

Kansas Feedlot Steer Closeout Trends

January 2010 – June 2026 | Focus on Feedlots Monthly Closeout Data

Data & Method

Source: Kansas State University Focus on Feedlots survey — monthly steer closeouts, describing cattle leaving participating Kansas feedyards. 198 consecutive months, January 2010 – June 2026.

Added Weight	$\text{Final Weight} - \text{Initial Weight} = \text{live weight put on in the yard}$
ADG	Average Daily Gain — pounds of live weight gained per day on feed
Feed/Gain (dry basis)	Pounds of dry-matter feed required per pound of live gain
Days on Feed	Average length of the feeding period
Est. Total Feed Used	$\text{ADG} \times \text{F/G} \times \text{Days on Feed} = \text{dry-matter feed per head, lbs}$

Monthly values averaged to quarterly and annual frequency; 2026 annual figures are Jan–Jun partial.

Key Findings: More Pounds, More Days, More Feed

Annual averages, 2010 vs. 2026 year-to-date

+180 lbs

Added Weight

539 → 719 lbs per head (+33%). Final weight up ~190 lbs; placement weight essentially flat.

+47 days

Days on Feed

149 → 196 days. ADG unchanged (~3.6) — the extra pounds come from feeding longer, not gaining faster.

+44%

Feed per Steer

3,180 → 4,584 lbs dry matter per head, as longer feeding meets poorer conversion (6.0 → 6.5 F/G).

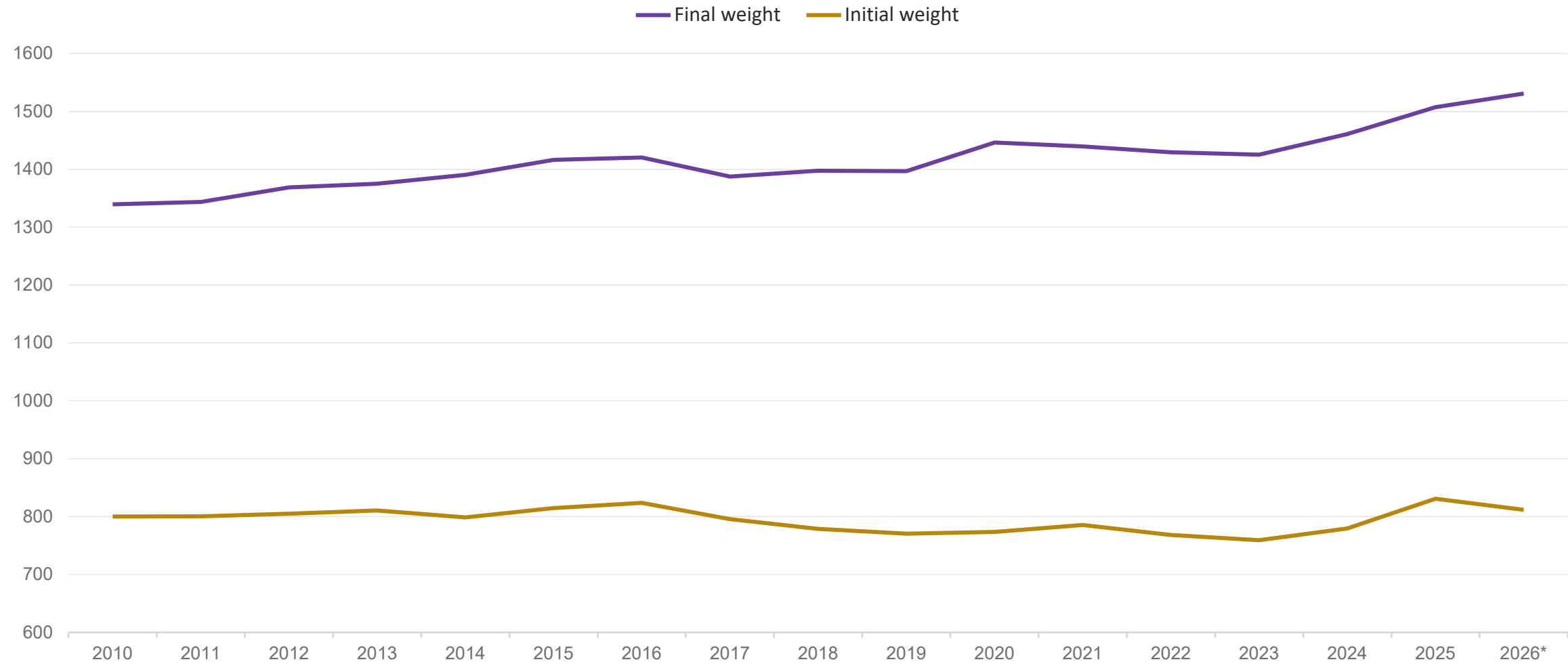
Implication: each steer occupies more feed, bunk space, and time than 15 years ago — fewer turns per yard and greater per head exposure.

