Considerations in Buying Stocker Cattle

Sidney Riley
Stocker Operator & Order Buyer
What Will I Do With the Cattle?

• Match some at home?
• What kind of feed is available?
• Can I market them later?
What Kind Will Be Purchased?

• Sex
• Quality – Fancy or Plain
• Muscling
• Frame size
• Flesh
• Color
• Fill
• Disposition

• Management
  – Steer, bull, stag, horns, wormy, lice, bad eyes, knots, crippled, healthy or sick, pregnant, fescue infected
• Reputation cattle of superior genetics or known performance may command a premium
• Cattle with good potential for upgrading may bring more than some others
Who Will Purchase Cattle?

• Be honest; can you tell differences?
• Do you have time?
• If using an order buyer
  – They should know market and costs
  – On market every week and see some bargains
  – Can advise you what you need – fewer traders
  – Make sure he is honest
  – May buy cheaper
M-1 Good BWF
M-1 CharX
Borderline Med-Small Frame - Fleshy
Plain Thin
Slight Touch of Ear
White Pink Nose Char
Stripe Back (off color)
Crossbred (off color)
Formula for Success is Simple

Buy ‘em cheap,
Keep ‘em healthy,
Feed ‘em cheap,
Sell ‘em higher.

Key to success is to get all components to work.