



March 2021

University of Georgia

Volume 1, Issue 15

Special points of interest:

- Estimating Beef Retail Yields
- When to start planting?
- Why soil sample?

Vidalia Onions for pre-sale in the Upson and Lamar Extension Offices!

10lbs for \$10

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Estimating Beef Retail Yields | 1 |
| When to start planting? | 2 |
| Why soil sample? | 2 |
| Calendar of Events | 3 |
| Ag Comic of the Month | 4 |

Estimating Beef Retail Yields

The hot topic this past year has been selling and buying beef locally. Many cattle producers are starting to set up, or already have set up their operations to sell beef by the pound, by the primal, and even by the cut.

These farmers are having to make some pretty big decisions and research some information; like what type of processing facility, what certifications are needed, what price to charge, how to advertise and market, etc.

There is a lot that goes into being able to sell meat (regardless of species) locally. There is a lot of math and estimating that goes into it.

Let's start with the basic thoughts that typically start out this process, how much yield do I typically get off my calves? Now this is not an easy answer, because it really does depend on the animal, but we can start with averages.

Now we are going to do a math problem...How much product could I expect to get back from a 1500lb animal?

Estimated numbers from a 1500lb animal:

- 1500lbs Live Weight (LW)
- 960lbs Hot Carcass Weight (HCW)
- 64% Dressing Percent (DP)
- 547.2-624lbs Retail Yield (RY)

How did we get these numbers?

$$DP = HCW/LW * 100$$

$$RY = \sim 57-65\% \text{ of HCW}$$

What percent of the carcass will be steaks, roasts, ground, etc.?

Estimated Percentages from HCW:

- 22% Steaks
- 22% Roasts
- 26 % Ground Beef/Stew Meat
- 30% Fat, Bone, Shrinkage

So, how many steaks is that?

Estimated number of steaks in a side of beef:

- 14 T-Bone Steaks
 - * 14 NY Strips
 - * 8-10 Tenderloins
- 5 Sirloin Steaks
- 5 Sirloin Tip Steaks
- 14 Ribeye Steaks

Now I want to take 10 calves to be processed, what should I expect to get back? Only you know your herd! The biggest thing to remember is to keep carcass records of all your animals sent to be processed.

When you take an animal to a processor, you should get the Live Weight (LW) and Hot Carcass Weight (HCW), if not ASK. If you keep accurate records of that data, then you should start to get an idea of roughly what you should be expecting back from animals in your herd.

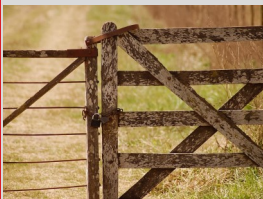
Does that mean it will be the same every time? No! Could the DP be higher or lower than 64%? Absolutely! Can the RY be outside that range? Absolutely!



There is not a one size fits all! Every animal will be different, but if you keep on your genetics, feeding regiment, etc. and make sure you continue to track your data, you could potentially get an "average" for your herd.

Once you get that "average," then you can more accurately figure how much pounds of product you should expect regularly, and then you can better know how to market, package, and sell your product.

First and foremost, make sure you have all the correct certificates and licenses!



*"Did I close the
gate?
Yes, I did.
But I don't
remember.
I better go back.
I knew it!
I closed it."*

**-A Rancher's
Poem**



When to start planting?

It is that time of year again, time to start thinking about what vegetables you are wanting to plant for the spring season. The first two factors to take into account are 1. What type of plants do you want? and 2. When do you need to plant?

The extension service will always suggest taking a soil sample to see what nutrients levels and pH your soil is already setting at prior to planting. Next, depending on what type of plant, the optimal soil temperature is very important to determine when you should start to get transplants or seeds in the ground.

We have already started

planting tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers in the greenhouse, getting ready for transplanting when the soils warm up.

