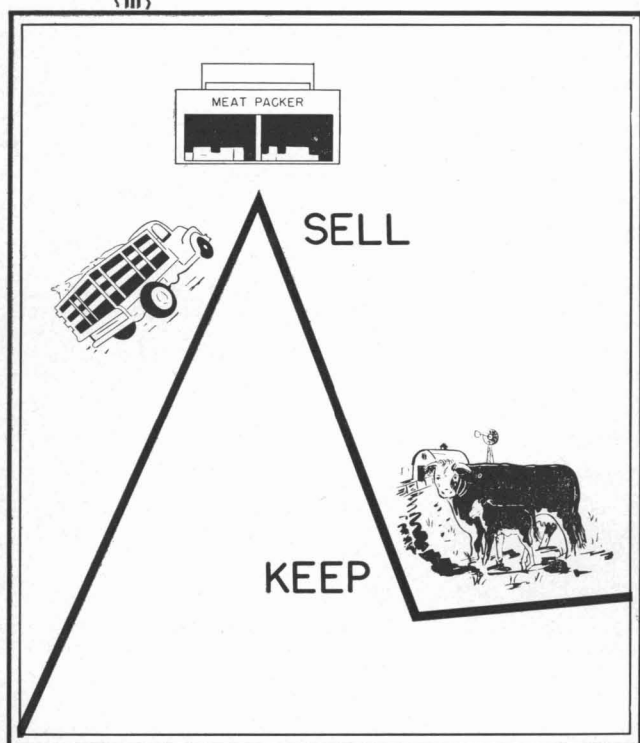


# Seasonal Variations in Livestock Prices



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
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# Seasonal Variations in Livestock Prices

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**L**ITTLE CHANGE OCCURS from month to month in the amount of meat that consumers eat; yet there are definite fluctuations in the price that producers receive for their livestock during different seasons of the year.

These fluctuations result primarily from changes in the quantity of livestock marketed. Changes in quantity are caused by several factors, such as breeding dates, weather, the amount of feed and grass available and production costs. Although the production of livestock is seasonal, the consumer wants a steady supply of most meat products. For example, the consumption of pork is relatively steady throughout the year but most of the hogs produced are marketed in two different periods, in the spring and in the fall; consequently, the price of hogs usually reaches its peak during mid-summer when the number marketed is the smallest.

While there is a demand for all grades and kinds of livestock, only a few of the many grades are discussed in this leaflet. If farmers and ranchmen know the normal seasonal variations of livestock prices they will be able to plan better their livestock operations.

## *Slaughter Cattle*

More cattle that grade Good or lower come to market in the fall. Therefore, prices for such grades are lowest at that time. Prices for these grades reach their peak about mid-spring when smaller numbers are marketed. Since it is a common practice in Texas to breed cows to calve in February, March and April, the number of milk-fat calves marketed reaches its peak in late summer and fall. A smaller number born during October and November reach the market in April and May when prices are the highest. (All prices have been adjusted for trend.)

## *Feeders and Stockers*

A large number of feeder cattle move out of Texas to mid-west feeding areas during the fall. Although the demand is good during this period, the number marketed is large enough to depress prices to a very low level. The demand for stocker cattle to go on pasture is strong during the spring; this, combined with the limited number marketed, causes seasonally high prices which reach a peak in April.

## *Hogs*

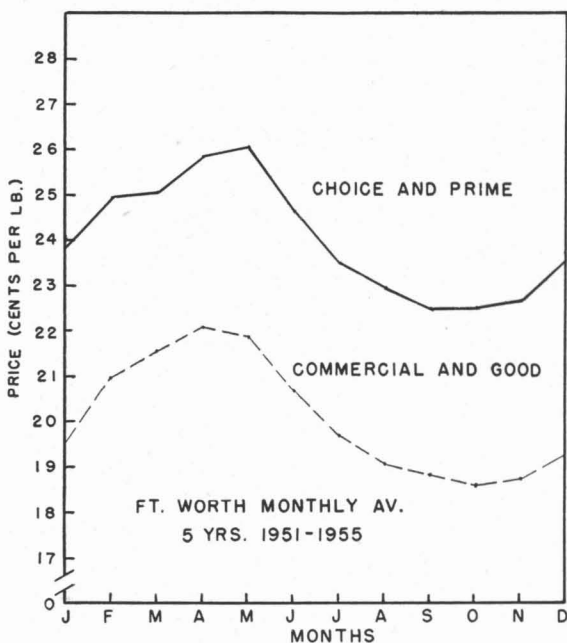
The seasonal price for hogs is established perhaps better than any other type of livestock. Large supplies in the fall, when the spring pig crop is marketed and in the spring when the fall crop is marketed, reduce prices at these times. Hog producers can increase their income by marketing during the months when prices are normally the highest. They can do this in two ways:

