

The following excerpts are from an April 10, 2008 Cattle Today article titled “Optimum Cow Size Important For Efficiency.”

“Over the past several decades the average cow on many ranches has increased in frame size, and in recent years some stockmen are realizing that their cattle have become too large to be efficient.”

“When we consider cow efficiency, a smaller cow will always have an advantage over a bigger cow. Smaller cows can do more for less. If your ranch can support 100 head of 1,400 pound cows, it will support 120 head of 1,100 pound cows – on the exact same inputs. That's 20 percent more cows producing 20 percent more calves – and I guarantee those 120 smaller cows will always produce more total pounds of beef than the 100 larger cows. On top of that, the calves out of the smaller cows (because they have smaller individual weights) will be worth more per pound.”

<http://www.cattletoday.com/archive/2008/April/CT1515>.