cownty

MARKET MONDAY · 2026-10-12 · WORKSHEET

Sale barn math from this week's real prices

Name: _____ Class: _____

1. Dollars per head

At Winter Livestock (Dodge City, KS) on Oct 7, 2026, 500–599 lb steers averaged $406.91 per hundredweight (cwt). What would a 550-lb steer bring at that price?

Hint: $/head = weight (lb) × $/cwt ÷ 100.

Answer: _____

2. Value of gain

Same sale: 700–799 lb steers averaged $357.58/cwt. If a 550-lb steer is grown to 750 lb, what is each added pound worth (value of gain)?

Hint: Value of gain = (heavy $/head − light $/head) ÷ pounds added.

Answer: _____

3. Hay cost per cow-day

USDA's Texas Panhandle hay report for the week ending Oct 2, 2026 quoted premium bermuda grass in large round bales at $135.00–$140.00 a bale. Use $137.50 (the middle). Assume a 1,200-lb bale that is 88% dry matter, a 1,200-lb cow eating 2.5% of her weight in dry matter a day, and 10% waste in a ring feeder. What does hay cost per cow per day?

Hint: Dry matter needed → pounds of hay to put out → × price per pound.

Answer: _____

4. Drought map

On the U.S. Drought Monitor map dated Oct 6, 2026, how many of the 49 counties Cownty tracks around the Panhandle had any severe drought (D2) or worse? How many were on FSA's Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) list?

Hint: Open each county page, or the weekly report's drought section.

Answer: _____

Practice problems built from past sale prices USDA reported; not a price quote and not financial advice. Program questions are for learning only: FSA decides eligibility. Live numbers: https://cownty.com/learn/2026-10-09

1. Dollars per head: $2,238.01 per head

1. 550 × $406.91 ÷ 100 = $2,238.01

2. Value of gain: $2.22 per lb of gain

1. Heavy: 750 × $357.58 ÷ 100 = $2,681.85
2. Light: 550 × $406.91 ÷ 100 = $2,238.01
3. ($2,681.85 – $2,238.01) ÷ 200 lb = $2.22 per lb

If it costs less than this to put on a pound, adding weight paid this week; if it costs more, selling lighter paid.

3. Hay cost per cow-day: $4.34 per cow per day

1. Dry matter: 1,200 × 2.5% = 30.0 lb
2. Hay to put out: 30.0 ÷ 0.88 ÷ 0.90 = 37.9 lb
3. Price per lb: $137.50 ÷ 1,200 = $0.1146
4. 37.9 × $0.1146 = $4.34

4. Drought map: 38 of 49 had D2 or worse; 49 were on the LFP list.

Wheeler County, TX had the most: 100% of the county in D2 or worse.

Read the barn report in two minutes (Winter Livestock)

1. Find the receipts: the total head USDA counted at the sale (3,363 head at Dodge City on Oct 7, 2026).
2. Find the class: Feeder Steers, Medium and Large 1–2 (the usual calf grade).
3. Read across the weight row: 500–599 lb steers sold from $381.00 to $433.00/cwt.
4. The weighted average ($406.91/cwt) counts every head, so big lots count more.
5. Prices are per hundredweight (100 lb). Multiply by weight ÷ 100 to get dollars per head.
6. Compare: the Cownty 5-wt Index (all local barns) was $410.44/cwt that week.

USDA report: https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/filerepo/sites/default/files/1889/2026-10-07/1356822/ams_1889_00367.pdf

Practice problems built from past sale prices USDA reported; not a price quote and not financial advice. Program questions are for learning only: FSA decides eligibility. Sources: USDA AMS Market News; U.S. Drought Monitor; FSA LFP list. Built by Cownty from the weekly report of 2026-10-09.