Here is a list of the optimal temperature ranges for some of the most popular plants:

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| <i>Corn</i> | 60-95°F |
| <i>Cucumber</i> | 60-95°F |
| <i>Eggplant</i> | 75-95°F |
| <i>Pepper</i> | 65-95°F |
| <i>Squash</i> | 70-95°F |
| <i>Tomato</i> | 60-85°F |

The University of Georgia has multiple weather stations around the state that are taking daily tests of not only outside temperature,

but also soil temperature, soil moisture, etc. As of Monday March 9, 2020 at 2:29pm the Dempsey Research Farm (closest station to our area, Spalding County) is reading 65.8 °F outside temperature; and soil temperatures at 2 inches of 60.5 °F, 4 inches 55.7 °F, and 8 inches 51.3 °F. You can find this information at the following URL address:

[http://
www.georgiaweather.net/
index.php?
con=
tent=calculator&variable=CC
&site=DEMPSEY](http://www.georgiaweather.net/index.php?con=calculator&variable=CC&site=DEMPSEY)

Why soil sample?

To many, the extension office may seem like a broken record. Always saying "have you soil tested?" "You should soil test!" So why do we always say that?

Well, a soil test is the best tool for assessing soil fertility. "Soil testing is a chemical analysis that reveals any soil fertility issues that may be limiting production. The soil sample analysis provides a guideline for the amount of lime or fertilizer needed to correct deficiencies or imbalances in soil pH or available nutrients. These amounts are determined by the specific needs of the crop being grown. Furthermore, soil test recommendations from the Extension office are based on decades of scientific studies. Thus, by regularly testing the soil and following the recommendations, soil fertility can be maintained at levels that result in optimum productivity of the pasture or hayfield."

Forages differ in the amount of nutrients required and the time of year in which the nutrients are needed. Your

soil test will have the crop specific recommendations printed, based on the results of your test. The recommendations will tell you what to fertilize with, the amount to use, and suggested time of application.

For example, let's say you have a common bermudagrass pasture or a bahiagrass pasture. The recommended pH is 6.0, anything below will require the field to be limed. The recommended nitrogen is 75-125 pounds per acre.

For pastures not intensively grazed the recommendation will be to apply that 75-125 pounds but for intensively grazed pastures that recommendation will increase to 125-175 pounds. If excess forage is common under grazing conditions, the recommendation will be to split the pasture in half and apply nitrogen to only one section in early April, and to the remaining apply nitrogen in July or August, dependent upon the amount of forage that will be utilized.

Soil sampling test results will give you the base line of what you are currently working with, and they will give you the recommendations to improve the fertility.

So, just like in most educational presentations, the more someone says something, the more important that statement is. "Soil test! Soil test! Soil Test!"

Needing to know how to soil sample? Checkout this "Soil Sampling Basics" video created by Upson/Lamar County Extension, Towaliga SWCD, and Lamar County SWCD. It goes over how to pull a soil sample, how to submit a soil sample, and how to interpret the soil test results.

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?
v=F6cuwYqWsMw&list=PLjRL
RGswSKO3Y7HTr2nk919CO
Mq3BKr7s&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6cuwYqWsMw&list=PLjRLRGswSKO3Y7HTr2nk919CO Mq3BKr7s&index=2)

March 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 National Literacy Day | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Virtual AG Marketing (Pike) | 9 | 10 | 11 MGCA Membership (Concord) | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Virtual AG Marketing (Pike) | 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 Virtual AG Marketing (Pike) | 23 | 24 National Agriculture Week | | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Virtual AG Marketing (Pike) | 30 | 31 | | | |

April 2021

Contact Pike County for details on the Virtual AG Marketing Programs (770)567-2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|--|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 *Pesticide Credit* (pastures/hayfields) | 21 | 22 Virtual Rain Barrels (Pike) | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

Contact Upson County for details on the Pesticide Credit Program (706)647-8989

**Upson/Lamar Extension
University of Georgia**

Upson County Extension
305 S. Hightower St.
Suite 170
Thomaston, GA 30286
(706) 647-8989

Lamar County Extension
118 Academy Drive
Suite A
Barnesville, GA 30204
(770) 358-5163

E-mail: hrobinson@uga.edu



What is UGA Extension?

Through county offices throughout the state, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension offers reliable information and programs in the areas of agriculture, food, families, the environment and 4-H youth development. Let us help you learn, grow and do more!

<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/upson.html>
or
<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/lamar.html>

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

Any person with disability who needs an accommodation to participate should contact the county Extension office to discuss their needs in advance.

Follow us on Facebook!!! <https://www.facebook.com/upsonlamarextension/>

AG Comic of the Month

