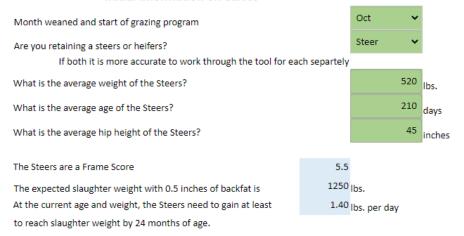


Retained Ownership Decision Tool

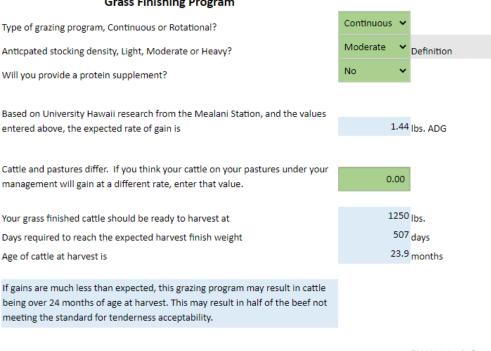
Retain Calves and Grass Finish Steers or Heifers in Hawaii

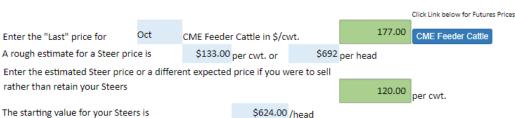
by Dillon Feuz and Mark Thorne

Initial Information on Calves



Grass Finishing Program





Grass Finishing Costs

On a fixed pasture resource, you have the choice of grazing cows to breed and calve or retaining a steer or heifer to grass finish. For each Steer you grass finish on the above program, you will need to reduce your cows by

1.20 head

Of the cows you breed, what is your percent calf crop weaned?

85

Your Opportunity Cost for grass finishing Steers, is a need to run 1.2 fewer cows and sell fewer calves. That Opportunity Cost, based on the market price above is

\$593.80 per head

Many of your costs to run a cow/calf pair may be similar to your cost to grass finish a steer or heifer. In the cells below enter positive amounts if your grass finishing costs are higher and enter negative amounts if your grass finishing

Grass finishing supplements, if any

costs are lower than running a cow..

5.00 /head

Vet/med and other supplies per head

7.00 /head

Worming and fly control

0.00 /head

Labor

4.00 /head

Any additional costs per head

0.00 /head

Total added costs for grass finishing vs cow-calf

\$16 /head

Estimated total cost per head for the Steer grass finishing program

The initial Steer value

\$624 /head

Your opportunity cost

\$594 /head

Your added grass finishing costs

\$16 /head

Total

\$1,234 /head

If you expect to be able to sell your grass finished Steer for more than \$1234 per head or more than \$0.99 per lb. live weight, or \$1.95 per lb. carcass weight, then you should make more money grass finishing Steers" and running fewer cows.

Grass FinishingReturns

What is your expected carcass selling price in \$/lb.?

2.00 /lb.

Your expected carcass weight based on a 1250 lb. live weight is

Your expected gross return for the grass finished Steer is

\$1,250.00 /head

625 lbs.

Your expected Net Return for the grass finishing program is

\$16.20 /head

