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MAR 15 1994

A M E R I C A N  
A G R I C U L T U R A L  
E C O N O M I C S  
A S S O C I A T I O N

**JOURNAL**  
*of*  
**STUDENT  
PAPERS**

**1993**

WAITE MEMORIAL BOOK COLLECTION  
DEPT. OF AG. AND APPLIED ECONOMICS  
1994 BUFORD AVE. - 232 COB  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
ST. PAUL, MN 55108 U.S.A.



## THE SEASONAL ANALYSIS OF FEEDER CATTLE PRICES

FRINA D. HINER, Kansas State University

### ABSTRACT

An increased awareness of the factors that affect the seasonal behavior within feeder cattle auction prices are a crucial concern for the industry. The objective of this paper is to explore the seasonality affecting the prices for feeder cattle.

Data were collected from the Agriculture Marketing Service, USDA and are the Dodge City auction prices for feeder cattle from 1975-1991. The seasonal analysis of the data series exhibited the seasonal behavior of the auction price for feeder cattle. The factors affecting the seasonality ranged from the calving rate in the early Spring, the availability of grass for grazing, demand and marketing factors, and non-storable commodity traits. The above factors are a concern with various producers, consignors, and buyers in the cattle industry.