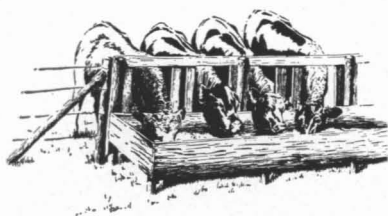
1. Regulate farrowing dates of sows.
2. Use forced or delayed feeding to bring hogs to market weight in the high-priced period.

## *Lambs*

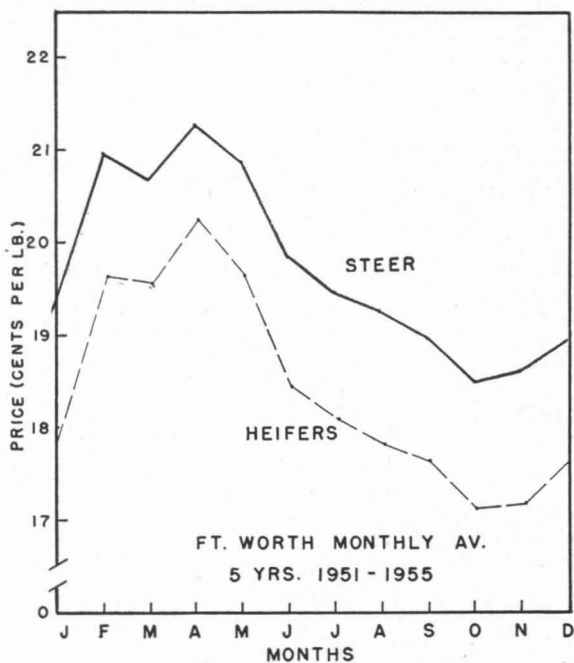
Fat lambs bring high prices in the spring, reaching a peak during May after fed-lamb marketings have fallen off and before spring lambs reach the market in volume. Most feeder lambs move to market during late summer and fall and prices are depressed during that period.

# Slaughter Calves 500 Lb. Down

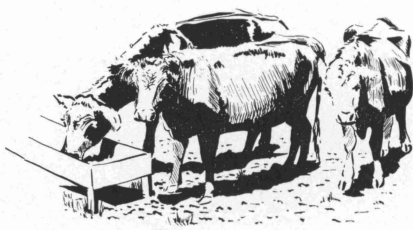
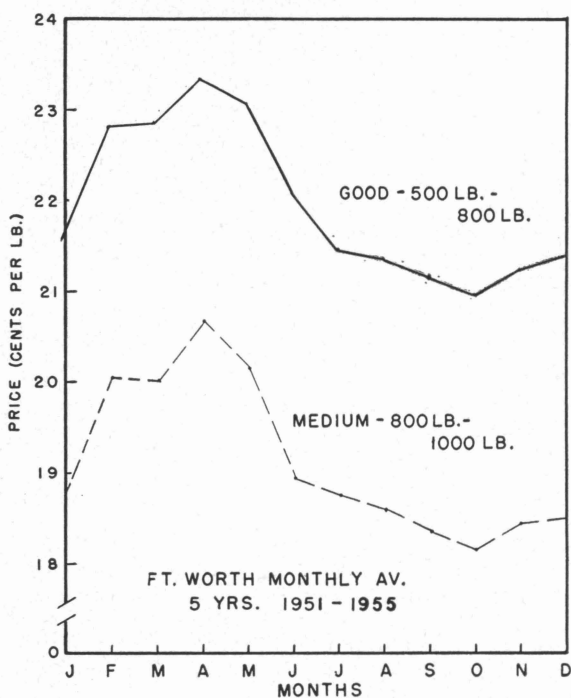




