

2001 Summary of the Five State Beef Initiative in Kentucky¹

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The Five State Beef Initiative (FSBI) is a large, multi-state effort involving Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. The goal of the Five State Beef Initiative in Kentucky is to improve the quality and uniformity of Kentucky feeder calves in an effort to provide a better end product to the consumer. Initially, two primary areas of emphasis have been 1) management of feeder calves at the farm to improve feedlot health and performance, as well as 2) evaluation of existing genetics for carcass quality. Each calf, entered into the Five State Beef Initiative program receives an Electronic Identification Tag (EID) which aides in tracking these calves through the beef system.

During the course of 2001, feedlot health data was received on over 2300 Kentucky calves and carcass data was returned on more than 1700 on those calves. They represent a broad sample of Kentucky feeder cattle from various geographic, genetic, and pre-weaning management backgrounds. The program also allows participating producers to receive this detailed data on their individual calves and compare them to other calves from Kentucky and across the Five State Region.

All Kentucky FSBI cattle received were managed under Kentucky’s CPH-45 program. Health performance of Kentucky FSBI cattle in the feedyard was outstanding. The table below compares results from the Kentucky FSBI cattle with data from the latest National Animal Health Monitoring Service survey of feedyards. Calves managed under Kentucky’s CPH-45 program had considerably reduced levels of sickness and death loss upon entering the feedyard compared to national averages.

Table 1. Health Performance of Kentucky FSBI Cattle

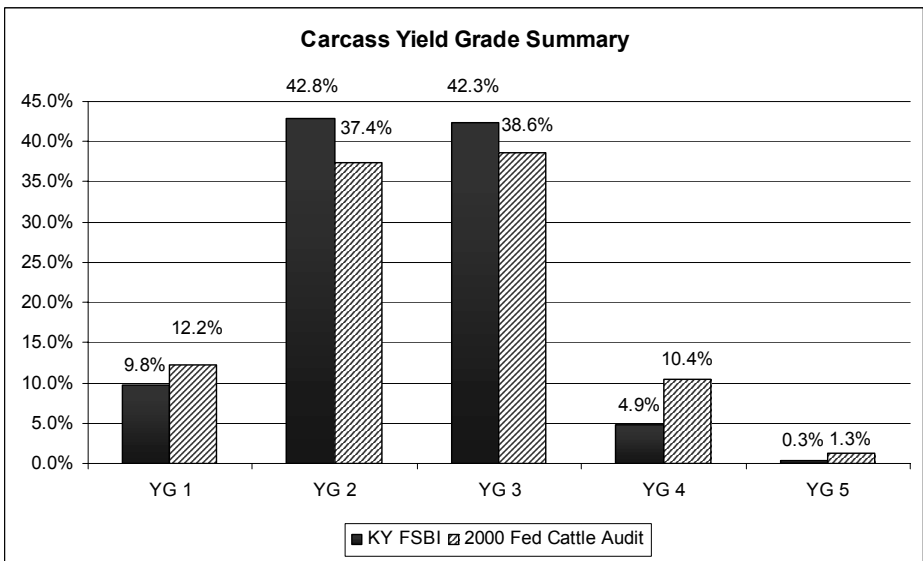
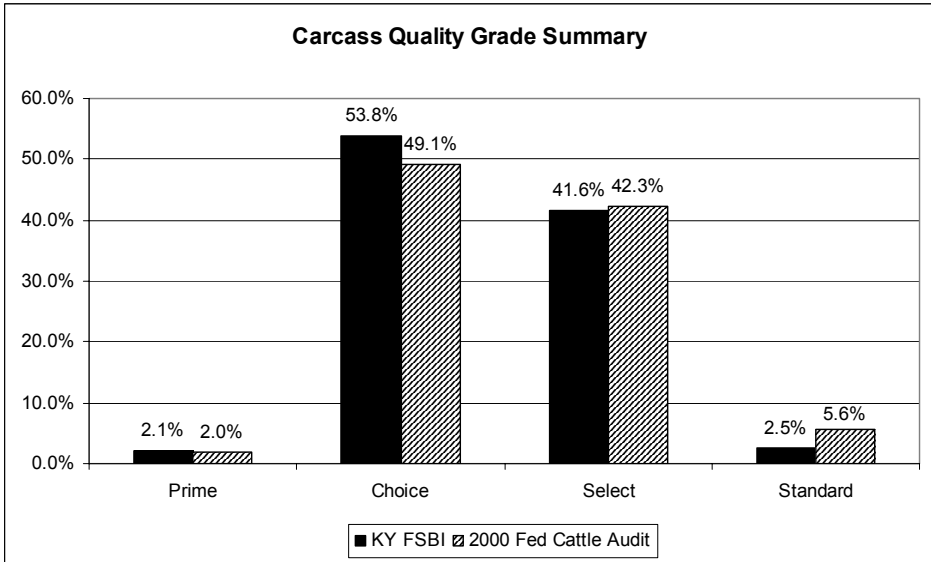
	% Morbidity	% Mortality
KY FSBI cattle	4.5%	0.5%
NAHMS data	20.0%	2.0%

