

300 pounds during the grazing season. The amount of gain depends on the amount of flesh the cattle have when turned on pasture and the age and weight of the cattle.

Little is known about supplementary feed for fattening steers on highly improved pasture in North Florida. Usually it will not pay to feed a protein supplement to cattle on high quality pasture, and it is doubtful whether any supplementary feeding is advisable in the spring and early summer while pastures are tender and lush.

If cattle are to be given supplementary feed on pasture, it is suggested that feeding be started in the late summer when grass begins to mature. At that time pasture plants have less feed value and, too, cattle grazing improved pasture are carrying too much flesh after grazing spring pasture to make best use of grass. When cattle are placed on pasture in the early spring, feed value of the pasture plants declines as the cattle fatten. A point is finally reached where the pasture will no longer produce gain.

**Temporary Grazing Crops.**—Winter small grain pasture, either oats or rye, is needed to provide high-quality grazing during the late fall and early winter months. Well-fertilized oats pasture ranks among the very best pastures for beef cattle. Stocker calves at the North Florida Station have gained as much as 200 pounds per head and 315 pounds per acre in a 112-day grazing period on oats pasture with no supplementary feed except minerals (1). A gain of 150 pounds per head would perhaps be more nearly average for steers grazing oats pasture for about 100 days.

Cattle will make good gains on rye pasture, but because rye does not make a good grain yield it is not very popular. Rye pasture is not as palatable as oats; therefore, it is advisable to seed the two separately rather than as a mixture.

## **STOCKER-FEEDER CATTLE**

### **STOCKER CATTLE FOR GRAZING AND LATER FINISHING IN DRY LOT**

**Season for Purchasing.**—Stocker-feeder cattle are marketed in largest numbers in the fall months; thus market prices are usually lowest during this season. Cattle that are to be grazed in the spring and summer should generally be purchased the preceding fall and wintered. The increase in value of the cattle