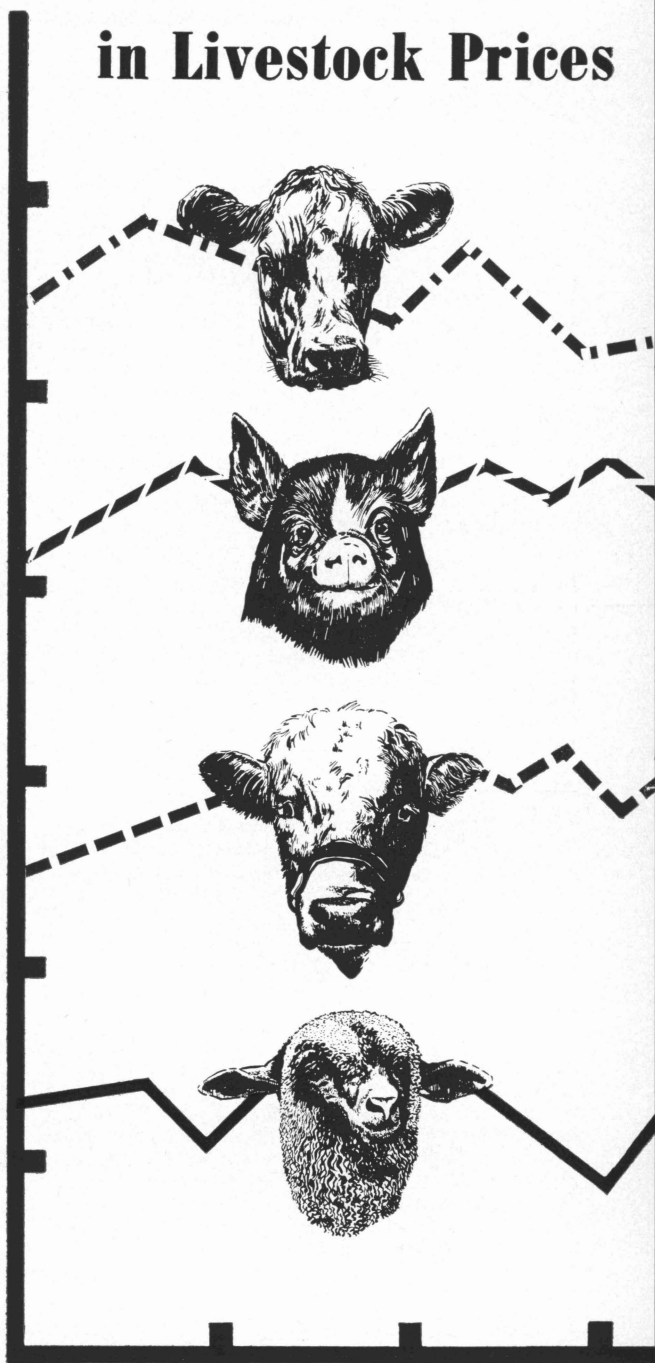


Seasonal Variations in Livestock Prices



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas

Seasonal Variations in Livestock Prices

ALVIN B. WOOTEN
Extension Economist
The Texas A. & M. College System

LITTLE CHANGE OCCURS from month to month in the amount of meat that consumers eat; yet the price that producers receive for their livestock during different seasons of the year definitely fluctuates.

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. For example, early spring is a good time for raising pigs so the bulk of the nation's hog farmers have sows farrow at that time. The majority of these pigs reach the market in the fall; consequently, the price usually reaches its peak during mid-summer when the number marketed is the smallest.

Space permits that only a few of the many grades and kinds of livestock be discussed in this leaflet. If farmers and ranchmen know the normal seasonal variations of livestock prices they can plan more profitably 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. In Texas, cows are bred to calve in February, March and April. This means that 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 highest.