Carcass quality and yield grades for KY FSBI cattle are compared to data from the 2000 Fed Cattle Audit in the following two tables. Kentucky FSBI cattle produced more Prime and Choice carcasses while producing fewer selects and standards. Kentucky FSBI cattle produced more yield grades 1,2 and 3 and fewer yield grades 4 and 5 than the Fed Cattle Audit.

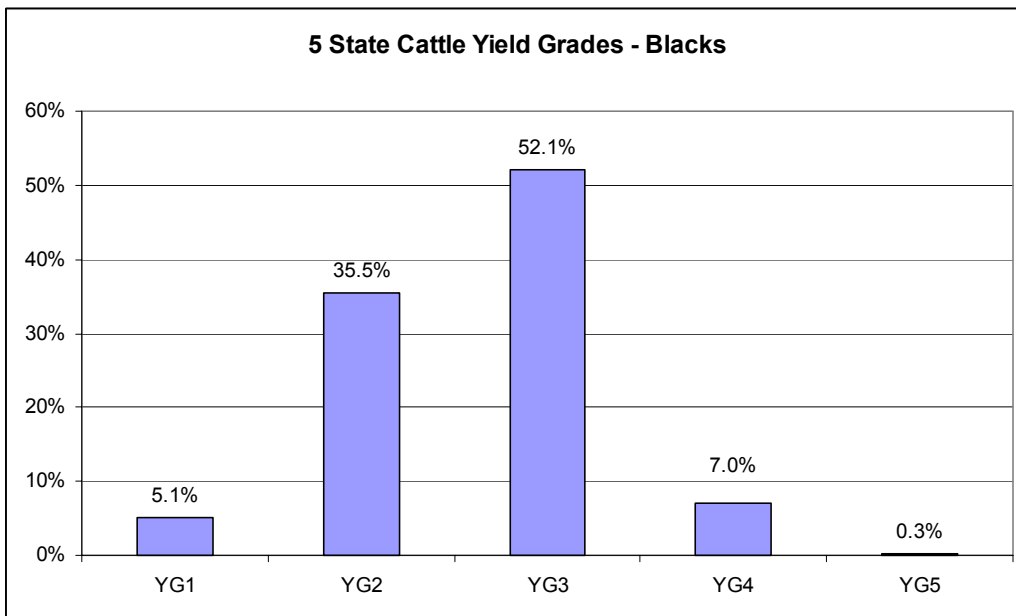
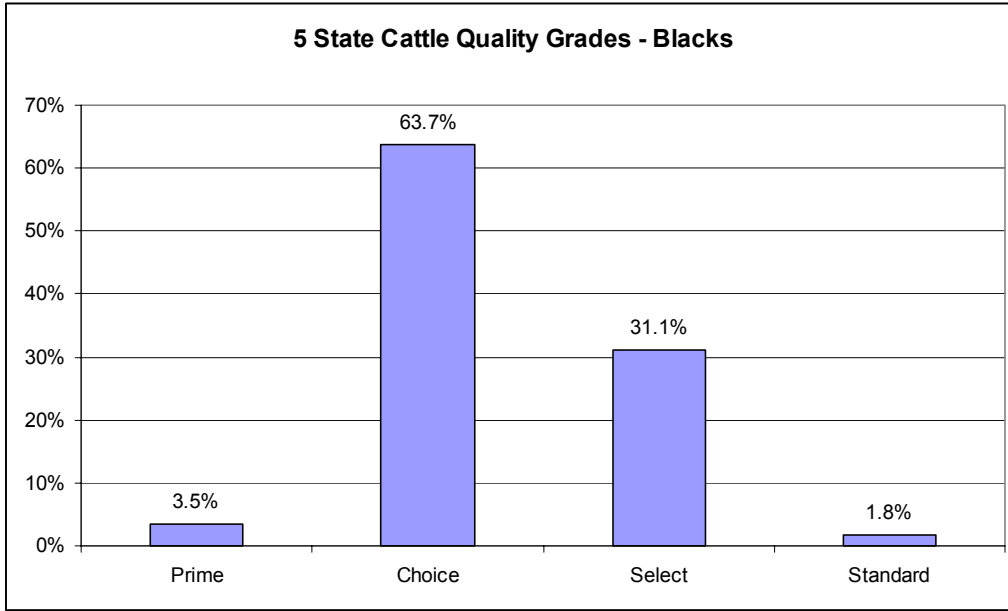
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This article presents information on the economic situation and outlook for Kentucky agriculture and is intended to assist farmers, agribusiness professionals, Extension filed staff, and others with interest in agriculture and agribusiness. Information presented here is based on the most recent information and research available. However, the rapidly changing economic and policy conditions for agriculture limit the usefulness and life span of conclusions and recommendations cited here. Decision makers should keep these facts in mind. Feel free to use the information included in this publication for other uses, but please provide professional citation about the source. This paper is published without formal review and the views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of Kentucky, the Agricultural Experiment Station, or the Cooperative Extension Service.

