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FOR HIGHEST HOG PROFIT

FEED TO HEAVIER WEIGHTS...OR SELL NOW?



THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

College Station, Texas

J. E. Hutchison, Director

FOR HIGHEST HOG PROFITS . . .

Feed to Heavier Weights or Sell Now?

CECIL A. PARKER

Extension farm management specialist

The A&M College of Texas

To what weight should I feed my hogs? This question is asked by every hog producer at some time. The answer varies among farms and from time to time. To answer the question you will need to know: (1) the amount of feed required; (2) the cost of the feed; (3) how long will be required to put on the additional weight; and (4) the price of hogs at selling time.

Let's assume that you have a pen of hogs weighing 180 pounds. Would it be more profitable to market the hogs at that weight or feed them to a heavier weight—200 or 220 pounds? The answer depends on whether the additional costs required to feed to heavier weights are greater or less than the added income.

Research in the Department of Animal Husbandry, The A&M College of Texas, shows that as a hog gets heavier, more feed is required per pound of additional gain. Table 1 shows total pounds of feed (grain and supplement) and grain equivalent of corn or grain sorghum required to produce 20 pounds of pork from weights of 180 pounds to 240 pounds. These figures are computed on a 14 percent protein ration. You should check your total swine program if you are not getting these feed efficiencies or better. The time required to put on more gain also increases as hogs get heavier. This is shown in Table 1.

Feed accounts for about 80 percent of the total cost in producing hogs to heavier weights. For each dollar's worth of feed fed, the hog needs to return \$1.25 to break even ($1.00/.80 = 1.25$). Since you know how much corn and/or grain sorghum equivalent is required to produce 20 additional pounds of pork and you know the price of the grain, you can compute the added cost of the 20 pounds of pork produced.

The price of hogs 15 to 30 days hence is not always easy to predict. You will need to study and analyze the more reliable price outlook data available. Since hog prices vary sharply at different seasons of the year, future prices must be predicted for each group of hogs approaching market weight.

Another known factor is the price of hogs today for the grade and weight you have for sale. Based on the assumption of 180-pound hogs, you can sell

today for \$16 per hundredweight and receive \$28.80 per hog. If you feed to 200 pounds, using grain sorghum costing \$2 per hundredweight, the added cost will be \$2.63 ($105 \text{ lb. grain sorghum equivalent} \times \$2 \times 1.25 = \$2.63$). The 200-pound hog will have to bring a total of \$31.43 or \$15.72 per hundredweight 13 days later to break even. If you think the price of 200-pound hogs will be higher than \$15.72 per hundredweight, it will pay you to feed to that weight. If you think the price will be less, you fare better to sell now.

The following tables give the minimum price for which hogs must sell if feeding to heavier weights is to pay. Table 2 is computed for grain sorghum and Table 3, for corn. Select the table for the grain you are feeding. Across the top of the table is listed the current price of hogs. The column on the left gives the current price of grain. Select the price you would receive for your hogs if sold now and draw a vertical line down the table. Select the price you are paying for grain and draw a horizontal line across the table. Where the two lines cross, this figure will be your break even price for feeding hogs to a 20-pound heavier weight. If you estimate the price you may receive to be greater than the price listed, it will pay you to feed. If you estimate the price to be less than the price listed, it will pay you to sell now.

Table 1. Total pounds of feed (grain and supplement), grain equivalent of corn or grain sorghum and days required to produce pork at varying weights.

Weight From	To	Total pounds feed required ¹		Grain equivalent ²		Days
		Corn	Grain sorghum	Corn (bu.)	Grain sorghum required (lb.)	
180	200	82	84	1.82	105	13
200	220	86	88	1.90	110	14
220	240	90	92	2.00	115	15

¹Total pounds of feed required to produce 20 pounds of pork at varying weights includes grain mixed with a good protein supplement to make a 14 percent protein ration.

²Grain equivalent is computed from total pounds of feed required. The price of protein supplement was considered to be two and one-half times the price of grain. Grain equivalent was computed so the price of grain alone could be used for determining most profitable weights to feed hogs. Grain alone will not produce the indicated gains. Grain plus a good protein supplement is required.

