



John Paterson, Editor
Extension Beef Specialist
johnp@montana.edu
406. 581. 3492

Clint Peck
Director of Beef Quality Assurance
cpeck@montana.edu
406. 671. 0851

Rachel Endecott
Extension Beef Specialist
rachelendecott@montana.edu
406. 874. 8286

Mo Harbac
Research and Education Coord.
406. 994. 4323

Dennis Cash
Extension Forage Specialist
406.994.5688
dcash@montana.edu

Web pages:
www.Mtbqa.org

www.Animalrangeextension.montana.edu

www.mtbeefnetwork.org/

SEX, LOT SIZE, COLOR STILL LEAD AUCTION VALUE

As part of a three-state auction market study, Extension beef specialists and County Agents from the Dakotas and Montana evaluated premiums paid for calves in those states across auction sales for three consecutive weeks (beginning the last week in October 2006).

All told, data was collected on 68,475 calves (6,251 lots). The average weight was 520 lbs.

Calves selling in the smallest lot size (five head or fewer) were worth the least on a hundredweight (cwt.) basis. Calves sold in lot sizes of 21 head or more commanded \$6.20/cwt. more than those small lots. Lot sizes of 6-10 head and 11-20 head came in at \$4.22/cwt. and \$4.31/cwt. more than the small lots, respectively.

Steers brought the most -- \$9.78/cwt. more than heifers. Likewise, black and black whiteface calves brought the most money of any color -- \$3.48/cwt. more than white calves, \$2.98/cwt. more than red and red whiteface; \$2.25/cwt. more than mixed-color sets.

The study also underscored the health premium available to calves. In this study, calves with a vaccination history sold for as much as \$2.50/cwt. more (four-way viral) than unvaccinated ones. That mirrors the \$14.58 (basis six-weight steer) per head premium these same researchers found with Montana Beef Network calves -- VAC-34 and VAC-45 -- selling through specific Superior Video Sales.

Incidentally, in the auction study, natural calves brought \$1.55/cwt. more than conventional calves.

Source: <http://americancowman.com/health/sex-size-color-auction-value/>