

All Together Now!

If you could take a helicopter ride over certain sections of the Texas Panhandle, you might spot a group of pens in which hundreds – or even thousands – of cattle are gathered. What's that all about?

This kind of operation is called a cattle feedlot. Beef animals are kept here for an average of four to five months and given a scientifically developed diet of grains and grasses or other roughage before being sent to the processing plant.

For the first 12 to 18 months of the animal's life, it grows on pasture by eating grass. Why aren't cattle

just kept on the pasture? Cattle farmers and ranchers found that feeding an animal a grain-based diet during the last part of its life made the meat more tasty and tender. And people like it more!

The feedlot diet provides the perfect balance of nutrients, vitamins and minerals to help the animals stay healthy. This feeding process allows them to grow more quickly, thereby providing the continual supply of fresh grain-fed beef consumers want. Feedlot owners also support local agriculture by buying grains for use in cattle feed from area farmers.

ACTIVITY

Living in Tense

Proper grammar and verb tense are important as you write. Can you pick out what's wrong with the sentences in the following paragraph? A word is underlined because it **may** contain a mistake in grammar and usage. Look carefully at each underlined word. If there is a mistake, make the correction in the space above it. If there is no mistake, write **OK** above the underlined word.

Janet write a good paper yesterday. It tells why cattle are keep in feedlots and why there diet is important. She say cattle is important because they eat grass that humans can't eat. She say they is kept in feedlots partly to change their diet. What cattle eat can change the taste of the beef.