Annual Trends

Annual averages show the long-run direction (2026 = Jan–Jun partial)

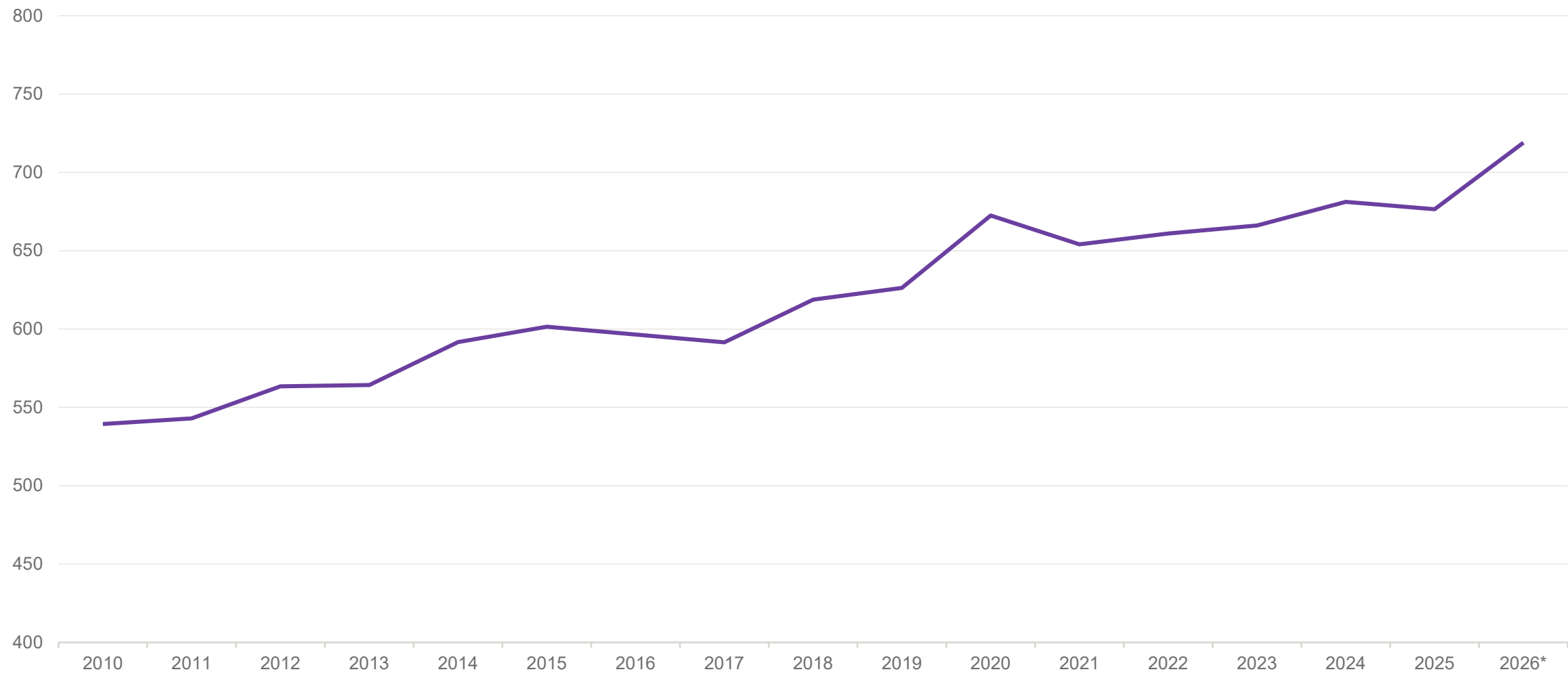
Final Weights Keep Climbing; Placement Weights Hold Steady