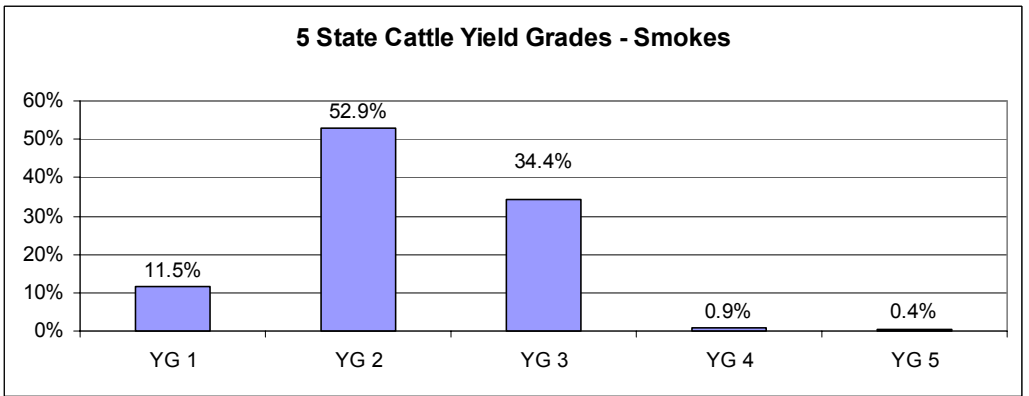
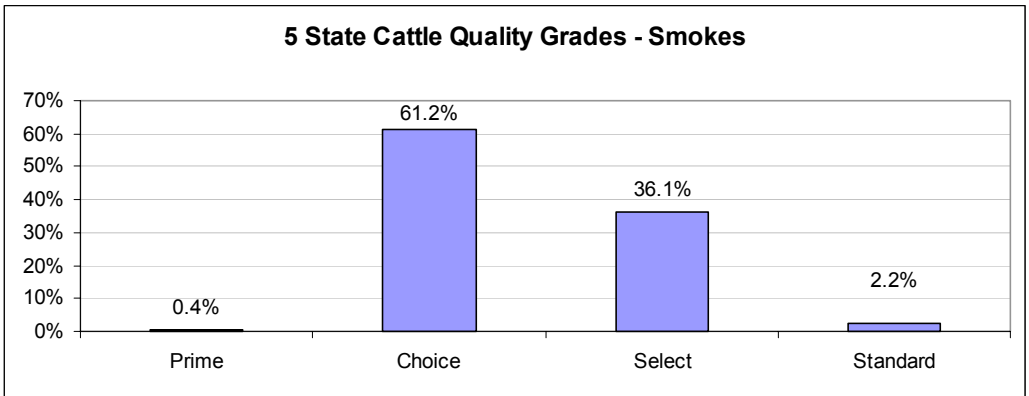
If you need additional information or if you would like to provide comments or suggestions about this paper, please contact Kenneth Burdine at kburdine@uky.edu.



Specific breed components can also be evaluated from the KY FSBI data. Sufficient numbers of black hided (Angus based) are included in the data to make separate evaluation meaningful. Black hided cattle produced 67.2% Prime and Choice calves, while still producing and 92.7% Yield Grades 1, 2, and 3. Over 40% of these calves were yield grade 1's and 2's, which will result in a premium on most quality-based grids.



Smoke colored cattle were also evaluated separately; they are primarily Angus – Continental crosses. Although they did not receive as many Choice and Prime quality grades, their yield grades were quite impressive. The quality grades are also impressive compared to the fed cattle audit. They produced 64.6% Yield Grade 1's and 2's and 98.7% yield grades 1, 2, and 3, avoiding heavy discounts associated with high yield grades. Quality grades were still quite good, with over 61% Prime and Choice.



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