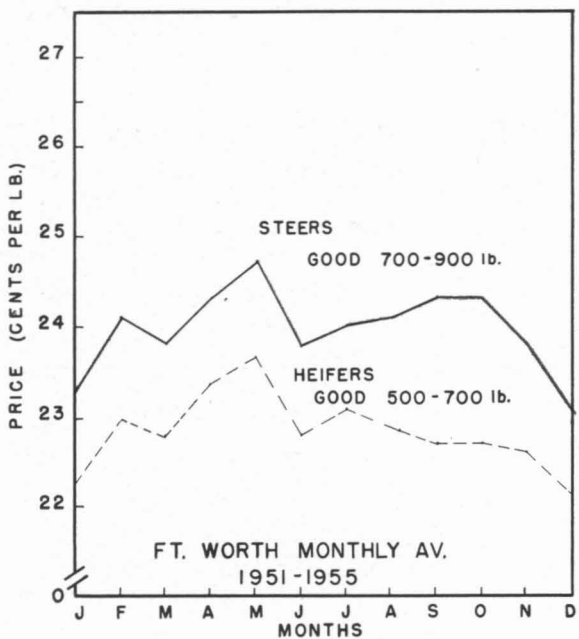
## Feeder and Stocker Calves 500 Lb. Down - Medium

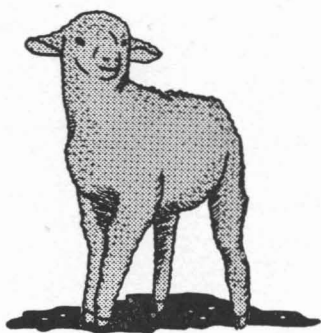


# Feeder and Stocker Steers

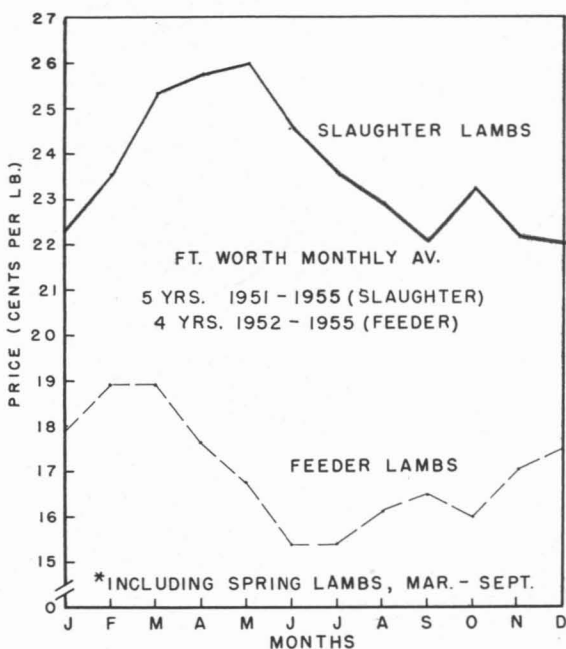


## Slaughter Steers

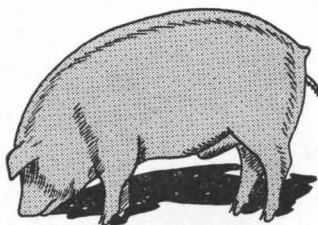
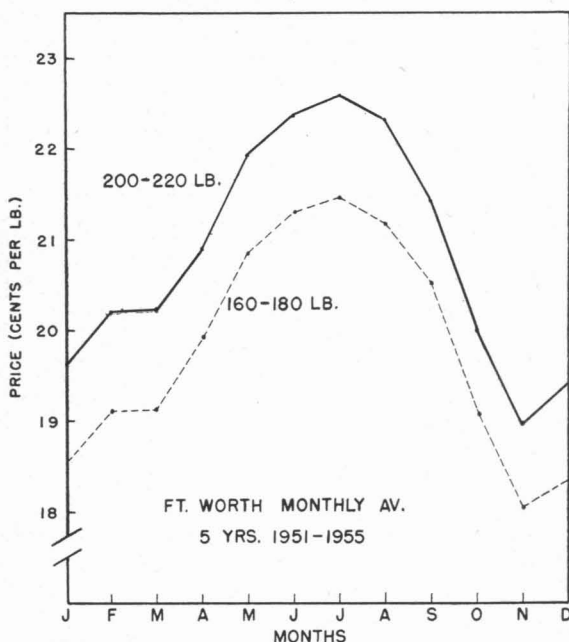




## *Slaughter Lambs \* Good and Choice; Feeder Lambs*



# Hogs (Barrows and Gilts) Choice



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