Feeders and Stockers

A large number of feeder cattle move out of Texas to feeding areas during the fall. Although the demand is good at this time, the quantity is large enough to depress prices. 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

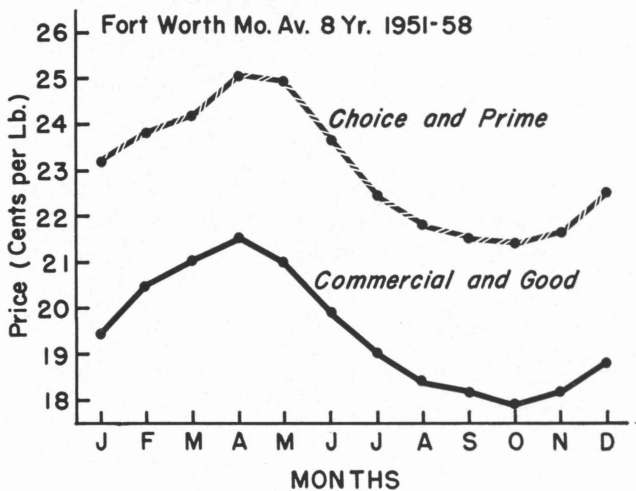
The seasonal price for hogs is established better than any other type of livestock. Large supplies in the fall, when the spring pig crop is marketed and in the spring when the fall crop is marketed, reduce prices at these times. Hog producers may increase their income by marketing during the months when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

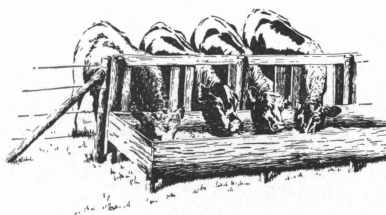
1. Regulate farrowing dates of sows.
2. Use forced or delayed feeding to bring hogs to market weight in the higher-priced period.

Lambs

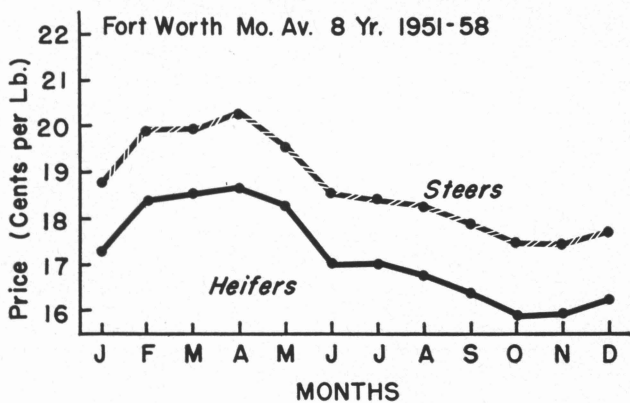
Fat lambs bring high prices in the spring, reaching a peak during May after fed-lamb marketings have fallen off and before spring lambs reach the market in volume. Most feeder lambs move to market during late summer and fall and prices fall during that period.

Slaughter Calves 500 Lb. Down

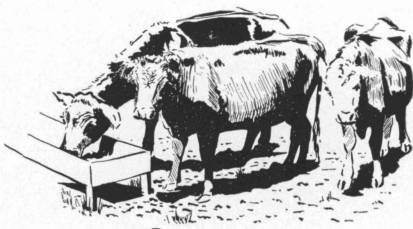
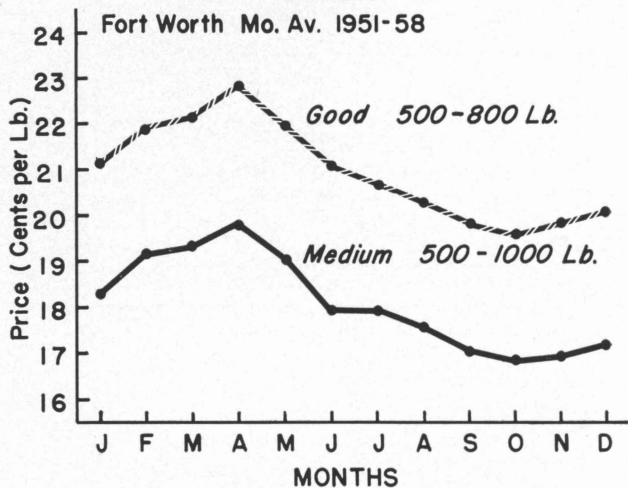




