

Maximizing Use of an Extension Beef Cattle Data Set: Part 3— Weights and Growth

Abstract

Previously, we described calving distribution and reproductive rates from CHAPS20Y, an Extension beef cattle data set. In this article, we describe CHAPS20Y data on birth weight, weaning weight, pounds weaned per cow exposed, calf age at weaning/weighing, average daily gain, weight per day age, frame score, and cow age, weight, and condition. Yearly mean weights and growth are consistent over the 20-year period, with variation among herds. Breed, management, and environmental differences may explain some of the variation. Our analysis of the CHAPS20Y data provides Extension professionals with expanded knowledge of beef cattle weights and growth and, accordingly, improved ability to help producers more effectively manage their herds.

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Introduction

We used data from Cow Herd Appraisal Performance Software (CHAPS) to create CHAPS20Y, a 20-year data set spanning from 1994 through 2013, as an Extension tool for understanding trends in beef production (Ramsay, Hulsman Hanna, & Ringwall, 2016). In Parts 1 and 2 of this series, we described CHAPS20Y calving distribution and reproductive rate data (Ramsay, Hulsman Hanna, & Ringwall, 2017a, 2017b). In this article, we describe data related to

- birth weight;
- weaning weight (actual and adjusted);
- calf age at weaning/weighing (days), hereafter referred to as calf age;
- average daily gain (ADG);
- weight per day age (WDA);

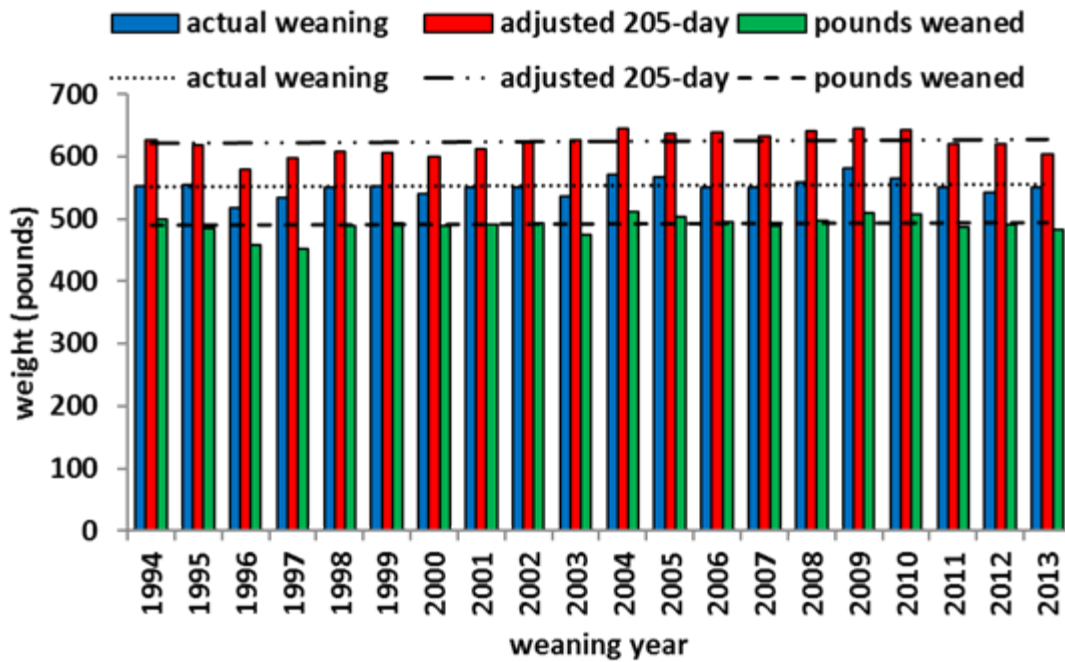
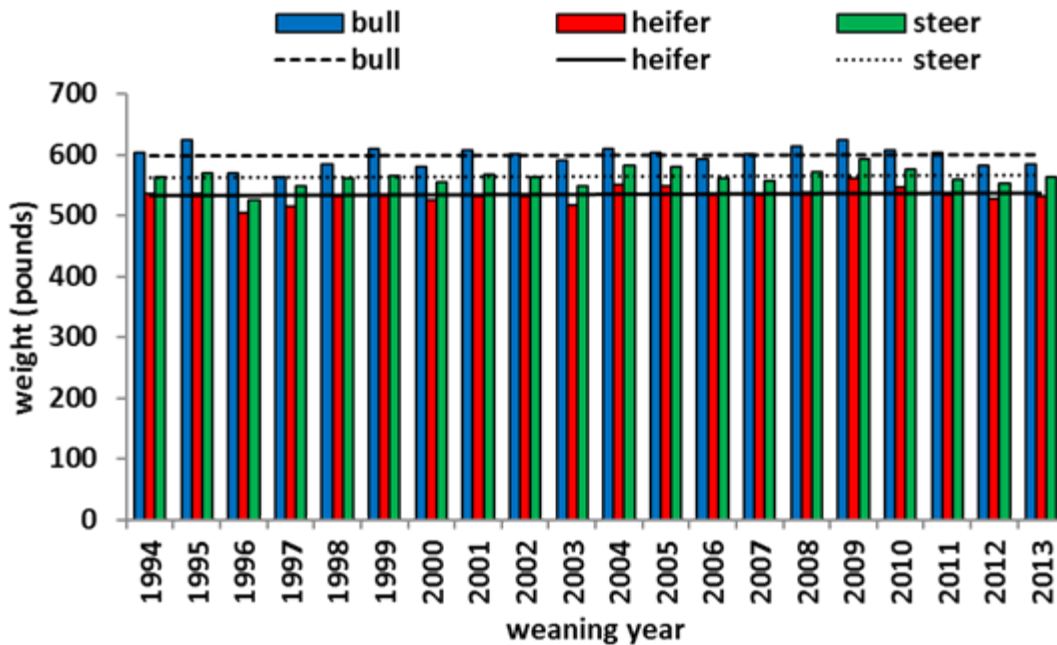


Figure 4.

Yearly Mean Bull, Heifer, and Steer Weaning Weights with 20-Year Average Trend Lines



Calf Age and Growth

Data related to calf age and growth are shown in Figures 5–7. Yearly mean calf ages ranged from 182 to 198 days, with a 20-year average of 191 days. Yearly mean ADGs ranged from 2.3 to 2.6 lb, with a 20-year average of 2.5 lb, and WDAs ranged from 2.7 to 3.0 lb, with a 20-year average of 2.9 lb. Frame scores ranged from 5.3 to 6.1, with a 20-year average of 5.7.