Steer initial & final weight — annual — lbs per head



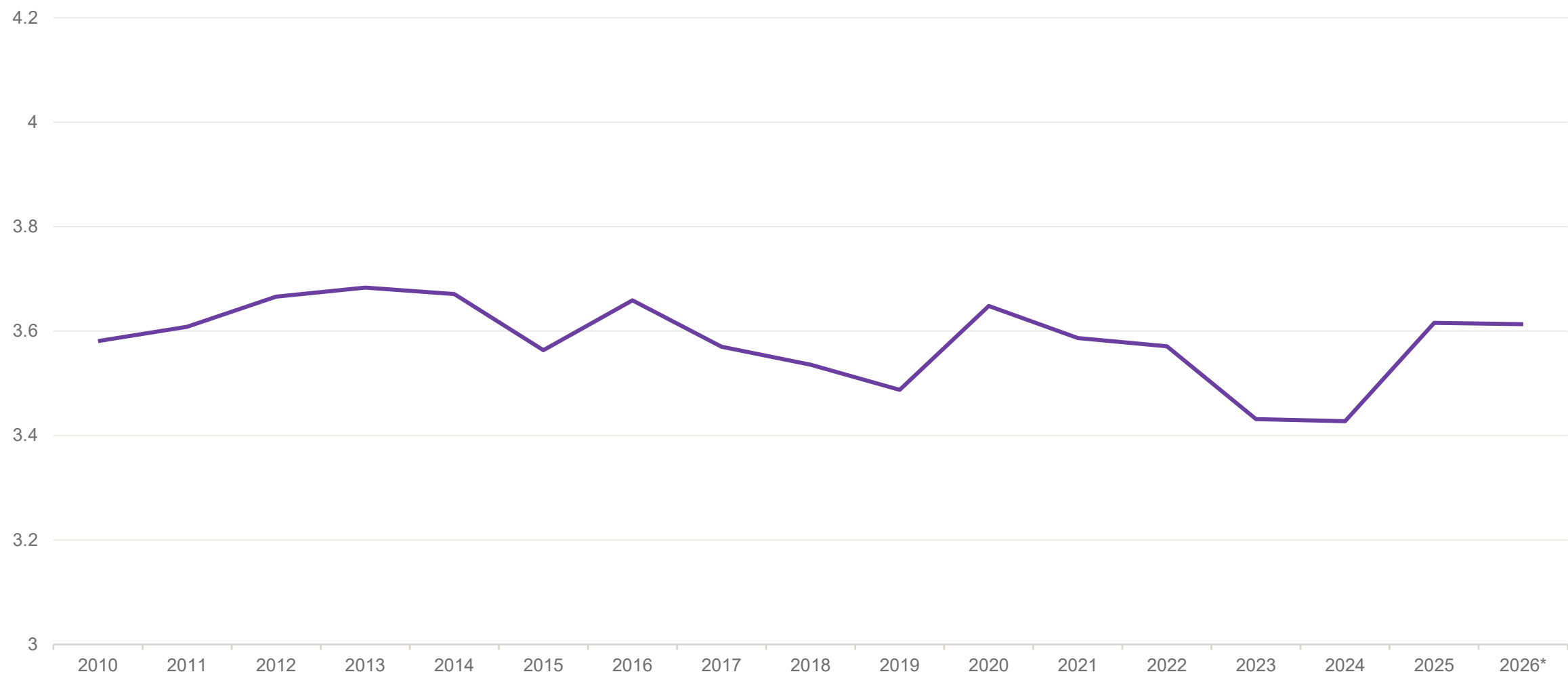
Added Weight Is Up About a Third Since 2010