Table 2. Necessary selling price for hogs to break even in putting on an added 20 pounds of pork feeding grain sorghum

Price of grain sorghum now (dollars per cwt.)	Price of hogs now (dollars per cwt.)																
	12.00	12.50	13.00	13.50	14.00	14.50	15.00	15.50	16.00	16.50	17.00	17.50	18.00	18.50	19.00	19.50	20.00
Hogs weighing 180 pounds now																	
1.60	11.85	12.30	12.75	13.20	13.65	14.10	14.55	15.00	15.45	15.90	16.35	16.80	17.25	17.70	18.15	18.60	19.05
1.70	11.92	12.37	12.82	13.27	13.72	14.17	14.62	15.07	15.52	15.97	16.42	16.87	17.32	17.77	18.22	18.67	19.12
1.80	11.98	12.43	12.88	13.33	13.78	14.23	14.68	15.13	15.58	16.03	16.48	16.93	17.38	17.83	18.28	18.73	19.18
1.90	12.05	12.50	12.95	13.40	13.85	14.30	14.75	15.20	15.65	16.10	16.55	17.00	17.45	17.90	18.35	18.80	19.25
2.00	12.12	12.57	13.02	13.47	13.92	14.37	14.81	15.27	15.72	16.17	16.62	17.07	17.52	17.97	18.42	18.87	19.32
2.10	12.18	12.63	13.08	13.53	13.98	14.43	14.88	15.33	15.78	16.23	16.68	17.13	17.58	18.03	18.48	18.93	19.38
2.20	12.25	12.70	13.15	13.60	14.05	14.50	14.95	15.40	15.85	16.30	16.75	17.20	17.65	18.10	18.55	19.00	19.45
2.30	12.31	12.76	13.21	13.66	14.11	14.56	15.01	15.46	15.91	16.36	16.81	17.26	17.71	18.17	18.61	19.06	19.51
2.40	12.38	12.83	13.28	13.73	14.18	14.63	15.08	15.53	15.98	16.43	16.88	17.33	17.78	18.23	18.68	19.13	19.58
2.50	12.44	12.89	13.34	13.79	14.24	14.69	15.14	15.59	16.04	16.49	16.94	17.39	17.84	18.29	18.74	19.19	19.64
Hogs weighing 200 pounds now																	
1.60	11.91	12.37	12.82	13.27	13.73	14.18	14.64	15.09	15.55	16.00	16.45	16.91	17.36	17.82	18.27	18.73	19.18
1.70	11.97	12.43	12.89	13.34	13.79	14.25	14.70	15.15	15.61	16.06	16.52	16.97	17.43	17.88	18.34	18.79	19.25
1.80	12.03	12.49	12.95	13.40	13.85	14.31	14.77	15.22	15.68	16.13	16.58	17.04	17.49	17.95	18.40	18.85	19.31
