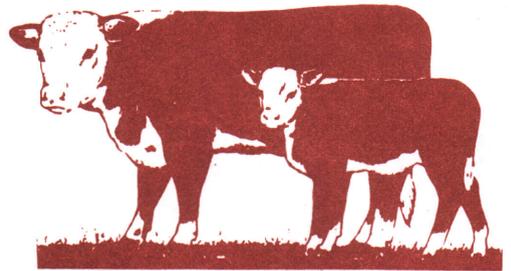


MICHIGAN BEEF PRODUCTION



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE • MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Use of the Beef Production Manual

Harlan D. Ritchie and Steven R. Rust, Beef Specialists,
Department of Animal Science

This manual was developed as a reference source for obtaining useful information on feeding and management in producing beef. The book is separated into phases of beef production with dividers, and each of these sections contain subject matter broken down into brief and concise topics to facilitate finding the exact information wanted without having to search through a lot of chapters and pages. Each topic is printed as a separate fact sheet to allow periodic revisions of specific areas without having to revise the entire manual. When two separate fact sheets contain related information they refer to each other. For example, the fact sheets on formulating rations will refer to the feed composition and nutrient requirement tables.

The topics were selected to provide fundamental as well as applied information on all phases of beef cow calf, growing and finishing and dairy beef operations. This handbook can therefore be used for obtaining guidelines for feeding and management or as a reference text on the fundamental principles used to develop the guidelines.

In general, each section has the fact sheets containing the most fundamental information at the beginning of the section, followed by the guidelines associated with these fundamentals. For example, the nutrition section contains fact sheets on energy and protein utilization first, followed by fact sheets on

requirements for the various nutrients and how to formulate rations. These fundamentals are then followed by rations that are already balanced for all nutrients and can be used as guidelines in feeding growing and finishing beef or feeding the beef herd.

There is at least one fact sheet (Fact Sheet 101) specifically designed for the beginning cattleman who has little or no background in raising beef cattle. The background presented there should prepare the beginner for understanding the more specific information and terms presented in subsequent fact sheets.

Many additional fact sheets will be prepared and added as they are completed. In addition, individual fact sheets contained in this manual will be revised as soon as the information they contain becomes outdated. Therefore, some fact sheets will likely not be replaced for a considerable period of time, whereas others will need to be updated after a relatively short time.

If you have questions about the information contained in the manual or related topics not found in this manual contact your local Extension agent or the Animal Science Department at Michigan State University, Anthony Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

G MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. Cooperative Extension Service programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. W.J. Moline, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824.

This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service or bias against those not mentioned. This bulletin becomes public property upon publication and may be reprinted verbatim as a separate or within another publication with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a commercial product or company.