Steer added weight (final – initial) — annual — lbs per head



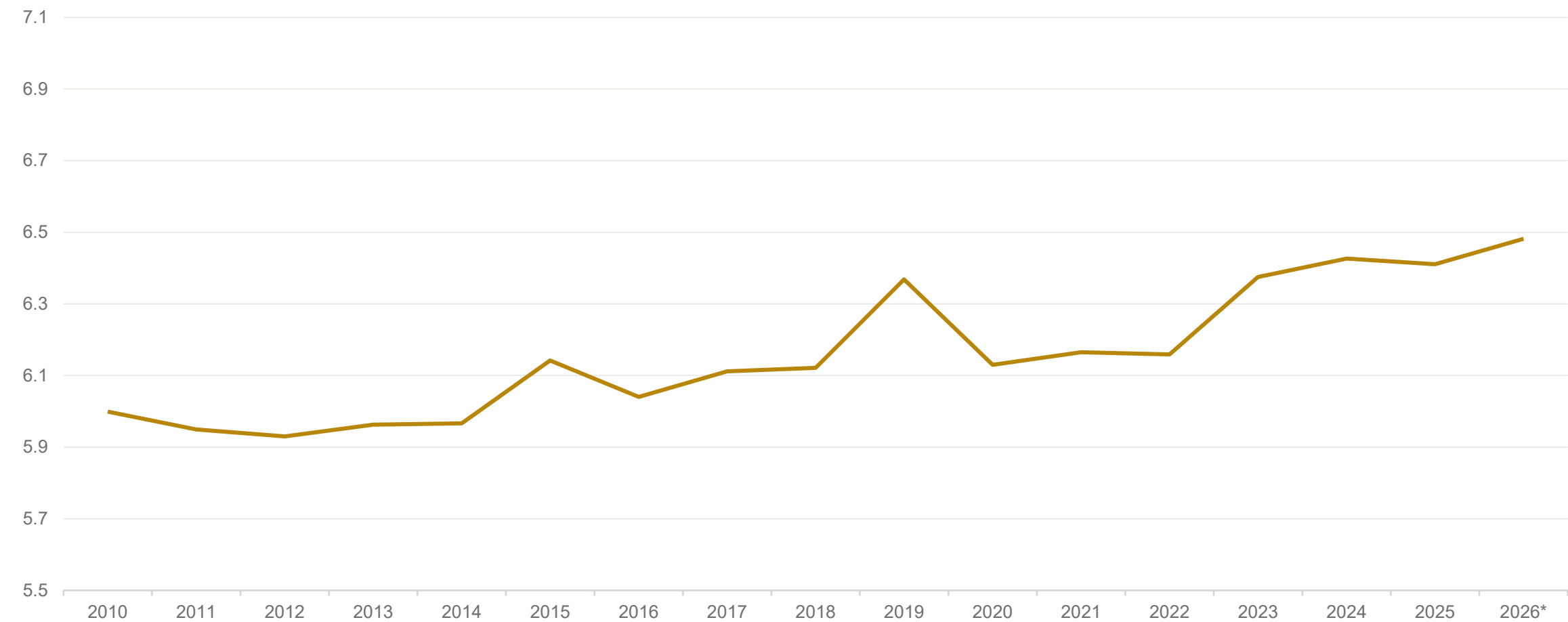
Daily Gains Are Flat — No Speed-Up in Growth

