

Yesterday's DLR discussed cattle performance gains on a the subset of cattle feeders that participate in the KSU's Focus on Feedlot survey.

Today, we shift our focus to how cattle performance has been effecting dressed weights. Actual slaughter data released through the week of 12/26/20 has indicated a substantial decline week over week. Steer weights came in at 913 pounds, 8 pounds lower than the previous week. Heifer dressed weights saw a similar move, 839 pounds down from 847 the previous week.

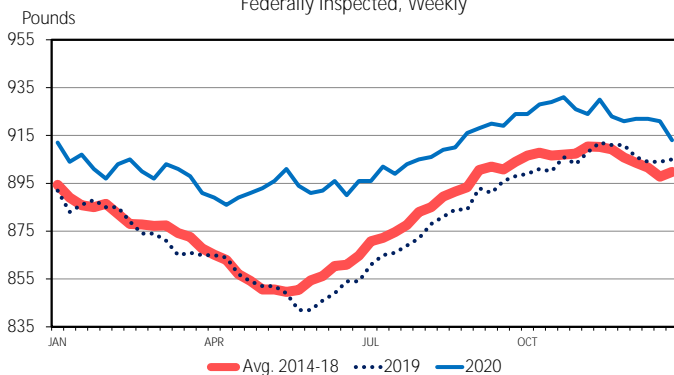
Dressed weights have brought headlines almost all year and

have looked impressive compared to 2019. However, the annual average dressed weight for steers and heifers in 2019 was the lowest since 2017. The highest annual average dressed weight for steers was in 2015, registering 892 pounds. Heifers was in 2016 at 822 pounds. The weekly actual slaughter steer dressed weights averaged 907 pounds for 2020 and heifers have averaged 835 pounds, and would be new annual record highs.

In the 60 year dataset of steer dressed weights, the average annual gain is 4 pounds per year. Over the last 15 years that average has been closer to 5 pounds per year. Still, over that time period there have been other years in the past that have had extreme annual gains, and 2020 has not been the highest single year gain. That honor goes to 1994, a 29 pound gain over 1993. Unofficially, 2020 is the second highest and will likely come in 28 pounds higher than 2019. Livestock Slaughter to complete 2020 is due out at the middle of this month. Five other years in the last 60 years that have had annual changes of 20 pounds or more compared to the prior year.

Heifer dressed weights offered similar annual average increases over the last 15 years of 5 pounds per year, but 2020 will not be the highest gain in pounds from a prior year. In 1985, heifer dressed weights had an annual average of 26 pounds higher than 1984. By comparison, 2020 is expected to outpace 2019 by 22 pounds, tying with annual gains made in 1998 and 1994. These three years tie for the third highest year-over-year pound gains. The second highest year was 1976, 23 pounds higher than 1975.

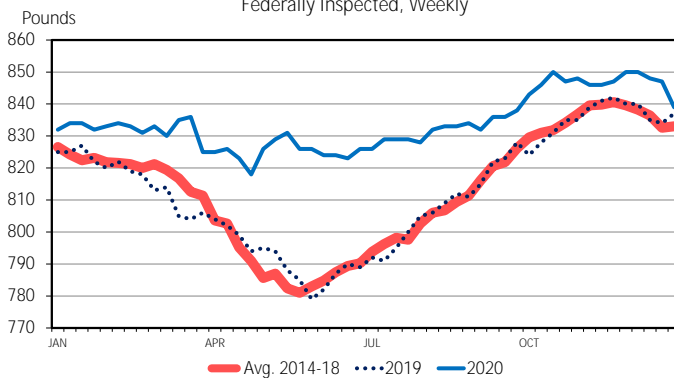
**STEER DRESSED WEIGHT**  
Federally Inspected, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-18  
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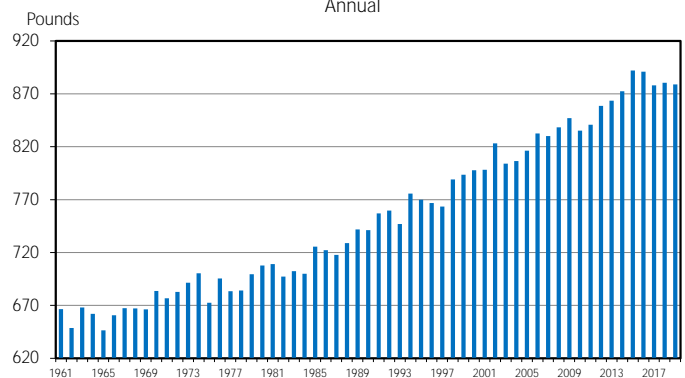
**HEIFER DRESSED WEIGHT**  
Federally Inspected, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-18B  
01/07/21

**F.I. STEER DRESSED WEIGHTS**  
Annual



Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

04/22/20

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