

Cattle Handling and Feeding Management Changes on our Farm


Lucas and Jolene Hoff
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Changes?

- Relocated handling facilities
- Wanted to change the way we managed manure and feeding for backgrounding


Why?

- Old facilities were too close to Hwy 8
- Neighbors property line - no way to expand to the north
- Too close low lying watershed
- Didn't want to confine calves during background




What We Did

- Handling Facilities:**
 - Relocated to well drained virgin land and diverted drainage
 - Reconstructed cattle holding and sorting corrals
 - Tapped into SW Water supply for year around fresh water
 - Located adjacent to cropland




What We Did

- Modified Backgrounding after Weaning**
 - Weaned in confinement as usual for calves to recover from weaning (10 Days)
 - Fed stress barrels and whole corn during the 10 day period
 - After 10 days Calves were put into a 30 ac. corn field next to the new corrals
 - Calves grazed corn and some additional long grass hay as needed
 - After 30 days as corn was grazed off more hay was fed along with a corn grain ration (ground corn, DDGS, Distillers Pro (mineral balancer))



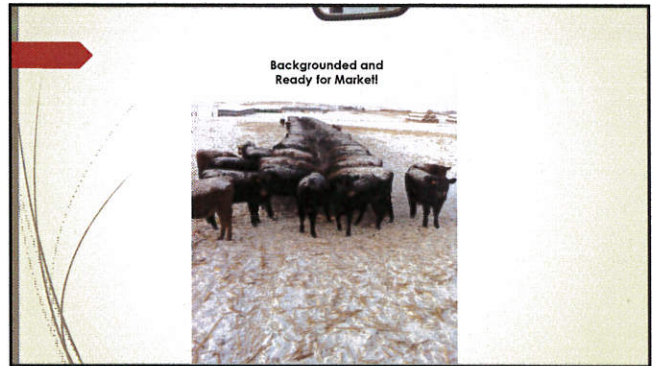
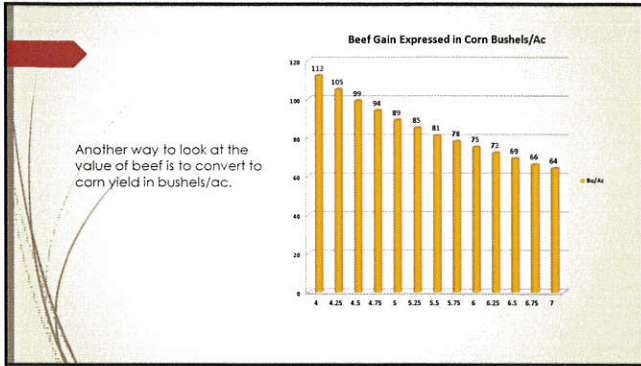
Calf Performance

Performance	
Start Weight	507
32 Day Weight	549
32 Day Gain	42
32 Day ADG	1.31
Feb. 7 Sale Weight	711
Total Gain (98 days)	204
Total ADG	2.08



32 Day Corn Grazing Economics

	2012
32 Day Estimated Calf Gain Value	\$13,411
8,652# Gain @ \$1.55/Cwt	
Expenses for Corn, Stress Barrels, and Hay	-\$1,589
Estimated 32 Day Net Return	\$11,822
Corn Yield: 40 bu/Ac	\$8,400
1200 bu @ \$7/bu	
Difference	\$3,422
Corn-Beef Price/Bu Equivalent	\$9.85
\$11,822/1200 bu.	
Gain over \$7/bu corn	\$2.85



Silage Compared to Grazing

	Silage Exp		Grazing Exp	
Seed	47.5		Seed	47.5
Chemical	3.43		Chemical	3.43
Chop-Pack	65		Hay-Corn-Stress Barrels	52.97
Feed	3.6			
Total Cost	119.53		Total Cost	103.90

Total Backgrounding Net Return, \$

Calf Value, (507lb x \$1.55/cwt)	\$786
Feed:	
Corn, (620 bu x \$7/bu) = \$4340/206 Hd	\$21.07
Hay, (97.5 T x \$70/T) = \$6825/206	\$33.13
DDGS, (10 T x \$275/T) = \$2750/206	\$13.35
Distillers Pro Suppl. (\$810/206)	\$3.93
Corn Grazing Expense, (\$3090/206)	\$15.00
Trucking, Commission, Brand & Health	\$19.00
Total Expenses	\$884.19
Sale Value after Marketing Shrink	\$958.25
Net Return	\$66.67