



Carl Montega works for Monfort Company, the biggest meat producer around Denver: "The feedlot in Greeley is about 300 ha big. Most of the area is used for the cattle which are held in pens on the feedlots. Usually they are not covered as it is dry in summer and cold and dry in winter. We buy our calves from ranches in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. They are one year old and weigh about 400 kg. When they arrive on the feedlot they first have to go through an antiseptic bath to kill off bacteria. Then they get a hormone capsule to gain weight more quickly and a computer number as everything is fully mechanized. They are fed for 100 to 150 days until they weigh 600 kilograms. 85.000 cattle are fattened at the same time, about 200.000 a year. Feeding is fully mechanized: Cornflakes, silage, proteins and vitamins are mixed by a computer according to the cattle's age and weight. The fodder is heated so that the animals need no energy bringing it to body temperature. Monfort does not grow the crops itself but buys them from smaller farms. On the feedlot it's like in industry. The full-time workers have to work shifts – about 8 hours a day and 5 days a week – and they have holidays like workers in industry. When the cattle have reached the target weight they are transported to the slaughter houses, which are also owned by Monfort. There about 2.500 cattle are slaughtered per day."

#### Tasks:

1. *Highlight the important information in the text.*
2. *Structure the information and find key-words (e. g. "calves", "fodder").*
3. *Complete the table by writing down important facts next to your keywords.*

Quelle: Lenz, T. (2011): Industrial Farming in the USA. In: Lenz, T. u. H. Weible (Hrsg.): Bilinguale Module für die Sekundarstufe I, Braunschweig: Westermann

Das Interview, in dem die wichtigsten Merkmale der Rindermast im Feedlot beschrieben werden (u.a. Größe der Farmen, Anzahl der Tiere, Ankunft der Kälber im Feedlot, computergesteuerte Rindermast, Arbeitskräfte), basiert auf dem FWU Film „Beef Production in Colorado“. Das Transkript wurde im Umfang und in der Sprache des Textes an das Niveau der Lerner angepasst. Die gewonnenen Informationen werden von den Schülerinnen und Schülern in Form eines Flussdiagramms oder tabellarisch zusammengestellt.