

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 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 an average 37 days, as corn was grazed off, more hay was fed along with a corn grain ration and supplement (Dallies Pro - DDGS balancer)
 - Year 1 - Fed DDGS
 - Year 2 - Fed Modified Wet distiller 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 |
|---------------|------|------|
| Start Weight | 507 | 511 |
| 32 Day Weight | 549 | |
| 44 Day Weight | | 581 |
| 32 Day Gain | 42 | |
| 44 Day Gain | | 71 |
| 32 Day ADG | 1.31 | |
| 44 Day ADG | | 1.61 |



What We Did

- Handling Facilities:
 - Relocated to well drained virgin land and diverted drainage
 - Reconstructed cattle holding and sorting corrals
 - Tapiped 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 |
|---|----------|----------|
| 32 Day Estimated Calf Gain Value 8,652# Gain @ \$1.55/Cwt | \$13,411 | |
| 44 Day Estimated Calf Gain Value 14,086# Gain @ \$1.78/Cwt | | \$25,073 |
| Expenses for Corn, Stress Barrels, and Hay | -\$1,589 | |
| Expenses for Corn, Stress Barrels, and Hay | | -\$2,742 |
| Estimated Net Return (Yr 1, 32 days) | \$11,822 | |
| Estimated Net Return (Yr 2, 44 days) | | \$22,331 |
| Gross Return/Ac | \$447 | \$836 |

Backgrounded and
Ready for Market!



Net Return/Ac: Corn vs Beef

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

Even Hudson likes
the returns!!