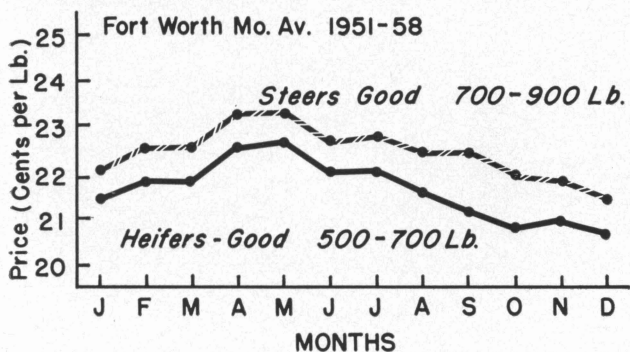
Feeder and Stocker Calves 500 Lb. Down - Medium

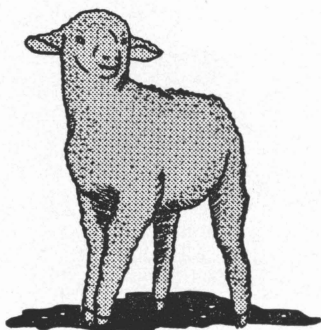


Feeder and Stocker Steers

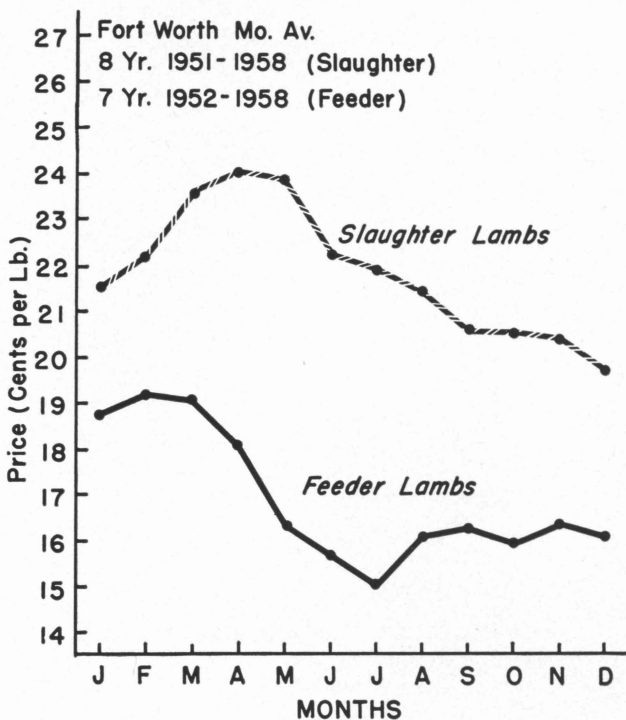


Slaughter Steers and Heifers

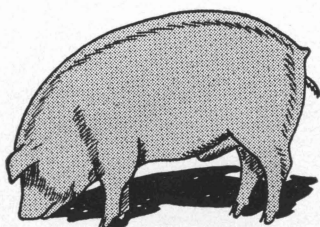
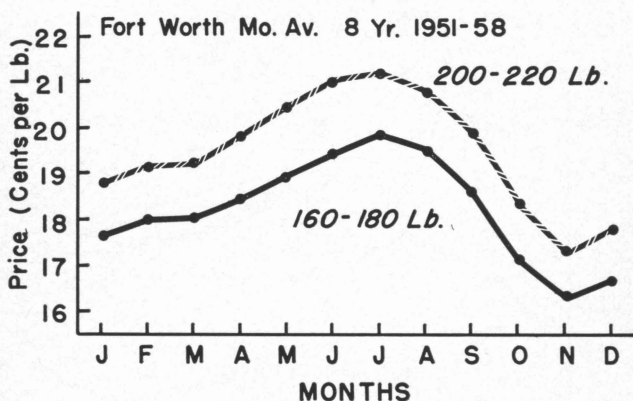




Slaughter Lambs Good and Choice; Feeder Lambs



Hogs (Barrows and Gilts) Choice



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