1523 head of 454kg. fed feedlot cattle were surveyed for discountable bruises in a large southwestern slaughter plant.

- The cattle were crossbreds with 1/8 to 1/2 Brahman breeding.
- In each group of animals 25% to 50% had either tipped or complete horns.
- The cattle were transported to the slaughter plant from six different feedlots.
- The distance transported was 30 to 240 km.

Overall the cattle had 10.5% discountable bruises,
and 5% of them had discountable loin bruises.

- Out of the 5% that had loin bruises, 2.3% had loin bruises that extended all the way through the carcass.
  Location of the bruises:
  - 45% loin
  - 23% back and withers
  - 2% rump
  - 15% flank
  - 11% rib
  - 4% on the shoulder

Cattle sold by live weights had 14% discountable bruises and cattle sold on a carcass basis had 8% discountable bruises.

- The producer gets the bruises deducted from his payment when the cattle are sold on a carcass basis.

13 truckloads of cattle were hauled from one feedlot in a 14.6m Wilson double deck fat cattle trailer which unloaded through a rear door.

- Loads consisting of 50 to 51 head had 10.2% discountable bruises overall, and 4.3% discountable loin bruises.
- Loads consisting of 48 to 49 head had 5.3% discountable bruises overall, and 1.3% discountable loin bruises.

Level of significance = < .01

Rough handling at the feedlot of origin was a major cause of bruises. A feedlot where rough handling occurred during weighing and loading was compared to a feedlot which had careful, quiet handling. The rough feedlot had 15.5% discountable bruises and the careful, quiet feedlot had 8.35% discountable bruises.