1.90	12.10	12.55	13.00	13.46	13.91	14.37	14.82	15.28	15.73	16.19	16.64	17.10	17.55	18.00	18.46	18.91	19.37
2.00	12.16	12.61	13.07	13.52	13.98	14.43	14.89	15.34	15.80	16.25	16.70	17.16	17.61	18.07	18.52	18.98	19.43
2.10	12.22	12.68	13.13	13.59	14.04	14.50	14.95	15.40	15.86	16.31	16.77	17.22	17.68	18.13	18.59	19.04	19.50
2.20	12.29	12.74	13.20	13.65	14.10	14.56	15.01	15.47	15.92	16.38	16.83	17.29	17.74	18.20	18.65	19.10	19.56
2.30	12.35	12.80	13.26	13.71	14.16	14.62	15.07	15.53	15.98	16.44	16.89	17.35	17.80	18.26	18.71	19.16	19.62
2.40	12.41	12.87	13.32	13.77	14.23	14.68	15.14	15.59	16.05	16.50	16.95	17.41	17.87	18.32	18.77	19.23	19.68
2.50	12.47	12.93	13.38	13.84	14.29	14.75	15.20	15.65	16.11	16.57	17.02	17.48	17.93	18.38	18.84	19.29	19.75
Hogs weighing 220 pounds now																	
1.60	11.96	12.42	12.88	13.33	13.79	14.25	14.71	15.17	15.63	16.08	16.54	16.96	17.46	17.92	18.38	18.83	19.29
1.70	12.02	12.48	12.93	13.39	13.85	14.31	14.77	15.23	15.68	16.14	16.60	17.06	17.52	17.98	18.43	18.89	19.35
1.80	12.08	12.54	13.00	13.45	13.91	14.37	14.83	15.29	15.75	16.20	16.66	17.12	17.58	18.04	18.50	18.95	19.41
1.90	12.14	12.60	13.06	13.51	13.97	14.43	14.89	15.35	15.80	16.26	16.72	17.18	17.64	18.10	18.55	19.02	19.47
2.00	12.20	12.66	13.12	13.58	14.03	14.49	14.95	15.41	15.87	16.33	16.78	17.24	17.70	18.16	18.62	19.08	19.53
2.10	12.26	12.72	13.18	13.63	14.09	14.55	15.01	15.47	15.93	16.38	16.84	17.30	17.76	18.22	18.68	19.13	19.59
2.20	12.32	12.78	13.23	13.69	14.15	14.61	15.07	15.53	15.99	16.44	16.90	17.36	17.82	18.28	18.73	19.19	19.65
2.30	12.38	12.84	13.30	13.75	14.21	14.67	15.13	15.59	16.05	16.50	16.96	17.42	17.88	18.34	18.80	19.25	19.71
2.40	12.44	12.90	13.35	13.81	14.27	14.73	15.19	15.65	16.10	16.56	17.02	17.48	17.94	18.40	18.85	19.31	19.77
2.50	12.50	12.95	13.41	13.87	14.33	14.79	15.25	15.71	16.16	16.62	17.08	17.54	18.00	18.45	18.91	19.37	19.83

