

SARE Producer-Cooperator Project: Cattle Feeding Management Changes on our Farm

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What We Did

- **Modified Backgrounding after Weaning**
 - Weaned in confinement as usual for calves to recover from weaning (10 Days)
 - Fed thresh barn's and whole corn during the 10 day period
 - After 10 days, Calves were put into a 30 ac. corn field next to the new corral
 - Calves grazed corn and some additional long grass hay as needed
 - After an average 37 days, as corn was grazed off, more hay was fed along with a corn grain ration and supplement (Distiller Pro - DDGS balancer)
 - Year 1 - Fed DDGS
 - Year 2 - Fed Modified Wet distiller's grain



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



Calf Performance

Performance	2012	2013	2014
Start Weight	507	511	545
32 Day Weight	549		
44 Day Weight		581	
49 Day Weight			606
32 Day Gain	42		
44 Day Gain		71	
49 Day Gain			61
32 Day ADG	1.31		
44 Day ADG		1.61	
49 Day ADG			1.24
3 Year ADG			1.39



What We Did

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



Ending Sale Weight and Calf Performance

	2012	2013
Sale Weight & Perf:		
Feb 7, 2013	711	
Feb 6, 2014		695
Total Gain (98 days)	204	
Total Gain (96 days)		176
Total ADG	2.08	
Total ADG		1.84
2-Year Average Gain		190
2-Year ADG		1.96

Corn Grazing Economics

	2012	2013	2014
32 Day Estimated Calf Gain Value	\$13,411		
8,652# Gain @ \$1.55/Cwt			
44 Day Estimated Calf Gain Value		\$25,073	
14,086# Gain @ \$1.78/Cwt			
49 Day Estimated Calf Gain Value			\$28,591
11,766# Gain @ \$2.43/Cwt			
Expenses for Corn, Stress Barrels, and Hay	-\$1,589	-\$2,742	-\$2,836
Estimated Net Return (Yr 1, 32 days)	\$11,822		
Estimated Net Return (Yr 2, 44 days)		\$22,331	
Estimated Net Return (Yr 3, 49 days)			\$25,755
Corn Grazing Cost/Lb of Gain With Land Cost @ \$40/Ac	\$0.69	\$0.51	\$0.62
Gross Return/Ac	\$447	\$836	\$953
Three Year Average Return/Ac			\$745

Backgrounded and
Ready for Market!



Net Return/Ac: Corn vs Beef

	2012	2013	2014
Gross Return/Ac	\$447	\$836	\$953
Expenses:			
Farming Cost/Ac with Rent	\$147	\$147	\$147
Cattle Expenses (Per Ac Basis)	\$53	\$91	\$95
Total Cost/Ac	\$200	\$238	\$242
Net Return/Ac	\$227	\$598	\$711
ND Farm & Ranch Business Mgmt. Gross Return/Ac	\$505 (74bu)	\$374 (96 bu)	\$244 (91 bu)
ND Farm & Ranch Business Mgmt. Net Return/Ac	\$178	\$28	-\$34
Corn Grazing Advantage/Ac	\$49	\$570	\$745

Even Hudson likes
the returns!!

