breeders' Association  
L. W. Kube, Union Stock Yards, South St. Paul  
A. A. Dowell, University Farm, St. Paul.

---

**PRIZES**  
**MINNESOTA CARLOAD BABY BEEF CONTEST**  
1925-26

Name	Rank	Breed	State prize money	American breed. association money
James Ellsworth	1	Hereford	\$150	\$75.00* (and trophy)
Walter Oelke	2	Aberdeen-Angus	100	....
Jodie Anderson	3	Aberdeen-Angus	75	....
F. J. Sheffield	4	Hereford	50	25.00*
E. D. Karlen	5	Aberdeen-Angus	40	....
O. A. Solve	6	Hereford	30	15.00*
John C. Wester	7	Hereford	25	12.50*
W. F. Deters	8	Shorthorn	25	65.00†
Dean Farm	9	Shorthorn	20	35.00†
P. J. Frisch	10	Hereford	20	10.00*
Elmer H. Bendixen	11	Aberdeen-Angus	20	....
Daly Bros.	12	Hereford	20	10.00*
J. M. Thorston	13	Hereford	15	7.50*
P. Abrahamson	14	Aberdeen-Angus	15	....
E. G. Shaffer	15	Hereford	15	7.50*
Hambrecht & Malcomson Bros.	16	Hereford	10	5.00
Ed. Johnson & Son	17	Aberdeen-Angus	10	....
J. F. Sullivan & Son	18	Hereford	10	5.00*

\* The American Hereford Cattle Breeders Association; R. J. Kinzer, Secretary, Kansas City, Mo., agreed to add 50 per cent to prizes won by Hereford carloads. This association offered a trophy to the winning load, if it was Herefords.

† The American Shorthorn Breeders Association, F. W. Harding, Secretary, Chicago, Ill., offered \$65 for the highest ranking Shorthorn load and \$35 for the next Shorthorn entry; also a trophy to the winning load, if it was Shorthorns.

Total prizes, open money \$650; plus \$172.50 and trophy from American Hereford Cattle Breeders Association; plus \$100 from American Shorthorn Breeders Association.

**SOURCE OF PRIZE MONEY**

Approximately \$1000 in prizes and trophies was offered to the winners in the First Annual Minnesota Carload Baby Beef Contest by the following organizations:

1. Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association.
2. St. Paul Union Stock Yards Company, South St. Paul.
3. Swift & Company, South St. Paul.
4. Armour & Company, South St. Paul,
5. South St. Paul Sellings Agencies—

South St. Paul Livestock Exchange:

American Commission Co.	Bennett Commission Co.
Burrows, King Co.	Campbell, Wm. M., Com. Co.
Clay, John & Co.	Ellingson, Sig. & Co.
Ferguson Commission Co.	Fitch & Co.
Friend Crosby & Co.	Gibbons, E. J. & Co.
Haas Commission Co.	Joyce-Fitzgerald Co.
Kaye, C. L. & Sons	Kost-Alcorn Co.
Lee Livestock Commission Co.	Northwestern Com. Co.
Prouty Commission Co.	Robinson, C. O. & Co.
Rogers & Rogers	Rogers, W. T. Com. Co.
Security L. S. Com. Co.	Seekins Com. Co.
South St. Paul Com. Co.	United Com. Co.
Vittum, Percy & Co.	Weiller & Weiller Co.

Wood Brothers

Co-operative and Independent Livestock Commission Companies:

- Bruber, Rude and Johnson
  - Central Co-operative Commission Association
  - Farmers' Union Livestock Commission
  - Hog Producers' Commission Company
  - Peoples Co-operative Sales Agency, Inc.
  - Stockmen's Commission Company.
6. American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association,  
R. J. Kinzer, Secretary, Kansas City, Mo.
  7. American Shorthorn Breeders' Association,  
F. W. Harding, Secretary, Chicago, Ill.