Table 3. Necessary selling price for hogs to break even in putting on an added 20 pounds of pork feeding corn

Price of corn now (dollars per bu.)	Price of hogs now (dollars per cwt.)																
	12.00	12.50	13.00	13.50	14.00	14.50	15.00	15.50	16.00	16.50	17.00	17.50	18.00	18.50	19.00	19.50	20.00
Hogs weighing 180 pounds now																	
.90	11.83	12.27	12.72	13.17	13.62	14.07	14.52	14.97	15.42	15.87	16.32	16.77	17.22	17.67	18.12	18.57	19.02
1.00	11.94	12.39	12.84	13.29	13.74	14.19	14.64	15.09	15.54	15.99	16.44	16.89	17.34	17.79	18.23	18.69	19.14
1.10	12.05	12.50	12.95	13.40	13.85	14.30	14.75	15.20	15.65	16.10	16.55	17.00	17.45	17.90	18.35	18.80	19.25
1.20	12.17	12.62	13.07	13.52	13.97	14.42	14.87	15.32	15.77	16.22	16.67	17.12	17.57	18.02	18.47	18.92	19.37
1.30	12.28	12.73	13.18	13.63	14.08	14.53	14.98	15.43	15.88	16.33	16.78	17.23	17.68	18.13	18.58	19.03	19.48
1.40	12.40	12.85	13.30	13.75	14.20	14.65	15.10	15.55	16.00	16.45	16.90	17.35	17.80	18.25	18.70	19.15	19.60
1.50	12.51	12.96	13.41	13.86	14.31	14.76	15.21	15.66	16.11	16.56	17.01	17.46	17.91	18.36	18.81	19.26	19.71
1.60	12.62	13.07	13.52	13.97	14.42	14.87	15.32	15.77	16.22	16.67	17.12	17.57	18.02	18.47	18.92	19.37	19.82
1.70	12.73	13.19	13.64	14.09	14.54	14.99	15.44	15.89	16.34	16.79	17.24	17.69	18.14	18.59	19.04	19.49	19.94
1.80	12.85	13.30	13.75	14.20	14.65	15.10	15.55	16.00	16.45	16.90	17.35	17.80	18.25	18.70	19.15	19.60	20.05
Hogs weighing 200 pounds now																	
.90	11.88	12.34	12.79	13.25	13.70	14.15	14.61	15.06	15.52	15.97	16.43	16.88	17.34	17.79	18.25	18.70	19.15
1.00	11.99	12.44	12.90	13.35	13.84	14.26	14.71	15.17	15.62	16.07	16.53	16.99	17.44	17.90	18.35	18.80	19.26
1.10	12.10	12.55	13.00	13.46	13.91	14.37	14.82	15.28	15.73	16.19	16.64	17.10	17.55	18.00	18.46	18.91	19.37
1.20	12.20	12.66	13.11	13.57	14.02	14.48	14.93	15.38	15.84	16.30	16.75	17.20	17.66	18.11	18.57	19.02	19.48
1.30	12.31	12.77	13.22	13.68	14.13	14.59	15.04	15.50	15.95	16.40	16.86	17.31	17.77	18.22	18.68	19.13	19.59
1.40	12.42	12.88	13.33	13.79	14.24	14.70	15.15	15.60	16.06	16.51	16.97	17.42	17.88	18.33	18.79	19.24	19.70
1.50	12.53	12.98	13.44	13.89	14.35	14.80	15.25	15.71	16.16	16.62	17.07	17.53	17.98	18.44	18.89	19.35	19.80
1.60	12.64	13.09	13.55	14.00	14.45	14.91	15.36	15.82	16.27	16.73	17.18	17.64	18.09	18.55	19.00	19.45	19.91
1.70	12.75	13.20	13.65	14.11	14.56	15.02	15.47	15.93	16.38	16.84	17.29	17.75	18.20	18.65	19.11	19.56	20.02
1.80	12.85	13.31	13.76	14.22	14.67	15.13	15.58	16.04	16.49	16.95	17.40	17.85	18.31	18.76	19.22	19.67	20.13
Hogs weighing 220 pounds now																	
.90	11.93	12.40	12.85	13.31	13.77	14.23	14.69	15.15	15.60	16.06	16.52	16.98	17.44	17.90	18.35	18.81	19.27
1.00	12.04	12.50	12.96	13.42	13.88	14.33	14.79	15.25	15.71	16.16	16.62	17.08	17.54	18.00	18.46	18.92	19.38
1.10	12.15	12.60	13.06	13.52	13.98	14.44	14.90	15.35	15.81	16.27	16.72	17.19	17.65	18.10	18.56	19.02	19.48
1.20	12.25	12.71	13.17	13.63	14.08	14.54	15.00	15.46	15.92	16.38	16.83	17.29	17.75	18.21	18.67	19.13	19.58
1.30	12.35	12.81	13.27	13.73	14.19	14.65	15.10	15.56	16.02	16.48	16.94	17.40	17.85	18.31	18.77	19.23	19.69
1.40	12.46	12.92	13.38	13.83	14.29	14.75	15.21	15.67	16.13	16.58	17.04	17.50	17.96	18.42	18.88	19.33	19.79
1.50	12.56	13.02	13.48	13.94	14.40	14.85	15.31	15.77	16.23	16.68	17.15	17.60	18.06	18.52	18.98	19.44	19.90
1.60	12.67	13.13	13.58	14.04	14.50	14.96	15.42	15.88	16.33	16.79	17.25	17.71	18.17	18.63	19.08	19.54	20.00
1.70	12.77	13.23	13.69	14.15	14.60	15.06	15.52	15.98	16.44	16.90	17.35	17.81	18.27	18.73	19.18	19.65	20.10
1.80	12.88	13.33	13.79	14.25	14.71	15.17	15.63	16.08	16.54	17.00	17.46	17.92	18.38	18.83	19.29	19.75	20.21