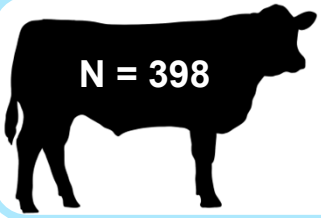
PRODUCTION DISEASES IN FEEDLOT CATTLE

"Diseases that would not arise, or not be of significance, were it not for the means of **production** used to create the animal" – Dr. Bernie Rollin

STUDY DESIGN



Bos taurus
Beef-type
<30 mos



Aim: To determine the relationship between hoof, liver, and heart abnormalities in fed cattle at slaughter.

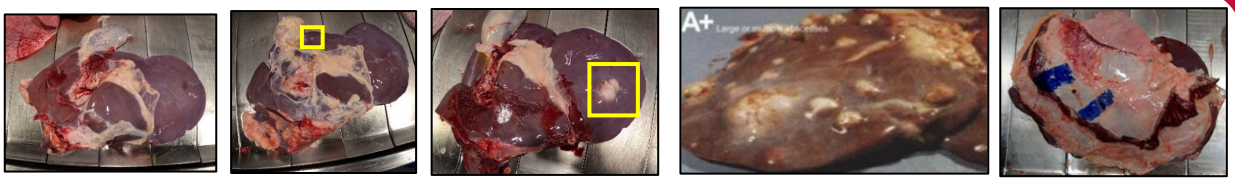
SCORING GUIDELINES

Hoof Abnormalities



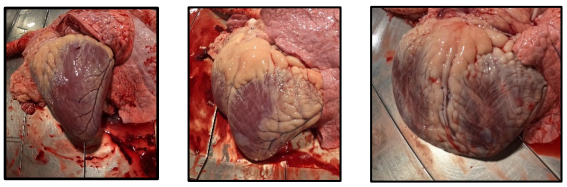
Normal | Corkscrew | Inward Curve | Shovel | Wide

Liver Abscesses



Normal | A- | A | A+ (Photo Courtesy of Jaborek, 2023) | Body Wall Adhesion

Congestive Heart Failure



Normal | 1 | 2

Congestive Heart Failure used to only exist at high elevations but is now prevalent in cattle fed at lower elevations.

RESULTS



85% Abnormal



13% Abnormal



52% Abnormal

Conclusion: Although there was no evidence to support a relationship between hoof, liver, and heart abnormalities in this group of conventional-fed cattle at slaughter, **5% of cattle had all three diseases present**, indicating financial and animal welfare related-implications.

Hamilton EM, Anderson KN, Kirk AA, Vogel KD and Grandin T (2026) Investigating the relationship between hoof, liver, and heart abnormalities in grain-fed beef cattle (Bos taurus) <30 months at slaughter. Front. Anim. Sci. 7:1681955. doi: 10.3389/fanim.2026.1681955

Infographic made by: Emma Hamilton, Illustrations by Nicole DelConte and Ashlynn A Kirk

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