

## **New York Feeder Calf Pools – 2016**

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Three feeder calf pools were organized in 2016. The **Central New York Beef Producers** group, representing 4 counties held a successful auction October 14, 2016 of 25 calves. The calves were all health managed using the same protocol and weaned for a minimum of 30 days. Each calf was evaluated using USDA Feeder Calf standards, which are familiar to feeder cattle buyers. As the calves remained on the farm until the day of pick up, these grades assured the buyers that what they bid on was what they would receive. These procedures increased the immune status of the calves and reduced their stress, resulting in greater cattle health and performance. As a result, compared to a feeder calf sale the day after, these pooled calves fetched a higher price. **The higher price produced an increase in receipts of \$70/hd.**

The second feeder calf pool was organized in **southeastern New York**. All calves were on a common health management and weaning protocol. The calves were not grouped together, but sold singly in a regularly scheduled feeder calf sale. This group of 30 calves were identified and sold at the beginning of the sale. Prices were approximately \$0.20/lb greater than calves that sold after this group. **This resulted in approximately \$75-\$100/head greater receipts to the participating farmers.**

A third pool was organized in **northern New York**. The marketing structure they planned on using was to follow a common health management protocol, but unlike the CNY pool the calves would be delivered to the auction barn the day before a regularly schedule feeder sale, and commingled into larger lots using the USDA Feeder Grading Standards. While meeting several times, they were unable to get organized to get calves to their local sale barn. In addition the local barn was less than cooperative. They plan to continue this effort into 2017.

**Increasing the capacity of beef producers to create an improved market infrastructure for feeder cattle.** (This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Smith Lever project #2014-15-123).