Steer average daily gain — annual — lbs per day

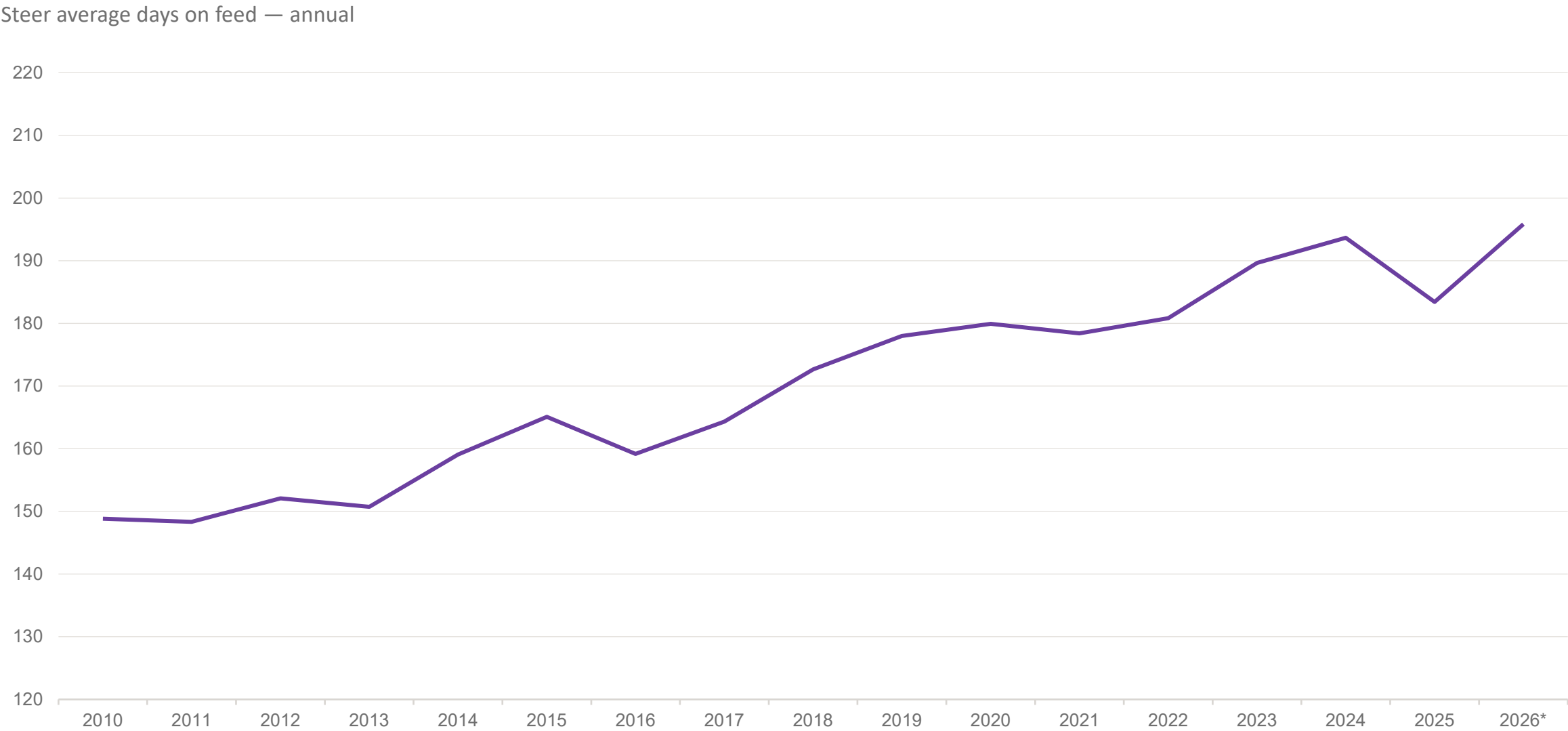


Feed Conversion Has Drifted Worse at Heavier Weights

Steer feed/gain, dry basis — annual — lbs feed per lb gain



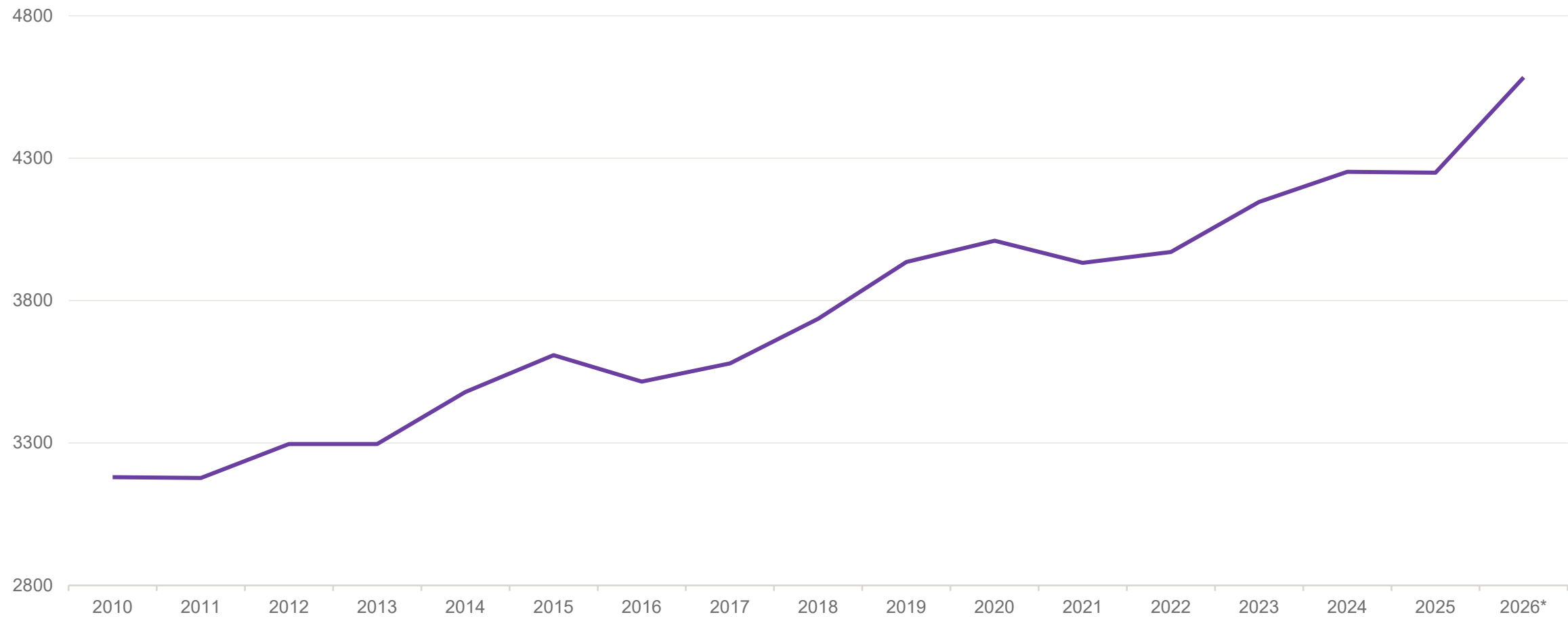
Cattle Are on Feed About Seven Weeks Longer



Annual averages of monthly closeouts (*2026 = Jan–Jun partial) | Source: Focus on Feedlots, Kansas State University

Estimated Feed Used per Steer: Up 44% Since 2010

$ADG \times F/G \times \text{days on feed}$ — annual — lbs dry matter per head



Annual averages of monthly closeouts (*2026 = Jan–Jun partial) | Source: Focus on Feedlots, Kansas State University

Annual Averages at a Glance

Year	Initial Wt	Final Wt	Added Wt	ADG	F/G (dry)	Days on Feed	Feed/Head (lbs)
2010	800	1,340	539	3.58	6.00	149	3,180
2011	801	1,344	543	3.61	5.95	148	3,177
2012	805	1,369	563	3.67	5.93	152	3,296
2013	811	1,375	564	3.68	5.96	151	3,296
2014	799	1,390	592	3.67	5.97	159	3,479
2015	815	1,416	602	3.56	6.14	165	3,608
2016	824	1,421	597	3.66	6.04	159	3,515
2017	796	1,387	592	3.57	6.11	164	3,580
2018	779	1,398	619	3.54	6.12	173	3,736
2019	771	1,397	626	3.49	6.37	178	3,936
2020	774	1,446	673	3.65	6.13	180	4,011
2021	786	1,440	654	3.59	6.17	178	3,933
2022	768	1,429	661	3.57	6.16	181	3,971
2023	759	1,425	666	3.43	6.38	190	4,147
2024	780	1,461	681	3.43	6.43	194	4,252
2025	831	1,507	677	3.62	6.41	183	4,249
2026*	812	1,531	719	3.61	6.48	196	4,584

*2026 = January–June partial. Source: Focus on Feedlots, Kansas State University