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FEEDER CATTLE SHRINK IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE UNITED STATES

Shrink refers to the weight lost by cattle while in transit (time on trailer and stops). In some transactions a “pencil shrink” is applied to the price based on an expectation of shrink. Cattle producers have to manage not only costs associated with transportation, but also manage the shrink of the cattle that are marketed, thus understanding the factors that contribute to shrink is an important component in profit calculations. Few recent studies exist that provide quantitative estimates of shrink. Using a proprietary set of pre and post transportation cattle weights on 407 loads (26,464 head of cattle), as well as characteristics of the individual truckloads, this study analyzes factors that affect shrink in the Southern Region of the United States. Cattle attributes, as well as route (time and distance) and weather characteristics are evaluated to examine actual shrink versus pencil shrink and factors that impact actual shrink.

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12:00 pm

AGLS 129