

# Economic Aspects of Limit-Feeding

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# Background

- Viability of altering production methods has long been of interest
  - “Sustainability” pushes have increased in recent years
  
- Limit-feeding vs. Ad-lib feeding involves many considerations
  - Economic assessment needed

# Outline

- Claudia Hissong's MS Thesis (Ongoing)
  - Developed Excel-based producer decision-aides
    - Separate for Stocker & Feedlot sector
  - Examining feedback from a national survey

# Excel Decision Tools



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## Limit-Feeding Stockers



Title	Author	Date	Downloads
K-State Feedlot Budget Tool - Limit-Fed or Ad Lib - Marketing on the Grid Accompanying article <a href="#">HERE</a>	Tonsor Blasi Hissong	September 16, 2020	<a href="#">Downloads</a>
K-State Feedlot Budget Tool - Limit-Fed or Ad Lib - Marketing Live Cattle Accompanying article <a href="#">HERE</a>	Tonsor Blasi Hissong	September 16, 2020	<a href="#">Downloads</a>
K-State Backgrounding Budget Tool - Limit-Fed or Ad Lib - Stocker Phase Accompanying article and video <a href="#">HERE</a>	Tonsor Blasi Hissong	September 16, 2020	<a href="#">Downloads</a>
Finishing Cattle That Have Been Limit Fed or Fed Ad Libitum at the Stocker Phase- Marketing Fed Cattle on the Grid	Tonsor Blasi Hissong	September 16, 2020	<a href="#">Downloads</a>
Finishing Cattle That Have Been Limit Fed or Fed Ad Libitum at the Stocker Phase - Marketing Live Fed Cattle	Tonsor Blasi Hissong	September 16, 2020	<a href="#">Downloads</a>
Limit Fed or Ad Libitum Feeding at the Stocker Phase	Tonsor Blasi Hissong	September 16, 2020	<a href="#">Downloads</a>



<https://www.agmanager.info/livestock-meat/production-economics/limit-feeding-stockers>

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# Excel Decision Tools

- Stocker Segment, Limit-Feeding:
  - Higher Gross Returns (sell heavier animal)
  - Lower Variable Costs (lower feed costs)
    - Perhaps \$46/steer profit gain

# Preliminary Survey Insights

- National survey with BEEF/Informa Engage
  - April-May 2020, mail survey
  - Total of 645 returned; 18.43% response rate
  - Document base practices
  - Assess preferences for limit- vs. ad-lib feeding

# Preliminary Survey Insights

- 43% currently limit feed
  - Stated reasons for NOT limit feeding:
    - “Initial cost”
    - “Labor“
  
    - “Out on winter grass”
    - “Calves are on TMR wean to finish”
    - “Not sure. Have seed enough farms”
    - “Most are turned out”
  
    - “It does not work”



# Current Take-Home Points

- Limit-Feeding Econ Summary
  - Can present net benefits to stocker operator
    - Higher ADG & Feed efficiency
    - Perhaps worth ~\$46/hd to adopters
      - Use decision aides to refine #s for your situation
  - May subsequently be detrimental at feedyard
    - **So** net industry-wide impacts will reflect % adoption by stocker operators and business relations with feedyards



More information available at:



This presentation will be available in PDF format at:  
<http://www.agmanager.info/about/contributors/individual/tonsor.asp>

Host of additional industry resources are cross-linked as well